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**SMECO RATE HIKE
TIMING QUESTIONED**

**GUY AUTO PARTS
CELEBRATES 30 YEARS**

**THIRD BRIDGE
JUMPER IN 2022**

St. Mary's County Times

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2022

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**MASKS
OFF?**

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“IF REPEALED, WE WILL MOVE TO OPTIONAL MASKING IN OUR SCHOOLS AND CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE MASKING FOR THOSE MEDICALLY VULNERABLE OR UNVACCINATED.”
 SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT DR. J. SCOTT SMITH ON WAITING FOR FINAL STATE APPROVAL OF RESCINDING THE MASK MANDATE

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State School Board Votes To Rescind Mask Mandate

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The Maryland State Board of Education voted almost unanimously Feb. 22 to rescind its requirement that all students and public schools staff wear masks while in educational facilities.

The vote was 12 to 2 to return the decision to keep mask mandates or rescind them to local school board authorities.

That authority would return to local school boards March 1 if the Maryland General Assembly approves the state board's action.

St. Mary's Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith said the local board was hopeful the state legislature would act quickly.

"[St. Mary] County Public Schools] agrees with the Maryland State Department of Education and the State Superintendent that decisions made closest to the source best serve students," Smith told The County Times. "We look forward to the [Administrative, Executive and Legislative Review] committee convening later this week to take action on the MSDE request to rescind [the mandate] for face coverings in school facilities.

"If repealed, we will move to optional masking in our schools and continue to encourage masking for those medically vulnerable or unvaccinated."

Leadership for the AELR Committee has announced the group will meet to vote Feb. 25 at 2p.m.

The state board had a lengthy discussion regarding how to handle rescinding the mask mandate but reached a broad consensus after about three hours of debate.

"There are 24 local jurisdictions with intelligent board members... they are just as intelligent as us," said Dr. Jermelle Green, state school board member. "Local control needs to be returned to the districts.

Green said that local boards had all learned through the COVID-19 pandemic as had the state board what precautions needed to be taken to best suit their needs.

Brig. Gen. Warner Sumpter, her fellow board member, agreed.

Sumpter said the sooner the school systems could leave the pandemic behind,



Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith

the better, as virtual learning had turned out to be mostly ineffective in continuing education for all students as they operated remotely.

"We've got a lot of heavy lifting to do for the loss of learning," Sumpter said.

In recent weeks Gov. Larry Hogan had lifted the requirement for wearing masks in all state government buildings as high levels of vaccinations and boosters against the virus had helped to quash the spread of the latest Omicron variant of the virus.

Omicron had proven to be a highly contagious variant of the novel coronavirus but appeared to be somewhat less powerful than previous iterations of the disease.

Hogan subsequently pressured the state school board to examine the issue and encouraged parents from across the state to testify in support of rescinding the mandate.

"I want to thank the State Board of Education for heeding our call to rescind its school mask policy," Hogan said on social media following the decision. "This action aligns with the data and the science, the recommendation of the State Superintendent of Schools, and the guidance of medical professionals across the country.

I also want to express my sincere appreciation to all the parents who have spoken out in recent weeks. At a time when Maryland has the lowest COVID-19 metrics in the country, this is a major step for normalcy and the well-being of our students."

Hogan implored the legislature to act now. "The General Assembly must now act swiftly to ratify the State Board's decision," Hogan said.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Solomons Bridge Jumper Survives

Third Jumper of 2022



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Another person jumped from the top of the Gov. Thomas Johnson Bridge Feb. 19, the third in the last few weeks, but this person survived, said Calvert Sheriff Mike Evans.

"As far as I know she is still alive," said Evans, noting the female jumper was still in a hospital in Baltimore.

The person jumped in the late afternoon, Evans said, and Calvert sheriff's deputies who were close by received the emergency call and got to the top of the bridge to spot where the jumper had landed.

Those deputies were then able to direct the U.S. Coast Guard rescue boats to pick up the jumper, said Evans.

"They found her pretty quick," Evans said. "She was treading water but then she went under.

"They were able to get her out."

The county commissioners from all three Southern Maryland counties have agreed to seek state support in finding ways to prevent suicides and suicide attempts from both the Gov. Thomas Johnson and Gov. Harry W. Nice/Mac Middleton Route 301 bridge replacement project.

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Prosecutor, Family Court Judge Named In Federal Lawsuit

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

St. Mary's County Deputy State's Attorney Daniel J. White and his brother Michael White, St. Mary's Orphan's Court Judge are accused of embezzling money and trade secrets from a company they were once partners in, according to a civil lawsuit filed in the U.S. District Court in Greenbelt.

The brothers, along with several others, are accused of money laundering, mail fraud and wire fraud by the chief executive of the plaintiff — John White of Compass Marketing, Inc. — of stealing not only money but trade secrets to start up their own firm known as Flywheel Digital, LLC.

According to the lawsuit, the plaintiff alleges that the defendants used these ill-gotten funds and trade secrets to build up the opposing e-commerce business and sell it to a concern in the United Kingdom for up to \$400 million.

The U.K. company, Ascentical has also been named as a defendant.

Though the case has been filed in federal court, it is a civil case and not a criminal matter.

According to the legal brief filed Feb. 14, Compass is a marketing company founded in 1998 "prior to the rise of e-commerce platforms that fundamentally changed the way consumers interact with and purchase retail goods."

In 2011 it hired James DiPaula and Patrick Miller, also named as defendants, to run its e-commerce team, the lawsuit claims, and they became "trusted executives."

Compass did not know that DiPaula and Miller had launched Flywheel in 2014 and then subsequently resigned, taking much of

St. Mary's Deputy State's Attorney Daniel J. White

the e-commerce employee talent with them who had been working for Compass, the lawsuit stated.

This was done using embezzled funds, the lawsuit alleges, and "trade secret information and proprietary business know how that rightfully belonged to Compass following more than a decade of intensive and expensive research and development."

Those embezzled funds were originally procured by Daniel White and Michael White, the lawsuit alleges, while all the defendants named in the suit concealed the alleged behavior so well that Compass personnel did not learn of it until 2020.

Before being dismissed by Compass, Daniel White served as the company's legal counsel, the lawsuit states, while Michael White was Vice President of Operations and Comptroller of Compass.

Both men owned 150 shares of Compass, legal documents state, or a 16.6 percent share of the company.

Neither Daniel White nor Michael White responded to requests for comment.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

General Assembly to Vote on State School Board's Mask Ruling

The Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review (AELR) is aware of the vote on Feb. 22, by the State Board of Education regarding the mask mandate in Maryland schools.

AELR will hold a virtual public hearing and vote on the State Board of Education's request to rescind COMAR

Regulations 13A.01.07.01-.06 Friday, Feb. 25 at 2:30 p.m.

We look forward to continuing to address the health and safety of all Maryland school children.

This is a joint statement of AELR Committee Co-Chairs Sen. Sarah Elfreth and Del. Samuel Rosenberg

Timing of SMECO Rate Increase Questioned

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative's recent rate increase of roughly 27 percent on electrical power to customers has left many customers reeling, with some elected leaders pondering why the utility cooperative did not inform customers of the coming rate hike until one week after it had been approved by the state's Public Services Commission.

County Commissioner John O'Connor was among the first locally to seek more answers from the utility regarding the rapid increase.

SMECO made the announcement about the increase Feb. 1, but noted in their statement that the increase had been approved on Jan. 26.

Customers had already been using larger amounts of electrical power to heat their homes; SMECO representatives have already said that January had some of the lowest temperatures so far this year.

"The explanations given by SMECO are embedded in law with the Public Service Commission and is adequate," O'Connor told The County Times. "Of course, like many, I am not happy with it."

"I'm satisfied that this increase was not related to anything other than the rising costs in the United States."

The District 3 commissioner said, however, that the increase seemed poorly timed.

"The current rates are undoubtedly high and went into place at the worst possible time," said O'Connor. "SMECO did acknowledge that they could have communicated better, to include letting local government know so we could be better informed."

SMECO spokesman Thomas Dennison said much the same in a brief interview with The County Times this week.

"The timing is very difficult because it's hitting in February," Dennison said. "It's an unfortunate timing."

In looking back at power rates before the large increase, O'Connor said the evidence showed that power consumption was outpacing a cap SMECO had on rates that forced the increase.

O'Connor estimated that the coming rate increase began to show up as early as November of last year.

"There was 90 days of exceeding the 5 percent cap that forced the change," O'Connor said. "The PCA (Power Cost Adjustment) adjusts 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 the Maryland Public Ser-



County Commissioner John O'Connor

vices Commission requires us to file for a rate adjustment."

SMECO is a cooperative which purchases electric power from all across the country to provide it to its members, which are all part owners of the cooperative.

SMECO has no generating capacity of its own, other than a few nascent solar farm projects, but it is also the only option for virtually all of Southern Maryland as a provider of electrical power.

It is an effective regional monopoly. Aside from the executive leadership at SMECO, it is also governed by a 15-member board of residents elected by members from all the counties in which SMECO provides power.

The latest tax filings available publicly for the fiscal year ending in 2020 show SMECO's total revenues were \$421 million, with expenses reaching \$417.1 million.

Net revenues came to just over \$3.9 million.

The company's total assets for 2020 were \$1.07 billion, with liabilities at \$820.3 million for net assets of \$257.5 million.

The cost of power, according to the documents provided by SMECO, was \$197.2 million; depreciation costs came to \$40.3 million, while total salaries were \$47 million for 2020.

Tax records for the fiscal year ending in 2019 show that SMECO had total revenues of \$459.7 million and total functional expenses of \$455.3 million.

The utility generated a net income of \$4.4 million.

For the fiscal year ending 2019 SMECO reported \$1.05 billion in assets with \$820.9 million in liabilities.

The total net assets came to \$228.8 million.

The top tier of executive salaries were high.

President and CEO Austin J. Slater, who has since retired and been replaced by Sonja J. Cox, earned \$616,373 for the fiscal year ending 2019 in compensation.

The prior fiscal year, Slater earned \$1.13 million in executive compen-



SMECO Chief Executive Officer Sonja Cox

sation; for 2017 he earned \$523,477.

For fiscal 2020, the tax records show that Cox earned \$411,868 in salary, while Slater earned \$314,744 for his last days at the utility. The next four executives serving under the CEO's position all earned annual salaries close to or above \$300,000 for those three same fiscal years, the public data shows.

The third tier of executives all earned annual salaries of six figures with a ceiling of about \$200,000 but not dropping below \$150,000 for those same three years.

The members of the board of di-



Former SMECO CEO Austin J. Slater

rectors all earn a stipend for their efforts, ranging from about \$25,000 to a little over \$40,000.

SMECO offers a program to ensure customers can regulate their own monthly bills.

Monthly bills fluctuate because energy use usually goes up in summer and winter and down in spring and fall. To reduce the impact of these variations, budget billing allows customers to pay the same amount each month. Residential customers can sign up for SMECO's budget billing plan by going to smeco.coop/AccountManager.

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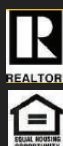


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Drake Seeks District 2 Seat

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Marcus Drake, a Mechanicsville resident, wants to be the next county commissioner from District 2.

He is competing against the incumbent, Commissioner Mike Hewitt, in the GOP primary.

Brandon Russell is seeking the Democratic nomination for the seat as well.

Drake, a retired independent long-haul truck driver who had a previous 23-year career in the U.S. Army working in the artillery, armor and logistics service areas, said he is running to look after the interests of the entire county.

"It's not just District 2 I want to represent," Drake, a Utah native, told The County Times. "I want to represent the whole county, which is what the commissioners do already."

The way the county commissioners have spent money over the past several years is Drake's main concern, he said.

"I've seen issues with financial [expenditures]," Drake said. "They're prioritizing projects that are more like pork projects than critical services."

Drake said despite the sheriff's office and public schools both receiving the majority of funding in the year's operating budget — much more than other depart-



District 2 candidate Marcus Drake

ments or agencies — teachers and deputies were "still suffering."

"My immediate goals would be to rearrange funding to departments such as first responders and the school as the top priorities," Drake said. "Then we can focus on the fluff projects."

Adding more routes to the public transit system, which he said was already underused in his opinion, hiking trails and turf fields for youth sports, were just such desirable but not critical needs.

Since he is fully retired, Drake said, he plans on engaging all of his energies into the office of county commissioner if elected.

"That is my intent," he said.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Infant Escapes Injury After Car Crashes Into Lexington Park Home

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

An infant in a crib who was nearly crushed by a car as it crashed into the child's Lexington Park home is unharmed, sheriff's office representatives say, after the baby's mother acted quickly to pull the child to safety.

The crash occurred at about 1:30a.m. on Feb. 19, said sheriff's spokesman Jason Babcock, when Anthony Terrel Ford, 28, allegedly got out of his vehicle in the parking lot on Marshall Avenue while his car was still in gear.

Ford faces charges of driving while impaired as well as knowingly operating an uninsured vehicle, according to on-line court documents.

Babcock also said Ford did not "satisfactorily complete field sobriety tests."

Only the front end of Ford's car



penetrated the home, according to the sheriff's office, and the child's mother was able to retrieve her baby from any harm.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Guy Auto Parts Celebrates 30 Years in Clements

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Howie Guy and his father Bill Guy have operated Guy Auto Parts for the past three decades in Clements but their family has been doing business at the central intersection of Route 234 and Route 242 for far longer.

Their predecessors first started selling Chevrolet automobiles there starting about a century ago.

“Dad took this property in 1992,” Howie told The County Times. “But we’re on property that’s been in the family for 100 years.”

Their branch of the Guy family started selling cars in the early years of the century — the 20th century — and the business eventually turned to selling auto parts.

They partner with Napa Auto Parts to provide products and their services are in demand from as far away as Hollywood; the store had just fulfilled an emergency parts order from the Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department to replace a faulty radiator hose.

The business used to encompass repair work on vehicles as well as selling the parts to do it, Howie said.

“But I asked him [Bill] one day: ‘Are we in the parts business or the repair business?’” said Howie. “We had to pick one.”

The garage space that remains on the property now acts as warehouse space for the parts business.

Love of cars and working on them has sustained their interest in continuing the family business, Bill said.

Even though he has retired officially from the business he still comes to the shop wearing his uniform shirt and helps out during the day — often early in the morning.



Bill, Dorothy, and Howie Guy

“I just turned 80 and I still enjoy what I’m doing,” Bill said with a smile. “The community’s been good to us.”

Bill is the fourth generation of their branch of the Guy family to take part in the automotive-centric business.

“It’s had different names but it’s all remained in the family,” Howie said. “All those Guy family businesses, they started in Clements.”

The building they still do business in has stood since the 1920s, while the garage is only nominally newer, having been built in the 1940s.

Despite COVID-19 wreaking havoc on many businesses over the past two years, the proprietors say they were not affected by it; they say their sales and delivery service continues to grow.

The business has been good to them, they say.

“I was born and raised into it,” Bill said. “You won’t get rich but you’ll make a living.”

“That’s what I’m interested in.”
guyleonard@countytimes.net



Bill Guy and his son Howie assist with customer orders.

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Great Mills Residents Discuss Crime Prevention with Sheriff



Sheriff Tim Cameron addresses the residents of Heard's Estates

Sheriff Tim Cameron, command staff and district commanders of the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office held a community meeting Tuesday evening with the residents of Heard's Estates in Great Mills. Property crimes, violent crimes, enforcement actions and preventative measures were reviewed.

