

FREE

St. Mary's County Times

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 2022

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**PEGG ROAD
SUSPECT
CHARGED**

Story on Page 3

**HALL ENTERS
COMMISSIONER
RACE**

Story Page 5

**HOLLYWOOD
VFD OFFICERS
INSTALLED**

Story Page 14



Looking to Finish Strong

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ON THE COVER 17
 This is Commissioner Todd Morgan's last term in county government.



LOCAL 5
 Planning Commission member, activist running for County Commissioner President.



COMMUNITY 14
 Fire departments install new leadership teams.

"WE'RE OPEN AND WE'RE GOING TO STAY OPEN."

SUPERINTENDENT DR. J. SCOTT SMITH ON ST. MARY'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS CONTINUING THROUGH THE PANDEMIC.

WEEKLY FORECAST

Thu 1/20	Fri 1/21	Sat 1/22	Sun 1/23
41° 21°F	27° 24°F	29° 23°F	37° 23°F
Rain/Snow	PM Snow	Snow	Partly Cloudy
Mon 1/24	Tue 1/25	Wed 1/26	Thu 1/27
37° 26°F	38° 21°F	29° 21°F	34° 21°F
Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy

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For staff listing and emails, see page 23

California Man Charged with Murder in Pegg Road Shooting

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Court papers charging Latres Cockerham, 23, of California in connection to the shooting death of Joseph Oakes on Jan. 12 show that the accused is just one of several people involved in the murder.

Sheriff's detectives writing in an application for a statement of charges against Cockerham, show the accused may have been the driver of the vehicle that came alongside the Nissan Rogue multi-passenger vehicle being driven on Pegg Road by Oakes, 19, and — from several other shooters — opened fire into the victim's vehicle.

There were five others in Oakes' vehicle the day of the shooting, which sheriff's investigators say was caught on surveillance footage from one of the cameras in a community on Pegg Road.

One person was wounded and taken to a nearby trauma center, while another was apparently grazed in the leg by a passing projectile, according to charging documents.

The surveillance footage shoes the vehicle driven by Oakes passing by the neighborhood on Ronald Drive when another vehicle, a Nissan four door car, drives up beside Oakes vehicle on the passenger side.

It was then that "multiple subjects" fired into the victim's vehicle, charging papers stated.

As police continued their investigation a confidential informant who works with the sheriff's office Vice/Narcotics unit told them that they believed Cockerham was



Latres Cockerham

involved in the shooting because he did not get along with some of the people riding in Oakes' vehicle.

Investigators also found that Cockerham is subject to GPS monitoring and were able to find that he was in the area of Pegg Road at the time of the shooting and that he was going at speeds that would be attained were he in a vehicle.

They also tracked his location to that of his girlfriend with whom he had been staying in California; his vehicle route from the area of the Pegg Road shooting also took him back to his girlfriend's home.

When he was questioned by the investigators Cockerham said he had used his girlfriend's car to take her to work and then admitted to traversing Pegg Road several times during the day of the homicide.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Leonardtwn Planning Commission Approves Dairy Queen

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The Leonardtown Planning and Zoning Commission voted this week to approve the concept site plan for a Dairy Queen restaurant and drive-thru at the corner of Point Lookout Road and Washington Road.

It was a 3-to-2 vote to approve the plan, which would see the current car wash next to the Burchmart there demolished to be replaced with the new Dairy Queen.

Jada Stuckert, the town's planning and zoning coordinator, said the State Highway Administration (SHA) had reported they did not have a problem with the traffic pattern the new restaurant would generate once operational.

The Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department also did not have any issues with the proposed project.

The planning commission met initially to discuss the project back in December but held off on a decision until hearing from SHA and the fire



company.

At the first meeting the project ran into opposition at the latest meeting of the town's planning and zoning commission.

Much of the opposition to the project was over concerns that its site would further exacerbate traffic problems that already exist there.

The new building, according to the concept site plan brought before the town, would be 2,662 square-feet in size.

One-tenth of the parking facility on the property must be landscaped.

A total of 53 [parking] spaces is required for the project, unfortunately only 42 spaces are provided along with 18 stacking spaces for the drive-thru instead of just five as required under the town ordinance.

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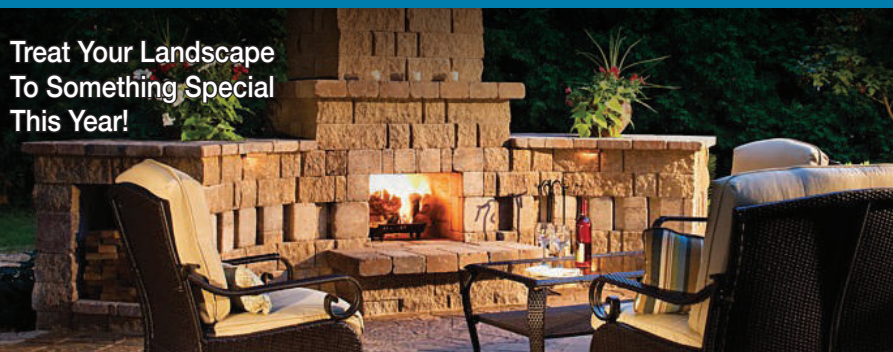
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Pressing Towards MLK's Beloved Community

By Guy Leonard
 Staff Writer

A key tenant of the philosophy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr was the beloved community, a community free from the evils of racism, poverty and violence.

This year's guest speaker at St. Mary's College of Maryland's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. prayer breakfast, Dr. Mary Frances Berry, said much progress has been made towards that goal in America but there is still much more work to be done.

"The glass is half full and the glass is half empty," Berry said virtually the morning of Jan. 17.

She spoke of King's desire to instill a sense of "fierce urgency" in those seeking social justice as well as instilling that passion in others, particularly in leaders who can make change.

"Many times, the urgency doesn't seem so fierce," Berry said.

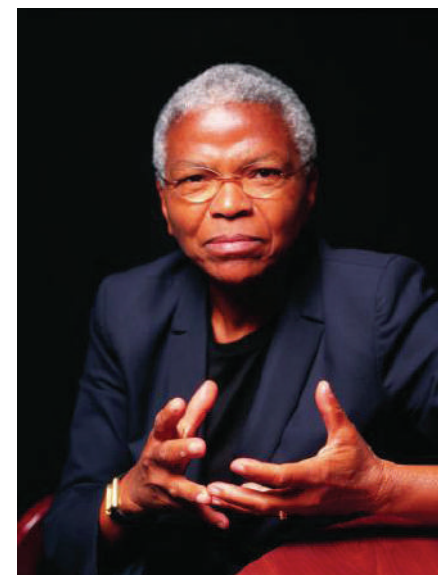
Berry is a long-time public servant working in the fields of civil rights and education who is now the Geraldine R. Segal Professor of American Social Thought and Professor of History at the University of Pennsylvania School of Arts and Sciences.

She spoke about the controversy of the teaching of critical race theory, sometimes called simply CRT, that has become a flashpoint in education.

She said CRT was nothing more than simply teaching the whole history of people who have been oppressed, not just their oppressors.

"We just called it writing about the history of the country," Berry said.

She said many of the tenants of King's overall philosophy, which included economic prosperity to be shared by all and not just a few, were summed up in the work of the Biden administration, which was



Dr. Mary Frances Berry

currently faltering.

She did not hold out much hope of success for the federal voting rights act which is coming to debate this week on Capitol Hill.

She said strengthening voting rights was key to achieving King's dream.

"It's an additional tool on the road to the beloved community," Berry said.

She also said there was a social justice element to the COVID-19 pandemic that held back the progress towards the beloved community.

"We won't get rid of the pandemic if we don't vaccinate the world," Berry said.

Adhering to King's principles was direct, though not necessarily easy.

"Resist social injustice and resolve conflicts with love," Berry said. "It's time for us to reconnect to his social justice goals."

"What we need to do is organize and you have to organize to make your vote effective; the people who are organized cannot be defeated."

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Hall Seeks Commissioner Presidency



BJ Hall

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

William "BJ" Hall, member of the county's Planning Commission as well as a local community activist and leader of the local NAACP Branch, has filed to run in the Republican primary for County Commissioner President.

Hall has stepped aside from his duties as NAACP president of the local chapter

The primary race in the GOP camp is now split three ways between the incumbent James "Randy" Guy, school board member Rita Weaver and Hall.

Hall currently works at Patuxent River Naval Air Station for a defense contractor supporting manned flight and is a system's engineer by trade, working in project management.

He is a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, NY.

He wants to bring his skill set to county government.

"I've always found service to be important," Hall said. "Our county is awesome."

"But we could be doing so much more in St. Mary's County."

He is keen to remove inefficiencies he said he has seen in the way the county operates.

"I'd like to take a fresh glance at how we do business," Hall said. "We're about to enter a period of time where, post pandemic, we won't know what it's going to be like."

"We need someone who can come

up with creative ideas to persevere through the challenges we're going to face."

The staunching of federal COVID-19 assistance dollars is one of those challenges, Hall said.

Hall said he has been an unaffiliated voter until this year when he decided to join the Republican Party.

He said he had attended meetings of both parties and found that the GOP was more in line with his philosophy of politics.

"I view everything through a local lense," Hall said. "At the local level political parties should focus on what's going on in their counties."

"Here the Democrats' conversations were more about national politics."

If he were elected commissioner president, Hall said he would apply a lean management style to county government and incentivize county employees to find simple solutions to long-standing problems.

Hall said specifically that many county road intersections are failing and they must be addressed before either another fatality occurs there or a nearby development is proposed.

Those intersections only seem to attract needed attention when those events happen, he said.

"We should be worried more about people's safety rather than who is developing," Hall said.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

School COVID-19 Cases Rise Sharply After Christmas Break

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The school system experienced a significant spike in confirmed COVID-19 cases during the Christmas holiday but the latest data shows that the cases are dropping rapidly after the first few weeks of the return to classes.

Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith told the St. Mary's County Board of Education Jan. 13 that the week before the break there were a confirmed 84 student cases, which increased rapidly to 238 the week of Christmas vacation.

For that same week there were 62 staff members down with COVID.

The following week the cases were down to 215 student cases, Smith said.

The week ending Jan. 15 there were just 40 cases among the entire student body, school reported data showed, with just five staff members sick.

"That's a lot of sick kids, that's a lot of staff sick," Smith told board members. "We had these numbers while we weren't in school."

Smith said the numbers supported the idea of keeping students in classrooms instead of virtual learning.

"We're following full masking pro-

tol," Smith said, noting schools were perhaps the safest place students could be during the pandemic. "Nobody else in the county is observing the full masking protocol... other than the county health department and the sheriff's office."

Smith defended the decision to keep students in in-person learning as this January was much different from January of 2021 when there were no school students or staff vaccinated.

There were 28 county residents dead as a result of COVID in December of 2020 and 14 dead as of Jan. 21.

There were just four county residents who had died from COVID-19 in December of 2021, he said.

"There were no vaccines for kids available and certainly not being considered," Smith said.

The work force for the school system has an average 80 percent vaccination rate, he said, while every student from the age of 5 and older has had the opportunity to receive vaccinations and booster shots.

"We're open and we're going to stay open," Smith said.

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Controversy Erupts Over Snubbing of Patuxent Riverkeeper

Fred Tutman Removed from River Commission

By Dick Myers
Editor

Bills are being prepared for filing in both the Maryland Senate and House of Delegates that would restore Patuxent Riverkeeper Fred Tutman to a position on the Patuxent River Commission (PRC).

Maryland's conservation community is up in arms over Tutman being left off the commission that he has served on for more than 20 years.

Tutman wrote recently, "Problems on the Commission began almost four years ago, when the Secretary of Planning, who is a member of the Commission by charter but had never previously participated in our meetings, announced that we lacked legal authority to discuss private development plans that could affect water quality and were under consideration by a local government. He handed us an internal legal memo to support his edict. Most of the Commissioners were stunned. Not only does our enabling legislation specifically direct that we 'review and comment on plans...related to the Patuxent River and its watershed' but the Commission has from time to time done precisely that.

"Let's be clear: the PRC is an advisory commission with no regulatory authority, no budget allocation, and no full-time staff. In effect, the only thing we can do about watershed issues is to discuss matters and issue comments. To be suddenly notified by a political appointee that we lack that discretion, indeed never had those powers, was stunning and more than a little insulting. The Hogan Administration, through the Department of Planning's Secretary, appeared to be trying to use a falsified legal opinion to coerce us into not discussing things in the watershed that really matter, environmentally. We say 'falsified' because it was a highly questionable legal opinion produced by a lawyer aimed at misleading the Commissioners by misrepresenting the plain text of the enabling statute—such that Commissioners would follow the legal memo instead of the law.

"Fearing that the PRC would lose its effectiveness if it can discuss river problems only in a very general way but without acknowledging improper real estate growth, we gave the Secretary's legal opinion to the Maryland Attorney General. His office quick-



Patuxent Riverkeeper Fred Tutman.

ly issued a fresh opinion saying exactly opposite of the Secretary: that there is no restriction in our deliberations about river-related policy, reinforcing the directive of our enabling statute.

