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St. Mary's County Times

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 2022

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HAVE PEAKED**

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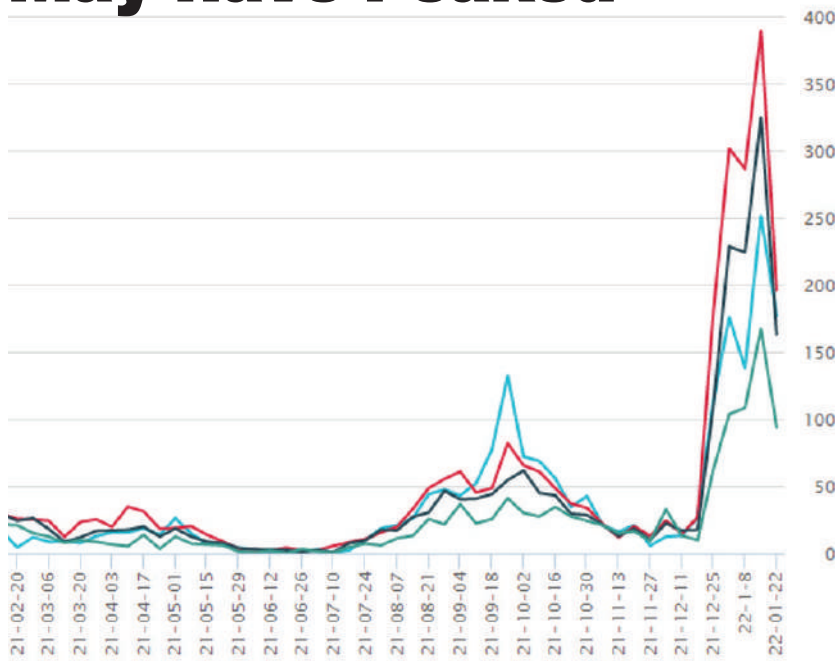
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Omicron COVID-19 Variant May Have Peaked



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The latest data on the COVID-19 pandemic shows that the latest variant, Omicron, may have peaked.

But health officials are being cautiously optimistic.

“We do have some good news and I’m eager to share that,” said Dr. Meena Brewster, the county health officer this week.

New case rates have recently seen a sharp decline, she told the Commissioners of St. Mary’s County.

“We’ve seen a consistent decline across all age groups in the new daily case rate,” Brewster said. “Omicron pretty much took over the picture of COVID infections in the region.

“It continues to be the dominant variant in our region.”

Brewster said the recent change in case rates could be due to the proliferation of home test kits for COVID-19; people who conduct their own tests may not be reporting their test results.

Brewster encouraged them to do so. “We’re hopeful this means we’ve already peaked in terms of new cases of Omicron,” Brewster said. “We are defi-

nately making progress.

“But these numbers are still high.”

Brewster said the infection numbers are much larger than peak of the Delta variant or any other variant of the virus yet encountered.

Commissioner Todd Morgan noted and Brewster confirmed that there have been about 800 new cases in the past several weeks in St. Mary’s.

While the Omicron variant has been shown to infect those who have natural or vaccine immunity, the vaccines are still effective in preventing serious illness and death, Brewster said.

The sheer number of infections statewide are continuing to put a strain on the health care infrastructure, Brewster said.

More than a dozen hospitals are in crisis mode of care, Brewster said.

For most who contract the Omicron variant, the virus has been fairly mild, Brewster said.

But this latest variant is undeniably lethal.

“There have been 15 fatalities in St. Mary’s in January and we aren’t finished with the month,” she said.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Candidates Report on Campaign War Chests

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Recent filings at the state’s campaign finance authority show some local candidates — and some presumptive candidates who have yet to file for office — are building impressive fund balances towards this election year.

Former state delegate Deb Rey, a Republican, who served just one term in office for District 29B but was defeated in 2018, has \$25,428 in campaign contributions according to her campaign’s latest finance report.

Rey, who lost to Del. Brian Crosby, a Democrat, has brought in over \$10,000 in contributions through fundraisers over the past year, her reports show.

Crosby’s reports also show that he is well financed in his efforts to retain the seat; both have officially filed to run for the seat this year.

The incumbent has amassed over \$98,000 in contributions for the same time period as Rey, according to his report filed with the Maryland Board of Elections.

Many of his donations come from St. Mary’s residents but also extend throughout the state and across the country.

He also received significant monies from political action committees (PACs) including \$2,750 from the Maryland Retail Merchants Association.

No one has officially filed to run in District 29A, currently held by Del. Matt Morgan (R) but the incumbent has also accumulated a significant amount of campaign funding.

Morgan has collected more than \$148,000 in campaign funding, many of the contributions coming from St. Mary’s and Southern Maryland.

But Morgan also received a contribution of \$500 from Vertex Pharmaceutical, Inc. of Boston, Mass.

Maryland’s Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Timothy Gowan has filed to run for the District 29C seat but did so this week after campaign finance reports were due; there is no information on what contributions he might have collected.

County Commissioner Todd Morgan, who has said he is exploring a run for the same seat has more than \$65,000 in his campaign cof-

fers should he decide to proceed.

If so, both he and Gowan would face off in the GOP primary.

Sen. Jack Bailey (R-Dist. 29) has amassed more than \$232,000 for his official campaign to retain his seat.

Bailey has received numerous local contributions including \$4,000 from CMI Associates LLC in Charlotte Hall.

PACs have also taken to contributing to Bailey’s campaign, including those for law enforcement and fuel distributors.

Speculation has continued as to whether Jaymi Sterling, former local prosecutor now working in Anne Arundel County, would run to unseat current St. Mary’s State’s Attorney Richard Fritz.

She resigned from her position in his office after making allegations of improper use of funds, which Fritz denied.

Sterling, who is the daughter of Gov. Larry Hogan, has not officially stated whether she will run but has collected more than \$80,000 in contributions in her campaign finance account.

Fritz has a little more than \$6,000 in his finance account, his latest report states.

For county commissioner races, Commissioner John O’Connor has a little more than \$1,300 in his account, while Commissioner Eric Colvin has a little more than \$2,500.

No filings exist for O’Connor District 3 opponent Dawn Murphy.

Colvin’s opponent in District 1, Roy Alvey, has filed an affidavit stating he does not intend to collect or disburse funds in excess of \$1,000 since the establishment of the campaign finance entity’s approval date.

Both County Commissioner President James “Randy” Guy and Commissioner Mike Hewitt have filed the similar kinds of affidavits.

No records exist so far for William “BJ” Hall, who is also seeking the presidency, while the third GOP candidate in the running, Rita Weaver, has \$3,813 in funds.

Scott Ostrow, District 4 candidate and a Republican, has raised a little more than \$2,000 while his Democratic opponent Steve Tuttle has raised a little more than \$2,700.

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Smith Promoted to Director of Development Corporation Seeks Community Ideas

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Taylor Smith just took over the leadership of the St. Mary's County Community Development Corporation (CDC), and, since she is not a county, she is eager to hear about how the corporation can help the county, particularly the Lexington Park and Great Mills areas.

"We'd love to hear what people have to say," Smith told The County Times this week. "That feedback is really important."

The local CDC works to get state grant funding for community improvement and beautification projects, but it also can assist others in getting that grant money for the same purposes, Smith explained.

Smith, a native of North Carolina, got a job with the CDC in 2020 as its assistant director after she graduated from college with a master's degree in social work; but instead of focusing her education on one-on-one interactions with clients she wanted to emphasize social work by organizing larger efforts in communities.

"I think they were excited to see a young woman who was interested in community development," Smith said of the board of directors of CDC who first hired her.

Her staff includes just a few other people, Smith said, but she hopes to hire a program manager to even out the abilities of the corporation.

"We are pretty much a one [person] show right now," Smith said.

In recent years the CDC has pursued its mission through public art projects like the mural on



South Shangri-La Drive in Lexington Park that can be seen from the intersection with Great Mills Road, denoting its headquarters.

"Who wants to just look at a grey wall when you can look at something that honors the communities culture?" Smith said.

But it has also been successful in helping to create more work force housing opportunities — another of the ways it pursues its mission — such as the newly constructed Patuxent Cove community on Pegg Road just across from the main gate of Patuxent River Naval Air Station.

Smith wants to ensure the community understands the importance of the CDC and how important it is for them to take their opinions to the CDC.

"I'm not from here and what I think we should build in the community may not be what they think we should build," Smith said.

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Gowan Running For District 29C Delegate

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The commander of Maryland's National Guard wants to be the next delegate for District 29C in St. Mary's County.

Maj. Gen. Timothy Gowan, a Republican and Leonardtown resident, filed for election Jan. 24; he said if elected he would resign as the state's Adjutant General.

"I feel like I want to help out and add a stronger voice to the people in the General Assembly," Gowan told The County Times. "I think an effective conservative voice in Maryland can make a change."

"I think I can help change some minds with evidence and data driven arguments."

If elected Gowan wants to try to find ways to end the alleged gerrymandering for which Maryland is famous by arguing that continually playing to just one political party in a state will ultimately be to its detriment.

"It really bothers me," Gowan said. "The supermajority makes too many emotionally based decisions."

"The way we've reacted to COVID is one of them."

Gowan said his long experience as a general staff officer in the U.S. Army and National Guard making data-driven decisions and dealing with risk management make him a strong candidate for the job of



Maj. Gen. Tim Gowan

state delegate.

The current incumbent, Del. Gerald "Jerry" Clark has said he will not seek reelection. Gowan is currently the only candidate who has filed for the seat and if elected would be the first St. Mary's resident to hold the seat in almost 15 years.

District 29C spans the middle section of St. Mary's, across the Patuxent River and much of Southern Calvert County.

Locally, Gowan wants to ensure St. Mary's and Calvert counties are "getting our fair share out of Annapolis" and wants to solve traffic congestion problems.

He also wants to promote policies that would make for a competitive business environment in St. Mary's and Calvert, he said.

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50 YEARS... THEN AND NOW

E Class racer Tommy Bailey and Al Francis Guy of Guy Brothers Marine in Clements tweak Tommy's 13 foot Allison at the 1971 Dayton APBA Inboard and OPC Nationals in Dayton, Ohio.



1971 was a great year for Tommy Bailey in boat racing where he won the 1971 National APBA Points Championship in E Class!

Al Francis Guy and Guy Brothers Marine still support vintage boat regattas in Southern Maryland. The vintage race boats put on a re-enactment to keep the history alive.

The top photo was taken in Dayton, Ohio 1971 and the bottom Photo was taken 50 years later in Clements, Maryland in August 2021.



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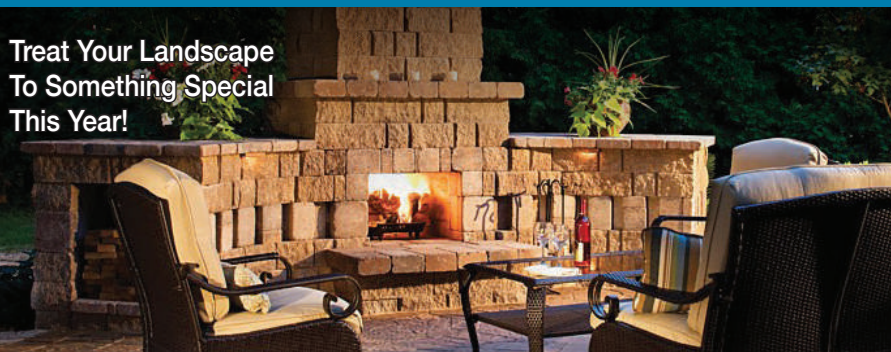
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**Second Suspect Arrested
 in Pegg Road Homicide**

By Guy Leonard
 Staff Writer

Sheriff's detectives say that the second person to be arrested in the shooting death of Joseph James Oakes, 19, took part in stalking the deceased as he and five others were driving their passenger vehicle around Lexington Park Jan. 12.

Detectives were able to piece together clues to apprehend and charge Keion Brooks, 23, of Lexington Park with numerous counts to include first-degree murder, first-degree assault and using a handgun in the commission of a felony.