Residents were advised to keep their vehicles locked and to keep valuables out of sight to prevent motor vehicle burglaries. “Locking your doors is probably one of the biggest and easiest things to do,” said Lt. Eva Jones, District Commander. “Most often they're going for the easier targets,” she said.

Gun violence was also discussed.

Sheriff Cameron said, “We're going to continue to run down these guns.” Lt. Shawn Moses, Assistant Commander of the Criminal Investigations Division, reviewed the work of last summer's Youth Gun Violence Task Force, which made 65 adult arrests in three months and seized 19 guns.

Sheriff Cameron said law enforcement alone will not solve the youth culture of gun violence. The community also needs to be involved in the lives of young people. “Where does the prevention come in? Community is substantial in that,” he said.

Press release St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office

Public Input Sought for Hazard Mitigation Plan

The Department of Emergency Services seeks public input on its Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Hazard Mitigation Plan identifies potential hazards and lists future projects to reduce or eliminate damage before a disaster strikes.

Mitigation not only saves lives but also reduces disaster costs. For every \$1 spent on disaster mitigation, more than \$6 are saved through preventive efforts rather than response and recovery.

Input from residents, community members, workers, and business owners will help ensure the success of the County's hazard mitigation plan and projects. There are a variety of ways community members and stakeholders can participate:

- **Public Survey:** Take a survey to provide feedback on local hazards and disaster risk concerns.

The survey is under 20 questions and takes around 10 minutes to complete. The survey is located on www.stmaryshazardplan.org.

- **Follow Us:** Follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/SMCEmergencyServices> or <https://www.facebook.com/StMarysCountyGovernment> for hazard mitigation updates and other emergency preparedness, response and recovery information.

- **Spread the Word:** Tell your St. Mary's County family, friends, and neighbors about the plan and how they can help!

- **Reach Out:** For questions regarding the plan, contact Amy Bledsoe, Department of Emergency Services, at amy.bledsoe@stmarysmd.com.

Learn more about the St. Mary's County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan at www.stmaryshazardplan.org.



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St. Mary's Profiles: Margitta Morris

By Florence Ballengee
Contributing Writer

Webster defines "patriotism" as the love of one's county. Other definitions carry such words as "loyalty to one's country" and "devotion to one's country."

Nowhere in any definition does it say that one must be born in a country to be a patriotic person. Margitta Morris is a patriotic American. She is a flag-waving, America-loving American. And she has been ever since she came to the United States in 1962. As soon as the law would allow, she became an American citizen. Only her German accent tells others that she was not born here.

Morris was born in Kassel, Germany in 1942. She remembers little about the city where she was born before it was bombed. And she remembers little before the day the house they lived in was bombed.

She remembers being in the care of her older sister while her mother was at work at a nearby hospital. She said her sister heard the bombs and went to the hospital to find their mother. Morris' father and brother were German soldiers. Both had been captured and spent some time in prison camps. Her father was imprisoned in Luxembourg and her brother was captured by the Russians and sent to Siberia. Both eventually were released and they returned to the family.

To this day she struggles to put together the early details of her life and of war. She recalls her family being put on a truck and taken to a farm in the German countryside. She learned in a letter from her older sister that when her mother was pregnant with her, their home was bombed, and they had nothing left. They then moved to another apartment only to once again have their home bombed by the British. But that time, there was no remaining in Kassel. That was when they were put on the truck and sent to the farm in the countryside. They had lost everything and had nothing left after their home was bombed.

At the farm in the German countryside, her mother, Margitta and her two older sisters lived in a converted

barn. They were not invited guests at the farm, they were dropped off by the German government and expected the farm family to provide for additional people. Morris said that her family was not really welcome but she was treated very well by the farm family. Her mother and one sister did not fare nearly as well since one sister and her mother got typhoid.

Her memory of the time on the farm comes back to her in bits and pieces. One such memory is of an American plane that crashed. Along with the farm family, they had to go into the woods to get the metal and pieces of the plane that were left so they could salvage them. She remembers they washed them off and she remembers a big hole in the ground where the plane crashed. Today at 80, she often thinks back and wonders what happened to the pilot of the plane. "That poor kid" she said.

When Morris and her family returned to Kassel, many buildings were not rebuilt. She said she remembers visiting friends of her parents in Kassel who lived in a bombed out house. She said she looked up and there was no roof.

When she returned to Kassel, her mother did cleaning for people. Her father worked for the city of Kassel until his retirement. There was no telephone. She grew up with no modern conveniences like television. When she was about 15 years old, she went to work for a bakery. Each day she would go to school in the morning to learn homemaker skills like sewing and cooking and when she graduated from high school, she worked in a factory making Army tents. While working at the factory, a friend introduced her to a handsome young American GI named Dave Morris.

In 1961, she married Morris, who was stationed just outside the city limits of Kassel. Communication was difficult. "He spoke very little German; I spoke very little English. My parents spoke no English." At that time, they did not learn English in school.

When they were first married, they lived with her parents and then they moved outside of Frankfurt near Stuttgart where her husband was



reassigned.

The Morris's had a daughter named Debbie who lived just 28 days. She was born in a German hospital and after she was born, the Army came and took her to a large American hospital where she could get better care. Debbie did not survive but within a short period of time they welcomed their daughter Dawn.

In 1962, she left Germany with Dawn, just six weeks old, to live with her husband's parents. She had never met them. They did not speak German. She did not speak much English. She said they made her feel like she "was going home and they welcomed her with open arms." She remains very close to the Morris family to this day. A short time later her husband came home to his parent's house where she and their daughter were living. They packed up and moved to Fort Hood, Texas because of his reassignment there with the Army. After two years in Texas, Dave finished his Army hitch and the young couple and their daughter moved back to upstate New York where they welcomed a son, David Scott.

Eventually the family settled in Gowanda, New York and they lived there for many years.

In 1969, David Morris's father drove her to the Post Office to get her green card stamped. Exactly seven years after coming to the United States, Margitta Morris applied for and became

a United States citizen. "I felt that I should become a citizen and I wanted to be able to vote," she said, adding, "I remember the first time I voted. It felt good. Once I became an American citizen, I felt like I belonged and had a right to be here." She has voted in every election since becoming a citizen."

In 2013, Margitta Morris's husband David passed away from cancer despite a courageous four-year battle. Today she lives in a senior apartment complex in St. Mary's County. She enjoys knitting and has knitted hats for the homeless and for school children. To date she has knitted over 200 hats and has donated all of them. She is a devoted grandmother to six and a great grandmother to three.

One conversation with her and it is quite apparent that she has a keen interest in the United States and in whatever happens on a daily basis. She watches the news faithfully. She has also found a Facebook group of people from Kassel, Germany and found that there were several she knew as school children. She enjoys playing games on her tablet and most of all she enjoys reconnecting with other Germans who came to the U.S.

The Morris's son, David Morris and his wife Amy are both school teachers in St. Mary's County and have been for many years. Both are well known for their service work helping others and for their devotion to their church.



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MARCH MADNESS

MARCH 4

First Friday
Leonardtown

Check out the First Friday Specials

ST. MARY'S COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL
22660 WASHINGTON ST.
240-309-4061



Join us for a very special Art Show featuring work by Bert Hindman (Memories Photography) and Jack Nutter (Nutter Photography). Meet both of our fabulous artists from 5 to 8 PM during our Opening Reception, enter to win a raffle prize, and visit our Gallery & Gift Shop on First Friday!

NORTH END GALLERY
41652 FENWICK ST.
301-475-3130



Whether you are adding to a collection of work by an emerging artist, redecorating your home or office or looking for a special gift, North End Gallery is the place to find outstanding work by Southern Maryland artists. Join us on First Friday, March 4 from 5pm - 8pm for Art & Wine Date Night and meet many of the members who also staff the gallery on a daily basis.

PORT OF LEONARDTOWN
23190 NEWTOWNE NECK RD



Hey, Jazz Fans!

Sax Appeal has been invited for a return engagement at Port of Leonardtown Winery for their First Friday on March 4th from 5:30 to 8:30. Come out and enjoy our blend of classic and new jazz and some adult beverages on their heated patio! Can't wait to play live, again!

SHEPHERDS OLD FIELD MARKET

22725 DUKE ST.
301-690-0704
Specials throughout the Market



OLD JAIL MUSEUM
41625 COURT HOUSE DR

Stop by the Old Jail Museum and Visitors Center from 12 pm to 7 pm
For more info www.facebook.com/TheOldJailMuseum



Used from 1876 until 1945, visit the museum and learn more about how jails operated at that time, as well as Leonardtown's Underground Railroad history. The museum has a great museum store full of local and commemorative items and is the official Leonardtown Visitor Center, where you can find info about all the fun things to do in town.

THE YELLOW LINE

Join us on Friday March. 4th 6:00 -8:00 to make your own celtic knot pendant out of air dry clay. We have the tools, the clay the paint, the beads, and the leather to top off your pendant!



Ages 5 and up (10.00 per person)
Can't stay? You can buy a kit to take with you! Grab n' Go kits 10.00 per kit.

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Free official ceremony at 2pm

More Info: [Facebook.com/SCIMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/SCIMuseum) or 301-769-2222



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Museum Division Teams Up with the Baltimore Orioles

Promotes Local History During Black History

The St. Mary's County Museum Division, in partnership with the Baltimore Orioles, has teamed up to bring awareness to the important themes of Black History Month by sharing Maryland's local Black history with the community. While supplies last, visitors to the Old Jail Museum in Leonardtown, St. Clement's Island Museum in Colton's Point or Piney Point Lighthouse Museum in Piney Point will receive a complimentary voucher for 2 Orioles tickets with museum admission during Black History Month in February 2022 (conditions apply).

As the birthplace of Maryland, St. Mary's County is brimming with the history and contributions of the many African Americans who shaped the Old Line State and called Maryland home. The St. Mary's County Museum Division encourages the public to visit local museums and learn more about this vibrant past, including the historic sites of the Old Jail Museum, St. Clement's Island Museum and Piney Point Lighthouse Museum.

The Old Jail Museum in Leonardtown is one of only three sites in St. Mary's County on the National Park Service's Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Trail, which documents the plight of recaptured Freedom Seekers held at the jail before the American Civil War. It also discusses Benjamin Hance, a young black St. Mary's County man who was taken from the jail in 1887 and killed outside of Leonardtown by a mob of residents – St. Mary's County's only documented lynching victim. St. Clement's Island Museum, the first landing of settlers of what would

become Maryland, talks about the origins of Maryland and Matthias de Sousa, an indentured servant of African descent, who was the first and only Black person to serve in the colonial Maryland legislature after coming to Maryland on the first voyage. Piney Point Lighthouse Museum shows the history of lighthouses and the Potomac, including the many Black watermen who plied the waters around St. Mary's County for oysters, crabs and more.

To claim the ticket voucher, guests must visit one of the three St. Mary's County Museum Division museums during February 2022 and specifically ask for a voucher during admission due to limited quantities. Only one voucher good for two tickets will be available per party/group and visitors who already claimed a voucher may not claim a voucher again at one of the other museums, so they are available for as many guests as possible. Available while supplies last; only 30 vouchers are available per museum.

In February, the Old Jail Museum, St. Clement's Island Museum and Piney Point Lighthouse Museum are open daily, 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. Entrance is free at the Old Jail Museum; admission fees apply at the other museums. Visit [Facebook.com/TheOldJailMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/TheOldJailMuseum), [Facebook.com/SCIMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/SCIMuseum) or [Facebook.com/1836Light](https://www.facebook.com/1836Light) for more information, or to see the other Maryland museums around the state participating in this promotion; visit [MLB.com/Orioles/Community/Community-Resources](https://www.mlb.com/Orioles/Community/Community-Resources).

Press Release from St. Mary's County Museum Division

Southern Maryland Housing Inventory Continues to Lag

As the new year rang in, many homebuyers had hoped new options would be plentiful as we turned a corner from an extremely competitive market in 2021. Unfortunately, the trend of historically low inventory levels across Southern Maryland appears to continue driving the market.

For the past five years, January has served as a rebound point in the market. Not once in that timeframe have active listings continued to decline from December into January -- until this year.

Across the region, at the time the Southern Maryland Association of REALTORS® (SMAR) compiled the most recently available housing market data, there were a total of 328 active listings. That is down approximately 4 percent from last month and 25.3 percent from last year.

On top of diminished levels of inventory, what does appear on the market is quickly being purchased. Looking at the median days on the market over the past month, the total came in at 10 days across the region, which is up slightly year-over-year but is still significantly lower than the five-year average of 34 days.

As inventory levels decline and the days on the market remain low, this creates optimal conditions for home sellers, as home prices continue to soar. Both the median and average sold prices over the past month saw double-digit percentage increases when compared to the same time last year.

Additionally, Southern Maryland last month saw such a drop in inventory that the market is now faced with the fewest months of supply it has seen in five years. Months' supply refers to the number of months it would take for the current home inventory to sell at its current pace.

Typically, somewhere between three to six months of inventory is considered a healthy market. Southern Maryland has approximately 0.48 months of inventory after last month.

"While previous real estate 'seasons' were predictable, re-



cent history has demonstrated an annual 'open season' to buy, sell invest and relocate," SMAR 2021-2022 President Gregg Kantak said. "Nonetheless, it remains a time for buyers to enter the market while interest rates remain relatively low."

Housing market statistics from each county in the Southern Maryland region can be found below:

Calvert County

Units Sold: 118 (+8.3%)

Total Sales Volume: \$53,703,922 (+31.6%)

Average Days On The Market: 26 (-4 Days from January 2021)

Median Sold Price: \$417,500 (+26.5%)

St. Mary's County

Units Sold: 105 (-29.5%)

Total Sales Volume: \$38,597,974 (-23.29%)

Average Days On The Market: 18 (-5 Days from January 2021)

Median Sold Price: \$355,000 (+14.3%)

Visit <https://www.southernmarylandrealtors.org/pages/housing-statistics/> every month for additional details about the housing market in Southern Maryland. A video breakdown of the local statistics can be found on the SMAR YouTube page at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ET45Jm8ShQ>

Statistics for this article were compiled with cooperation from Bright MLS, a leading housing market data source and a real estate listing service for Realtors® throughout the region.

Press Release from SMAR

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CountyTimes

School Resource Officers Serve As Mentors To Students



All three public high schools and four public middle schools in St. Mary's County have School Resource Officers assigned to them, provided by the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office, a program that first began locally in the 1998-1999 school year.

Corporal Gerard Muschette has been the School Resource Officer at Great Mills High School for three years. It was an assignment that the Corporal sought out voluntarily.

"I wanted to help the kids. I saw a problem in some of our youth," in the challenges they faced, "not having a good direction," Muschette said.

Muschette said he personally speaks to students each school day, not just about problems they may be having, but about issues in everyday life. There are about 1,700 students attending the school.

School Resource Officers

Cpl. Gerard Muschette

The most rewarding part of his job as a School Resource Officer "is seeing the transformation of the kids," Muschette said, in seeing them overcome challenges, seeing them mature, seeing them graduate and having a career or educational plan after high school – "seeing these kids grow into young men and women and knowing I'm a part of that," he said.

"It's going to take the community to make sure our kids, who are our future, continue to go on the right path," he said.