"Most of us on the Commission felt the matter was settled, and we continued working on the effort we had been engaged in — bringing attention to an inequitable and hence illegal planned transfer, to a private developer, of a tract parkland purchased with Land Water Conservation Fund money. Despite the Department of Planning's continuing to discourage this PRC effort, our attention ended up with the environmentally desirable outcome of the county (Howard) not doing this questionable land transfer and protecting additional sensitive land abutting the river from development by acquiring it as parkland.

"Another proposal we recently looked at, despite the Department of Planning's discouragement, was high density development in the headwaters of the Middle Patuxent branch of the Patuxent River, a project where high-quality land that had been in the Agricultural Preserve (MALPF) was questionably 'swapped' for essentially un-buildable land. That the PRC might extend its analysis

to address an underappreciated 2017 law on removing land from under Agricultural Preservation (HB155) seemed especially discouraged by Department of Planning representatives.

"Indeed, it appears that the Secretary of the Department of Planning still believes our Commission is his to control (which he acknowledged in media accounts). He evidently waited for the appointment cycles of five of the most independent voices on the Commission to reach the stage when in previous appointment cycles we would have been semi-automatically renewed, but instead instructed that we not be reappointed. The legitimate appointments procedure actually requires that they ask advice from the serving Commissioners for new individuals to fill any vacancies and then obtain 'the advice and consent of the [Maryland State] Senate' before the Governor can officially appoint any new Commissioner to those positions. But so far as we know, that has not happened this round. Furthermore, while the PRC's enabling legislation mandates that our positions are to be chosen to 'represent...interests within the [Patuxent] watershed,' one of the new replacements neither lives nor works within the Patuxent

watershed and gave no indication of any involvement with the Patuxent in his introductory speech.

"This latest is a coup d'état over an independent Commission, reflecting the Hogan administration not only thumbing its nose at the rule of law but also seeking to silence and censure dedicated voices for the river who are guilty of no more than fulfilling the oath they took as Commissioners: to protect the river!"

The bill to be introduced in the Senate by Prince George's Sen. Paul Pinsky will be known as the "Senator Bernie Fowler Patuxent River Conservation Law and requires the reappointment of Tutman and restoration of PRC to its advocacy role.

The bill requires that the chairman of the commission be appointed by the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House "based on their passion and concerns for the conservation and restoration of the Patuxent River as epitomized by the late Senator Bernie Fowler." Fowler of Calvert County, who passed away last month, was instrumental in the founding of the Patuxent River Commission. He led an annual wade-in to call attention to the river.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Alvey Running For District 1 Commissioner Seat

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Roy Alvey, a lifelong resident of St. Mary's County, is continuing his quest to be the next county commissioner from District 1.

He lost his bid for the seat in 2018 to incumbent Republican Eric Colvin; for personal reasons, Alvey was unable to take part in the primary election and had to run as an Independent in the general election.

This time he is running as a Republican.

Alvey currently serves on the board of commissioners for the Metropolitan Commission and is a retired telecommunication installation technician for Verizon.

He said his time working in that job made him familiar with the entire county.

"I know the county from Charlotte Hall to Point Lookout," Alvey said. "I'm not running against Eric [Colvin], I'm running for the job."

"My background makes me the better candidate."

Alvey said county commissioners needed to do a better job of being accessible to their constituency and responsive as well.

"I feel like the commissioners need to be full time," Alvey said. "They need to be more approachable by the community. "I'll be out in the field."

He was concerned about the rising bud-



Roy Alvey

gets and the rising expenditures that went with them.

"We need to be more conservative in our spending," Alvey said. "We seem to pay whatever something costs without shopping around."

Alvey said several key construction projects, such as bridge replacements due to flooding in 2020, were either delayed or given to a contractor outside of St. Mary's.

Alvey said the county should look to spend its money on businesses and vendors who are from St. Mary's first.

He wanted to press long-delayed projects, such as FDR Boulevard and improvements to Buck Hewitt Road, to get done.

"We need to stay on top of these projects and spend inside the county," Alvey said.

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Commissioners Appoint Acting Director for Department of Public Works & Transportation

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County have appointed Gary Whipple, Deputy Director of the Department of Public Works & Transportation (DPWT), to serve as Acting Director following the retirement of Director John Deatrick. Whipple assumed the duties of Acting Director effective Jan. 1, 2022.

"It's an honor to serve the community in this new capacity. I hope to serve the County well during this period and will draw on the continued superior performance of our staff to meet this goal," said Mr. Whipple.

Commissioner President Randy Guy said, "The Commissioners feel that Mr. Whipple is fully capable of acting in this capacity, and we are enthusiastically looking forward to working alongside



him to serve the residents of St. Mary's County.

Whipple has served as the Deputy Director for DPWT since 2019.

For more information, please contact the Public Information Office at 301-475-4200, ext. 1342.

Notice of Public Hearing

St. Mary's County Commissioners will hold a Public Hearing Tuesday, Feb. 1, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. in the Chesapeake Building located at 41770 Baldrige Street in Leonardtown, to consider public input on a proposed ordinance to amend St. Mary's County Comprehensive Land Use Map and the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance for property located at 29871 Three Notch Road, Charlotte Hall. The request is to change the Land Use Map category from Residential Mixed-use and Mixed-use Moderate Intensity to entirely Mixed-use Moderate Intensity and Zoning Map from Residential Mixed-use and Town Center Mixed-use to entirely Town Center Mixed-use for the split zoned property located at 29871 Three Notch Road, Charlotte Hall.

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 teleconferencing, 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:

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

b. Email: csmc@stmarysmd.com

c. U.S. Mail: P.O. Box 653 Leonardtown, MD, 20650

d. Submit a three-minute video clip to publicmtgs@stmarysmd.com no later than 5 p.m., Feb. 8, 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. Public Hearing Guidelines are subject to change.



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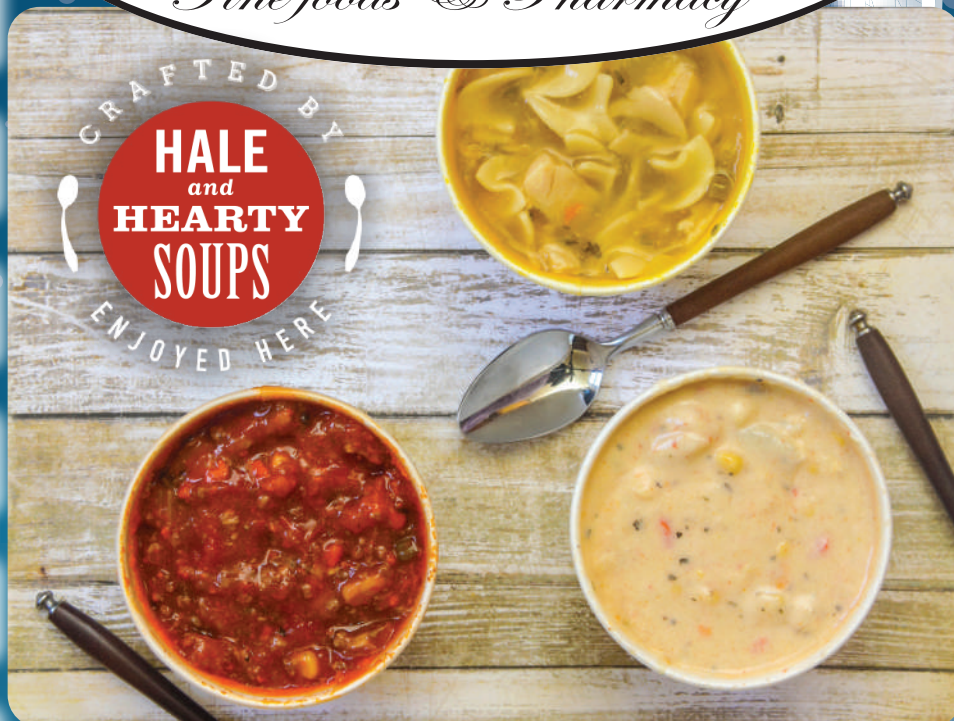
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ST. MARY'S COUNTY SHERIFF'S CRIME REPORT

Drug Arrest

On December 17, 2021, Dep. Wimberly conducted a traffic stop in the 21800 block of FDR Boulevard in Lexington Park. The operator of the vehicle was identified as **Arlon Charles Mension**, age 58 of Lexington Park. Located in the center console of the vehicle was a rock like substance, (suspected cocaine). Mension was arrested and charged with CDS: Possession-Not Marijuana.



Arlon Mension

Drug Arrest

On December 21, 2021, detectives from the Vice/Narcotics Division executed a search warrant, in the 23900 block of North Patuxent Beach Road in California. The warrant was for the person of **James David Moore Sr.**, age 44 of Lexington Park, as well as his residence. Moore was located in a vehicle near the residence and located in the vehicle were numerous baggies containing suspected fentanyl, as well as a digital scale with residue and several baggies for packaging CDS. Located in



James Moore

the residence was suspected alprazolam and buprenorphine. Moore was arrested and charged with CDS: Possession-Not Marijuana, Possession With the Intent to Distribute, and CDS: Production Equipment.

Assault/Resist Arrest

On December 27, 2021, Dep. Ryczyn responded to the 22000 block of Valley Estates Drive in Lexington Park, for the reported assault. While conducting the investigation **Ondo Ebdeng Mike**, age 27 of Lusby, exited the residence and was combative with



Ondo Mike

deputies on scene. Mike was advised he was under arrest, at which time he began to actively resist, striking two deputies on scene and pulled a body camera and mount off a deputies vest, breaking the body camera mount. Mike attempted to flee from deputies on scene while handcuffed, at which time a bag of suspected marijuana was located on the suspect. The initial victim of the assault advised deputies Mike had grabbed the victim by the victim's neck and threw the victim to the ground. Mike was charged with Assault 1st Degree, three counts of Assault 2nd Degree, Fail to Obey a Lawful Order, Resist/Interfere with Arrest and Malicious Destruction of Property.

Editor's Note:

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

Legal Notice

COMMISSIONERS OF LEONARDTOWN TOWN COUNCIL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Commissioners of Leonardtown will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, February 14, 2022 at 4:15 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 137.51 acre Planned Unit Development for the Meadows at Town Run II to be located at Hollywood Road and Dry Dock Lane in Leonardtown. Tax Map 0032, Grid 0012, Parcel(s) 0001 and 0175.

All interested parties are encouraged to attend or to submit written comments by 4:00 p.m. on February 14, 2022 to the Commissioners of Leonardtown, P.O. Box 1, Leonardtown, MD 20650. Special accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities upon request.

By Authority:
Laschelle E. McKay, Town Administrator

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Greenwell Foundation & the Rotary Club Partner

A key priority for the Rotary Club of Lexington Park's philanthropic efforts in 2021 was to address mental health issues challenging the area's youth. Rotary leadership has awarded Greenwell Foundation a grant of \$4,500 to bring their "Re-connecting Field Trips" to Great Mills High School this summer. This generous gift has been matched with funds from the Regional Rotary. The Rotary Club of Lexington Park also received a \$15,000 sponsorship from CareFirst in support of Greenwell's Field Trips.

Greenwell's research-based field trips involve cooperative activities, Equine Assisted Activities and Therapies (EAAT), communication challenges and time for reflection and meditation, all facilitated by Greenwell staff.

Explains Julie Randall, Director of the Rotary Club's Community Service Lane, "Greenwell has been hosting therapeutic field trips for years, and we at Rotary Club of Lexington Park are thrilled to be helping them provide these services during this particularly challenging time for youth – with schools opening up, reconnection with peers and teachers will be vitally important and we know that these field trips will help so



much."

Trips began this fall with on-site activities, and – with sufficient resources – continue throughout 2022.

Get more information about Greenwell Foundation's programs at the website www.greenwell-foundation.org or by calling the office at 301-373-9775.

For more information about the Rotary Club of Lexington Park, visit their website at www.rotarylp.org.

MCW Pro Wrestling Returns to Hollywood!

MCW Pro Wrestling hosts Hollywood Celebfest Convention on Saturday, February 5 from 1-5 p.m. at the Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department, 24801 Three Notch Road in Hollywood, MD featuring WWE Hall of Famers Jimmy Hart, Lita, Lex Luger, Kevin Nash, and Bushwacker Luke; AEW's Adam Cole, Lio Rush, Thunder Rosa, and Sarena Deeb; ROH's Quinn McKay and Angelina Love; NWA's Velvet Sky; Taya Valkyrie, The Headbangers, Sabu, and more!

MCW then brings live action at 7 p.m. in Hollywood, MD featuring AEW's Adam Cole, MCW champion Ken Dixon, and more!

See the commercial at bit.ly/celeb0205. Separate tickets required for each event at MCWProWrestling.com.

Follow MCW Pro Wrestling on-



line at [Twitter.com/MCWProWrestling](https://twitter.com/MCWProWrestling), [Facebook.com/MCWProWrestling](https://facebook.com/MCWProWrestling), [Instagram.com/MCWProWrestling](https://instagram.com/MCWProWrestling), and [YouTube \(bit.ly/mcwyoutube\)](https://youtube.com/MCWProWrestling).

