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St. Mary's County Times

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2021

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2021

The Year in Review



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DEL. MATT MORGAN ON DEMOCRAT-DRAWN REDISTRICTING MAPS LIKELY TO BE VOTED INTO LAW.

WEEKLY FORECAST

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| <p>Thu 12/23 44° 34°F</p> <p>Mostly Sunny</p> | <p>Fri 12/24 54° 44°F</p> <p>Mostly Cloudy</p> | <p>Sat 12/25 64° 48°F</p> <p>Partly Cloudy</p> | <p>Sun 12/26 55° 40°F</p> <p>Partly Cloudy</p> |
| <p>Mon 12/27 51° 41°F</p> <p>Mostly Cloudy</p> | <p>Tue 12/28 51° 41°F</p> <p>Showers</p> | <p>Wed 12/29 53° 36°F</p> <p>Partly Cloudy</p> | <p>Thu 12/30 49° 37°F</p> <p>Partly Cloudy</p> |



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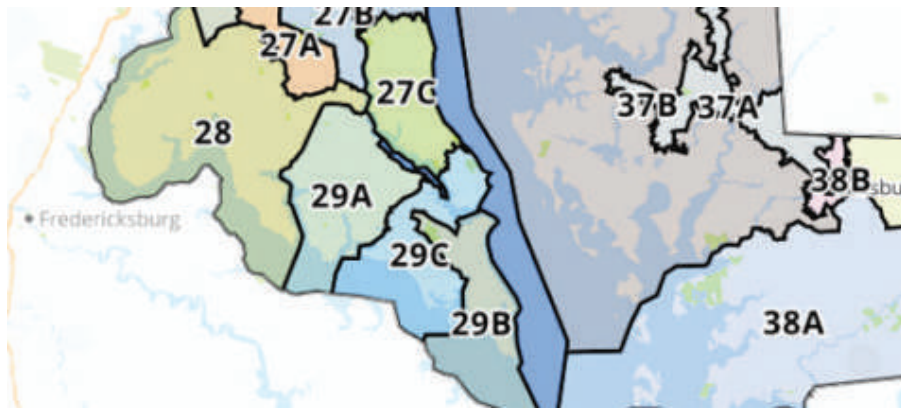
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New Map Reshapes District 29



LRAC-map-proposal

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The newly drawn Maryland legislative redistricting map offered by the Democratic majority in the General Assembly keeps the overall senatorial District 29 intact in St. Mary's, while still bridging over to Calvert County up to Lusby, but there are changes inside District 29 as well.

The proposed map, which has already come under strong partisan criticism, gives Wildewood to District 29 B, currently held by Del. Brian Crosby, the only Democrat in the county delegation.

This takes away a substantial voting population from District 29C, currently represented by Del. Gerald "Jerry" Clark, who is also picking up Piney Point and St. George Island.

Del. Matt Morgan, who represents District 29A, in northern St. Mary's, said his district is largely unchanged, except for picking up about two neighborhoods in the southern most part of his district.

"So instead of representing 75 percent of Leonardtown now I represent 100 percent," Morgan said. "There's not much change."

Morgan predicted that the Democrat-drawn map will receive a few minor changes before being passed by the legislature — which starts its next session in January.

Though it leaves St. Mary's largely unchanged, and majority Republican,

which benefits Morgan and Clark, Morgan still said he thought the map was bad overall.

"[Gov. Larry] Hogan's maps are likely dead on arrival," Morgan said. "But I think those maps, the citizen maps, are much better maps."

"They are more reflective of the community."

By drawing maps that compact Republicans into their own districts it allows for more Democratic ones to be formed throughout the state, Morgan said.

Majority Democrat counties such as Charles County are not broken out into sub-districts such as in St. Mary's. Instead, Morgan said, delegates are elected at large to maintain the Democrat majority there.

"If they were broken out, like in St. Mary's, the Republicans would probably pick up a seat south of La Plata," Morgan said.

The congressional map passed by Democrats earlier this month in a special session, was largely pilloried as gerrymandered and have now attracted two lawsuits to have them overturned.

The lawsuits allege they violate Maryland's constitution and voting rights laws.

Morgan predicted that the legislative redistricting proposal would be challenged in court as well.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Assisted Living Facility Gets Initial Town Approval



Plans for the expansion of the St. Mary's Nursing and Rehabilitation Center

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The Leonardtown Planning and Zoning Commission voted unanimously Dec. 20 to approve a concept site plan for a new memory care facility to be located on a recently annexed piece of land 22 acres in size.

The facility itself will be 31,995 square feet in size, according to concept site plan documents, and has been called the only facility of its kind in the region outside of the greater Washington, D.C./Baltimore metropolitan area.

The project, proposed by St. Mary's Nursing Center, which also operates in Leonardtown, still needs a special exception from the town's Board of Appeals before construction can begin, as well as approval from the state's Critical Area Commission as it would be near several streams, explained Town Zoning Administrator Jada Stuckert.

The property sits just off of the intersection of Route 5 and St. Andrews Church Road.

"We annexed in the property in 2020," Stuckert said. "They [St. Mary's Nursing] came to us and asked for it."

If the project receives all of its approvals, she said, it would still have to be built out in phases as it would be hooked into the town's water and sewer system, which is currently slated for a capacity upgrade.

The facility is proposed to include 53 beds; the property upon which it would sit currently has several structures on it.

The town's planning documents show they are two dilapidated houses, a dilapidated building as well as a barn in similar condition; these are proposed to be demolished.

Most of the site, just over 14 acres, will remain forested and about five-and-a-half acres will remain in a conservation easement.

The building itself will have 32 units with about 15 staff members; 27 parking spaces would also be included.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

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about January 6, 2022.*

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Leonardtwn Wants Approval for Increased Water Consumption

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Coming new development in Leonardtown means they need to draw more water from the state's aquifers to accommodate it, said Town Administration Laschelle McKay this week, and the town is looking to update its capacity permit.

"We already have a permit and it's time for a renewal," McKay told The County Times. "We were on the Acquia aquifer now we're on the Patapsco aquifer."

The state must grant the town's request to draw more water than it already is.

Currently the town is allowed to draw an annual average of 750,000 gallons a day with a maximum monthly usage of 1.1 million gallons in a day.

But now the town government is requesting the right to use 1.14 million gallons a day with a peak monthly usage of 1.6 million gallons in a day.

This change to a new aquifer would provide water to all new development in town, McKay said.

The first project anticipated by the town to use the new water supply would be the Meadows at Town Run II community,

which has yet to be built.

Developer Quality Built Homes has not brought forward a concept site plan, she said, but have let the town know of their intentions.

"In the near future it will be moving forward," said McKay.

The first section of Meadows of Town Run, which is still being built out, will have 107 units of single-family homes, while the second section will be mix of single family and multifamily units to include town homes and apartments, McKay said.

The Meadows at Town Run is located on Hollywood Road across from the Leonard's Grant community and the new Leonardtown Library/Garvey Senior Center.

Beginning construction on the new section of residential stock is crucial, the town administrator said, because it will allow the town to develop a new water well and water tower on the property donated by the developer.

Once constructed the new tower would be the third of its kind in the town, McKay said.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



ST MARY'S COLLEGE of MARYLAND
The National Public Honors College

UPCOMING EVENTS

18th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Prayer Celebration

Keynote Address: Dr. Mary Frances Berry, author, activist, educator and historian.

January 17

J. Frank Raley Great Room, Campus Center

Breakfast: 6:30 a.m. (\$10 at the door)

Program: 8:00 a.m. (free)

Day of Service: 10:00 a.m. (free)

Annual Reeves Lecture with Jeffrey Hammond

February 16, 8:00 p.m.

Daugherty-Palmer Commons

VOICES Reading Series with Samantha Liming (class of 2017)

February 10, 8:15 p.m.

Daugherty-Palmer Commons

An Evening to Honor the Legacy of Lucille Clifton

February 28, 7:00 p.m.

Auerbach Auditorium, St. Mary's Hall

For reservations, tickets and information on these and other upcoming events, visit www.smcm.edu and click on EVENTS. Events are subject to change.

Maryland Surpasses 2,000 COVID-19 Hospitalizations

“As we have been projecting, our statewide COVID-19 hospitalizations have now reached record levels and surpassed 2,000—a surge driven primarily by unvaccinated patients. It cannot be stressed enough that getting vaccinated and getting boosted are your strongest possible defenses against this virus and its variants,” said Gov. Larry Hogan in a prepared statement Dec. 29.



Governor Larry Hogan

“With hospitalizations and deaths our primary focus, we have already taken a number of emergency actions in preparation for this surge. Earlier this month, we established a surge operations center to optimize bed capacity and fully utilize the alternate care sites we have kept in place. We have worked closely with our licensing boards to augment the healthcare workforce, and we have committed an additional \$100 million for hospitals and nursing homes to address urgent staffing needs. Under a state health directive, hospitals are required to implement pandemic plans to suspend elective surgeries and manage their patient census. Whatever resources hospital systems have requested, we are providing.

sary to acquire additional at-home rapid test kits. We have been calling on the federal government to do more to expand the availability of testing—including invoking the Defense Production Act—but as the president himself has acknowledged, those efforts have fallen short. Regardless, we will do all we can at the state level to further scale up testing operations.

“In coordination with our lab partners at the University of Maryland and Johns Hopkins University, we continue to be among the national leaders in using genomic sequencing to track and detect variants of COVID-19. Earlier this month, we took steps to further expand the state’s sequencing capacity.

“Last month, in anticipation of an increased demand for testing, we began to distribute 500,000 at-home rapid test kits through local health departments and BWI Airport. We have also expanded the days and hours of state-run testing sites, and encouraged local health departments to do the same. We have made an additional \$30 million in funding available to school systems to enhance their own testing resources. I have mobilized the Maryland National Guard to stand up multiple surge testing sites, and directed state health officials to take whatever steps are neces-

“Lastly, we continue to have one of the most aggressive booster shot campaigns in the country. The booster shots provide the strongest protection against the highly transmissible Omicron variant. The most important thing Marylanders can do is get boosted now.

“Again, this is not March of 2020. It’s important to use common sense and take precautions, but we have the tools, resources, and strategies in place to protect ourselves. We are closely monitoring this surge, and will continue to provide updates as additional actions are taken.”

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Zoning Ordinance Amendment Allows New Uses of Solar



The Commissioners of St. Mary's County will hold a Public Hearing Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2022, at 9 a.m. in the Chesapeake Building located at 41770 Baldrige Street in Leonardtown, to consider public input on a proposed ordinance to amend the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance for two new uses of Solar, Major and Solar, Minor.

The proposed ordinance can be viewed at <http://www.stmarysmd.com/publichearings.asp>.

Those wishing to address the Commissioners may participate in person or via teleconference, email, written correspondence or prerecorded video submissions. The public hearing may be viewed on SMCG Channel 95 or the SMCG YouTube Channel.

In lieu of appearance, comments may be submitted via:

- Call: 301-475-4200, ext. 1234 to speak via telephone during the Public Hearing.
- Email: csmc@stmarysmd.com.
- US Mail: P.O. Box 653 Leonardtown, MD, 20650.

Submit a 3-minute video clip to publicmtgs@stmarysmd.com no later than 5 p.m., January 11, 2022.

Citizens may listen to the Public Hearing by calling 301-579-7236; Access code: 963443#.

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

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the wharf

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ST. MARY'S COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL

22660 WASHINGTON ST.
240-309-4061

Our audience participation Drum Circle featuring the SoMar Drummers will be from 7-8 PM, bring your own percussion instruments or use one of ours! All skill levels and ages are welcome to attend, this is a free event open to all. Doors will open at 6:30 PM. As our office will be closed due to a private function, we will meet right next door at the Leonardtown Town Hall, second floor.



NORTH END GALLERY

41652 FENWICK ST.
301-475-3130

North End Gallery Celebrates being named Favorite Gallery
North End Gallery members very much appreciate the support of the Southern Maryland community during such challenging times, and will celebrate this recognition on First Friday, January 7, 2022 from 5-8pm, our monthly Art & Wine Date Night. Open to the public, NEG asked that visitors continue COVID precautions and stay safe.



THE GOOD EARTH

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301-475-1630

The Good Earth Natural Foods Company will be offering free samples of Vital Proteins Collagen Peptides! Also, with any Vital Proteins purchase over \$20 you will receive a free Vital Proteins tumbler!

Vital Proteins is on sale for the entire month of January. First Friday hours are 10 AM to 6 PM.



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Only items that can be hand-carried will be appraised. Space is limited and items will be viewed on a first-come, first-served basis. Fine arts has a two-item limit per person. FREE admission, various costs for item appraisals.



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www.museums.stmarysmd.com
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Property Values Rise According to 2022 Reassessment

The Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT) today announced its 2022 reassessment of 704,430 "Group 1" residential and commercial properties. In Maryland, there are more than 2 million property accounts which are split into three groups, each appraised once every three years. The overall statewide increase for "Group 1" properties was 12.0% over the past three years according to SDAT.

The overall statewide increase was higher than 2020's 8.1% increase. This represents an average increase in value of 12.7% for all residential properties and 9.7% for all commercial properties over the three-year period since the last Group 1 reassessment in 2019.