The full docket against Brooks, who is alleged to have taken part in the drive-by killing with Latres Cockerham and one other as yet unnamed suspect, is 33 criminal counts.

Sheriff's investigators say that five days after the homicide, when Cockerham was already incarcerated locally, they intercepted a piece of jail mail to Brooks. "In this message it is clear Cockerham is attempting to establish an alibi with Brooks and the message indicates they were together on the day of the murders," sheriff's say in charging documents.

When detectives questioned Brooks, he admitted to knowing Cockerham but said he did not leave his Hickory Hills residence until after 5 p.m. on the day

of the homicide and that he was not out with nor did he see Cockerham that day.

But using video surveillance assets and data from Brooks' cell phone, investigators show that Cockerham drove to the South Hampton neighborhood and picked up an unidentified person and then drove to Brooks home to retrieve him, court papers stated.

Both Brooks' cell phone and a GPS monitoring unit Cockerham had on his person from being on parole and probation showed that they left Hickory Hills and travelled to Pacific Drive where they were in a position to surveil Columbia Commons on Ronald Drive — the general area where the homicide eventually took place.

The victims in their vehicle visited this area as it was being surveilled, police said.

As the victims left the area and went down Pegg Road to Three Notch Road and down to Millison Plaza they were followed by Cockerham, Brooks and the third unnamed suspect, sheriff's detectives said.

On the victims' way back onto Pegg Road, the chasing vehicle overtook them at which time the fatal shooting took place, police said.

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North End Gallery re-opens February 1-27, 2022 with its annual Invitational Show that features over 30 regional guest artists. Come by First Friday, February 4th from 5pm - 8pm for the monthly Art & Wine Date Night. Meet some of the artists and check out the back gallery's "Little Works of Love" a special valentine-themed exhibit for lovers of all ages.



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Rey Files To Retake Delegate Seat 29 B Seat

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Deb Rey, former Republican delegate for District 29B who lost her seat in 2018, is ready to challenge Del. Brian Crosby for the position.

Crosby is a Democrat.

Rey has long been a vocal critic of state spending practices but more recently against the way the state has handled the COVID-19 pandemic, to include mask mandates and restrictions on businesses.

"I'm running to return a focus on Constitutional rights, fiscal responsibility, reducing crime and excellence in education which includes parental choice," Rey said in a prepared statement released this week. "I will continue to fight against mandates, lockdowns, Critical Race Theory, and the increasing tax burden of an out-of-control government.

"The past few years show we need a representative who trusts us to make our own decisions and not someone who wants to take our rights away under the guise of safety or because they don't like the decisions we make."

At the height of the pandemic, Rey was involved in the Reopen St. Mary's movement that sought to protest capacity and other operating restrictions that were imposed on small businesses, many of them struggling to make a living.

Rey said she wants to focus on



Deb Rey

reducing taxes for citizens in a time when inflation has touched many consumer goods such as food and fuel.

"The more money you keep in your pocket, the more freedom you have. I have worked and will continue to work with other legislators to loosen government's grip on the citizen and businesses," Rey's statement reads.

She also pledged to "fight for the funding like we used to in years past" to ensure St. Mary's got funding for local roads and other key infrastructure projects.

"I would bring back the town halls and stand for the people there," Rey said, noting her work in reaching out to her constituency in the past. "We don't have that now."

guyleonard@countytimes.net

New Name for Old Favorite



New signage on the convenience store in Hollywood, the former Burchmart.

Father of Dating Violence Victim To Speak in St. Mary's



Bill Mitchell, right, lost his daughter Kristin, second from left, to dating violence.

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month and Bill Mitchell, who lost his daughter to dating violence in 2005 wants to speak in St. Mary's next month to make sure what happened to her won't happen to others.

He will speak virtually the evening of Feb. 8 at the behest of the Healthy St. Mary's Partnership, The St. Mary's County Commission for Women and St. Mary's College.

Mitchell, who lives in Ellicott City, has been to St. Mary's on at least four occasions to talk about the often-subtle warning signs that a loved one was dating someone dangerous.

His daughter Kristin graduated St. Joseph's University just outside Philadelphia in 2005 just weeks before she lost her life to dating violence, he said.

"It was 20 days after graduation when I got that phone call," Mitchell said. "Local detectives asked if they could meet with me to tell me what happened."

Pennsylvania law enforcement had relayed the news to harvard County detectives that his daughter had been killed.

The revelation was extreme and entirely unexpected.

"There's the getting over the shock of that... you're scurrying around for your 21-year-old," Mitchell said. "You're just learning how to breathe again and you want to make sure this guy goes to prison."

Her killer did plead guilty to third-degree murder in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and remains incarcerated today, Mitchell said.

He wished he knew then what he knows now. "We were caught completely flat footed," Mitchell said of his wife and son when Kristin was killed "You don't know the warning signs of an unhealthy relationship."

His daughter had only been dating the man who would kill her during her final year in college and then only for about five to six months.

"The day we met him was the last day she was alive," Mitchell said. "The next time we saw her... was in a funeral home."

Later he learned his daughter had been in a relationship with someone who sought to isolate and dominate her to the exclusion of all others.

"It's a relationship of rewards (if the person allows themselves to be dominated) and punishments," Mitchell said. "They're devious with this; it's insidious."

Just before she was killed, her daughter tried to sever contact with her assailant.

"A key and security card to her apartment building were taken from him that day," Mitchell said, but it was too late.

Media accounts state that her killer, Brian David Landau, stabbed her 55 times, including 11 times in the neck.

When Mitchell speaks about dating violence next month he said he would show pictures of his daughter so people could put a face to the issue.

He wants people to understand that if he and his wife had known to recognize the signs of the danger his daughter was in, Kristin would still be alive today.

"There's power in having someone close to what happened get up and speak," Mitchell said.

He's written a book titled "When Dating Hurts" that teaches what families can do to guard against tragedy.

He said there is a five-step template that predators use to ensnare their unsuspecting victims.

The first is a story book romance where they ingratiate themselves, second they begin to slowly isolate their partner from friends and family by putting more and more demands on their time, third they begin with threats of violence when they are challenged or they are threatened themselves with their partner leaving.

Fourth, they offer a convincing apology that disarms their partner's concerns and gets them to give the predator a second chance

This leads to the fifth step which is a return to the story book romance stage, Mitchell said.

Several years ago when he spoke at Great Mills High School a freshman female spoke to him afterwards about the impact his story had on her.

"She said, 'I didn't know it was abuse until you spoke about it,'" he said of her own experiences.

"About one-third of all women will suffer serious violence in intimate relations during their life," Mitchell said.

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ST. MARY'S COUNTY SHERIFF'S CRIME REPORT

Missing Persons Sought

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office is seeking the whereabouts of **Anna Garcia Guillen**, age 19, and **Dunia Yulissa Garcia Guillen**, age 17, of Mechanicsville. Both girls were last seen in December at their residence. Anna Guillen is 5'6", weighs 140 pounds, and has black hair and brown eyes. Dunia Gillen is 5'6", weighs 130 pounds, and has black hair and brown eyes.

The two were last known to be traveling together, possibly out of state.

Anyone with information on the whereabouts of Anna Garcia Guil-

len and Dunia Yulissa Garcia Guillen is asked to contact Detective First Class Daniel Sidorowicz at (301) 475-4200 extension 78043 or by email daniel.sidorowicz@stmarysmd.com.

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



Anna Garcia Guillen



Dunia Yulissa Garcia Guillen

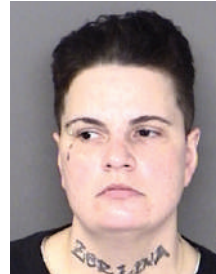
Two Wanted for Escape

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office is seeking the whereabouts of **Amanda Renea Wedding**, age 36 of Lexington Park, for Second-Degree Escape from the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center in Leonardtown. Wedding failed to enter a court-ordered inpatient treatment program.

Wedding is a white female, 5'9" tall, weighing 140 pounds with brown hair and brown eyes.

Anyone with information on the whereabouts of Wedding is asked to contact Detective Cpl. James Bare at 301-475-4200, ext. 8118 or at james.bare@stmarysmd.com.

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



Amanda Wedding

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office is seeking the whereabouts of **Karen Anne Granville**, age 32 of Mechanicsville.

Granville is wanted for the charge escape for removing her GPS tracking device while on pretrial supervision. Granville's original charges were violation of probation/robbery and theft. Granville is a white female, 5'1" and weighs 135 pounds, with blonde hair and blue eyes.

Anyone with information on the whereabouts of Karen Anne Granville is asked to contact Detective Tyler Payne at (301) 475-4200 extension 78010 or by email at Tyler.Payne@stmarysmd.com.

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



Karen Granville

Delaware Shooter Held In Park Shooting

On January 22, 2022, at 8:07 a.m. deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office responded to the 20900 block of Coronet Place in Lexington Park, for the reported shooting. Deputies located the 51-year-old male victim from Lexington Park, suffering from a gunshot wound to his left arm and left leg. Detectives and crime lab personnel from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigations Division responded to the scene and continued the investigation. The victim advised he was shot by an unknown female operating a blue vehicle. The victim was transported to an area trauma center for treatment and later released.

During the course of the investigation, **Savannah Georgina Crown**, age 32 of Delaware, was developed as a suspect. Further investigation determined Crown has a blue Hyundai registered to her and she had registered at a hotel in Lexington Park on January 21, 2022 and left the hotel during the early morning hours of January 22, 2022. Crown observed the victim in his vehicle at the neighborhood mailboxes, at which time she shot the victim and the victim's vehicle. Crown then drove back to the state of Delaware, where a vehicle pursuit ensued and ultimately ended in Easton, Maryland, when Crown stopped her vehicle in the roadway and shot herself. Crown was transported to

an area trauma center, where she remains for treatment.

Sheriff's representatives say the victim was unfamiliar with the suspect, however that this was not random and the family was targeted in the shooting.

A warrant has been obtained for Crown for the following charges:

- Attempted First Degree Murder
- Assault First Degree
- Reckless Endangerment
- Reckless Endangerment from Car Firearm Use-Felony Violent Crime
- Loaded Handgun on Person Loaded Handgun in Vehicle

St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office 23150 Leonard Hall Drive Leonardtown, MD 20650 (301) 475-8008 Fax (301) 475-4047 SMCSO FORM #44 (R03/08)

Anyone with information on this incident is asked to contact Trevor Teague at (301) 475-4200 extension 78128 or by email at Trevor.Teague@stmarysmd.com.

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

Philip H. Dorsey III
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St. Mary's College Student Beats the Odds, Wins \$29K



A college student from St. Mary's County who plays Racetrax occasionally beat the odds on a recent wager, scoring a prize of \$29,295.70 on a Superfecta Box bet.

Her horses sent Brooke Adkins to the head of the class in December. While running errands, she stopped at Centre Liquors in Leonardtown to purchase scratch-off games and decided to play Racetrax, too.

The Mechanicsville resident played the 8, 9, 10, and 12 horses in a Superfecta Box configuration for 20 draws. The bet consisted of a 10-cent wager for each of the possible combinations of those four horses finishing in the top four spots. She added the Bonus multiplier feature to her wager, too.

Some players like to stay at a Lottery retailer to watch the virtual horses cross the finish line but Brooke had errands to run. She left and checked the ticket for a win later in the day.

"I was really thirsty, so I stopped to get a drink and decided to check my

ticket, too," she said. "I gave it to a cashier, who told me it was a big winner and that it was too high for her to cash."

Brooke asked the cashier to check the ticket again, because she couldn't believe the big win was real. With the win confirmed, she immediately went to her mother's job to share the good news.

"She was so excited," said Brooke. "She couldn't believe it either."

Brooke took her ticket home and locked it up for safekeeping. She decided to wait until the New Year to claim her big prize for tax reasons. The happy winner claimed her prize this week, accompanied by a family friend.

Brooke told Lottery officials that she has no immediate plans for her cash windfall and will save the funds for now.

