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# St. Mary's County Times

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2022

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# Students' Safety First

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SHERIFF TIM CAMERON ON THE INCREASING GUN VIOLENCE IN THE COUNTY.

## WEEKLY FORECAST

<p>Thu 2/17 67°   55°F</p> <p>Cloudy</p>	<p>Fri 2/18 61°   30°F</p> <p>AM Showers</p>	<p>Sat 2/19 54°   29°F</p> <p>Sunny</p>	<p>Sun 2/20 49°   37°F</p> <p>Sunny</p>
<p>Mon 2/21 62°   49°F</p> <p>Partly Cloudy</p>	<p>Tue 2/22 65°   57°F</p> <p>PM Showers</p>	<p>Wed 2/23 64°   56°F</p> <p>Showers</p>	<p>Thu 2/24 61°   45°F</p> <p>Showers</p>

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# Hewitt, Guy Talk Tax Reduction

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

The county budgeting process began in earnest this week for the Commissioners of St. Mary's County and two of them said they want to pursue some kind of tax relief for residents.

Commissioner Mike Hewitt said the county's other post-employment benefits (OPEB) account was fully funded.

Hewitt said the savings to the county budget would be about \$4 million each year that would not have to be paid into the fund, which pays for certain benefits for retired county employees.

This opened the way, Hewitt said, to reduce taxes.

"These next six weeks is really the meat and potatoes of doing our budget," Hewitt said near the end of the Feb. 15 business meeting. "Our OPEB is actually overfunded (by about 17 percent).

"Now is the time to start taking money out of it."

Hewitt said the extra money would allow more flexibility in providing services to residents.

"But this commissioner hopes we'll take that money and reduce taxes," Hewitt said. "Specifically reducing the income tax from 3.1 percent to 3.0 percent and the homestead tax from 3 percent to 1 percent."

These tax reductions would be particularly beneficial to residents who have a primary residence and those on fixed incomes, such as retirees, Hewitt said.

The tax reductions would also help offset rising inflation, which affected all residents.

Commissioner President James "Randy" Guy said: "We've been having some great years, you might say, because of — I hate to say it — the pandemic and all the additional [federal rescue] money we got in.

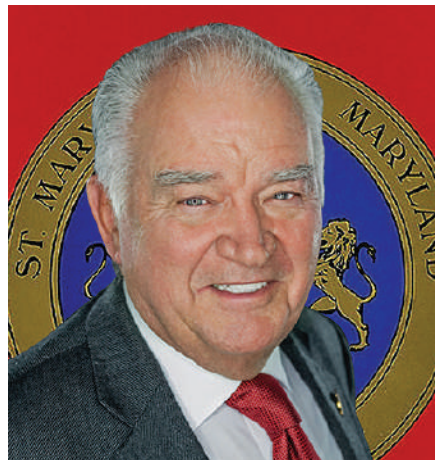
"Unfortunately, the tax rates have been great for us and we do have a surplus."

For years, county leaders have repeatedly overestimated expenses while underestimating revenues, while the opposite was true.

This has led to significant fund balances — in the tens of millions of dollars — that some commissioners



Mike Hewitt



James "Randy" Guy

have defended as necessary to deal with continued demands for new or greater services or emergency needs.

In the face of increased federal spending, Guy said, he also supported some tax relief.

"I fully support an income tax of 3.0 percent this year to help everybody," Guy said.

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# St. Mary's Man Arrested in Attempted Dunkirk Bank Robbery

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

Calvert County Sheriff's deputies arrested and charged a Mechanicsville man this week with attempting to rob a PNC Bank operating inside the Dunkirk Giant Food Store.

Craig Steven Best, 56, has been charged with armed robbery, robbery, first-degree and second-degree assault and use of a firearm in the commission of a felony for allegedly brandishing a firearm to a teller at the bank station in the store on Feb. 14, according to charging papers filed against Best in Calvert County District Court.

Charging papers stated that Best was seen canvassing the area of the grocery store before the attempted robbery; when he approached the teller, he announced his intention to rob the bank and raised his shirt to show the handgun concealed in his waistband.

The attempted robbery went sour, though, apparently when, after the teller delayed giving Best any money, the suspect fled the scene.



Craig Steven Best

The teller told police she was in fear of her life during the robbery attempt.

Sheriff's deputies who responded initially could not find Best in the area but surveillance

recordings of the area, and numerous anonymous tips from citizens, identified Best as the suspect described by police.

The day after the robbery, Calvert detectives went to Best's residence on Lee Road in Mechanicsville and observed him exit the residence, get in a black pickup truck but then re-enter his residence.

The detectives tried to establish contact with Best several times before he surrendered without incident.

Best made suicidal statements after his arrest.

"I wish I were dead," detectives said they heard Best say.

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## Commissioners Mull Solar Power Ordinance

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County held a public hearing Feb. 15 for a proposed zoning ordinance that would expand the ability of solar power sites, both large and small in scale, to be constructed throughout the county, but some in the agricultural community testified against the ordinance as it was written.

They remain concerned that the proposed new rule allowed the proliferation of solar power projects in sensitive areas of the county's rural areas, particularly in the critical area which is within 1,000 feet of the watershed or creeks and streams.

The county commissioners tasked a group to come up with recommendations for best siting options for solar projects starting in 2020 as the state legislature had promulgated new rules stating that ever increasing amounts of energy used had to come from sustainable and environmentally friendly sources.

The solar projects would be allowed in two broad categories: major and minor.

Major projects would have a generating capacity of at least two megawatts while minor projects would produce less than that two megawatts with most of the power used on-site.

One example of this would be residential installation of solar panels, said Bill Hunt, director of the Department of Land Use and Growth Management.

Mike Thompson, a Hollywood resident, member of the solar task force as well as a member of the county's Commission on the Environment, said the commission supported the ordinance as a bal-



St. Mary's Farm Bureau President Jamie Raley

anced approach to growing solar power locally.

"Solar energy is becoming an important part of the future of St. Mary's County," said Thompson. "Our county will be expected to contribute [to the state's solar power] goal."

The proposed ordinance ensured large solar projects would have to undergo stringent site reviews before approval for construction, Thompson said.

The solar task force recommended that large sites are best kept to county-owned land and facilities as well as land that is less than suitable for agriculture or residential uses.

Jamie Raley, president of the St. Mary's County Farm Bureau, worried over parts of the ordinance.

"Farm Bureau engaged in this process because we support alternative energy..." Raley said. "But if the land gets tied up [in solar power production] we [farmers] can't rent it or work it."

Raley said the farm bureau was concerned about the ordinance allowing such projects in the county's rural preservation district (RPD).

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# Tri-County Commissioners Call for Anti-Suicide Measures on Bridges

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer  
and Dick Myers,  
Editor

Commissioners from St. Mary's, Calvert and Charles counties agreed this week to implore the state to take immediate measures to prevent any further successful suicide attempts from regional bridges, including the Gov. Thomas Johnson Bridge and the Gov. Harry Nice/Mac Middleton Bridge that spans Charles County to Virginia.

The three boards of county commissioners agreed to write a letter to the Maryland Department of Transportation and State Highway Administration after a virtual meeting held in the late afternoon of Feb. 9 to discuss a number of regional issues.

Prevention of suicides from regional bridges was not on the agenda but was brought up as the last topic of discussion.

Two people have dived off the Gov. Thomas Johnson Bridge in as many weeks triggering local petitions for safety netting to be installed there.

"The state of mental health in America is at a tipping point right now," said St. Mary's Commissioner Todd Morgan, opening the discussion. "We haven't had that many jumpers in a long time. "One suicide is one too many."

Calvert Commissioner President Earl "Buddy" Hance said the proposed solutions such as fencing or nets would not solve the core mental illness problem, "at least a fence on that bridge would prevent the jumpers."

Charles Commissioner Gilbert Bowling requested to have the issue put on the agenda for one of their regular meetings and Charles Commissioner President Rueben Collins agreed.

St. Mary's Commissioner John O'Connor said the state, in reviewing anti-suicide options on the Thomas Johnson Bridge, had said a fence on the span was not possible because of the type of traffic coming across.

"So, if we're going to focus our efforts... there are nets that can be put on the bridge that extend out from anywhere to 10 to 15 feet," O'Connor said. "They entangle somebody as they try to jump off."

"This is a countermeasure for someone who has reached critical mass in making the decision to take their own life."

Calvert County Commissioners Mike Hart and Steve Weems did not attend the virtual meeting, but the five commissioners from each of the other counties did.

The three boards also received a briefing from St. Mary's County As-



sistant Attorney John Houser about a bill that has been introduced in the state senate that would bring state election laws more in line with federal laws.

Houser brought up a bill introduced last session by St. Mary's Delegate Brian Crosby (D: 29-B) that would have created commissioner districts in which only residents living there could vote for them.

All three commissioner boards opposed Crosby's bill.

Houser said while the proposed Senate bill did not specifically mention Crosby's idea, if the new bill passes it could prompt someone to file a court challenge of the current county-wide voting, which could

effectively do what Crosby's bill intended. Crosby has not indicated whether he will introduce the same bill this year.

Houser said, however, that the general consensus is that the new bill has little chance of passage as it has no co-sponsors and no companion House bill.

Houser recommended taking "a wait-and-see approach" to the new Senate bill.

"It just doesn't make sense for our region," said St. Mary's Commissioner Eric Colvin, about the idea of changing the current county-wide method of voting for commissioners.

*guyleonard@countytimes.net and dickmyers@countytimes.net*



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**Morgan Files For District 29C Seat**



By Guy Leonard  
 Staff Writer

St. Mary's County Commissioner Todd Morgan, who has served nearly 12 years in that position, has joined the GOP primary to fill the soon to be vacated District 29C state delegate's seat held now by Gerald Clark.

Clark is not seeking reelection.

Morgan laid to rest much speculation last week about his political future when he made his announcement.

Morgan's core platform is to lower taxes, support first responders and law enforcement, promote small business and support education.

He said he believes his long experience as a county commissioner, as well as in the defense contractor community — he helped found Egan, McCallister and Associates — puts him in good stead to continue serving St. Mary's and Calvert counties in the Maryland General Assembly.

"With that level of experience in county government you have a good leg up," Morgan said. "You understand how local government works."

Morgan said he would work to ensure that the relationship between the State House delegation and the commissioner board — which has been strained on occasion — was smooth.

"It's important the delegation and the

commissioners work together; we can't be counterproductive."

Morgan said going after funding for infrastructure in St. Mary's and Calvert was a top priority were he elected.

"I'm going to fight to get our highway user funding back," Morgan said. "We send it up the road and never see it again."

Highway user funds remitted by the state are one of the prime ways the counties pay for road repairs.

Morgan also wants to reexamine the legislation passed last year that did away with the Law Enforcement Officer's Bill of Rights; he said much of that legislation takes away the needful authority from the local sheriff's office necessary to carry out the job.

"You can take the pendulum and go too far with it," Morgan told The County Times.

He also wants to try to roll back "tireless regulations" that hamper the growth of small business, he said, as well as prevent more taxes to fund the Bridge to Maryland's Future otherwise known as the Kirwan Commission that heaps more funding on public education.

"I would oppose any new taxes to fund the Kirwan Commission over and above what there is now," Morgan said.

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# School Resource Officer: Way More Than a Cop

By Florence Ballengee  
Contributing Writer

Corporal Gerard Muschette is a cop who is way more than a cop. He is a School Resource Officer with the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office.

If anyone is under the impression that a School Resource Officer is the person who provides security for a school, they would only be partially right. Certainly, the presence of an armed police officer every day when school is in session is a deterrent. In uniform, armed just the same as if he was working the street, Muschette is a parent himself concerned about the future of many of the students he comes in touch with. In short, he volunteered for the job, and he is passionate about his work.

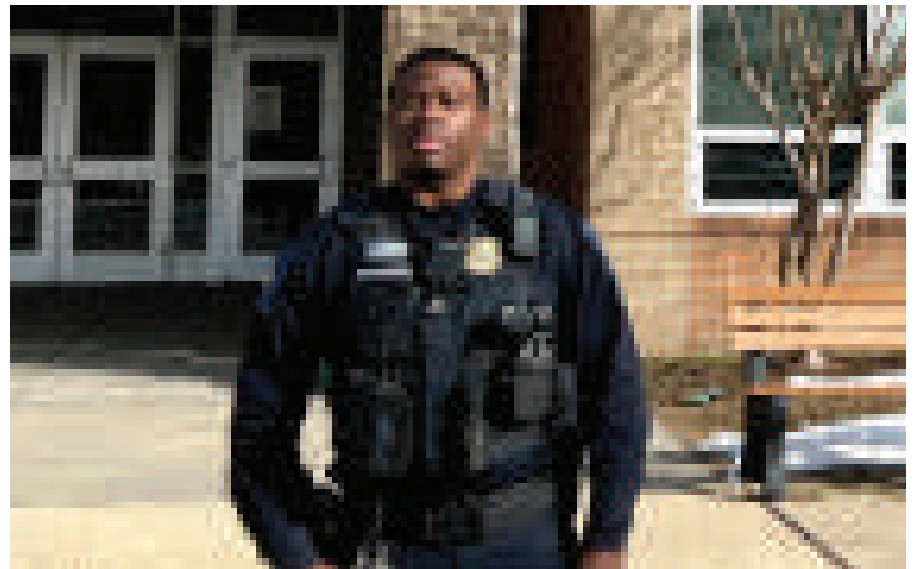
He has been a School Resource Officer for three of his eight years as a police officer in St. Mary's County.

Skilled at multi-tasking, Muschette finds that he must prioritize his day quite often. He may have a complaint about a locker situation one minute and the next minute a student who is a suicide threat. "Obviously the locker can wait", he said. "I'm never too busy to take time to talk to anyone".

Muschette volunteered for the job because "I saw kids with problems not having good direction at home and instead of talking about it, I decided that I could contribute and do something about it." Muschette is young enough at 32 to understand the issues that the young people have and says that "every kid has different skills and different gifts".

At a time when respect for law enforcement officers is at an all-time low, there exists in this county and elsewhere some stellar examples of what a police officer is and should be. Muschette is just such an officer. It's apparent that Muschette goes way above and beyond. He comes from Calvert County and yet has a strong attachment to the students and staff at Great Mills High School. So much so that he coaches football and interacts with many of the students who often share their problems with him. He is known to treat a team to pizza after a game and is willing to spend many of his hours counselling kids who trust and confide in him.

Muschette knows how to "carry himself" and how important that demeanor is to the impression that many young people gain of law



enforcement officers.

According to St. Mary's Sheriff Tim Cameron, "Our School Resource Officers are specifically trained to work in schools as a member of the school staff. They are a resource for students, teachers, and staff providing mentoring, coaching, and a trusted confidant. They are an active and critical part of our school's safety and security plan".

Muschette says, "We only have the kids eight hours a day. For the

kids who do not have good direction at home, it's tough to overcome what they see and hear at home." But Muschette sees the positive side of his work. A student he mentored became an employee of the detention center and then enlisted in the Army. Without strong and positive direction, many kids do not have the opportunity to excel. One bridge from negative messages at home and in the smaller community is the School Resource Officer.

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# Kennedy Abell, Leonardtown Luminary, Dies

By Guy Leonard  
 Staff Writer

One of the longest serving members of the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department and an unofficial keeper of a portion of the town's history — Kennedy Abell — has died. He was 93.

Abell was well known in town for his membership in the fire department as well as in many other local organizations which supported the larger community.

Abell lived in Leonardtown all his life and remembered the stark contrast between life before the coming of broad prosperity to St. Mary's County and afterwards.

"Times were tough, Abell said in 2018 when he was interviewed by The County Times. "There wasn't a lot of money and food was hard to come by."

He and his family, three siblings and his mother and father, had to work hard to make ends meet. His father was cashier at First National Bank of St. Mary's on the town square and his family would eventually come to own and operate the Hotel St. Mary's but life could still be a struggle.