"All 23 counties and Baltimore City experienced an increase in residential property values for the fourth consecutive year, while commercial property values increased in 22 counties and Baltimore City. This is a good indicator that the market remains strong and growth is steady here in Maryland," said SDAT Director Michael Higgs. "The Department's real property assessors continue to work hard work to ensure that all of Maryland's properties are assessed uniformly and fairly. As part of our Tax Credit Awareness Campaign, each reassessment notice includes information about the Homeowners' and Homestead Tax Credits, which save Marylanders more than \$260 million in taxes each year."

The 2022 assessments for Group 1 properties were based on an

evaluation of 74,673 sales that occurred within the group over the last three years. If the reassessment resulted in a property value being adjusted, any increase in value will be phased-in equally over the next three years, while any decrease in value will be fully implemented for the July 1, 2022 tax bill. For the 2022 reassessment, 93.9% of Group 1 residential properties saw an increase in property value.

The Homeowners' Tax Credit provides relief for eligible homeowners by setting a limit on the amount of property taxes that are owed based on their income. Residential property owners who complete a one-time application and meet certain eligibility requirements can also receive a Homestead Tax Credit, which limits their principal residence's taxable assessment from increasing by more than a certain percentage each year regardless of their income level. Although statewide legislation caps the increase at no more than 10% per year, many local governments have capped property taxes at lower percentages.

Property tax assessment notices were mailed to Group 1 property owners on Tuesday, December 28, 2021. A map of which properties fall into Groups 1, 2, and 3 and their respective years for reassessment can be viewed on SDAT's website here. For additional statistics and information, please visit the Department's Statistics & Reports webpage.

Juvenile Gun Arrest

On December 22, 2021, detectives from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Vice/Narcotics Division, with assistance from the Sheriff's Office K9 Unit and Emergency Services Team (EST), executed a search and seizure warrant in the 46000 block of Columbus Drive in Lexington Park. Located on scene was a male juvenile, age 17 of Lexington Park. A bulge was observed in the juvenile's waistband and he began to actively resist arrest. The juvenile was subsequently arrested and located in his waistband was a loaded handgun.

The case was reviewed with the State's Attorney's Office for St.

Mary's County, and the juvenile was transported to the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center in Leonardtown, and charged as an adult with the following:

- Handgun on Person
- Loaded Handgun on Person
- Possession of a Firearm by Minor
- Resisting Arrest

Due to a change in Maryland law, the juvenile will not be identified by the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office and no booking photo will be released until a waiver hearing is conducted to determine the jurisdiction of this case.

Holiday Party Platters



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An Arrangement of Seasonal Fruits, Cheese: Cheddar, Colby Jack, Swiss, Pepper Jack and Yellow American. Also Includes Fruit Dip

| | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 12" Tray Serves 10-15 | 16" Tray Serves 20-25 | 18" Tray Serves 30-35 |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|

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An Array of Crisp Vegetables Including Broccoli, Baby Carrots, Cauliflower, Celery Sticks, Mushrooms, Radishes, Cucumber, Grape Tomato & Green Pepper. Includes Onion or Ranch Dip

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| 12" Tray Serves 10-15 | 16" Tray Serves 15-25 | 18" Tray Serves 25-40 |
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| 12" Tray Serves 5-7 | 16" Tray Serves 15-20 | 18" Tray Serves 30-40 |
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County Receives Distinguished Budget Presentation Award

St. Mary's County Government is pleased to announce that the Government Finance Officers Association has awarded the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award to the county.

The award represents a significant achievement by the entity. It reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meet the highest principles of governmental budgeting. To receive the award, St. Mary's County Government had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. These guidelines assess how well an entity's budget serves as:

- a policy document,
- a financial plan,
- an operations guide, and

• a communications device.

Budget documents must be rated "proficient" in all four categories and in the fourteen mandatory criteria within those categories to receive the award.

"St. Mary's County Government has long adhered to strong budgetary practices, and this is just one more example of the excellent work done by our Department of Finance. Congratulations to Jeannett Cudmore, our CFO, and her entire staff for this award," said Commissioner President Randy Guy.

The Commissioner-approved FY2022 Budget book may be viewed online at https://www.stmarysmd.com/docs/FY2022_Aproved_Budget_Book.pdf.

Commissioners to Host Public Forum Jan. 11



The Commissioners of St. Mary's County will host a Public Forum Tuesday, Jan. 11, 2022, 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. Residents may offer appreciation, questions or suggestions in a mutually respectful format.

In lieu of appearance, comments may be submitted via:

- Email: csmc@stmarysmd.com.
- Mail: Commissioners of St. Mary's County, P.O. Box 653, Leonardtown, MD, 20650.
- 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, Jan. 6, 2022.

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.

Tech Expo Coming Next Month

The Dr. James A. Forrest Career & Technology Center (Forrest Center) will host its 22nd annual Forrest Center Tech Expo on Thursday, January 20, 2022,

5:00-8:00 p.m. For health and safety reasons, only two guests (parent or guardian) may accompany each student. Please adhere to the following schedule:

- Chopticon students to attend Tech Expo: 5:00-6:00 p.m.
- Great Mills students to attend Tech Expo: 6:00-7:00 p.m.
- Leonardtown students to attend Tech Expo: 7:00-8:00 p.m.

The purpose of the Forrest Center Tech Expo is to familiarize students and parents with Career and Technology Education (CTE) career options offered by the St. Mary's County Public Schools. This is an opportunity to meet the staff at the Forrest Center and to learn about the 22 complete pro-

grams (including the MFRI Fire and Rescue/EMS program) as well as our four elective classes. High school counselors will be on-site to answer questions about career clusters and to assist students in planning their academic pathway.

Although there is no pre-registration for this event, we do encourage students to bring their cell phone to utilize QR codes at the conclusion of each session to record attendance. For more information, visit the Forrest Center website, <http://schools.smcps.org/tech> or email questions to tech-center@smcps.org. In the event of inclement weather, the alternate date for the Forrest Center Tech Expo will be Thursday, January 27, 2022, from 5:00-8:00 p.m.

The Forrest Center is located at 24005 Point Lookout Road, Leonardtown, directly across from the St. Mary's County Fairgrounds.

Great Mills Pool To Offer Winter Lifeguard Certification Courses

The Department of Recreation & Parks will be offering four American Red Cross Lifeguard Certification Courses through Certified., LLC at Great Mills Pool through Jan. 2022. New Lifeguard Courses will be offered Dec. 27-29, Jan. 14-16, Jan. 28-30, and a Lifeguarding Review Course will be offered Dec. 29-30. Class information can be found at either www.stmarysm.com/recreate or www.certified.me. Registration is offered specifically through www.certified.me.

For a schedule of all Great Mills Pool programming, please view our operating schedule at: www.stmarysm.com/docs/pooloperatingschedule.pdf

Reservations are recommended for the usage of the Great Mills Pool; walk-ins are accepted if there is space available. Reserva-



tions can be made online at www.stmarysm.com/recreate, or over the phone at 301-866-6560.

For more information on Great Mills Pool, please visit www.stmarysm.com/recreate/aquatics or call us at 301-866-6560. Follow St. Mary's County Recreation & Parks on social media @stmarys-recandparks and at www.facebook.com/stmarysmrecreation.

Lettie Dent School Age Care Program Re-Opening January 31

The Department of Recreation and Parks has announced that the School Age Care Program at Lettie Marshall Dent Elementary School will reopen Monday, Jan. 31, 2022.

Families who pre-registered in spring 2021 will retain their place in the program. New families desiring to register their child may do so online from Dec. 15 – 31, 2021 at www.stmarysm.com/recreate. Simply click the "Online Registration" button and choose School Age Care.

After Dec. 31, 2021, registra-

tions will only be accepted in the Recreation and Parks main office, 23150 Leonard Hall Drive, Leonardtown (Patuxent Building), Monday – Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Registration will remain open until the program reaches maximum capacity.

For further information on the School Age Care programs, please contact Cherie Nelson at, cherie.nelson@stmarysm.com or call 301-373-5410 or 301-373-4689. For further information on registering, please contact 301-475-4200 ext. 1800.



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Southern Maryland Steps Up for Giving Tuesday

The numbers are in, and they are pretty impressive



Community members joined College of Southern Maryland (CSM) alumni, faculty and staff to donate \$157,551 during this year's Giving Tuesday – a 24-hour online event held Nov. 30. All monies raised during the fundraising campaign champion student success by supporting scholarships, athletics or the Hawk Feeder micro-pantries and Hawk Pantries.

“We are just overwhelmed by the outpouring of support that our communities showed our students this year,” said CSM Foundation Executive Director Chelsea Clute. “The final Giving Tuesday numbers far exceeded our expectations, but then that is what Southern Maryland does every year. This year was our most successful Giving Tuesday yet in CSM’s 10-year history of participating. Some 373 donors participated and we are truly grateful for everyone’s donation. Every dollar changes our students’ lives and our communities.”

The international day of giving follows Black Friday, Small Business Saturday and Cyber Monday,

to highlight a season and spirit of kindness that focuses on giving to others after three days fixated on consumerism.

Giving to the CSM Foundation and supporting student success does not have to happen on just Giving Tuesday. Gifts of every size will help change lives in Southern Maryland. For information on how to establish a scholarship, or become a donor, email csmfoundation@csmd.edu. Scholarship donations are tax-deductible.

The CSM Foundation, a non-profit, 501(c)3 charitable organization established in 1970, helps increase access to higher education at CSM through scholarship funding and assures the excellence of that education by raising and managing funds for college projects and objectives – including workforce development in Southern Maryland. The CSM Foundation is comprised of a tri-county, all-volunteer board of directors. To learn more about the CSM Foundation or to donate, visit the CSM Foundation online.

State Awards Grant to Land Trust

On December 1st the Maryland Board of Public Works approved an award of \$2,217,053.00 to the Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust (PTLT) to acquire conservation easements in the Huntersville Rural Legacy Area in Northern St. Mary’s County. PTLT plans to apply this funding toward acquiring conservation easements on several important properties including a 437-acre waterfront parcel that will significantly help protect the environment and wildlife habitat in St. Mary’s County.

PTLT asks any property owners in the Huntersville Rural Area who may be interested in the conservation easement purchase program, or have questions, to contact us at SaveLand@PTLT.org or call 301-862-3421.



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MARYLAND STATE POLICE BLOTTER

- On 12/22/2021, Tpr T. Eckrich conducted a traffic stop on Great Mills Road at Westbury Blvd, Lexington Park, MD. A probable cause search of the vehicle was conducted which revealed drug paraphernalia. The driver of the vehicle was identified as Tavares Thompson, 27 of Chaptico, MD. Thompson was arrested and transported to the St. Mary's County Detention Center where he was charged with Possession of CDS: Not Marijuana and Possession of CDS: Paraphernalia.
- On 12/26/2021, Tpr J. Barlow responded to Walmart located at 45485 Miramar Way, California, MD for the report of a theft. Investigation revealed that June Lee, 60 of North Bethesda, MD stole items from Walmart with the amount totalling over \$100.00. Lee was arrested and transported to the St. Mary's County Detention Center where she was charged with Theft: \$100.00-\$1,500 - Shoplifting.
- On 12/27/2021, Tpr J. Engleman conducted a traffic stop at Great Mills Road and Point Lookout Road. A probable cause search of the vehicle was conducted which revealed drug paraphernalia. The driver of the vehicle was identified as Gary Lawrence Greinert, 41 of Lexington Park, MD. Greinert was arrested and transported to the St. Mary's County Detention Center. Upon being searched at the detention center, CDS, Crack Cocaine, Cocaine and Alprazolam, along with additional drug paraphernalia, were located hidden on his person. Greinert was charged with Possession of CDS: Not Marijuana, Possession of CDS: Paraphernalia, Possession of CDS: In a place of confinement, and was also issued multiple traffic citations.
- On 12/24/2021, Marquez Deion Brice, 22 of Mechanicsville, MD was arrested by Tpr J. Engleman
- On 12/26/2021, Carlos A Estrada-Morales, 48 of Mechanicsburg, PA was arrested by Tpr D. Black
- The following people were arrested for Open Warrants:
- On 12/21/2021, Roy Lee Morris, 44 of Leonardtown, MD was arrested by Tpr J. Barlow for Telephone Misuse: Repeat Calls and Electronic Communication Harassment.
- On 12/21/2021, Ilija Misha Dulovich, 18 of California, MD was arrested by Tpr C. Willhite for 2nd Degree Assault x4 and Malicious Destruction of Property: Less than \$1,000
- On 12/21/2021, James Robert Owens Jr, 38 of Lusby, MD was arrested by Tpr C. Willhite for FTA: Driving while license was suspended.

Editor's Note:

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

Legal Notices

COMMISSIONERS OF LEONARDTOWN BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Leonardtown Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, January 24, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. in the Town Office located at 22670 Washington Street, Leonardtown, MD. The purpose of the hearing is to present for public review and comment a Special Exception request for St. Mary's Nursing Center Memory Care Facility to be located at 42156 Saint Andrews Church Road in Leonardtown. Tax Map 0041, Grid 0001, Parcel(s) 0001 and 0002.

All interested parties are encouraged to attend or to submit written comments by 4:30 p.m. on January 24, 2022 to the Board of Zoning Appeals, 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

IN THE MATTER OF ROBERT CHRISTIAN SMITH FOR CHANGE OF NAME TO ROBERT CHRISTIAN BORNO BY AND THROUGH THEIR MOTHER/FATHER/GUARDIAN KORE JONATHAN BORNO

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

Case No.: C-18-FM-21-903
Notice (Minor)

The above Petitioner has filed a Petition for Change of Name of a minor from ROBERT CHRISTIAN SMITH to ROBERT CHRISTIAN BORNO. The petitioner is seeking a name change because: I would like my son to have my last name.

