

FREE

**LEXINGTON PARK ROYAL
FARMS HEARING**

**GATE 2 FUNDING
SOUGHT**

**TWO KILLED IN
CHARLOTTE HALL CRASH**

St. Mary's County Times

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2022

WWW.COUNTYTIMES.SOMD.COM



A New Dove



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“THE PROBLEMS WE FACE ARE SO DEEPLY ROOTED AND NETWORKED THAT IF WE ALSO DO NOT NETWORK... WE’LL NEVER ACTUALLY FIND A SOLUTION,”
REV. GREG SYLER, PASTOR AT CHURCH OF ASCENSION ON IMPROVING LEXINGTON PARK

WEEKLY FORECAST

<p>Thu 4/14</p> <p>81° 48°F</p> <p>PM Showers</p>	<p>Fri 4/15</p> <p>69° 49°F</p> <p>Partly Cloudy</p>	<p>Sat 4/16</p> <p>72° 47°F</p> <p>Cloudy</p>	<p>Sun 4/17</p> <p>57° 43°F</p> <p>Partly Cloudy</p>
<p>Mon 4/18</p> <p>55° 47°F</p> <p>PM Showers</p>	<p>Tue 4/19</p> <p>60° 42°F</p> <p>AM Showers</p>	<p>Wed 4/20</p> <p>61° 45°F</p> <p>Sunny</p>	<p>Thu 4/21</p> <p>65° 50°F</p> <p>Partly Cloudy</p>



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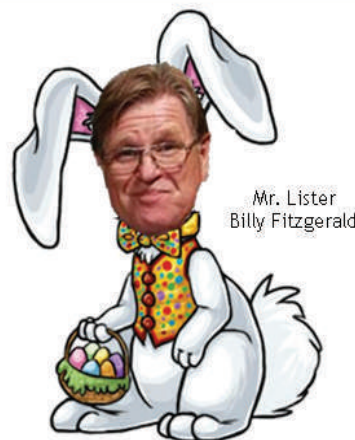
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Both Sides Debate Avenue Cannabis Operation

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The controversial industrial sized cannabis operation on Abell Road in Avenue was hotly debated at an April 12 public forum before the Commissioners of St. Mary's County, with some opposing its continued construction, while others hailed it as a harbinger of economic opportunity and a resource to increase access to vital pain-assuaging medicine.

Others criticized the county government for not having the foresight to amend the county's zoning ordinance years ago to deal with such operations when medical cannabis was made legal in Maryland.

"What I'm here to talk about is zoning" said Joe Guyther, an Abell resident. "I've heard from some of the commissioners that the state is forcing this down our throats, that the state wants this.

"Don't hide behind that, that's a lame excuse."

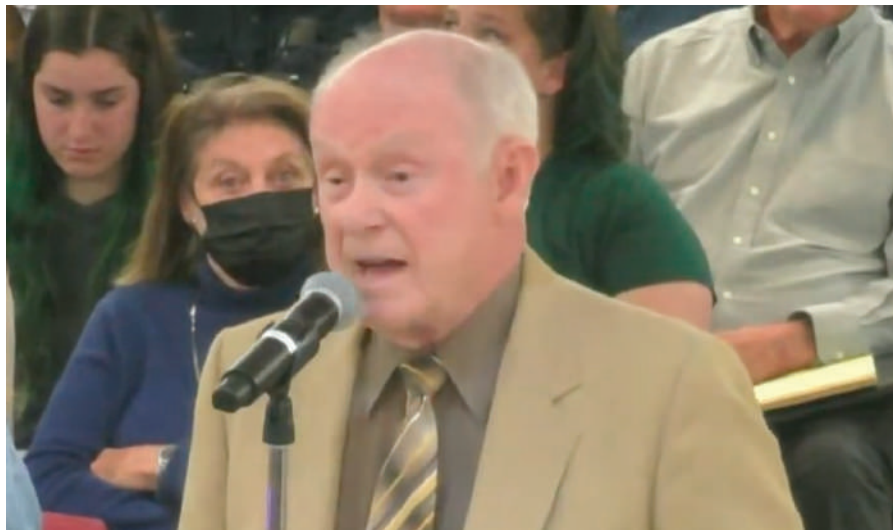
The 26-acre site is currently home to a research building and a 52,000-square-foot industrial grow house is already under construction with the possibility of another one being built of identical size.

The project was handled by county planning, public works and health department staff entirely in-house; planning director Bill Hunt made the decision last year to classify the project as horticultural in nature under the county zoning ordinance instead of the category of agricultural industrial minor.

According to a memo circulated with project planning documents — that was neither signed nor displayed on county letterhead — either zoning category could have been used to classify the project but the horticultural definition allowed it to move forward without ever having to go to a public hearing.

While some elected officials have defended the decision made others have said it was a failure of county government transparency.

"You are the leaders of the county



Joe Guyther testifies on the cannabis farm in Avenue.

here, you are responsible to see that the zoning laws are complied with and we expect you to do that job," Guyther continued.

Mike Alderson, an Avenue resident, reading a statement on behalf of former county commissioner Francis Eagan said St. Mary's officials chose not to act to amend the zoning ordinance to deal with cannabis growing operations.

"Calvert chose not to allow it in their county, Charles made modifications to their comprehensive plan and we in St. Mary's chose to do nothing," Alderson reading Eagan's statement read.

Eagan also noted the great majority of jobs locally counted on federal employment at the Patuxent River Naval Air Station

That employment could be jeopardized if marijuana were more readily available in the community.

"This facility is not good for the county," Eagan's statement read. "It is an illegal drug on the federal level."

But a medical professional from Tall Timbers said new cannabis stock here could help assuage the pain of many patients

"The single biggest barrier to treatment is the high cost of the medicine and the high cost is due to short sup-

ply," said Dr. David Cooper.

"This short supply is directly attributable to the lack of growing facilities in Maryland." Maryland has 16 such sites for 6.2 million people, while Massachusetts has 296 for 7 million people," Cooper said.

"Maryland patients pay five to six times the amount of other states for their medication for this reason," Cooper said. "Having a cultivator in our area will do a great deal to alleviate that burden of patients whose help relies on medical cannabis to function."

John Butterfield of Avenue was not satisfied that the project had been reviewed by the Critical Area Commission, which restricts development in environmentally sensitive land within 1,000 feet of the watershed.