Safe Food Handling Classes Offered Virtually for 2022

The St. Mary's County Health Department (SMCHD) will offer virtual Safe Food Handling classes on the following dates/times:

- April 13, 2022 (9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)
- July 13, 2022 (5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.)
- October 19, 2022 (9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)

The Safe Food Handling class is designed for those preparing food at home, in restaurants, or working at special events where food is served to the public. This free introductory training covers the following topics:

The Health Department's role in local food safety:

- Food-borne illness
- Effective cleaning methods to fight bacteria

- Preventing cross contamination
- Safe cooking practices
- How to safely store and serve food

To learn more about SMCHD's Safe Food Handling classes please visit smchd.org/safe-food-handling. To register, please call the Environmental Health Division at (301) 475-4321 or email at smchd.env@maryland.gov.

"Even the most basic safe food handling practices, such as hand washing, cooking to required temperatures, and properly storing leftovers can prevent foodborne illness," said Heather Moritz, Director of Environmental Health at SMCHD. "We hope that offering this class virtually will allow for increased access for our community members and local food service facilities."

Gymnastics Academy USAG Team Competes in Third Competition of Season



The Department of Recreation and Park's St. Mary's Gymnastics Academy is proud to announce another successful meet performance by the USAG team. The team competed Jan. 14-17, 2022, at the Hill's Maryland Classic, hosted by Hill's Gymnastics at the Carroll County Agriculture Center in Westminster. Forty-one athletes represented Levels 2-7 and Xcel Silver, Gold, and Platinum teams with the gymnastics team program.

Six individual gymnasts placed in the top three All-Around for their respective level and division, including two third-place, two second-place and two first-place finishers. Xcel Platinum earned third-place team overall while Level 2 earned second-place team

overall.

St. Mary's Gymnastics Academy is proud of the achievements of all who competed this past weekend at the Hill's Maryland Classic. The gymnasts will be competing again next on the weekend of Feb. 18-20, 2022, at the East Coast Classic, hosted by Fairland Gymnastics and held at the Prince George's Sports and Learning Complex in Landover.

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

Franchot Announces Three-Month Filing & Payment Extension for 2021 State Individual Income Taxes

Comptroller Peter Franchot announced today the filing and payment deadline for 2021 Maryland state individual income taxes has been extended by three months – to Friday, July 15, 2022 – to assist taxpayers facing financial difficulties due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The extension announcement came during a virtual news conference with agency officials to discuss the January 24 start date of the 2022 tax season, which is when federal and state individual income tax returns will be accepted. Federal and state corporate income tax returns are already being processed.

Comptroller Franchot's decision to extend the filing and payment deadlines – essentially a waiver of penalties and interest on outstanding liabilities – from Monday, April 18, 2022 to Friday, July 15, 2022 reflects the pandemic's continued impact on Maryland indi-

viduals and families.

"Many people are still struggling to stay above water, so giving taxpayers more time to file and pay will hopefully ease their financial pressure," Comptroller Franchot said. "As we approach the two-year mark of the onset of COVID-19, my agency remains as committed as ever to helping Marylanders who still are feeling the pandemic's impact."

The Internal Revenue Service, which already has warned of processing delays for the 2022 tax season due to COVID, has not indicated any plans to extend the federal income tax filing and payment deadline beyond April 18.

This is the third consecutive year that Comptroller Franchot has extended filing and payment deadlines to July 15. Those extensions have benefitted roughly 600,000 taxpayers each of the past two years, enabling them to hold on to a combined \$1.8 billion as an

interest-free loan, which may have allowed them to take care of more pressing issues like paying rent or keeping their businesses open.

Maryland taxpayers do not need to request an extension to receive the three-month grace period; it will be automatically granted to all resident and nonresident filers. Taxpayers who expect to receive a refund should file their return as soon as possible and not wait until July 15 to submit.

Comptroller Franchot reminded taxpayers that changes made last year to both the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the state Earned Income Credit (EIC) may benefit them, particularly Marylanders who file using an Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN).

"These important credits are a proven tool to help lift low-to-moderate income earners out of poverty," Comptroller Franchot said. "All taxpayers should check whether they're eligible for the programs, which can substantially reduce or even eliminate your federal and state tax liabilities."

With the Omicron variant spreading in communities across the state, Comptroller Franchot has instituted several operational protocols to keep employees and the public safe.

Appointments at any of the agency's 12 branch offices must be scheduled online in advance. Virtual appointments also are available. No walk-ins will be accepted. Masks are required in all

branch offices, regardless of vaccination status.

Taxpayers can call 1-800-MD-TAXES or email taxhelp@marylandtaxes.gov. The agency's branch offices and call centers are both open 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Beginning February 1, the call center will remain open until 7 p.m., only for personal income tax assistance.

For questions related to federal taxes, visit www.irs.gov or call Taxpayer Advocate Service at 443-853-6000 or 877-777-4778 (outside the Baltimore area). You can also get federal tax help at seven Maryland Taxpayer Assistance Centers.

As always, taxpayers are encouraged to file their returns electronically and use direct deposit for the fastest possible processing and to ensure they receive all possible refunds and to avoid continued delays with the United States Postal Service. A list of approved vendors for use in filing your electronic return can be found on the Comptroller's website.

Maryland taxpayers also can use the agency's free I-File system.

Last year, the agency processed 3.29 million tax returns, distributed 2.61 million refunds with a dollar value of \$3.2 billion. Comptroller employees answered nearly 700,000 phone calls, responded to almost 160,000 emails and assisted roughly 22,000 taxpayers through virtual or in-person appointments.

Pet OF THE WEEK

MEET DOLLY

....he will be our friend for always and always and always.

-Rudyard Kipling



Hi, my name is Dolly. The consensus here at TCAS is that I'm a SWEET, HAPPY, 8-MONTH-OLD PUP who LOVES GETTING ATTENTION and I'll let you pet me all over while I lean into you for more. I'm your typical Hound type, always sniffing the ground and exploring the area. I also LOVE food and will search for it high and low once I catch the scent of a tasty treat! My love of food will make my training easier. Ready for some fun? Then hurry and email animalshelter@charlescountymd.gov to schedule an appointment to meet me ASAP! BE MY MIRACLE AND PLEASE CHOOSE ME! When you choose to adopt from TCAS, you are literally saving a life.

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

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Cyber Contract Awarded to Support NAWC-AD

Agile Innovative Solutions Joint Venture was awarded a task order under the Information Analysis Center Multiple Award Contract providing full-spectrum cybersecurity research and analysis support to Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division (NAWCAD/AIRWorks). Sabre Systems, Inc. is the managing partner for the JV.

AIRWorks is an organization operating within the Naval Air System Command (NAVAIR) / NAWCAD which has a role of managing and executing projects as a Government Lead System Integrator. AIRWorks runs high-visibility special projects for Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research, Development and Acquisition) and NAVAIR for rapid fielding to meet urgent warfighter needs. Sabre will be performing full-spectrum cyber security research and analysis, and software and data analysis under this five-year task order, which has a contract value of \$11,230,023. Work is being performed in Lexington Park, Md.

Founder and Chairman, Phil Jaurigue, stated, "This award adds to Sabre's growing portfolio of

Cyber capabilities that span DoD, national security, federal civilian agencies and private sector clients and communities. The work under this effort is particularly vital as Sabre is involved in advanced Cyber research and techniques as our adversaries are increasingly more sophisticated in their methods. We anticipate that, with the corporate knowledge gained, all Sabre clients will benefit from our work here."

About Agile Innovative Solutions Joint Venture

The Agile Innovative Solutions (AIS) Joint Venture (JV) is comprised of Sabre Systems, Inc. (Sabre), Acquisition Systems Associates, Inc., Integration Innovation Inc., and Mayvin. The AIS JV, with the support from over 19 subcontractor teammates collectively brings together the capabilities, experience, and worldwide presence to meet research, scientific, engineering, development, acquisition, test and evaluation, warfighter and other user requirements. For more information, please visit www.aisjv.net.

Press Release from Sabre Systems, Inc.

Process Server Wayne Guy Retires After Decades Of Service



Wayne Guy, longtime Process Server, retired from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office at the end of 2021 after more than 24 years of service with the agency. Before joining the Office of the Sheriff, Mr. Guy already served 25 years with the Maryland state government, many of those years with the Department of Juvenile Services. Mr. Guy also served in the Vietnam War in the US Army.

"Mr. Guy is a model of hard work and humility," said Captain Steven Hall, Commander of

the Special Operations Division which oversees the Civil Process unit.

Capt. Hall said Guy's career is an excellent example of "a life well lived and worked."

"I had a lot of support here," Mr. Guy said. "It's been interesting. I've met so many people."

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office wishes Mr. Guy the best upon his retirement.

Press Release from St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office

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Military Family Honored with Quilts of Valor



Pictured in the family photo above are, left to right: Paul Shannon, Robert Farina, Molly Shannon, Ryan Shannon, Ryan's wife Johnna, and Holly Shannon.

PAX Sound of Freedom had the pleasure of presenting another Quilt of Valor to a member of the Shannon family from Lexington Park. Paul and Holly Shannon are the proud parents of three children plus one son-in-law currently serving in the armed forces.

In December of 2020, Sylvia and Gerry Lague, group leaders for PAX Sound of Freedom, awarded a Quilt of Valor to their son Ryan, a Marine Corps Major, stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

In September of 2021, their daughter Molly, a graduate from West Point, was honored with a Quilt of Valor at her parents' home. Molly is now stationed at Ft. Lee, Virginia. She had not shown her quilt to her husband until he was also presented with a quilt. Both quilts are now proudly displayed in their living room.

Molly's husband, Captain Robert Farina, is in the Army and

upon recently returning from Iraq is now stationed at Ft. Lee, Virginia. Captain Farina has been in the Army for six years.

The Shannon's have one more son, Captain Jonathan Shannon, who is deployed with the Army. PAX Sound of Freedom is awaiting his return to the USA to be able to award a quilt to him to complete the family presentations.

Quilt presentations are generally held on the third Saturday of the month at 2:00 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lexington Park, however, special arrangements can be made in advance for personal presentations.

If you have any questions regarding Quilts of Valor, or would like to participate in the group's activities, please contact Sylvia Lague at (941) 705-0094.

Press Release from PAX Sound of Freedom.

Museum Sets Universal Coprolite Day

Inaugural celebration of excrement excitement!



12 million-year-old crocodile coprolite that preserves shark tooth bite impressions found along Calvert Cliffs by William (Doggie) Douglass. Photo courtesy of Calvert Marine Museum.

Remarkably, when feces fossilize, they are known as coprolites. The term coprolite comes from the Greek words *kopros* (meaning dung) and *lithos* (meaning stone).

To celebrate the importance of coprolites in the fossil record and in the study of prehistoric life, the Department of Paleontology at the Calvert Marine Museum (CMM) is initiating the celebration of Universal Coprolite Day, recognized every year henceforth on February 22.

"Universal Coprolite Day" is recognized to celebrate coprolites wherever they may form in the Universe.

In this inaugural year, the Calvert Marine Museum will celebrate Universal Coprolite Day on Sunday, February 20, 2022. From 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., activities and learning stations will be placed throughout the museum, as well as CMM's vast collection of coprolites. Don't worry, coprolites don't have the odor you typically associate with feces. These fossils preserve through mineral replacement, which removes the organic materials that produce the familiar fecal funk.

In honor of this monumental occasion, a logo was designed to represent this day (Fig. 1). As the *State Paleontology Collection and Research Center*, CMM's

Universal Coprolite Day logo was inspired by none other than, *Astrodon*, the Maryland State Dinosaur.

The Paleontology Collection at the Calvert Marine Museum houses some of the most amazing coprolites ever found, including shark and fish-bitten coprolites, a coprolite preserving the impression of a baby turtle shell, partially eaten coprolites, and the only known fossil skull filled with coprolites. Coprolites were first recognized as fossilized feces by British fossil hunter Mary Anning in 1824. Then in 1829, British geologist William Buckland named them coprolites.

Coprolites are also known as trace fossils because they are evidence of the activities of once-living animals.

The vast majority of feces do not fossilize; they are recycled into the ecosystem. But when conditions are just right, feces can fossilize, and in so doing, they preserve a wealth of information on the diets of long-dead animals.

Coprolites are found worldwide in rocks from the Cambrian (beginning 540 million years ago) to the present. Untold thousands of specimens are housed in museums and private collections around the world. We hope that this year and in years to come, they too will celebrate Universal Coprolite Day!

Press Release from CMM.

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Morgan Looks Back at 12 Years as County Commissioner

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

This is County Commissioner Todd Morgan's third and final four-year term as one of five members at the helm of county government; there are still some things he wants to accomplish before it ends.

"I want to cut taxes," Morgan told *The County Times*. "I don't know what I'll get."

Morgan, 66, mentioned finding ways to cut the county's piggyback tax as he watched a college baseball game at his home in Lexington Park.

Throughout his years as a county commissioner, Morgan has often taken time during the end of business meetings to congratulate local sports teams who have distinguished themselves sometimes as a way to lighten the mood after long sessions.

But local politics and how the county budgets and spends its money has always dominated his public life; he's still concerned about how the county has been flush with federal rescue dollars released as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

One day it will all abruptly come to an end, he ruminates as those stimulus dollars are really just more government debt.

"The money doesn't last forever," Morgan said. "With the way the money system is, nothing is free."

"I believe the money should go back in the people's pockets."

How much power the arms of government should have is always a debate, sometimes a shouting match, but before Morgan leaves office he said he wants to find a way to make certain things easier for the local government to deal with.

"We don't give department heads the authority to make certain decisions," Morgan said. "The bureaucracy is thick."