Cpl. Muschette has been with the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office for eight years, is a School Resource Officer, a member of the Emergency Services Team and also coaches football at Great Mills High School.

Captain Steven Hall, Commander of the Special Operations Divi-

sion, which oversees the School Resource Officers, said, "I am proud of all of our School Resource Officers and the important role they play in the daily lives of students. Our officers serve as mentors, problem solvers and positive role models; they truly make a difference in students' lives."

DFC Artina Alvey is the School Resource Officer for Margaret Brent Middle School.

School Resource Officers

DFC Artina Alvey

Cpl. Shaun Carberry is the School Resource Officer for Leonardtown Middle School.

School Resource Officers

Cpl. Shaun Carberry

Deputy Robert Chase is the School Resource Officer for Esperanza Middle School.

School Resource Officers

Deputy Robert Chase

Cpl. Jaime Davis is the School Resource Officer for Leonardtown High School.

School Resource Officers

Cpl. Jaime Davis

Cpl. Blaine Gaskill is the School Resource Officer for Chopticon High School.

School Resource Officers

Cpl. Blaine Gaskill

Cpl. Dustin McClure is the School Resource Officer for Spring Ridge Middle School.

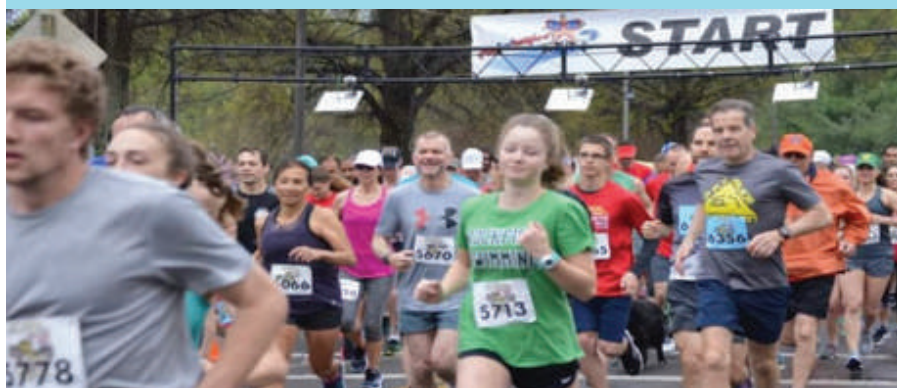
School Resource Officers

Cpl. Dustin McClure

The National Association of School Resource Officers said that local School Resource Officers serve as important conduits between youth, law enforcement and the community and that officers "deserve unwavering respect and support from the public in the pursuit of keeping schools and students safe."

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

LIFE IS SHORT. REGISTRATION IS OPEN!



25th Run & Fun Walk for Hospice

Saturday, April 23th
Leonardtown, MD

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 or call Emily 301-994-3075 or Jim Dicus 240-925-5423

Leonardtown Moll Dyer Day Celebration

The upcoming Moll Dyer Day event is a two-day celebration of Leonardtown's most famous local legend. No other Leonardtown historical figure has captured the hearts and attention like the legend of Moll Dyer. An increasing number of guests visit the famed Moll Dyer Rock each year that bears her now fading handprint left that fateful night in 1698 – many leaving little trinkets and gifts by the rock in its new location at Tudor Hall Manor.

In honor of the first anniversary of Leonardtown's proclaimed Moll Dyer Day on February 26th, the Town, in partnership with the St. Mary's County Historical Society, Visit St. Mary's, the Old Jail Museum and the Leonardtown Business Association, will host a Moll Dyer Day Celebration with events and activities planned throughout Town on Friday, February 25th and Saturday, February 26th (the official Moll Dyer Day). Highlights of those festivities include the following:

Friday, February 25, 2022, 6 p.m.

A "kick-off" talk will be held at The REX Restaurant (22695 Washington St, Leonardtown, MD 20650) titled: Indentured Women in the 17th Century: Putting Moll Dyer in Perspective. Guest speaker, Jessica McInerney, is an adjunct Professor at Salisbury University on the Eastern Shore.

Saturday, February 26, 2022

11 a.m. Opening Ceremony at Moll Dyer Rock at Tudor Hall Manor (41680 Tudor Place, Leonardtown, Maryland 20650)

11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Old Jail Museum open with Moll Dyer items featured in the gift shop.

11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Tastings and Tours featuring Moll Dyer Whiskey, hourly



at Tobacco Barn Distillery (Advance tickets required)

12 p.m. - 4 p.m. Themed Scavenger Hunt at Shepherd's Old Field Market.

5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Moll Dyer and the Spirits of St. Mary's featuring Medium Debbie Oz at Tobacco Barn Distillery (Advance tickets required)

6 p.m. - 8 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. Paranormal Investigation and Tour starting at Town Hall at: 22670 Washington St., Leonardtown, MD 20650 (Advance tickets required)

Throughout the Day: Find special cocktails, menu items and activities at these participating establishments: Above Par Golf & Entertainment, Antoinette's Garden Gourmet Coffee and Wine Café, Fenwick Street Books, Port of Leonardtown Winery, Shepherd's Old Field Market, Social Coffeehouse & Cocktail Bar, SPICE Studio, St. Mary's County Arts Council Gallery & Gift Shop, Sweetbay Restaurant & Bar, The Front Porch, The Olde Town Pub, The Rex Restaurant & Bar, The Slice House, and Ye Olde Towne Café.

To learn more about the event visit: VisitLeonardtownMD.com/MollDyerDay or contact director@stmaryshistory.org.

Buy Local Guide Accepting Listings

The Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission, (SMADC), is updating the annual 'So. Maryland, So Good' Buy Local Guide featuring regional farmers markets, farm stores and stands, and new this year farm CSAs.

Applications are now being accepted for the 2022 edition of the online 'So. Maryland, So Good' Buy Local Guide. Listings are open to farmers markets and Southern Maryland farms that host a farm store or farm stand, and farms that offer CSAs located in the 5-county region (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's counties).

The intent of the Buy Local Guide is to provide a region-wide directory of farmers markets and farm retail options (in-person or on-line) that can be easily accessed by consumers without prior appointment.

Eligible listings include farm CSAs, farmers markets, farm stores and farm stands open to the public with regular business hours/days (seasonal or year-round), offering predominantly producer only farm raised, or farm made value-added products (meats, dairy, veggies, plants and flowers, jams, pickles, etc.) and other Maryland grown/sourced farm foods. Farmers markets located in greater Maryland, Washington DC and Virginia that host one or more Southern Maryland farm vendor are eligible to be included in the Buy Local Guide.

The guide also indicates which



markets, stores, stands and CSAs accept federal nutrition program benefits, and those that offer Maryland Market Money (MMM) matching dollars. Farmers markets, or farmers (hosting farm stands/stores and CSAs) looking to augment and diversify their revenue stream by accepting federal nutrition benefits are encouraged to apply to the MMM program. For more details visit marylandmarketmoney.org.

To submit a Buy Local Guide listing, find the Application under 'News and Events' on the SMADC website. Listings are due by February 28, 2022. There is no charge to be listed. To request a 'paper' application form call Susan McQuilkin: 240-528-8850 Ex. 327. The 2022 'So. Maryland, So Good' Buy Local Guide will be published in the early spring and available view online on the 'Get Our Guides' page at www.SMADC.com.

Press Release from SMADC.

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ST. MARY'S COUNTY SHERIFF'S CRIME REPORT

Robbery

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigations Division made an arrest this week in an armed robbery investigation in Great Mills last September.

Anthony Martise Barnes, age 41 of no fixed address, was arrested on Wednesday, Feb. 16, 2022, on District Court warrants for Armed Robbery, Robbery, Second-Degree Assault and Theft: \$100 to under \$1,500.



Anthony Martise Barnes

Barnes is currently held at the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center in Leonardtown pending a bond hearing on Thursday

afternoon.

On September 15, 2021, the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office issued a bulletin seeking the identity of the armed robbery suspect. On Sunday, Sept. 12, 2021 at 5:52 am, the suspect entered the Sheetz convenience store at 20760 Old Great Mills Road in Great Mills. The suspect then told the cashier that he was armed and demanded money. The cashier complied and the suspect fled the store on foot.

Malicious Destruction of Property

On February 14, 2022, Cpl. Hartzell responded to the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center in Leonardtown for the

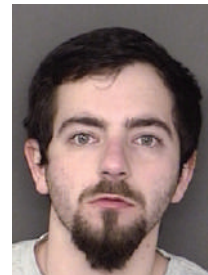


Derrick Justin Connolly

reported property destruction. Investigation determined **Derrick Justin Connolly**, age 35 of St. Inigoes, threw his lunch tray at the television and then proceeded to knock over the cart the television was attached to, breaking the television. Connolly was charged with Malicious Destruction of Property.

Violate Protective Order

On February 15, 2022, DFC. Hersh responded to the 26400 block of Hillendale Road in Hollywood, for the reported protective order violation. Investigation determined **Kenneth Eugene Ford**, age 26 of Bryans Road, violated a valid court order by calling and texting the victim numerous times. Ford

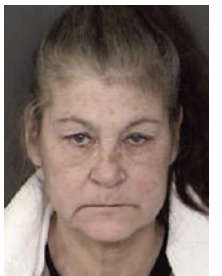


Kenneth Eugene Ford

was arrested and charged with Violate Protective Order.

Fraud

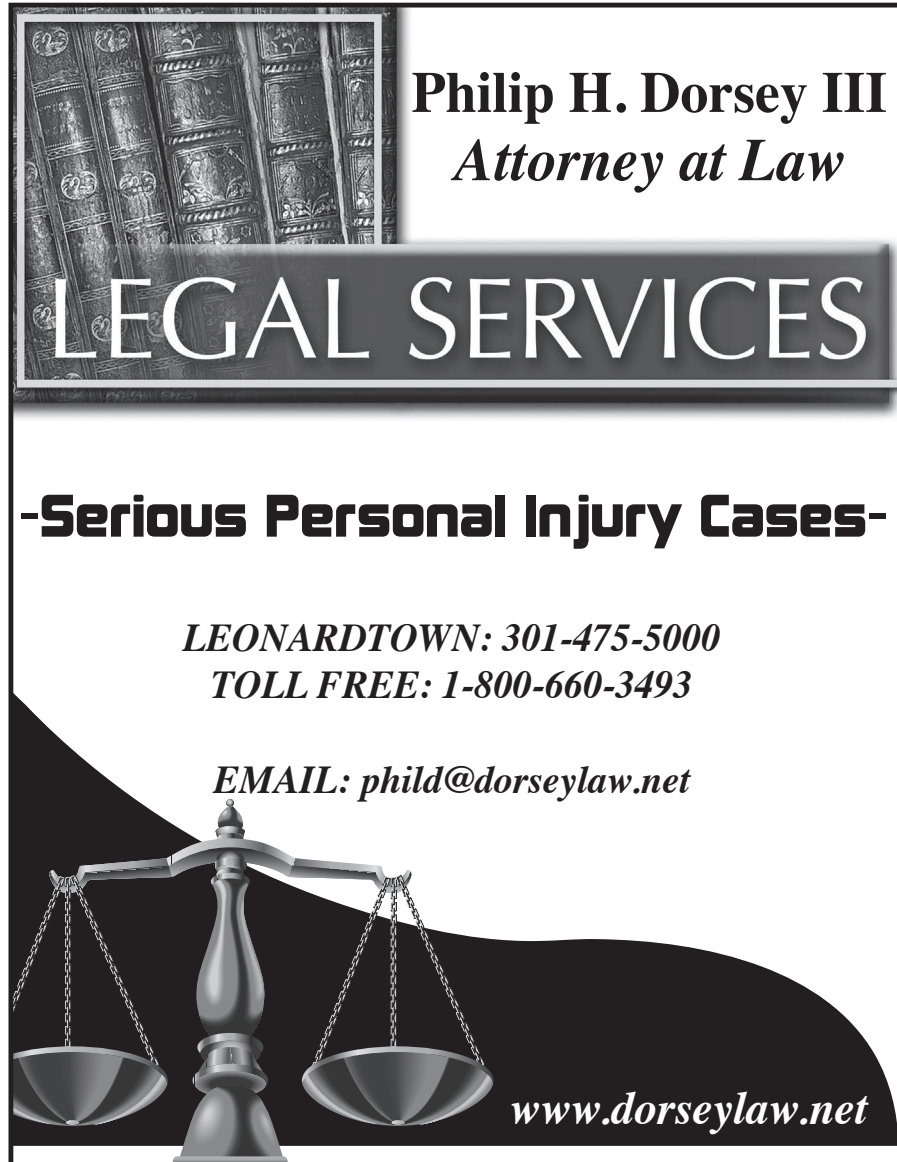
On February 13, 2022, Dep. Wimberly responded to the 21000 block of Great Mills Road a medical call. Located hiding in the bathroom of the residence was **Christina NMN Bechas**, age 57 of Lexington Park. Bechas provided deputies with a false name and date of birth. Bechas was positively identified and 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

Editor's Note:

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



Philip H. Dorsey III
Attorney at Law

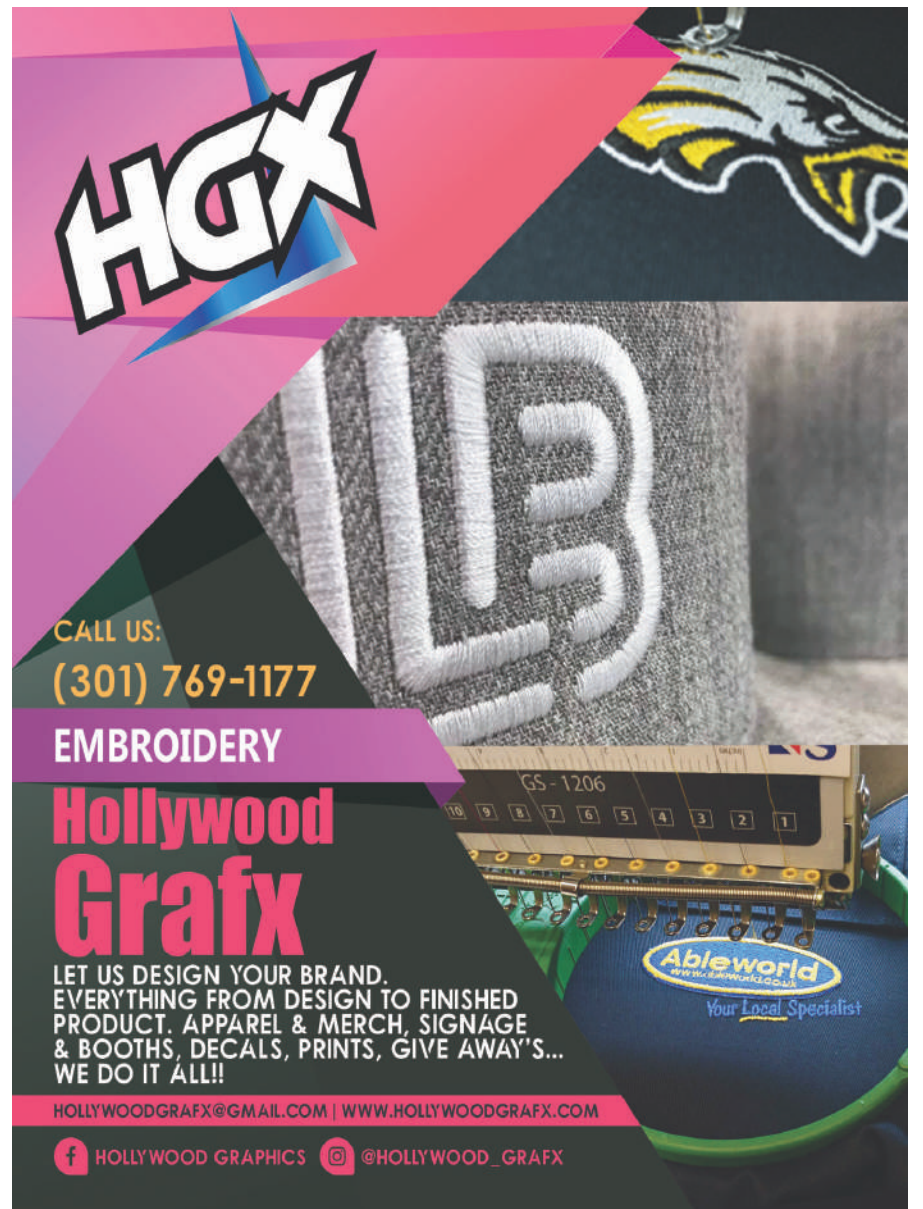
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Digging Up the 'Roots' of

By Dick Myers
Editor

It's a distinctly Maryland story. The year was 1767. Kunta Kinte, a member of the Gambian Mandinka tribe, is kidnapped and transported on the slave ship "Lord Ligonier" in harsh conditions across the Atlantic, where it unloads on the Annapolis city dock. Kunta Kinte is sold into slavery on a Virginia plantation.