"How could there be such a big deal about a 20 by 20 tent at Morris Point Restaurant or an individual who wanted to put up a 10 by 20 green house on Cryer Road... however you can allow this without a study?" Butterfield asked.

Carlos Simmons of Leonardtown said prejudice against medical cannabis was unwarranted.

"Cannabis is medicine," Simmons said in phone call testimony. "It reduces the need for opiate-based medication, it kills alcohol cravings, it relieves pain. It's a stress relief tool."

The growing operation would provide "stable employment in an industry that is only growing"

The county commissioners have passed a resolution in recent weeks that would have the planning commission examine the zoning ordinance and recommend changes to deal with any future cannabis growing operations.

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Hearing Set For Royal Farms in Lexington Park



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The public will have a chance to learn about and testify on a proposed Royal Farms convenience store and gas station that would be built at Tulagi Place in Lexington Park, just outside Gate 2 of Patuxent River Naval Air Station.

The hearing before the county planning commission is set for Apr. 25 in Leonardtown.

The construction of the 5,154 square-foot convenience store and the 5,280 square foot fuel canopy would necessitate the demolition of the shopping center that already sits at the intersection of Tulagi Place, Route 235 and Great Mills Road.

The development would result in the replacement of all other buildings currently on the site, which includes a church, thrift store, a real estate business and the iconic local restaurant Linda's Café.

The proposed convenience store would sit on 1.75 acres in the Lexington Park Development District.

County planning documents show that the average daily trips of vehicles around the property are high; at the intersection of Route 235 and Great Mills Road there are 40,990 trips, while at Tulagi Place there are a little more than half that at 21,210 trips a day.

At Great Mills Road and Coral Drive there are 17,480 trips a day.

The planning documents show that the project would add an additional 1,036 trips a day to the immediate area.

Linda Palchinsky, owner of Linda's Café, which is in the current shopping center has said she would oppose the project.

Others in the community have already voiced their opposition in letters to the planning commission.

"There is absolutely no way that the proposed Royal Farms facility will ever do as much for us citizens as Linda's Restaurant. Period, the end," wrote Bill Rymer. "If benefit for the citizens has any weight, booting out Linda's for another unneeded gas station is not a benefit to the citizenry. "While there may be numerous side issues and debates, I am opposed to the approval of the invasive gas station."

The planning commission recently rejected an application to build a Royal Farms with a Starbucks coffee franchise at the corner of Charlotte Hall Road and Route 5 in Charlotte Hall, citing community concerns over traffic safety on already stressed roads and intersections.

Another Royal Farms store is planned for construction at the Lexington Exchange shopping center on Oak Crest Drive across from the Wildewood community.

guyleonard@countytimes.net



Royal Farms site would displace many small businesses in Lexington Park including Linda's Café

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Tri County Livestock Auction

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

Grocery Auction – Mother Catherine Academy

Thursday, April 28, 2022 @ 6 pm
(Doors open at 5 pm)

38833 Chaptico Road – Mechanicsville, MD
Auctioneer's Note: Richard (the food provider) has informed us he will have a full truckload with a large selection!

Spring Farm, Home & Garden Auction

Saturday, May 7, 2022 @ 4 pm

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Advance Auction Notice: "Ponies, Minis & More" Auction SAT, JUNE 11, 2022 at Tri-County Livestock Auction Barn. Hay, Tack, Horse-Related Items, Ponies, Miniature Horses & Others.

Be sure to check out other local auctions we will be assisting including:
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“I AM”

It's Easter again, where we remember that old rugged cross where Jesus Christ, the precious Lamb of God, was crucified for the sins of the world...my sin, your sin. And we celebrate His glorious resurrection on the 3rd day, which means that eternal life is now available to all who believe and trust in Him. (John 11:25)

WHO IS GOD? Most of us have some notion about Who God is, perhaps picked up from parents, family, friends, TV or the internet. Some of these ideas may contain some elements of truth, or not. In the Bible, God provides us with the truth, and an enormous amount of information about His true nature and character. In the book of John, Jesus makes seven metaphorical “I AM” statements... telling us very specific aspects of His identity. (If you haven't read the Bible before, here is an excellent place to start)... I am going to share two of those “I Am” statements with you. Each of them furthers our understanding of who Jesus is, and His ministry in the world. They also link Jesus to the Old Testament revelation of God. In the Old Testament, God revealed His name to Moses: “I AM WHO I AM. “This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you’” (Exodus 3:14). Thus, in Judaism, “I AM” is unquestionably understood as a name for God. Whenever Jesus made an “I Am” statement in which He claimed attributes of deity, He was identifying Himself as God. In addition, Jesus often performed miracles in association with His “I AM” statements...as we will see”

1. “I Am The Bread Of Life” (John 6:35, 41, 48, 51)

Jesus states that He is The Bread of Life just after He had fed the 5,000 men (plus women and children) in the wilderness ...with just a few fishes and loaves of bread. He contrasts what He did with what Moses had done for their ancestors: “Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, yet they died. But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which anyone may eat and not die” (verses 49–50).

2. “I Am The Resurrection and The Life” (John 11:25)

Jesus made this “I Am” statement just before raising Lazarus from the dead...after Lazarus had been dead 4 days. Again, we see that Jesus' teaching was not just empty talk; when He made a claim, He substantiated it with action. He holds “the keys of death and the grave” (Revelation 1:18). In raising Lazarus from the dead, Jesus showed how He can fulfill God's promise to ancient Israel: “[God's] dead shall live; their bodies shall rise” (Isaiah 26:19). Apart from Jesus, there is neither resurrection nor eternal life.

I hope these statements that Jesus made, and the miracles that He performed in association with them, inspire you or perhaps challenge you to spend more time thinking about who God really is.

**Happy Easter,
God Bless
Russ Miller**



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Funding for Gate 2 Top Priority at PAX



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Making force protection and anti-terrorism security improvements at Gate 2 of Patuxent River Naval Air Station is their top military construction priority, a civilian planning official there told The County Times this week.

Gate 2 is located at the end of Great Mills Road as it enters the base and at one time served as the main gate of the installation.

The main gate was moved to Gate 1 across from Pegg Road years ago and has served as the round-the-clock access point for the installation since then.

The other two gates are closed on the weekends and closed in the evenings.

“That’s been in the works for a long time,” said Sabrina Hecht, community planning liaison officer on base. “Our No. 1 [military construction] project is Gate 2.”

“We’ve always looked at upgrading Gate 2.”