Also celebrating her lucky win is Centre Liquors. The Lottery retailer located at 40955 Merchants Lane in St. Mary's County receive a bonus of \$292.95 from the Lottery for selling a winning Racetrax ticket worth \$10,000 or more. The bonus is equal to 1% of the prize.

Hawk Food Pantries Open



From left Prince Frederick Campus Student Life Coordinator Erika Fisher, CSM Dean of Student Development Michelle Ruble, CSM President Dr. Maureen Murphy, CSM Vice President Student Equity and Success Tracy Harris, Prince Frederick Campus Operations Coordinator Alan Hemming and CSM Student Wellness and Basic Needs Specialist Isaiah Fitzhugh pose for the Hawk Pantry ribbon cutting.

Excitement and gratitude were the emotions of the day last month when the College of Southern Maryland (CSM) Student Life team joined students, faculty and staff to cut the ribbon and officially launch the new food pantry program at the college – aptly named 'The CSM Hawk Pantry.' Three walk-in pantries are now located at the La Plata, Leonardtown and Prince Frederick Campuses to help remove barriers to student success for those experiencing food insecurities.

The CSM Hawk Pantry program was established last fall in partnership with the Maryland Food Bank, which provides the food CSM will be distributing. In addition, the college accepts food drive donations, and through a partnership with Farming 4 Hunger (F4H), the college will also be distributing seasonal fresh produce from the F4H Demonstration Market Garden located at the Prince Frederick Campus.

"My hope, my dream, is that nobody who is a part of our community will ever be hungry," said CSM President Dr. Maureen Murphy during the ribbon cutting. "And we're going to do the best we can to make that happen. I am so grateful for everybody who has been working on this effort. It has been a labor of love – real love – for our students and our communities. And I thank you."

"This was an extensive undertaking that required coordination among multiple departments, but it was very meaningful work," explained Prince Frederick Campus Student Life Coordinator Erika Fisher. "The Hawk Pantry project is truly the best example of teamwork and this college's commitment to providing holistic care to our students in their journey to success. I am proud of everyone's assistance, hard work, and professionalism."

CSM's commitment to address the needs of students with food insecurities began in 2017, when the CSM Student Government Association, in partnership with CSM's President's Cabinet, installed micro-pantries, named Hawk Feeders, on each of CSM's four campuses to help address short-term basic needs sometimes experienced by our students and community members. Built by a CSM faculty member Bill Luyster, the self-standing Hawk Feeders cabinets are stocked through individual donations by faculty, staff and students as well as through food drives, under the adage, "Give what you can, take what you need." The Hawk Feeders will remain on campuses to provide students in need with grab and go items.

In 2019, the Student Life team was tasked with looking into the possibility of expanding

the Hawk Feeder program. However, before their surveying and research was complete, the pandemic occurred and their efforts were put on hold when the college lifted the majority of courses to a remote learning environment.

But team's desire to assist students with hunger issues never waned. The Student Life team went to work in March 2020 to empty the CSM Hawk Feeders and partner with local churches to hold 14 Mobile Hawk Feeders. These distribution events rotated between CSM's four campuses and had students driving through the parking lots to pick up their groceries. All in all, a total of 13,290 lbs. of food were distributed to 333 students from May 2020 through August 2021.

"We knew that families were hurting in ways they hadn't hurt before," Murphy said of the students responding to the Mobile Hawk Feeder effort. "We knew that people needed food and that we had a responsibility to mobilize behind that. [CSM Dean of Student Development] Michelle Ruble and her team just took it on. They said, 'This is what we do.' And they were very successful at it, but it was heart breaking."

In spring 2021, college leadership revisited the expansion of the Hawk Feeder program and agreed to establish a formalized, no-cost campus food pantry system. The pantries are open weekly to CSM students who have a need and users can receive up to 30 lbs. of canned and packaged food items per week.

The CSM Hawk Pantry program plans to expand offerings by providing wraparound services, personal hygiene items, and an emergency assistance fund. To be eligible for services all pantry users will be required to show their CSM ID card. Students can provide a copy of their current registration statement in lieu of a Student ID card. User confidentiality will be protected.

The CSM Hawk Pantries are open weekly to students at the following campus locations during regular college hours:

Leonardtown Campus

Location: Building A, Room 109
Day/Time: Thursdays, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Prince Frederick Campus

Location: Building B, Room 101
Day/Time: Mondays, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

For questions or additional information, please contact CSM Student Wellness and Basic Needs Specialist Isaiah Fitzhugh at 443-550-6168, icfithugh@csmd.edu and learn more at <https://www.csmd.edu/student-services/health-wellness/hawkfeeder/index.html>.

Press Release from CSM

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How Seniors Can Travel Safely During the Pandemic

A big advantage of retiring is having more leisure time to travel, and millions of seniors capitalize on that free time every day.

Seniors spend more on travel and leisure than any other demographic, according to the United States Census Bureau. The international travel agency Virtuoso says the average retiree spends nearly \$12,000 a year on travel.

Even though they have the money and time to get away, the global pandemic has made it harder to join the jet set.

However, a renewed wanderlust spurred by an increasing number of people having been vaccinated against COVID-19 is driving travel interest once again. Additional booster shots also have assuaged some fears about travel by ramping up virus protection even further.

Seniors who want to get away all over again can take note of the following safety tips so they can stay healthy as they hit the road.

Check with the airline

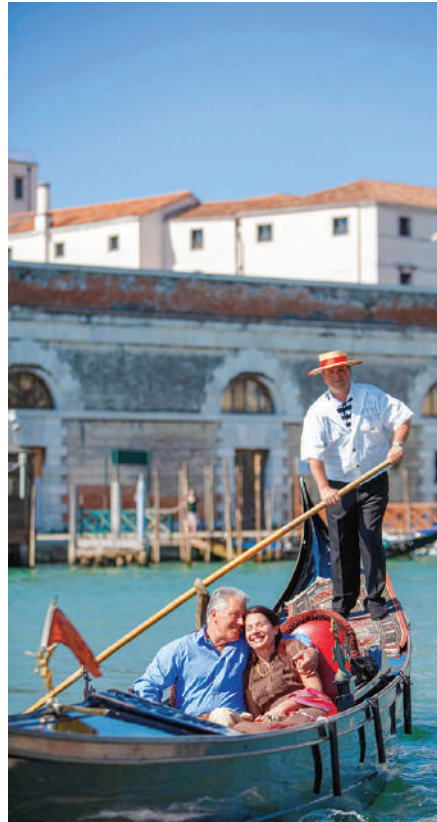
If air travel is on the horizon, confirm with the carrier if any safety precautions have been implemented. Most airlines still require passengers to wear masks. Proof of vaccination or a recent negative COVID test may be required as well. Confirm with the airline if any seats on the aircraft are deliberately left empty to maintain social distancing.

Travel during off-peak hours

Mid-afternoon and early evening tend to be busy travel times. No matter how you're traveling, avoiding crowds can reduce infection rates. If possible, travel in the early morning or late at night when fewer people will be out.

Consider vaccination

Seniors were among the first groups of people to be eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. The travel resource Go Backpacking says vaccination is now one of the primary



requirements for entering destinations around the globe. If you have not been vaccinated, now may be the time to discuss the vaccine with a doctor.

Check infection rates

Avoid destinations with high infection rates. The World Health Organization offers daily counts of cases on their Coronavirus Dashboard. Visit <https://covid19.who.int> to learn more.

Pack accordingly

Along with the usual travel gear, bring along hand sanitizer, antibacterial wipes, masks, and disinfecting sprays. Wipe down common touch points in hotel rooms, like doorknobs and remote controls.

Dine outside

Many people have safely returned to indoor dining. But if you want extra protection, ask to be seated outdoors at restaurants. Try to limit time spent in other public places if they are crowded. That includes bars, clubs or even museums.

Some simple planning can help seniors travel safely during the pandemic.

Calvert Hospice

Hospice Care

Hospice care focuses on providing comfort and support while giving patients quality time with family and friends. Hospice is covered by Medicare Part A.

Palliative Care

Palliative care is not hospice. It is specialized medical care for people who suffer from chronic illnesses and is appropriate at any stage of illness. Palliative care is billed as a specialist visit.



Grief Support

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Growing Old Doesn't Mean Losing

Florence Ballengee
Contributing Writer

Beginning with the age most people consider retirement age, seniors begin to experience numerous changes. Sometimes the changes come one right after the other. Incomes fall from their before retirement levels, children leave home, there are sometimes health issues and there are physical limitations on what was once done with ease. For some, the death of a spouse changes the way they live because of income and because of health. For some, the death of a spouse is a life event that changes the way they live and the way they think.

One of the biggest decisions confronting seniors is whether to stay in their homes or downsize. There are many forms of living for seniors and one is independent living in senior apartments. There are three such facilities in St. Mary's.

The newest of the three in St. Mary's County is Victory Woods. Some would call Victory Woods a

melting pot of diversity. Others call it a community within a community. But many residents at Victory Woods, call it their second family. It is billed as affordable senior apartments. The land was donated by the Archdiocese of Washington. It is committed to provide senior housing affordably through a tax credit with the State of Maryland. The State sets the rent at what they consider affordable at each income level. There are 75 apartments ranging from one bedroom to two bedroom, two bathroom.

Lisa Ruetschle is the manager of Victory Woods and has been since it opened more than ten years ago. A bit of business woman, a bit of social worker, she is an experienced property manager. She is well-liked for her friendliness and upbeat personality. She provides many of the activities available to residents.

Paul Houle is himself a senior. At 68, he is still working daily. His title is Maintenance Supervisor. He was born and raised in St. Mary's and has been with Victory Woods since

it opened it's doors. Because he was in the contracting business, he is familiar with construction and the expected quality and price. As a St. Mary's County native, he knows the people and companies in the service businesses locally.

Ask most residents why they chose Victory Woods and they will tell you because of cleanliness and because of the manicured grounds. It is tucked away at the end of where FDR dead ends and most residents feel it is a safe location where they can freely walk and come and go.

Vietnam veteran Robert Hardin moved to St. Mary's in 1987. Hardin is a dedicated Christian and member of Patuxent Presbyterian Church where he teaches a Bible Study class weekly. There's an expression that says if you want something done, ask a busy person. And Hardin is one of those busy people who will help anyone or any cause. Currently he chairs Wii bowling, movie night and is the bookkeeper for the dinner and lunch program. He also does the money

management for weekly Bingo. If there's an activity going on at Victory Woods, and before Covid there were many, Hardin is usually helping

Born and raised in Oraville, in Northern St. Mary's County, Cathy Wood Melniczak is now a resident of Victory Woods. She married and lived in the state of California and in Virginia Beach. She came back to St. Mary's when she retired to be close to family. Her two sons live in Charles County and one sister lives in Wildewood and another lives at Victory Woods.

One of the attractions that keeps her and others here at Victory Woods is the feeling of family that has developed. There is always someone helping someone else here. And people here, she said, are very sharing of their time and their talents. She cites the painting classes and the many other activities available and staffed by resident volunteers.

Betty Claus and Laura Redmond never would have met had Betty not moved to St. Mary's County when her husband became ill. She moved

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Geri-Fit is a 45-minute class that is held twice weekly and focuses on building strength and endurance. It is labeled as a "progressive resistance exercise program," meaning that once participants have built up enough strength and endurance using a set of 2 or 3-pound dumbbells, they graduate to using heavier dumbbells weights to become even stronger.



An art embracing the mind, body, and spirit – Originating in ancient China, tai chi is one of the most effective exercises for health of mind and body. Through slow and steady movements broken down over a 6-week session this program helps people improve muscular strength, flexibility, and fitness. In turn the movements will decrease pain as well as stiffness in the joints.



EnhanceFitness is a low-cost evidence-based group exercise and falls prevention program that helps older adults at all levels of fitness become more active, energized, and empowered to sustain independent lives.