Morgan said it has become cumbersome for property owners to make small changes to projects once they are approved, necessitating that they go back through several layers of the approval process that could be signed off on by a department head instead.

This would streamline the process, he said, while still maintaining necessary county oversight.

It's another thing he wants to accomplish before his term expires.

Morgan said he has enjoyed his time as a county commissioner — despite his decades in the county as a defense contractor and entrepreneur it was a steep learning curve when taking the District 4 commissioner seat — even through some tough and arduous times, whether dealing with leaner than desired budget projections or controversial decisions on policy.



Photo by: Frank Marquart

But there have been disappointments to be sure.

"The biggest thing is not getting FDR Boulevard finished," said Morgan. "People like it, they're using it."

But the final sections that would connect Chancellors Run Road to Buck Hewitt Road and then on to Pegg Road have yet to be completed.

"It's been 12 years to try and finish a four-mile road," Morgan said. "It's disappointing."

Morgan said that most of the money the county spends directly benefits the Lexington Park and Great Mills communities, which are most in need of revitalization,



Photo by: Frank Marquart

but are still plagued by blight and violent crime.

In the past year gang violence has been rising as well as deadly shootings that threaten the entire community by being put in a crossfire.

The addition of new businesses, defense contractors and public infrastructure, such as a new sheriff's office district station, have done little to staunch the crime problem.

Morgan said he had no easy answers but he does believe that the communities often are tarnished unfairly with the brunt of criticism.

"There's so much more good than bad," Morgan said. "But peo-

ple there do not feel secure.

"The drugs, the drive-by [shootings] and the guns don't help."

Morgan said the community must partner more with county government and law enforcement to root out crime and the subculture that sustains it.

"The government can't solve all the problems down there," Morgan said.

He wants to continue pressing for stiffer penalties for traffic infractions as crashes and fatalities still plague county roads. He lost his wife Maria to a Traffic crash 11 years ago.

Working with three different boards, Morgan said he is proud of what they have been able to accomplish.

The county government has been at the forefront of rural preservation, he said, and most recently creating the Airport Innovation District just off Airport Drive which promises to be a hub for technological advancement for the county and the region.

The county has also taken the lead on critical paid staffing to augment the volunteer rescue squads that have strained at not having enough day-time members available to answer calls for service.

He also said the county's parks have undergone significant improvements.

"We've spent a lot of money getting our parks and running them the way people wanted it," Morgan said, noting, though that despite St. Mary's County having the most waterfront property in the state, virtually all of it was in private hands and not accessible to the public.

Perhaps the achievement he is most pleased with, and is unabashed in taking credit for, was convincing the commissioners to put up \$1 million in taxpayer dollars towards the newly built unmanned technology and research center near the county airport.

It is the University System of Maryland's newest educational outpost and brings more high hopes for local economic diversification through technological advancement.

"I'm proud of myself for that."

One thing that troubles him about his impending departure is the question of who will take up the mantle of being the commissioner who communicates the most with Navy personnel and defense contractors at Patuxent River Naval Air Station.

"For 12 years I've been the 'base guy,'" Morgan said. "That's one thing I'm worried about when I leave."

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St. Mary's College Presents Annual Reeves Lecture with Jeffrey Hammond

The annual Reeves Lecture with Jeffrey Hammond, professor of English and George B. and Willma Reeves Distinguished Professor in the Liberal Arts, will take place on Wednesday, Feb. 16 at 8:00 p.m. in Daugherty-Palmer Commons on the St. Mary's College of Maryland campus. The event is free of charge and open to the public.

"Momento Mori: A Journal of the Plague Year" has Professor Hammond reflecting on what the COVID-19 pandemic has taught us about our economy, technology, politics, educational system and national self-image. In this year's Reeves lecture, Hammond will discuss the ways the pandemic has exposed problematic issues involving our country's social and political health, to include our fragmented response to the virus and the extent to which it has been politicized.

Past Reeves lectures have been described as "Masterfully combining brilliant cultural commentary, lively scholarship, and profound personal reflection -- all



presented with sparkling good humor and insight," "That rare combination of intellectual rigor and folksy charm," and "As informative as it is entertaining."

Hammond began his career as a specialist in early American literature, with particular interest in the literature and culture of the New England Puritans. He has pub-

lished three books in this scholarly field. He has published over 100 creative essays in respected journals and magazines, including The American Scholar, Antioch Review, The Gettysburg Review, Fourth Genre, Ohio Magazine, River Styx, Sport Literate, Cream City Review, and Hotel Amerika. His work has won two Pushcart

Prizes, Shenandoah's Carter Prize for Essay, and the Missouri Review Editors' Prize for Essay. His books of literary nonfiction include "Ohio States: A Twentieth-Century Midwestern" (Kent State University Press, 2002), "This Place Where We Are" (St. Mary's Press, 2006), "Small Comforts: Essays at Middle Age" (Kent State University Press, 2008), and "Little Big World: Collecting Louis Marx and the American Fifties" (University of Iowa Press, 2010).

Campus visitors must be up to date on vaccinations for COVID-19 and be able to present proof upon request by College officials when attending indoor events or large gatherings outside when social distancing cannot be ensured. If campus visitors are not up to date on vaccinations or cannot show proof, they must present proof of a negative COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours of arrival to campus. Face coverings must be always worn indoors. Unvaccinated children under the age of 12 are required to wear a mask.

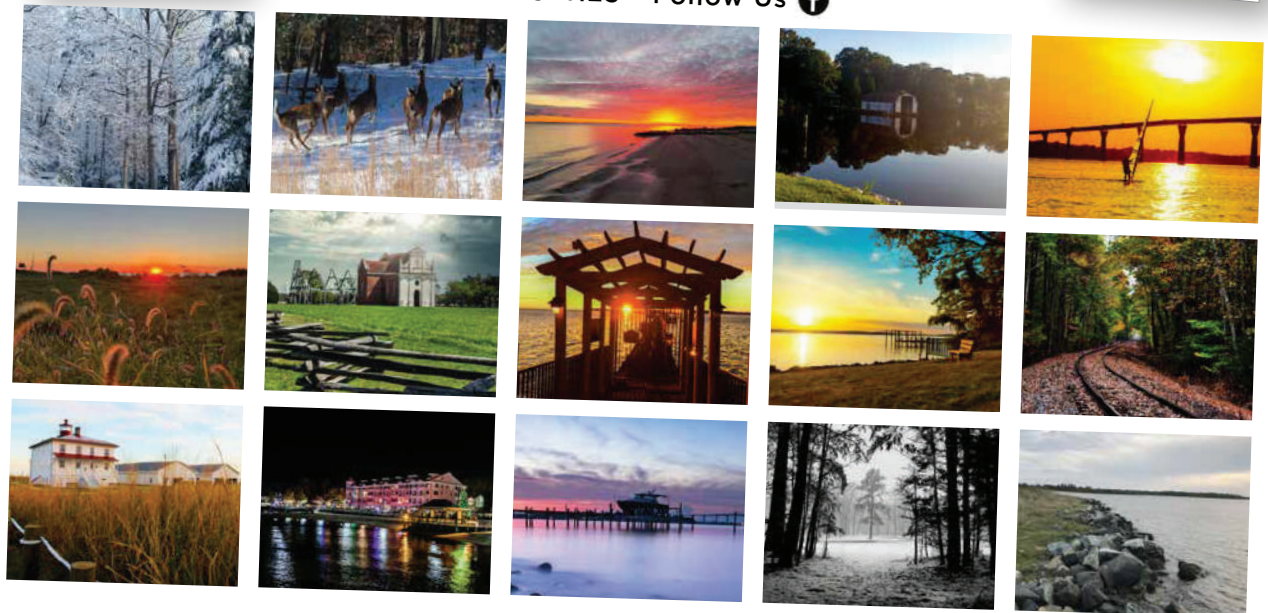
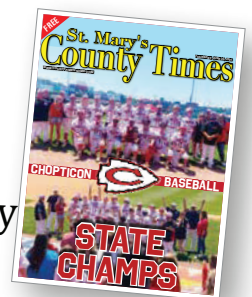
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CSM Earns Top National Ranking in Seven Categories

The College of Southern Maryland (CSM) has received top national rankings in a number of categories – including its degree and certificate programs in Business Administration, Administration and Management, IT and Systems Programs, and Accounting. CSM was also listed as one of Maryland's top community colleges and overall online college. The research firm Intelligent.com based its findings on CSM's flexibility, faculty, course strength, cost and reputation.

In the new 2022 program assessment report, Intelligent.com reported that it used a scoring system scale from 0-100 across five categories to rank universities' and colleges' program strength, student readiness, return on investment, cost, and student engagement. The company's researchers compared 704 programs from 2,900 universities and colleges across the United States.

"College of Southern Maryland offers flexible distance learning that appeals to busy adults or hybrid models that include on-campus and online formats," shared Intelligent.com in its announcement about CSM. "Experts at Intelligent.com assessed programs that help students enhance and develop advanced skills for a variety of in-demand positions."

College of Southern Maryland has been recognized for the following programs:

Best Associate in Business Administration Degree Programs | Ranked 1

<https://www.intelligent.com/best-associate-in-business-administration-degree-programs/>

Best Online Associate in Administration and Management

Programs | Ranked 1

<https://www.intelligent.com/best-online-associate-in-business-administration-degree-programs/>

Best Community Colleges in Maryland | Ranked 5 and *Best Student-Teacher Ratio*

<https://www.intelligent.com/best-community-colleges/maryland/>

Best Online Colleges in Maryland | Ranked 6 and *Best for Workforce Training*

<https://www.intelligent.com/best-online-colleges/maryland/>

Best Online Associate in Information Technology and Systems Programs | Ranked 11 and *Best Interdisciplinary Program*

<https://www.intelligent.com/best-online-associate-in-information-technology-and-systems-programs/>

Best Online Certificate in Accounting Programs | Ranked 22

<https://www.intelligent.com/best-online-accounting-certificate-degree-program/>

Most Affordable Online Community Colleges | Ranked 23

<https://www.intelligent.com/most-affordable-online-community-colleges/>

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First CSM Students Graduate from Thomas V. Mike Miller Jr. Leadership Academy



From left are academy graduates Laura Lopez McNulty, Kristine Williams, Abby Sellner and Rhey Mewski.

The College of Southern Maryland (CSM) marked Senate President Emeritus Thomas V. "Mike" Miller Jr. Public Service Day last month by recognizing the first graduates of CSM's Thomas V. Mike Miller Jr. Leadership Academy. In addition, students gathered at the Thomas V. Mike Miller Jr. Center for Leadership to write holiday cards to the region's veterans and donate food to CSM's new walk-in Hawk Food Pantry.

The Thomas V. Mike Miller Jr. Center for Leadership was established in 2019 at CSM's Prince Frederick Campus to recognize and elevate CSM students and members of the community who exhibit incredible leadership ability and inspire it in others. Through initiatives to encourage and develop their talents, the center supports students, faculty, and rising community leaders as they grapple with the challenges facing this and future generations. The center honors the memory and legacy of the late state senator for his five decades of service – and with the mission of building an inclusive and engaged community through education, civic engagement, and social responsibility.

One way the center supports students is through the college's leadership academy dedicated in his name. The academy's vision is to foster the development of ethical, responsible, civic-minded student leaders through education, empowerment and a commitment to service. Upon completion of the academy, students earn a CSM Certificate of Completion and are eligible to apply for the Maryland Community College Leadership Certification.

CSM students who completed the first academy and earned scholarships for their scholarly work are Laura Lopez McNulty of La Plata,

Kristine Williams of Leonardtown, Abby Sellner of Huntingtown and a dual-enrolled student who attends Northern High School, and Rhey Mewski of Lexington Park.

To earn the achievement, the students completed a series of learning objectives that included identifying, articulating, and outlining personal values, motivation, and core beliefs; studying leadership characteristics and the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion; and performing community service. Each module introduced concepts using readings and videos, provided self-assessments to help students understand their own characteristics and strengths, and ended with the foundation for the development of an ethical, transformational leader. The college's Student Life team supported students in the leadership certification process.

"You are the change-makers," CSM Communication Professor and Thomas V. Mike Miller Jr. Center for Leadership Chair Denise Gilmer-Knudson told the students. "This is a wonderful day of celebration and service in honor of Senator Miller and I'm sure these young leaders will continue his tradition of civic engagement, integrity, social responsibility and service to Southern Maryland."

"I am so grateful for this opportunity," said McNulty. "My experience with the academy has helped me be a better advocate for those in need in my community."

The Senate President Emeritus Thomas V. Mike Miller Jr. Public Service Day was declared by resolution of the Chesapeake Beach Town Council and by proclamation of the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners on Dec. 3, 2020 in recognition of the late senator's distinguished five decades of public service, and his birthday.

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A View From The BLEACHERS



AS GOOD AS IT GETS

By Ronald N. Guy Jr.

The most cherished reside in an album or are filed neatly on a digital drive. Most are randomly saved to a folder or jammed in a box that lurks in dark recesses of a closet.

Such is the life of the pictures of our lives.

Regardless of the care given their storage or display, pictures represent moments judged worthy of capture. People, places and special events - vacations, weddings, birthdays and reunions - are common sources of inspiration. Log a few decades on planet Earth, do a few things, be kind to fellow humans, have some fun and, before you know it, a personal "life in pictures" emerges.