Upgrading Gate 2 could mean returning it to main gate status, Hecht said, but that decision would have to be made by command and security staff on base.

The project would depend on funding availability from the fed-

eral government, Hecht said.

“We always look for funding to do upgrades,” Hecht said, noting that the funding might only be available by fiscal 2025.

Patrick Gordon, public information officer for Patuxent River Naval Air Station, said plans to move the gate are still speculation.

“Gate 1 is the main gate,” Gordon said. “There aren’t any plans to shift that to another gate, not now anyway.”

Since the base main gate moved to Gate 1 on Three Notch Road and Pegg Road, much traffic has been directed away from Great Mills Road.

Some in county government, as well as business owners in the area, have lamented that move as it took away traffic from commerce on that route.

“The county prefers the main gate be at Gate 2,” Hecht said.

County Commissioner Todd Morgan agreed.

“I’ve always been an advocate for the past 20 years or so for Gate 2 to be the main gate,” Morgan said. “I’m cautiously optimistic they’ll find the funds in the [military construction] budget.”

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JOB Zone

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MAY 19

FREDERICKSBURG, VA

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Private Company Proposes to Build, Operate Solomons Bridge

Would Involve a 'Modest' Toll Charge



By Dick Myers
Editor

A Denver, Colorado based company has a deal for the area. They say they can build a replacement Gov. Thomas Johnson Bridge. And they say they'll pay for it themselves. Will it be a deal too good for the area and the state to say no?

The catch is that one of the options being presented to local and state officials is that United Bridge Partners (UBP) would own the bridge and users of the bridge would pay what the company calls a "modest" toll.

According to a briefing made available to The County Times, the company has already completed similar projects in Virginia, Indiana, Illinois and Michigan.

According to Calvert County's Public Information Office, "The commissioners are aware (of it) and there is no meeting scheduled at this time."

The briefing says it is the company's understanding regarding the bridge:

- The 42-year-old Gov. Thomas Johnson Memorial Bridge is in need of expansion
- Critical economic link between St. Mary's and Calvert counties over the Patuxent River and Town Creek on MD 4
- The bridge handles over 30,000 vehicles per day
- Provides access to important Naval Air Station Patuxent River
- Need for more capacity (two-lane to a four-lane) to ease congestion, and multi-modal capability (protected bike/ped path)
- The project is listed as "on hold" in the 2020-2025 CTP and ranks 32/38 in terms of priority (funding reduced \$3.7M from previous CTP)
- The 1.3-mile, 140-foot-high bridge has a current sufficiency rating of

43/100

- Key evacuation route for Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant
- Southern Maryland State Delegation recently requested funding for the bridge from Governor Hogan to help relieve congestion
- Inadequate shoulders and crash/maintenance closures cause major delays
- A preferred alternative (4-lane parallel span) was identified in the Sept. 2015 State Highway Administration finding of no significant impact.

The company says their approach would be to "finance, design, build, own/lease, operate and maintain the new Thomas Johnson Bridge." They say they would:

Replace the current structure with a new, safe, modern, multi-modal, four-lane structure

Open to traffic within 30 months (estimate) upon starting construction

Economic Stimulus - built using local labor, materials, subcontractors and suppliers

UBP assumes all risk - no financial or operational burden to state or local communities

Creative revenue structures that can include modest tolling, availability payments, etc.

Free crossing for emergency, school, police, medical vehicles

Demolition of current bridge

Local St. Mary's and Calvert Counties integration and partnership

The company says, "100 percent of project costs available now, dedicated for this project, and all long-term maintenance and operations cost." The last estimate from the state for the project was \$800 million.

A call to UBP headquarters was not returned as of press deadline.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

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McKay's Family Markets, through the heroic efforts of our staff, continued to operate as best we could during these times. However, as many people began leaving the work force, the ability of our staff to maintain store conditions and keep departments operating became impossible.

Our competitors were having similar challenges, and thus the competition for staffing meant that large chain stores were able to meet the challenge better than we could.

The shortage of available product created additional challenges. Not having enough staff to serve our customers properly, along with not having enough product to supply the needs forced some of our loyal customers to shop other places. In a limited supply chain, the larger companies seemed to have more products available.

We apologize that we have been unable to recover from the disruptions that have taken place. The result of not having product and not having sufficient staff available to keep departments open has been a decrease in sales, making the recovery more difficult.

We are working hard to find solutions that will return all our stores to the level you had come to know for many years. While we understand the challenge for our customers as well, your patience and support are needed now more than ever.

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NAACP, Local Church Join Forces in Lexington Park



Janice Walthour and Alonza Gaskin of the NAACP and Rev. Greg Syler sign an agreement to use Church of the Ascension

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Leadership with the local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and the Church of the Ascension on Great Mills Road in the heart of Lexington Park have signed an agreement to help revitalize a community that has suffered much recently due to increasing violence and crime.

But more than violence, the partnership also wants to address problems such as transportation, affordable housing and health care in the Lexington Park area, the main urban area in St. Mary's.

"The problems we face are so deeply rooted and networked that if we also do not network... we'll never actually find a solution," said Rev. Greg Syler, pastor at Church of Ascension.

Janet Walthour, interim president of the local NAACP, said different groups in the community had tried in the past to affect change on their own, with little to show for it.

"We've been working in silos and this is about bringing the community together," Walthour said. "Organization is key."

Both organizations will share space at the church to enact programs and project activities to build the community, according to the memorandum of understanding signed April 11 by both Syler and Walthour at the church.

"The church and the NAACP seek to connect with and participate in restoring and building positive, hate-free, productive communities in Lexington Park," the memorandum reads.

Dania Rothwell, recording secretary for the local NAACP chapter, said the partnership would foster community meetings as well as mentoring and tutoring programs for the youngest members of the community.

Building relationships was crucial to helping residents know there were programs and assistance available, building anew a sense of hope.

"There's a lack of hope in St. Mary's County," Rothwell said. "Hope is necessary."

The NAACP has spoken publicly recently with faith leaders in the community to address the growing level of violence in the Lexington Park area; this followed a call by Sheriff Timothy K. Cameron for such groups to partner with his agency to provide a "missing moral voice" in the community to stem the violence.

Syler said the partnership would work to find out the root problems in the community from which the violence and poverty spread.

"Violence is a symptom of something broken," Syler said. "We're treated like the forgotten step child of the powers that be in St. Mary's County."