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Independence



Robert Hardin sells a meal ticket to Cathy Melniczak, Hardin coordinates the sales and is bookkeeper for the meal program while Florence Ballengee does most of the cooking assisted by volunteers. Meals were eaten in the community room but under management's Covid guidelines, meals are now sold as carry-outs.

here to be near her daughter because she knew she would need help caring for her husband. He passed away in 2013 but lived four years beyond what was expected. Betty and Laura met when Laura's car was totaled and she needed rides to medical appointments and Betty volunteered. They have been like sisters ever since.

Laura was raised in Prince George's County. She and her husband had a yours, mine and our situation. She had one child, he had four children and they had two children. Her parents moved to Golden Beach and after living in North Carolina for a few years, she moved to St. Mary's County and eventually to Victory Woods.

Peggy Sproehle and Eileen Gonzalez are sisters. In fact, they are twin sisters. The daughters of a Navy Chief, they both married, raised children made a living in the corporate world and eventually retired. She moved to St. Mary's to be closer to her son, a Navy Chief. When Eileen began to experience health problems, Peggy came to live at Victory Woods. Today they have apartments across the hall from each other and they do everything together.

Peggy is known at Victory Woods as a person to call when you need a hand with something. She feeds feral cats and is a cat lover. They are known by most as simply "the twins".

Eileen said that she loves living here because everyone here can relate on some level. "We all grew up with the same music, heroes and experienced the same events. We are able to rely on each other and help each other". Peggy adds that no matter where we are from, we share a history. "We are the children of the Greatest Genera-

tion".

What are the odds that a woman named Esther Torres from Puerto Rico and a woman named Kyong Won from Korea would meet, be neighbors and be best friends? That's exactly the story of Esther Torres and Kyong Won.

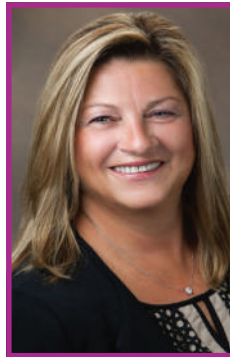
Torres came to the mainland US as a child. She was raised, married and raised her five children in New York. Her daughter and son in law found employment with a Navy contractor at Pax River and Esther's husband had passed away. Her daughter suggested she move to St. Mary's County. She did so and chose to live at Victory Woods. Her daughter and son in law have since moved back to New York, but she remains here.

Won is from South Korea. She came to the United States in 1979 when she married an American. Here in the United States she raised five children, divorced, then moved to Victory Woods.

Esther and Kyong met at activities that took place at Victory Woods and they were neighbors. Kyong and Esther are devout Christians and when Kyong was looking for a church home, she went with Esther to TBC which meets at the Hollywood Firehouse. Kyong found the church welcoming and friendly and she continued to attend with Esther.

While downsizing and leaving one's own home is intimidating, it can be a very positive experience. Just ask most people at Victory Woods. They will tell you it gave them the opportunity to develop friendships and to experience a large variety of people from all over the country and the world.

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How active seniors can Lower Their Injury Risk

Physical activity is one of the key components of a healthy lifestyle. Though physical activity benefits people of all ages, it can be especially helpful for seniors by making it easier for them to overcome some of the obstacles associated with aging.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, physical activity supports daily living activities and independence. That's a significant benefit for seniors who are worried that age-related physical and mental decline might one day compromise their ability to live independently. The CDC also notes that physical activity lowers the risk for early death, heart disease, type 2 diabetes, and certain cancers.

The CDC reports that physical activity is generally safe for fit individuals who are 65 and older and have no existing conditions. Despite that, it's best for any senior to consult his or her physician prior to beginning a new exercise regimen. Once doctors give seniors the go-ahead to begin a new workout routine, seniors can take the following steps to reduce their risk for injury.

• **Warm up before working out.**



Seniors may think they don't need to warm up before exercising because their workouts are not as high-intensity as they might have been when they were younger. But Harvard Medical School notes that warming up pumps nutrient-rich, oxygenated blood to the muscles and helps increase heart rate. The American Council on Exercise reports that warming up helps reduce workout-related injury risk by improving tissue elasticity. So prior to beginning a workout, regardless of how moderate- or low-intensity that regimen will be, seniors should warm up for five to 10 minutes.

• **Start with a routine that's commensurate with your abilities.**

Seniors excited by the prospect of working out must temper that excitement if they're not accustomed to physical activity. Such individuals should consider working with a personal trainer. Personal trainers design exercise regimens based on each individual client's fitness levels and goals. As clients make progress and their bodies become acclimated to routine physical activity, personal trainers can then tweak regimens to make them more challenging. Seniors can take on these responsibilities themselves, but are urged to begin slowly and gradual-

ly build up their exercise tolerance.

• **Don't skip strength training.** Seniors may think lifting weights is for young people who want to look buff, but the AARP® notes that muscle-strengthening activities protect the joints, reducing seniors' risk for injury as a result. The Department of Health & Human Services recommends seniors who have been cleared to exercise engage in strength training at least twice per week.

• **Stretch after your workout.** Harvard Medical School reports that efforts to cool down after a workout, including stretching, can prevent muscle cramps and dizziness and lengthen muscles throughout the body, which improves range of motion. Harvard Medical School recommends holding each stretch for 10 to 30 seconds, as the longer a stretch can be held the more flexible individuals' muscles will be.

Physical activity is an essential component of a healthy lifestyle for seniors. Active seniors can take various steps to reduce their injury risk so they can continue to reap the rewards of exercising for years to come.

<p>Home and Community-Based Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior rights and advocacy Caregiver support and respite Community Options Waiver Community First Choice Aging & Disability Resource Center/ Maryland Access Point (MAP) 	<p>ST. MARY'S COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AGING & HUMAN SERVICES <i>Working Together ~ Caring About You</i></p> <p><i>How may we help you?</i></p> <p>P.O. Box 653 Leonardtown, MD 20650 301-475-4200, ext. 1050 www.stmarysmd.com/aging Facebook - www.facebook.com/SMCDAHS YouTube - SMC Aging & Human Services</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Schedule a Road Show Presentation to learn more about the St. Mary's County Department of Aging & Human Services! Call 301-475-4200, ext. 1073, to schedule a presentation or to sign up for delivery of the Department's bi-monthly newsletter, <i>New Beginning</i>.</p> </div>	<p>Senior Information and Assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial Assistance Programs Senior Rides Medicare and Medicaid Assistance Legal Assistance
<p>Retired and Senior Volunteer Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) Open to persons age 55 and above Explore rewarding volunteer opportunities in the St. Mary's County community 		<p>Human Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Homeless Prevention After School Programs Youth Services Bureau Teen Court Christmas Caring WARM Transportation Local Management Board Non-Profit Agency Monitoring Community Development
<p>Community Programs & Outreach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Road Show Presentations Outreach Tables New Beginning newsletter Community Events Law Enforcement Appreciation Day Tuesday, May 3 Mens' Health Day Saturday, June 4 Community Health & Wellness Fair Friday, Oct. 14 		<p>Senior Activity Centers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northern, Loffler, and Garvey - Open 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. For Seniors 50+! Lunch available Monday-Friday Fitness Classes, Art Instruction, Card Games, BINGO, and much more! Home-Delivered Meals for homebound seniors

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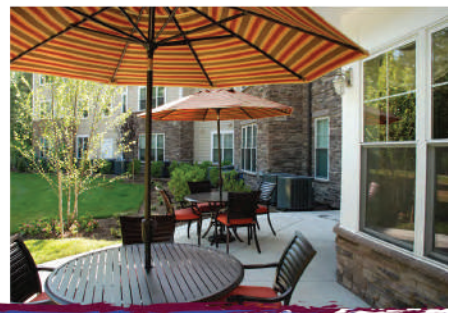


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CONTACT US



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

Looking for Song Leader

If you have some experience directing choral groups and would be interested in helping us start a singing program, we could really use your help at the Loffler Senior Activity Center! Please contact Sheila.Graziano@stmarysmd.com or call 301-475-4200, ext. 1655 if this opportunity appeals to you

Lengthen & Strengthen

Lengthen and strengthen those muscles beginning Wednesday, February 2, 12:30 p.m., at the Garvey Senior Activity Center. The one-hour class will focus on toning all the major muscle groups while simultaneously stretching and lengthening the muscles. This method of training allows for deeper movements while building strength and stability. It's appropriate for all fitness levels. Join Gail Wathen for the 6-week program. Cost is \$3.50 per class. To learn more, call 301-475-4200, ext. 1075.

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.

Card Making Class

Join us in the Art Studio at the Garvey Senior Activity Center on Thursday, February 10, at 2 p.m. to make one-of-a-kind cards for your family and friends. This is a great way to interact with others while making cards for holidays, birthdays and more. Everything is included for you to make your cards. You will be given the opportunity to use rubber & clear stamps, die cutting and embossing machines, cardstock, embellishments, and punches. Whether you are new to card making or want to learn a new skill, our Card Making Classes will give you the opportunity to show off your creativity and have fun! You will have the opportunity to make a variety of cards in different themes for each month (i.e., Birthday, get well, holiday, thank you). The cost for the class is \$5 to attend plus \$1 per card and payment is required in advance. Call 301-475-4200, ext. 1075 to make reservations.

Taking Care of Your Mental Health: Trust/Relationships

As we age life's events can often become overwhelming. During this time, it is even more important to take care of your mental wellness. We have collaborated with Hope & Healing Psychotherapy, LLC to bring you a Mental Health Series at the Gar-

vey Senior Activity Center. Each month we will hear a presentation on a new topic. On February 15 at 12:30 p.m. the topic will be Trust/Relationships. Advance sign up is required. A donation of \$5 per person is requested. Call 301-475-4200, ext. 1075, to register.

New Bible Study

Loffler Senior Activity Center has begun hosting a new bible study class on Fridays at 10:30 a.m. This non-denominational, Christian-based scripture group is 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 group is studying 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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PATUXENT RIVER NAVAL AIR STATION

News

PAX River Prepares for Citadel Shield-Solid Curtain 2022

By Donna Cipolloni
NAS Patuxent River Public Affairs

Citadel Shield-Solid Curtain (CSSC), the Navy's annual anti-terrorism, force protection (ATFP) exercise, will be underway Navy-wide – and at NAS Patuxent River – Jan. 31-Feb. 11, 2022.

Conducted by U.S. Northern Command (NORTHCOM), Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command, and Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC), CSSC uses realistic drills and scenarios to enhance the readiness of Navy security forces and ensure seamless interoperability among the commands, other services, and agency partners.

“The exercise, which plays out over a two-week period, tests our Emergency Training Plan and pre-planned responses (PPR), and it's a continuation of training for our ATFP security forces,” explained Matt Nalley, Pax River's installation training officer. “It allows us

to evaluate whether we have the correct procedures in place in the event of an emergency situation; and any drills involving an integrated response will show how well departments such as security, fire, emergency management, and public works communicate and work with each other.”

Week one's Citadel Shield focuses on installation-level training, and all scenarios will occur entirely within the Pax River fence line. In the past, those scenarios have included active shooter, hostage situation, gate runner, unmanned aerial surveillance, mass shooting, protesters at the gate, suspicious package, and release of a biological weapon, among others.

In addition to hearing sirens or seeing emergency vehicles on the road responding to drills in progress, Pax personnel can expect to receive advance emer-

gency response notifications multiple times over a number of days and might, at times, be inconvenienced.

“We won't be doing anything around high traffic times; we do our best to minimize disruption, but personnel might experience gate delays or temporary changes in traffic or parking patterns as the different scenarios play out,” Nalley noted.

The Solid Curtain portion, occurring during the second week, is a national-level exercise centered on command, control, and communications between all echelons Navywide where everything that happens at one installation affects every other installation, even if only in a minor way.

For instance, if leadership – NORTHCOM, U.S. Fleet Forces Command, or CNIC – sees trends or incidents going on in one or more areas that they feel may

also impact a different area, they can selectively put installations, regions or the entire NORTHCOM area of responsibility into a heightened force protection condition.

“That might again prompt further delays, closures, and emergency notifications at Pax,” Nalley said. “We ask people for their patience and remind them that the ultimate purpose of these training exercises is to ensure the protection of those who work and live onboard the installation.”