The faces get me - friends, loved ones, one-time acquaintances and the occasional forgotten soul. Smiles abound - some goofy, some wry, others organic or noticeably reserved. Wrinkles and gray hairs are undetectable or at least less prominent. After briefly reminiscing, nostalgia's warmth fades and I'm left confounded. What would I say today to the photo's stars? The past, present and future - each distinct. But what if they weren't? What if it could all blur? If not in reality, then at least in my imagination? What would I offer to those in the image - assuming I could and had the courage to do so? What wisdom gained from the time beyond that frozen moment and the present reflective pause would I share? What would I say to cherished loved ones who have since transitioned to another dimension? Or to an old friend who drifted apart? And what would I say to that version of myself? There is so much. Look out for this. Watch out for that. Be more conscious of time; don't assume the hourglass is large and full of sand.

The new year had just arrived when news of John Madden's death broke. Madden's five-decades-and-counting influence on the NFL - as a Hall of Fame coach, the voice of professional football and the name on perhaps the greatest video game ever - made him a cross-generational star and one of the most unique personalities in professional sports. For those of a certain age, nothing was bigger, nothing was

better than a rivalry game on a late Sunday afternoon in the fall with Pat Summerall and John Madden on the call.

As for my pictures, mine include many moments with the Washington Football team. There are stills from the stadium parking lot, training camps, Super Bowl parties, the last game at RFK Stadium and autograph shows with legends like Bobby Mitchell, Sonny Jurgensen and Art Monk. Smiles abound, beers are raised high and a burgundy and gold hue is unmistakable. The pride in the team and the significance it held in the DMV area was palatable.

I would love to share the pictures, relics from the 1980s and 1990s, with Madden now and listen to his stories from that era. So much has changed in D.C. - and nothing for the better. Decades of losing, a terrible owner, an organization morally and ethically rotting from the inside out - the losses hardly matter now, embarrassment is the dominant emotion.

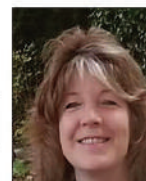
If only I could talk to the young, naïve version of myself in those photos. I would tell him that the feelings you, your family and friends have for this team are fleeting and are unlikely to happen again. RFK (our beloved dump of a stadium), Jack Kent Cooke, Joe Gibbs, Bobby Beathard, The Hogs, The Posse and personalities like John Riggins and Dexter Manley - this is special. It's as good as sports gets.

The tinge of melancholy in my tone is mixed with optimism. Since that golden era of Washington football, the Terrapins won the 2002 Men's Basketball National Championship, the Nationals won the 2019 World Series and the Ovechkin era and the 2018 Stanley Cup Championship happened - each magical experiences that generated their own jubilant photographs. The indication is that as beautiful chapters close, and often without warning, others open. Such is the scroll of life. So, when the good times roll your way, soak them in, appreciate the moments and do your future self a favor: pause for pictures.

Send comments to Ronald-GuyJr@gmail.com

Wanderings of an Aimless Mind

by Shelby Oppermann



O OR AH?



Do you ever get those days where every little thing aggravates you? Or days where you just question everything you see or hear. Well today must be one of those days. I was listening to one of the morning news shows and heard the newscaster mention a new biopic of some actor/actress/someone when all I could fixate on was the word biopic. I said out loud, "Why is it that biography, biopsy, and biology have the ah sound and biopic, biofeedback, etc have the long o sound?". I continued to muse upon this, realizing, but not wanting to acknowledge, in the back of my brain, that biopic is short for biographical picture. Willfully ignoring this fact, I continued mildly ranting to my husband who was scrolling on his phone and not listening at all, "I know that bio pertains to life, but I can not find a rhyme or reason in all my Google searches why it is pronounced differently. You think, oh, it must be because a certain pronunciation is due to a scientific reference, but that doesn't always hold true. It seems that many bio words ending in y have the ah sound and many bio words ending in ic usually have the long o sound. And then to make matters worse, there is the whole mess of the prefix auto: autonomous or autocrat!!! I was a Social Psych major NOT an English major! My brain is now hurting too!"

My husband just looked at me during my ramblings and said with a grin, "You're hurting today aren't you, because you are just picking at everything they say on the tv." My response, "Does it show?" "I just think that the word biopic should be pronounced bi-ah-pic!" So, then my husband wisely offered to bring me my water and an Excedrin Migraine™, which I only use for joint pain since I don't have migraines. All is now right in my world. I am sure there is an English major or an etymologist out there who could help me with this large gap in my knowledge. I am only good at gathering vast amounts of trivial knowledge, specifically concerning old movie

stars or music of the 70s, and now I even get all that mixed up.

Are you in the O camp or the AH camp? Maybe I am touchy because our last name Oppermann is pronounced with the Ah sound, but about 50% of the time is pronounced with the O sound, not that anyone would have any way of knowing. Mostly we get called Obermann or Oppenheimer. I suppose people think its Obermann because I always have some sort of allergy where a p would sound like a b. And to those who say Oppenheim or Oppenheimer, I usually reply, no, we are neither wealthy nor nuclear physicists. In old Germany according to Ancestry.com, Oppermann or Oftermann meant the "occupational name for a churchwarden or sexton, with particular reference to his task of taking the collection, Middle Low German opperman, from opper(gilt) 'donation' (oppenn 'to donate', 'to sacrifice', Late Latin operari) + man 'man'." Since my husband has held the position of Junior Warden, Vestry member, and been on the Buildings and Grounds committee at our church over the years, it would seem that these roles were predestined for him.

I surely can get fixated on something, no wonder my husband left an hour early to look at a few early pool jobs. And I need to schedule some early pool opening requests today. This cool to freezing weather must have people dreaming of warm days lounging around their pools. Personally, I would be perfectly happy if the temperature stayed anywhere between 40° and 70°, though even 70° can be too warm for me. Oh my, maybe I should go ahead and take my biologic injection and go read a biography, then I will automatically be primed for Jeopardy tonight in case there is a clue for autography. Helpppp...going down a rabbit hole here.

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



PATUXENT RIVER NAVAL AIR STATION *News*

JPALS Lands 2021 NAWCAD Team Award

Teamwork characterized the many accomplishments that earned the Naval Air Traffic Management Systems Program Office (PMA-213) Joint Precision Approach and Landing System (JPALS) team the top choice for the 2021 NAWCAD Commander's Award in the Team Category.

Not least among their successes was bringing initial operational capability (IOC) for the new JPALS a year ahead of schedule. IOC certifies the system's readiness to provide precision approach and landing capabilities to tactical carrier aircraft at sea.

"I think it is a great honor for the team and a reflection on the leadership, teamwork, resilience and courage that this team has

demonstrated this past year under unprecedented circumstances," said Capt. Kevin Watkins, PMA-213 program manager. "This recognition is also shared broadly, as it signifies the culmination of over a decade of work by hundreds of talented individuals collaborating across multiple DOD and Industry organizations to field this critical capability for our warfighters and allies."

The JPALS team overcame COVID-19 restriction obstacles internationally to support five JPALS installations and five Precision Approach Landing System (PALS) certifications around the globe—two U.S. Navy nuclear-powered aircraft carriers (CVNs), a Marine Corps amphibious as-

sault ship (LH-class), and aboard two allied partners' aircraft carriers. Additionally, the team supported a PALS certification extension for USS Wasp (LHD 1).

While increasing capability, the team successfully improved affordability. By refining the JPALS certification process, they reduced costs for recurring safety certifications for ships by nearly 30%. During JPALS certification for USS Makin Island (LHD 8), the team validated new procedures and established technical requirements that reduce certification cost and complexity; instead of the previously required 22 approaches made by uniquely instrumented test F-35s, certification can now be achieved in five

approaches using fleet F-35s.

"The team's focus on promptly moving away from instrumented F-35 aircraft to fleet aircraft not only saved money but freed up limited test resources and flight deck time," said Carla Jackson, PMA-213's lead assistant program manager for test and evaluation. "On top of these improvements, the fleet is regularly passing along their love of the JPALS system."

JPALS is a global positioning system-based system that integrates with shipboard air traffic control and landing system architectures to guide fixed-wing tactical carrier aircraft approach and landings on CVNs and LH-class ships in all weather and sea surface conditions.



PHILIPPINE SEA (Jan. 2, 2022) An F-35C Lightning II, assigned to the "Argonauts" of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 147, recovers on the flight deck of Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70), during a scheduled deployment in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations. CVN 70 is one of five ships the Joint Precision Approach and Landing System (JPALS) team supported JPALS installation on last year, overcoming COVID-19 restriction obstacles.

U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Apprentice Micheal Mensah



Letters to the Editor

Electric is Out

Electric is out, what do I do? Call SMECO, and if your electric is not on after a short amount of time, you call SMECO and fuss with the call unit and they are working to get all electric on or as soon as possible.

What you don't know is these men are working 18 hours a day.

How would you like to be out in the freezing rain, snow, wind, trees over lines, live wires? At least you have shelter and are with your family; and what they get is no appreciation.

They are howled at and, yes,

even with cuss words.

Instead, a cup of coffee or hot chocolate, maybe a sandwich or cookie, but no!

They work hour after hour to get your electric back on. They are cold and have no shelter and are not home with their families.

I'd say 18 hours x 7 days is what they work. How many do you work? Maybe 8 hours x 5 days a week.

I say to these men, God Bless that we have you.

*F.K. Guy
Mechanicsville*

If you would like to submit a Letter to the Editor include your name & town of residence.
Email: DickMyers@countytimes.net



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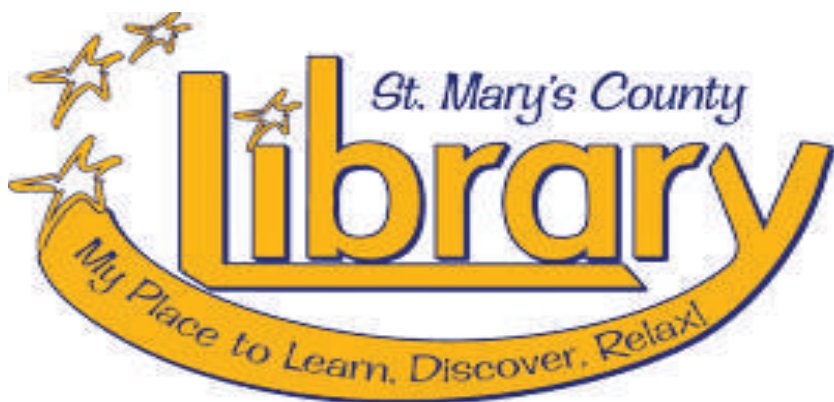
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A Conversation with Alan Bradley

Alan Bradley will be joining us from across the pond on Saturday, January 29 from 2 – 3 p.m.! Fans of all ages are invited to our discussion of the many interesting things we read about in the Flavia de Luce novels. The Flavia de Luce cozy mystery series is about a precocious adolescent amateur detective with a passion for poison as she investigates murders in 1950's England. Register on www.stmalib.org

All Books Considered

Do you ever wonder what your local librarians are reading? Find out each month when a different librarian selects a book and leads a discussion group. This book club will have something for everyone! Join us for fun and lively conversation online on the 4th Monday

of the month at 7 p.m., first session is Monday, January 24. This month we will be reading *A Deadly Education* by Namoi Novik. Enter the Scholomance, a giant, foreboding school for young wizards and witches, where every day the students must stave off hungry monsters. This book is dark and gritty and the hard-core, survival mindset of the students is totally different from the typical fantasy settings. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Archaeology at the Skinner Plantation: Prince Frederick, Maryland 1720s-1750s

Dr. James Gibb will describe the archaeological search for, and discovery of, the Skinner Plantation in Prince Frederick, MD, and who might have occupied the site during the 1720s-1750s



virtually on Monday, January 24 from 7 – 8 p.m. We cannot be confident of who occupied this plantation site attributed to James Skinner, and much of the site has been lost to erosion, but excavations revealed a small, trash-filled pit, a large pit, and a corral. The artifacts indicate occupation during the second quarter of the 18th century, and bone refuse reveals an interesting diet not entirely in accord with expectations. This illustrated presentation offers a rare look into a poorly documented era in the European settlement of Maryland, as well as illuminating recent activities that have damaged both the local ecosystem and our mutual heritage. Register on www.stmalib.org, you will receive a Zoom invitation link via email the day before the event.

Connecting Families to Health Care

Seedco Navigators will be on site at Charlotte Hall Library on Thursday, February 3 from 9 – 11:30 a.m. to educate and assist those who are uninsured as well as those currently insured through Maryland Health Connection. Navigators will be providing information on new lower premiums, access to financial assistance for those who qualify, as well as scheduling appointments for application and enrollment in health coverage. Seedco is a non-profit organization under a grant funded contract with the state of Maryland, through the Maryland Health Exchange. Social distancing and safe COVID protocols will be in place to ensure the safety of Seedco staff, Library staff, and the general public.

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

Bridge for Beginners

A class for Beginner Bridge players will be held at the Garvey Senior Activity Center on Mondays, January 24 & 31, and February 7, 14 & 28, starting at 9 a.m. This course will cover all the basic aspects of Contract Bridge including terminology, etiquette, evaluating the hand, bidding the hand, playing the hand and scoring. For more information, call 301-475-4200, ext. 1080.