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Sweeping Climate Bill To Become Law

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

A bill that calls for a 60 percent reduction of greenhouse gases (GHG) by 2030 and a net-zero output of those same gases by 2045 will pass into law this week after passing both houses of the Maryland General Assembly.

Gov. Larry Hogan will not veto the legislation — known as SB 528 or the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022 — nor will he sign it into law.

A piece of legislation that passes both the Senate and the House of Delegates without the signature of the governor automatically becomes law.

The new law would take effect June 1.

To accomplish the goals set out in the legislation, the new law calls for greater reliance on clean energy, transitioning the state's fleet of vehicles to electric cars, building schools that are net-neutral producers of greenhouse gases and renovating large buildings to make them more energy efficient.

The legislation originally had a key requirement that would have required new construction, either residential or commercial, to use electricity ex-

clusively instead of fossil fuels.

While environmental activists widely supported this key provision, it was pilloried by purveyors of natural gas and other fossil as destructive to the economy and a harbinger of much higher fuel costs that are already climbing.

The version that passed did not include that provision.

"That's very positive," said Taylor Gas Co. owner Frank Taylor. "It's still a very threatening piece of legislation to our business."

Also, in the current version, buildings over 25,000 square feet in size must be retrofitted to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions to net-zero by 2040, according to the law's main sponsor, Sen. Paul Pinsky of Prince George's County.

The new law also restricts school boards from entering into contracts for busing services involving vehicles using fossil fuels past 2025.

The legislature acted a month ago to suspend the gasoline tax, immediately dropping gas prices by nearly 40 cents per gallon but that suspension will sunset April 16.

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Randell Honored at Annual Skipjack Gala



Julie Randall receives 2022 "Democrat" of the Year Award at Annual Democratic Skipjack Gala.

Blaze Destroys Mechanicsville Home



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

An April 10 fire in Mechanicsville destroyed a home on Sycamore Drive, fire marshals say, though no injuries resulted from the blaze.

The fire occurred at about 11:30 p.m. when a smoke alarm alerted the home owner; the fire started accidentally on the deck of the

home and spread to the rest of the dwelling, investigators reported.

The fire was due to smoking material that had been disposed of there.

Volunteers from the Mechanicsville fire company, 60 in total, took 30 minutes to knock down the blaze.

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Sothoron Retiring After Long Service to Leonardtown

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Rebecca Sothoron has been looking after the financial health of Leonardtown for 31 years and now is looking forward to retirement.

Her last day on the job is April 19.

She started working there in September of 1989 as the town's comptroller, a position created during the revamping of the town charter that same year and worked there until January of 1995.

Sothoron left to work for a private company but returned in 1996 to town service.

This time it was as town treasurer, though it was listed as a part-time position.

"I've been doing full time work on part time hours," Sothoron said this week. "That's why I'm retiring, it's too much."

Though her job is demanding, Sothoron said, she also has enjoyed it.

"We always have made a really good team," Sothoron said of the small team of town staff. "In a small office you really can't have drama.

"It's been a really good fit for me."

Sothoron has been a constant fixture in town offices and at the town council's meetings, always briefing officials on the state of the town's finances in great detail.

It was always challenging, she said, but after so many years on the job she has been accustomed to getting things done.



Rebecca Sothoron is retiring after more than 30 years of service to Leonardtown

"Keeping on schedule," she said. "Accountants have deadlines."

Sothoron is originally from Richmond, Virginia and studied accounting at James Madison University.

She met her husband, a St. Mary's County native, at college and they came here to start a family.

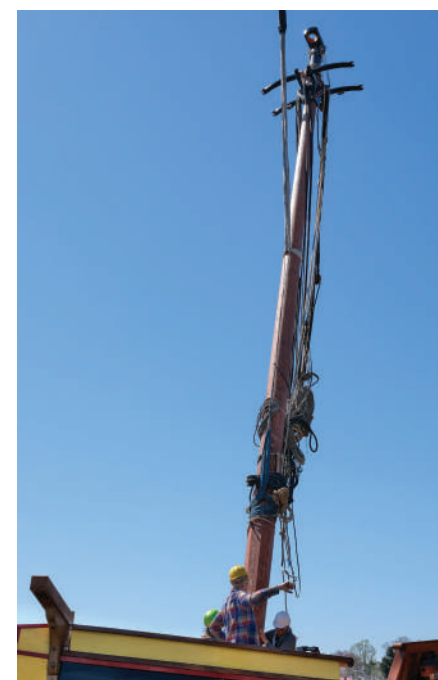
Sothoron said she has a grandchild close to home and has no plans to leave the county.

She is also looking forward to spending more time working outdoors at her home and with her horse, she said.

"I don't have anything [big] planned," Sothoron said. "I'm glad I'm retiring in spring time."

guyleonard@countytimes.net

New Maryland Dove Coming Home To St. Mary's



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

By this summer a new Maryland Dove should be docking at St. Mary's City after about four years of hard historic research and construction.

The shipwrights at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum in St. Michaels on the Eastern Shore craned the hull of the vessel into the water March 28 and are now working on the sail rigging and making the craft seaworthy.

Sea trials are soon to begin.

The chief shipwright on the project, Joe Connor, said the materials used in the construction of the new Dove are much closer in historical accuracy as is the shape of the vessel once it will be completed.

The maritime museum is well known for building historical vessels that have traveled up and down the Chesapeake Bay and other waters of the state, but this project was different.

"We've gone back quite a bit from what we normally do," Connor told The County Times. "We construct mostly 19th and 20th century work boats."

The original Dove was of European construction and built in the early 1600s.

It accompanied the Ark on its voyage to the New World in 1634 when English settlers first founded St. Mary's City.

The Ark carried the colonists and the Dove was a cargo ship that the colonists would use to travel up and down the local waterways as they explored the lands around their new home.

The Ark was rented by the Calvert family, who bankrolled the colonial expedition, but the Dove, a much smaller vessel, was owned by the colony and stayed with the settlers.

The Dove would eventually fall into disrepair and on an outbound voyage was lost at sea shortly after the colony had been founded.

It was at the bottom of the ocean where the research to build the new Dove would get some assistance

Connor said submarine research of ship wrecks at the bottom of the ocean over the centuries have given shipwrights more accurate evidence of just what the ships looked like and how the sails were rigged.

Dr. Fred Hocker, a Swedish professor and researcher who has a substantial digital archive of maritime archaeological finds, has assisted the shipwrights in building the new vessel.