The CSSC exercise will be conducted with Health Protection Condition Level (HPCON) Charlie measures built in to the training events to eliminate the spread and transmission of the COVID-19 virus.

Personnel are also encouraged to check notifications posted on the NAS Facebook page at www.facebook.com/NASPaxRiver.



Wanderings of an Aimless Mind

by Shelby Oppermann



A DAY IN THE 'PATHS' OF OZ

This morning I wandered through the paths in our front yard to say my greetings to God in The God Spot. Mindy the crazy hound dog was sniffing along beside me to find the day's odor de résistance. Normally, just as I am asking God how he is doing, Mindy picks that time to take care of nature's call. I'd hoped she would be given dispensation since today is her 6th birthday. I apologized for her indiscretion and went about with my morning questions per usual: Why is our world being hit with so much at one time, when I suddenly realize that this has been asked millions of times throughout history. Or why does there have to be any suffering, anger, bad weather, etcetera: why can't we just live out our blips of time on Earth to be happy and enjoy all the beauty around us?

I never seem to receive an answers in return, but it always feels better to start the day with getting these thoughts off my mind. At times, I feel that God may be the master psychiatrist, who listens intently, looking at you with glasses low on the nose over steepled fingers, while you (I) ramble on. Then you are given "the" look that says you have had the answers within you all along. Maybe I have that mixed up, I think that's what Glinda the Good Witch said to Dorothy, "You always had the power my dear, you just had to learn it for yourself". So where are my ruby (actually silver in the book) slippers that I can click three times to create a loving, perfect world?

Mindy doesn't appear to care about my questions concerning life and the world and has moved on to other scent and sight adventures by this time with her tail wagging merrily in the breeze. Mindy is happy, and I think she knows it is her birthday because she had a portion of leftover New York Strip and scrambled eggs when we had breakfast. I, on the other hand, am both happy and sad, because being in the mood that I'm in, I understand that Mindy is already halfway through her life, and we love her so very much, as all pet owners love their pets. Another question surfaces: Why can't dogs and other pets live longer. Time to leave The God Spot. Gosh why do I go to the bad thoughts sometimes, and why do I ask so many questions about things I should not be worried about or can do anything about on a beautiful blue-sky day. Those are



Mindys 6th birthday

my husband's daily words to me.

At this point I realize I was heading down the depression rabbit hole, or I should say down the twister funnel if I am keeping with the OZ theme, and strongly tell myself that this is a day to rejoice that Mindy is in our lives and that we will have a lovely birthday dinner of chicken and rice with Frosty Paws for dessert, no not Frosty Paws for Robert and me of course. Somehow I slipped a small tub of Double Dark Chocolate Talenti Gelato in the cart along with the Frosty Paws...I mean, I was already on the frozen dessert aisle anyway. Growing up with three to five dogs always in the house meant there were dog birthday parties quite often with dixie cups and spaghetti for all – my mother enjoyed the dogs and dog parties more than she did for my brothers and me. Those were fun parties. Now my mood has improved immensely thinking about the fun ahead for tonight. We will celebrate and hold Mindy close. She is the sweetest doggie.

I've been trying to think of what else we could do for Mindy's birthday, though she would probably be perfectly happy playing outside some and coming back in to lay on her couch by the woodstove downstairs. I know it's only 30 degrees as of the time of this writing, but maybe we could take Mindy down to our neighborhood park where we have started taking a few afternoon walks with Robert's sister. That way we will lose a few calories during the day that we can gain back tonight...and tomorrow...and the next day...

To each new day's adventure, Shelby

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



St. Mary's
COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Ordinary People. Extraordinary Lives. Lasting Legacies.

The Way We Were...

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

The Legend of Moll Dyer Part 1

If you were to make a list of St Mary's County's best-known citizens, Moll Dyer would certainly rank in the top three. With over 3,500 Google hits to her name, a half-dozen or more books, several TV shows, several ballads, a movie inspired by her legend, a ballet, one "virtual concert", one pizza, and one whiskey named after her, she clearly strikes a chord among countians and non-countians alike.

Moll is best known, of course, for the legend she inspired – a witch, driven from her home, freezing to death on a boulder, leaving her handprint and her curse on generations to come. Less is known about the real Moll Dyer, with many people saying that she, like her curse, is merely the stuff of legend.

Yet, a closer look at the historical records reveal that Moll Dyer was a real person. Immigration records show that Mary Dyer, Margaret Dyer, and Malligo Dyers were transported to Maryland in October 1677 on a ship commanded by Capt. Thomas Taylor. "Moll" or "Mollie" was a nickname for Mary, and in the late 1600s, any female name beginning with the letter "M".

According to the best research available, Moll – or Mary Dyer – was born in 1634 in Devon, England as the third daughter of William Dyer and Elizabeth Holcombe. Surviving years of civil war and hardship, in 1669 she and her younger brother, William, fled England separately as indentured servants, bound for Nevis Plantation on St Kitts Island in the West Indies, arriving there in 1670.

It was there on St Kitts that Moll Dyer learned techniques for curing illnesses, some of which, no doubt, could be labeled "sorcery" – some of which were brought there by enslaved peoples from Africa.

In 1677 at age 43, Mary was arrived in Dorchester, MD, shortly after making her way to the "Newtowne Hundred", now



known as Leonardtown in St Mary's County. She was given a small parcel of land in return for her service, land on which she is likely to have resided until her death about twenty years later in February 1698.

In the next installment, we will discuss the particulars of her death and the legend it gave rise to. That there were dire (forgive the pun) circumstances leading to her death, however, is not in dispute.

In the last decade of the 17th Century, there were between 2,500 and 3,000 residents of St Mary's County. An examination of the number of wills written or probated during the period, particularly in 1697 – 1698 gives testimony to a large number of deaths. Why – and how does that bear on the Moll Dyer Legend?

The winter of 1697/98 was reported to be unusually cold and accompanied by a severe epidemic, most likely influenza. The existence of severe disease and illness can be further confirmed through an October 1698 Maryland Legislature proclamation extolling the healing powers of "Ye Cool Springs" in today's Charlotte Hall where people found some refuge.

Oh yes. Moll Dyer was very much a real person and her death was an indirect result of the isolation, frustration, and fear that arose during that epidemic.



Letters to the Editor

Comprehensive Plan Needs Community Feedback

Every decade, the Department of Land Use and Growth Management updates the St. Mary's County Comprehensive Plan. The Plan outlines various objectives and goals for development over the next decade. The document is expansive and includes relevant ordinances, regulations, and laws that govern land use in the county. The Plan does not regulate individual development decisions by the county government; instead, it serves as a guiding document.

The Plan, as currently written, identifies twenty one areas of developmental interest. These include the Lexington Park and Leonardtown Development Districts; the five Town Centers of Charlotte Hall, New Market, Mechanicsville, Hollywood, and Piney Point; the seven Village Centers of Chapitco, Loveville, Clements, Callaway, St. Inigoes, Valley Lee, and Ridge; and seven Rural Service Centers including Avenue, Budds Creek, Dameron, Helen, Oraville, Park Hall, and St. James.

You may have noticed various "For Sale/Lease" signs in seemingly odd places throughout the county like near the Clements roundabout, at the old Helen Post Office, or a mile down Maypole Road on the Leonardtown side. You may have also noticed the public notices for rezoning in Charlotte Hall near Southern States, or along 235 North just after the Route 4 intersection. Callaway will soon be home to a Dollar General and 7-Eleven, right next door to each other. These are all a result of the aforementioned development areas.

Development is not necessarily a bad thing. However, poor planning coupled with development can lead to disastrous results. Many Leonardtown residents have been beset by historic flooding over the past several years. Personally, I've had issues reaching my home because of flooded roads. Recognizing that we cannot control the increasingly dangerous weather brought on by climate change, our focus then becomes mitigation efforts. I've often wondered if in-

creased development in the Leonardtown area contributes to the increase in flooding. Generally, one tree can hold up to 100 gallons of water for every two inches of rainfall. Using that figure, it is easy to see why Leonardtown has a flooding issue.

As the county continues to grow, smart growth and development must be a key priority for all. Developers will rely on the Comprehensive Plan to identify areas in which their projects are likely to meet the least resistance from the county. As such, it is more important than ever to ensure the creation and execution of master plans for our Town, Village, and Rural Service Centers. Within these master plans, the county should identify areas not suitable for development—whether that means preserving rural character, protecting the environment, or preventing encroachment on neighborhoods.

As these plans are developed they should be taken to the residents of the respective areas for comment. In an effort to make local government more accessible, the plans could be presented to the public with a town hall to follow for comments. These events should be held in each Town, Village, and Rural Service Center as needed. Each of the development areas identified in the plan have specific needs and concerns and would benefit from a localized approach to gathering feedback

*Brandon Russell
Leonardtown, MD*

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



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

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program: LifeStyles, Inc.

LifeStyles' Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program provides free federal and state tax preparation services for households whose total household income is \$57,000 or less. Tax services are provided by IRS-certified tax preparers. Tax service is for Charles, Prince George's, St Mary's and Calvert

County residents, and is only for Federal and Maryland State tax returns (No DC or other state returns). Prior tax returns from the last four years (2018, 2019, 2020, 2021) can be completed, but a separate appointment must be made for each tax year that's needed. Appointments are available on Wednesdays, February 2 - April 13 at the Lexington Park Library and are scheduled to be 45 minutes long. Registration is required on www.stmalib.org and walk-ins will not be accepted. Registration for each Wednesday will become available three weeks in advance. Please read all the information on the registration page as it includes a list of required paperwork and important safety measures.

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 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!

Legal Notice

COMMISSIONERS OF LEONARDTOWN REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL CLEANING SERVICES

The Commissioners of Leonardtown will be accepting bid proposals for office/facility cleaning services.

Sealed proposals, addressed to the Office Manager, and clearly marked "CLEANING SERVICES" will be received at the office of the Commissioners of Leonardtown, PO Box 1, 22670 Washington St. Leonardtown, Maryland 20650 before February 10, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. Proposals delivered on the day of the deadline must be received at Town Hall, 22670 Washington Street, Leonardtown, MD 20650 by 10:00 a.m.

A site visit is highly recommended.

Interested bidders shall obtain a copy of the RFP by contacting Beth Sandberg, Office Manager, Commissioners of Leonardtown, POB 1, 22670 Washington Street, Leonardtown, Maryland 20650, by calling 301-475-9791 or email address beth.sandberg@leoardtownmd.gov.

Bids are due no later than 10:00 a.m., Thursday, February 10, 2022. The Commissioners of Leonardtown reserve the right to reject any and all bids and proposals, and to accept any proposals deemed to be in the best interest of the Town.

By Authority:
Laschelle McKay
Town Administrator

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Pet OF THE WEEK



MEET THANOS

Are you feline anxious?
Adopt now and your life will be pawsome!!

Hello, my name is Thanos. As you can see, I'm a BEAUTIFUL 2 YEAR OLD MALE Siamese mix! I've always been an outdoor kitty who has lived with many other cats. Currently, I like to keep my distance from people but with enough time, patience, and love, my TCAS pals feel I may adjust from pets to people. I would definitely EXCEL in a LOVING PATIENT HOME! I'm part of the TCAS working cat program so if you are interested in adopting me, 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>

TRI-COUNTY
ANIMAL
SHELTER

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

Joseph James "Big Joe"

Oakes



Joseph James "Big Joe" Oakes, 19 of Lexington Park, MD passed away tragically on January 12, 2022 in Lexington Park,

MD. He was born on November 20, 2002 in Leonardtown, MD to Latoya Mason and Larry Amos, Jr.

Big Joe was a 2021 graduate of Great Mills High School where he participated in NJROTC and the Great Mills High Football Team. He also played with the Pax River Raiders Football Team, enjoyed helping his mom with feeding the homeless, was a member of the Mechanicsville Worship Center and a long time alumni of Camp Crazy Faith.