"We all saved money for Christmas just to be able to buy something for ourselves," Abell said. "My mother was a great cook and she made cakes to earn a little extra money for Christmas.

"So we had about 15 cakes around the house that we couldn't eat but it was income."

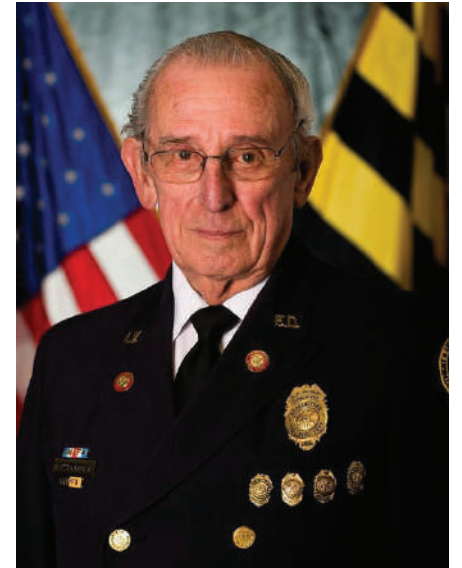
Very few people had money in St. Mary's County at the time to have a large and prosperous Christmas celebration, Abell said.

But then, things turned around for his hometown when the Navy built Patuxent River Naval Air Station in 1943.

Abell was an artist and committed a significant amount of his memory of Leonardtown to pencil sketches and other drawings of life around town in his youth.

He also put those drawings on the social media site YouTube complete with commentary on what they represented; many of the drawings depicted life from the 1930s and 1940s.

According to a statement from the Leonardtown company, Abell "recently celebrated his 77th year



as a member of the department and over his many years of service held all leadership and operational position in the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department."

"He served as president of the Southern Maryland Volunteer Firemen's Association (SMVFA) in 1960 and was inducted into SMVFA Hall of Fame in 1987," the statement continued.

"He attended the Maryland State Firemen's Association every year since 1949 and always looked forward to Ocean City Convention. On October 12, 2020, the department dedicated "Squad 1" a 2017 Seagrave Marauder Rescue Squad in his name. A regular at visiting the station, he will be greatly missed and his dedication to the fire service will never be forgotten."

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## New Director Dept. of Public Works & Transportation Appointed

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County have appointed James Gotsch, Director of the Department of Public Works & Transportation (DPWT). Gotsch assumes responsibilities effective Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2022.

"We are fortunate to have Mr. Gotsch join the team, and we know he will be an asset to county government and our community. It was a rigorous search to find the right candidate for this position, and we are confident we've made the right choice," said Commissioner President Randy Guy.

Mr. Gotsch is a professional engineer and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering and a Bachelor of Architecture from Texas Tech University in Lubbock. As the new Director, Gotsch brings more than 37 years of engineering experience, having worked previously in the private sector with his primary focus in civil engineering and land



New Director of the Department of Public Works & Transportation James Gotsch.

development.

"I love St. Mary's County and am excited to begin the important work of serving this community as the Director of the Department of Public Works & Transportation," said Mr. Gotsch.

For information about the Department of Public Works & Transportation, please visit [www.stmarysmd.com](http://www.stmarysmd.com).

## SMECO Responds To Community Outcry On Recent Rate Increase

We've heard a lot of feedback about the timing of the rate increase. As a cooperative, the last thing we want is unhappy members, but we have some procedures that we must follow. SMECO's residential Standard Offer Service (SOS) rate is made up of the energy charge and the Power Cost Adjustment (PCA). SMECO's PCA adjusts monthly to reduce the impact of market fluctuations on the cost of energy to members. When the PCA is more than five percent (up or down) of the residential energy charge for three months in a row, SMECO is required to file for a rate adjustment. SOS is the cost of energy. When energy prices (oil and natural gas) go up or down, so does the SOS. Power costs for January 2022 were 68% higher than January 2021. SMECO charges no markup and makes no profit on the energy provided to members.

SOS rates do not cover infrastructure costs (trucks, buildings, employees), which are included under the distribution charge. The distribution rate has not been raised since 2016. It was actually lowered in 2018 to reflect lower transmission costs and those savings were passed along to our members.

We had some incredibly cold weather in January. Cold weather drives up energy usage and increased usage means higher bills. It may feel like those high bills are solely based on the rate increase, but the bigger impact is usually increased usage.

On your bill, you have a chart of the last 13 months. You can compare this month's usage with the previous 12 months, including the same month a year ago. In the example below, the February bill reflected usage in January that was almost 600 kWh higher than usage in the prior month. The bill almost doubled because usage almost doubled.

On beautiful days like today, it's hard to remember the cold, blustery days. In Account Manager, you can log into your account and look at your usage to see how it corresponds to the temperature on those cold days. Looking at your usage can help you see what is causing it to increase and may help you make changes that could reduce your usage and reduce your bill.

*Press Release from SMECO*

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**Saturday, March 19th, 2022**

Doors open: 4:00 p.m.

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-Banquet Ticket Application Enclosed-

Your early registration will be a great help to us in planning our event. It will speed up the entry process at the door and qualify you for our

**- EARLY BIRD SPECIAL -**

**Early Bird registration cutoff date is Friday, March 11th, 2022**

Register online at: <https://events.nwtf.org/203420-2022>

## Mechanicsville Barn Destroyed



The Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department reported that at approximately 1:50a.m. Feb. 16 at 26100 block of Yowaiski Mill Road for a report of a barn fire. First arriving units found a large barn fully involved with a partial collapse. The units from Hollywood arrived and assisted units on the scene with suppression and overhaul. Photo courtesy of Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department

# Hoyer Speaks at Black History Month Breakfast Held Virtually Feb. 12

Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-05) spoke Feb. 12 at the 41st Annual Black History Month Breakfast. For 41 years, Congressman Hoyer has helped bring together community leaders, elected officials, and Fifth District residents at the Black History Month Breakfast to celebrate the many achievements of Black Marylanders and Americans. He was joined by community members, co-Chair Congressman Anthony G. Brown (MD-04), Congresswoman Lauren Underwood (IL-14), and Dr. Kizzmekia Corbett, Assistant Professor of Immunology and Infectious Diseases at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, who delivered the keynote address.

Hoyer said, "It's my great honor to participate in this event each year, and I cherish the opportunity to reflect on and celebrate Black history and the contribution of so many African-Americans to the richness of our history, as well as to some of the saddest days of our history. Black history, however, as Anthony (Rep. Brown) said, it's not just about the past. We are living in a moment when Black history is being made as we are engaged in a crucial and difficult battle to secure the right to vote.

"Senator Cardin talked about it, Senator Van Hollen talked about it, Congressman Brown talked about it, and we need to keep focus on this. The right to vote that so many Black Americans were unable to enjoy for most of our history, and that heroes like Dr. King and John Lewis sacrificed so much to secure as well as thousands of others. The health of our democracy is endangered by the continued assault on voting rights across the country. Just recently, the Republican National Committee, in looking at the events of January 6, which were to set aside the votes of millions of Americans to claim it was a fraud, to claim that President Biden and Kamala Harris were not legitimately elected, said an extraordinarily shameful thing. The opposition party, they looked at that activity of January 6 criminal insurrectionists activity and said it was 'legitimate political discourse.'

"If there are very many people in America who believe what the Republican National Committee said about that being 'legitimate political discourse,' think of the motivation [this] give[s] to some who are angry, and who are violent, and who want to see their government run as they dictate, not [as] the people dictate. These are the times when it is important

for us to vote. Restrictions that are on voting are nothing more than a resuscitation of a more sophisticated 21st Century Jim Crow, and indeed counting marbles in a jar.

"John will be the first, John Lewis, to encourage us to get into 'good trouble' in pursuit of that goal, and I'm proud of the work that the House Democrats have been doing to pass legislation in John's memory to protect the right to vote for every eligible American. I want to remind you every Democrat, every Democrat in the Senate and in the House unanimously were for the voting rights bill or the Freedom to Vote Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights [Advancement] Act – every Democrat. Unfortunately, not a single Republican in the United States Senate [was], and you needed 10 to support it so it could move forward. We're not giving up. Giving up is not an option. We need to face the rising sun and make sure that we fight until the battle's won, and we'll keep working to make sure that Americans can vote by mail.

"It's been mentioned before, but if you've not already, you will shortly be receiving an application from the Board of Elections to sign up to vote by mail in the 2022 primary and general elections. This application includes a place where you can add to the permanent vote by mail [list], list your name and automatically receive a mail-in ballot for this election and every election thereafter. Be on the lookout for this application and don't throw it out. Remember it is not your ballot, it's the application for the ballot. Voting by mail is easy and secure and frankly led to the highest turnout in the Presidential election in history in the last election. When it comes to protecting the right to vote, giving up, as I said, is not an option. We will continue this fight and march on till victory is won.

"Meanwhile, the past year continue[s] to challenge us with a public health crisis that impacted the lives and livelihoods of so many families in our communities in this time of great difficulty. It is fitting that the theme of this Black History Month is Black Health and Wellness as the COVID-19 pandemic enters its third year. Think of it – [the] third year, [and] we feel its effects on every aspect of our lives. People are frustrated, angry and anxious, and as we celebrate Black History Month this year, we pay tribute to the tremendous contributions of Black health care workers who have been help-



ing to lead the fight against COVID 19 in our communities. We also recognize the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Black communities." *Press Release from Office of Rep. Steny Hoyer*

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## Tri County Livestock Auction

1st & 3rd Wednesdays of the Month – Auction begins at 4 PM  
 Located Off MD Rt. 6 West – Charlotte Hall, MD  
 (closest physical address is 9033 Glock Place – Look for auction sign at entrance)  
 This auction is managed/conducted by the Tri-County Livestock Auction committee.

### ONLINE AUCTION

Few Items from the old “Bell Motor Company” building in Leonardtown (including signs that were on the outside of the building - “Buick” “GMC”, “Chevrolet Bow Tie”); Hose Reels, Wall Mount Fans, Pipe Bender, and More, and items from several other local estates to include 2 Vans (one Ford, one Dodge), Oyster Cans, Golf Clubs, Musical Instruments, Furniture, Framed Prints (some by local artists, some signed and numbered), Books (some local), Tools, and More.

**Auction Preview: Friday, FEB 25, 2022 - 4 pm to 7 pm.**  
 Preview at Westfield Farm  
 26689 Laurel Grove Rd. Mechanicsville, MD

**Online Auction will close Tuesday, March 1, 2022 beginning at 6 PM**

Auction is expected to be online for viewing and bidding beginning on or about February 24, 2022

[www.FarrellAuctionService.com](http://www.FarrellAuctionService.com)



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## Vice/Narcotics Arrests

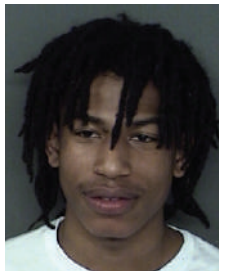
On February 11, 2022, detectives from the St. Mary’s County Sheriff’s Office Vice/Narcotics Division were in the 46000 block of Columbus Drive in Lexington Park, and observed a drug transaction involving armed individuals. When approached by deputies, numerous individuals fled on foot, and one vehicle involved fled the area. Deputies pursued the individuals on foot through the neighborhood and two were located and subsequently taken into custody. The suspects were identified as Zahlir Daylin Gantt, age 19 of Lexington Park and Jontae Lamont Proctor, age 18 of Leonardtown.

A search of the area where Gantt and Proctor were taken into custody yielded two handguns. A jacket was also recovered which contained a handgun magazine.

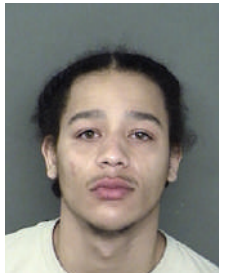
Gantt and Proctor were transported to the St. Mary’s County

Detention and Rehabilitation Center in Leonardtown, and charged with the following:

- Loaded Handgun on Person
- Handgun on Person
- Regulated Firearm - Illegal Possession
- Illegal Possession of Ammunition



Zahlir Daylin Gantt



Jontae Lamont Proctor

For official news and information, follow the St. Mary’s County Sheriff’s Office on Twitter @firstsheriff.

## Shootings in Lexington Park Under Investigation

On February 10, 2022, at 8:44 p.m. deputies from the St. Mary’s County Sheriff’s Office responded to the 21000 block of Spring Valley Drive in Lexington Park, for the reported shooting. Deputies arrived on scene and located two victims who advised while traveling on Spring Valley Drive, their vehicles were shot, and both vehicles sustained damage. No injuries were reported from the shootings.

While deputies were still on scene investigating the initial reported shootings, another shooting was reported at 9:15 p.m. in the area of Midway Drive and Great Mills Road. A male victim, age 23 of Lexington Park, was located suffering from a gunshot wound to the back. The victim advised deputies he was driving on Great Mills Road, near Midway Drive, when he was shot. The victim was transported via helicopter to an

area trauma center for treatment. Detectives and Crime Lab personnel from the St. Mary’s County Sheriff’s Office Criminal Investigations Division responded to the scene and continued the investigations. Anyone with information is asked to contact Detective James Bare at (301) 475-4200 extension 78118 or by email at James.Bare@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.

For official news and information, follow the St. Mary’s County Sheriff’s Office on Twitter @firstsheriff.

### Editor’s Note:

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

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# ST. MARY'S COUNTY SHERIFF'S CRIME REPORT

### Drug/Handgun Arrest

On January 27, 2022, detectives from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Vice Narcotics Division, executed a search and seizure warrant in the 44800 block of Hunting Meadows Court in Callaway. Located on scene was **Diontae Jai Shorter**, age 24 of Lexington Park. Shorter was carrying a tote and located in the tote was a loaded handgun. Located on Shorter's person were plastic baggies containing numerous suspected Fentanyl pills. Shorter was arrested and charged with CDS: Possession-Not Marijuana, Possession With Intent to Distribute Narcotics, CDS: Counterfeit Possession With Intent to Distribute,



Diontae Jai Shorter

Firearm Drug Trafficking Crime, and Assault Weapon-Magazine Use.

### Drug and Theft Arrest

On January 28, 2022, Dep. Lawrence responded to the 30000 block of Potomac Way in Charlotte Hall, for the reported theft. Investigation determined **Keven Antonio Brooks**, age 50 of Aquasco, stole numerous laundry detergent pods from the business, and then attempted to sell them in the parking lot. Brooks was taken into custody, and located in a cigarette pack on his person was a suspected CDS smoking device containing suspected cocaine residue. Brooks was arrested and



Keven Antonio Brooks

charged with Theft, CDS: Possession-Not Marijuana and CDS: Possession-Paraphernalia.

### Drug Arrest

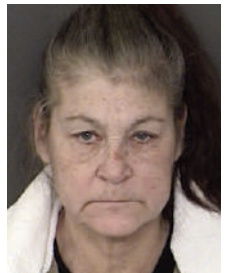
On February 11, 2022, Dep. Wimberly conducted a vehicle stop in the 17600 block of Three Notch Road in Lexington Park. The operator of the vehicle was identified as **David Smith Foard**, age 52 of Lexington Park, and Foard had a warrant for his arrest through the Maryland State Police. Foard was taken into custody and located in the vehicle was a plastic baggie containing suspected cocaine. Foard was charged with CDS: Possession-Not Marijuana.



David Smith Foard

### Fraud

On February 13, 2022, Dep. Wimberly responded to the 21000 block of Great Mills Road a medical call. Located hiding in the bathroom of the residence was **Christina NMN Bechas**, age 57 of Lexington Park. Bechas provided deputies with a false name and date of birth. Bechas was positively identified and found to have an outstanding warrant for her arrest. Bechas was arrested and charged with Fraud-Person/Identity to Avoid Prosecution and served the outstanding warrant for Failure to Appear/CDS: Possession-Not Marijuana.