"A lot of these ships are littering the bottom of the North Sea," Connor said.

The ship that now rests at the dock of St. Mary's City was built in the 1970s and sports three masts; the new ship will have two masts, Connor said.

The current Dove has more in common with more modern fishing vessels that have sailed Maryland's waters.

"The 70's version is built more like a skipjack or a bug-eye," Connor said.

The hull of the new vessel will be similar to the older version, Connor said, with the key difference being most obvious in the rigging of the sails.

But there are differences that are even more ingrained in the construction of the new vessel.

The new vessel uses wooden pegs, called trunnels, instead of nails to fasten boards and planks of the hull together, just as the original builders would have done in the 17th century.

The southern live oak used as one of the types of wood in the construction has natural tannins in it that is corrosive to iron nails, Connor said, making the wooden trunnels necessary.

"It works really well together," Connor said. "They should last longer than their metal counterparts."

Some of the wood used in the construction of the vessel was sourced on the East Coast of the United States, Connor said, while other timber was sourced from as far away as Suriname in South America.

"The tropical hardwoods we use below the waterline of the ship,"

Connor said.

Much of the metal work of the ship, including the brass fittings used on board, are also fabricated at the St. Michaels ship yard, but the vessel is still a balance of antique and modern.

Unlike the current Dove, which is mostly a dockside attraction, the new vessel will be U.S. Coast Guard certified, which means it will be able to take on passengers to sail about the state's waters.

The new vessel already sports propellers sprouting from its stern, connected to engines that can be used during navigation.

An electronics suite controls it all, as well.

"It's like what you would expect to see in a more modern yacht," Connor.

Along with engines in the hold, the vessel will also feature a modern fire suppression system — complete with steel pipes running below decks and collision and flooding bulkheads that would not have even been part of the 17th century vessel's construction.

"It's like a bit of a conflict of interest almost, building something the old way with all the modern additions," Connor said. "There are quite a few compromises we had to make to meet modern regulations."

guyleonard@countytimes.net

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

Two Killed in Charlotte Hall Crash

On April 10, 2022, at 3:10 a.m. deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office responded to the 30000 block of Three Notch Road in Charlotte Hall, for the reported motor vehicle accident involving several vehicles. Deputies arrived on scene and located three vehicles involved in the collision and one vehicle operator was declared deceased on the scene by emergency medical personnel. The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Collision Reconstruction Unit responded to the scene and continued the investigation.

Preliminary investigation determined a 2002 Mercedes sedan operated by Calvin Lavalie Shubrooks, age 59 of Great Mills, was travelling northbound on Three Notch Road and failed to stop for a red-light at the intersection of Golden Beach Road. Shubrooks struck a 2020 Chevrolet Traverse operated by William Howard Brown, age 76 of Mechanicsville, and then struck a 2016 Honda Accord operated by Gerell Terrence Shingles, age 31 of Mechanicsville. Both the Traverse and Accord were stationary at the redlight. Brown was declared deceased on scene



Photo courtesy of Mechanicsville Fire Department

and Shubrooks was transported to an area trauma center by helicopter, where he was pronounced deceased. Shingles was transported by ambulance to an area trauma center for treatment.

At this time, speed and alcohol appear to be contributing factors in the collision. Anyone with information on this incident is asked to contact Deputy First Class Matthew Beyer at (301) 475-4200 extension 78005.

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

One Wounded in Drive By Shooting

On April 8, 2022, at 11:52 p.m. deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office responded to the 46100 block of Westbury Boulevard in Lexington Park for the reported shooting. Deputies arrived on scene and located a male victim, age 21 of Lexington Park, suffering from a gunshot wound. The victim was transported to an area trauma center for treatment. Detectives and Crime Lab personnel from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigations Division responded and continued the investigation.

Preliminary investigation determined the victim was in the area of Pegg Road and Westbury Boulevard when a vehicle drove

through the area and one or more occupants fired numerous shots at the victim, striking the victim in the hip.

Anyone with information on this incident is asked to contact Detective Corporal James Bare at 301-475-4200, ext. 8118 or at james.bare@stmarysmd.com.

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

On View Arrests: Burglary

On April 5, 2022, Dep. Reynolds responded to the 21800 block of Three Notch Road in Lexington Park, for the reported burglary in progress. Damage was observed to the door and locking mechanism of the hotel room, and investigation determined the hotel room should not be occupied. Located in the room was **Dean Alan Graham**, age 64 of Lusby, who was previously served a notice not to trespass at the establishment. Graham was arrested and charged with Burglary, Property Destruction and Trespassing.



Dean Graham

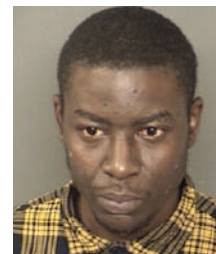
Anthony Goldus Jackson, age 33 of Lexington Park. Shubrooks and Jackson were arrested and charged with Burglary 4th Degree, Property Destruction and Trespassing.



Garry Shubrooks

Assault-

On April 6, 2022, Dep. Schell responded to the 45900 block of Indian Way in Great Mills, for the reported assault. Investigation determined **Kenneth Charles Whitaker Sr.**, strangled the victim causing visible injury to the victim's neck. The victim also had a swollen eye and scratches were visible on the victim's face. Whitaker was arrested and charged with Assault 1st and 2nd Degree.



Anthony Jackson



Kenneth Whitaker

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Low-Cost Ways to Revamp Living Areas

Home improvement projects require substantial financial investment. But just because a homeowner wants to bring a fresh look indoors doesn't mean he or she has to break the bank along the way.

Living rooms are some of the most frequently used spaces in a home, and they can use an update from time to time to stay on trend or to make the area more functional for a changing family dynamic. Here are some budget-friendly ideas for breathing new life into living room designs.

- **Establish the budget.**

Homeowners should figure out how many dollars they can designate to a living room makeover before purchasing supplies or hiring out the work. Figure out the scope of the remodel, visit stores or suppliers to price out materials, get estimates from contractors, and then plan for some unforeseen circumstances along the way to determine if this type of renovation is affordable. If not, scale things back until the project more closely aligns with your budget.

- **Change the paint color.**

Lighter and brighter colors are on trend. A can or two of paint can do wonders for updating a space without a large financial commitment. Pair that new paint color with new window coverings and complementary throw pillows to pull the theme together with minimal expense.