Big Joe is survived by his mother, Latoya Mason (James Barber) of Lexington Park, MD; father, Larry Amos, Jr. (Jenny) of Lusby, MD; grandparents, Jerry and Michelle Clark of Lusby, MD, and

Larry Amos, Sr. of Lusby, MD; girlfriend, Nyia Weems; siblings, Jordan Hutchinson, Sirius Armstrong, Serenity Thompson, James Barber, Jr., Savannah Barber, India Amos, Bryan Amos, Daimyon Wood, and Keyon Jasey; uncle, Brad Clark and aunt, Angela Potter. He was preceded in death by father figures, Charles Hutchinson and Jason Armstrong.

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

James Bruce Long, Sr.



James Bruce Long, Sr., 93, of Hollywood, MD passed away at St. Mary's Nursing Home in Leonardtown, MD on January 19, 2022.

Born on March 31, 1928 in Hillville, MD, he was the son of John Bruce Long and Henrietta Florence King Reeder Long.

He is survived by his daughter, Mary Elaine (Steven) Loftis of California, MD; his granddaughters Jes-

sica Raye Hall Davis of Hollywood, MD, Stacey Loftis Hancock (Calvin) of California, MD and Tammy C. Loftis of California, MD; his great-granddaughters Lilianna M. Hancock and Zoey T. Hancock, both of California, MD; his sisters Mary Francis Wozniak of Laplata, MD, Jean Gilbert of Accokeek, MD and Elizabeth Coombs of Great Mills, MD.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his son James Bruce Long, Jr.; his daughters Deborah R. Sapp and Patricia A. Long; his brothers Joseph O. Long and Kenneth E. Long; his half brother William King Reeder; his half sister Caroline Reeder Mruczek and his life-long friend Homer Edgar Helms.

Known as "Bruce" to family and as "Jim" to many, he was self-employed and owner of Eastern Neon Sign Co.

Serving as pallbearers are Steven W. Loftis, Bobby Gilbert, Mike Gilbert, Kevin Cusic, Jonathan Hager and Stacey Loftis Hancock/Tammy C. Loftis.

All services are private.

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.

Mary Ann Brooks



Mary Ann Brooks, 87, of Mableton, GA and formerly of Leonardtown, MD, peacefully went home to the Lord at the WellStar Cobb Hospital in

Austell, GA on Tuesday, January 11, 2022. She was born in Leonardtown, MD to the late William Hayden and Leona Smallwood. Mary Ann was a devoted wife to the late Charles Brooks for 57 years. From that union, she was blessed to have 4 children, Beverly Brooks, David Hayden, Aaron Brooks (deceased), and Deborah Dyson; 3 grandchildren: Carlos Brooks, George Brooks, and Terence Brooks; 6 great grandchildren: She-mar Brooks, Parren Barnes, Kareem Gough, Akari Brooks, Ta'Kiyah Brooks, and Maxwell Brooks.

Mary Ann's warm spirit and her devout faith in the Lord are what provide us with comfort today. She was a faithful Catholic who believed in the power of prayer. She worshipped at St. Aloysius Catholic Church in Leonardtown, MD. Upon moving to Georgia, she attended at St. Paul of the Cross Catholic Church in Atlanta.

Mary Ann was educated in St. Mary's County school system. In her

early years she attended Banneker Elementary School, Old Maryland Spring School, and Banneker High School in Loveville, MD. Mary Ann developed a strong work ethic at an early age. She worked as a laundress at the Leonardtown Laundry for 24 years, a sales representative at Ben Franklin Store's craft department for 27 years, and she provided hospital-ity services at the Hampton Inn in Lexington Park for 8 years.

Mary Ann was well loved and respected by all who met her. She, much like her mother, never knew a stranger. She enjoyed singing in a local band in St. Mary's County as a young adult. She had a passion for working with her hands. Her other hobbies included crocheting, floral arranging, cross-stitching, quilting, and ceramics. She also treasured time spent playing cards with family and friends.

In addition to her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren, Mary Ann leaves to cherish her memory a brother, Charles Smallwood, a sister, Gloria Shade, an uncle, George Smallwood and a host of in-laws, nieces, nephews, godchildren and many other relatives and lifelong friends.

Family and friends will unite on Thursday, January 27, 2022 for visitation from 4:00pm - 6:00pm at Briscoe-Tonic Funeral Home, 35876 Brett Way, Mechanicsville, MD 20659. On Monday, February 14, 2022, at St. Aloysius Gonzaga Catholic Church, 22800 Washington Street, Leonardtown, MD 20650, a visitation will be held at 10:00am, followed by the Mass of Christian Burial at 11:00am. The casket will be closed for the visitation and funeral on February 14.

Link and dial-in information for livestreaming of the service can be located at www.briscoe-tonicfuneralhome.com

The Interment will be held at the Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery in Cheltenham, MD.

Professional services were entrusted to Herschel Thornton Mortuary in Atlanta, GA and Briscoe-Tonic Funeral Home in Mechanicsville, MD.

James Richard "Jimmy"

Morgan



James Richard "Jimmy" Morgan, 101, of Hollywood, MD, passed away on January 17, 2022 in Hollywood, MD. He was born on Sep-

tember 5, 1920 in Mechanicsville, MD, and was the son of the late Thurrell Morgan and Stephen L. Morgan.

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Jimmy was the loving husband of the late Hilda Rosie Morgan, whom he married in 1945 in Hollywood, MD. Jimmy is survived by his daughter Ruby Davis, of Hollywood, MD, two grandchildren Lisa Dickey of FL and Robin Clements of VA, four great grandchildren Cory Dickey, Wesley Dickey, Brittany Clements (Bailey) of VA, and Megan Clements of VA, three great-great grandchildren Mela Dickey, Luca Dickey and Oliver Dickey, all of FL, sister Cecilia Knott of Leonardtown, MD, as well as his caregiver, Cathy Bowles (Johnson). He was preceded in death by his great grandson Justin Dickey, siblings Benjamin Morgan, Charles Morgan, Lewis (diddle) Morgan, Mitchell Morgan, and Emma Walker.

Jimmy was a lifelong St. Mary's County, MD resident, and graduated from Margaret Brent High School. Jimmy served in the United States Navy from 1941 to 1945. He worked as a maintenance worker at Patuxent River Naval Air Station for 27 years, retiring in 1975.

He was the commander of the VFW Post 2632 in California, MD. Jimmy enjoyed rolling dice at crap tables, playing lottery number, sitting on the porch in his rocking chair, listening to Bluegrass music and dancing. He also loved baseball and his favorite team was the New York Yankees.

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.

Bernard Maguire Johnson, Sr.



Bernard Maguire Johnson, Sr., "Bucky", 86, passed away on January 15, 2022 in Charlotte Hall, MD. He was born on April 18, 1935, in Mechanicsville, MD, and was the son late Imelda Wathen Johnson and Leonard B. Johnson. Bucky was the loving husband of the late Patricia Gould and the late Frances Irene "Bea" Johnson who passed away on May 21, 2017. He is survived by his children Bernard Johnson (Leilani) of Mechanicsville, MD, Michael Johnson (Karen), Robert Johnson, and Dorothy Nicholson (Craig) of Hurst, TX, his brothers, Charles (Bev), Joseph (Brenda), and David (Sue), his sisters Mary (Don), Patricia (Jerry), Barbara (Jerry), Rose, and Jenny (Yusuke), his grandchildren Jessica, Nicholas, Jenny, Philip, Gary, Elissa, and Ashley, his great grandchildren Brandon, Breanna,

Emaly, Ethian, Lilly, Zoey, Madie, Kenzie, Emma, Jonah, Leo, and Amelia, his great-great grandchild Paetonn, as well as another great-great grandchild on the way.

Bucky served in the United States Airforce, and worked as a Propellant Handler for the United States Government at the Indian Head Naval Base in Indian Head, MD, retiring after 32 years. He loved taking care of the family farm.

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.

Richard "Dickie" Edward Haig



Richard "Dickie" Edward Haig, 75, of Mechanicsville, MD, passed away peacefully on Saturday, January 8, 2022 at MedStar St.

Mary's Hospital in Leonardtown, MD. He was born on March 10, 1946 in Washington, DC to the late Richard Annis Haig and Juanita Iris (Vogel) Haig.

Dickie met the love of his life, Linda Haig and they married on January 25, 1965. Together they weathered many storms and loved deeply for over fifty-six (56) years. Their love grew continuously and they welcomed three kind children, Rick, Steve & Michelle.

A hard-working man with a strong work-ethic, Richard owned and operated Floor Crafters Ltd. He was able to support his family doing what he loved. Richard was very talented and loved working with his hands. He would help out with any project as his knowledge was limitless.

Richard was an active member of the No Hunt Hunt Club. He enjoyed many years of turkey hunting, playing cards, and having a great time with the guys. He loved animals. If he saw a stray dog anywhere he would pick the dog up and either bring it home or take them to the Humane Society. He was always taking pictures of birds and looking them up in his bird books. He was an active member of the National Rifle Association. On relaxing Sunday's, he could be found watching the Washington Redskins. He enjoyed spending his summers on the beaches of the Outer Banks and hunting season in the mountains.

Above all, Richard loved his family. Spending time with his grandkids brought him great joy. He was devoted

to being the best husband, father and grandfather and was hugely successful. A true gentleman, Richard left a legacy of love for his family, pride in his country, and was always helping others. For instance, when he would pick up the nurses when we had a bad snow and take them to work or take puzzles and books to the veteran's home.

Dickie is survived by his beloved wife, Linda Haig of Mechanicsville, MD; children, Richard R. Haig of Mechanicsville, MD and Steven Haig (Julie) of Mechanicsville, MD; Michelle Stinson (Jimmy) of Charlotte Hall, MD and nine (9) grandchildren, Ricky, Emily, Kaylie, Gabriella, Seth, Kayla, Kacey, Taylor and Kathryn. He is also survived by his siblings, Ronald Haig, Nancy Dove, Bonnie Baxley (Johnny) and Lori Ferguson (John). He was preceded in death by his parents and brother-in-law, Edward Dove.

The family will receive friends for Richard's Memorial Gathering on Friday, February 11, 2022 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. with a Memorial Service held at 1:00 p.m. all at Brinsfield Funeral Home & Crematory, P.A., 30195 Three Notch Road, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622. Interment will be held privately.

In lieu of flowers the family would request you consider making a donation in Richard's name to ALS Foundation, 1300 Wilson Blvd., Suite 600, Arlington, VA 22209 or Alzheimer Association, 225 N. Michigan Ave., Fl. 17, Chicago, IL 60601.

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

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

Earl Randolph Baker

Earl Randolph Baker, age 70, of Mechanicsville, MD, passed away on January 16, 2022, at University of MD, University Hospital, in Balti-



more, MD.

He was preceded in death by his infant sister, Anna LaVonne Baker, and his parents, John Enoch and Anna Mae

Baker.

Earl loved his family which included his loving wife of 48 years, Amy Baker, of Mechanicsville, MD; his four sons, Earl Baker II of La Plata, MD, Justin Baker of La Plata, MD, Aaron Baker and wife, DeAnna of Mechanicsville, VA and Chad Baker of La Plata, MD; his brother, David Baker and wife Stephanie of Charlotte Hall, MD; Enoch Baker and wife Jill of Shepardstown, WV and his sister Roberta Knapp and husband Curtis of Clayton, NC; and his grandchildren Nathaniel, Titus, Serenity and Enoch Baker.

The family will receive friends at Brinsfield Funeral Home, 30195 Three Notch Rd, Charlotte Hall, MD on Thursday, January 27, from 1 to 2 pm and his memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. The interment service will be held on Friday, January 28 at 2 pm at Shenandoah Memorial Park, 1270 Front Royal Pike, Winchester, Virginia.

Condolences may be sent to bfinch@brinsfieldfuneral.com

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

Margaret "Margo" Jennings Thompson

Margaret "Margo" Jennings Thompson, who is beloved to all who knew her, transitioned to her next life in Heaven on Saturday, January 15th, 2022, held in the light and warmth of family, pets, and the familiarity of home. She was 72 years old.