Today, near where that sale took place, is an imposing statue of author Alex Haley telling his story to children sitting in front of him. That story is the story of Kunta Kinte, and Haley's family retold in the hugely popular "Roots" published in 1976 and shortly thereafter in an even more popular eight-part television miniseries.

It's also a Maryland story because of Alex Haley's nephew Chris Haley, director of the Legacy of Slavery at the Maryland State Archives.

Haley, a frequent speaker in Southern Maryland, spoke Feb. 9 at Calvert Library in Prince Frederick for a Black History Month event sponsored by Bayside History Museum, Calvert libraries, the John Hansen Daughters of the American Revolution and the NAACP.

Haley was introduced by Grace Mary Brady, curator of the Bayside History Museum and retired Historic District Planner for St. Mary's County. Haley worked with Brady on the Underground Railroad Project.

Brady said, "The cultural impact of his (Alex Haley's) book inspired millions of Americans to search for their ancestors. Today we have genealogy societies, libraries, archives, genealogy database services, DNA companies, and television programs, which continue to keep individuals connected with their ancestors."

Chris Haley called his uncle, who died 30 years ago this month, "Arguably the father of American genealogy."

The title of his talk was "We called him Palmer," because, "When I was growing up, that's literally what we all called him in the family. We never called him Alex. We always called him Palmer or Uncle Palmer because it was a family name."

He added in an interview with The County Times, "Truth be told the only reason why I and anybody else in my family says Alex now is because everybody else does."

Chris Haley was 17 when Roots was published. He was a student at Archbishop Carroll High School in Washington, DC and an aspiring actor.

His father and uncle were close, but Alex was quite a bit older, and he left home when he was 15, Chris Haley said. "They were as close as an older brother and a younger brother would be when they're that distant in age and their life experi-



Chris Haley sitting next to his uncle Alex Haley's statue on Annapolis city dock.

ences were so distant."

The family didn't anticipate the success. "When Uncle Palmer was coming back and forth and he was doing these speeches at the Library of Congress and they would always be sold out, it was always kind of flattering and exciting to us, but I don't know how much we really gathered how huge it could possibly be. I certainly didn't sense or think it was ever going to be as huge as it was because I remember distinctly fantasizing about it would really be crazy if I had a famous relative, but even then when you have those thoughts, I think often in and of itself, that thought means it'll never happen because now you're fantasizing about it. When it did happen to the degree it happened, I don't think any of us were prepared for that."

The stories in Roots were not familiar for Chris and some family members. "I think that we were certainly just fascinated by it because, at least in my family, we hadn't heard the stories all the time."

Reflecting over the luxury of decades, he said of the success of Roots, "I feel like it was of the United States of America because when it came out in 1976. That in and of itself made it a historic time for the whole country to think about its history. And so within that it's the mid 70's. You've gone through the civil rights movement, which was the 50's and the 60's. You've had some of the horrible events of the late 60's with the assassinations of major civil rights figures, such as Robert Kennedy, Martin Luther king within the 60's, Medgar Evers, Malcolm X. And then in the begin-

ning of the 70's, you start having what's called black exploitation movies. They were movies that really lionized heroic African American figures, male and female as being figures that black people could feel excited about watching and cheering for."

"There's become more of a representation of African Americans, but there's still not a representation of the history of African Americans existence in America, like their background, what they went through, the equivalent of when we talk about the Revolutionary War, we talk about Washington, we talk about Jefferson, we talk about Benjamin Franklin. There was none of that for black people."

"So, I think that that type of energy that had generated itself in some smaller aspect of the media," he said, "led itself to this is going to be a broad story about a black family that lives through a large expansive time, which speaks to the history of black people."

He admitted as a teenager and aspiring actor, "A part of me that had that in my mind, which is like, wow, this is a big movie. I could get a part."

And going to a Catholic high school that was 50/50 white and black, he wondered, "a part of me was how are people reacting to this? Are people going to be angry?"

Haley was asked what most impressed him as a 17-year-old reading the book about his family. "I think it was Kunta Kinte because I was around that age. I think I related to what he was going through as a young man who was trying to make a place for himself, not nec-

essarily make a name for himself, which is what I was trying to do." So, it was sort of a coming-of-age book for him.

"It was that still that journey of trying to find himself, he's trying to do good things. He's trying to grow up," he said. "He's trying to show his parents that he is growing up. And I was going through the same thing. And then the world sits upside down and is terrible. And it's awful."

Haley wrote a poem that is included with this article. "As I wrote my poem, there was that thought, because I'm watching the TV show and I'm literally thinking you can't help but pull for him to escape. You can't help but pull for him to beat off his kidnapers so that he can go back home and let other people know there that you have to watch out because there are these slave catchers who are here outside of our village."

But the reality is, he said, "There never would've been a Chris Haley if Kunta had never been captured in the Gambia and then brought to America. And so, I think as much as anything, that was what made it hard to watch, because you can't help but root for the hero in a story."

He noted, "And yet when it's your family and it's a genealogically-based story, even if some things you can't know what he actually said, you can't know who he actually met." He added, "He's just one of 96 enslaved people who nobody cared (about). They just cared that this person, this black male, could do some chores is all they can about. But from my perspective, as a de-

Black History

scendant, it means everything, that this person survives.”

“And through that serendipity, they are in their current incarnation of humanhood today because someone else survived, whatever they endured.”

Of Roots impact on genealogy, Haley said, “It’s my impression that it encouraged everybody to look at their history, whether black, white, indigenous, whatever, because it was still ultimately a family story.”

Roots, he said, tells that “Black people were like white people. That means these people are like your people. And that means you had somebody back in the day who probably had the rough times just as good times and met somebody and started flirting. And then they started going out and then they got married. Then they had kids and they struggled at their job, but you’ve never seen them. You don’t know who they are, but through this thing called genealogy, not the history of the figures that we have statues about such as George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, the family history of those persons who are important in your life because they preceded you. And because they preceded you, because they existed, you exist. That’s what I think helped make Roots something that resonated with everybody, because there was that commonality of people.”

Haley ended up at the Maryland Archives, he said, “Because I wanted to learn how to do research. I wanted to do stories about black, male vocalists... Sam Cook, Marvin Gaye, Jackie Wilson.”

If you wanted to find out about Julius Caesar, he said, “In the Roman time they didn’t have birth certificates. It wasn’t until 1898 (in Maryland), but I wouldn’t have known that until I came to a historical institution such as the Maryland State Archives to find out what there was and what there wasn’t in the of historical documents that can indicate and certify and confirm and identify an individual’s life, death, or vital statistics.”

But he is still writing (poetry) and is also working on a book (ala Roots) about his mother’s side of the family,

“People would say to me, we already know your genealogy. And I would say, well, that’s only one part of the story because my mother was involved too,” he said.

He’s been at the Maryland Archives since December of 1993. Of the Legacy of Slavery Program, which he runs, he said, “I’m very proud of it. I was there virtually at the beginning of it, which is in 2001.”

He said, “The core tenant of it is to create a database, which is filled with biographical data of hundreds of thousands of free and enslaved blacks, and emulates who lived primarily during the time of

slavery. People who are completely unknown and giving people the opportunity, the foundation through which they could possibly find information about their forbear, because many people who are enslaved were not documented by any means other than maybe a first name, a gender and their financial value. In subsequent records as certificates of freedom sometimes. And manumission sometimes then an individual who is freed within those documents will have both names in there and will have more of a physical description displayed or included in those documents.”

Also valuable, he said, are run-away ads and census records. “They provide a lot of information about African Americans or people who were enslaved people who were free during that time period (1830 to 1880) who were otherwise not documented in any way, except perhaps by virtue of them being the property of another individual or being kept in a second-class citizen status by other individuals.” The project has assembled about 40,000 records.

He has a book that he picked up at the North Beach Town Hall many years ago that he periodically enters dates of events he’s attended, like the talk at the Prince Frederick Library.

“I think in years to come when probably I’m not even here anymore, that it could be a historical document, which is to say that, I think that part of what can be interesting and exciting and yet touching about artifacts of historical significance is not the big grand proclamations that are made or that are preserved and saved in museums and documentaries are written about them. But such as the things that perhaps one does see on who you think you are, or African American roots, where you would find this document, which is what I want this to be, where it’s almost like a ledger that says specifically at this time, at this place, these people were in attendance.”

He said, “That little book represents a moment in time where an individual, years from now, could maybe say, ‘I could have sworn my great grandmother said that one time she went to hear this talk by a descendant of Alex Haley at the Prince Frederick Library. I could have sworn she said that. I don’t remember what the day is,’” he said, adding, “And, then they’ll come to the Maryland State Archives or whatever, and there’ll be this volume and it will be random places where C gave talks over the course of his career, and they’ll be this date, February 9, 2022.”

Editor’s Note: Chris Haley will be speaking at Sotterley Plantation in Hollywood on March 16 at 7 p.m.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

ROOTS

This Part of me

By Chris Haley

Whenever I watch ROOTS
Whenever I can stand it---
For it is not an easy watch
It is not a relaxing narrative
It is not comfortable to feel for
the character
The character who is you
Your forebear
Without whom you would not
be here---

It is not easy to root for Kunta
To cheer for him
To hope “the African” escapes.
Because you know that
For your great granddaddy to
find freedom
Is for you
To not be here
To vanish from this earth
To disappear from the type-
writer pounding this page.
You feel his pain
Taste his agony
You empathize with the mas-
terful performance
Of a Louis Gossett, Jr.
The tear-jerking innocence
and pride
Of a Levar Burton
Who plays the part you
wanted.
But it goes much further than
that
Your life is past
Decade-old resentment
For the part you swore was
yours.

You wish you could call your
uncle
And tell him how much you
appreciate
Are affected by the tale, yet
again But he is gone.
He can revel in his words no
more. You can rejoice in his
story
in your own history
Your uncle’s offering to the
world
Still, ROOTS is not an easy
watch. What will be your
legacy?
How will you measure up
To Kunta

Kizzy
Chicken George
Matilda
Tom Murray
Irene
Will Palmer
Cynthia
Bertha, your grandmother
Simon, your grandfather
Julius, your father
Ida, your mother

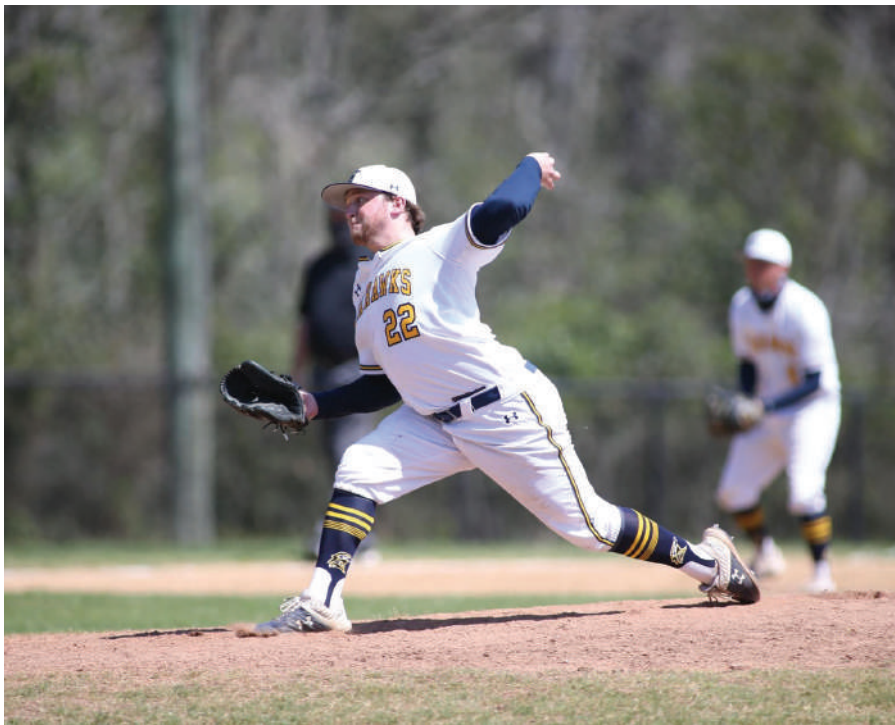
George, your uncle
Alex, your uncle, the world
knows
Knew
What do you do
What do you do?
What do you do
To be you?
You don’t know
But you’re trying
Every day ---
You’re trying
And one day
You will find it
Your purpose
Your place in the family’s
memory
The world’s memory.
Until then
It will be difficult
To watch ROOTS
Your beginning
One-fourth of your beginning
Which has made it so hard
To find
To save
Your present.
The gift of Uncle Alex
The determination of Kinte
The residue of fame
With which you grapple
Yours to court
Yours to discern
Yours to earn

Yes
Say your name Kunta Kinte
, say it at the slave driver’s
urging
By the whip
Toby.

Say your name, Chris
Have others say it
Because it is your name
Not because it evokes in
other’s.

ROOTS is not an easy watch
Root for the hero to escape
But make that hero you
And free the shadow
Of a time so proud and
prominent.
Find your track
Be your own driver
Don’t let your family
Stand in the way
But push on
Resolved
The Mandinka warrior
remained
So you would know
This dilemma
Which you could
Which you would
Have no other way.

Seahawks Defeat New Paltz to Conclude Strong Opening



The St. Mary's College of Maryland baseball team (2-0) defeated non-conference opponent New Paltz (2-1) this afternoon (Feb. 20th) to improve to 2-0 on the year. The final score was 8-5.

How It Happened

The Seahawks were able to start the game fast, scoring four runs in the first inning. Ian Walters and Garrett Pullium both knocked in RBI singles, while the Seahawks were able to bring home two more runners in the inning off of errors from the Hawks. St. Mary's led New Paltz 4-1 after the first four innings of baseball.