Hearing Screenings with Freedom Hearing Center

Did you hear the news? Audiologist Becky Guy with Freedom Hearing Center will be providing hearing screenings at the Northern Senior Activity Center on Monday, January 24. The 15-minute screening is free of charge with a few spots still available during late morning and early afternoon. Appointments are required in advance by calling the reservation request line at 301-475-4200, ext. 3115, as soon as possible.

Shell-Painting Project

Loffler Senior Activity Center is offering a two-part workshop in painting and decorating oyster shells using paint and decoupage methods on 2 consecutive Fridays- Feb. 4 and 11 beginning at 10 a.m. With Valentine's Day right around the corner, you can make unique little gifts for all the loves in your life using shells found on the local beaches of St. Mary's County! There is no cost for this class and all materials are provided. To register, call 301-475-4200, ext. 1660 and leave a message. Limited seating available.

Play with Watercolors

T.L. Ford will be at the Garvey Senior Activity Center on Tuesday, February 8, at 1:30 p.m.

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 cost for the class will be \$25. Call 301-475-4200, ext. 1075 to register.

History Video at Loffler

The video Black Patriots: Heroes

of the Revolution will be shown at the Loffler Senior Activity Center on Thursday, February 10 at 10 a.m. From the initial sparks of revolution in Boston to the climactic Siege of Yorktown and beyond, hear the story of the war within the Revolutionary War through the eyes of some of the most significant African American figures of our country's foundation, including Crispus Attucks, Peter Salem, Phillis Wheatley, and James Armistead Lafayette. Executive produced and narrated by NBA legend, best-selling author, and respected activist Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, this program features interviews with esteemed historians Erica Armstrong Dunbar and Graham Hodges, among others, to shed light on some unsung heroes who were integral to this country's independence. Register to see this video by leaving a message on our reservation line: 301-475-4200, ext. 1660. (Duration- 43 min. Free) Seating is limited to 16.

New Bible Study Forming

Loffler Senior Activity Center will is

now hosting a bible study class on Fridays at 10:30 a.m. 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.

EnhanceFitness

Now being offered at the Garvey Senior Activity Center on Tuesdays at 8:15 a.m. A full hour of fun, EnhanceFitness focuses on cardiovascular exercise, strength training, balance, and flexibility. Come get your workout done early and get your day started right. Try your first class for free, then purchase a fitness card for \$35 for 10 classes. To learn more, call 301-475-4200, ext. 1080.

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St. Mary's Community Calendar

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

Thursday, Jan. 20

Queen of Hearts LVRSA Fundraiser

Action Lounge and Billiards
25470 Point Lookout Road
Leonardtown
4p.m. to 8p.m.

Please join us to take a chance to pick a card and find the needed Queen to win. Each Thursday there will be a chance to win the jackpot, which increases each week the Queen is not found. There is also a nightly 50/50 raffle. Thank you for your support to the LVRSA.

Friday, Jan. 21

Pre-Order Drive-thru Lasagna Dinner

Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department
28165 Hills Club Road
Mechanicsville
5p.m. to 7p.m.

Pre-Order Drive-thru Lasagna Dinner

Lasagna, Salad with choice of Ranch or Italian Dressing, Green Beans, French Bread and a Brownie.

To place a pre-order, call Judy at 301-884-5680 by January 16, 2022.

No pre-orders will be accepted after that time.

Sunday, Jan 23

Chess players group. Play chess for fun.

Taphouse-1637
23418 Three Notch Road
California
11:30a.m. to 1:30p.m.

Chess players group is back for 2022. Starting 1/9/2022 and running most every Sunday, 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. Come out and enjoy friendly competition. All skill levels are welcome. This is not an organized club or sponsored chess event. Just a bunch of local chess players meeting to play chess on Sunday afternoons.

www.taphouse1637.com/

Surviving Divorce Workshop Immaculate Heart of Mary Church

22375 Three Notch Road
Lexington Park
6:30p.m. to 8p.m.

Surviving Divorce was created to bring hope and healing to those who have experienced the pain and loneliness of a broken marriage. This group meets on Sunday evenings for 12 weeks beginning January 16, 2022, from 6:30 to 8:00pm. To register or for more information, please email athewell@ihmrcc.org or call 240-298-4044. A suggested donation of \$25 to cover the cost of materials. All are Welcome!

P. Senior Living
Guide
Coming Jan. 27
The County Times
 St. Mary's County • Calvert County

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

Howard Lamb



Howard ('Bud' to family and friends) passed away on January 12, 2022 in Leonardtown, MD. He was born on August 3, 1943 in Florida, and grew up in a Navy family that traveled up and down the east coast from Maine to Florida and into Tennessee. He and his brother Ken attended nine different schools during that time, as his mom and dad were adventurers. That spirit became part of Howard's DNA. He was always ready to travel, go hunting or fish-

ing, or sight-seeing. Everything amazed him.

When landing in St. Mary's at age 15, he entered Great Mills High School, playing varsity basketball, baseball, & soccer while running cross country and track. His classmates voted him 'Most Likely To Succeed' as a senior.

He attended St. Mary's College for two years, making treasured life-long friendships that remained until his dying day, before transferring to Carson-Newman College in TN.

An engineer at heart, Howard moved to Washington DC to work for a top engineering firm and used this background to become a 2nd Lieutenant in the US Army in the Army Corps of Engineers after enlisting on Dec 17, 1966. Howard graduated number one in his class of recruits, heading for Vietnam in 1967 to become a 'Tunnel Rat,' exhibiting enormous courage, for which he was decorated with a Bronze Star. He briefed General Abrams and other high-ranking officers when they came to inspect his unit and received hand-written compliments and praise from the General for this perilous duty.

Before leaving for Vietnam,

Howard met the true love of his life, Sandi Cain, in the boarding house they both rented rooms in, where the proprietor of the house, a lovely motherly woman, wisely directed Howard to ask Sandi on a date. Upon returning from Vietnam, he and Sandi married on Dec 7, 1968. He was honorably discharged as a Captain on Dec 8, 1969.

After working in DC on the new subway system for a few years, his adventurous spirit led them back to St. Mary's to raise three daughters, and enter the family business, the TACKLE BOX, working beside his father and brother, running the gun department.

He and Sandi built two houses on the water, raising their daughters (Irene, Sara & Melissa) in the best possible way: crabbing, fishing, chopping wood, camping, bagging fish, and adventuring. He transitioned back to engineering work as a facilities planner at Pax River and then onto the DEA, his most important professional work, establishing spy-proof offices in Central/South America & Asia.

In his retirement, he spent his time traveling in the RV with Sandi and visiting with children and grandchildren. He was an avid reader and storyteller, and he loved taking his grandchildren out on the boat in Florida.

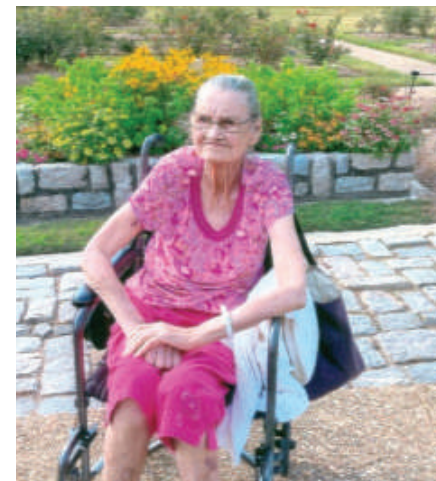
Howard's most important living legacy was his family and friends, whom he fiercely loved, celebrated, and truly treasured. To know Howard was to know his care and concern for you. It was just that simple. No matter who you were, you were loved by him. And this is what we will all miss the most.

Howard was preceded in death by his father, Howard O. Lamb Sr., and his mother, Lena (Mace) Lamb. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Sandra (Cain) Lamb, as well as his brother Ken Lamb (Linda), children Irene Lamb (Bill Sembello), Sara Cooper (Steve), and Melissa Lamb Leary (Sam). His 16 grandchildren carry his love in their hearts, as do his beloved nieces and nephews in Texas, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts.

Howard was moved by the work of 'Tunnel to Towers Foundation' (T2T.org or 2361 Hylan Blvd. Staten Island, NY 10306), and we would deeply appreciate your support of this veteran organization, in his honor, in lieu of flowers.

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

Lillie Sexton



Lillie Sexton, 88, of Valley Lee, MD, formerly of Coeburn, VA, passed away on January 10, 2022 at her home. Born on September 11, 1933 in Coeburn, VA, she was the daughter of the late Callie Phillips and the late Jack Gibson. Lillie was the loving wife of the late Eugene Sexton, whom she married on November 11, 1950 in Lexington Park, MD, and who preceded her in death on June 21, 2003. She is survived by her children Margie Carter of Hollywood, MD, Robert Sexton of Redgate, MD, Mary Russell of Valley Lee, MD, Margaret Wheatly of Hollywood, MD, Louise Coombs of Great Mills, MD, and Rita Jaso of Windham, VT, her sister Kathy Rogers of IN, as well as 14 grandchildren, 15 great grandchildren, and two great-great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her daughter Barbara Sexton and her siblings Ed Rogers, Evelyn Rogers, and Bob Rogers.

Lillie was a homemaker and loved her grandkids. She also loved indoor/outdoor plants, as well as going to yard sales.

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

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

Arrangements provided by the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home and Cremation Services, P.A., Leonardtown, MD.

Dorothy Elizabeth Wathen Clarke

Dorothy Elizabeth Wathen Clarke, 87, of Hollywood, MD passed away peacefully at her home surrounded by her loving children on Monday, January 10, 2022. She was born on January 14, 1934 to the late Mary Louise Abell Bowles and Joseph Ethelbert Abell, Sr. She was preceded in death by her first husband, Joseph (Joe) Charles Wathen, Jr. whom she was married to for 38 years.



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She is survived by her children, Mary Ridgell (Roger), Joseph (Buddy) Wathen (Shelby), John Wathen (Gail), Susan (Sue) Johnson (Walter), and Robert (Tony) Wathen (Kim), 15 grandchildren, 22 great grandchildren, one great great grandchild and her sister Mary Lou Bassford of Hollywood, MD. She was preceded in death by her son, James Michael (Mike) Wathen (Rhonda), six siblings, Bert Abell, Irene Hayden, Juanita (Nita) Hayden, Margaret Jane Mattingly, Teresa Spalding, Agnes (Piggy) Joy, and her second husband, Thomas Maurice Clarke whom she was married to for 11 years.

She worked for the St. Mary's County Public School System for numerous years before she became a loving caregiver for her many grandchildren.

Dorothy enjoyed Bingo, playing cards, occasional slots, music, and dancing but she was most happy spending time with her family and friends. She was an outstanding cook with the number one request being her delicious potato salad and coleslaw. She enjoyed holiday gatherings where she was always the guest of honor receiving many hugs and gifts. She was a faith filled individual who had a love for reciting the Holy Rosary and was a lifelong parishioner of St. John's Francis Regis Parish. She will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

Contributions may be made to Hospice of St. Mary's, P.O. Box 625, Leonardtown, MD 20650 and St. John's Francis Regis Parish, 43950 St. John's Road, Hollywood, MD 20636.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home in Leonardtown, MD.

William Spencer Hill



William Spencer Hill, 50, of Mechanicsville, MD tragically passed away on January 9, 2022.

He was born on October 18, 1971, in Leonardtown, MD to the late Kathryn Cecilia Knott-Hill and William Franklin Hill of Mechanicsville, MD.

William is a lifelong resident of St. Mary's County and a graduate of Chopticon High School. He dedicated over 32 years of service to SMECO, as a lineman for many years and more recently as a construction supervisor. He was a grill master extraordinaire as the owner and operator of "Willie's Smokin' BBQ." He built his own smoker and grill. He was famous for his delicious ribs, pulled beef and creamy mac and cheese. He was often found helping with catering events with Sunshine Catering. He also assisted in the kitchen at Hill's Store a couple days a week with manning the grill. He recently purchased his new ride "Stella," a beautiful red Harley. His other hobbies included watching wrestling, going to the beach, welding with his father, and spending time with his family. He recently took a vacation to Panama City with his sisters in which they all had a great time together. His girls were his pride and joy and he loved doing stuff with them. His favorite name to be called was Paw-Paw by his granddaughter, Natalee.

In addition to his father, Franklin and step-mother Ruth, he is also survived by his children, Melanie Kathryn Hill (Tony) of Coltons Point, MD and Sabrina Nichole Hill (Hunter) of Hollywood, MD; his sisters, Joan Marie Bartz (Jimmy) of Mechanicsville, MD and Michelle Renee Cockerham (Victor) of Mechanicsville, MD; his granddaughter, Natalee Kathryn Brash; his nieces/nephews: AJ Bartz (Katie), Kevin Bartz (Kathie) and Katie Shea (Justin); 8 great nieces/nephews; and many extended family and friends. He is preceded in death by his mother.