- **Update the flooring.**

Tired, outdated carpeting or other flooring can use an overhaul. While solid hardwood flooring may be preferable, there are many types of laminate flooring that mimic the looks of popular wood colors and styles for a fraction of the cost. Plus, many are sold at home improvement retailers and even at warehouse clubs or online for reasonable prices. Laminate flooring also may be a potential DIY job for a skilled homeowner, saving even more money.

- **Introduce a fireplace.**

Fireplaces were once hot commodities, but that popularity waned in the 1970s and 1980s. Homeowners with chimneys may discover a fireplace was boarded over and the bare bones still exist that can be renovated to



bring back character. There also are ventless freestanding units that are quite affordable that can mimic the look of a built-in fireplace.

- **Reupholster instead of replace furniture.**

There's no need to throw away quality furniture if the fabric is the only thing impeding design. New upholstery or even a slipcover can update designs.

- **Conquer clutter.**

Rather than adding something to the living room, remove clutter to give the room a more airy feel. This can instantly change the look of the room. Use cord covers to tame plugs for electronics and remove unnecessary furniture from the room.

- **Improve lighting.**

Another easy and often inexpensive fix is to change lighting fixtures, including using brighter, more energy efficient LED bulbs, and to assess lighting needs to eliminate dark corners of rooms that can make the space seem drab.

Living room spaces in need of an update often can benefit from improvements that go easy on the wallet.

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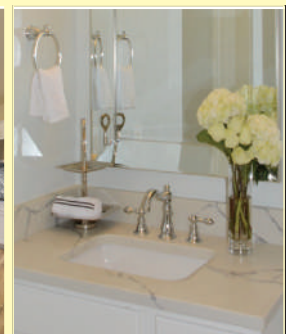
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6 Ways to Make Your Garden More Successful



Homeowners enjoy gardening for many different reasons. In addition to adding beauty to a property, gardens can offset grocery costs by yielding tasty produce. They also offer important habitats and food sources for both insects and animals.

While growing a vegetable or flower garden can turn into a rewarding hobby, or even a passion, gardening also can be overwhelming — particularly when the results are less than stellar. Novice gardeners have scores of resources at their disposal, including the advice of gardeners who have made mistakes and learned from them. The following guidance can make home gardens that much more successful.

1. Start small.

You may have visions of an expansive garden growing rows of crops or acres of flowers. But it is smart to start small and build on what you find successful, which includes plants that thrive in your lawn and garden.

This also is beneficial if you are unsure of vegetable yields. Several blooming plants producing bushels of crops can be overwhelming, especially if you can't get to harvesting or cooking them in a timely fashion.

2. Assess the soil.

Plants need nutrient-rich soil to encourage extensive root systems and produce strong, hardy plants, according to the gardening resource GrowVeg. Nourish soil with organic matter, such as manure, compost, shredded leaves, and natural mulch. Add this organic matter in the off-season to give it enough time to be incorporated into the ground before spring. You can have your soil tested for pH and other characteristics that

make it friendly or averse to plants at a local garden center.

3. Arm yourself with knowledge.

Do you know how deeply to plant seeds and how far apart to space plants? Are you aware of the sunlight needs of certain flowers or plants? If not, read the packaging and do your research so your plants have the best chance of not only sprouting, but also surviving. Many people prefer to start seedlings indoors in late winter and then transfer those plants outdoors when they are stronger and more established.

4. Sit in your yard and observe.

Watch the way the sunlight dances over areas of your landscape. Take note of which areas get the most sun and shade. This will help you plan what to plant and where to plant it. Vegetable gardens tend to need ample sunlight to bear pick-worthy produce. You can give plants a leg up by growing them in optimal conditions.

5. Choose hardy varieties.

Certain plants have been bred to thrive in your climate, including heat-tolerant plants for climates with sweltering summer sun. Consult with a local gardening center to figure out which plant zone you are in and which plants will do best within that zone.

6. Use rainwater.

Rainwater contains fewer contaminants and additives than tap water, which can benefit garden plants. Collect rainwater in rain barrels and use irrigation systems to deliver it to the garden.

Home gardens can yield many gifts, from flowers to fruit. Beginners can utilize some time-tested strategies to increase their chances of planting a successful garden.



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How to Keep Outdoor Living Areas Safe

Outdoor living spaces are a wildly popular trend. A 2021 survey conducted on behalf of the International Casual Furnishings Association and American Home Furnishings Alliance found that 90 percent of individuals surveyed felt outdoor living spaces are more valuable than ever. That popularity was evident during the pandemic, during which 23 percent of respondents indicated they bought new furniture while 18 percent acknowledged building a deck.

The excitement of seeing a new or renovated outdoor living area can make it easy to overlook safety. But outdoor living areas, particularly those that include entertaining areas with televisions, lighting and other electronics, can pose significant safety hazards if homeowners don't take some necessary precautions.

• **Use an appropriate extension cord.**

String lights above outdoor living spaces like decks and patios can create a warm, relaxing nighttime vibe. Those lights need to be plugged in, which increases the risk for electrical accidents.

When utilizing an extension cord outdoors, never use a cord designated for indoor use. Outdoor extension cords are better insulated than cords made for indoor use. That insulation provides better protection against the elements, including sunlight, changes in temperature and moisture. When using an extension cord outdoors, make sure the cord is secured and not left lying on a deck or patio where it can easily become a tripping hazard.

• **Consider fencing.**

Fencing can make an outdoor living space more private and safe. Local laws may mandate that pools be enclosed with fencing, but even living spaces without pools can be made safer with the installation of a fence. Firepits are wildly popular, as more than 35 percent of homeowners who responded to the ICFA survey acknowledged their intention to purchase new firepits in 2021. Adding fencing around areas with firepits establishes boundaries, which is a must for homeowners with small children. Fencing also makes it harder for local wildlife to gain access to a property,



which can decrease residents' risk for tick-borne diseases like Lyme disease.