The scoring continued for St. Mary's in the sixth inning. Nate Brown got things going by driving in a runner after hitting a single to left field. Ian Walters put an exclamation mark on the inning, hitting a drive out to center field that brought home two more runners in the inning. The Seahawks led New Paltz 7-1 going into the seventh.

St. Mary's was able to sneak another runner home off of an error from New Paltz. Myles Pittman

was able to steal second, forcing an errant throw, which led Arian Auber to reach home plate.

New Paltz was able to put together a rally in the later innings, scoring four runs in the eighth, bringing them back to within three points of the Seahawks. Despite the momentum shift, St. Mary's was able to hold off New Paltz in the ninth inning, solidifying a 8-5 victory. Jake Wills picked up the win on the mound for the Seahawks. Nick Testoni and Nolan Sawatsky made appearances on the mound as well.

Inside the Box Score

Ian Walters led the way offensively for the Seahawks, driving in three runs off of three hits. Garrett Pullium also had a nice outing with three hits and a RBI.

Jake Wills earned the win on the mound for the Seahawks, pitching seven innings and striking out seven batters. Nolan Sawatsky struck out three batters in an inning pitched, while Nick Testoni picked up the save and struck out two in an inning pitched.

St. Mary's College Men's Basketball; Lock Up No. 3 Seed



The St. Mary's College of Maryland men's basketball team already knew on February 8 that they had earned a spot in the 2022 United East Conference Men's Basketball Championship Tournament but after Saturday's 80-54 win over Penn State Berks (0-22, 0-16 UEC), the Seahawks (13-9, 12-4 UEC) locked up the No. 3 seed.

The United East championship will run through Lancaster Bible College, who clinched the No. 1 seed with its 72-57 triumph over Penn State Harrisburg. Harrisburg finished as the No. 2 seed while Wells College claimed the fourth and final seed. The United East Tournament will begin on Friday, February 25, with Lancaster Bible serving as the host site for both the semifinals and the championship game.

Prior to the start of the game, the Seahawks recognized their trio of seniors – Seth Jones (Baltimore, Md./Baltimore Polytechnic), Cameron Rucker (Silver Spring, Md./Springbrook), and Quan Staley (Silver Spring, Md./James Hubert Blake) – for their years of service and dedication and leadership to the program.

How It Happened

Penn State Berks owned the lead for the first two minutes of the game, 4-2, before the Seahawks opened a 10-4 lead on a bucket by

Rucker and never looked back.

An old-fashioned three-point play by Hassan Koroma pulled the Nittany Lions within 10-9 at 14:52 before St. Mary's College cruised to a 48-24 halftime advantage.

It was more of the same in the second half as the Seahawks stretched their lead to as many as 37 with 5:54 to go on a dunk by first-year forward Kendahl Toft (Vista, Calif./Quajome Park).

Inside the Box Score

St. Mary's College dominated the paint, putting up 54 of its 80 points from inside the key including four dunks with two coming courtesy of first-year forward Naz Fisher (Washington, D.C./Washington Latin).

The Seahawks also picked up 29 fast break points and 23 points off 23 turnovers committed by Penn State Berks.

Rucker finished with 11 points as he went 6-for-6 at the free throw line while Fisher also contributed 11 points on 5-of-5 shooting from the field in 12 minutes of play.

Staley was the other Seahawk to score in double digits with 10 first-year guard Elijah Crawford (Oxon Hill, Md./Potomac) paced the squad with a game-best nine boards as SMCM outrebounded the Nittany Lions, 58-44.

Koroma tallied a game-best 12 points to lead Penn State Berks, who finished the season winless.

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Recreation & Parks' Gymnastics Academy Competes in Fourth MEPT



The Department of Recreation & Parks St. Mary's Gymnastics Academy is proud to announce another successful meet performance by the USAG team. The team competed February 18th – 20th, 2022, represented by 44 athletes from Levels 2-7 and Xcel Silver, Gold and Platinum teams at the East Coast Classic, hosted by Fairland Gymnastics at the Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex in Landover, MD.

Six individual gymnasts placed in the top three All-Around for their respective level and division. Awards include: 4 third-place, 1 second-place, and 1 first-place finisher. Level 2 earned third-place team overall while Xcel Platinum

earned second place team overall. Twenty-six individual gymnasts also scored high enough this past weekend to qualify for their respective state meets.

The gymnasts will be competing again next on the weekend of March 12-13 at the Win-Win Classic, hosted by Win-Win Gymnastics in Odenton, Maryland.

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

FINANCIAL FOCUS Estate Plans Let You Control Your Legacy

When you hear “estate planning,” what do you think of? For many people, these words evoke images of immense wealth. But estate planning isn't just for the wealthy – it's for everyone. And it's about more than preserving wealth – it's about putting you in control of your own legacy. But how can you achieve this worthy goal?

You can start by identifying your estate planning objectives. Here are some of the most common ones:

- Controlling movement of assets to beneficiaries – During and after your lifetime, you will want to ensure your loved ones receive what you want them to have, and when. Through documents such as a will and a living trust, and techniques involving life insurance and using proper beneficiary designations, you – not the courts – will control the movement of your assets to the desired recipients.

- Naming someone to make decisions for you if you become incapacitated – Naturally, you hope to stay in good physical and mental shape throughout your life and remain capable of making your own financial and health care decisions. But the future is not ours to see, so, to protect your interests and those of your loved ones, you may want to consider creating arrangements such as a power of attorney, health care directive and a living will. In this way, you'll still be able to control the key choices that may lie ahead.

- Providing for minor children or dependents – If you have young children or other dependents, you'll want to be sure they'll be looked after if you aren't around. In your estate plans, you can name a guardian for them. You can also use various estate planning tools,

such as life insurance, beneficiary designations and the establishment of a trust to provide the necessary financial resources for your loved ones.

- Supporting charitable organizations – Leaving something behind for your family is obviously an enormous part of your legacy – but it may also be important to you to provide support for charitable groups whose work you've admired. Of course, you can contribute to these organizations while you're alive, but through strategies such as donor-advised funds and charitable remainder trusts, you can include these groups in your estate plans.

- Managing taxes efficiently – If you're likely to have a large estate, your heirs may need to be concerned with income and estate taxes. To help control these taxes, you can take a number of steps, such as making outright gifts to your family during your lifetime, establishing an irrevocable life insurance trust, creating a family limited partnership and making charitable donations.

All the estate-planning strategies and techniques mentioned here can be complex – so, to implement them, you'll need to work with an estate planning attorney and a tax professional. You may also want to include your financial advisor, who can help ensure your estate planning objectives align with your important financial goals, such as living comfortably in retirement and providing for your children's or grandchildren's education.

By identifying your objectives and working with your professional team, you can create an effective estate plan – and help yourself maintain control of your legacy.

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

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Newtowne Players Presents: Puffs

Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic & Magic
February 24 - 27

By Matt Cox

For seven years a certain boy wizard went to a certain Wizard School and conquered evil. This, however, is not his story. This is the story of the Puffs ... who just happened to be there too. A tale for anyone who has never been destined to save the world.

Puffs is an original comedy that takes place in a familiar world and yet it is a world of it's own creation. It is hilarious and heartwarming, funny, intelligent, a little worn, and slightly ignored which suits the Puffs just fine.

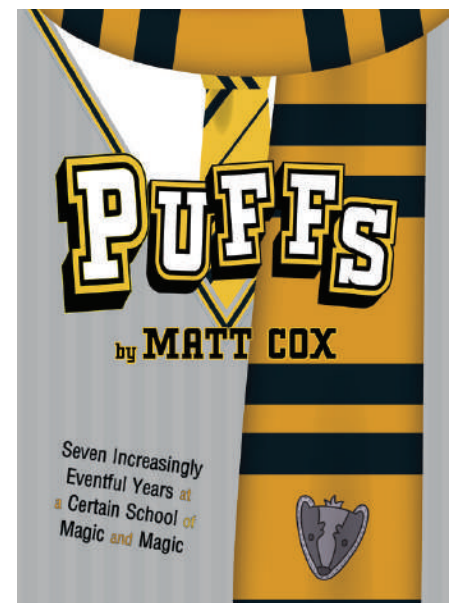
And Badgers ... Badgers are cool.

BOX OFFICE INFORMATION
Adults \$18, Seniors/Students/
Military \$15, Children \$13

Thursdays all tickets \$13

Show times:

Thursdays- Saturdays 8 p.m.



Sundays 3:30 p.m.

Location:

Newtowne Players
21744 South Coral Drive
Lexington Park



Virtual Author Talk with Jessie Mihalik

A virtual discussion with fantasy and romantic science fiction author Jessie Mihalik on Wednesday, March 9 from 7 - 8 p.m. We will discuss her writing process, her "Consortium Rebellion" trilogy and her newest book, "Hunt the Stars." Jessie Mihalik has a degree in Computer Science and a love of all things geeky. A software engineer by trade, Jessie now writes full time from her home in Texas. When she's not writing, she can be found playing co-op video games with her husband, trying out new board games, or reading books pulled from her overflowing bookshelves. Register on www.stmalib.org to receive the link to the Zoom meeting the day before the event.

Irish Genealogy at Leonardtown Library

Interested in researching your Irish roots or simply curious about your Irish ancestry? Join us in exploring the Irish institutions and resources to utilize when researching Irish genealogy on Monday, March 7 from 6- 7 p.m. at the Leonardtown Library in the Computer Lab. Irish Genealogy will focus on how to research one's Irish roots and ancestry by concentrating on Irish resources. Often times, when we are researching our family history, we run into difficulty once we arrive at the point in which our ancestor arrived in America. For this session, we will look at various Irish resources, such as the National Library of Ireland, the National Archives, and others, that offer genealogical services and house records that may be of interest. We



welcome anyone who is enthusiastic in their Irish ancestry, whether they are looking to continue their research or simply curious on where to begin. Register to attend on www.stmalib.org.

Murderbot Diaries Book Club : All Systems Red

Join us each month to discuss Martha Wells' "Murderbot Diaries series." This month, we will be discussing book one, All Systems Red on Thursday, March 10 from 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. Register to receive the link to the Zoom meeting on www.stmalib.org.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program

If you live in Calvert, Charles, Prince George's or St. Mary's counties and your household income is less than \$57,000 a year, the Lifestyles of SOMD Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program (VITA) is available at Lexington Park Library, Wednesdays through April 13 to help you prepare your income taxes. Register for your tax assistance appointment today on www.stmalib.org.

CSM Holds 23rd Winter Commencement

The College of Southern Maryland (CSM) celebrated 572 candidates for 487 associate degrees and 252 certificates during its virtual 23rd Winter Commencement Ceremony Jan. 13. The graduates were recognized for several exceptional characteristics.

Of the students being celebrated today during a Facebook live broadcast, 209 are from Charles County, 182 are from St. Mary's County, 141 are from Calvert County and 40 are from outside of the region. About 67 percent of the graduates are women and 32 percent are men. Twenty-three percent of the students graduated with honors.

The majority of degrees, or 27.3 percent, are in the fields of Arts and Sciences, Nursing (10.9 percent), Business Administration (9.2 percent), and Social Sciences (6 percent). General Study transfers, Accounting, Business Management, and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Paramedic are the primary certificates awarded. The oldest graduate is 67 years young and the youngest is 17 years old.

The virtual ceremony began an inspirational performance of the national anthem sang by CSM student Andrea Williams, of Bryans Road. And then more than 1,070 Facebook viewers engaged with the live premier to leave more than 534 comments, shares and reactions in the first hour.

'Pioneers in New Post-Pandemic World'

"The students gathered here at graduation today navigated a global pandemic, along with the rest of the world, that continues to turn our lives upside down," CSM President Dr. Maureen Murphy told the viewers. "But, graduates, you decided what success would look like for you. You worked hard and you have earned the right to feel pride in your success. You embraced new realities and persevered. I am enormously proud of each and every one of you.

"Our graduation ceremony is a transition and an honor to those who will turn their tassel today. We've entered a new world and I find hope in you – all of you. You are the role models for those who come after you. You have rewritten the story of success, and you are now uniquely prepared to become the pioneers in our new post-pandemic world. It is with great excitement that I will watch where you will lead us?"

'Never Give Up, Just Keep Going – The Tale of Two Nursing Students'

Graduates Aniyah Gabriel, of Fairfax, Va., and Verkia Smith, of Waldorf, offered similar thoughts and advice with their graduating class as they shared the honor of being Winter Commencement class speakers. Both started their academic careers at CSM as nursing students, but crossed the graduation finish line in distinctly different places.

"Though each of us had our own individual struggles and successes these past semesters during a global pandemic, I bet that many of our stories are very similar," said Gabriel. "Going to college



during a pandemic to gain credentials that will require us to work in a world navigating the ongoing COVID virus – some of us as first line responders – has been daunting. But we didn't give up. We got up every day to study and work and we earned every second of joy we feel in this moment.

Gabriel shared that her mother passed away in May 2020 and she was left not knowing how to financially finish her nursing degree. "My mom's advice to me always was to 'never give up,'" she said. "And the day after [mom] died, as if she was repeating herself and making sure I would listen to her words even after she was gone, I got a phone call from Ms. Vic at the Educational Systems Federal Credit Union telling I had been awarded the 2020 Community College scholarship. I don't think I ever cried so hard as I did that day on the phone. And Ms. Vic cried with me. If you're out there listening today Ms. Vic ~ thank you; and thank you Educational Systems Federal Credit Union. You are the reason I am standing here today."

Gabriel thanked several members of the CSM Nursing faculty including instructors Linda Goodman, Amber Hutchins, Sarah Cano, Jeanne Hill and Turner Coggins. "All of you, and your colleagues, taught me so much more than just the science of nursing," she said. "You grew me as a person and as a caring patient advocate. You supported me, pushed me, and motivated me. And for that I will always, always be grateful."

Gabriel reminded her fellow students that everyone was going to have bad days.

"I know now that my mom will always be there for me – showing me the way – and leaving reminders for me to 'never give up,' she offered. "And I am going to pay my mother's hope, and love, and knowledge forward to you. When you are struggling, I hope you hear my voice, reminding you of this moment, and telling you: Never. Ever. Give. Up."

Smith took to the podium to advise her fellow students to "just keep going." Her CSM experience included a journey that started when she enrolled at the age of 15 as a talented and gifted student and continued to see her accepted to the college's nursing program, become the college's assistant cross-country coach, be elected to the student government association, and then change her degree

direction.

"I've learned that no one path is a straight shot to the finish line, and that no matter how many mistakes, hiccups or bumps you've endured – you ... we ... me ... all of us, all of us must just keep going," said Smith.

"Today's commencement ceremony has been a long time coming and today we can finally say we've made it," she said. "Through trials and tribulations, highs and lows, those butterflies in our stomach we just can't seem to shake, those scared, nervous, and anxious feelings or whatever else may come your way – even if you must do a complete course change like I did – many successes await us.

"You WILL make a positive impact on the world," Smith stressed to the students. "You all have a purpose in life, and part of that purpose is why we are here today. I am grateful to CSM (and you – my fellow class members) for opening up so many doors and opportunities for me so that I could open my mind and pursue what makes me truly happy."

Smith shared she was excited awaiting for Dr. Murphy's call for the graduates to turn their tassels. "Always remember, to keep going. After all, how can any of us say the sky is the limit when there are footprints on the moon?"