Christina NMN Bechas

## Legal Notices

IN THE MATTER OF JAMES EDWARD BUCKNER  
FOR CHANGE OF NAME TO RONALD JAMES BLACKWELL

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

Case No.: C-18-FM-21-741  
Notice (Adult)

The above Petitioner has filed a Petition for Change of Name from JAMES EDWARD BUCKNER to RONALD JAMES BLACKWELL. The petitioner is seeking a name change because: This is the name that I have always used.

Any person may file an objection to the Petition on or before the 03/04/2022. The objection must be supported by an affidavit (written statement confirmed by oath or affirmation) and served upon all parties (Md Rule 1-321). If no timely objection is filed, the court may enter a default judgement or grant the name change.

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



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*St. Mary's*  
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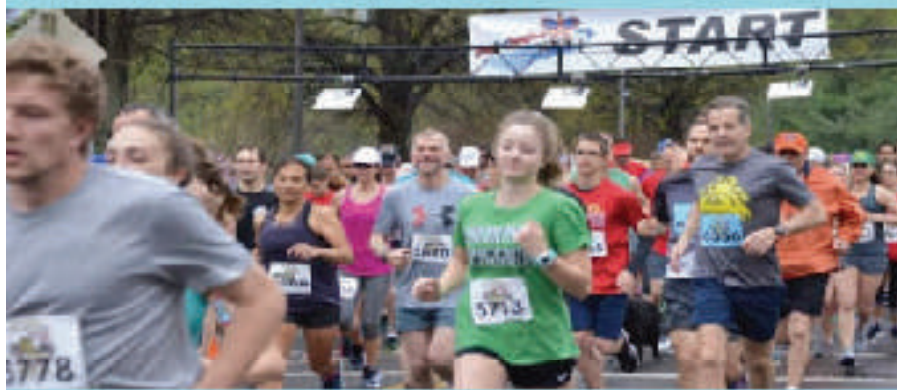
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## 25th Run & Fun Walk for Hospice

Saturday, April 23th  
Leonardtown, MD

[www.runforhospice.org](http://www.runforhospice.org)

Despite how different we all may seem we have a lot in common; We all have hopes, dreams, concerns, fears. And the hardest thing any of us will ever have to do is face is death - ours or someone we love. You don't have to do it alone. Hospice is a team of health care professionals and volunteers who provide compassionate comfort and care to anyone diagnosed with a life ending illness - regardless of their ability to pay. You can help by participating, donating or sponsoring; 100% of all net proceeds helps us provide care. See [runforhospice.org](http://runforhospice.org) or call Emily 301-994-3075 or Jim Dicus 240-925-5423

## National Drug and Alcohol Fact Week Set

The St. Mary's County Health Department (SMCHD) and St. Mary's County Public Schools (SMCPS) invite local students from 6th to 12th grade to submit videos of their questions about drugs, including alcohol in anticipation of National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week. A local expert will record responses to selected questions. All submissions will be entered into a drawing for a \$25 gift card. The deadline for submissions is February 21, 2022. Video questions and answers will be compiled into a single video released during National Drug & Alcohol Fact Week, March 21st - 27th. Parental consent will be needed for students under 18 years of age. Directions for video submission are available at [smchd.org/ndafw](http://smchd.org/ndafw)

National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week®, or NDAFW, is an annual, week-long health observance that highlights community work to educate youth about the science of drug use and addiction and to support drug prevention. NDAFW brings together scientists, students, educators, healthcare providers, and community partners to encourage a better understand-

ing of substance misuse and its impact in local communities.

"Our local health department and public school system have a long-standing partnership to prevent substance misuse in our youth," said Dr. Meena Brewster, St. Mary's County Health Officer. "This video Q&A gives our young people a chance to creatively voice their questions, understand better the science behind drugs, and be more empowered to make safer, healthier choices as they navigate adolescence."

"It is incredibly important that we address the questions students have and provide information about the dangers of substance misuse. We are grateful for the partnership with the St. Mary's County Health Department in providing this educational outreach to our students and community," said Dr. J. Scott Smith, Superintendent of St. Mary's County Public Schools.

To learn more about NDAFW and how to participate, please visit [smchd.org/ndafw](http://smchd.org/ndafw). For questions, please contact SMCHD at (301) 475-4330 or via email to [smchd.lbha@maryland.gov](mailto:smchd.lbha@maryland.gov).

## New SMECO Energy Rate Option Available

Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative (SMECO) has received approval from the Maryland Public Service Commission to offer Time-of-Use (TOU) rates to residential and commercial accounts on SMECO's standard offer service rate.

During peak times, energy costs are higher for SMECO, and during off-peak times, costs are lower. On SMECO's Standard Offer Service (SOS) rate, the per-kilowatt-hour (kWh) cost doesn't fluctuate. But, for customers who choose SMECO's TOU rate, energy charges will reflect the peak and off-peak price difference.

TOU rates can help customers save money if they use less energy during peak times. To shift energy use, residential customers can run kitchen and laundry appliances, pool pumps, and other equipment during off-peak hours. Off-peak times in the winter are weekdays 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and 8 p.m.-6 a.m. Off-peak times in the summer are weekdays before 2 p.m. and after 7 p.m. Weekends are always off-peak.

For more information, or to sign up for SMECO's TOU rates, go to [smeco.coop/selectmyrate](http://smeco.coop/selectmyrate).

*Press Release from SMECO*



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# Leadership Class Experiences Housing & Human Services



Leadership Southern Maryland (LSM) Executive Program grads supported LSM in the planning and execution of the Housing & Human Services Session on Feb.3. From left to right: Mike Bellis LSM'19, Amy Ford LSM'19, Jen Brown LSM'19, and Karen Carloni, LSM'17

Leadership Southern Maryland (LSM) Class of 2022 participated Feb.3 in the fifth of nine educational sessions for the LSM Executive Program— Housing and Human Services.

The morning began with Cathy Meyers, LSM founding sponsor and executive director at Center for Children, Inc., presenting the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) assessment. Afterward, she gave context to the assessment, educating the class on how childhood experiences, poverty, mental health, and homelessness can be intertwined and how adverse childhood experiences can affect one's ability to thrive.

The class also received an overview of the impact of housing in the region from Jennifer Moreland LSM'17, community resources director for Calvert County Government and Dennis Nicholson, executive director of the Housing Authority of St. Mary's County.

LSM Programs Committee member Jen Brown LSM'19 and classmate Mike Bellis LSM'19, vice chair/commissioner for the Housing Authority of St. Mary's County, led the lunchtime activity and discussion on how the class, as leaders, can help with housing and human services issues in Southern Maryland and beyond.

Next, the class heard from Mel Brennan, chief executive officer of the United Way of Southern Maryland. Brennan led the class in a poverty simulation and introduced the ALICE report, giving context to the data and helping the class to understand how many Marylanders can be financially derailed by an unforeseen or unplanned for expense.



The class ended the session with a panel presentation on the impacts of mental health and mental health access, facilitated by Karen Carloni LSM'17, Executive Director, Southern Maryland Community Network.

The panel featured representatives from the Local Behavioral Health Authority in St. Mary's and Calvert counties.

Leadership Southern Maryland's Executive Program is a nine-month tuition-based program that educates and inspires a diverse group of current and emerging leaders creating opportunities for collaborations and partnerships impacting the community needs of Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties ensuring a cross-section of the region including diversity of geographic location, profession, ethnicity, and gender. Applications are being accepted through April 15 for the Class of 2023.

For more information, please contact Denise Foster, executive director, Leadership Southern Maryland, 301-862-7663, via email [denise@leadershipsomd.org](mailto:denise@leadershipsomd.org) or visit [www.leadershipsomd.org](http://www.leadershipsomd.org).

Press Release from LSM

# AUCTION

**SAT. MARCH 5<sup>TH</sup> 9:00 A.M.**

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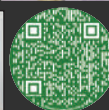


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# Violence Has Exploded in Lexington Park

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

In the not too distant past one or two homicides in St. Mary's County was about the limit of killings here but homicides, shootings and other violent crimes such as armed robberies have skyrocketed, data from the sheriff's office shows.

This year is already off to a violent start as the sheriff's office has dealt with two homicides; both committed in the Lexington Park area — one a drive-by shooting and the other a stabbing — and both have been closed with suspects arrested and charged.

Sheriff Timothy K. Cameron said the COVID-19 pandemic had played a part in the rise in violence but it was already a problem before the virus came here in March of 2020.

Despite a gun violence task force — aimed at getting illegal guns and those who possess them off the streets — which has since ended its operations, the violence on county streets only increased in 2020 and 2021.

"I'm frustrated," Cameron told The County Times in an interview this week. "There's a culture of youth carrying and using guns in our community."

"There's a notable number of violent crimes that involve the use of guns across our county."

This week the sheriff's office reported investigating a shooting in which no one was injured — a vehicle was struck by multiple rounds — but a child was in the vehicle at the time it was hit, Cameron said.

This shooting, and many others like it, in which homes and vehicles are targeted rather than people, still can put lives in danger, Cameron said.

Again, they were committed in the Lexington Park community.

"It's one of my greatest fears," Cameron said. "That some child is going to get hurt in the crossfire."

Sheriff's office records show that there were a total of seven people who died in 2021 by some sort of homicide, though not all were killed in shootings.

But the deaths were all violent in some fashion.

In November of last year a mother and her daughter were allegedly murdered by a man with whom the mother had been involved and their bodies buried in shallow graves.

Wayne Carroll Key was charged with their murders but their deaths do not appear to be related to any sort of local gang activity.

This particular incident, though, struck Cameron for a different reason.

"There is a sort of malaise about violent crime in our community," Cameron said. "I expected outrage at those killings, but there was very

little community response."

Three other people were killed in vehicular homicides last year, one Mennonite man who was struck in his buggy by a man alleged to have been drunk driving a stolen truck in Loveville and a young couple who were struck in Charlotte Hall by a vehicle being driven at what prosecutors believe to be 100 miles an hour.

Another man, Tavein Dickens, was shot dead by a homeowner after he broke into his California home.

The homeowner has not been charged as the homicide appears to be justified, according to law enforcement officials.

There were at least 12 shootings committed in 2021 as reported publicly by the sheriff's office.

"We as a community have to decide enough is enough," Cameron said, who is serving in the final year of a 14-year run as sheriff. "The only people standing in front of these youth are the ones slinging drugs, waving cash in their face and showing off their guns."

"It's a glorified, gangster lifestyle; we have to break that."

Cameron said it was no accident that the violence, much of it committed by young, armed males up to the age of 25, happened in the past two years when the COVID-19 pandemic loomed over all.

"All this reached its pinnacle when schools closed," Cameron said.

Cameron said that his agency is trying to implement some kind of program that would divert young men from seeking to engage in street crime and violence, but the sheriff's office cannot do it on its own.

A community group is needed to take on much of the outreach work to a culture that views the police as their enemy, Cameron said.

"We've been looking for community partners for some kind of anti-gun violence messaging," Cameron said. "It needs to be facilitated by someone other than us [the sheriff's office.]"

"There have been no takers yet."

The criminal activity is so ingrained in the more urban community, the sheriff said, that finding someone to stand with the sheriff's office against the violence is difficult.

"In these communities where [gun violence] is present, they're intimidated," Cameron said.

Commissioner Todd Morgan said Lexington Park has been the site of significant government investment in his past 12 years by county government.

"We've put more money into Lexington Park than anywhere else in the county," Morgan said. "But the socio-economic demographic has helped lead to its demise."

"Everyone is frustrated."

Morgan listed the many improvements to local parks, street lighting projects and the long-standing road



Sheriff's deputies on the hunt for illegal guns



Guns and drugs are part of the criminal culture leading to growing violence.

and sewer reconstruction project in the aging Patuxent Park neighborhood as just a few examples of the county's commitment to Lexington Park.

But it wasn't enough to stop the violence.

"The community has to be willing to work with us to help themselves," Morgan said. "There has to be faith-based or community-based organizations working side by side to mitigate the violence."

William "BJ" Hall, candidate for county commissioner president and up until recently the acting president of the local NAACP chapter, praised Cameron's strategic ideas to deal with the violence.

"He's on the right track looking at prevention instead of enforcement," Hall said. "Because the enforcement models don't work."

Hall, who is originally from Birmingham, Alabama, said caution should be used in looking at the state of violence in the Lexington Park community.

"We shouldn't compare ourselves

to these large cities, but I find it hard not to do that," Hall said, noting homicides here had yet to reach into the double digits.

"But one is too many," Hall said. "It doesn't need to be double digits for it to be a problem."

One problem with partnering with law enforcement, he said, is that their very inclusion in a community program could dissuade those from joining who actually would benefit from its help the most.

Hall said there are individuals and informal groups in the community who are trying to make a difference but are not well known.

He said the Basketball 4 Lyfe program was one of them.

"I've tried to establish programs and help people but they say to me 'Who are you? What can you do for me?'" Hall said. "I could show them a resume but they don't know me."

"It's important that we build these informal relationships; there's the belief that nobody out there is doing anything, but that's not true."

guyleonard@countytimes.net

## A View From The BLEACHERS



# STORY TIME

By Ronald N. Guy Jr.  
Contributing Writer

If a Super Bowl article will be published the week after the game, it must discuss the game's results; to write said article before the game is even played, is pure lunacy – don't be a lunatic.

This is certainly a commandment of sports journalism, right? It is etched on a stone tablet somewhere, likely chiseled in unison by Shirley Povich, Grantland Rice and Frank DeFord. Michael Wilbon probably has the scrolled rule displayed in a shadowbox in his writing room. John Feinstein doesn't seem like the tattoo type, but if he got inked, a script tattoo of this rule on his forearm could be the choice. Hey, there are worse decisions that can be made - like renaming a football team the Commanders. Sheesh...

The rule makes sense. Who would read a post-Super Bowl article that isn't about the biggest game on the planet? The gamble is at least someone. And so far, that someone is you! Gracias.

After inadequate consideration, I'm breaking the rule. It is more a suggestion. Guidance. Admittedly, this approach has led to trouble at times in my life, but this seems like a safe space. So away we go, for good or ill, as Hunter S. Thompson would say.

The bet, assuming you didn't actually bet, is very few readers had an emotional investment in the game's outcome. Neither team even registers on the Tom Brady Hate-able scale. And there just aren't that many fans of the Los Angeles Rams or Cincinnati Bengals in this area. Despite a massive inventory of sports fans, I know exactly one for each team. Not an adopt a Joe Burrow or I love the Rams' new uniform fans. Real ones. My Bengals fan remembers Kenny Anderson and Chris Collinsworth – the player, not the announcer. The Rams dude owns a Roman Gabriel jersey. Does that validate their fandom? Thought so.

It's one of those Super Bowls that was just entertainment; the result really didn't matter to most. The participants' stories always matter, though - and there were many.

Two years ago, Burrow, poor soul it seemed, was about to be drafted by the 2-14 Bengals. One year ago, he

was rehabbing an awful knee injury that threatened his 2021 season.

Calvin Johnson failed. Even Barry Sanders failed. And for 12 difficult seasons, QB Matthew Stafford failed to lift the Detroit Lions out of NFL purgatory. A trade to the Rams last offseason wasn't just a second chance. It was a rescue.

Odell Beckham Jr. found his career adrift earlier this season after a series of injuries and a failed tenure in Cleveland resulted in his release. He was signed by the Rams in November – a career resuscitation. Well... maybe. That knee again. Ouch.

Rams head coach Sean McVay, one-time tight ends coach in Washington, escaped the evil, career-crushing clutches of Dan Snyder for sunny southern Cali and the in-it-to-win-it Rams.

Ja'Marr Chase ignored all theories and excuses regarding rookie wide receiver struggles in the NFL and just took over.

Cooper Kupp went from non-descript Eastern Washington University to a third-round draft pick, to blowing out his knee in his second season (2018), to this year, where he produced perhaps the greatest single season by a wide receiver in NFL history.

Joe Mixon, after an ugly assault of a young woman in 2014, was given a second chance by the Bengals and has seemingly rehabilitated himself as a person.