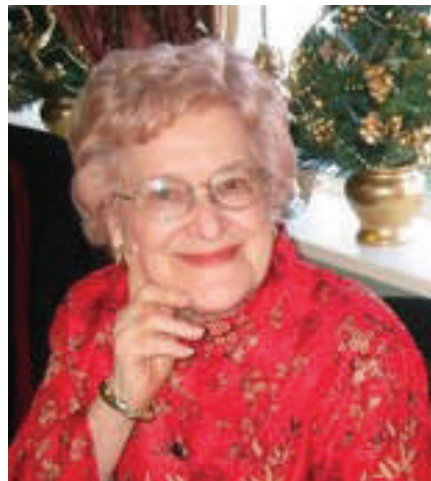
Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, 405 Williams Court, Suite 120, Baltimore, MD 21220.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Catherine Eulalia Lawrence Ludwig

Catherine Eulalia Lawrence Ludwig, 98, of Leonardtown, MD, passed away at St. Mary's Nursing



Center on January 8, 2022.

She was born in Avenue, MD on July 19, 1923 to the late Clyde Alexander Lawrence and Kathleen Adele Buckler Lawrence.

Catherine, also known as Kitty, was a 1940 graduate of St. Mary's Academy. She started her first job at Longmore's Ben Franklin Store in Leonardtown, MD. Kitty went to work at the Supply Department at Patuxent River Naval Air Test Center where she met the love of her life, Paul Francis Ludwig. On June 19, 1946, she married her beloved husband, Paul in Avenue, MD. Together they celebrated over 70 wonderful years of marriage. Kitty as a mother of four children, supplemented the family income by working as a seamstress for the Fashion Center in Leonardtown. After raising her children and several neighbor's children, she went to work for the St. Mary's County Board of Education as a part time secretary at Esperanza Middle School. She later accepted a full-time position at Chopticon High School in the Career Advisor's Office. Finally, she accepted a position at Leonard Hall Junior Naval Academy where she finished her career as the school bookkeeper. Kitty retired from Leonard Hall Junior Naval

Academy to spend more time with her family.

Along with several other interested parents, she and Paul helped to form the Maryland Association of Retarded Children, currently known as the ARC in St. Mary's County. At that time, there were no special education programs in St. Mary's. The program was started with five children. At the request of Paul and Kitty and the rest of the ARC families, a charity ball was held by the Knights of Columbus for fundraising every year. Her hobbies included singing in the St. Aloysius church choir, camping, and visiting her daughter in the summer in California, sewing, knitting, crocheting, ceramics, working crossword puzzles and cooking. She was a member of the Catholic Daughters and baked many cakes and pies for fundraisers much to the chagrin of her young children because they could not enjoy a sample. She supported and encouraged her husband Paul and all her children in all endeavors.

Kitty was preceded in death by her husband, Paul in 2016. She is survived by her children: Mary Sandra Serrano (Gabriel) of Ventura, CA, Lawrence B. Ludwig (Mary) of Leonardtown, MD, Donald Paul Ludwig of Bowie, MD, and David Joseph Ludwig of Ridge, MD; eight grandchildren, 11 great grandchildren and 4 great-great grandchildren with one arriving in February. In addition to her parents, she is also preceded in death by her brother, Edward Clyde Lawrence, and sister, Janice Lawrence Combs.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial contributions be made to the ARC of Southern Maryland, 25470 Point Lookout Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

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



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

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

Mary Margaret Mattingly Yowaiski



Mary Margaret Mattingly Yowaiski, 95, of Chaptico, MD, passed away surrounded by her loving family on January 16, 2022 at St. Mary's Nursing & Rehabilitation Center in Leonardtown, MD. Born on August 16, 1926, she was the daughter of the late Agnes Gertrude Miles Mattingly and Charles Jenkins Mattingly, Sr. Margaret was the loving wife of the late Francis (Pine) Yowaiski, who preceded her in death on December 25, 2001. Margaret is survived by her children Kay Yowaiski Crawford (Dave) of Mechanicsville, MD, Patricia Ann Hodges (Robert) of Avenue, MD, Charles Michael Yowaiski of Chaptico, MD, and Mary Jo Yowaiski Myers (Bobby) of Port Republic, MD, her siblings Ruth Brown of NM, Joseph Clement Mattingly of Chaptico, MD, and Joan Frances Raley of Avenue, MD, seven grandchildren, Mick, Mason, Madi, Morgan, Melissa, Patrick, and Michaela, and five great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her brothers and sisters, Miles Mattingly, Ann Mattingly, Mary Agnes Farrell, Mary Jane Mattingly, Elizabeth (Betty) Potts, and Charles Jenkins Mattingly, Jr.

Margaret was born and raised in St. Mary's County, MD, where she was very active in the community and her church. Her first job was as a secretary for Mr. Ben Burroughs at the Farmers Market in Charlotte Hall, MD. She later went to work as a school teacher at Holy Angels Sacred Heart Elementary School, where she taught the fifth grade. She loved kids and had many fond memories of her time spent teaching. Later she went to work at the

St. Mary's County State Assessment Office, where she worked until she retired. She did all these things while raising four children at home and being a loving wife and homemaker.

Margaret was also an active member of the sports community. She loved dancing, singing, cards, softball, and bowling. She was featured in the St. Mary's County Senior Olympics in 1996 where she pitched in the senior softball league and played 1st base. Margaret also played with the Anderson Bar Softball Team.

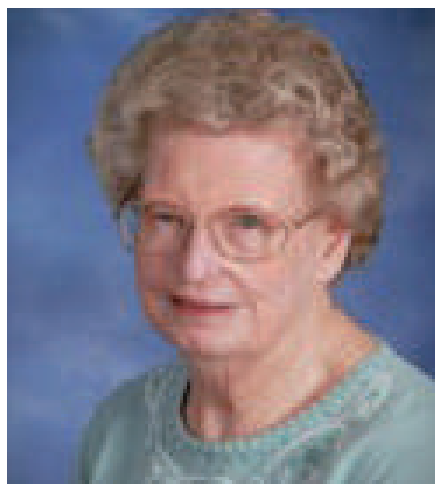
The family will receive friends on Friday, January 21, 2022 from 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM in the Mattingly-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 12:00 noon at Our Lady of the Wayside, Chaptico, MD, with Father Chip Luckett officiating. Interment will follow at Queen of Peace Catholic Cemetery, Helen, MD. Serving as pallbearers will be Mike Yowaiski, Mick Bice, Mason Myers, Stan Yowaiski, Richard Potts, and Al Railey. Honorary pallbearers will be Madi Myers, Morgan Myers, Mellissa Hebb, and Michaela Yowaiski.

Contributions may be made to St. Mary's Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, 21585 Peabody Street, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

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

Arrangements provided by the Mattingly-Gardiner Funeral Home and Cremation Services, P.A., Leonardtown, MD.

Lola May (Dean) Brubacher



Lola May (Dean) Brubacher, 94, of Leonardtown, MD, passed away on January 15, 2022. Born on August 1, 1927 in Hollywood, MD, she was the daughter of the late Gladys Dean and the late Roger H. Dean. Lola was the loving wife of the late Creighton

"Bill" Brubacher, whom she married in Hollywood, MD, and who preceded her in death on April 20, 1996. During her 90+ years in St. Mary's County, she was active in the life of her family, St. Paul's United Methodist Church and their Young At Heart group. Later in life she developed a love for golf at her Breton Bay community.

Born and raised in Hollywood, MD, she was the sister to Russell Dean (deceased), Francis Dean (deceased), and Ann Patrisco (Simi Valley, CA). Lola's love of beautiful southern Maryland, cooking, and sports continued through her entire life. She was happiest at home with family and close friends.

Lola was a loving wife and mother. She was a fine cook who loved preparing traditional Southern Maryland meals for her family and baking cookies for her friends. For many, it was not Christmas season until they got their tins of Lola's homemade cookies (which she made sure were returned to her to be filled again the following year). She sometimes gave as many as 75 tins a year to friends, family, and her many doctors.

She taught Sunday school with her husband, Bill, at St. Paul's United Methodist Church for over 30 years, and left a lasting impression on her many students, as well as a generation of young golfers who learned to love the game from her while she ran the Breton Bay Junior Golf Program. She loved sports as both a spectator and participant. Lola was a fierce competitor and a good athlete as evidenced by her eight Breton Bay Ladies Club Championships and two Holes in One.

Lola's greatest joy and love was taking care of her family, creating wonderful meals and memories. She was a quiet introvert with a knack for listening and making people comfortable. Everyone she touched will miss her kindness and compassion. She outlived most of her friends, but will be missed by those of us who share her memory.

In addition to her sister, she is survived by her children Linda Perrygo (Bruce) of Leonardtown, MD, Susan Kerig (John) of Wallace, NC, Wes Brubacher (Cathy) of Leonardtown, MD, grandchildren Nate Perrygo (Maria), Michael Kerig (Jamie), Matt Kerig (Sarah), Craig Brubacher, Eric Brubacher, great grandchildren Lukas Battaglia, Ayden Perrygo, and godchildren Mary Thomas and Chris Thomas.

The family will receive friends on Friday, January 21, 2022 from 9:00 AM to 9:45 AM in First

Saints Community Church, Leonardtown, MD, where a funeral service will be held at 10:00 AM with Pastor Chris Owens officiating. Interment will follow in the church cemetery. Serving as pallbearers will be Nate Perrygo, Michael Kerig, Matt Kerig, Craig Brubacher, Eric Brubacher, and Ayden Perrygo.

Contributions may be made to the Leonardtown Vol. Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 299, Leonardtown, MD 20650 or Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen FSCC, 25550 Point Lookout Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

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

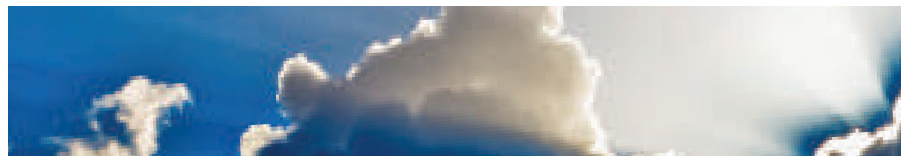
Arrangements provided by the Mattingly-Gardiner Funeral Home and Cremation Services, P.A., Leonardtown, MD.

Robert Paul Thomas, Sr.



Robert Paul Thomas, Sr., "Bob", 83, of Avenue, MD, passed away on January 12, 2022 in Washington, DC. He was born on March 16, 1938 in River Springs, MD, and was the son of the late Mary Ethel Ellis Thomas and James Bruce Thomas, Sr. Bob was the loving husband of the late Sandra Lorretta Posey Thomas, whom he married on October 5, 1957 in Holy Angels Catholic Church, Avenue, MD, and who preceded him in death on November 27, 2016. He is survived by his children Kathy Beach (Jen) of Waldorf, MD and Robert Thomas, Jr. of AZ, four grandchildren Robert P. Thomas III, David W. Thomas, Brian J. Thomas, and Molly A. Thomas, his brother Andrew Dale Thomas of FL and his sister Margaret Ann Stauffer of Coltons Point, MD, as well as eight great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his siblings James Bruce Thomas, Jr. and Jean Elizabeth Abell.

Bob was a lifelong St. Mary's County, MD resident. He worked as a senior district manager for Giant Food for 50 years, retiring



in 2008.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, January 20, 2022, from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:30 AM in Holy Angels Catholic Church, Avenue, MD, with Father Stephen Wyble officiating. Interment will follow in Charles Memorial Gardens, Leonardtown, MD. Serving as pallbearers will be Bonnie Harbin, Jeremiah Griesemer III, Ryan Hammond, Nathan Hammond, Paul Hammond, and Elijah Thomas. Honorary pallbearers will be David Thomas, Rob Thomas, and Brian Thomas.

Memorials may be made to the Seventh District Vol. Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 7, Avenue, MD 20609.

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

Arrangements provided by the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home and Cremation Services, P.A., Leonardtown, MD.

Alice Bailey Donberger



Alice Bailey Donberger, 85, of Avenue, MD, formerly of Ft. Washington, MD, passed away on December 30, 2021 in Leonardtown, MD. Born on November 26, 1936, she was the daughter of the late Pearl Culler Bailey and the late Robert Bailey. Alice was the loving wife of Paul E. Donberger, whom she married at Holy Angels Catholic Church, Avenue, MD. She is survived by her son, Anthony, of Ashburn, VA, her siblings Robert P. Bailey, Jr. of Avenue, MD, Ted Bailey of Leonardtown, MD and Jay McCleae of Leonardtown, MD, as well as two grandchildren, Allyson and Anthony.

Alice graduated from St. John Regional Catholic School, Frederick, MD, in 1954. She worked as a Supervisor for Verizon D.C. for 38 years until her retirement on December 31, 1991, and moved to St. Mary's County, MD from Ft. Washington, MD in March 2021.

The family will receive friends on Friday, January 28, 2022 from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM, with prayers recited at 7:00 PM. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Saturday, January 29, 2022 at 10:00 AM in Holy Angels Catholic Church, Avenue, MD, with Father Stephen Wyble officiating. Interment will be private.

Contributions may be made to Our Lady of Fatima Sodality-Holy Angels Church, 21340 Colton Point Road, Avenue, MD 20609 or 7th District Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 7, Avenue, MD 20609.

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

Arrangements provided by the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home and Cremation Services, P.A., Leonardtown, MD.

Joseph James Oakes



Joseph James Oakes, born November 20, 2002 passed away on January 12, 2022.

Visitation will be Sunday, January 23, 2022, 1-3 p.m. at Rausch Funeral Home—Lusby, 20 American Lane

Lusby, MD 20657,

A Celebration of Life will be Monday, January 24, 2022 at 10 a.m. at Dominion Apostolic Ministries Church, 21600 Great Mills Road, Suite 300, Lexington Park, MD 20653.