'Your Desire to Learn Made Us Better'

"I am so very happy to recognize your accomplishments on today," said CSM's Provost and Vice President of Learning Dr. Rodney Redmond. "Your tenacity, resilience, and perseverance remind me of a proverb that says, 'someone said that it couldn't be done, but he with a chuckle replied, may it could not, but he would not be the one to say so until at least he tried. You will discover that the very thing which seems impossible can be done; it can be overcome; it can be accomplished, just as you have accomplished earning your degree and are now at the edge of starting a new life.'"

Redmond praised the graduates for their fortitude during the pandemic.

"Even when you didn't start out to be a remote learner, you found ways to engage with your professor and your peers to become successful remote learners," he told graduates. "You adjusted and adapted your style to what you needed to succeed. When the times got hard because you had to manage staying safe in this global pandemic along with work, family and school, you found the strength to keep going."

He also thanked the grads.

"Your steady movement forward will continue to teach us how to co-exist in many positive ways," he shared. "Your movement forward required us to learn new skills for work and engagement. Your desire to learn made us better professors, counselors, advisors, and supporters of learning and of you – our learners. It is your steadfastness that I see as I gaze into the future of CSM and the Southern Maryland region. It is your success that is helping to lead that way

into a more open and inclusive society. I salute you for teaching us that."

Create Your Own Legacy

CSM Senate Faculty President and Communications Professor Dr. Sarah Merranko reminded students that while the work to earn their certificate or degree was certainly hard, it was also an amazing opportunity, because college changes lives and creates legacies.

She shared the story of chemist Alfred Nobel who combined a new substance called nitroglycerin with a paste and finished it with a blasting cap and a fuse to call it dynamite.

"In 1888, his brother Ludvig died in France," she continued. "Assuming the dead Nobel was his brother Alfred, the newspaper wrote an obituary stating, 'The merchant of death is dead.' It stated that he was a man who made money off inventions that would kill more people faster than ever before. He read every word, and he could not stop thinking about it. He had no wife. No kids. His work was his life and was to be his legacy. Is this how the world would remember him? As the merchant of death?" she asked.

Eight years later, Alfred Nobel did die.

"However, he ensured that he would be known for something other than the inventor of dynamite," Merranko explained. "Instead, he left the bulk of his estate to establish a trust that would give awards that we know as Nobel Prizes. Alfred Nobel did not want his name to be most associated with an invention that brought great pain, so he created an award used to honor men and women from around the world for outstanding achievements in physics, chemistry, medicine, literature, and work in peace. Thereby changing the way, we use his name to this day."

She also quoted former U.S. President John F. Kennedy: "For those to whom much is given, much is required."

"Not only does [attending college] have the ability to impact your ability to earn more money and have a more stable career, but it also impacts your children and your children's children. Individuals who attend college are far more likely than their counterparts to have children who attend college and pass down that down through remaining generations."

She then asked the students to remember, "that what is passed down from generation to generation is far more valuable than what is written on a piece of paper we call a diploma; it is the opportunity to take what you have learned here and create your own legacy."

To see the full list of graduates, visit <https://www.csm.edu/news/2022/csm-announces-2022-winter-commencement-candidates-for-graduation.html>

To read more stories about CSM's recent graduates, and to read letters of congratulations from state and local politicians, as well as CSM leadership, visit <https://www.csm.edu/csmgrad2022/index.html>

Press Release from CSM

St. Mary's College Announces VP/Equity and Strategic Initiatives

St. Mary's College of Maryland President Tuajuanda C. Jordan has appointed Dereck J. Rovaris Sr., as vice president for equity and strategic initiatives. He will join St. Mary's College in mid-April and will report directly to the president.

"Dr. Rovaris will be an invaluable addition to our community," Jordan said. "His experience and wealth of knowledge will aid in amplifying existing programs. By helping us develop and implement new programs, the College can both fulfill its mission and become a place where all who enter our community have the greatest opportunity to thrive."

"I have no doubt in his ability to forge meaningful connections with our students, faculty and staff. I look forward to him fully developing and integrating the work of the Inclusive Diversity, Equity, Access and Accountability (IDEAA) unit into the fabric of what we do as an institution."

In this newly developed position, Rovaris will serve as a strategic adviser on matters related to inclusion, diversity, equity and access across the campus. He will drive sustained im-

pact, amplify successful structures, implement policies and programs, and build new campus initiatives.

"I am excited to be joining such an amazing institution. At this point in my career there were many options, but none 'checked the boxes' like St. Mary's College of Maryland," Rovaris said. "Upon my visit to campus I had the opportunity to meet wonderful faculty and staff, but I was most impressed by the students. It will be a pleasure to work with such an engaging community as we lead equity, inclusion, belonging, and justice initiatives and practices for the National Public Honors College."

Rovaris has over 30 years of higher education experience. He most recently supported Louisiana State University as vice provost for diversity, equity and inclusion where he served as chief diversity officer and supervised all diversity initiatives. Prior to that role, Rovaris served four years as associate vice chancellor for academic and multicultural affairs at the University of Louisiana Health and Sciences Center. While there, he envisioned and developed strategic diversity initiatives that promoted



Dr. Dereck J. Rovaris Sr., vice president for equity and strategic initiatives

an institutional climate that equally welcomed, nurtured, and respected the culture and contributions of all members of the community. His time there was preceded by a two-decade career at Xavier University of Louisiana where he led several units and award-winning programs.

Rovaris has a number of publi-

cations and serves on a variety of boards and nonprofit committees. He earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Kansas, his master's degree from Xavier University of Louisiana, and his PhD from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Press Release from St. Mary's College of Maryland

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Wanderings

of an Aimless Mind

by Shelby Oppermann



THE LOVE OF DOGS

I have always been a dog person, mainly because my mother was a dog person. There were always from two to three or five dogs at any one time in the house. When I was very little there was only one, Trixie, a little Terrier of some kind, who probably barely tolerated me as a baby. But when I hit the toddler stage, my mother said that Trixie would patiently stand next to me while I pulled on her back or hair to learn to stand up. The first time that happened my mother said she held her breath waiting for Trixie to growl or bite me, because feisty Terriers are not always known for their patience. Trixie never bit me, and of course, as an early dog lover, I would have never done anything out of meanness.

I was somewhere between 5 or 6, when Trixie went outside in the pouring rain to hide, I suppose because she knew her death was imminent. Of course, my mother was frantic trying to find her in the backyard, which at that time also included an overgrown lot which later became Joe El Rancho's parking lot in Clinton. By the time she was found, Trixie had already passed. I had become so close to her even though she would always be Mommie's dog. When we buried her the next day, I asked if she could be wrapped in my Batman cape which meant the world to me in the mid-60s.

After our Trixie, my mother just started rescuing or "collecting" dogs. I imagine my growing up years I must have smelled like dogs and the cigarette smoke from my parents, but I guess a lot of kids did back then or I wouldn't have had any friends. Coming home from college that first time was kind of a shock because I really noticed that the whole house was just a cloud of smoke when I walked in...different times. And now, since I will always have a dog, probably a hound dog like Mindy and Tidbit before her, then I will most likely always have eau d hound parfum wafting about me. That's okay.

Another thing about coming home from college was that one of our dogs, Woofer, would not leave me. I would be sleeping upstairs on a Saturday morning and Woofer would all of a sudden jump up on top of me and pin me to the bed, which I don't remember her doing as much during my Junior High/High School years. At that time, we had Woofer, Tweeter, and Spunky (whom I should have



named mid-range) and they were all fairly large German-Shepherd Collie mixes that my mother rescued. Woofer and Tweeter were sisters who were found as puppies, muddy and wet, in a construction site in Virginia. The Coolridge Animal Hospital, three miles away in Camp Springs, contacted my mother immediately once they found out about these two. They were the sweetest doggies. Their barks sounded just like their names. And Spunky, her other rescue, was exactly what her name implied.

So, as a dog person, I have been really excited, to see the upcoming movie, Dog, starring and co-directed and produced by Channing Tatum is (from what is said on the site and trailers) "A buddy comedy about two seemingly hopeless rescues, a former Army Ranger (Channing Tatum) and a retired Army dog named Lulu who drive each other crazy but are also each other's only hope for happiness. U.S. Army Ranger Briggs is tasked with bringing Lulu, a Belgian Malinois military working dog, down the Pacific Coast from Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington to Nogales, Arizona in time to attend her handler's funeral." I was watching the trailer commercial for DOG, I thought, wow, I really, really would like to see this movie in the theatres, but even before the trailer ended, I was already thinking, no, I can't go see it because the dog will probably die at the end, and I will be an emotional mess for weeks. Then, right at the end of the trailer, a little written blurb pops up, "...and no, the dog doesn't die". That is what I wanted to hear. I can read 100 cozy mystery murder books and plenty of humans can expire in grisly ways, but pleeeeeease...don't let something happen to the dog.

To each new day's adventure, Shelby

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



The Way We Were...

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

The Legend of Moll Dyer Part 3

The Rock and the Hand

That Moll Dyer was a real person who emigrated from England first to the West Indies then to St Mary's County is a matter of record. Furthermore, the terrible winter of 1697-1698 and an accompanying epidemic (most likely the flu) are also matters of record. Last time, we conjectured what may have caused villagers to chase Moll from her home that cold night, leaving her to freeze to death alone, her hand frozen to a rock leaving an imprint and a legend.

The Rock

The Moll Dyer's rock remained hidden for centuries until in 1968, a curious newspaper reporter, Philip Love, decided to see if he could find it. Linking up with Woodrow Bennett who owned a nearby grocery store, Love found the Rock in a ravine near today's Moll Dyer Road. Rolling it over, they found a handprint clearly visible on its surface.

The Rock stayed in the woods until October 1972 when it was placed at the Old Jail – which, at the time, was the headquarters of the St Mary's County Historical Society. For nearly 50 years, the Rock sat on the ground, exposed to weather and tourists. Moll Dyer's hand print gradually eroded.

The Handprint

Many folks don't think there's a handprint on the Rock. Well, there is but you just need to know where to look – and the Historical Society, in an effort to prevent further erosion to the print, won't disclose its exact location.

You might be tempted to argue that what appears to be the imprint of a hand is simply an accident of nature. Maybe. But in this 1972 photo, taken when the Rock was moved to the Old Jail, historians Edwin Beitzell and Robert Pogue seem to have no doubt. And, stories of misfortune to those who touch the Rock abound. Long after the Rock was found in 1968 and its location known, mothers would tell their children, "Don't you go near that thing! You'll be hexed!"

Preserving the Rock and the Legend



To preserve this piece of County history and its legend for future generations, in February, 2021, the St Mary's County Historical Society with the help of the Town of Leonardtown and St Mary's County ceremoniously moved the rock to the grounds of Tudor Hall where it is now protected from the elements.

At the ceremony commemorating its relocation, Leonardtown Mayor Dan Burris proclaimed that February 26th be known forever as Moll Dyer Day. And now a year later, the St Mary's County Historical Society, Town of Leonardtown, Visit St Mary's County, and Leonardtown businesses are responding to Mayor Burris' proclamation with a town-wide celebration of the Legend of Moll Dyer.

Moll Dyer Day 2022 begins on Friday the 25th at 6 p.m. at The REX in Leonardtown with an informal talk by Jessica McInerney of Salisbury University on "Indentured Women in the 17th Century: Bringing Moll Dyer into Focus." Moll Dyer Day itself, the 26th, begins at 11 a.m. at Tudor Hall with music, and speeches.

If you want to learn more about Moll Dyer Day events, scan this QR with your cell phone or simply come to Tudor Hall at 11 a.m. on Saturday. Moll may be looking for you.





PATUXENT RIVER NAVAL AIR STATION

News

Navy's V-22 Achieves Initial Operational Capability Designation

The Navy announced initial operational capability (IOC) for the CMV-22B Osprey, confirming the platform's operational readiness following the successful completion of its maiden deployment, on Feb. 18, 2022.

The aircraft was formally declared IOC on Dec. 14, 2021, aligning with the scheduled first-quarter fiscal year requirement.

"The CMV-22's maiden deployment with Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 2 and the [USS Carl] Vinson (CVN 70) team is an operational success, giving me the confidence necessary to make the declaration," said Rear Adm. Andrew Loiselle, Director, Air Warfare Division, N98, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations. "As we continue to deliver the advanced platforms that will make up the Air Wing of the Future, the CMV-22B provides the necessary support and more to carry our future force."

Loiselle's designation marks a key milestone in the design, development, acquisition and testing of the CMV-22B and confirms its relevance and readiness to meet the needs of the Navy's Carrier Onboard Delivery (COD) mission. The aircraft transports personnel, mail, supplies and cargo from shore bases to aircraft carriers at sea, and will eventually replace the C-2A Greyhound.

"IOC designation is more than a stamp of approval," said U.S. Marine Corps Col. Brian Taylor, V-22 Joint program manager. "It is a vote of confidence from top Navy leadership that the design, testing and production of this aircraft meet the logistical needs of the carrier air wings designated to fly the CMV-22B."

This past summer marked the first deployment for the CMV-22B. Fleet Logistics Multi-Mission Squadron (VRM) 30 embarked on the USS

Carl Vinson (CVN 70) alongside the F-35C Lightning II and E-2D Advanced Hawkeye squadrons. The first deployed detachment has executed a mission completion rate of 98% and a mission capable rate of 75%. The CMV-22B is a crucial element of future carrier airwings due to the cargo capacity needed to transport F-35 power modules and additional logistics support for future carrier air wing deployments with next-generation platforms.

"This aircraft went from first flight to first deployment in 19 months; a feat possible through the dedication of the Navy's acquisition, engineering, test and operational communities, as well as industry, all working in tandem, toward a common goal," said Taylor.

With 50% more internal fuel than the Marine Corps' Osprey variant, CMV-22B can transport up to 6,000 pounds of cargo and personnel over a

1,150 nautical mile range. The Navy redesigned the forward sponson fuel tanks and added two wing fuel tanks to add capacity and extend the flight range.

"As our fighter/attack and surveillance aircraft expand in both capability and size to extend the range of the carrier air wing, we must also evolve our support aircraft, in tandem, to supply those platforms. The CMV-22B will transport cargo and personnel to outfit the most advanced aircraft carrier strike groups as we continue to meet the needs of our missions worldwide," said Taylor.

The program will continue to refine and test capabilities on the aircraft, addressing the agile needs of the fleet. To date, Bell Boeing has delivered 14 aircraft with 44 on contract and full operational capability expected in 2023.



St. Mary's Community Calendar

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

Thursday, Feb 24

Queen of Hearts

LVRSA Fundraiser

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

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

Friday, Feb 25

Book Talk:

Carol McCabe Booker

Loffler Senior Activity Center
21905 Chancellors Run Rd
Great Mills
11a.m. to 1p.m.

We are happy to again welcome author Carole McCabe Booker to discuss another book! This time she will discuss her latest triumph, "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. 1600, beginning January 20 at 8 a.m.

Bricks With No Straw with

Morgan McCoy

Virtual

7p.m. to 8p.m.

Join us in celebrating Black History Month, as we invite actress, 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

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.

Saturday, Feb 26

So. Md. Decorative Painters Meeting & Paint-In

Charlotte Hall Library
37600 New Market Rd,
Charlotte Hall
9:30a.m. to 4p.m.