Rams RB Cam Akers blew out his Achilles in July, dismissed the normal recovery timeline and fought his way back for the team's playoff run.

And then there is former Bengals and current Rams tackle Andrew Whitworth. Age? Just a number. The dude is starting at left tackle in the Super Bowl at age 40. He is also the reigning Walter Payton Man of the Year.

Forget the commercials and star-studded halftime show. Forget the game itself. It's impossible not to read that scroll of stories - the good fortune, the dedication, the obstacles overcome, the typecasts ignored, the prioritization of others – to see the relevance to everyday life, and to feel anything but inspired.

Super Bowl LVI was super indeed.

Send comments to [RonaldGuyJr@gmail.com](mailto:RonaldGuyJr@gmail.com)

## State Hunters Report Taking 70,845 Deer



Photo by Patricia Neal, submitted to the 2021 Maryland DNR Photo Contest

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources reported that deer hunters harvested 70,845 deer during the combined archery, firearms, and muzzleloader seasons, from Sept. 10, 2021 through Feb. 3, 2022.

The statewide harvest included 27,947 antlered and 39,498 antlerless white-tailed deer, plus 1,541 antlered and 1,859 antlerless sika deer. The harvest was 13% lower than the 2020-2021 total of 81,729 deer.

Calvert reported a 3.3 percent decline from the previous season, to 1,384/

St. Mary's reported a 28.2 percent drop to 2,056.

"Maryland hunters concluded another successful but challenging deer season," Wildlife and Heritage Service Director Paul Peditto said. "Fluctuations in the annual harvest are attributable to various factors including hunter effort and natural food availability, but is also indicative that the deer population is trending toward a population level that reduces damage to agriculture and minimizes impacts on our natural

communities."

Hunters harvested 7,289 deer on Sundays, comprising 10% of the total harvest. Hunting deer on Sunday is only permitted during certain weeks in 20 of Maryland's 23 counties.

The harvest in deer management Region A (Western Maryland) decreased 16%, from 9,383 deer last year to 7,929 this year. Hunters in the western counties reported 4,888 antlered and 3,041 antlerless deer.

Hunters in Region B — the remainder of the state — harvested 62,916 deer, down 13% from 72,346 deer harvested last year. A total of 24,600 antlered and 38,316 antlerless deer were reported in this region.

Frederick County had the highest reported harvest again this year, with 6,088 deer reported. Carroll County followed with 5,071 deer, and Baltimore County was third with 4,501. Garrett and Washington counties rounded out the top five with 3,923 and 3,899 deer, respectively.

Press Release from MD DNR.

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[facebook.com/CountyTimesStMarys](https://facebook.com/CountyTimesStMarys)

# Seahawks Women's Swimming Repeats as Atlantic East Champions

By: Nairem Moran

The St. Mary's College of Maryland women's swim team posted a 66-point victory to claim their second straight Atlantic East Conference (AEC) Women's Swimming Championship title on Sunday night. Additionally, Casey Brandt and his staff were voted the Atlantic East Women's Swimming Coaching Staff of the Year while sophomore Anna Kidd (Arbutus, Md./Mount de Sales) was named the Atlantic East Women's Swimmer of the Year.

Brandt and his staff, Carolyn Sutton '18 and Connor Alsheimer, guided the Seahawks to their second consecutive Atlantic East crown as well as an undefeated 6-0 record in conference dual meets.

Kidd, the 2021 Atlantic East Female Rookie of the Year, picked up Swimmer of the Year honors after notching three AEC championship meet records (200 individual medley, 200 freestyle, 100 freestyle) as well as three conference marks (200 individual medley, 200 freestyle, 100 freestyle). She was also part of two relay meet records (200 freestyle, 400 medley) and one relay conference mark (400 medley).

Kidd also collected seven gold medals (three individual, four relay) over the three-day weekend.

St. Mary's College tallied 660 points in finishing first while Marymount University reclaimed its second-place spot with 594 points followed by Cabrini University in third with 573. Maryland University finished fourth (396) and Immaculata University held onto fifth (307) while Cedar Crest College (240) and Gallaudet University (109) rounded out the seven-team field.

## How It Happened

Senior captain Rileigh Krell (Baltimore, Md./Sparrows Point) ended her Seahawk career by defending her 200-backstroke championship title, winning the event with a conference record time of 2:12.03 and surpassing her previous mark of 2:15.61 set on December 4, 2021.

Kidd captured the 100 freestyle with a championship meet and conference record time of 53.43, breaking her own AEC championship meet (54.60 on April 24, 2021) and conference (54.17 on



December 4, 2021) records.

Junior Christina Trnkus (Chevy Chase, Md./Bethesda-Chevy Chase) grabbed a gold medal in the 200 butterfly with a time of 2:21.24.

The foursome of senior Leila McCloskey (Leonardtown, Md./Leonardtown), Trnkus, senior captain Bailey Edgren (Canton, Conn./Canton), and Kidd dominated the 400-freestyle relay field, winning the event by nearly eight seconds over second-place Cabrini. The Seahawks clocked a championship meet and conference record time of 3:41.54 to snag the gold medal and break Marymount's previous championship meet (3:43.78 in 2019) and conference (3:44.15 in 2020-21) marks.

The Seahawks placed three on the podium for the 200 breaststroke as Edgren touched the wall in 2:27.90 for a silver medal followed by sophomore Julia Milner (Middletown, Md./Middletown) in third (2:39.65) and senior Christina Bonass (Chestertown, Md./Kent County) in fifth (2:40.28).

McCloskey finished third in the 100 freestyle in 56.16 while sophomore Marissa Fields (Clements, Md./Chopticon) placed seventh in 1:00.88 to join Kidd on the podium.

First-year Emma Grimm (Derwood, Md./Magruder) reached the podium for the 200 backstroke as Grimm finished eighth in 2:24.90.

Sophomore Lilianna Bowman (Westminster, Md./Winter Mills) won the consolation final of the 200 backstroke in 2:23.97 for ninth overall while junior Jazlyn Benitez (Silver Spring, Md./Blake) placed 10th in 2:25.69.

**Up Next for the Seahawks**  
Season Complete

# Seahawks Men's Basketball Nears Century Mark in Victory

The St. Mary's College of Maryland men's basketball team poured in a season-high 95 points in snapping their four-game skid Tuesday night. St. Mary's College (12-9, 11-4 UEC) completed the season series sweep of Gallaudet University (2-21, 2-13 UEC) with a 95-71 win in United East Conference action. The Seahawks remain in third place in the conference standings with tonight's triumph.

## How It Happened

Gallaudet scored the first two buckets of the contest and owned a 6-4 advantage before junior guard Jordan Goodwin (Baltimore, Md./Milford Mills) sparked a 55-26 run for the Seahawks over the final 15 minutes of the first half.

Goodwin notched 10 points in the first 20 minutes to lead St. Mary's College to a 59-32 halftime advantage.

The Bison opened the second frame with an 17-7 run over the first seven minutes to trim the deficit to 66-49. Corey Smith put up nine of the team's 17 points in the run.

The Seahawks reclaimed the driver's seat and stretched their 17-point advantage to 29 with 7:19 remaining in the game.

Gallaudet once again closed the gap to a 17-point advantage with 3:38 to go but

would get no closer the rest of the way.

## Inside the Box Score

St. Mary's College found its stroke from downtown, making nearly 47-percent of its three-pointers. The Seahawks hit 6-of-7 triples in the first half.

SMCM edged the Bison, 37-34, in rebounds as first-year guard Elijah Crawford (Oxon Hill, Md./Potomac) paced the squad with eight boards. Crawford also led the Seahawks in scoring with 13 points while adding two blocks and two steals.

Goodwin finished with 12 points and six rebounds while sophomore Gary Grant (Thomas Stone) added 11 points and five rebounds.

Junior guard Daryn Alexander (Twinbrook, Md./Richard Montgomery) and first-year guard Duane Mason Jr. (Temple Hills, Md./Potomac) each chipped in 10 points to round out St. Mary's College's contingent of five players in double digits.

Smith was the Gallaudet's scoring leader with a game-high 29 points as the Bison dropped their seventh straight.

## Up Next for the Seahawks

Feb. 19 vs. Penn State Berks (0-20, 0-14 UEC) – St. Mary's City, Md. – 2:00 p.m.

# Pet

OF THE WEEK

## MEET GRADY

Never too old  
To be loved  
Blessed is the person  
Who adopts

Hello, my name is Grady. You can't tell it but I'm actually 13 YEARS YOUNG! The amazing gang at TCAS report that I LOVE my catnip and I especially like a tidy potty area! I invented MELLOW. Cats, dogs, kids, none of that seems to bother me. PLEASE GIVE ME A CHANCE to adjust to YOUR HOME and watch me melt into the SWEET and AFFECTIONATE feline I truly am! I will really THRIVE in a calmer home with people around to CUDDLE, HEADBUTT, and receive all the catnip I can enjoy! Times a wasting so email [animalshelter@charlescountymd.gov](mailto:animalshelter@charlescountymd.gov) to schedule an appointment to meet me ASAP! BE MY MIRACLE AND PLEASE CHOOSE ME! When you choose to adopt from TCAS, you are literally saving a life.

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

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# CSM Announces Dean's List for Fall Sessions

The College of Southern Maryland (CSM) has released its dean's list for the 2021 fall sessions. Students who have earned 12 or more credits at CSM are eligible to be considered for the dean's list. At the end of the fall, spring and summer sessions, full- and part-time students who have completed at least six credits during the semester and have earned a term grade point average of 3.5 or better will be included on the dean's list. For more information about CSM, visit [www.csm.edu](http://www.csm.edu).

The following are those on the Dean's list from St. Mary's County:

## **Avenue**

Jared Hutson, and Madelynn Rollins

## **Bushwood**

Devanie Garnett, Miah Marshall, and Chardae Smith

## **California**

Amber Abell, Christopher Allen, Stephanie Allers, Veronica Almanza, Pamela Athey, Jasmine Barnes, Katherine Baxter, Christian Bennett, Duncan Biggerstaff, Jennifer Bodine, Eric Brookhart, Trent Carpenter, Jack Costello, Sarah Daly, Toni Davis, Robert Deckelmann, Samuel Dichter, Jacob D'Imperio, Katarina (Katie) Durniak, Bonnie Giroux, Ryuta Griffith, Satoko Griffith, Nicole Hartmann-Harding, Madison Hill, Eric Hoffmann, Emily Holmes, Kerrie Hortch, Walt Johnson, Ashley Kackley, Alexander Lafleur, Kalin Lee, Kendra Lewis, Alexander Lommel, Cresta Meyer, Hafsa Mubashar, Erica Muenzel, Logan Mundie, Sobia Mushtaq, Jessica Pamepinto, Corwin Paulsen, Sean Paulsen, Lily Ridgell, Diana Rivera, Meijun Sparks, Tad Staller, Gabrielle Ventrone, Kailyn Wagner, and Vincent Yang

## **Callaway**

Mark Beaulieu, Lauren Gard, Hayley Khoury, Natalie Lynch, Julie Mays, Madison Mushrush, Schae Quade-Herbinko, and Timothy Riti

## **Chaptico**

Anya Dziura, and Stephanie Romeo

## **Charlotte Hall**

Nathan Daetwyler, Amy Diefenderfer, Haven Hambrick, Elizabeth Hull, Kaylie Kinder, Garrett Palmer, Alliah Phillips, Oscar Portillo, and Caitlyn Seibert

## **Clements**

Cody Alvey, Ashlyn Carlisle, Christy Cusic, Lawrence Guy, Dylan Richards, Brianna Russell, Samantha Russell, and Brielle Welch

## **Dameron**

Matthew Lancaster

## **Drayden**

Pieter Enkema

## **Great Mills**

Abbie Dampier, Joshua Dishong, Samantha Dishong, Courtney Gray, Natalie Hill, Krista Hurst, Christopher McCallum, Daniel Reina, Antonee Ruffin-El, Isaiah Shields, Richard Sisler, Bernalyn Vaznain, Kristin Westrum, and Drew Youngson

## **Hollywood**

Erica Abdelaziz, Kaya Adriani, Gillian Bacon, Allison Boothe, Rebecca Burkhardt, Chloe Cable, Johnnie Caldwell, Ann Cameron, Bruce Chainay, Ashley Christman, Austin Cullen, Sara Curtis, Beverly Dahlstrom, Matthew Dahlstrom, Mattison Graves, Paige Green, Noah Hickman, Brooke Higgs, Jordan Higgs, Derrick Hill, Kayla Kerman, Jenna Kline, Elizabeth Leepa, Marketa Medley, Allison Mersch, Abby Merson, Stephanie Metzger, Delaney Nix, Lindsey Pitonyak, Abigail Reese, Lisa Slack, and Gabrielle White

## **Leonardtwn**

Elise Baxter, Danielle Bednar, Lauren Black, Makenna Brinsfield, Haley Bullis, Brooke Charley, Regan Coombs, Chijindum Ebenezer-E, Gabriel Gutierrez, Peyton Island, Laura Jacobs, Taylor Knowlton, Elizabeth Krissoff, Madison Major, Elizabeth Matthias, James Mayo-

nado, Brooke Mills, Shane Moran, Alyssa Morrison, Megan Nardo, Benjamin Perez, Mya Reed, Jonathon Shircliffe, Ethan Snyder, Maria Sokolowski, Emmalee Sours, Ezra Tapponnier, McKynzee Tippet, Timothy Travis, Regan Walker, Kylie Wallace, Todd Washington, Cora White, Trenton Wyandt, Kaitlynn Zacher, Victoria Zacher, and Kaitlin Zelonis

## **Lexington Park**

Rachell Amaoui, Sarah Angay, Gavin Barford, Amber Bias, Kalya Bonds, Mark Andrew Britos, Roman Burk, Tracey Byrne, David Cannavo, Lasheena Carter, Erica Clark, Dominique Cobb, Jose Contreras, Kamille Cox, Alizza Danika Damaso, Nina Deceuninckvancapelle, Maureen De Jesus, Chad Delahay, Ramanda Desrameaux, Iyona Dorsey, Shawn Dyson, Anuluwa Effiong, Micah Falcon, Carly Fessel, Samuel Fletcher, Riley Foster, Michael Gardner, Bryan Gomez, Casey Harmon, Brendan Hayes, Catherine Hazlerig, Leondra Henderson, Alexis Igtos, James Janes, Caitlyn Jock, Keia Keys Whitley, Anna King, Barbara Kitchens, Dajawn Knight, Kaitlin Mankowski, Kyle Mashek, Jordan McLeod, Laura Miles, Alexander Miller, Kelsey Morlong, Hieu Nguyen, Cierra Overton, Breana Pearsall, Lorraine Peel, Andrew Pfister, Ava Porter, Elise Porter, Erik Preston, Carter Ramey, Dasani Robinson, Alison Russell, Emma Seanor, Mellson Shao, Noelle Shurn, Josephine States, Mikaila Sullivan, Jill Swanson, Gerchel Toledo, Kendra Turner, Ashley Wallace, Kayli Warren, and Christian Wolpert

## **Mechanicsville**

Jenna Albertson, Audrey Alvey, Thomas Anderson, Danielle Barber, Madilyn Beach, Adriana Bean, Jessica Bell, Faith Bouch, Kamryn Buckler, Tyler Burroughs, Alayna Cox, Darrell Davis, Matthew Davis, Kayla Deese, Caitlin Demarr, Hailey

Develbis, Trent Drinkard, Rachel Edelen, Tara Edinger, Heather Forest, Conner Garner, Raianna Garner, Haley Gates, James Gentner, Morgan Gilliam, Briley Gillingham, Alexander Goldsborough, Julian Gonzalez Medina, Stacey Green, Kyle Hayden, MacKenzie Hayden, Todd Hill, Megan Holley, Hope Kaylor, Wendi Kilroy, Jordan Landau, Taylor Lombre, Madison Long, Gianna Maguire, Gillian Maguire, Logan Mcconville, Mason Messick, Madalynn Miller, Erika Myers, Matthew Niemiec, Cassidy Norris, Rebecca Oberman, Rachel O'Brien, Maggie Pilkerton, Nicholas Potter, Bradlie Quick, Anna Quillen, Colton Ragione, Amelia Raines, Travis Reavis, Jenna Reed, Shyann Ringley, Dustin Sachs, Karly Sams, Christopher Schmitt, Kyle Segreti, Jack Sien, Sarah Slack, Alexis Slater, Hailey Smith, Angela Snell, Donald Speirs, Janice Stackhouse, Amanda Stone, Tammy Sullivan, Kayla Thomas, Natalie Tippet-Hayes, Walker Tippet, Melissa Weaver, Lauren Weeks, Megan Welch, Darcy White, Darian White, Leanna Williams, Brendan Wilson, Katherine Wright, Jessica Youmans, and Alyssa Zupko

## **Park Hall**

Honorine Badolo

## **Patuxent River**

Thomas Bono

## **Piney Point**

Michael Evans, and Lacey Jones

## **Ridge**

Daniel Albertsen, Autumn Katsouras, Jason Stone, and Katlin Wilkerson

## **Saint Inigoes**

Chris Askew, Moira Cooper, Kassey Gatton, Mary Jenkins, Jennifer McGuire, and Debra Rosenstadt

## **Scotland**

Casey Labille

## **Tall Timbers**

Allison Lois Anderson

## **Valley Lee**

Riley Edgar

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# CSM Welcomes New Faculty

The College of Southern Maryland (CSM) welcomed several new faculty members last fall, all of whom have already made their mark on students and the campuses.