IF YOU HAVE A LIVING TRUST, PLEASE READ THIS

*Contributing Writer:
Lynda J. Striegel*

If you have created a living trust, you have already taken steps to avoid the probate process. The concept of the living trust is to re-title all of a person's assets into the name of their trust so that when they die they are not holding any assets into their sole name and therefore there is no probate. But, beware. A living trust is just what it says—a living document. If you have a living trust you must make sure you have (1) placed all your assets into the name of your trust; and (2) kept your trust and beneficiary designations up to date.

1. Placing your assets into your living trust.

So many times clients have come to see me proudly holding their binders for their living trusts. Upon review, I have found that the client's assets are not in the trust and, without that, the assets must go through the probate process to get to loved ones.

Unfortunately, many people who have living trusts die without realizing that they have not funded their trusts and their loved ones then have to go through the probate process—something their living trusts are intended to prevent.

For example, you must re-title your house into the name of your living trust through filing a new deed to the house. The house will not technically be moved into the trust by simply saying so in the trust document. The same holds true for your other assets. Each asset is different, but the approach must be the same—fill out all required forms to technically re-title the asset.

How does it happen that some clients have no assets in their trusts? Some attorneys that create living trusts require that their clients take all the steps necessary to re-title the assets into the name of the trust. I recommend you do not obtain a living trust without assurances that the attorney will prepare all transfers of your assets into the trust. This is not something you should try to do yourself. First, life often intervenes in plans and clients do not have the time or knowledge to figure out how to re-title their assets. Second, moving assets can be complicated with various forms to fill out that are confusing. The clients should not have to do work to fund their trusts. Their attorneys should do

that work for the clients.

Don't let this be your reality. If you already have a living trust, make sure all your assets have been re-titled into the name of your living trust. And, don't forget. If you acquire a new piece of real property, acquire it in the name of the trust so that you do not need to file a separate deed to re-title it. Most attorneys will provide you with an affidavit of trust to enable you to provide a document to the title company so that they can title the property in the name of your trust.

2. Keep Your Living Trust Up to Date

In our practice, we meet with clients every few years to update their trusts. Why? We want to make sure that the clients have not purchased an asset (like a house, for example) in their sole name. If they have, we will take steps to prepare a deed to transfer the house into the name of their trust. Often, clients' wishes will change over time. Clients that have named certain beneficiaries for their estates may wish to change the names of beneficiaries. Beneficiaries may die and precipitate a change. Investments and brokers may change. Retirement funds may change, etc. Whatever it is, you must keep on top of the changes in your life by including the changes in your living trust package. If you do not, there may be terrible consequences.

For example, one married couple prepared a living trust and the wife died leaving her share to the husband. The husband remarried but the trust was never changed to reflect this. On the death of the husband, part of the estate went to the relatives of the first wife.

It isn't difficult to amend a trust to make changes. The concept of a living trust is to avoid the hassles of the probate process and create a very easy transition for loved ones when you die. But the transition is only going to be an easy one if the trust is up to date. If you have not reviewed your living trust in more than three or four years, do it now.

If you would like to learn more about living trusts and other estate planning matters, join me at 11am on the third Wednesday of each month at our office at 8906 Bay Avenue, North Beach. Call 301-855-2246 to reserve your spot.



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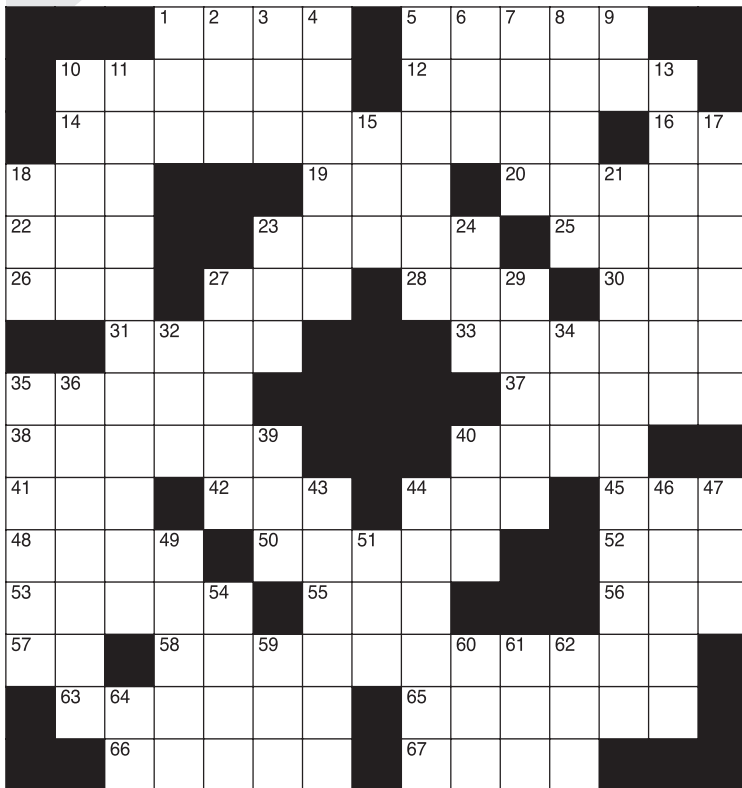


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GAMES & PUZZLES



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- 5. 2014 Winter Olympics host
- 10. Soft fabric
- 12. Covered in flowers
- 14. Works at a college or university
- 16. Keeps us cool
- 18. Corpuscle count (abbr.)
- 19. Similar
- 20. Birthplace of Muhammad
- 22. They ___
- 23. Preamble to a book
- 25. Southern China people
- 26. Hair product
- 27. The woman
- 28. Partner to cheese
- 30. One point north of due east
- 31. Round Dutch cheese
- 33. Be in awe of
- 35. Christmas song
- 37. Emits coherent radiation
- 38. Something that is comparable to another
- 40. Monetary unit
- 41. The cutting part

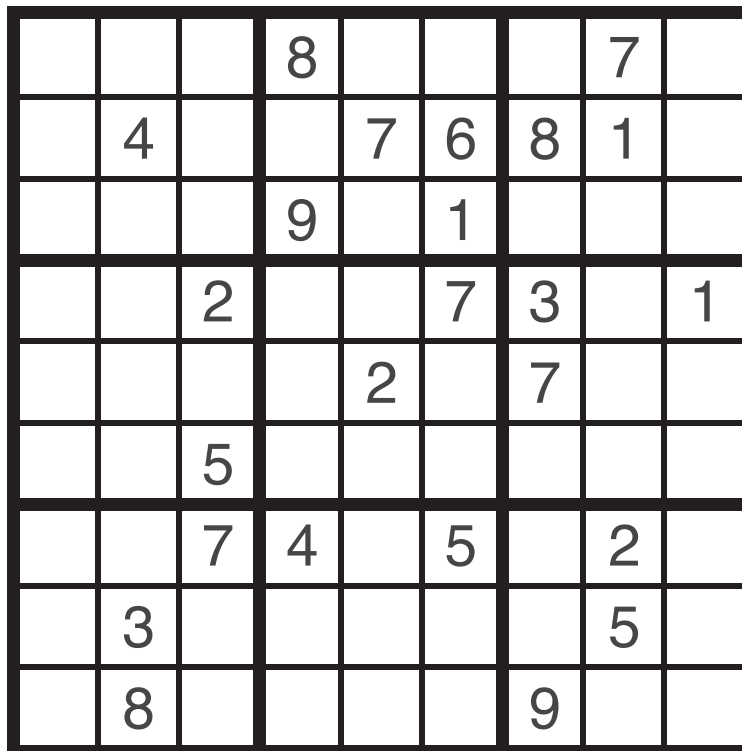
of a drill

- 42. Resinlike substance secreted by certain insects
- 44. Touch lightly
- 45. Toyota SUV
- 48. ___ and Andy, TV show
- 50. Made less dangerous
- 52. Assets under management (abbr.)
- 53. Nostrils
- 55. Moved quickly
- 56. Thai isthmus
- 57. TV personality Roker
- 58. Honors anew
- 63. Rags
- 65. One who obtains pleasure from inflicting pain or others
- 66. Marketplaces
- 67. Dark brown or black

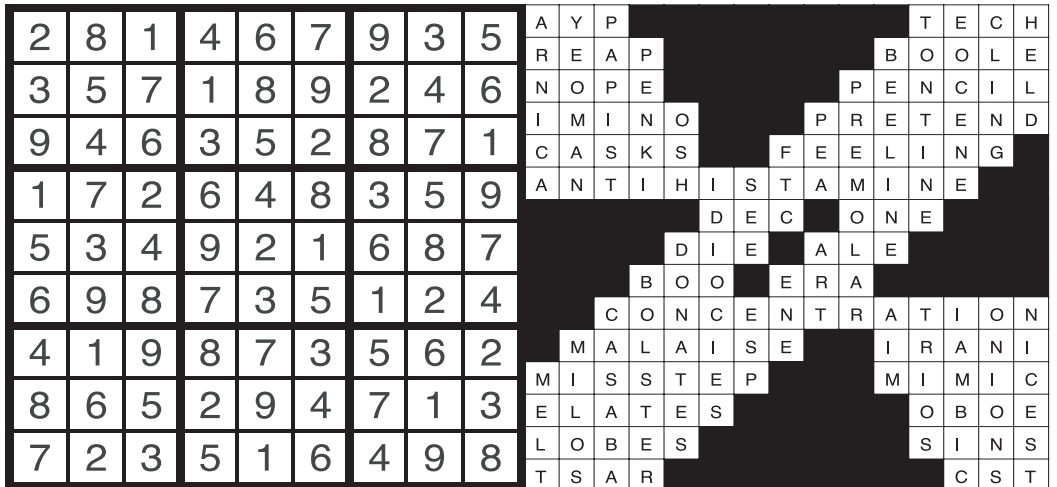
CLUES DOWN

- 1. Nowhere to be found (abbr.)
- 2. Not new
- 3. Brew
- 4. Stain with mud
- 5. Chief or leader
- 6. Luke Skywalker's mentor ___-Wan
- 7. Type of sauce
- 8. Sharpens
- 9. Priestess loved by Zeus
- 10. Jean Henri ___, French entomologist
- 11. Regulates supply of fuel

- 13. Disturbing and horrifying
- 15. Equal (prefix)
- 17. Hosts film festival
- 18. Tattered piece of clothing
- 21. Rich desserts
- 23. Unique motor (abbr.)
- 24. Disfigure
- 27. Chemical substance
- 29. Slang for famous person
- 32. Department of Labor
- 34. The A-team rode around in one
- 35. Beach cabin
- 36. Living things
- 39. Gun (slang)
- 40. Disconsolate
- 43. Stroke gently
- 44. Actress Richards
- 46. "Cletus Hogg" actor
- 47. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
- 49. Brazilian mountain range
- 51. Upset
- 54. One with supernatural insight
- 59. Insecticide
- 60. Taxi
- 61. "Much ___ about nothing"
- 62. Cannister
- 64. Popular clothing retailer



LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE SOLUTIONS



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The St. Mary's County Times is a weekly newspaper providing news and information for the residents of St. Mary's County. The St. Mary's County Times will be available on newsstands every Thursday. The paper is published by Southern Maryland Publishing Company, which is responsible for the form, content, and policies of the newspaper. The St. Mary's County Times does not espouse any political belief or endorse any product or service in its news coverage.

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



County Times

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Sponsored by Top III Association

IN-PERSON

1000-1400

The Club at Andrews
1889 Arnold Avenue
Joint Base Andrews AFB, Maryland

[REGISTER ONLINE & POST-LINK RESUME TO EVENT.](#)

The resume database will be available to participating companies, so be sure to register early to have your resume included in the database.

Masks are required!

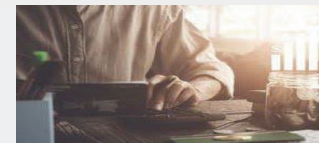
Bring plenty of resumes to share with recruiters.

Professional dress is required.

FREE RESUME SEMINAR

VIRTUAL

1100-1400



BELOW IS THE JOB SEEKER URL REGISTRATION LINK TO CONNECT ONLINE. REGISTER & UPLOAD RESUME.

<https://pvapi.premiervirtual.com/s/dAjAAx>

You may need to copy and paste in browser.

To participate online, all you will need is a computer, laptop, or phone and good internet connection.

Be prepared to participate in a video chat, if requested.

Continue to visit the website for company updates.

WWW.JOBZONEONLINE.COM

ALL ATTENDEES MUST HAVE A CAC CARD OR MILITARY ID FOR BASE ACCESS.

To request base access approval, contact JobZone with the following information: Full Name, Birthday, Driver's License Number, Expiration Date, State Vehicle Registered & Contact Information Phone/Email).

Expiration Date, State Vehicle Registered & Contact Information Phone/Email). Deadline varies depending on the number of requests. Estimated deadline: 21 JAN. Submit information early to ensure that you meet the deadline. Thank you. NOTE - Registering and posting/linking resume online does not validate base access. ***

COMPANIES: To reserve your booth, contact JobZone. All industries are invited!



For more information and updates -
Janet.Giles@JobZoneOnline.com
434-263-5102 / 540-226-1473