Any person may file an objection to the Petition on or before the 02/06/2021. The objection must be supported by an affidavit (written statement confirmed by oath or affirmation) and served upon all parties (Md Rule 1-321). If no timely objection is filed, the court may enter a default judgement or grant the name change.

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

IN THE MATTER OF KATHRYN FRENCH ELLEFSON FOR CHANGE OF NAME TO KATIE FRENCH BENTON

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

Case No.: C-18-FM-21-824
Notice (Adult)

The above Petitioner has filed a Petition for Change of Name in which he/she seeks to change his/her name from KATHRYN FRENCH ELLEFSON to KATIE FRENCH BENTON. The petitioner is seeking a name change because: I request to change my first name from Kathryn to Katie because it is what i prefer to be known as legally. I also request to change my last name from Ellefson to Benton due to my recent marriage on 30 October 2021.

Any person may file an objection to the Petition on or before the February 01, 2022. The objection must be supported by an affidavit (written statement confirmed by oath or affirmation) and served on the petitioner (Maryland Rule 1-321). If no timely objection is filed, the court may issue a default judgement or grant the name change.

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



Philip H. Dorsey III
Attorney at Law

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2021 Year in Review

Part I

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

St. Mary's County took the fight to the COVID-19 virus in 2021 by broader distribution of vaccines. Elected leaders at the county and state level continued to wrangle over serious issues of redistricting and police reform while they tried to find ways to pay for it all.

The county's young people would eventually return to in person learning at public schools, while some parents continued to protest that they must still wear masks while in school facilities.

The ravages of the virus continued to put pressure on all levels of the community, from businesses to community organizations to homes but recovery continued with the help of federal rescue dollars.

One piece of the county's long-held fabric – the all volunteer rescue squads – were in much need of those funds to hire paid medics to augment their dwindling volunteer numbers. Those paid supplemental staff would cut down on lagging response times of ambulances but the county would continue to struggle to keep those paid positions filled as well.

JANUARY

By the beginning of the year the county had vaccinated enough of its essential workers in emergency services, government and health care — as well as the elderly population — to begin inoculating more of the residents at large.

But challenges continued as vaccine supplies were still low compared to the great demand.

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

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

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

vaccine you're going to get."

Time was precious, health officials warned in those early days of the fight against the virus, as the state and county were headed into one of what would turn out to be several viral case surges after the holidays.

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

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

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

Delaying vaccinations could be deadly, he said.

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

Brewster herself came under criticism for some of her actions during the pandemic when quarantines were still deemed necessary for lack of vaccines.

One county couple openly protested her orders to remain quarantined in their home.

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

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

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

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

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

Nathaniel said he wouldn't give his wife's cell phone number to the contact

tracer, nor would he divulge his place of employment.

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

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

If the pandemic had any positive impacts, it was to push the county to expand broadband connectivity.

Chief Information Officer Bob Kelly said Jan. 12 that 650 homes in St. Mary's County now have permanent internet access, also known as broadband, where they did not before.

CARES Act funding provided internet infrastructure for the Leonardtown Library and Senior Center, Lancaster, Dorsey, Baggett and Chaptico parks, Kelly said, with activation of Wi-Fi expected to occur by March of this year.

"That will be free Wi-Fi over the county infrastructure at those four parks," Kelly said. "We'll turn it on when those parks are open, and we'll turn it off when it's not open."

This Wi-Fi infrastructure could lead to security cameras on the grounds and in buildings at park sites, Kelly said.

Using the same emergency federal funding the county was able to add internet connections to the Northern Farmers Market and Regional Agricultural Center sites, Kelly said.

The largest installation of fiber optic cable, 33.5 miles, was for "middle mile" projects that provided a portion of infrastructure to mostly rural neighborhoods, Kelly reported, to include Mt. Wolf Road, Trent Hall, Friendship School Road, Beachville and Cornfield Harbor Road, Bushwood City Road, Delebrook Road, a portion of Route 236, Cherryfield Road and St. Jerome's Creek Road.

The county would also continue to focus its efforts, along with the school system, in connecting every student so they could connect to virtual learning.

So-called "last mile" projects, which actually connected underserved students and their families to the internet, were completed for 173 addresses, Kelly said,

but the actual number of additional addresses with wired internet access is now more than 280.

That represented an additional 25.7 miles of cable installed.

The presidential election in November of 2020 left a scar locally, with heavily GOP St. Mary's smarting from the victory of newly-elected Democrat President Joe Biden.

Attorney Shane Mattingly, who is also the St. Mary's County Democratic Central Committee Chair, said there can be reconciliation nationally and locally between the two parties to achieve Biden's vaunted goal of bringing the nation back to together.

But it won't be easy, said Mattingly, and Republicans who hold on to the belief their candidate was cheated by claims of mass voter fraud in battleground states will hamper the process.

"There can't be healing unless we agree on what reality is," Mattingly told The County Times, evoking the memory of the Jan. 6 storming of the Capitol Building in Washington D.C. by a violent minority of Trump supporters who sought to stop the Electoral College certification of Biden's win.

"We had thousands of people storm the Capitol in an attempt to interfere with the Constitutional transfer of power... that's sedition and treason," Mattingly said. "There's this big lie that needs to be addressed, that Trump had the election stolen from him."

"He lost fair and square."

Mattingly's counterpart, David Willenborg of the St. Mary's Republican Central Committee, said the opinions of local GOP members run the gamut on whether Trump was cheated, though the state GOP released a statement confirming Biden's win was above board.

He, too, repudiated the violence at the Capitol.

"It's a Constitutional function, they're required to do it," Willenborg said of the Senate's duty Jan. 6. "They [violent protesters] shouldn't have done it."

Willenborg said he believed local divisions in the party will be healed by the next election cycle.

"In two years we'll be back together and moving on."

Willenborg said he was "disgusted" by the breaching of the Capitol but that the protests that day were mostly peaceful.



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



Dr. Meena Brewster



Del. Brian Crosby



Hollywood Firefighters fought a garage fire on Threen Notch Road

“That’s part of the DNA of our country is to be able to protest but when it turns to violence it has to be stopped,” Willenborg said.

FEBRUARY

As St. Mary’s dealt with the most obvious pandemic it was reminded of the one that still festered in the community before COVID-19 — deaths from opioid overdoses.

In February, one pandemic continued to feed the other.

State health officials believe isolation and lack of access to treatment has exacerbated opioid addiction and consumption for some, leading to a continued surge in related deaths.

From January to September of 2020 there were 25 opioid related deaths in St. Mary’s County, according to third quarter data released by the Maryland Opioid Operational Command Center, the coordinating body for combating the opioid epidemic.

There were three fewer deaths for the same time span in 2019, the report showed.

Local numbers through the end of 2020 are even higher, showing 30 opioid-related fatalities with 163 opioid overdoses known to the St. Mary’s County Sheriff’s Office and the local Maryland State Police barracks.

Neighboring Calvert County’s fatalities remained the same during the first nine months of both 2020 and 2019 with 17 deaths.

Steve Schuh, director of the opioid command center, said Maryland must redouble its efforts to fight the opioid epidemic.

“We must not forget that we have been successful in flattening the opioid curve in our state before,” said Schuh. “That experience provided us with an entire inventory of programs that we are adapting to our new realities.

“We have a community of treatment professionals and advocates who stand for the interests of those who are suffering. And we have the knowledge and will to bring these elements together as we continue to respond to the situation at hand.”

Students eventually would come back to class in their entirety in 2021 but in the beginning of the year they had to return gradually in hybrid format — A and B days — with some learning virtually while others socially distanced in classrooms.

Special needs students in programs such as SAIL and COMPASS began returning to in-person learning Feb. 8 in a

hybrid model that allowed for alternating virtual learning as well.

Starting Feb. 16 the second phase will begin, said Schools Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith to the St. Mary’s County Board of Education, to include Head Start and pre-Kindergarten students, Kindergarteners and 1st graders, 6th grades and in high school both freshmen and seniors.

Even as the county was coming to grips with the pandemic it was also set to deal with potential political upheaval as Del. Brian Crosby, a Democrat, offered a bill in the General Assembly that would have upended the at-large voting system for county commissioners here and in other counties in favor of restricting voting for county commissioners to the voters in their own districts.

At their Feb. 23 meeting, the Commissioners of St. Mary’s County voted to press for an amendment in Annapolis that would put the question to a referendum.

The bill would not only change the voting method here but in four other counties, including Calvert, Garrett, Queen Anne and Cecil counties, which also elect commissioners by at large voting.

“Some people didn’t know they were going to be impacted,” said Commissioner Mike Hewitt.

None of the counties which would be directly impacted by the bill support the legislation and it is opposed by the Maryland Association of Counties (MaCO) as it would take away local flexibility of governance.

Commissioner Todd Morgan commented on what he called “the disingenuousness of this bill.”

“There are better ways of handling this situation than being told ‘This is how you’re going to vote in the future,’” Morgan said, calling for a referendum. “The people have a right to vote on this.”

Morgan also called for a referendum on the option of voting in all commissioners at large, but without a district residency requirement, as is now the local law.

Under such a new mandate, Morgan said, five commissioners could conceivably be elected who live on the same street.

“That’s a decision the people get to make,” Morgan continued. “It shouldn’t be Annapolis telling you here’s the decision you get to live with.”

The push for a referendum failed in the General Assembly but Crosby’s bill also did not advance, though it made significant headway in the beginning.

MARCH

Getting students back to school took on a new urgency when policy makers and educational leaders found out that many students who were learning virtually were failing or had dropped out of learning entirely.

“About one-third of our kids are carrying an ‘F’ somewhere on their report card,” Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith told The County Times in early March. “We have a failure rate that is, in some cases, about three times more than normal.”

Students were in the third marking period and teachers are scrambled to find ways to help those with failing grades, sometimes multiple failing grades, catch up so that they could salvage their education this year, made that much more difficult by COVID-19 and the need to keep them out of in-person learning.

Only since March 1 were county public school students been back in classrooms and even then only in a hybrid model, where one half are in school while the other have are learning virtually, alternating each day.

The school system rapidly improved its virtual capabilities since the beginning of the pandemic, moving to the new Schoology platform that allowed real-time connectivity between teachers and students; the system had a ratio of one computer or device for every three students at the beginning of the pandemic and now the ratio is one-to-one.

Despite all that effort, the technology was only as good as the number of students who engaged with it.

“You could have some kids who fail everything, they’re not engaged on the platform,” Smith said. “And you have some who do fine on everything else, but they fail one class.

“And that is usually some kind of mathematics course.”

That set the school system on a rapid path of enrichment courses and remediation work to bring failing students up to par, including extended summer school.

The county seat of Leonardtown continued to cope with the pandemic but did not take its eyes off of its main mission of continuing economic development and revitalization.

Part of that was just finding ways to keep the town inviting in the midst of a viral spread.

Laschelle McKay, town administrator, said the town had used its rebranding campaign to successful effect this year.

It was part of the strategic plan.

“I think we’ve done an excellent job of



getting it out there and people are really starting to recognize it," McKay said of the "Leonardtown, A Most Exceptional Place," logo.

Another achievement was taking the town square and making it more accessible by removing plantings and opening more space.

Increased seating around that town square was also part of the plan, as well as a swing set "to make it a more inviting place on a day to day basis not just for events," McKay said.

This area was used especially by everyday residents during the pandemic as a way to get out and enjoy the county when other venues were closed.

McKay noted that outdoor seating at restaurants, which the town helped to coordinate with the county's alcohol beverage board, was initially critical to the survival of restaurants who had their internal capacities limited.

"It's almost expected now," McKay said. "People are loving it; they're really enjoying it."

"It's something we really need to capitalize on. It's something recommended in the plan even pre-COVID."

Other businesses were finding ways to flourish, too, even in places that had been hit hard economically before well before the pandemic.

Pier 450 in Ridge was one of them — what was once known as Schieble's Fishing Center.

Peggy Binzel, owner and operator as well as her business partner and marketing coordinator Cathy Austin, opened the newly refurbished South County attraction in August of 2020, as the COVID-19 pandemic continued to rage.

They wondered if the pandemic would stop their hopes and dreams for the locale before it even had a chance.

"It was petrifying, but it was energizing," Binzel told The County Times. "But I believe in this area; I've invested my life savings into this."

"There was no option to fail."

Austin said the menu alone was a painstaking work to ensure that tourists and locals alike who had patronized Schieble's for years would come and dine.

"We spent months making that menu right," Austin said. "We wanted people in the community to have something they would like, too."

Pier 450's chef uses only fresh ingredients, including available meats and seafood from local vendors, and even takes vegetables and herbs from their own garden to use in the kitchen.

The Quarters at Pier 450, are eight

small but comfortable rooms with their own showers, televisions, coffee makers and remodeled in individual themes such as country music or Hollywood for their guests.

APRIL

The beginning of spring in St. Mary's brought sad tidings. The county's, and indeed the state's, first black sheriff Joseph Lee Somerville past away.

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

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

As well as having sons who actively served — and continue to serve in the agency — he also brought on a deputy more than 40 years ago who now leads the office.

"He hired me in July of 1980," said Sheriff Timothy K. Cameron, remembering his first commanding officer. "We were a very small agency and it was not lost on me that I was the only 21-year-old in the agency."