**Beth Caruso** is a new assistant professor of English at CSM's La Plata Campus. Caruso earned her bachelor's in English Language and Literature from the University of Georgia, and she holds a master's in the Teaching of English from Loyola University Maryland. Prior to her arrival at CSM, Caruso taught first-year composition at Howard Community College along with literature and composition classes at Stevenson University. Caruso brings a wealth of curriculum development experience and e-learning design expertise with her to CSM.

"What I'm most looking forward to about teaching at CSM is getting to know the diverse student body," Caruso said.

**Dr. Brent Alan Ferguson** recently came on board as an assistant professor of Music at the La Plata campus. He earned his bachelor's in Music Composition at the University of Texas at San Antonio in 2007; master's in Music Theory at Texas State



Clockwise from left are member of CSM's newest faculty Beth Caruso, Dr. Brent Alan Ferguson, Pamela Burkett Jones, Amy Spitz and Dr. Seth Wright.

University in 2011, and doctorate in Music Theory and Composition at the University of Kansas in 2020. Ferguson is a seasoned instrumentalist, a composer for music in the concert hall and for video games, and a published scholar on music and multimedia. He has taught for 15 years and serves on the committees for the Ludo musicology and Global East Asian Music Research study groups for the American Musicological Society.

"I have already worked with some great thinkers and scholars wanting to expand their knowledge and impact their fields," Ferguson said, adding that he is excited to watch his students continue to grow over the next year.

**David Green** is an assistant professor of History at the La Plata campus. He earned his bachelor's in History at St. Mary's College of Maryland and a master's in History at Catholic University of America. He has taught in both public and private schools and currently lives in Silver Spring.

**Pamela Burkett Jones** recently joined the Prince Frederick Campus as an assistant professor of criminal justice. She is a former criminal justice professional with 32 years of experience in the field, including 27 as a law enforcement officer. She said she is looking forward to educating students in the criminal justice field as they seek to maximize their professional potential.

**Amy Spitz** is a new instruction librarian for CSM, based primarily on the Prince Frederick campus. Spitz received her bachelor's in English from Grand Valley State University in 2015

and her master's in Library and Information Science from University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) in 2020. She her worked in public libraries and nonprofits, and as a graduate assistant in the undergraduate library at UIUC. Spitz's research interests include information behavior, Fan Studies, inclusive cataloging/metadata practices, and information literacy pedagogy.

**Dr. Seth Wright** is an associate professor of sociology at the La Plata campus. He obtained his doctorate in Sociology from the University of Arizona in Tucson, as well as a master's in Education from Northern Arizona University. Wright is committed to a learner-centered and inclusive teaching style, and actively integrates technology into the classroom. He said he is excited to help CSM develop its concentration in Sociology and ensure that students maximally benefit from this new opportunity.

"In my short time at CSM, I've been most excited by the community of teachers, and how dedicated the faculty and staff are to equity and student success," he said.

*Press Release from CSM.*

Zoom meeting on [www.stmalib.org](http://www.stmalib.org).

### Sharing My Story Through Rhyme, Reason and Song: Poetry Reading with Dr. Walthour

In celebration of Black History Month, join Dr. Janice Walthour for a poetry reading on Friday, February 25 from 7 – 8 p.m. Dr. Walthour is a long-time community activist, poet and motivational speaker. Dr. Walthour enjoys preparing and presenting thought provoking messages that inform and entertain the audience. She will share a variety of poetry to include original poems and the poetry of others. She uses the mediums of poetry and song to motivate and inspire student and community audiences. These presentations involve telling stories of her family, character sketches of friends, stories of African American history, cultural experiences, advocacy, and life's lessons in general. This event is in partnership with the St. Mary's County Branch NAACP #7025. Register to receive the link to the Zoom meeting on [www.stmalib.org](http://www.stmalib.org).

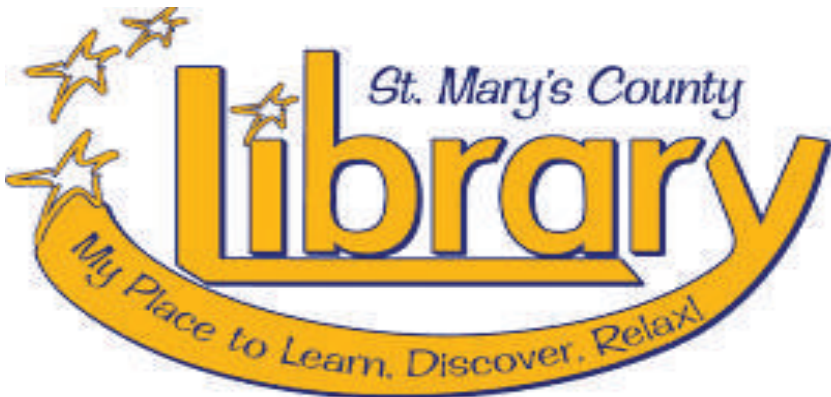
### Copper Mining at Mineral Hill: Eldersburg, Maryland, during the 18th-20th centuries

Dr. James Gibb will describe the archaeological search for, and discovery of, the copper mine at Mineral Hill in Eldersburg, MD on Monday, February 28 from 7 – 8 p.m. High on a steep hill and down the slopes into the City of Baltimore's Triadelphia Reservoir are the remains of a copper mine. Started in the early 18th century, this

mine provided this essential metal that likely supported the United Colonies during the formation of our country and America's military in World War I as the nation moved onto the international stage. This illustrated presentation provides the first public look at what this site looked like and how it may have operated over the course of two centuries. Register to receive the link to the Zoom meeting on [www.stmalib.org](http://www.stmalib.org).

### All Books Considered: This Is Happiness

Join Jeff, a librarian at Lexington Park Library, in discussing *This Is Happiness* by Niall Williams for the Staff Picks Book Club on Monday, February 28 from 7 – 8 p.m. *This Is Happiness* is an enchanting novel set in the West of Ireland, written by Niall Williams, an acclaimed author whose many works have been shortlisted for awards such as the Booker Prize and the Irish Book Awards. This sumptuously perceptive read, which is a love letter to an Ireland all but gone, sees seventeen-year-old Noel Crowe coming of age in the small town of Faha, in County Clare, where nothing ever changes, including the ever-falling rain. One morning, however, the rain stops, and news reaches the parish - electricity is coming for the first time. With it arrives Christy McMahon, a man whose buried past gradually comes to light and casts a glow on a small world making it new. Register to receive the zoom link on [www.stmalib.org](http://www.stmalib.org).



### Library Closed for Presidents Day

All locations of the St. Mary's County Library will be closed on Monday, February 21 in observance of Presidents Day. All locations will be open for regular business hours on Tuesday, February 22.

### A Conversation with Daryl T. Hinmon

Join Daryl T. Hinmon for a virtual discussion of community, of history, and of a celebration of Black History Month on Tuesday, February 22 from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Anything of value is typically hidden by nature, or other people, and it takes work to unearth valuable gems that will increase your worth. True Black History is one of those gems that was hidden from our enslaved ancestors because the true knowledge of their history would have made them 'forever unfit to be slaves'. This lecture contains meticulously documented, undeniable evidences of Black peoples' tenacity to succeed despite any obstacles. Give yourself

the opportunity to be inspired by the real history of your exceptional ancestors and how they applied their brains, muscle and hustle to obtain their freedom and achieve their goals. Daryl T. Hinmon is an acclaimed local author of two books: *Slaves With Swag: The Negroes Your History Teacher Forgot To Mention* and *Black Gold: Remarkable Achievements of Formerly Enslaved African Americans & Their Descendants*. Register on [www.stmalib.org](http://www.stmalib.org).

### Listening In: Echoes and Artifacts from Maryland's Mother County

Merideth Taylor, writer, photographer and author of *Listening In: Echoes and Artifacts from Maryland's Mother County* will give an informal talk about her work on February 24 at 4 pm via Zoom. An exhibit of her artwork is on view in the Lexington Park Library Art Gallery until February 28. This program includes a Q & A session. Register to receive the link to the

# CSM's Nonprofit Institute Staff Become Licensed Consultants

The staff of the College of Southern Maryland (CSM) Nonprofit Institute (NPI) have become Standards for Excellence Licensed Consultants after completing an intensive five-day virtual training seminar aimed at strengthening nonprofit governance practices. CSM NPI consultants Cara Fogarty and Michelle Sullivan, and Outreach Specialist Amy Davis were part of a 32-member class hailing from various regions of the country who completed the Standards for Excellence Institute® training to become the 2021 Class of Licensed Consultants.

"It was truly an honor to be a part of the Standards for Excellence Fall 2021 Licensed Consultant training class," said Fogarty. "I learned so much and filled in knowledge gaps. The speakers and my classmates were inspiring and the topics we covered were robust and varied. I'm excited to bring my enhanced knowledge to nonprofits in Southern Maryland -- they are the immediate beneficiaries of this training -- and to students in our prospective nonprofit workforce development program."

The Standards for Excellence Institute®, a national initiative designed to help nonprofit organizations operate more ethically and accountably, promotes the highest standards of ethics, effectiveness, and accountability in nonprofit governance, management, and operations, to help all nonprofit organizations meet high benchmarks and build public trust.

The Nonprofit Institute serves as Southern Maryland's premier source of nonprofit professional development and capacity-building for the diverse array of nonprofits serving the Southern Maryland region. The Institute is part of the Division of Continuing Education and Workforce Development at the College of Southern Maryland.

NPI's programs include:

- Monthly Executive Director Network Meetings bring leadership together to meet and discuss operational concerns and share lessons learned.
- Monthly Nonprofit Community

Calls foster collaboration, information sharing, and support.

- Affinity Groups provide for networking and sharing of ideas centered on volunteer coordination, fundraising, and marketing/public relations/communications.
- Professional development classes cover key areas of nonprofit leadership/management, strategic planning, fundraising, marketing/communications, governance, and operations.
- An annual conference with a keynote speaker and breakout sessions encourage learning, sharing, and networking.
- Regular communications via a resource-rich monthly e-newsletter
- Operational advice and insight in areas of fundraising, leadership/management, marketing/communications, governance, and operations.
- Connections and referrals to grant writers, attorneys, accountants, and insurance professionals, some of whom offer services to nonprofits on a pro bono basis or for a reduced rate.

Fogarty joined the Nonprofit Institute in the fall of 2016. Prior to that, she spent nearly a decade working for a nonprofit organization in St. Mary's County. In this capacity, she served on the Nonprofit Institute Advisory Council for St. Mary's County and the St. Mary's County Chamber of Commerce Tourism and Hospitality Advisory Committee.

Before working in the nonprofit arena, Fogarty was a journalist in both commercial and public radio. After working as a news reporter in Columbus, Ohio, and upstate New York, she joined the now-defunct Mutual Broadcasting System/NBC Radio Network in Arlington, Va., where she produced national newscasts. She later joined NPR in Washington, D.C. serving as the supervising online editor for NPR.org in the early days of the web. She is also an adjunct faculty



CSM consultants Amy Davis

member at CSM teaching writing and communication courses. She serves on the Charles County Economic Development Department Advisory Board's Business Outreach Committee. During the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, she served on the Charles County COVID-19 Recovery Task Force and on the Maryland Governor's Nonprofit Working Group which made recommendations to Governor Hogan's COVID-19 response plan, "Maryland Strong: Roadmap to Recovery."

Sullivan joined the Nonprofit Institute in the fall of 2016 where she serves as a resource for nonprofits as they navigate the ever-increasingly complex landscape of the nonprofit sector.

Sullivan is the executive director of All Ages Read Together (AART), a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating children in need with free preschool programs in their communities in Loudoun and Fairfax counties in Virginia. AART has more than 100 children enrolled in 12 programs, including an expansion of two new programs in Alexandria, Va.

Sullivan's previous experience included executive director for Ac-

cess Hope as well as director in the department of public policy at the United Cerebral Palsy's national office, and she also served in the Office of Public Liaison in the White House.

Davis joined the Nonprofit Institute in the spring of 2021 as an outreach specialist. Active with many local organizations, Davis' nonprofit background includes financial management, budget development, grant writing, and strategic planning.

She serves as the vice-chair of the St. Mary's County Museum Division Board of Trustees, the co-chair of the St. Mary's County Human Relations Commission, and treasurer for the Southern Maryland chapter of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association. Davis is also on the board of directors for the Small Museum Association. She most recently served as the executive director of the Patuxent River Naval Air Museum in Lexington Park, Maryland.

Nonprofit Institute staff are available for consultation at nonprofit@csmd.edu or by phone at 301-934-7544.

*Press Release from CSM.*

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# PATUXENT RIVER NAVAL AIR STATION

# News

## Teamwork Illuminates Spot 9, New Landing Site for F-35B

A first round of shipboard testing off the West Coast in January demonstrated that a team effort to increase warfighter capability by adding nighttime landing support for U.S. Marine Corps (USMC) F-35B flight operations on LHA(R) America-class Amphibious Assault ships succeeded brilliantly.

The Chief of Naval Operations Director for Expeditionary Warfare (OPNAV N95) and the Marine Corps in July 2021 determined the need to prepare Spot 9 on the aft flight deck as a second Unaided Night Landing Spot for the F-35B Lightning II.

The F-35B is the short takeoff vertical landing (STOVL) variant of the fifth generation fighter. The need for a second landing spot arose when the introduction of F-35B air operations to LHA(R) vessels risked overheating the flight deck. The F-35B is the short takeoff vertical landing variant of the fifth generation fighter.

With coordination, efficiency and teamwork, Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR), OPNAV N95, the Aircraft Launch and Recovery Equipment Program Office (PMA-251), Program Executive Office for Tactical Aircraft (PEO (T)), Program Executive Office for Ships (PEO Ships), and the Amphibious Warfare Program Office (PMS-377), the Patuxent River F-35 Integrated Test Force (ITF), and Marine Operational Test and Evaluation Squadron (VMX) 1, successfully began testing just six months after plan approval.

VMX-1 was able to provide West Coast aircraft to support piloted qualitative evaluation of six proposed lighting configurations. VMX-1 also provided an Operational Test Pilot and a Test Landing Signal Officer to direct recoveries to Spot 9 for the night unaided lighting evaluation, while using the Joint Precision Approach Landing System guidance referenced to Spot 9 to aid the pilots' recovery.