• **Purchase an outdoor television.**

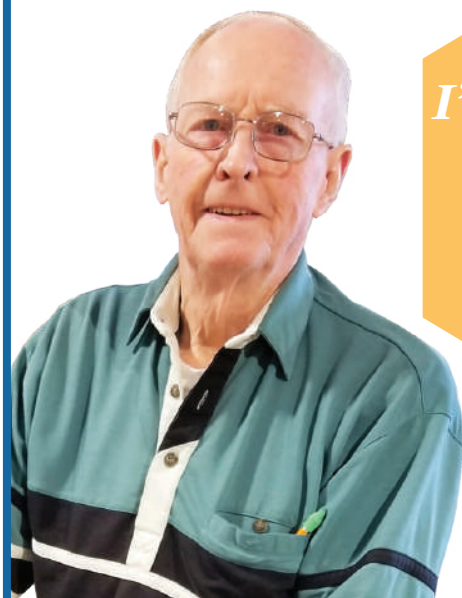
Outdoor televisions can be expensive, but the cost of such devices will depend on what homeowners are looking for. Homeowners who plan to spend ample time outdoors watching games, movies and their favorite shows may feel a high-end outdoor television, which can cost anywhere from \$10,000 to \$20,000, is well worth the investment. But those working

with smaller budgets can find a quality 4K outdoor TV for around \$2,000. That's still a steep price tag, but the electronics experts at P.C. Richard & Son note that outdoor TVs are designed with safety features that indoor televisions don't have. For example, outdoor TVs can self-regulate temperature and moisture levels, greatly reducing the risk of electrical issues.

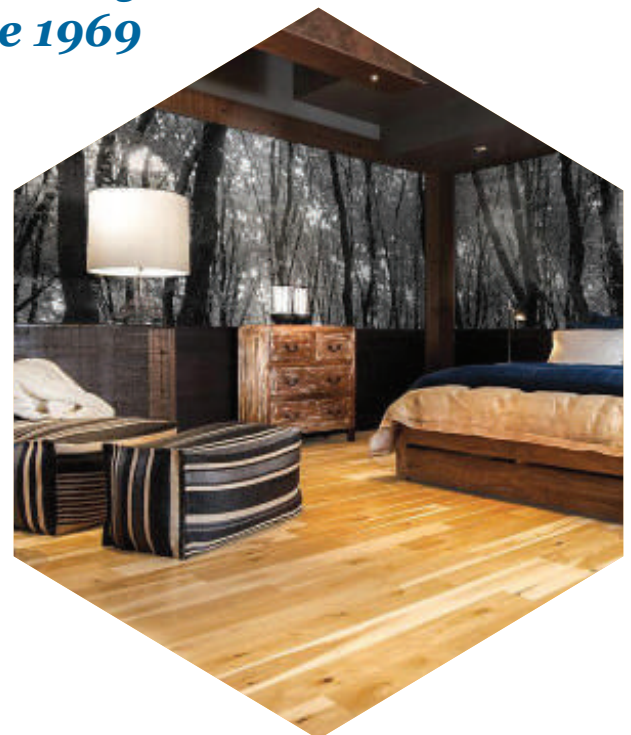
Outdoor living spaces are wildly popular. Homeowners are urged to prioritize safety when designing and enjoying outdoor entertaining areas at their homes.

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How to Pick the Right Trees For Your Property



Trees benefit a landscape by serving both aesthetic and utilitarian functions. A home surrounded by healthy green trees can be a sight to behold, and those same trees can benefit surrounding plants and wildlife at the same time.

As appealing as trees are, not all trees and landscapes make for the perfect match. The Arbor Day Foundation (ADF) notes the importance of planning when designing a landscape. Planning ensures the trees homeowners ultimately choose for their properties will grow well in the soil and moisture present in their yards.

Careful consideration of a handful of variables can help homeowners determine which trees will make the best fit for their properties.

• Height

Homeowners must consider the projected height of a tree before planting it. Avoid trees that will bump into anything when fully grown, as that can adversely affect surrounding greenery and pose a safety hazard. The ADF's tree sizing guide can be accessed at <https://www.arborday.org/trees/rightTreeAndPlace/size.cfm> and serves as an invaluable resource for homeowners who want to plant new trees around their properties.

• Canopy spread

Trees grow out as well as up, so it's important to consider their potential width at maturity as well. The ADF sizing guide can help homeowners get an idea of how wide a

tree is likely to be at maturity. Trees that spread out quite a bit don't necessarily need to be avoided, but it's important that they're planted far enough apart so they don't adversely affect surrounding plants. In addition, wide trees that are planted too close together can make the landscape appear crowded, taking something away from its aesthetic appeal.

• Growth rate

Growth rate is an important variable because it can affect how quickly homeowners will see changes in their landscapes. Homeowners who want to plant for privacy can consider trees with quick growth rates or purchase more mature trees that are already near full growth. Those who are not in need of instant transformation can try trees with slower growth rates, which the ADF notes typically live longer than fast-growing species.

• Requirements

Different trees require different amounts of sun and moisture and different soil components to thrive. Homeowners can have their soil tested to determine which trees will thrive in it. Local garden centers can be a great resource for homeowners who want insight as to which trees will thrive in their local climates.

Trees serve many functions on a property. Choosing the right trees for a landscape requires careful consideration of a host of variables.

How to Prepare Landscapes For New Plants

New plants can add much to a landscape. Whether they're replacing plants that are no longer thriving or being added to supplement an existing landscape, new plants are an affordable way to give a home's exterior a whole new look.

Much consideration is given to which plants to add to a landscape. That's understandable, as homeowners want to choose plants that will thrive and won't compromise the health of surrounding plants and trees. Before planting or even choosing plants, it's important to plan for new additions to a landscape. Preparing the landscape can inform homeowners about which plants to purchase and can ensure they thrive after planting.

• Document sunlight exposure.

Plants have different needs, and one of the biggest differences between species is the amount of sunlight they need to thrive. According to Penn State Extension, plants characterized as "full sun" require six or more hours of sunlight per day, while those considered "partial sun" need between four and six hours of sunlight per day. Plants designated as "partial shade" need two to four hours of sun per day, while "shade" plants need less than two hours of sunlight a day. Documenting sunlight exposure in advance gives homeowners an idea of which plants should be planted and where they should be planted. Jot down these observations in a journal over several weeks and then choose plants that will thrive in each area.

• Test the soil.

A soil pH test is a simple and quick way to determine the acidity of soil. Soil pH levels will indicate how likely a plant is to thrive in a given spot. High levels won't necessarily mean an area should be avoided, as some plants thrive in acidic soils. Additional soil tests can determine other characteristics, such as the nutrient levels of soil and the amount of organic matter it contains.



Each of these variables can help homeowners make the right choices as they introduce new plants to their properties.

• Consider local wildlife.