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

In Remembrance



Margo is survived by her adoring husband of 49 years, Derrill Evatt Thompson. The couple met in 1962 and continued a friendship that progressed to courtship and then marriage in 1972. She was the perfect Navy wife and she managed the many moves to new duty stations with stalwart efficiency. Margo took what work was available at each new location, ending her career as a contracts specialist at Navair. Her work ethic defined her life and served as an example to her two children, Kerri Thompson Frank (Jerry) and Derrill "Layne" Thompson (Becky). In retirement, she applied her energy to community volunteerism and to being the best "Nana" possible to Emma and Sara Frank and Rachel, Jordan, and Calvin Thompson. Throughout her life, Margo traveled extensively with her husband Derrill, her deceased parents Clara Baker Jennings and Edward Cassell Jennings, and her two older brothers and their wives Thomas Jennings (Linda) and Edwin Jennings (Harriet).

Margo was a deeply humble person who did not tolerate pretension. She saw the world through rose-colored glasses and shared her perspective with wit and candor. Her spunk and sass were with her through the end. Margo's humorous, mischievous character will live on in everyone she touched with her beautiful soul.

A Celebration of Life and Memorial service will be held on Sunday, May 22nd, 2022 at Historic Sotterley in Hollywood, Maryland. Margo's ashes will be interred in the future with her loving husband, parents, and siblings at Christ Episcopal Church in White Stone, Virginia.

In lieu of flowers, please send donation to honor Margo's life to Hospice of St. Mary's, P.O. Box 625, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Jose "Joe" Luis Laboy, Jr.



Jose "Joe" Luis Laboy, Jr., 68, of Great Mills, MD passed away suddenly on Thursday, January 13, 2022. He was a bright star

in this often-difficult world and will be missed by so many friends and family members. We are completely unprepared for this unexpected loss and miss him greatly.

Joe was born to parents, Jose Luis Laboy, Sr. and Fernanda Nandy Laboy (Soto) in the Bronx, NY on June 26, 1953. He graduated high school to later find a career in Real Estate, working his way to Maintenance Manager.

Joe was a dynamic and talented musician with an unmatched passion for his career and hobby. He spent much of his bright life traveling around to different venues to see many different bands and artist. His biggest passion in life was music. He was an avid acoustic and electric guitar player and enjoyed playing bass. He would spend countless hours practicing with his band Midnight Express, and frequently performed at local bars but mostly in the garage with his neighbors and friends. He had such a passion for music that he would always be willing to talk to anyone, play with anyone, as well as help anyone that had an interest in learning.

When Joe wasn't playing in the band, he could be found crafting his own fly lures for when he went flyfishing. He loved to flyfish and would do so every chance he got. He was a life member of the North America Fishing Club and was well known and loved by many of the members.

Jose found the love of his life, Debbie although they never married, they dedicated their lives to each other and have spent over thirty-one (31) years together. With a large family and even larger group of friends, his loss is truly and deeply felt.

Joe is survived by his daughters Farrah V. Hernandez (Julius) of Bushkill, PA and Francesca M. Carucci of Bloomsburg, PA; his son Gary Benenati (Dee) of Mechanicsville, MD; his brothers Ronald Laboy (Jennifer) of Fredericksburg, VA and Richie Laboy (Joanne) of Ronkonkoma, NY and his beloved grandchildren Mia Hernandez, Steven Carucci, and Michael Benenati. He is preceded in death by both of his parent's Jose Luis Laboy, Sr. and Fernanda Nandy Laboy and his sister Carmen Annette Laboy-Quiles.

The family will be accepting friends for Joe's Graveside Service on Friday, January 28, 2022 at 12:30 p.m. at the Charles Memorial Gardens Cemetery, 26325 Point Lookout Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

Condolences may be made at www.brinsfieldfuneral.com

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

Richard "Dick" Leroy Litzinger

Richard "Dick" Leroy Litzinger, 78, of Mechanicsville, MD (formerly of Madera, PA) passed away peace-



fully on January 17, 2022 at MedStar St. Mary's Hospital, Leonardtown, MD. He was born on December 3, 1943 in Cambria County, PA to the late Arthur Elliot Litzinger and Mary Elizabeth (Nisewonger) Litzinger.

Richard would enlist in the US Army and received his high school diploma while he bravely served his country. He did a tour in Vietnam, before he was honorably discharged and returned home to PA.

He met the love of his life, Joan Lee Carter when he came home. He would promptly marry his beautiful bride and they welcomed three (3) children, Jeffrey, William and Joni. They were married for over thirty-five (35) years before she passed away. Richard supported his family as a sawyer and was highly regarded in his trade for his skills and craftsmanship.

As a member of the VFW Post #6321 (Janesville, PA), Loyal Order of Moose, Lodge #327 and American Legion Post #591 (Houtzdale, PA) he made many friends. He was a very useful man to have around, as he was a jack-of-all-trades. Richard was always willing to help others. He particularly enjoyed spending time surrounded by his family and grandchildren. Although he missed his hometown in PA, he enjoyed the last six (6) years in MD.

Whether you knew him as Dad, Dick, Pap or friend you knew a great man who loved his family, God and country. The family is taking solace in knowing he is now reunited with his beloved wife.

Richard is survived by his children, Jeffrey Allan Litzinger of Breezewood, PA, William John Litzinger and his wife Susan of Mechanicsville, MD and Joni Lynn Frantz and her husband Bob of Morrisdale, PA; eleven (10) grandchildren, Joshua, Justin, Jamie, Michael, Shelby, Ryan, Nathan, Sydney, Kimberly and Mitchell; eight (8) great-grandchildren; and sisters, Barbara Auberzinski, Vivian Madera, Betty Templeton, Rose "Hiker" Quick and Delores "Lorey" Miller; and many nieces, nephews and extended family. He was preceded in death by his parents, Arthur and Mary Litzinger; beloved wife, Joan Litzinger; grandson, Seth; and siblings, Jess, William "Bill", Arthur "Rudy", Joseph, Thomas and Dorthy "Dot".

At this time all services will be private.

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

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

Joseph "Harold" Thomas, Sr.



Joseph "Harold" Thomas, Sr. 91, of Loveville, MD., was called to eternal rest on January 7, 2022, at Medstar St.

Mary's Hospital. Born September 13, 1930 in Chaptico MD, he was the son of the late Mary Elizabeth (Thomas) Harris and M. Hawkins.

Harold was educated in the St. Mary's County public school system. On April 15, 1946, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and proudly served his country in WWII until his Honorable Discharge in March 1948. He was the recipient of the WWII Victory and Army of Occupation medals during his service.

Harold married his loving and devoted wife Dorothy Somerville of 54 years on July 6, 1956. People would often comment: "You would not see one without the other". From this union they were blessed with two loving children, Joseph, Jr., and Gilberta.

In his younger days, Harold loved to play cards and did not have to go far for a competitive game of "Tunk" next door at his sister-in-law's house. Harold would venture out to the local county establishments with his brothers in law and old buddies and loved to dance. Harold was a member of the Jolly Gents Social Club where he sustained many long-lasting friendships. Harold loved sports, spending his free time watching various sports games live and on TV. He especially loved baseball, cheering for his favorite team (Baltimore Orioles). He followed the local county softball and hardball teams, rarely missing a Sunday baseball game at the old "Oakville Ball Diamond". Harold worked in the construction industry for most of his career after his military completion. Additionally, he worked in the laundry business for several years. Even after retirement, Harold continued working part time as a presser in the dry-cleaning business.

Harold was a faithful parishioner of St. Joseph's Catholic Church, in Morganza, MD. When he was no longer able to physically attend mass, he looked forward to viewing Catholic mass on TV and visits from Father Drew and Deacon Somerville.

Harold was a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother-in-law, and friend. He often reminisced about his grandmother Sarah Countiss



Thomas, who raised him, and how he missed "his people" especially his aunts (Marie Baker, Louise Chase, Helen Miles and Veronica Woodland). He was always so happy to see his cousins when they would come to visit.

In addition to his parents/grandparents, Harold was preceded in death by his wife Dorothy (Somerville) Thomas, aunts Marie Baker, Veronica Woodland, Helen Miles, Louise Chase; sisters-in-law, Margaret Elizabeth Frederick, Mary Virginia Hall, Agnes Theresa Thompson, and Vincena Dickerson; brothers-in-law, John T. Somerville Jr., Francis Ennis Somerville, Paul Dickerson, Felix Hall, and Brent Thompson; nieces LaVerne Stewart, Pamela Chase; and nephew Angelo Dickerson, Sr.

Harold leaves to celebrate his long and love-filled life with his loving and devoted children, Joseph Harold Thomas, Jr., and Gilberta Campbell; two grandchildren James Campbell, Jr., and Colby Campbell; son in law James Campbell, Sr. and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, godchildren, and friends.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

James "Jim" Elwood Bell



James "Jim" Elwood Bell, 76, of Mechanicsville, MD passed away at home on Saturday, January 15, 2022.

Jim was born in Washington D.C. to Elwood Earl Bell and Elsie Grace Bell "Richardson" on November 9, 1945. He was one (1) of five (5) children.

After graduating from high school, he was drafted into the Armed Forces of the United States and served in the United States Army. He was a Heavy Vehicle Driver spending sometime abroad before being honorably discharged in 1967 in Fort Hamilton, New York. Jim was employed by C & P Telephone and then AT&T and retired after 30 plus years of service.

It wasn't long after that he met the love of his life, Norma Elizabeth Bell "Landis". They dated for a while before getting married on June 5, 1971 in Buckeystown, Maryland. They truly were a match made in heaven. They moved to Waldorf, MD in 1973, purchasing their first home and went on to have two (2) beautiful daughters, Heather and Samantha. Together they shared thirty-nine glorious years of marriage before her passing in 2011.

In addition to being a dedicated

husband, loving father and grandfather, Jim also loved fishing on a warm summer day or watching the news. He was a strong, kind, and supportive father, that was always willing to give you guidance and was the foundation to his family.

Jim is survived by his daughters Heather Wilt married to Jonathan Wilt of Leonardtown, MD and Samantha Bowling, married to David Bowling of Bryantown, MD; his brother Gary Bell of Bluffton, SC; his sister Joyce Records of Prince Frederick, MD, and his grandchildren Nathaniel Wilt and Samuel Wilt. He is preceded in death by both of his parents Elwood Earl Bell and Elsie Grace Bell "Richardson"; his wife Norma Elizabeth Bell; his sister Joan Goldstein; and his brother Brian Bell.

All services will be scheduled at a later date for the burial for both Jim and Norma at Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery.

Condolences may be made at www.brinsfieldfuneral.com

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

William Roger Hall



William Roger Hall, 81, of California, MD (formerly of Laurel, DE) went home to be with the Lord on January 14, 2022. He was

born on February 10, 1940 in Washington, D.C. to the late James Sherman Hall and Nell Ruth (Murchison) Hall.

Roger, as he was fondly known by his family and friends, grew up in Mt. Rainier, MD until he enlisted in the U.S. Navy in February 1957. He proudly served his country aboard the U.S.S. Howard W. Gilmore until his honorable discharge in February 1961. During his service he earned the Good Conduct Medal. He was employed by Graphic Communications Conference of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Local 285 at Craftsman Press for more than 37 dedicated years as a cameraman. On May 23, 1964, he married his beloved wife, Frances Lee Breakiron at Ager Road United Methodist Church, Hyattsville, MD and they celebrated more than 57 wonderful years of marriage.

He was a softball umpire for the GWSUA and NSA Softball Associations for 24 years, an instructor in the umpire clinic for 14 years, and was awarded the MNCPPC Umpire of the year award in 1986. Roger enjoyed coaching basketball and football with the Bladensburg Ed-

monston Boys and Girls Club for eight years. Roger was an excellent golfer. Most people dream of a hole-in-one in their lifetime, Roger got three hole-in-ones. Roger also bowled for over 60 years with the achievements of four 300 games and one 835 set. Roger and Fran made several cross country trips and attended reunions of the U.S.S. Howard W. Gilmore Memorial Association for more than 30 years. They also enjoyed square dancing together for 8 years.