"I was very lucky; it was never lost on me that he took a chance on me."

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

"I saw him enough coming in and out of the sheriff's office headquarters when it was at the courthouse and he always stopped to talk," Cameron said. "He would ask questions about my family and my future plans."

"He focused on you; he was a very warm and humble person."

Just a week later the Leonardtown community — and the county has a whole — was rocked when a 16-year-old high school student, Peyton Ham, was gunned down by a Maryland State Trooper who was responding to a call for a suspicious person with a gun.

It would be months before the State's Attorney's Office would finish their investigation, finding Trooper Azzari acted properly in shooting Ham as the trooper believed he was facing down a real handgun.

It turned out to be a replica.

A witness reported seeing the sus-

pect in a "shooting stance" pointing the gun at the trooper, Jones said.

"The trooper fired at the male and wounded him," State Police Superintendent Woodrow W. Jones told reporters.

A second witness, Jones said, reported seeing Ham pull out a knife after being shot and attempt to get back up.

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

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

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

The family would later protest Azzari's exoneration, with eyewitness testimony that refuted the report issued by State's Attorney Richard Fritz.

Conflict would continue between the school system and the county commissioners, even though they had worked hard to cooperate to serve students and teachers through the pandemic.

The catalyst for the strife was a familiar one: funding.

Dr. J. Scott Smith told the St. Mary's County Board of Education that the schools budget for fiscal 2022 had a deficit of approximately \$3 million that needed to be budgeted to fulfill the board's negotiated agreement with its employees, or he said, the system would have to cut teachers positions or funding for programs.

A week later at their April 20 business meeting, several members of the Commissioners of St. Mary's County said they had continuously funded the school system above maintenance of effort for years and that Smith was trying to force the issue by making "dire" predictions, while at the same time refusing to make cuts elsewhere in the proposed schools budget.

"This commissioner believes we need to fund education to the maximum extent we can," said Commissioner Mike Hewitt, adding that Smith had claimed the system would have to lay off 49 teachers without the requested extra funding or defund programs such as STEM.

"These are very dire things to project," Hewitt continued, adding that St. Mary's County in 2014 was regarded by the state as being last among jurisdictions in its share of local aid to the school system.

That has since changed, he said, noting the commissioners' commitment to education funding.

"In seven years, we've managed to go



Peyton Ham



Owner of Pier 450 Peggy Binzel and Cathy Austin



Sheriff Joseph Lee Somerville



Leonardtown High School





Superintendent J. Scott Smith

from No. 24 to No. 15," Hewitt said. "It's not as good as we'd like it, but it shows our commitment to education."

"We are not adding any new positions in the unrestricted budget for next year," Smith said. "The county's adding over 90 but we're not adding any."

He said the commissioners' offer of \$2.6 million only covers one merit increase in pay for employees and not the 1.75 percent cost of living increase in the negotiated agreement.

The commissioners have \$3.1 million in funds they had not made a decision on how to spend, Smith said, while the county was projecting a 15.7 percent increase in revenue this fiscal year.

"I'm dumbstruck," Smith said.

The spring also brought a wave of gun violence, mostly in Lexington Park, between what police believed was two warring factions.

The proceeding months would be littered with announcements of shootings, some fatal, that police scrambled to solve.

Deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office on April 25 at approximately 8:41 p.m. responded to the 45500 block of Coronado Drive in Great Mills, for a shooting involving multiple victims. Two male victims were located, ages 18 and 13. Both victims sustained gunshot wounds and were transported via helicopter to area trauma centers and are listed in stable condition.

Following the initial shooting, a second shooting was reported at approximately 9:34 p.m. in the 21600 block of Eric Road in Lexington Park. Deputies located a 22-year-old male victim with a gunshot wound to the leg. The victim was transported via helicopter to an area trauma center for treatment and is listed in stable condition.

High school seniors in St. Mary's were once again disappointed when they had to have limited graduations with just a few family members in attendance.

"There's been no reversal of the requirement for us to socially distance outside," Smith told the school board in late April. "We're preparing to go down the path of indoor ceremonies and they're going to have to be cohorted."

Bleachers at high school locations under normal conditions could accommodate as many as 1,500 people to view a graduation ceremony, Smith said, but social distancing requirements mean that they could only accommodate 300 at a time.

"That means high schools are going to have to have several ceremonies on their

given day," Smith had said.

High school graduations are set to take place the week of June 1.

Smith said system planning staff had worked out several scenarios in an attempt to see if single ceremony graduation events were possible but could find no other option than the in-door ceremonies at each individual high school.

The school system also did not have any arrangements with large-scale venues such as the Show Place Arena in Upper Marlboro or Bowie Baysox Stadium in Bowie to hold a graduation ceremony, Smith said.

"I know that's going to be a disappointment to a lot of people," Smith said. "But that's where we are."

Elected leaders continued to press ahead with finding ways to work with the YMCA of the Chesapeake to bring a similar facility here to meet community demands, though near the end of the year the efforts would flounder.

After hearing from a fundraising consultant and the director of the YMCA of the Chesapeake this week the Commissioners of St. Mary's County voted unanimously to take the next steps in the architecture and engineering process for a new community center in Lexington Park.

Much of the results will depend on how much the community will be willing to contribute financially to the cause.

The YMCA of the Chesapeake received authorization from the commissioners last year to hire the consultant - Triangle 2 - to make a feasibility study for a fundraising campaign to raise money from the community to begin construction.

The results of the study, presented by Kim Looby, representative for Triangle 2, show the "community is thirsty for a Y [MCA]."

The study also showed that 69 percent of the respondents to the survey said a campaign for a \$15 million facility was sustainable over a five-year period, with \$2 million to \$3 million coming from the community via donations.

The county would need to provide the majority of the \$15 million, the study showed.

As the county school system slowly brought back students in staggered cohorts to classrooms, educational leaders came under fire for allowing teachers to bring their children with them back into school each day.

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 determines 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.

Despite conflict over policy and funding, residents still found ways to keep traditions going despite the challenges of the pandemic.

The 7th District Optimist Club brought back the Blessing of the Fleet, celebrating one of the most iconic events here.

John Laychak, club member overseeing the preparations for the celebration, said certain restrictions will likely be in place to deal with any lingering virus.

"But we hope they'll [the restrictions] be gone by then," Laychak told The County Times. "I feel like people are ready to come out and enjoy what's offered in the county."

The Blessing of the Fleet is the biggest fundraising event for the 7th District Optimists, which helps provide for the activities and scholarships for local youth the club awards each year.

Last year's celebration was cancelled due to COVID-19 and Laychak said this year's event would be a replica of the last one.

"We're going back to what we had in 2019," Laychak said. "We're underway; we've already got a band committed."

The main musical entertainment this year was the Amish Outlaws as well as local artist Robbie Booth.

Each of the more than 50 Blessings of the Fleet that have come before have included a parade, entertainment for families, rides and games for children, booths exhibiting local crafters, food and drink vendors, stage shows and a fireworks display at the end of the first day of the festival.

As the summer approached the county had had enough of growing gun violence in Lexington Park and formed a special



The male crab population fell in 2021



Gov. Larry Hogan visits St. Mary's City



St. Mary's Blessing of the Fleet water taxi.



task force to combat it.

“We’re looking to formulate a deterrent program for youth,” Sheriff Timothy K. Cameron said of how the task force is being reshaped, to include an educational component to try to divert youth away from participating in gun violence.

The task force, aside from a greater number of deputies assigned to it, has more partners involved to include the health department, juvenile justice and social services from county government among others.

“When you have a juvenile involved in gun violence you have to ask the question ‘What’s the situation like at home,’” Cameron said. “The first run of the task force was focused entirely on interdiction.”

The reformation of the task force includes reassignment of personnel from the St. Mary’s County Sheriff’s Office Patrol Division, Narcotics Division, Special Operations Division and the Criminal Investigations Division. School Resource Officers will later join the task force for the rest of this summer and will return to their assigned schools for the fall session.

The Lexington Park COPs Unit was reassigned to the effort, the sheriff’s office announced.

The task force’s objectives include high visibility police presence in at-risk neighborhoods to reduce the propensity of gun violence; interdiction enforcement to recover illegally possessed firearms from persons and vehicles; utilize covert investigative strategies to identify suspects involved in gun crimes; review and evaluate both open and closed gun cases for actionable intelligence and engage community members and organizations to solicit information and cooperation, the sheriff’s office stated.

JUNE

By mid 2021, the county learned that the previous year topped the number of opioid deaths as in 2017, which had been the highest year on record.

It effectively erased some of the gains the county had made in reducing fatal overdoses.

Both health and law enforcement officials have said the COVID-19 pandemic would exacerbate overall drug use, and specifically opioids, and have recently reported a spike in opioid related overdoses.

The opioid deaths have increased despite the rapid decrease in the number of opioid prescriptions approved in St. Mary’s.

According to the data from the Maryland Prescription Drug Monitoring Program a there were more than 106,000 prescriptions of opioids doled out here in 2015, but that dropped to 77,917 such prescriptions in 2020.; there was a slight increase in 2020, though, over the prior year’s number of 76,901 prescriptions filled.

Of those prescriptions filled in the past six years, methadone and buprenorphine, both opioids used to treat opioid

addiction, represent about 10 percent of the total volume of more than 532,000 from 2015 through 2020.

Along with heroin, a natural opiate, and other opioids, which are synthetic and often more powerful than the natural narcotic, both methadone and buprenorphine have been seized in single arrests and larger narcotics operations from those who illegally possess them without a prescription.

The statistics show that - in St. Mary’s - methadone prescriptions have decreased while buprenorphine scripts filled have increased.

There have been 14,508 prescriptions of methadone filled here in the past six years as opposed to 38, 494 of buprenorphine.

Summer, with rising levels of vaccination, meant outdoor sports and a college student and St. Mary’s native helped his school make it to the top on the baseball diamond.

Scott Cameron, son of St. Mary’s Sheriff Timothy K. Cameron, celebrated with his team the Salisbury University Seagulls their first national championship in baseball for an NCAA Division III school.

The elder Cameron went to Cedar Rapids, Iowa to watch his son and his team play and win.

“He played well,” he said of Scott, a 21-year-old junior who is studying communications. “They went unbeaten in the regionals and they were unbeaten here in Cedar Rapids.

“They had an impressive record all year long.”

Cameron said he was impressed not only with the performance of his son’s team but their coaches, who he said instilled a sense of team spirit in the players.

“These boys are very, very close,” said Cameron.

Salisbury University stated: “Twenty years after making its first appearance in the College World Series, the Salisbury University baseball team has finished the job.

“The sixth-ranked Sea Gulls captured their first-ever national championship in baseball, holding on to defeat the 19th-ranked St. Thomas (Minn.) Tommies, 4-2, in Game 2 of the best-of-three 2021 NCAA Division III Baseball Championship finals on Tuesday afternoon at Perfect Game Field at Veterans Memorial Stadium.”

Cameron said his son has made baseball a huge part of his life, playing ever since he was a small child.

Others in the community, who were counted among its pillars, continued to endure and found ways to continue serving while thriving in business.

The Gelrud family, while operating the Showtime Deli in Lexington Park, were a prime example.

Being in the food service business is just one of the business endeavors the family has prospered in since their patriarch Jack Gelrud, a World War II veteran, settled in St. Mary’s shortly after the war.

Their father started a pharmacy in Lexington Park and his sons, Gary, Steve and Paul, started the well-known but now long-gone Stop, Look and Listen in St. Mary’s Square starting in 1974, which sold mostly stereo and sound system equipment but soon morphed into the county’s first video cassette - VHS and Betamax -rental store.

From 1988 to 2001 the family ran three Showtime Deli’s at various times, with the first on Coral Drive in Lexington Park.

There was another in Wildewood and one in Leonardtown.

Jonathan, 37, works with a few others in the kitchen of the latest iteration of Showtime Deli, pushing through lunch rushes every day for hungry customers looking for that special delicatessen style of flavor.

He’s dedicated to his job.

“I’ll do this until it’s time to retire,” Jonathan told The County Times. “It’s rewarding.

“We try to give people a place to hang out and be comfortable.”

He got a lot of his training at an early age from his father, Paul, who has worked as a chef trainer for the Harry Lundeberg School Seamanship in Piney Point, bringing in recipes to the delicatessen side of the family business.

“He knew what to do and what not to do,” Jonathan said of his father. “I was old enough to shut my mouth and listen.

“We just try to be part of the community.”

The St. Mary’s Alcohol Beverage Board weighed allowing liquor license holders to continue selling mixed drinks for off-site consumption to aid struggling businesses.

During the COVID-19 pandemic Gov. Larry Hogan relaxed certain liquor regulations which allowed restaurants, bars and taverns to sell alcohol, including mixed drinks, for off-site consumption in an effort to help these establishments to stem the economically debilitating effects of lockdowns.

In May, Hogan signed a law that gives local liquor boards the authority to continue these practices from July 1 through June 30 of 2023.

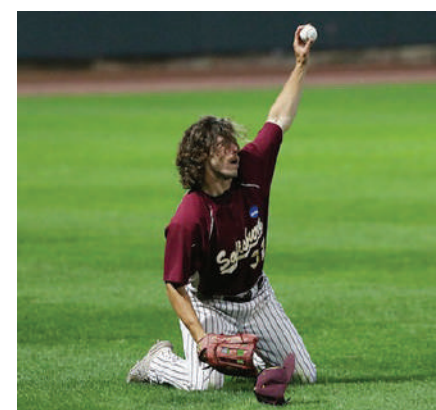
The St. Mary’s County Alcohol Beverage Board is considering whether to allow what would normally be illegal practices; they consulted the Commissioners of St. Mary’s County on that issue this week.