The Southern Maryland Decorative Painters will meet at the Charlotte

Hall Library, 37600 New Market Rd, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622. Doors open at 9:00 AM for setup.

A business meeting will start at 10:00, followed by a Nancy Dale Kinney-Stout painting project, "Black Capped Chickadee led by Carolyn.

Guests are always welcome and should contact us for supply and project info if you'd like to paint on the date of your visit.

We also offer this class the same day on zoom if you're not able to get out but would still like to participate in this event.

You can visit our website at www.smdpaint.org/Calendar.html. It does

need updated at the current time. Any questions contact Garnett Joy @

301-452-7099 or email garnettjoy@gmail.com. Thank you.

Widow/Widower Group

Leonardtown Baptist Church
23520 Hollywood Road
Leonardtown
10a.m. to Noon

No matter how long since your loss—2 years or 20—you are welcome! Come to gain support by

and practical advice from others who understand your loss. In the alternative, come to offer your support to others not as far along their grief journey. We welcome new visitors/members regularly.

Father And Daughter Valentine Dance

St Mary's Fairgrounds
Tolerance Hall
Leonardtown
6:30p.m. to 9p.m.

GG Showtroupe Dancers of Gracie's Guys and Gals Dance Studio and Unique Moments with Lisa will be hosting a Father Daughter Valentine Dance Feb 26th 6:30-9PM doors will open up at 6PM

Advance Cost is \$40 (\$5.00 for additional siblings)

Door Cost is \$50.00 (\$5.00 for additional siblings)

Fee includes:

Appetizers, Desserts, Dancing,

Activities, Ballroom Dance Instruction, and a Special Station to Write a Love Note

Any questions, please contact Lisa Martoni at mustangmom-ma7@gmail.com

Sunday, Feb 27

Pre-Order Drive-thru Fried Shrimp Dinner (Last Day To Order)

28165 Hills Club Road
Mechanicsville
8a.m. to 8p.m.

Pre-Order Drive Thru Fried Shrimp Dinner

Pick up March 4, 2022 5-7 PM
Fried Shrimp, Hushpuppies, Corn, Coleslaw, Applesauce, Brownie, Cocktail Sauce and Honey.

\$20 per dinner

To place an order call Judy at 301-884-5680. No pre-orders will be taken after today!!

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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. 1080
 Northern Senior Activity Center, 301-475-4002, ext. 3101
 Visit www.stmarysmd.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.stmarysmd.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@stmarysmd.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@stmarysmd.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 week's 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.

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

Charles "Everett" Quade



Charles "Everett" Quade, 82, of Clements, MD passed away peacefully at his residence on February 17, 2022. He was born on May 9,

1939, in Leonardtown, MD and was the son of the late Philip Columbus Quade and Elizabeth Ann Pilkerton Quade.

Everett was preceded in death by his siblings, Dorothy Knott, Rhodie Quade, Richard Quade, Mary E. Pilkerton, Calvin Quade, Sr., Cecil Quade, Benjamin Quade, and Thomas Quade.

He was a lifelong resident of St. Mary's County, MD. A man of great attributes, Everett was kind and was always willing to offer his assistance to anyone that needed it. He always smiled even during the hardest of times. He was a full-time farmer and waterman who worked hard his entire life. Everett enjoyed fishing, crabbing, oystering, gardening, playing cards, dancing, and spending time with his family.

The family will receive friends on Tuesday, March 1, 2022, from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, P.A, Leonardtown, MD where a funeral service will be held at 10:30 AM with Father Stephen Wyble officiating. Interment will follow in Sacred Heart Catholic Church Cemetery, Bushwood, MD. Serving as pallbearers will be John Chapman, Roy Blackstone, Arthur Hill, James Lyon, Roy Fedders and Clyde Farrell.

Contributions may be made to the Maryland Watermen's Association, Annapolis, MD.

Susan Jennifer "Sue" Walker



Susan Jennifer "Sue" Walker, age 71, formerly of Camp Springs, MD, passed away on Wednesday, February 16, 2022, at the Future

Care Nursing Facility in Clinton, MD. She was born on May 21, 1950, to the late Emmett Clayton Walker and Beryl Mary (Glover) Walker.

Susan was a graduate of Potomac Senior High School in Oxon Hill, Maryland in 1968, the first graduating class of Potomac after the new school opened a few years earlier.

Susan was a Programmer for the U.S. Air Force Civil Engineering Department at Andrews Air Force Base, administering a multitude of major

projects for the Air Force before retiring. Susan has spent a lifetime serving her Country in vital support roles, roles that are critical to the smooth and efficient operation of our military that keeps our country safe.

Susan was an avid bowler, enrolled in leagues at Marlow Heights Fairlanes, and the lanes on Andrews Air Force Base. She was also an ardent animal lover, having many cats and dogs as her beloved pets throughout her life. She loved the Beatles, and anything related to her British heritage.

She is survived by her niece, Jennifer Moseley (Thomas) (named after her), and her many nephews: Kenneth Walker, Jr. (Debbie), Jeremy Walker (Ginny), Matthew Walker, Stephen Walker, Jr. (Bailey), David Walker, Andrew Walker, and Michael Walker. She was the great Aunt of Max Walker, Gage Walker, Gannon Walker, Joseph Moseley, Garrett Walker, Faren Walker, and Ridley Walker. She is survived by her brothers Stuart Walker and Stephen Walker. Susan's brother Kenneth Walker preceded her in death.

Susan loved her family so much and was a staunch advocate for all, helping many of her niece and nephews in buying their new cars, paying for tuition or all the other challenges that life brings us; she loved them all so dearly.

Services will be held at 4:30 p.m., Friday, March 4, 2022, at the Mattingley Gardiner Funeral Home, located at 41590 Fenwick Street, Leonardtown, MD 20650. Interment will be held privately. Relatives and friends are welcome at the service.

Juanita (Nita, Grams)

Evelyn Buchanan



Juanita (Nita, Grams) Evelyn Buchanan, 97, passed away on February 15, 2022. Born on September 4, 1924 in Hollywood, MD, she was the daughter

of the late Ernest McClellan and Mary Lena Gattton Joy. Juanita was the loving wife of the late Jack Randolph Buchanan, who preceded her in death on January 12, 1997. She is survived by her children Kenneth (Betty) Buchanan of Ft. Walton Beach, FL, Sharon Fisher of Cape Coral, FL, Lawrence (Claudia) Buchanan of Raleigh, NC, Ronnie Buchanan of Overland Park, KS, Michael (Tracye) Buchanan of Ellerslie, GA, and Jacqueline (Glen) Yannayon of Mechanicsville, MD, her siblings Elwood Joy of Hollywood, MD and Arnold Joy of Williamsport, MD, as well as 13 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren, and 11 great-

great grandchildren. Juanita was preceded in death by her siblings Eunice Gattton, Mildred Critchfield, Herbert Joy, Marion Joy, Joyce Rimmel, and Marvin Joy.

Juanita was born, raised, and lived in Hollywood, MD for most of her 97 years. She attended Great Mills High School and graduated in 1944. She was fortunate enough to spend 50 of those years with her husband. She was a loving wife, mother, and grandmother. Juanita loved all of her children and family very much. There was no distinction between the ones that had to maintain a long-distance relationship and those that were close. She always said she loved all her children the same.

Juanita maintained a very close relationship with her brothers, sisters, nephews, and nieces. Family was very important to her. She was one of the kindest, warmest, caring, and gentle souls you could ever hope to meet. She impressed all her family who knew her with her sharp mind and memory. She enjoyed raising her family and was a mother figure to many who lost their moms at a young age.

Juanita was an excellent cook, seamstress, and plastic canvas crafter. She loved to read, and, later in life, listen to audio books. She enjoyed

many years travelling with her husband for his job. They were also avid campers with their trailer and motor home. Family vacation time was always an exciting adventure.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, February 24, 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 funeral service will be held on Friday, February 25, 2022 at 10:00 AM at Hollywood United Methodist Church, Hollywood, MD, with Pastor Matthew Tate officiating. Interment will follow in Joy Chapel Cemetery, Hollywood, MD. Serving as pallbearers will be Kenneth Buchanan, Michael Buchanan, Glen Yannayon, Lee Guy, Joseph Daniels, and Gary Joy. Honorary pallbearers will be Ronald Buchanan and Lawrence Buchanan.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Hospice of St. Mary's, P.O. Box 625, Leonardtown, MD 20650, Hollywood Vol. Fire Department, P.O. Box 7, Hollywood, MD 20636, or Hollywood Vol. Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 79, Hollywood, MD 20636.

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

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



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In Remembrance

Margaret "Margie"

Elizabeth Cheseldine



Founder and owner of Cheseldine Management Consulting, Margaret "Margie" Elizabeth Cheseldine passed away in Texas February

15, 2022, after a determined battle with cancer. At the time of her death, she was surrounded by her family, who will continue to honor her life and legacy by joyfully living theirs.

The DC native who made Colton's Point her home, Margie graduated from St. Mary's College of Maryland with a bachelor's degree in Social Sciences and went on to a remarkable career first with Charles County Government then with her own company, where she endeavored to improve the lives of everyone in the community. Margie was a fierce advocate for the less fortunate, and an incredible mentor to the many women who aspired to be like her.

Despite an award-winning career, Margie's greatest achievement and love was her family, including her large extended family. She is survived by Glenn G. Gass, her husband of 40 years; her children Justin Cheseldine-Gass (wife Andrea Carroll) and Lisa Margaret Cheseldine-Gass; and her grandchildren Stella Carroll Cheseldine-Gass and Vanna Carroll Cheseldine-Gass, all of Colton's Point, Maryland.

Friends and family are invited to pay respects March 2, 2022, at Mattingly Gardiner Funeral Home in Leonardtown from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM, with prayers at 5:00 PM. A funeral mass for Margie will be held March 3, at 10:00 AM at Holy Angels Church, 21340 Colton's Point Road, Avenue, Maryland; interment will follow at Sacred Heart Cemetery, 23080 Maddox Road, Bushwood, MD 20618. Pallbearers are Christopher Canfield (cousin), Michael Cofer (godson), Robert Hill (cousin), Matthew Jager (nephew), Sean Lumpkins (godson), Timothy O'Brien (cousin), Michael Rinaldi (nephew), and Patrick Wood (friend). Honorary pallbearers are Janet Carpenter, Rosalba Cofer, Lane Coyle, Patricia Delles, Claire Delozier, Debbie Jager, Helen Jean Lehman, Theresa Mason, Mimi Quade, and Lisa Quill.

In death as in life, Margie was a woman ahead of her time.

Donations in lieu of flowers should be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital or the Seventh District Volunteer Rescue Squad.

Leonard John "Mack"

Pirner, Jr.



Leonard John "Mack" Pirner, Jr., 57, of Mechanicsville, MD, passed away peacefully on Sunday, February 13, 2022 at his home sur-

rounded by family. He was born on November 19, 1964 to the late, Leonard John Pirner, Sr. and Ann Sylvia (Rawling) Pirner.

Mack met the love of his life, Cora Christine Morgan and was so proud when she agreed to be his wife. Together they celebrated over 21 years of marital bliss. Mack worked as a plumber for over 38 years making a great life for himself and Christine.

A man of great attributes, Mack was kind and was always willing to offer assistance to someone in need. He was funny and made many people laugh even during the hard times. A great man has left many to reminisce over his antics and smile at the legacy he left behind.

Mack is survived by his wife, Christine Pirner of Mechanicsville, MD; sister, Ann Marie Pirner-Flerlage of Waldorf, MD; Uncle Leroy Tippett and Aunt Priscilla "Cookey" Nelson and many nieces, nephews and extended family and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, Leonard and Ann Pirner and brother, Michael Dean Pirner.

The family will receive friends for Mack's Visitation on Saturday, February 26, 2022 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. with a Funeral Service at 1:00 p.m. officiated by Pastor Green at Brinsfield Funeral Home & Crematory, P.A., Charlotte Hall, MD 20622. Interment will follow immediately at Trinity Memorial Gardens, 3221 Mat-tawoman Beantown Road, Waldorf, MD 206010.

In lieu of flowers the family would request you consider making a donation in Mack's name to Hospice of St. Mary's, Post Office Box 625, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

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

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

Benjamin Kennedy Abell, Jr.



Benjamin Kennedy Abell, Jr., 93 of Leonardtown, MD, passed away peacefully on February 14, 2022 at Georgetown University Hospital with his loving family

by his side. Born October 1, 1928 in Sparks, MD, he was the son of the late B. Kennedy and Adelaide Maria (Lynch) Abell. He was the youngest of five children, and was preceded in death by his siblings Enoch Booth (EB) Abell, Mary Jane Scully, Robert Peery Abell, and Thomas Lynch Abell.

Kennedy married the love of his life, Elizabeth Ann Lacey on February 14, 1953. He was devoted to Ann and has missed her every single day since her departure on January 19th, 2005. Their love story began with dances in Medley's Neck and spanned over five wonderful decades. Those fortunate enough to spend a moment with Kennedy know their love story did not end there. Even in her absence, not a moment passed where his treasured Ann was not in his thoughts. Saddened as his family was to say goodbye, they find comfort in knowing that he was reunited with his beloved Ann on their 69th Wedding Anniversary - a long awaited dance in their Sentimental Journey.

He is survived by his children, B.K. Abell, III (Ida) of Mechanicsville, MD, Cindy Worcester (Jeff) of LaPlata, MD, and Jenny Lynn McCabe (Pete) of Ashburn, VA. He was the proud grandfather of Paul Abell (Aimee), Merissa Abell, Gregory Worcester (Ashley), Kevin Worcester (Morgan), Jessica Mann (Cameron), Megan Makoutz (Jason), Kelly Spencer (Auguste), and Molly McCabe. He was also blessed to have welcomed five great-grandchildren to his family (Charlie, Jack, Blaise, Nathaniel and Emerson).

Kennedy was a lifelong resident of Leonardtown, MD. He graduated from Margaret Brent High School followed by an additional year of business classes at St. Mary's Academy. He began his career in banking at the County Trust Bank (Maryland National Bank) in 1947, moved to Tri-County Savings and Loan (Community Bank of the Chesapeake) in 1986, and retired at the age of 70.

Kennedy was a committed pillar to the Leonardtown Community, and demonstrated it through his devoted participation in various service organizations. He joined the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department (LVFD) in 1944 at the age of 16, and was a member for the past 77 years with 45 years of active service. During his time with the fire department, he held every leadership and operational position within the organization, including Chief LVFD (1955-1956) and President LVFD (1968-1976). Additionally, Kennedy served as the Vice President (1958-1959) and President (1960) of the Southern Maryland Volunteer Firemen's Association (SMVFA). His devotion and leadership towards the firefighting community led him to be inducted into the SMVFA Hall of

Fame in 1987. The LVFD unanimously voted to dedicate their Squad 1 to him for his commitment and service to the Department and the community it serves in 2020.

Kennedy served in the Maryland National Guard for 3 years (1953-1956) rising to a Platoon Sergeant. He became a member of the St. Mary's County School Board in 1962 and served two 5-year terms. He was a Monarch Member of the Leonardtown Lions Club, where he also earned the Melvin Jones Fellow and 2008 Lion of the Year awards. He actively participated in the St. Mary's County Historical Society, and he was considered an invaluable resource to many because of his intimate knowledge of the history of Leonardtown and the county.