Air Test and Evaluation Squadron (VX) 23 F-35 ITF provided two STOVL Developmental Test Pilots to support the lighting eval-



uation and an F-35B carrier suitability subject matter expert.

After completing day and night carrier qualifications, the three test pilots were able to complete the night lighting assessment in two night-flight periods, as well as demonstrate a 2-minute separation recovery to Spot 7 then Spot 9, explained Ron Hess, VX-23 F-35 ITF Basing and Ship Suitability Lead.

"This was the capability the F-35B carrier fleet needs," Hess said.

Hess served as the embarked carrier suitability subject matter expert for the testing. He provided technical support to guide the evaluation and collect the required aircraft data to recommend a fleet flight clearance for night unaided landings to Spot 9.

Ready to the test

ALRE's Electro-Optical Integrated Product Team (IPT) got right to work on OPNAV N95 and PMS-377's summer 2021 request that the team study, develop and evaluate advanced flight deck lighting to support the F-35B and illuminate LHA/LHD Spot 9.

ALRE brought forth a solution that included new lighting components as well as Advanced Flight Deck Lights currently in use throughout the fleet.

With cooperation from OPNAV N95 and PMS-377, Navy Capt. Kenneth Sterbenz, ALRE program manager, approved funding for the ALRE effort in September 2021.

With an approved plan and funding, the ALRE Electro-Optical Integrated IPT completed preliminary work, which included a combination of flight simulation, shipboard evaluation, and Engineering Change Proposal efforts.

The combined teams originally planned shipboard testing in March, but an opportunity to expedite the project presented itself; USS Tripoli (LHA 7) had test events planned for mid-January and ship leaders agreed to accommodate the Spot 9 lighting testing.

Joe DeLorenzo, ALRE Electro-Optical AFDL IPT lead, said the timeline was the biggest hurdle to the collective team, but everyone involved understood the urgency of the project and did everything in their power to make the January testing possible.

"When we plan test events, it usually takes us 18 months or so to prepare a plan and ensure we won't interrupt the ship's operations," said DeLorenzo. "It was a huge challenge because there was so much to coordinate: engineering new lighting systems and

brackets, procuring new parts, producing documentation, and working through the Ship Change Documents process to get the equipment and teams on ship. This time we were looking at a matter of months."

Walter Olt, Marine Aviation ALRE Deputy Program Manager, said the success of January's testing relied on aggressive planning, hard work and coordination.

"We were able to do the unthinkable," said Olt, speaking of the hard work and coordination. "We went from a simulated concept to a fully-installed evaluation system in four months, and in doing so proved we can secure nighttime JSF flight operations with the Spot 9 unaided lighting system."

With the first round of testing behind them, ALRE will use the testing results to engineer a final solution.

Future Spot 9 testing will include ALRE teams installing lighting systems on all LHA and LHD class ships, as well as at test and training sites. N95 and the Marine Corps identified the USS Boxer (LHD 4) as the first to receive a complete set up for Spot 9 landings in 2024.

# St. Mary's Department of Aging & Human Services

## Programs and Activities

Loffler Senior Activity Center 301-475-4200, ext. 1658  
 Garvey Senior Activity Center, 301-475-4200, ext. 1050  
 Northern Senior Activity Center, 301-475-4002, ext. 3101  
 Visit [www.stmarysm.com/aging](http://www.stmarysm.com/aging) for the most up-to date information

### Department of Aging & Human Services Seeking Team Members

Do you want to work with an amazing team supporting the St. Mary's County community? Consider joining the Department of Aging & Human Services!

Open positions include:

- Caseworker
- Fiscal Specialist
- Fitness Instructor
- Food Transporter
- Program Coordinator - Home-Delivered Meals
- Program Coordinator - Home and Community-Based Services

For more information, or to apply, visit [www.stmarysm.com/hro/vacancies/](http://www.stmarysm.com/hro/vacancies/).

### Volunteer Instructors Needed

The Loffler Senior Activity Center is looking for volunteers to Share What You Know.

Do you have a skill, some knowledge, a craft or anything that would appeal to people who like to try new things? Guest instructors and presenters are highly prized at the Loffler Senior Activity Center. If you care to share, we want to hear from you! Contact Sheila. [Graziano@stmarysm.com](mailto:Graziano@stmarysm.com) or call 301-475-4200, ext. 1655.

### Black History Month – Thursday Film Series

Join us in the Social Room at the Northern Senior Activity Center for our free Thursday Film Series, concluding on February 24, from 12-2 p.m. with Lilies of the Field (1hr 34min). This film is noted for Sidney Poitier's historic Academy Award win when he became the first African- American to win an Oscar for best actor. Space is limited for each showing. To request a reservation, please leave a message on the reservation request line at 301-475-4200, ext. 3115, and your call will be returned.

### Guest Author to Discuss Book

Loffler Senior Activity Center is happy to again welcome author Carole McCabe Booker on Friday, February 25, at 10 a.m. to discuss her latest book Cove Point on the Chesapeake: The Beacon, the Bay, and the Dream. In this narrative, Mrs. Booker tells the story of how nature and human desire define a

singular place along storied waters. In its pages are tales of exploration and heroism, sports and tragedies, heroes and scoundrels as well as the families who populated this tiny waterfront community, once known mainly for shipwrecks and treacherous riptides, that became a World War II training ground, the locale for hunting buried treasure, and later a cog in the global energy trade with a natural gas plant. To sign up for this talk leave a message on our reservation line 301-475-4200, ext. 1660.

### Nutrition Education: Heart Health

Do you want to learn more about nutritional health? Visit the Northern Senior Activity Center for Nutrition Education with Donna Taggart on Monday, February 28, at 12 p.m. Donna is a Certified Diabetes Educator and Registered Dietician. This month's class will cover heart health. We encourage you to sign-up for a meal this day as well. The class will be held in the dining room immediately following lunch. To request a reservation, please leave a message on the reservation request line at 301-475-4200, ext. 3115, and your call will be returned.

### Tai Chi for Arthritis 2

A new series for learning or improving your form for the Extended Movements in Tai Chi for Arthritis (Level 2) begins Tuesday, March 1. The sessions will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11 a.m. throughout the month of March at the Loffler Senior Activity Center. If you have ever completed at least one level of the Tai Chi for Arthritis series at any of the senior activity centers, you are eligible to sign up for this class. Students who have just now finished Tai Chi for Arthritis 1 series with Shellie are automatically enrolled in the level 2 series, but we have several slots available. Call our reservation line 301-475-4200, ext. 1660, and leave a message after 8 a.m. on Feb. 20.

### Loffler Book Club News

Curl up with the book *The Time Traveler's Wife* by Audrey Niffenegger during the month of February so that you can discuss

on March 4 at 2 p.m. at the Loffler Senior Activity Center - A funny, often poignant tale of boy meets girl with a twist: what if one of them couldn't stop slipping in and out of time? Discussion will be led by Kim Crow. If you would like to be on the notification list for this book club or would like more information, contact Sheila. [Graziano@stmarysm.com](mailto:Graziano@stmarysm.com).

### Nutrition Presentation & Counseling with Donna Taggart

Donna Taggart, Certified Diabetes Educator and Registered Dietician, will be at the Garvey Senior Activity Center to help answer your healthy eating questions. The topic on March 7 at 11 a.m. is *The Benefits of Tea* (bring your favorite teacup). There is no cost to attend; however, advance sign up is required. Register for the presentation by calling 301-475-4200, ext. 1075 beginning February 20.

### Lengthen & Strengthen

Lengthen and strengthen those muscles on Wednesdays through March 9 at 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. Cost is \$3.50 per class. To learn more, call 301-475-4200, ext. 1075.

### Card Making Class

Join us in the Art Studio at the Garvey Senior Activity Center on Thursday, March 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. The cost for the class is \$5 to attend and \$1 per card. Payments are due at the time of registration or within a weeks' time of sign up. Call 301-475-4200, ext. 1075, to make reservations, beginning February 20.

### Grief Support Group

Everyone has experienced grief in some way. It can be very difficult to go through, especially on your own. Join our free grief support group at Northern Senior Activity Center on March 10 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. This group, led by Mechanicsville-based grief counselor Melinda Ruppert, LCPC, is great place to connect with a network of people who are experiencing similar struggles. As her website explains... Melinda works with individuals, couples, and families, around aspects of grief and transition. Her approach is one of companionship, walking alongside someone experiencing grief; not treating them like they have a disorder that needs to be resolved or fixed. To request a reservation, please leave a message on the reservation request line at 301-475-4200, ext. 3115, and your call will be returned. Space is limited.

### Taking Care of Your Mental Health

As we age, life's events can often become overwhelming. Especially during this time, it is important to take care of our mental wellness. On March 15 at 12:30 p.m. Hope and Healing Psychotherapy, LLC will explain how concerns over finances can often impact our mental health. Advance sign up is required and a suggested donation of \$5 is requested. Call 301-475-4200, ext. 1075, to register beginning February 20 for the March session.

### Looking for Bridge & Double Pinochle Players!

The Northern Senior Activity Center needs more card players! Bridge is held on Thursdays from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and is looking for experienced bridge players for their party bridge program. Double Pinochle is held on Tuesdays & Fridays from 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and looking for experienced pinochle players, or those familiar with the game. Both groups meet in the Game Room on their respective days. For more information, call Keilan Ruppert, Program Specialist at 301-475-4200, ext. 3103.



# St. Mary's Community Calendar

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

## Thursday, Feb 17

### 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.

## Saturday, Feb 19

### Register for Dolly and Me Tea

Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department  
24801 Three Notch Road  
Hollywood  
Noon to 3p.m.

Register now for Dolly and Me Tea! Event held on April 16, 2022 from 12-3pm. Contact LYNN BRADY 240-538-2503.

\$25 per ticket for Tea Time with your favorite Dolly. Finger sandwiches, scones, dessert and tea. Activities to include decorating your own table for chance to win a prize. Vendors on site selling doll clothes. For additional fee: take picture with Easter Bunny, grab bags, raffle items.

### The Fabulous Hubcaps

Holiday Inn,  
Solomons Island  
6p.m. to 10p.m.

Join the Humane Society of Calvert County for fun filled night of music, dancing and dinner with the Fabulous Hubcaps

Tickets \$75 include buffet din-

ner and show

Call 410-353-7670 for tickets  
Or [humanesocietyofcalvert-county.org](http://humanesocietyofcalvert-county.org)

## Sunday, Feb 20

### Chess players group Play chess for fun.

Taphouse-1637  
23418 Three Notch Road  
California, MD 20619 [View Map](#)

11:30a.m. to 1:30p.m.

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/](http://www.taphouse1637.com/)

### Bluegrass Comeback to Southern Maryland Concert Series-2022

Calvert Elks #2620  
1015 Dares Beach Road  
Prince Frederick  
2p.m. to 5p.m.

On Sunday February 20, Danny Paisley & the Southern Grass will be playing traditional bluegrass the way it should be played. With a hard driving, lonesome sound. Danny is a favorite all over and he has fans here in Southern Maryland. Bluegrass singer, Alison Krauss considers Danny as one of her 'favorite singers. His voice combines powerful range and soulful blues with a sound like no one else in bluegrass today.' When Danny was still in high school, he stood alongside his dad, Bob Paisley with the first generation of the Southern Grass. After his dad's passing, he took the leading role of continuing the traditional sound

of the Southern Grass. He is certainly a "Bluegrass Troubadour."

Doors will open at Noon with the show starting at 2:00 pm. Tickets for the shows will be \$20.00 per person sold at the door only with a paid adult. Food and beverages will also be available for sale at Noon for a separate price.

## Friday, Feb 25

### Bricks With No Straw with Morgan McCoy

Virtual  
7p.m. to 8p.m.

Join us in celebrating Black History Month, as we invite ac-

cess, author, & director, Morgan McCoy, to share her inspirational and original show: Black Women Business Owners who Built an Empire.

REGISTER HERE —> [ccplonline.libnet.info/event/5611153](http://ccplonline.libnet.info/event/5611153)

Pig Foot Mary, Annie Malone, Maggie Walker, Mary Ellen Pleasant and more tell their business success stories of going from rags to riches, give advice on how to build an empire, and share their personal tragedies and success. After the theatrical presentation, Morgan leads an engaging conversation on the lessons we can learn from these entrepreneurs.



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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](mailto:guyleonard@countytimes.net) after noon on Mondays may run in the following week's edition.

## In Remembrance

### Glenn Russell Frank, Jr.



Glenn Russell Frank, Jr., 94, of Mechanicsville, MD, passed away peacefully on Sunday, February 13, 2022 with his loved ones by his side. Born on June 20, 1927 in Apollo, PA, he was the son of the late Glenn R. Frank, Sr. and Ruth Ann Frank. Mr. Frank is survived by his son, Glenn R. Frank, III (Connie) and five grandchildren Glenn, Heather, Ashley, Kristin, and Michael. Mr. Frank was preceded in death by his wife, Gloria Ann Frank, whom he married on July 15, 1950. He is also preceded in death by his daughters Deborah Ann Frank Bartczak and Kathy Ann Frank Henry and siblings Ruth and Rob-

ert. Mr. Frank proudly served our country in the United States Navy during WWII. Mr. Frank was a retired insurance salesman. He loved hunting and fishing with friends and family.

The family wishes to thank Hospice of Charles County.

All funeral services will be private.

Donations may be made to Charles County Hospice, 2505 Davis Road, Waldorf, MD 20603 and Alzheimer's Association National Capital Area Chapter 10665, Starhaven Place, White Plains, MD 20695.

Condolences may be made to the family at [www.mgfh.com](http://www.mgfh.com).

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

### George William "Billy" Bowles, Sr.

George William "Billy" Bowles, Sr., 73, of Loveville, MD, passed away at his home on February 12, 2022, surrounded by his loving family. Born on July 27, 1948 in Leonardtown, MD, he was the son of the late Daniel Jefferson Bowles and Mary Ethel Owens Bowles. George was the loving husband of Barbara Jane Battenfield Bowles, whom he married on October 5, 1968 in Avenue, MD. Together they recently celebrated 53 years of marriage.



In addition to his wife, he is survived by his children Mary Lee Cusic (Donnie) of Mechanicsville, MD, George Bowles, Jr. (Valerie) of Mechanicsville, MD, Tammy Wood (Timmy) of Loveville, MD, and Robbie Bowles (Marimille) of Leonardtown, MD, along with his grandchildren; Kimberlee Cusic, Isaiah Bowles, Joey Wood, Emily Cusic, Julie Cusic, Jayson Bowles, Katie Wood, Hunter Bowles, and Samantha Bowles.

George came from a large family, being one of 11 children; Renie Quade, Anita Lacey, Dorothy Lacey, Catherine Vandeboss, Lillian Buckler, Tom Bowles, Jim Bowles, and Joe Bowles. George was preceded in death by his brother Jeff Bowles, Sr. and his sister Alice Thompson.

After graduation, George worked construction; he was quick to learn this trade. He also spent many hours working on the family farm in Loveville, MD, and was later employed at Public Works, Patuxent River Naval Air Station before retiring in 2005. George had a passion for woodworking and creating many masterpieces such as cabinetry, bedroom furniture, and cedar chests; cedar being his wood of choice. George was very creative and could custom make any item once a picture was provided to him. During his leisure time, George enjoyed crabbing, working in the garden, and spending time with his grandkids. He also enjoyed hatching and raising baby ducks and chicks.

The family will receive friends on Wednesday, February 23, 2022 from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM with prayers recited at 7:00 PM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Thursday, February 24, 2022 at 10:00 AM in St. Joseph Catholic Church, Morganza, MD with Father Drew Royals officiating. Interment will follow in Queen of Peace Catholic Cemetery, Helen, MD. Serving as pallbearers will be Joey Wood, Jayson Bowles, Jimmy Lyon, Joey Bowles, Donnie Cusic, and Timmy Wood.

In memory of George, memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of St. Mary's at P.O. Box 625, Leonardtown, MD 20650 in appreciation of the excellent care he received.