“The bill mandates that the alcohol board establish need based on economic problems COVID created for our businesses as well as to weigh in the health and welfare of the community,” said beverage board coordinator Tamara Hildebrand. “Each jurisdiction has to opt in.

“We do have a handful of businesses that want to continue this, most of the businesses that supported this did so in support of their fellow businesses.”

The law essentially allows to-go service of alcoholic beverages, especially cocktails, to customers but only under fairly strict rules.

guyleonard@countytimes.net



Scott Cameron helped Salisbury University win NCAA Baseball Championship



Jonathan and Paul Gelrud with John Duckett of Showtime Deli



Robbie Gill of YMCA of the Chesapeake



Lexington Park Volunteer Rescue Squad ambulances



Alcohol Beverage Board Administrator Tamara Hildebrand



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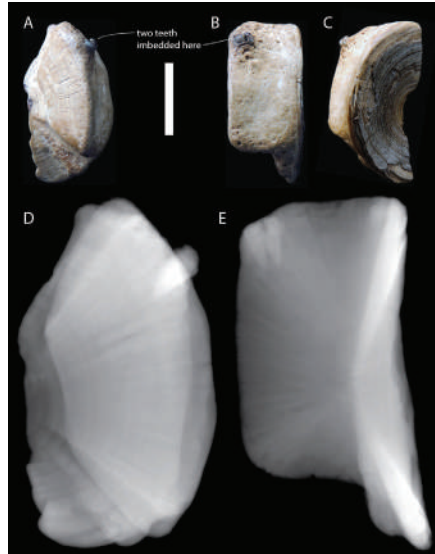
Rare Evidence Reported of Shark-on-Shark Predation

Paper Published by Museum Paleontologists

Calvert Marine Museum's paleontologists, Drs. Victor Perez and Stephen Godfrey, have just published a paper in the journal *Acta Palaeontologica Polonica* entitled: "Rare evidence of shark-on-shark trophic interactions in the fossil record." This study was co-authored by Dr. Phillip Chapman from Johns Hopkins University.

In modern marine ecosystems, sharks are known to prey upon other sharks, and in some cases will even cannibalize the same species. We rarely see evidence of this feeding behavior in the fossil record, and yet bite traces from sharks are commonly observed on fossil bones of whales and dolphins. So, why do we not find more evidence of sharks preying upon other sharks in the fossil record?

The answer is the composition of their skeleton. Sharks have a skeleton composed primarily of prismatic cartilage, which is a soft-tissue that decomposes much faster than bone. As a result, cartilage does not preserve as often as bone, but there are exceptions in which the environmental conditions are just right to preserve this delicate material. And in extremely rare circumstances, these cartilaginous skeletal elements will preserve bite traces, either made when animals were scavenging the carcass or



Requiem shark vertebra, CMM-V-2700. A, articular cross-sectional view; B, lateral view; C, articular view; D, CT-scan in articular view showing the two shark teeth embedded in and protruding from the upper quadrant of the centrum; E, CT-scan in lateral view showing the same two shark teeth embedded in the centrum. Scale bars equal 1 cm.

during active predation.

This new study describes four fossil requiem shark vertebrae that possess bite traces, most likely originating from other sharks. In fact, two of the specimens actually have broken shark teeth still embedded in the fossil vertebrae.



One possible way in which the shark centra (CMM-V-2700) could have been bitten. This illustration depicts an active predatory encounter between two requiem sharks (aff. *Carcharhinus* sp.). Original drawing by Tim Scheirer. Coloration added by Clarence Schumaker.

These exceptionally rare fossils represent the first documented occurrences of bite traces preserved on fossil shark vertebrae, offering definitive evidence of shark-on-shark predation and/or scavenging in the fossil record.

One specimen, CMM-V-2700, is particularly unique, as CT-scans revealed healing around the embedded shark teeth. This implies that the bitten shark survived the encounter. In other words,

this fossil preserves a failed predation event between two requiem sharks (Figure 2).

Two of the four specimens described in this study are currently on display at the Calvert Marine Museum in the new exhibit, *Sharks! Sink your teeth in!* Come visit the museum to see them in person

Press Release from Calvert Marine Museum.

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PATUXENT RIVER NAVAL AIR STATION *News*

Ribbon Cutting Event Officially Opens Women in Aviation Exhibit

By Donna Cipolloni
NAS Patuxent River Public Affairs

“There should be no barriers to thinking you can succeed in the military and there are many women who have. As my parents told me, ‘you can do it, and should do it, because you are independent, smart and skilled.’”

That quote by Leslie Taylor, vice commander of Naval Air Systems Command – the first woman to hold that position – is one of a number of inspirational quotes by women whose careers, both military and civilian, are featured in a new exhibit at the Patuxent River Naval Air Museum (PRNAM).

Titled “Women in Aviation: Exploring their Diverse Contributions to NAS Patuxent River and Beyond,” the permanent installation includes a few of the women who have served at, worked for, or passed through Pax River, recognizing their impact onboard the installation and throughout naval aviation.

Seven of the women in the exhibit, some of whom still work at Pax River, were on hand at the museum Nov. 12 for a grand opening ceremony followed by a ribbon-cutting to officially introduce the display to the public.

“We really wanted to share the stories of women who have been pioneers and trailblazers in aviation; women who have broken barriers and found success within the STEM and STEAM fields,” said PRNAM Exhibit and Program Coordinator Bailey Rios, during her welcome speech to the crowd in attendance. “More specifically, women who have contributed to the aviation field here at Naval Air Station Patuxent River.”

One of the impressive women featured is retired Navy Reserve

Capt. Colleen Nevius, first female aviator to graduate from the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School and one of the first two naval pilots assigned to and deployed with Helicopter Combat Support Squadron 6 flying the H-46 Sea Knight in the Vertical Replenishment mission, after the U.S. lifted the ban on women aboard Navy ships. Her advice is “Do the hardest things you can possibly envision yourself doing, because those are the most rewarding.”

Another H-46 pilot who was the first aboard a ship was Tracy Barkhimer, retired Navy captain and former program manager at Pax River with Air Combat Electronics (PMA-209).

“In 1994, her squadron embarked on our ship getting ready for deployment and they were bringing aboard women,” explained Eric Barkhimer, who was there on behalf of his wife, who was unable to attend. “The Navy was transitioning, and USS Camden (AOE-2) was one of the ships to transition. The two pilots – and that’s how we referred to them, as ‘the two pilots,’ – were coming onboard and I remember they had to wipe out part of the ‘officers country’ to make room for them because it was the only head, or restroom, they could partition off for the women.”

Back then, Barkhimer, assistant program manager for procurement for PMA-207 and 271, was a surface warfare officer on Camden and he admitted it took some of his shipmates time to get used to the new normal.

“People were uprooted and moved, and of course they blamed whoever was new,” he said. “But once the deployment happened and people were doing their jobs,



it wasn’t a big issue. The bigger issue was when the rest of the crew started transitioning. It wasn’t about the women, it was that the ships weren’t configured for a mixed crew and that’s what created most of the concerns. But I met [my wife] there, so I’m happy. It all worked out.”

Naval aviator, Capt. Molly Boron, currently with the NAVAIR Inspector General Office and former program manager at Aerial Target Systems (PMA-208), was the first woman to command a fleet P-8 squadron. She has said she understands the gravity of the rank she’s wearing; that she’s a female officer in the Navy. The quote on her exhibit panel reads “Be prepared for any opportunity, work hard, have a thick skin, be competent, have fun, and most of all, be a good teammate.”

Barbara Bell, a retired Navy captain who approached Capitol Hill in 1993 to repeal the combat

exclusion laws for women, now works to end the gender gap in STEM fields. She notes that, “It’s not a matter of if you are going to meet challenge or resistance, but a matter of when and how you deal with it.”

In addition to the informational panels on each woman, there are video interviews that run on a loop and personal artifacts on display from their careers in naval aviation. There is also an additional online component to the exhibit at <https://paxmuseum.com/women-in-aviation/> that delves deeper and offers suggestions for further reading.

“What makes this exhibit so special for us here at the museum is that we get the chance to tell a human story,” Rios noted. “It’s meant to share the success of women who have served this country in one way or another, from their perspective, and in return we hope to inspire others.”

SEASON'S GREETINGS

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Tackle Box Fishing Report



Thomas Raley caught this huge striper on Christmas Eve

By Ken Lamb
Contributing Writer

Trollers and jiggers continue to find rockfish in the Potomac. There are plenty of schooled rockfish feeding and drawing flocks of birds from the 301 bridge to Point Lookout. The fish vary in location from day to day up and down the river.

Most of the fish are now in the 20 inch keeper range, and there is

an occasional pre spawn huge fish from the ocean in the mix. We have heard of approximately 30 or 40 of the big fish in excess of 40 inches.

Trollers are using tandems and umbrella rigs fished deep. Jiggers are using heavy metal jigs.

We have until next Friday, New Year's Eve, to fish the Potomac.

White perch are plentiful in the rivers for bottom fishermen.

Gymnastics Academy USAG Team Places in 2nd Competition of Season



The St. Mary's Gymnastics Academy placed in their second competition of the season Sunday, Dec. 5 at the Gingerbread Invitational in Fruitland. St. Mary's County was represented by 35 athletes from Levels 3-7 and Xcel Silver, Gold & Platinum teams. Eight individual gymnasts placed in the top three All Around for their respective Level and Division, including three third place, two second place and three first place finishers. Levels 3, 4, and 6 and Xcel Silver and Gold each earned second place team overall while Xcel Platinum earned first place team overall.

St. Mary's Gymnastics Academy is proud of the achievements of all who competed this past weekend at Beach Bounders Gymnastics. The gymnasts

will be competing again next on the weekend of Jan. 14-17, 2022, at the 2022 Hill's Maryland Classic held at the Prince George's Sports and Learning Complex in Landover. "We are extremely proud of our hard-working coaches and gymnasts who competed this past weekend and cannot wait to see what the rest of the season has in store," said Arthur Shepherd, Director, Department of Recreation & Parks.

For more information on St. Mary's County Gymnastics, please visit www.stmarysmd.com/recreate/gymnastics or call 301-862-1462. Follow St. Mary's County Recreation & Parks on social media @stmarysrecandparks and at www.facebook.com/stmarysmdrecreation.

FINANCIAL FOCUS What are Your Financial Resolutions for 2022?

As you know, 2021 was full of challenges. We were still feeling the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic when supply chains shut down and inflation heated up. So, if you're like many people, you might not be sorry to see the year come to a close. But now it's time to look ahead to a brighter 2022. And on a personal level, you may want to set some New Year's resolutions. You might resolve to improve your health and diet, and possibly learn some new skills, but why not make some financial resolutions, too?

Here are a few ideas to consider:

- Prepare for the unexpected. If you haven't already created an emergency fund, now may be a good time to start. Ideally, you'd like to have three to six months' worth of living expenses in this fund, with the money kept in a low-risk, liquid account. (If you're retired, you may want your emergency fund to contain up to a year's worth of living expenses.) Once you've got this fund established, you may be able to avoid dipping into long-term investments to pay for short-term needs, such as costly home or auto repairs or large medical bills.

- Boost your retirement savings. The pandemic caused many us to reevaluate our ability to eventually enjoy the retirement lifestyles we've envisioned. In fact, 33% of those planning to retire soon said they started to contribute even more to their retirement savings during the pandemic, according to a study from Age Wave and Edward Jones. This year, if you can afford it, increase your contributions to your IRA and your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan.

- Reduce your debt load. The less debt you carry, the more money you'll have available to support your lifestyle today and save and invest for tomorrow. So, this year, resolve to cut down on your existing debts and avoid taking on new ones whenever possible. You can motivate yourself by measuring your progress – at the beginning of 2022, record your total debts and then compare this figure to your debt load at the start of 2023. If the numbers have dropped, you'll know you were making the right moves.

- Don't overreact to the headlines. A lot can happen during a year. Consider inflation – it shot up in 2021, but it may well subside in 2022. If you changed your investment strategy last year to accommodate the rise in inflation, would you then have to modify it again when prices fall? And inflation is just one event. What about changes in interest rates? How about new legislation coming out of Washington? And don't forget extreme weather events, such as wildfires and floods. Any or all of these occurrences can affect the financial markets in the short term, but it just doesn't make sense for you to keep changing the way you invest in response to the news of the day. Instead, stick with a strategy that's appropriate for your goals, risk tolerance and time horizon. You may need to adjust this strategy over time, in response to changes in your own life, but don't let your decisions be dictated by external events.

These aren't the only financial resolutions you can make – but following them may help you develop positive habits that can help you face the future with confidence.

*Article was contributed by David McDonough
Financial Advisor at Edward Jones.
Office located at 41680 Miss Bessie Dr Suite 302
Leonardtown MD, 20650
301 997 1707*



The Way We Were...

History and Stories of St Mary's County from long-ago to just yesterday

Two Communities Within Communities

Among the many charms of St Mary's County are the Amish and Mennonite.