Roger had the love of Jesus in his heart and shared his Christian spirit everywhere he went. His earthly presence will be greatly missed by all that knew him, especially his beloved wife, Frances; daughter, Catherine Ghannam (Abdullah) of Lexington Park, MD; son, William "Roger" Hall, Jr. of Laurel, MD; grandson, Adam Jacob Ghannam; sister-in-law, Jean Rothwell (Tom) of Mechanicsville, MD; nephews, Richard Bishop of Hollywood, MD; Dan Bishop of Mechanicsville, MD; Frank Keeler of Fredericksburg, VA and several nieces and extended family. In addition to his parents, he was also preceded in death by his brother, James Sherman Hall, Jr.; nephews, James William Hall and Robert Craig Hall.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Suzanne (Suzie) Lee



Suzanne (Suzie) was born in Abqaiq, Saudi Arabia and first moved to the United States in 1964. She grew up in Waldwick,

New Jersey and later settled in Warwick, New York in 1999. In 2005, her and her daughter, Devin, relocated to Lexington Park, Maryland. Suzie and Devin moved in with Kathleen, Suzie's mom, Devin's grandmother, and the three generations took care of each other and learned from one another.

Suzie went back to school in her early 40's to become a radiation technologist and worked tirelessly in healthcare at her two jobs until she was diagnosed with Stage IV Oral Cancer. She endured 33 radiation treatments, 2.5 chemotherapy treatments, and 14 hyperbaric oxygen treatments. After just over a year of receiving her diagnosis, she passed away due to complications in her recovery.

Suzie devoted her life to being the best mother possible; it was always her and Devin against the world. She

had her last drink on May 25th, 1999. She took pride in her sobriety, and viewed it as a blessing, and never took it for granted. Suzie could find humor in any situation. No matter what adversity was occurring around her, she always found a way to overcome it. Suzie avidly enjoyed reading, spending time with her daughter, traveling back home to New York, enjoying a cheesy slice of pizza, and most importantly, laughing with her loved ones.

She is predeceased by her father Joseph, mother Kathleen, brother John, and sister Jessie. She leaves behind her beloved daughter Devin and her partner Trevor, her sister Molly Bruen, Peter Bruen, nephew Patrick Bruen, and nephew Damon Walker. She also leaves behind her lifelong New York/New Jersey friends Deanna, Terry, Geralyn, and best friend Tracey. Her family wishes to thank all those who visited and cared for her at St Mary's Hospital during her final days. Their attentiveness and compassion was greatly appreciated.

At her request there will be no wake or funeral service. A life celebration is to be determined at a later date.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home in Leonardtown, MD.

Lois Belle (Moore) Smith



Lois Belle (Moore) Smith, born in Williamsport, Pa., November 25, 1930 passed away January 8, 2022 in Solomons,

MD. She was preceded in death by her husband, Russell H. Smith; parents, Albert H. Moore and Melintha J. (Brown) Moore; siblings, Albert H. Moore Jr., Doris E. Watson, and Shirley M. Weaver. She is survived by her daughter Frances Cook (Tim) and extended family. Lois retired from GTE Telephone Company in Pinellas County, FL. She was active in her church, sang in the choir, was church secretary, and enjoyed helping others. Throughout her life she enjoyed drawing and painting, team bowling, roller skating, pinochle, reading, and restoring antiques. Lois loved animals, especially dogs; as well as living in Pa. with friends and family close. A private ceremony will be held with family in Pa. at a later date.

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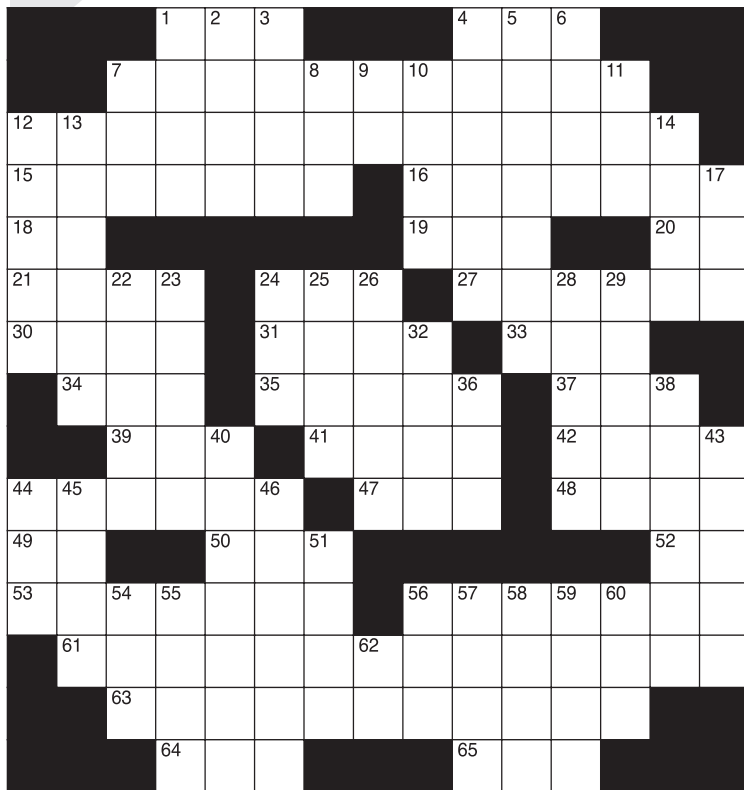
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GAMES & PUZZLES



CLUES ACROSS

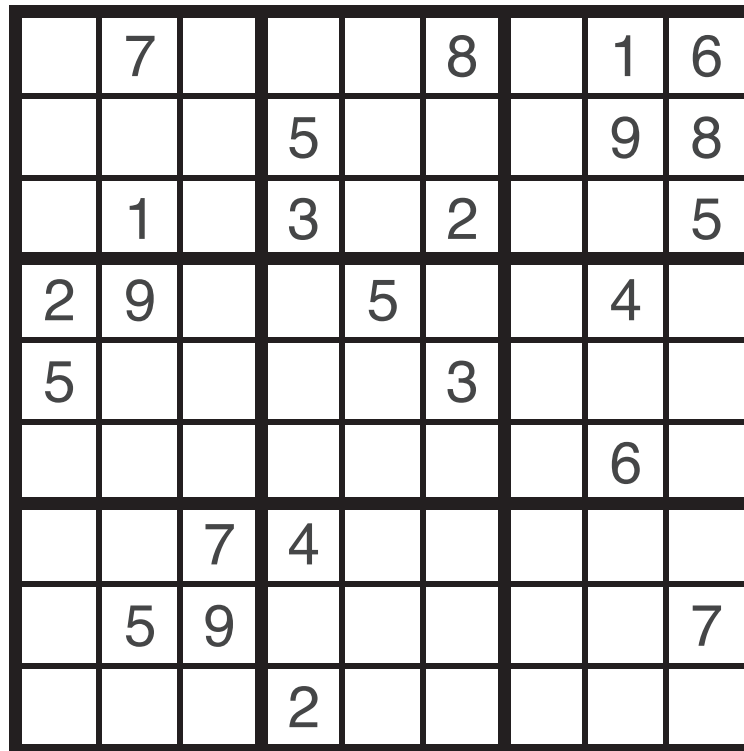
- 1. Brew
- 4. NY ballplayer
- 7. Rigid external covering in some animals
- 12. Promotional materials
- 15. More high-pitched
- 16. Widely cultivated cereal
- 18. Dormitory employee
- 19. Bad act
- 20. One's mother
- 21. Scored perfectly
- 24. Space station
- 27. Exchange for money
- 30. Edible seaweed
- 31. Iranian city
- 33. Lakers' crosstown rivals
- 34. Nothing
- 35. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- 37. ___ student, learns healing
- 39. Military official (abbr.)
- 41. Matchstick games
- 42. Gasteyer and De Armas are two
- 44. Distant planet

- 47. A type of residue
- 48. Punk art icon Jimmy De___
- 49. Millihenny
- 50. Canadian media firm
- 52. Type of withdrawal
- 53. Spicy
- 56. Dish of minced meat or fish
- 61. Noted previously
- 63. Happy
- 64. "Partridge" actress Susan
- 65. Not present

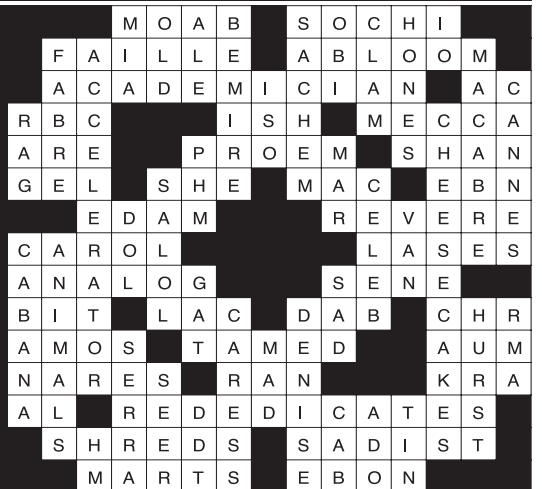
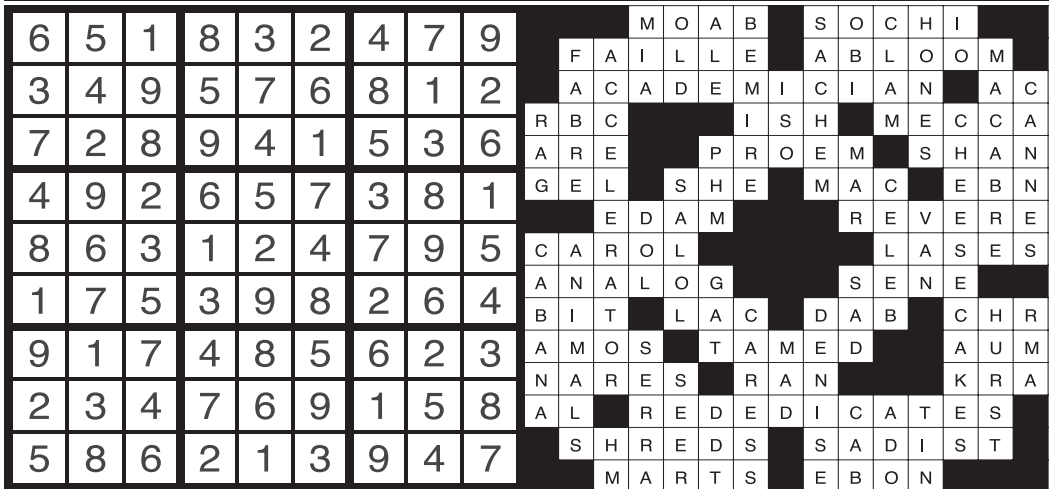
CLUES DOWN

- 1. In a way, brought to an end
- 2. Scandalized actress Loughlin
- 3. This (Spanish)
- 4. Essay
- 5. Continuing indefinitely
- 6. Tool for lifting food
- 7. Partner to Adam
- 8. Dry white wine drink
- 9. Spanish be
- 10. Smaller quantity
- 11. Last or greatest in an indefinitely large series
- 12. (Scottish) island
- 13. Church officer
- 14. Large wrestler
- 17. Polite address for

- women
- 22. Famed Susan Lucci character "___ Kane"
- 23. Mason ___ Line
- 24. Disfigure
- 25. Asian nation
- 26. Rage (Span.)
- 28. Khoikhoi peoples
- 29. Opera solo
- 32. Database management system
- 36. Similar
- 38. Move up and down playfully
- 40. Alfalfa
- 43. Satisfied
- 44. Baseball official
- 45. Large, flightless bird of S. America
- 46. Money given in support
- 51. Flower cluster
- 54. Beginning military rank
- 55. Russian weight measurement
- 56. Explosive
- 57. An individual unit
- 58. Midskirt
- 59. Weapon featuring balls
- 60. Used of a number or amount not specified
- 62. Unit of measurement



LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE SOLUTIONS



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