Kennedy never met a stranger in this community and was always happiest in a room full of people. As devoted to Leonardtown as Kennedy was, he was first and foremost the family patriarch. There wasn't a single occasion involving his family that he would miss. Whether it was family dinners, birthdays, graduations, weddings, reunions, sidelines of sporting events, or an installation of family members, Kennedy was first to show up to support his family, children and grandchildren. He was a doting husband, father, grandfather, and friend. He adored and cherished each and every moment surrounded by family and friends. The Abell family thanks everyone who shared special moments in his life. He loved all of you so very much and cherished his time with each and every one of you.

The family will receive friends for Kennedy's Life Celebration on Friday, February 25th, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Aloysius Catholic Church, 22800 Washington Street, Leonardtown, MD 20650. A Lion's Club presentation and Firemen's Prayers will be at 11:30 a.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 12:00 p.m. by Reverend David Beaubien and Reverend Rory Conley. Interment will follow immediately at the St. Aloysius Cemetery.

Serving as pallbearers will be Gregory Worcester, Paul Abell, Kevin Worcester, Cameron Mann, Jason Makoutz and Auguste Spencer. Honorary pallbearers will be the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department and the Lions Club Members.

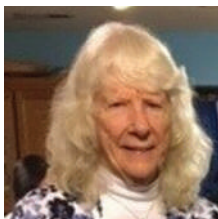
In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 50, Leonardtown, MD 20650 or the Lions Club P.O. Box 363, Leonardtown, 20650.

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

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



Dorothy Ann "Dot" Shaffer



Dorothy Ann "Dot" Shaffer, 83, of California, MD passed away peacefully on Wednesday, February 9, 2022, surrounded by her

family. She was born on July 18, 1938 in Latrobe, PA to the late Howard J Schrack and Beatrice M Schrack.

Dorothy married her 'boyfriend' the late John (Luke) in November 1956. They recently celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary together before his passing. Their love was an inspiration for their three loving children, Janna, James and John, Jr. As their family continued to grow with grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Dot rejoiced in the blessings God bestowed upon her all because two people fell in love.

Dot lived her life to the fullest. With a vibrant personality and infectious smile, Dot embodied the silliness of Lucille Ball and the sassiness of Betty White. Dot had a wonderful personality that drew people to her. She enjoyed a good cup of hot tea and an old-time comedy movie with her husband.

She loved reading her Bible. She found peace and understanding through scripture. Dorothy along with her husband John enjoyed their afternoon lunches with friends after church on Sundays. Her love of reading the Bible thru each year was an exciting accomplishment for her. She loved to share scripture and witness to the restaurant staff, always leaving a track for them to read along with the tip.

Dot was an amazing seamstress. She loved sharing her sewing knowledge with others. Much of her sewing handiwork is still enjoyed today thru quilts, wedding and bridesmaid's dresses, curtains, pillows, table cloths,

and those unique costumes and backdrops she would make each year for the Christmas and Easter pageants.

A devoted wife, loving mother and grandmother, treasured sister and beloved friend, Dot has left many loving memories for those who loved her to cherish. Her legacy will be encompassed by her beautiful gardens that will thrive through the harshest weather, quilts that will keep her loved ones warm in the cold and the memories of a truly distinguished woman with a heart of gold.

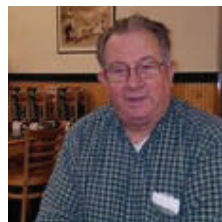
Dorothy is survived by her children: Janna Linkous (Fred), James Shaffer (Brenda), and John L. Shaffer, Jr.; grandchildren, Joshua (Kim), Jessica (Allan), Jonathan (Katie), Sara, Jennifer (Kyle), John (Megan), Cody (Ashley); and great grandchildren Lillian, Hunter, Bodie, RaeLynn and Abigail. She is also survived by her sister, Diana Neal (Bob) and many nieces and nephews. Dorothy was preceded in death by her parents, Howard and Beatrice Schrack; her husband, John Shaffer, Sr.; daughter-in-law, Linda Shaffer; and siblings, Kathryn Schrack, George H Schrack and Grace Brehun.

In lieu of flowers the family has requested donations may be made to Alzheimer's/Dementia Research, Wounded Warriors Project, or Tunnel to Towers Foundation.

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

All Arrangements have been made by Brinsfield Funeral Home & Crematory, P.A.

Harold Edward Cunningham



Harold Edward Cunningham, 80, of Mechanicsville, MD peacefully passed away on February 11,

2022 at the Southern Maryland Hospital in Clinton, MD.

Born in Boston, MA to Harold Benson Cunningham and Juliette Cunningham. After he graduated at Rhode Island High School, Harold landed a few jobs but didn't find his career till later. In 1961 he served his country proud by serving in the United States Air Force, being honorably discharged in 1965. After returning home, his kind heart and willingness to help other people, pointed him in the direction of being a great United States Park Policeman for 22 years before retiring. After retirement he started to work for the NSWC IHD as the Command Investigator for the United States Government for 10 years at the Naval Base in Indian Head, MD where he retired because of the Bracket List.

While in the Air Force, being stationed in Puerto Rico, Harold met his wife, Luz R. Cunningham "Felix". Together they went on to have two (2) children. Anyone who knew Harold knew that he was a loving, kind, strong and supportive father and husband that a family could ever ask for. Together they spend 39 years together before her passing in December, 2003.

Harold was also a passionate Crime Solver with a strong love for all animals. He would often donate to the Human Society to help as many homeless pets find their forever home. When he wasn't helping the Human Society, he would spend as much time as he could with his family and family, playing Dominos.

He is survived by his son Harold "Eddie" Cunningham, Jr. and his wife Kim of Maryland; his daughter Tina Marie Fisher and her husband John of Maryland; his sisters Ellen Cox of Florida and Janice Stivers of Georgia; his Companion Catherine Hill of Maryland; and his two beloved grandchildren. He is preceded in death by both of his parents, Harold Benson Cunningham and Juliette Cunningham and his wife Luz R. Cunningham.

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

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

Melody Jackson



Melody Jackson, "MeMe", 68, of Lexington Park, MD formerly from Ashton, MD, passed away on January 27, 2022, in Leonardtown, MD.


Born on October 27, 1954 in Washington, DC, she was the daughter of the late Marie Freeman and John Freeman of Leonardtown, MD. Melody is survived by her children Joy Jackson of Lexington Park, MD, Kenny Jackson of Allen, TX, her siblings Karen Cook of Belair, MD, Ann Hilderbran (Bobby) of Laurel, MD, Gayle Edens of Leonardtown, MD, and Roselea (Lea) Arnold of Leonardtown, MD, as well as seven grandchildren.

Melody graduated from Sherwood High School and Hagerstown Community College in 1986 with a degree in nursing. She was a nurse and homemaker.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Saturday, February 26, 2022, at 11:00 AM in Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Bushwood, MD with Father Stephen Wyble officiating. Interment will be private. Honorary pallbearers will be Dimitri Brooks, Frederic Brooks, Antonius Carnail, Deangle Brice, Kenny Jackson, and Frederick Jackson.

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

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





Francis J. Barber

February 24th 1942 - February 26th 2013

I really miss you. I miss your smile, hand dancing with you, going on casino trips together and you playing with the grand babies. We all love and miss you.

-Shirley, Aretha, Sheldon, and grandchildren



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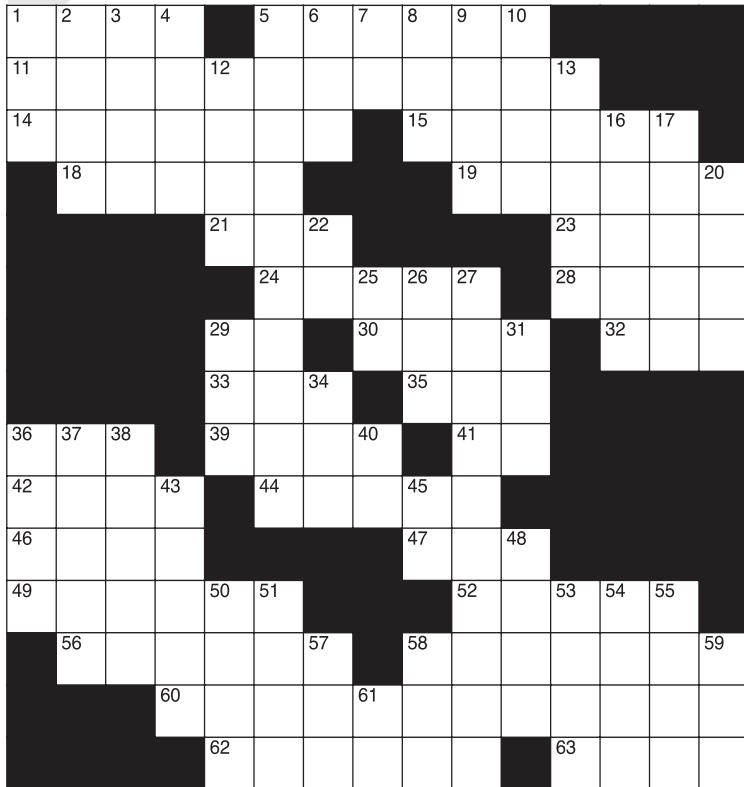
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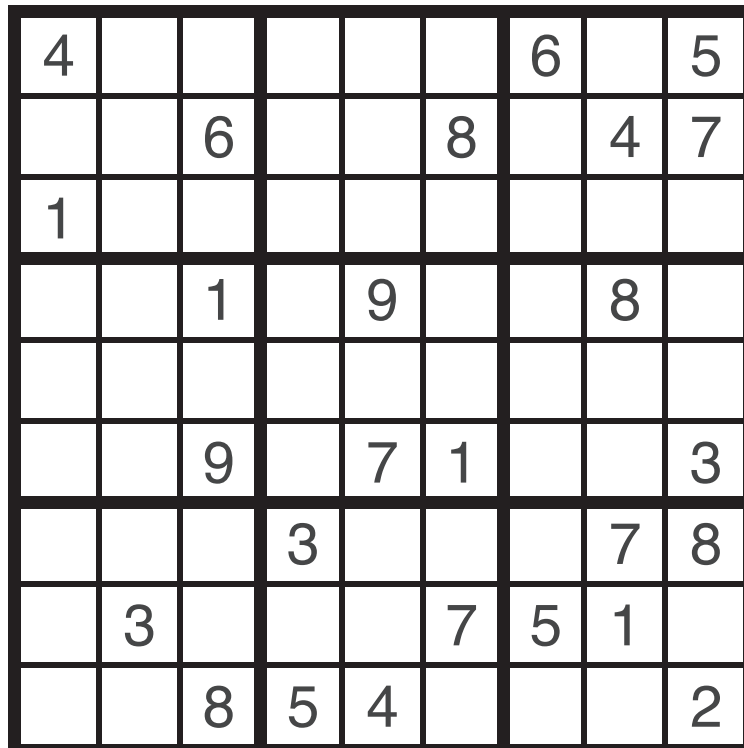
CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Constrictors
- 5. Abounding in rocks
- 11. Speed
- 14. German city
- 15. Lacking sympathy
- 18. Visionaries
- 19. Wastes away
- 21. One precursor to the EU
- 23. Nursemaid
- 24. Unconsciousnesses
- 28. Baby's word for father
- 29. Equal to 64 US pints (abbr.)
- 30. Senses of self-importance
- 32. Midway between south and southwest
- 33. When you hope to get there
- 35. Electronic data processing
- 36. Passports and drivers' licences are two
- 39. Fishes
- 41. Air Force
- 42. Personal computers
- 44. Ecological

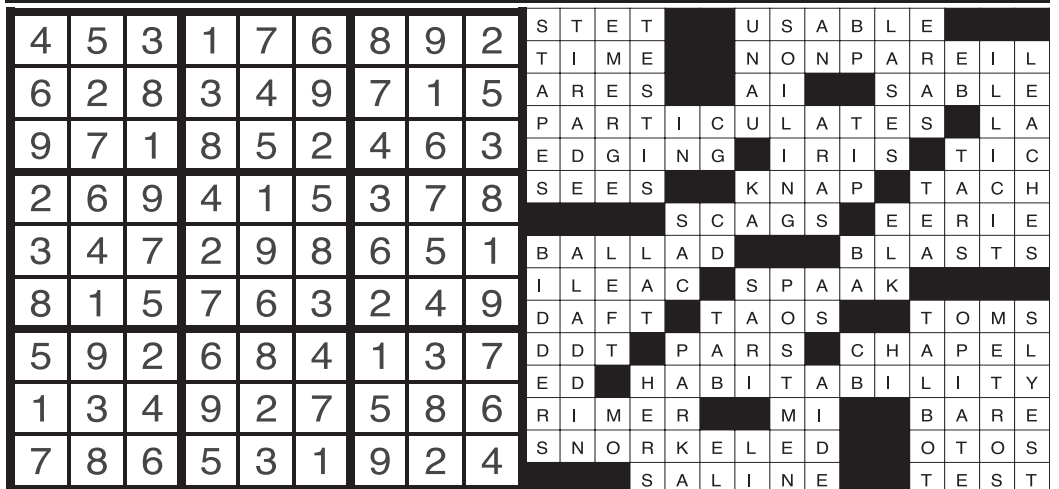
- community
- 46. Wings
- 47. Halfway
- 49. Cool, calm and collected
- 52. Jewelled headdress
- 56. Musical composition
- 58. ___ Falls
- 60. Repeating remarks
- 62. Periods in one's life
- 63. Hyphen

CLUES DOWN

- 1. ___ Humbug!
- 2. Devices that alert pilots (abbr.)
- 3. Grocer
- 4. One point east of southeast
- 5. Subjects to hostility
- 6. Work unit
- 7. Atomic #56
- 8. British thermal unit
- 9. "Elusive Butterfly" singer
- 10. Fastened over animal's neck
- 12. Device
- 13. Rechargeable power source
- 16. Ancient sage
- 17. Consist of two elements
- 20. "Pygmalion" writer
- 22. "The Centennial State" (abbr.)
- 25. Of I
- 26. Get older
- 27. Brotherhoods
- 29. Buzzing insect
- 31. Sunscreen rating
- 34. Brew
- 36. Leader
- 37. Indigo bush
- 38. Burn with a hot liquid
- 40. Junior's dad
- 43. Horse mackerels genus
- 45. Morning
- 48. Unit of linear measurement (abbr.)
- 50. Double curve
- 51. Small, twisted bunch
- 53. Developed
- 54. Mars crater
- 55. Humanistic discipline
- 57. Word element meaning ear
- 58. Last or greatest in an indefinitely large series
- 59. Wood residue
- 61. It cools your home



LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE SOLUTIONS



Publisher Thomas McKay
Associate Publisher Eric McKay
General Manager Al Dailey aldailey@countytimes.net
Advertising Jen Stotler jen@countytimes.net
 Tim Flaherty timflaherty@countytimes.net
Editor Dick Myers dickmyers@countytimes.net
Staff Writer Guy Leonard guyleonard@countytimes.net
Graphic Designer/Layout Artist Jim Lucke jimlucke@countytimes.net
Contributing Writers Laura Joyce, Ron Guy, Shelby Opperman, Dave Spigler

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