Both communities arrived in Southern Maryland in the 1940s from in and around Lancaster, PA. The Amish are largely clustered around Charlotte Hall and Mechanicsville while Mennonites are found further south in the Loveville and Leonardtown areas.

A BRIEF HISTORY

Mennonites were Anabaptists – a movement which had sprung up in Zurich, Switzerland, in 1525 in direct conflict with the Catholic Church. Catholics practiced infant baptism; the Anabaptists believed solely in adult baptism. Menno Simmons formed a similar group about the same time in the Netherlands which bore his name Mennonite. The name stuck with the Swiss group as well.

By 1690, a serious dispute arose within the Mennonite community over the practice of Meidung, or shunning of excommunicated members. This practice had been important in former times, but had lapsed. Jakob Amman, leader of the Swiss group, determined that the Meidung should be observed strictly. He was so insistent that his followers formed a separate camp, excommunicating all other Mennonites who did not practice Meidung. Amman's conservative Anabaptist followers became known as "ammanasch," a name which was corrupted eventually to "Amish."

AMISH IN MARYLAND

Amish first settled in Maryland in the 1830s. Today, only three communities are found in the state, one in the Garrett County, another in Cecil County, and the largest in St. Mary's County which was settled in 1940.

The Mechanicsville Amish community is one of the largest "daughter" communities of

Lancaster County found in the nation. A substantial portion of them live along Thompson Corner Road (Rt 236) and scattered elsewhere in the northern part of the County. Reportedly the community is one of the few that is "tuned-in" to the larger population with many roadside ads in Spanish.

MENNONITES IN MARYLAND

Most of the Mennonites in the County are old-order Mennonites, also known as Stauffer Mennonites, named after their bishop Jacob Stauffer.

In her informative book



Two Mennonite buggies along Newtown Neck Rd on a Summer's Day. Photo by the author.

Dawning of a New Community, Margaret Bange attributes the Mennonite movement to St Mary's County to Norman and Harvey Zimmerman who moved here from Lancaster County, PA, in 1940. Their tale is fascinating in that they were young men touring the country by motorcycle who finally settled here (Bange's book is available through the Historical Society bookstore).

While both communities cooperate with each other, they are distinct. So, when you're in north County, it's pretty certain you're in Amish country but when you're south of Mechanicsville, chances are it's a Mennonite from whom you're buying your summer vegetables.

If you would like to learn more about the people, places, and events that shaped St Mary's County, please visit our website – www.stmaryshistory.org

Wanderings

of an Aimless Mind

by Shelby Oppermann



WAITING FOR THE CALM

I sit, waiting for the calm to begin, both in my head and from the busy season we are leaving behind. The promise of January's calm each year makes me sigh with gratefulness. I start looking forward to January by the first week of December. While I write today, a beautiful, soft piano composition is playing in the background, ironically from the CALM app I have installed on my phone and desktop. The music really does help me focus since it takes my mind quite a long time to do so each morning before I can narrow in on the first thing I would like to accomplish. I do lots of little things each morning before the main accomplishment goals, like spend the allotted daily 15 minutes or more on clearing out paper clutter or getting things together in a little pile that need to go downstairs or vice versa, those items from downstairs that need to come up again. How many times in a day do I hurry down those split foyer stairs and back up only to realize that I forgot the dratted laundry basket again?

Frank and Lillian Gilbreth would have had a field day on me with their famous time-studies on how the less steps a worker has to take to complete their project the happier the worker will be. Efficiency, profitability, and reward – the goals of every great time/motion scientist. Lillian Gilbreth, author of "Cheaper by the Dozen", later made into a movie, even took her efficiency studies home with her, and wrote the book about how she and Frank raised their 12 children according to their time and motion studies. I thought all of this fascinating as a Social Psych major in college, and eagerly tried to save steps as a mother with young children. I did it pretty well back then.

Some of those theories are still in my mind, though not as clear now, which bothers me immensely. There are days that I think, "How did I miss something so important like a birthday or anniversary? Why are things so unclear and hard to remember?" I imagine or hope that this is normal. The abundance of new memory-aiding pills on



the market seems to back that up. Thoughts like these can lead to winter depression and I don't need that with two people home every day together all winter.

I think today, I will concentrate on one winter project to give me joy, like switching to the winter wreath I made for the front door two years. I softly shabby-chic'd a grapevine wreath and added a silvery blue wide ribbon with tiny stars, some pastel beads. I may add a few more things to it today after I look at it on the door today for a bit. Little things are supposed to bring you joy, and I want a joyous week and the proverbial joyous New Year. My goal for the first full week of 2022 is to have an office with clear surfaces; to only have out what I need to work on for each week. I will continue to clear out files in the filing cabinet as I go along. Clear surfaces will help to bring that clearer mind and clarity of what I read.

This coming year, I hope that much will be calm, and slowly, maybe quickly, we'll return to thoughts for all of us as to whom we will see, listen to, and learn from, what we will accomplish and what grand adventures we will have, where we will have those new adventures, and when we will feel joy and calm in each day without impediment, or unhappy intrusive thoughts. This is my New Year's wish for you.

To each New Year's adventure, Shelby

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

St. Mary's Community Calendar

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

Friday, Dec 31

Alcoholics Anonymous Holiday Alkathon event

First Saint's Community Church
25550 Point Lookout Rd
Leonardtown
9p.m. to 9a.m.

Twenty-one hours of twelve step AA meetings. Continuous from 9:00pm NYE thru 6:00pm New Years evening 2022.

Saturday, Jan. 1

Mechanicsville Moose Texas Holdem

Mechanicsville Moose Lodge
27636 Mechanicsville Road
Mechanicsville
2p.m. to 11p.m.

\$120.00 Buy in (includes Bounty)

Starting Stack 20,000 chips

Registration opens at 12pm. Pre-registration is encouraged but not necessary

There will be one re-entry for players who bust out until the second break.

Blind levels will change every 20 minutes.

Cash Game will start at 12 pm for anyone interested and will run concurrent with the tournament.

Food available for additional cost.

There will be a 50/50 raffle and cash wheel separate from tournament entry.

For more information please contact

James Dean

240 577 0828

jdeanjunior@gmail.com

Monday Jan 3

Nutrition Presentation & Counseling with Donna Taggart

Garvey Senior Activity Center

23630 Hayden Farm Ln

Leonardtown

11a.m. to 12p.m.

Donna Taggart, Certified Diabetes Educator and Registered Dietician, will be at the Garvey Senior Activity Cen-

ter to help answer your healthy eating questions. The topic in January will be Eating for Thyroid. There is no cost to attend; however, advance sign up is required. Register for the presentation by calling 301-475-4200, ext. 1075.

Thursday, Jan 6

American Legion Post 221 Meeting

American Legion Post 221

21690 Colton Point Rd.

Avenue

8p.m. to 9p.m.

American Legion Post 221 invites all active duty personnel and veterans to join us for our monthly meeting on the first Thursday of each month at 8:00pm. Visit our Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/American-Legion-Post-221-105239187962458/ or e-mail us at alpost221@aol.com. Call 301*848*9458 for more information. Tell them you saw the announcement on the SoMD Internet Calendar.

Sunday, Jan. 9

Chess players group back for 2022!

Taphouse-1637

23418 Three Notch Road

California

11:30 am to 1:30 pm

Running most every Sunday afternoon thereafter. Come out to enjoy friendly competition. All skill levels are welcome. This is not an organized club or sponsored chess event. Just local chess players meeting to play on Sunday afternoons

Carry Out Chicken Dinner

Knights of Columbus Hall

16566 Three Notch Road

Ridge

11:30 until...

\$14 a dinner

Baked goods available

Self-service dining room available

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St. Mary's Department of Aging & Human Services

Programs and Activities

Loffler Senior Activity Center 301-475-4200, ext. 71658
 Garvey Senior Activity Center, 301-475-4200, ext. 71050
 Northern Senior Activity Center, 301-475-4002, ext. 73101
 Visit www.stmarysmd.com/aging for the most up-to date information

Department of Aging & Human Services Closures

The Department of Aging & Human Services, including all three Senior Activity Centers, will be closed on the following dates:

Dec. 30-31 – Closed for New Years Holiday observation

Nutrition Presentation & Counseling with Donna Taggart

Donna Taggart, Certified Diabetes Educator and Registered Dietitian, will be at the Garvey Senior Activity Center to help answer your healthy eating questions. The topics on Monday, January 3 at 11 a.m. is Eating for Thyroid. There is no cost to attend; however, advance sign up is required. Register for the presentation by calling 301-475-4200, ext. 1075.

Beginner Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention

Dr. Paul Lam has developed an extensive Tai Chi for Health Series including the popular Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention. This evidence-based program will be offered at the Loffler Senior Activity Center on Tuesdays & Thursdays January 18-February 10 (8 sessions) at 11 a.m.

In this class we will learn to do some core movements on each side in a graceful routine while applying basic Tai Chi principles. There is no fee for this class, but a commitment to attendance and practice is necessary for success. Pre-registration is required. Since space is limited to 20 new par-

ticipants, we ask that you sign up only if you are sure that you will be able to attend regularly. Call 301-475-4200, ext. 1660 and leave a message on our reservation line to sign up.

Nutrition Presentation and Counseling by Donna Taggart

Donna will present Eating for Thyroid Health at the Loffler Senior Activity Center on Monday January 10 at 10 a.m. Registration is required- please sign up by leaving a message on our reservation line: 301-475-4200, ext. 1660. ADDITIONALLY- Donna will be offering free personal nutritional counseling at 11 a.m. on the days she is here if you make an appointment with her by text message or calling 240-538-6539.

Play with Watercolors with T.L. Ford

Come learn the basics of watercolor painting in a relaxing, informal setting. No experience or drawing skills are necessary and everything you need is provided. The Garvey Senior Activity Center will hold classes on Tuesdays, January 11 & 18 at 1:30 p.m. The cost for each class is \$20 per class. Secure your spot in class by calling the reservation line on December 20 starting at 8 a.m. Please call, 301-475-4200, ext. 1075 to register. Payments are due within a weeks' time of sign up.

Book Discussion Group

The Garvey Senior Activity

Center will hold a book discussion group on Wednesday, January 12 & February 9 at 11 a.m. If you have a love for reading and are enthusiastic about sharing your thoughts about what you've read, this is the group for you. In January the group will discuss Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie by Allen Bradley. In February the group will discuss City of Girls by Elizabeth Gilbert. To learn more, call 301-475-4200, ext. 1080.

Video About Ruth Ginsberg

Loffler Senior Activity Center will be showing Ruth: Justice Ginsburg in her Own Words on Thursday, January 13 at 10 a.m. This video tells the improbable story of how Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who couldn't get a job despite graduating first in her law school class in a tie and making Law Review at Harvard and Columbia Law Schools, became an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court. It also reveals both the public and private sides of a resilient, resourceful woman who has survived the hostility of the profoundly male universe of government and law to become a revered Justice and icon for gender equality and women's rights. Register to see this video by leaving a message on our reservation line: 301-475-4200, ext. 1660 beginning Dec.20 at 8 a.m. Seating is limited to 16. (89 min.) Free

New Bible Study Forming

Loffler Senior Activity Center

will begin hosting a new bible study class on Fridays at 10:30 a.m. beginning January 14. This non-denominational, Christian-based scripture group will be led by Phil Benedict. Mr. Benedict is a graduate of Moody Bible Institute in Chicago and Boise State University. He has spent most of his life teaching the Bible in churches as well as two rehabilitation organizations. The first sessions will focus on the gospel of John. A portion of each meeting will be dedicated to prayer. All are welcome. Reservations are not required. For more information call 301-475-4200, ext. 1658.

Brain.e.ology

Garvey Senior Activity Center will be hosting a FREE seven-week program on Tuesdays, January 4-February 15, 2022, at 2 p.m. Losing memory or cognitive ability is a tremendous fear but there is growing evidence that cognitive ability can be maintained or even improved to the end of life! In this workshop you will gain a better understanding of how your brain works and learn tools to incorporate daily brain fitness activities. More than 90% of participants report that they feel like they have more control over future memory loss after taking this program! Class size is limited so register early. Call 301-475-4200, ext. 1075, to register beginning December 20 at 8 a.m.

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

In Remembrance

Lillian Theresa Mills-Fenwick



At her residence on Sunday, November 28, 2021, Lillian Theresa Mills Fenwick of Chaptico, MD went home peacefully to her Heavenly Father and family, surrounded by her earthly family. She was 107 years young!

Affectionately known as Mom, Mama, Ma-Ma, La-a and Grand-ma, Lillian was born on August 24, 1914 and was the fifth of fifteen children born to the late William Henry, Sr. and Millie Elizabeth Young-Mills. Lillian attended a one room school and completed seven grades of school, which was the highest education available for blacks in St. Mary's County, at that time. After completing her education, she worked with her other siblings on the family farm.

On December 26, 1937 at Our Lady of the Wayside Church in Chaptico, MD, she married James Earl Fenwick, and from this union they were blessed with eight children: Clifton, David, Gantt, Theresa, Leonard, Jerome, Wilmer and Leo.

Lillian was a very religious person and a life-time member of Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic Church. She was baptized, received all other Sacraments offered by the Catholic religion at Our Lady of the Wayside Church, and attended all mass obligations until the COVID-19 pandemic. She never made it back to church in person because when the COVID-19 restrictions were lifted, she was physically unable to attend. However, she would fulfill her desire to attend mass by watching it on TV. She would read daily prayers and pray her rosary every day. Her religious life also included going on weekend retreats with her sisters, Ann and Bernice, before the death of Bernice.