Condolences may be made to the family at [www.mgfh.com](http://www.mgfh.com).

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

### Donald Edward Knott



Donald Edward Knott, 69, of Hollywood, MD, passed away on February 4, 2022, in Solomons, MD. He was born on June 27, 1952 in Leonardtown, MD, and was the loving son of the late Bernadine Pilkerton Knott and Joseph Edward Knott. Donald is survived by his sister Karen Drury of Hollywood, MD, niece Wendy Drury Klink (Clint) of Yorktown, VA, nephew Robert Aaron Drury (Jessica) of Mechanicsville, MD, and great nephew Wyatt Christopher Drury of Mechanicsville, MD. He was preceded in death by his brother, Joseph Edward Knott, Jr.

Donald was a lifelong St. Mary's County resident, and attended St. John's Catholic School and received his GED. He graduated from the College of Southern Maryland (formerly Charles County Community College) in 1979 with an Associate of Horticulture Degree. Donald was a gardener for Sotterley Plantation.

Donald was the third generation to live, grow up and work on Sotterley Plantation. He assisted his father, Edward Knott, tending to the groundskeeping, such a cutting grass on the riding lawn mower, weeding, and watering the flower beds and gravel paths, as well as serving as parking attendant and security.

During his free time, he would take wheelchair drives all over Sotterley Plantation, from the manor house to the lower plowed fields, all the way down to the wharf's piers. When he was not relaxing on the plantation countryside, he resided at his second favorite home, the Baltimore Inner Harbor.

Donald was a devoted Catholic. He enjoyed being outside in the hot summer sun, the Hollywood Carnival, the county fair, savoring crab cakes, soft shell crabs, and stuffed ham sandwiches, weekend beer nights, watching any talent competition programs, Oak Island, and a major fan of western movies and television shows. He also loved researching his family tree and enjoyed listening to many genres of music.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, February 17, 2022 from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM in St. John's Catholic Church, Hollywood, MD, where a Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30 AM with Father Ray Schmidt officiating. Interment will follow in the church cemetery. Serving as pallbearers will be



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Robert Aaron Drury, Thomas Burandt, Clint Klink, Dale Pilkerton, Sr., Kevin Adams, and Walter Gardiner. Honorary pallbearers will be Bob Drury, Johnny Knott, Terry Knott, and Roger Ridgell.

Contributions may be made to the Hollywood Vol. Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 79, Hollywood, MD 20636 and St. John's Catholic Church, 43927 St. John's Road, Hollywood, MD 20636.

### **Pamela Gay Gass**



Pamela Gay Gass, 57 of Ridge, MD passed away on January 25, 2022 at home.

She was born on March 29, 1964 in Leonardtown, MD to Carolyn McAlister and the late William Elmer Yeager.

Pamela was a lifelong resident of St. Mary's County, MD. She graduated from Leonardtown High School in 1982. She married Robert Timothy Gass on May 2, 1987 in Leonardtown, MD. They spent 27 wonderful years together. She attended Holy Angels Catholic Church in Avenue, MD.

She is survived by her mother, Carolyn, her son, John Gass (Amanda Zinn) of St. Inigoes, MD, her brother, William Yeager (Donna) of Great Mills, MD, her grandchildren, Natalie, Alex, and Addison Gass, and her significant other, Wayne Hooper. She is preceded in death by her father, William, and her brothers, Frank and Steve Yeager.

The family will receive friends on Sunday, February 20, 2022 from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. with a Memorial Service at 2:00 p.m., at Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A., 22955 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650. Inurnment will be held at Evergreen Memorial Gardens at a later date.

Condolences to the family may be made at [www.brinsfieldfuneral.com](http://www.brinsfieldfuneral.com).

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

### **Dale Erwin "Joe Joe"**

#### **Pilkerton**

Dale Erwin "Joe Joe" Pilkerton, 67, of Mechanicsville, MD passed away peacefully on Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at MedStar St. Mary's Hospital, Leonardtown, MD. He was born on October 20, 1954 to the late William Joseph Pilkerton and Agnes Rosalie (Quade) Pilkerton.

For everyone who knew Dale, also know him as "Joe Joe". We all know he



was an absolute happy soul. He enjoyed the outside life, fishing and watching the wildlife. He enjoyed the serenity of watching the water.

Family and friends meant the world to Joe. He would go visit on weekends and loved to go to his niece Lisa's, to watch everyone enjoy the pool. However, if the games were on TV, he would always be back home in time for car racing, football and baseball games.

Joe was always surrounded by sisters, six to be exact and his loving niece, Lisa. They all are guilty of spoiling him and really kind of proud of it. He would do anything for them.

His little pride and joy whom he loved dearly is his cat Baby Girl Inky. She is at home waiting patiently for him to return.

Joe, you will be missed deeply but we know you are on your way home...

Joe is survived by his siblings, Paul "Wayne" Pilkerton (Susie), Darlene Marie Adams (Mel), Frances "Molly" Greenwell (Gilbert), Maxine Delores Wilkerson (Charles) and Loretta Ann Olmstead (Jerry); and many nieces, nephews and extended family. He was preceded in death by his parents, William and Agnes Pilkerton and siblings, William Morris Pilkerton, Laura Mae Flanary and Nancy Lee Pilkerton.

Pall bearers will be Steve Pilkerton, Gary Pilkerton, Danny Pilkerton, Chase Asmussen, Cody Greenwell, Tony Greenwell and honorary pall bearer, Robby Pilkerton.

The family will receive friends for Joe's Visitation on Friday, February 18, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. with a Funeral Service at 10:00 a.m. officiated by Fr. Michael Tietjen at Brinsfield Funeral Home & Crematory, P.A., 30195 Three Notch Road, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622. Interment will follow immediately at Charles Memorial Gardens, Leonardtown, MD.

In lieu of flowers, the family would request you consider making a donation in Joe's name to The National Kidney Foundation, <https://www.kidney.org/donation>.

Condolences to the family may be made at [www.brinsfieldfuneral.com](http://www.brinsfieldfuneral.com)

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

### **Shirley Ann Carpenter**

Shirley Ann Carpenter, 71 of Mechanicsville, MD passed away on February 4,



2022 at home.

She was born on December 2, 1950 in Maryland to the late George Tucker and Gladys (Soper) Tucker.

Shirley moved from Hyattsville, MD to Mechanicsville where she resided for the last 34 years. She graduated from Suitland Senior High School. She was employed as an Administrative Assistant for Walter Reed Hospital. She married her loving husband, Robert Wayne Carpenter on May 31, 1970 in Rockville, Maryland. They spent 48 wonderful years together and would look forward to an evening of dinner and dancing occasionally before his passing in August of 2018. They were blessed to raise three children who were loved and supported unconditionally. Shirley had a special love for animals, especially horses and her pet dogs- Bella, a Miniature Schnauzer and Daisy, an English Springer Spaniel. She loved the outdoors, spending time with family, and listening to Rock 'n' Roll music. She enjoyed traveling and often visited family and friends in Florida, New Hampshire, and Lebanon, Maine. While traveling she enjoyed spending time at the family camp on the lake, boating, and never missed the opportunity to relax in front of a bonfire. She followed her favorite local band, The Hubcaps who are well known throughout Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, and the D.C. region. She loved gathering together for a good Whiskey Sour or Coca-Cola and eating Alaskan King Crab legs.

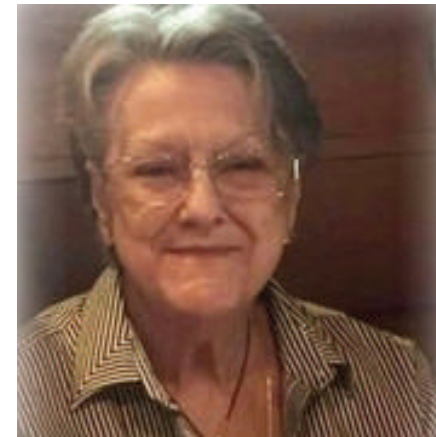
She is survived by her children, Tracy Alan Carpenter (Michelle) of Valley Lee, MD, Curtis Wayne Carpenter of Mechanicsville, MD and Sheryl Renee Carpenter (Kurt) of Denver, CO; her sister, Gladys Rebecca Doremus (James) of Camp Springs, MD; two grandchildren, Samantha Ivy Lyon Carpenter, of Leonardtown, MD and Megan Cundiff of Great Mills, MD; four great grandchildren, Aaralynne Jerome, Aaden Jerome, Amir Neale, and Anan Neale. She is preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Robert, and her granddaughter, Christina Maier.

Private services and interment will be held on February 21, 2022.

Memorial contributions may be made to SMAWL, P.O. Box 1232, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

Condolences to the family may be made at [www.brinsfieldfuneral.com](http://www.brinsfieldfuneral.com).

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.



### **Beverly Ann Beard**

Beverly Ann Beard, 77 of St. Inigoes, MD passed away on February 9, 2022 at MedStar St. Mary's Hospital, Leonardtown, MD.

She was born on April 11, 1944 in Washington, D.C. to the late Bernard Ricker and Matilda Cecilia Thorp.

She married Ronald Fletcher in 1986 in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. They spent 28 years together before his passing in April of 2015. She was a loving mother to three children- Denise, Thomas, and Theresa. Family was important to her and she enjoyed spending time with her children and grandchildren. She was employed as an Administrative Assistant in various medical practices. Her magnetic personality meant she never met a stranger and carried many lifelong relationships. She was strong willed, determined, quick witted and carried her sense of humor everywhere she went. She was like a cat with nine lives and loved her cats, Patches and Ronaldo Skeetz. She enjoyed watching football, especially the Washington Redskins, and her favorite shows- Ancient Aliens, Oak Island and the History Channel. She had a keen sense of style and studied gemology to make sure her outfit was always polished off with the right pieces of jewelry.

She is survived by her children, Denise Knott (Steve) of St. Inigoes, MD, Thomas Beard of Delmar, DE, and Theresa Freni (Carmelo) of Parsonsburg, MD; sister, Maureen Ault (Leonard) of Mechanicsville, MD; six grandchildren, Ricky Kline, Carmelo Freni, Jr., Nicole McCluskey, Michael Kline, Caitlynn Rader and Megan Knott; four great grandchildren, Amari Rogers, Liam Kline, Bryce Kline and Gia McCluskey and nephews, Donald and Robert Polk. In addition to her parents she is preceded in death by her husband, Ronald and her brother, Bernard Ricker.

Services are private.

Condolences to the family may be made at [www.brinsfieldfuneral.com](http://www.brinsfieldfuneral.com).

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

### **Robert "Bobby" Todd Joy**

Robert "Bobby" Todd Joy, 57 of Hollywood, MD, passed away on February 2, 2022 at MedStar Washington Hospital Center, Washington D.C.

He was born on May 5, 1964, to the late

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



Sherman "Buddy" Wilson Joy and Agnes "Piggy" Abell Joy.

Bobby married Margaret Ann Joy on November 28, 1992. He worked for Eagle Systems, Inc. as a Program Manager for 21 years. He was a member of Faith Bible Church in Mechanicsville, MD, and served as a deacon and treasurer of the church. Bobby had a true servants heart and spent most of his time with his church community. He also served on two short-term mission trips to Anguilla and Appalachia to repair homes and support those in need. Bobby loved spending time with his kids especially with sports. He volunteered

countless hours with the King's Christian Academy soccer and track teams driving the buses to and from games and teaching kids excellence to glorify God on and off the field.

He is survived by his wife, Margaret, and his four children; Tanor Joy of Pittsburgh, PA; Garrett Joy (wife, Cylee) of Hollywood, MD; Connor Joy of Denver, CO; and Montana Harris (husband, Daniel) of Lexington Park, MD. He's survived by his three siblings; Pam Bohmann (husband, Glenn) of Hollywood, MD; Sherman "Bubby" Joy (wife, Pam) of Hollywood, MD; and Dawn Tennyson (husband, Robbie) of Hollywood, MD. He's also survived by his three grandchildren; Hudson Harris, Brooks Harris, and Elena Harris.

Condolences to the family may be made at [www.brinsfieldfuneral.com](http://www.brinsfieldfuneral.com).

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

## Johnny Mark Hogg

Johnny Mark Hogg, USN, (Senior Chief, Ret.), 60 of Lexington Park, MD passed away on January 22, 2022 at Med-Star St. Mary's Hospital.

Johnny was born on February 28, 1961



in Long Beach, CA to Sharon Burt of Coffeyville, KS and James Hogg of Lamesa, TX.

Known as JD to his loved ones, Johnny was famous for making others laugh with silly jokes and funny dances. He loved helping people with any problem big or small, and treated everybody he met like a friend. He was a big hit with kids of all ages, and some of his favorite work was with the local Boy Scout chapter. A military man for 27 years, he served several tours in the Middle East and was awarded for his outstanding bravery in Beirut. He was also stationed with his family both Stateside and in Europe. He met his wife Jo Ann in 1990 and they married two years later. After retirement, he was active in the community through the Citizen's Advisory Board and the Fleet Reserve. He loved golf and fishing, and was happiest working out in his yard and driving around on his riding lawn mower. He was a die-hard baseball and college sports fan, and one of his favorite pastimes was couchside coaching his favorite teams. He was a wonderful husband, father, and friend, and will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

He is survived by his wife, Jo Ann, his mother, Sharon Burt Hogg of Hutchinson, KS, his children, Terrance McDonald of Marietta, PA, Chelsea Franceschini of Lexington Park, MD, Jason Hogg and David Hogg of New Jersey, Lynne Hogg Dempsey of North Carolina, and his brothers Bruce and Randy Hogg of Hutchinson, KS. He was preceded in death by his father Jim.

Interment will be held at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

Condolences to the family may be made at [www.brinsfieldfuneral.com](http://www.brinsfieldfuneral.com).

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

## Charles Roland Miller

The family of Charles (known as Chuck or Red) Roland Miller, formerly of Newport News, VA, sadly announce his passing on January 18, 2022, at Calvert Memorial Hospital in Prince Frederick, MD after a brief illness. He was a month away from his 90th birthday.

Born on February 23, 1932, in Baltimore, MD, Charles spent many of his childhood years at the Sipes Orchard Home in Conover, NC, where he learned agricultural skills. Charles enlisted in the



U.S. Army in January 1951 and graduated from Newton-Conover High School a few months later in May 1951. He was deployed to Japan with the 45th Infantry Division. During the Korean War, Charles was awarded two Purple Hearts for injuries which affected his health during the rest of his life. His career duty stations included Fort Eustis, VA; Fort Wainwright, Fairbanks, AK; Camp Red Cloud, Uijeongbu, South Korea; Fort Jackson, SC; The Pentagon, Arlington, VA; U.S. Army V Corps Headquarters, Frankfurt, Germany; and Fort Meade, MD. Charles retired in 1980 as a Command Sergeant Major after 30 years of honorable service, garnering many awards and commendations.

Upon retiring from the military, Charles drove school buses for Newport News City Schools. He was proficient as a bus driver, and he also trained school bus drivers.

Charles and Pearl Lee (Hall) were married in 1953 at Bethlehem Baptist Church in Granite Falls, NC. They were married just shy of 63 years. Charles and Pearl Lee were devoted to each other. Charles lovingly cared for Pearl Lee and nursed her during the last few years of her life.

Charles attended a three-week long Billy Graham Crusade in Richmond, VA, in 1956, which was a significant event for him. Charles and Pearl Lee were founding members of Lee Hall Baptist Church in Lee Hall, VA. They were also active members of Tabernacle Baptist Church, Denbigh, VA, in the 1960s and then again in retirement.

Charles had many interests. Using his gardening skills, Charles planted and tended a vineyard. The family made delicious jam from the vineyard's grapes. Charles' garden was known for a bountiful crop of vegetables. Also skilled in the kitchen, he loved to bake fruitcake and German Chocolate cake for family gatherings. Charles will be remembered for his delicious stuffing and for preparing the holiday turkey and soups. He maintained a significant collection of reel-to-reel recordings, mainly classical and jazz. He was an avid reader of political history and was a few credits short of earning his degree in History. Charles was a dedicated father and accompanied his sons on camping trips with the Boy Scouts. The family enjoyed memorable trips together in the United States and Europe.