Lillian was a very athletic person and would get all of her children involved in sports through high school, and for some, well into their adult life. Jerome taught her about football, and she became a Redskin fan, and she watched them regularly until they started losing in the later years. Although she stopped watching them, she wanted to know if they won or lost -- most times they lost,

and she would say "Those Redskins!!"

Lillian was the matriarch of the Fenwick family and lived a full, blessed life. She was a loving, kind-hearted person who enjoyed being with her family, especially the grandchildren, great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren.

As with most moms, Lillian enjoyed cooking that big meal on holidays and special occasions. Lillian was a full-time mom and house wife until her youngest reached high school. She then worked outside of her home for eighteen years before retiring from St. Mary's County Board of Education. Lillian had many hobbies such as sewing, cooking, baking, and watching her favorite soap operas. Her favorite hobby was sewing, and she was an excellent seamstress! In addition, she baked her last cake one month after celebrating her 107th birthday.

On August 24, 2014, Lillian celebrated her 100th birthday and became a member of the Centenarian Club with two of her living sisters, Mary (105) and Genevieve (104).

Besides her parents, Lillian was preceded in death by her husband of fifty-eight years, James Earl Fenwick, in Jan 1996; children, Joseph Gantt in 1941, John Leonard in 1990, Arthur Leo in 2001, Jerome Sylvester in 2008, and Charles Wilmer Fenwick in 2018; grandsons, Reginald Anthony Fenwick, Sr. in 1990 and James Earl Fenwick, II in 2010; brothers, Joseph Arthur (Alice deceased), William Henry, Jr. (Susette deceased), Thomas Aloysius, Sr (Elizabeth deceased), James Gantt, John Leonard, and Victor Mills; sisters, Ethel Bernice Mills-Baker (John deceased), Jean Cecelia Mills-Bush (Robert deceased), Rose Helen Mills-Shade (Thomas deceased), Agnes Genevieve Mills-Carter (Joseph deceased), Mildred Katherine Mills-Kerrick (Arthur deceased), Mary Elizabeth Mills-Settles (Fred deceased), and Mary Juanita Mills-Price Chase (James deceased)/(Howard deceased); daughters in-law, Edna (Leonard), Geneva (Leo); Godson, Anthony Bush, and many nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

Lillian is survived by two sons, James Clifton of Chaptico, MD and David Earl (Inell) Fenwick of Upper Marlboro, MD, and one daughter, Edna Theresa Fenwick-Washington (Charles) of Washington, DC; ten grandchildren, Melissa, Beverly, Eric Donnell, Eric Oliver (Dana), Jermaine, LaShawn, Leon (Charlotte) Fenwick, Victoria Fenwick (Lorenzo) McDonald, Patrice (Gary) Payne, and Crystal Moody-Beslow; twelve great-grandchildren, Adrian, Kameece, Reginald Anthony, Jr (Dominique), Blair and Brandon Combs-Fenwick, Alayah and Jordan Hedgepeth, Lorenzo and Sergio McDonald, Devon Campbell, Archie Beslow, and Eric Moody; two great-great-granddaughters, Amina Fenwick and Kylie Sewell; three great-great grandsons, Reginald

Anthony, III, Ayden Alexander, and Brayden Amire Fenwick; one sister, Ann Mills-Bowman; daughters-in-law, Diane and Maxine Fenwick and Beverly Herron; sister-in-law, Agnes V. Milburn-Fenwick; son in-law, Charles; two first cousins, Rebecca "Polly" Young-Rustin (Paul) and Joseph "Boy-Box" Hill; three Godsons, Charles Bush, Lawrence Mills, and James Robert "Harper" Thomas, and many nieces, nephews, and other relatives and friends.

"Sally" Lavera Faye Korbach Callis



"Sally" Lavera Faye Korbach Callis 84, of Hollywood, MD passed away on December 19, 2021 at St. Mary's Nursing Center in Leonardtown, MD.

She was born on July 9, 1937 in Indiana County, PA to the late James Lewis Lockard and Laura Mae Kinter.

Sally was an active member of Hollywood United Methodist Church in Hollywood, MD. She was an amazing cook and everyone loved to sit down and enjoy a bowl of her homemade chicken noodle soup. Another great tradition everyone looked forward to, were her Christmas cookies. She also enjoyed quilting, crocheting and knitting scarfs. Sally and Gary enjoyed travelling across the U.S. going to antique truck shows.

Sally is survived by her long time love, Gary Callis as well as her four children: Susan Barnhart (Don) of San Angelo, TX, Beverly Fulton of Enumclaw, WA, Martha Gill (Jerry) of Sudlersville, MD, and Rob Bishop (Veronica) of Aurora, CO. Sally was blessed with another daughter from Gary, Tricia Callis-Blaser of Hollywood, MD. She is also survived by her brother, Randy Noel Lockard of PA; four grandchildren and nine great grandchildren. In addition to her parents, she is also preceded in death by her husband, Henry Korbach, and five brothers: Lewis Lee Lockard, James Stewart Lockard, Dean Arthur



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In Remembrance

Lockard, Ronald Darrel Lockard, and Thomas Jerry Lockard and her grandson Shawn Fulton.

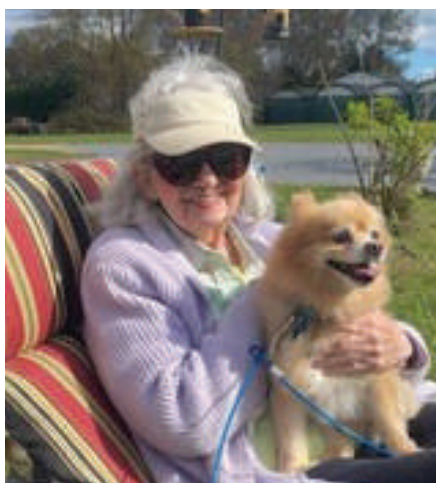
Family will receive friends on Thursday, December 30, 2021 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., with a Memorial Service celebrated by Pastor Matthew Tate at 12:00 p.m. at Hollywood United Methodist Church, 24422 Mervell Dean Road, Hollywood, Maryland 20636. Interment will be private.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Hospice of St. Mary's, Post Office Box 625, Leonardtown, Maryland 20650 and ACTS – A Community That Shares P.O. Box 54 Bushwood, MD 20618

Condolences may be made at www.brinsfieldfuneral.com.

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Evelyn Jeanette Fenner



Evelyn Jeanette Fenner "Gram", 84, of Lexington Park, passed away December 18, 2021.

She was born in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, on February 23, 1937, to her parents Stanley Joseph Krzewinski and Cecelia (Pudelski) Krzewinski of Polish decent.

Evelyn, known as "Gram," by her family was known for her fun loving, stubborn and feisty spirit. She leaves behind a legacy of strong-willed, independent people.

Her favorite thing in life was being a grandma and a great grandma. Seeing her family gave her the greatest joy and making them smile was what she lived for. Gram always loved showing her grandkids how to dance while listening to classic 40's and 50's music. Music and dancing were her great loves. I imagine her being a fangirl chasing down Frank Sinatra in heaven.

We will keep our wonderful memories of cooking Polish meals with her, city-chicken (that's not even chicken) being our family favorite and listening to her say words in Polish that no one understood. Calls from her brother, niece and nephews gave her so much joy as well as she adored them all. She loved fashion, QVC, worrying about everyone, and living a very independent life.

She is preceded in death by her parents, her late husband Donald Fenner, as well as her two daughters Jackie Brown and Patricia Taylor. She leaves behind her brother Tom Bluemling (Cathy), son Joseph Brown (Stephanie), son in law John Taylor Jr., as well as her grandchildren, Jesse Crews (Morgan), Nikki Griffith, Tiffany Harris (George), and Kelly Brown, as well as her great grandchildren Jesse Jr & Abbie Crews, Braydon and Caleb Griffith, Jacob, Cody, and Logan Harris.

Although we will miss her greatly, our time with her was a blessing and we will cherish all our wonderful memories. We know she was ready to be with the other half of her family again.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society – Pan Can, P.O. Box 22478, Oklahoma City, OK 73123 or Cured Foundation, P.O. Box 32, Lincolnshire, IL 60069.

All Services are private.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Mark John Dominiak

Mark John Dominiak, 23, of Dameron, MD tragically died on Monday,



December 20, 2021 in Great Mills, MD.

Born on August 3, 1998 in Leonardtown, MD he is the son of Mark Edward and Nancy Lee Dominiak of Dameron, MD.

Mark John is a 2016 graduate of Great Mills High School. He had a strong work ethic and started working at the age of 18. He worked at Point Lookout State Park, then he went on to work at Leppard Construction company. He then went to work for True Chesapeake as a farm oysterman, from there he worked for Richard Reynolds/Fencing and Decking Company. He recently found his true passion, working as an Iron Connector for Interlock Steel Working Inc. He was currently working on the Harry Nice Bridge. His hobbies were hunting with his father, fishing, crabbing, singing and spending time with his friends and family. He aspired for greatness and loved unconditionally. He had a heart of gold filled with love. He is missed and dearly loved by many.

In addition to his loving parents, Mark E. and Nancy L. Dominiak of Dameron, MD; he is survived by his uncles, aunts and cousins: Sandra and Paul Ridgell of Harper, TX; Paul and Karley Ridgell of Denham Springs, LA and their children, Josua, Ellie and Gabriel; Sherry and Joseph Guerrero of Fort Lauderdale, FL and their children, Alexa and Colby; David and JoJo Dominiak of Coconut Creek, FL; Florence Dominiak of Newport, TN; Joan Dominiak (Doug) of Dameron, MD; Jennifer and Brian Olson of Oklahoma and their children, Violet and Lilly; George and Mary Keller of Hartfield, VA and their children Iyanna, Angelina, Michael, and George Jr.; Doris and Thomas Evjen of Gloucester, VA and their children, Megan Wilson, John and Brent; Russell and Stacy Keller of Topping, VA and their daughters Corine & Angel Keller; Ida & Eithrop Carroll of Mathews, VA, and their children, Andrew & Ashley; Jim and Tracy Prinsen of Lexington Park, MD and their children, Karen, Allison, James, Kayla and Jamie; Dennis & Melisa Deal/Keller of Achilles, VA and their children, Sarah, Anthony, Alexis, Dawson; and Glen and Marie Keller of Avenue, MD. Like a brother and sister to Mark John, Michael and Sharon Koe-

gel of Ridge, MD. A lifelong and family friend that Mark called Uncle Rick Pickett and wife, Debbie and family of Hilliard, FL. Lifelong friend and brother, Jacob Sullivan and his little buddy Chase Sullivan. A very special little girl who stole Mark's heart, Isabella Rose Foster Owens of Lexington Park, MD. He is also survived by many extended family members in upstate New York, Tennessee and Pennsylvania.

He is preceded in death by his grandparents, Ralph and Florence Dominiak and George and Ida Keller; and his uncles, Michael L. Dominiak and Patrick D. Dominiak.

Family will receive friends for Mark's Life Celebration on Wednesday, December 29, 2021 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., with prayers recited at 7:00 p.m., at the Brinsfield Funeral Home, 22955 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated by Reverend Peter Giovanoni on Thursday, December 30, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. at St. Michael's Catholic Church, 16566 Three Notch Road, Ridge, MD 20680. Interment will follow in the church cemetery.

Serving as pallbearers will be Jacob Edward Sullivan, George Keller, Will Swann, Russell Keller, Anthony Deal, Michael Koegel, Duncan Lepper, Russell Keller and David Norris.

Memorial contributions may be made to Ridge Volunteer Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 456, Ridge, MD 20680; Ridge Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 520, Ridge, MD 20680; St. Mary's County Sheriff's Department, C/O Shop with a Cop, 23150 Leonard Hall Drive, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Captain Pete Riester



Captain, United States Navy (Ret) 1958 – 2021

Pete Riester passed away on December 17, 2021 in Valley Lee, Maryland after a long battle with Multiple Sclerosis. He was born September 1, 1958 in Norfolk, Virginia to John (Jack) and Jane Riester. Pete was raised in Roches-

Pauline F. Briscoe

01/05/1931- 12/29/2017



To our Sweet Beautiful Angel...It's been FOUR long years since we've heard your sweet voice, but our hearts still have conversations with you each and everyday. Continue to walk and guide us through our lives until we all meet again. We miss you immensely!

- An abundance of Love and Hugs, Your Children, Grandchildren, Great-Grandchildren and Twin Sister

ter, New York as the third of seven children (three brothers and three sisters).

Pete spent one year at the Naval Academy Preparatory School in Newport, Rhode Island before accepting an appointment to the United States Naval Academy, Class of 1981, 23rd Company. While at the Academy he lettered in lacrosse, sat on the honor court, earned a Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering and most importantly, met his future wife, Nancy Novak from Alexandria, Virginia. They were married August 14, 1982 at the "Old Chapel" on Ft. Meyer, Virginia.

Following Graduation, Pete went to Pensacola, Florida for flight training and then to Corpus Christie, Texas for multi-engine training where he earned his Wings of Gold in November 1982. His first duty station was in Barber's Point, Hawaii in Patrol Squadron Seventeen (VP-17) "The White Lightning" where he flew the P-3C Orion and completed two deployments. After his tour in Hawaii, Pete received orders to VP-30 in Jacksonville, FL where he served as an instructor pilot. Then the Navy decided that Pete needed some "sea" time. He served onboard the Nuclear Aircraft Carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN-69) as a "Shooter" in Norfolk, Virginia where he completed another Deployment at the beginning of "Operation Desert Storm". During his time on the "Mighty Ike", Pete applied to laterally transfer to the Aeronautical Engineering Duty Officer community, and was sent to beautiful Monterey, California where he earned his Master's Degree in Aeronautical Engineering. From Monterey, Pete was sent to Commander Air Forces Atlantic (CNAL) back in Norfolk, Virginia. Upon completion of another successful tour of duty, Pete joined the Commander Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR) team, where he screened to become Commanding Officer of Naval Air Traffic Management Systems Program Office (PMA-213). Pete successfully completed his Command Tour, and decided to retire from Active Duty after 26 years of dedicated service to his nation.

Pete was an active member and volunteer at his church, a member of the Knights of Columbus, various charities, and a beloved coach of youth and high school sports.

Considering all Pete's accomplishments, he took the most pride in his faith and devotion to family and friends. Pete was happiest when surrounded by his wife Nancy of over 39 years, children and young grandchildren. His exemplary example will live on through his family, relatives and friends.

Pete was preceded in death by his father, Jack USNA 54, and brother, Andrew. He is survived by his wife, Nancy; two sons, Peter J. Jr. USNA 07 (Erin) and Benjamin J. (Chikako); five grandchildren, Annabelle, Mariette, Ed-

ward, Charlotte and Felicity; two brothers, John E. Jr. (Denise), and Matthew (Lynn); three sisters, Betsey Lisenbee (Donald), Sara Dillon (Mark), and Martha Marino (Marc).

Family will receive friends on December 28, 2021 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., with Prayers recited by Reverend Paul Nguyen at 7:00 p.m. at Brinsfield Funeral Home, 22955 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, Maryland. A funeral Mass will be held on December 29, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. at St. George's Catholic Church, 19199 St. George's Church Road in Valley Lee, Maryland. Service details are contained in the following link Brinsfield Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, Pete's family is requesting donations to the following charities: National Multiple Sclerosis Society 1800M Street NW, Suite B50 North, Washington, D.C. 20036; Medical Missionaries of Mary <https://mmmworldwide.org/resources/donate> and Three Oaks Center 46905 Lei Dr., Lexington Park, MD 20653. Links to those charities can be found here.

Condolences may be made at www.brinsfieldfuneral.com.

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Wayne William Stone



Wayne William Stone, Sr., 72, of Mechanicsville, MD, passed away on December 26, 2021 in Leonardtown, MD. Born on February 4, 1949 in Washington, D.C., he was the son of the late Margaret Eicke Stone and the late Clarence Stone, Jr. Wayne was the loving husband of Bonnie Stone, whom he married on August 12, 1988 in Leonardtown, MD. He is survived by his children Melissa Russell (Greg) of Chesapeake Beach, MD, Mandi Haggerty (Joe) of Lusby, MD, Daniel Stone (Crystal) of Mechanicsville, MD, Heather Barnes (Ronnie) of Mechanicsville, MD, Matthew Stone (Ericka) of Lexington Park, MD, and Erica Quade (Joey) of Clements, MD, his siblings Clarence Stone III (Lorraine) of Waldorf, MD, Patricia Bohle of Mechanicsville, MD, Kathryn Maloy (Ronnie) of Mechanicsville, MD, Martin Stone (Pat) of Mechanicsville, MD,

Michael Stone, Sr. (Gloria) of Mechanicsville, MD, and John Stone (Darlene) of Clements, MD, as well as 16 grandchildren. Wayne was preceded in death by his son, Wayne Stone, Jr.

Wayne was a lifelong St. Mary's County, MD resident, and graduated from Chopticon High School in 1968. He worked as a Grocery Store Manager at Superfresh, retiring in 2011.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, December 30, 2021 from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD, where a funeral service will be held at 11:00 AM in the funeral home chapel with Father Michael Tietjen officiating. Interment will follow at Charles Memorial Gardens, Leonardtown, MD. Serving as pallbearers will be Greg Russell, Joe Haggerty, Ronnie Barnes, Joey Quade, Mike Stone, and Chris Stone. Honorary pallbearers will be Brian Bohle, Hayden Russell, Daniel Stone, Jr., and Colin Stone.

Contributions may be made to assist with funeral expenses.

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

Kai Vondel Swales



Kai Vondel Swales, of Hollywood, MD, passed away unexpectedly at his home on December 21, 2021. Born on October 27, 2021 in Leonardtown, MD, Kai was the precious and beloved son of Brady E. Berry of Hollywood, MD and Kirk V. Swales of Mechanicsville, MD. He is survived by his siblings Jasmine, Jerzie, Lyric, London Berry, Carlaysia Thomas, Kirnique, Kirk Jr., K. Shawn Swales, as well as his grandparents Deborah and Glenn Garner, Bernadette Williams and Joseph L. Herbert, great grandmother Agnes Holt, and many aunts, uncles, and cousins. Kai was preceded in death by his great grandfather Raymond L. Holt.

Though we may never understand why he was taken too soon, we will cherish our precious memories and the love, joy, and grace he brought to us. His bright, big eyes would just light up a room. He was a gift and filled our hearts with an undeniable love. We have faith that we will be together again, and pray God will give us strength and peace to move forward. Kai will forever be with us - our Beautiful Angel.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, December 30, 2021 from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD, where a funeral service will be held at 10:00 AM in the funeral home chapel with Pastor Dan Moore officiating. Interment will follow in Charles Memorial Gardens, Leonardtown, MD. Serving as pallbearers will be Korey Garner and Terell Swales. Honorary pallbearers will be his siblings.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to Hollywood Volunteer Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 79, Hollywood, MD 20636.

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



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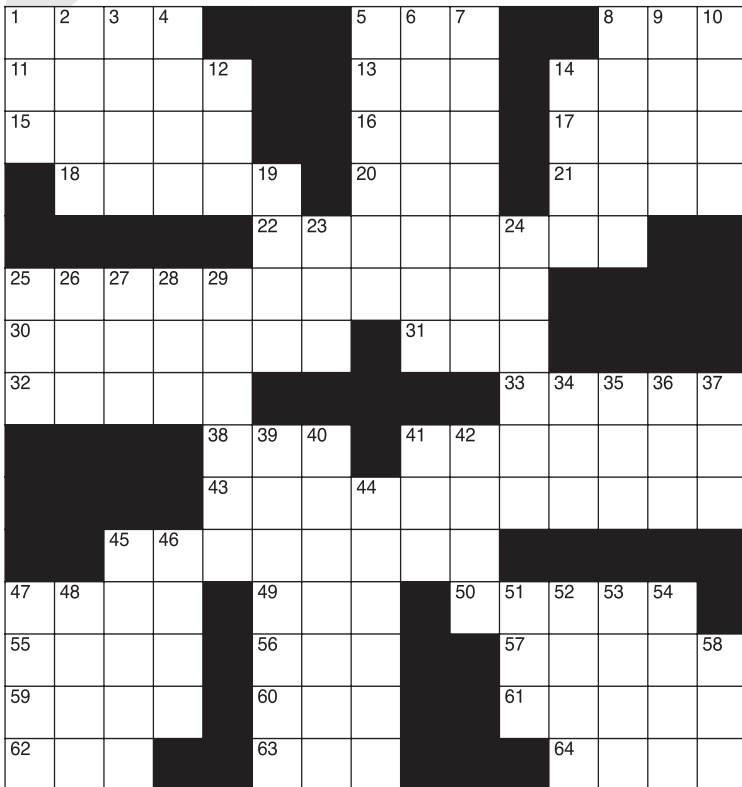


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GAMES & PUZZLES



CLUES ACROSS

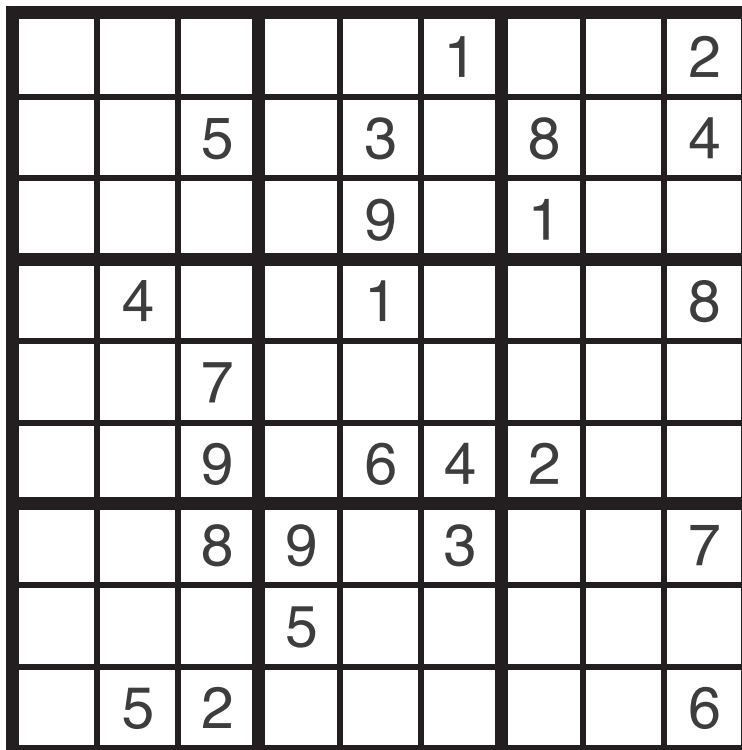
- 1. Loud cheer
- 5. Defensive nuclear weapon (abbr.)
- 8. Type of cell
- 11. Oblong pulpits
- 13. Pitching statistic
- 14. Uncommon
- 15. Liabilities
- 16. Thin, straight bar
- 17. Oh goodness!
- 18. Competitions
- 20. ___ Jima, WW II battlefield
- 21. Professional assn. (abbr.)
- 22. Italian mountain range
- 25. Taking possession of
- 30. Used in cooking and medicine
- 31. Water (French)
- 32. Parent a child
- 33. Sun-dried brick
- 38. One point south of due east
- 41. Female fashion accessory
- 43. A way of making a copy of
- 45. A way to debilitate
- 47. Wings
- 49. Social insect
- 50. Dull brown fabrics

- 55. Indian musical pattern
- 56. N. England university
- 57. Portable stands for coffins
- 59. Iranian district
- 60. Envision
- 61. Passerine bird genus
- 62. Container
- 63. Falter
- 64. Tunisian city

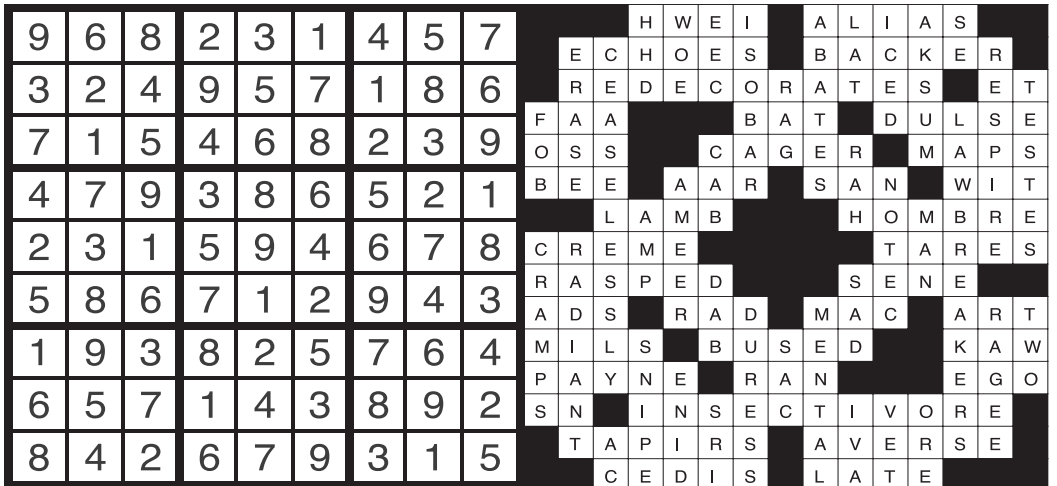
CLUES DOWN

- 1. Cool!
- 2. Passover offering
- 3. Swedish rock group
- 4. Collegiate military organization
- 5. Large nests
- 6. Beloved baked good
- 7. 1980s pop legend
- 8. Finger millet
- 9. Hillside
- 10. Surrender
- 12. Midway between south and southeast
- 14. Long, narrow strap
- 19. Discount
- 23. A type of cast
- 24. Large, tropical lizard
- 25. Half of "Milli Vanilli"

- 26. Single
- 27. Big truck
- 28. Midway between east and southeast
- 29. Et ___: indicates further
- 34. Insecticide
- 35. Luke Skywalker's mentor ___-Wan
- 36. Cast out
- 37. Breakfast food
- 39. By reason of
- 40. One who makes thread
- 41. Baseball stat
- 42. Breezed through
- 44. Frothy mass of bubbles
- 45. Tony-winning actress Daisy
- 46. Made of fermented honey and water
- 47. Member of a Semitic people
- 48. Monetary unit of the Maldives
- 51. Run batted in
- 52. Makes publicly known
- 53. Disagreement
- 54. Soluble ribonucleic acid
- 58. Single-reed instrument



LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE SOLUTIONS



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