Charles was predeceased by his wife Pearl Lee, his mother Elizabeth Temple Miller, his father William Howard Miller,

## LtCol Joel Fred Jones, USMC (ret.)

August 2, 1957



November 29, 2021

LtCol Joel Fred Jones, USMC (ret), 64 of Calabash, NC died November 29, 2021. Fred was born in Rome, GA on August 2, 1957, the son of William H. Jones of Columbia, SC and Annelia Sleep Jones of Shelby, NC.

Fred enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1979 and spent the next 29 years in dedicated service to his great country. Following boot camp at Parris Island, SC, his career began at VMFA-314 with F-4s and then transitioned to F-18s. In 1983 he transferred to Naval Air Station, Millington, Tennessee where he served as an Aviation Ordnance Instructor until 1987. He returned to fleet service with VMFA-451 F-18 squadron until he was selected for Marine Officer and transferred back to VMFA-314 where he would serve as the Ordnance Officer in Charge (OIC) until 1994.

In 1994, Fred reported to NMUSUP Acquisition Logistics Center, Pacific (NMUSUPALC) to serve as Marine Corps Aviation Ordnance Representative followed by a tour at COMNAVFORPAC until he returned to Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron Eleven (MALSL-11) Miramar, CA in 1996 as Aviation Ordnance OIC.

In 2000, Fred was assigned as the Aviation Ordnance Programs Officer at Naval Air Systems Command (NAVSUP), Patuxent River, Maryland. In 2002 he was transferred to OPNAV as the Aviation Ordnance Programs Requirements Officer, Resource Sponsor and finally as the occupational field sponsor for the Marine Corps Aviation Ordnance community. During his Marine Corps tenure, Fred received hundreds of medals and honors, among them were: Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal; Southwest Asia Service Medal (4 awards); Kuwait Liberation

Medal (Kuwait); Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal; National Defense Service Medal; and Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Award.

He retired from the Marine Corps with an Honorable Discharge with the rank of Lt Colonel in 2008 and continued his service to the country as a Program Manager for the U.S. Government.

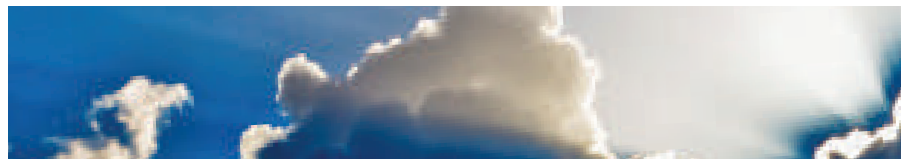
As a government civilian, Fred continued to support the Aviation Ordnance Community at Naval Air Systems Command at Patuxent River, Maryland, where he served as a Program Manager in PMA-201 and as the Assistant Program Executive Officer for Logistics for Program Executive Officer for Unmanned Aviation and Strike Weapons

(PEO (UAV)) until his civilian retirement in 2018.

Fred was highly respected throughout the Aviation Ordnance and NMUSUP arenas for his extensive weapons and logistics knowledge coupled with inspirational leadership and mentorship to countless Marines and civilians during his outstanding careers.

He is survived by his parents and his wife, Tracy Ellen Jones; son Hamlin Jones of Columbia, SC; stepson Ryan Parise (Lydia) of Royal Oak, MI; stepdaughter, Olivia Michas (Louis) of The Plains, VA.; brother William Jones Jr of Columbia, SC and sister Marie (David) of Shelby, NC; and countless grateful friends that he helped and inspired along the journey.

Fred was buried at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors on January 25, 2022 in Section 8L.



brothers, James Miller, Louis (Peggy) Miller, Freddy Miller, and William Miller.

Charles is survived by his two sons, Christopher (Judith) of Virginia, and Douglas (Rosalva) of Maryland, and by his seven grandchildren, Elizabeth, Nicholas, Lucy, Stephanie, Victoria (James) Lanham, Christianne (Daniel) Lynch, and Jonathan, and by two great-grandchildren, Josie and Johnny. Also surviving are Charles' siblings, Alfred (Freida) Miller, Marion (William) Dockery, and Rita Monemayaker, and several nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, February 19, 2022, at 2 p.m. with a memorial service to follow at 3 p.m., at Leonardtown Baptist Church, 23520 Hollywood Rd, Leonardtown, MD, with Pastor Jeremy Rhoton officiating. Interment will take place at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

Donations can be made in Charles' honor to: Sipe's Orchard Home at [www.sipesorchardhome.org](http://www.sipesorchardhome.org), 4431 County Home Road, Conover, NC 28613; or to Redeeming Grace Baptist Church Building Project at [www.RGBCMD.org](http://www.RGBCMD.org), 20945 Great Mills Rd., Suite 101, Lexington Park, MD 20653.

The family expresses gratitude to the staff of The Hermitage At Solomons for their care and to The Hermitage residents for their faithful friendship.

### *Kristie Sparks*



Kristie Sparks, 50, of Great Mills, MD, tragically passed away on January 25, 2022. She was born Kristie Ellen Goings in Farmington, ME on October 23, 1971 to Janice Earlene Goings and the late Richard Dale Goings. In 1972, her parents settled to Lexington Park, MD where Kristie would spend the rest of her life.

As a young girl, Kristie was a vivacious and energetic child who loved dancing and music. She also had a very scrappy and tough side to her personality, owing to being the only girl in the family and having to contend with her older brothers, Wendall and Todd, who made it their obligation to make her childhood as memorable as possible. Kristie was especially fond of sports and participated in cheerleading throughout her later school years. While attending Great Mills High School, she met the young man who would eventually

become her devoted and loving husband, Wallace "Gator" Sparks.

During their courtship and eventual marriage, Kristie endeavored to advance her education, attending Fleet Business School in Annapolis, MD and receiving a certification in Executive Administration. As Kristie and Gator began building a life together, they were blessed with their first child, Colton (20) then their second child, Coby (13). Although Kristie's professional occupation was Executive Administrative Assistant, anyone who knew her would tell you her family and extended family were her true career.

She was very active in participating in the lives of her nephews and nieces, in addition to spending time in Maine with her grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. Kristie was always ready to help out with birthday parties, as well as attending sporting and school events, graduations, and holidays. She took great pride in the talents and accomplishments of her family members. Her home was always open to any friend who needed a sympathetic ear and comfort.

Kristie was an avid Dallas Cowboys fan and during the NFL season it was not uncommon for a visitor dropping by to see Kristie in her latest Dallas jersey enthusiastically yelling at the television. She enjoyed spending time by the beach, taking many vacations with her family to Ocean City, or going four-wheeling during the weekend. She also enjoyed visiting antique stores and looking for the right item to bring home to add to her house.

Kristie was a true "Daddy's Girl", being very close to her father, from bad moods to good intentions. They loved each other as fiercely as they fought with each other. After her father's passing, she took great comfort in spending time at the family cabin in Garrett County, MD; it was there that she felt closest to him and truly happy.

Kristie was preceded in death by her father, Richard Goings. She is survived by her mother, Janice Goings, her husband of 27 years, Wallace "Gator" Sparks, as well as her brothers, Wendall and Todd Goings, children Colton and Coby Sparks, her nephews and nieces, Adin, Kyle, Hunter, Connor, Kelsey, Alexandra, Allie, Abbey, and her great nephew, Devin.

The family will receive friends on Friday, February 18, 2022 from 11:30 AM-12:30 PM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD, where a funeral service will be held in the funeral home chapel at 12:30 PM with Pastor Chris Owens officiating. Interment will be private.

The family would like to invite friends to a small gathering at St. Aloysius Catholic Church Hall, Leonardtown, MD, for refreshments following the funeral service.

Condolences may be made to the family at [www.mgfh.com](http://www.mgfh.com).

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

# TIPS TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR LIVING TRUST

*Contributing Writer:  
Lynda J. Striegel*

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

## **1. Placing your assets into your living trust.**

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

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

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

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

clients.

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

## **2. Keep Your Living Trust Up to Date**

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

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

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

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

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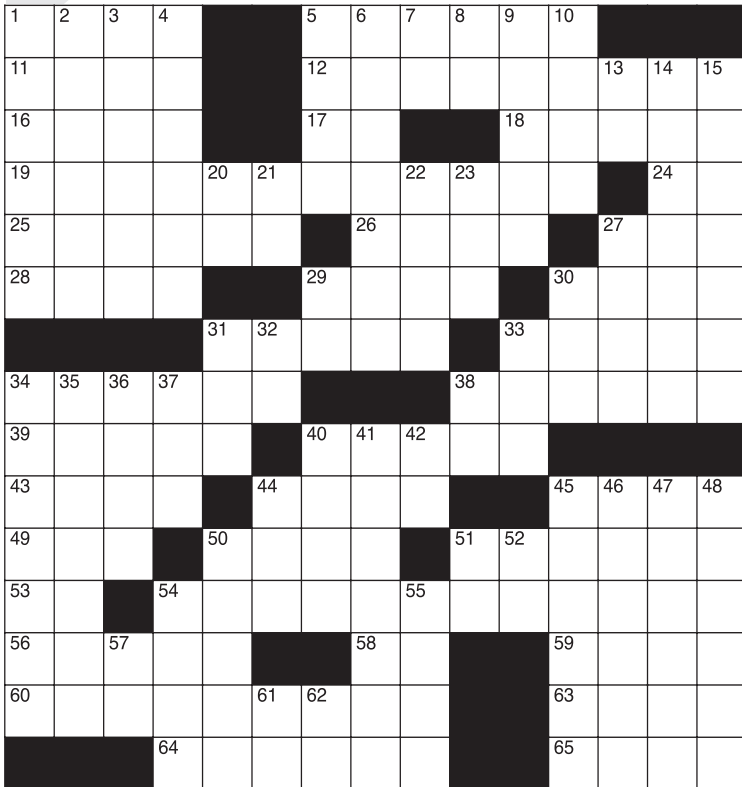
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# GAMES & PUZZLES



**CLUES ACROSS**

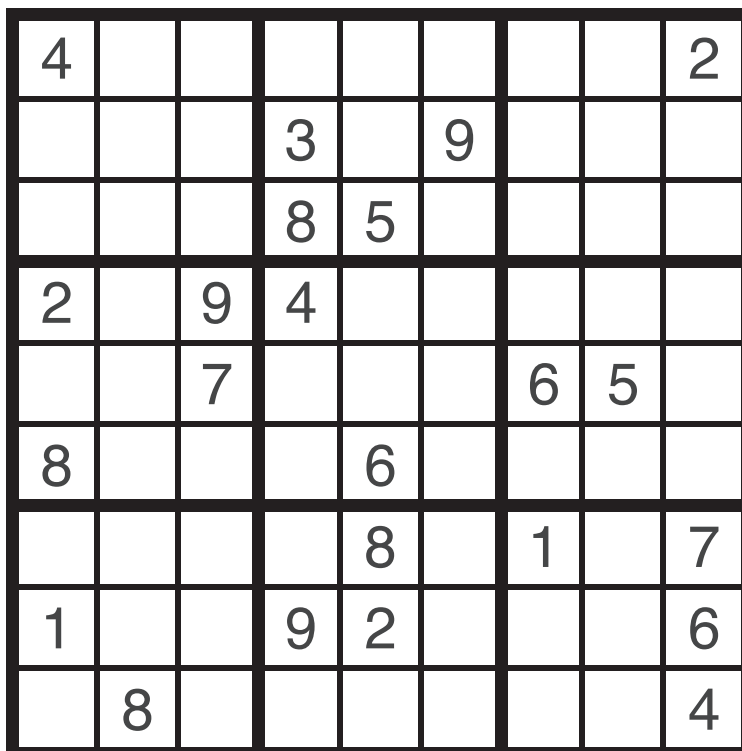
- 1. Remain as is
- 5. Functional
- 11. News magazine
- 12. Popular treat
- 16. Area units
- 17. Artificial intelligence
- 18. Marten valued for its fur
- 19. Forms of matter
- 24. Home of the Dodgers
- 25. Bordering
- 26. Part of the eye
- 27. It might be nervous
- 28. Visualizes
- 29. Crest of a hill
- 30. Measures engine speed (abbr.)
- 31. Tears in a garment (Br. Eng.)
- 33. Not easily explained
- 34. Song in short stanzas
- 38. Detonations
- 39. Intestinal
- 40. EU cofounder Paul-Henri \_\_
- 43. Balmy
- 44. New Mexico mountain town
- 45. Gobblers
- 49. Insecticide

- 50. Golf scores
- 51. Has its own altar
- 53. "Pollock" actor Harris
- 54. Being livable
- 56. NHL play-by-play man
- 58. "The Great Lakes State" (abbr.)
- 59. Unpainted
- 60. Swam underwater
- 63. Native American people
- 64. Containing salt
- 65. Exam

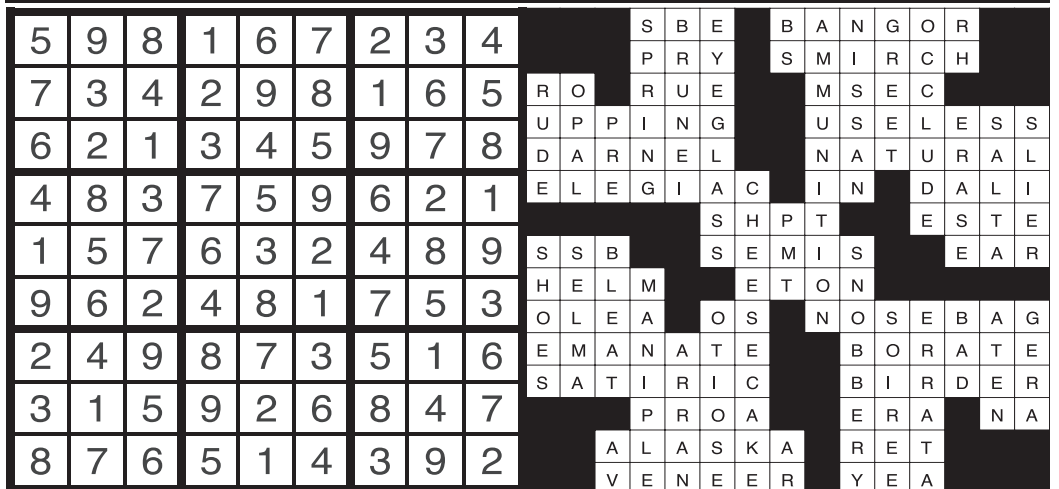
**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Small bone in middle ear
- 2. Long, angry speech
- 3. Move out of
- 4. Male organ
- 5. Two-toed sloth
- 6. Making dirty
- 7. Article
- 8. Oil company
- 9. Emits coherent radiation
- 10. Amounts of time
- 13. Unit equal to one quintillion bytes (abbr.)
- 14. Forbidden by law
- 15. Drains away
- 20. Not out
- 21. Sea patrol (abbr.)
- 22. Bird genus

- 23. Gratuity
- 27. \_\_ and feathers
- 29. Spiritual part of an individual (ancient Egypt)
- 30. Hot beverage
- 31. Pouch
- 32. It followed the cassette
- 33. Large northern deer
- 34. Ones who offer formally
- 35. Famed genie
- 36. Bequeathed
- 37. Skeletal muscle
- 38. Atomic #56
- 40. Silk garment
- 41. They deliver the mail
- 42. Equally
- 44. Check
- 45. Light-colored breed of hound
- 46. Drug that soothes
- 47. Railroads
- 48. Most slick
- 50. Jacket
- 51. A radio band
- 52. Hello
- 54. His and \_\_
- 55. Supporter
- 57. Popular software suite (abbr.)
- 61. Railway
- 62. NY coastal region (abbr.)



**LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE SOLUTIONS**



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