If local wildlife makes its presence known on a property, homeowners may want to take proactive steps prior to planting anything new. A new fence might prevent animals like deer from getting in, but that likely won't do much to repel smaller animals like squirrels, rabbits or foxes. If wildlife is a concern, homeowners can seek advice at their local garden center about which plants certain animals are likely to ignore. Homeowners who want to attract wildlife can do the same in reverse, choosing plants wildlife will be drawn to. Homeowners who want to deter wildlife should erect fencing or other barriers prior to planting.

• Clear space if necessary.

Plants grow up and out, and cramped quarters can make it hard for new plants to thrive. Some may thrive but only at the expense of other plants. If necessary, clear space prior to planting to ensure plants have ample space to grow.

Some pre-planting landscape preparation can ensure new plants thrive.

How to Stay Safe on DIY Projects

Home improvement projects can be costly. Depending on the scope of the project, the choice of materials and the skill level involved to see the project through to successful completion, homeowners could be on the hook for thousands of dollars or even more when renovating their homes.

One popular way homeowners look to cut such costs is to do some, if not all, of the work themselves. Indeed, do-it-yourselfers can save a considerable amount of money. Estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Housing Survey indicate that homeowners can save anywhere from 50 to 80 percent on DIY projects compared to what they might pay for comparable work to be performed by a contractor. However, the key there is "comparable." Cost overruns could derail DIY savings rather quickly if homeowners have little renovating skill or experience. But homeowners' wallets aren't the only thing in jeopardy if a DIY project goes awry.

Renovation projects require attention to detail, and that includes an emphasis on safety. Homeowners who are injured on DIY projects may face costly medical bills, while projects that are completed without incident could later pose safety hazards that require work to be redone, which is both expensive and a threat to personal safety in the interim. DIYers need not be discouraged from taking projects on themselves, but they should heed these tips to stay safe when working on their homes.

- Make sure you choose the right ladder. DIYers may spend ample time shopping for drills and other electronic tools and gadgets that are fun to use. But ample time also must be afforded to the type of ladder you intend to use on a project. Estimates from the West Bend Insurance Company indicate that roughly 90,000 people visit the emergency room due to ladder accidents each year. Never use a broken ladder or an aging ladder that's uneven. In addition, do not use a ladder that forces you to reach far away. If you're leaning while using a ladder, the ladder is either too short for your project or positioned too far away from the wall. The



National Home Security Alliance advises DIYers to place their ladder one foot from the wall for every four feet it rises above the ground. Test your ladders for their sturdiness prior to beginning work so you aren't tempted to use a subpar ladder.

- Be especially careful with power tools. Power tools can do a lot and they're fun to use. But it's important that DIYers do not let fun distract them from safety. The Power Tool Institute urges power tool users to wear personal protective equipment, including eye and hearing protection and a dust mask, whenever using power tools. The PTI also advises users to make sure tools are powered down before plugging them in and to inspect the tool before using it. Inspections can confirm that all guards are in place and that tools are up to the task at hand. Much like it's unsafe to overreach on a ladder, overreaching when using power tools increase the risk for mistakes, accidents and injuries.

- Avoid electrical work. Complicated electrical work is best left to the professionals. Estimates from the Electrical Safety Foundation International indicate that electrical malfunctions cause more than 50,000 house fires each year. Such malfunctions can occur for myriad reasons, and a lack of experience working with electrical circuits and breakers could make homes vulnerable to malfunctions and fires. It's also worth noting that homeowners' insurance policies

may not cover damage caused by DIY electrical work. So at the very least homeowners should contact their insurance providers to determine if any accidents or injuries caused by DIY electrical work would be covered by

their policies.

DIY renovation projects can save homeowners a lot of money, but those savings aren't worth compromising your safety and the safety of your loved ones.

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The advertisement features a decorative logo for Schoenbauer Furniture Service, Inc. with the text "4th Generation Craftsmanship". Below the logo is a photograph of a restored, ornate wooden coffee table in a living room setting. The table has intricate carvings and a dark finish. In the background, there is a white sofa and a fireplace. The overall aesthetic is classic and elegant.

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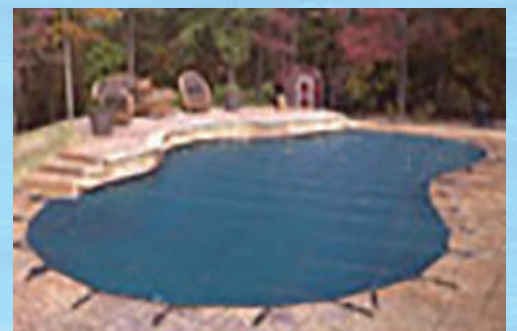
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Signs it is Time to Overhaul Your Kitchen

Remodeling a kitchen adds value to a home. Remodeling Magazine's "Cost vs. Value Report" indicates mid-range kitchen remodels cost about \$66,000, and homeowners can expect to recover about 60 to 80 percent of that cost at resale.

Homeowners may wonder if remodeling their kitchens is worth the investment. But homeowners should not just consider cost, but also the current conditions of their kitchens when deciding if a renovation project is the right move to make. These signs indicate it may be time to renovate a kitchen.

- **Breakers are triggered**

If the lights go dark from a tripped circuit breaker every time you try to microwave and run the toaster oven at the same time, your wiring is likely not up to the task of handling the workload and could be out of date. A kitchen remodel will assess wiring load needs and an electric overhaul may be

necessary.

- **Lack of storage**

One of the biggest hassles homeowners encounter in their kitchens is a lack of storage space. If making a meal involves a Jenga-like stacking and rearranging of kitchen tools, or if an avalanche occurs whenever you search for an item, you might need more storage. A carefully planned redesign can achieve this, even in a smaller kitchen.

- **Outdated appliances**

Even if your appliances are not avocado green or mustard yellow relics of the 1970s, they might still need to be replaced. According to CRD Design, appliances are only expected to last around 10 to 15 years. If appliances have become unsafe or energy hogs, it could be time for a remodel.

- **Family is expanding (or shrinking)**

Kitchens often are the heart of a home. They need to meet the needs of the family that



resides in that home. A remodel can add space as needed. On the flip side, when a couple becomes empty nesters, kitchens can be redesigned and downsized to reflect their new needs and desires, such as the addition of a wine chiller or espresso station.

- **Poor lighting**

Task lighting is essential in a kitchen, but older homes may not be equipped with lighting where it's most needed. A carefully designed remodel can improve lighting with under-cabinet lights, pendants, overhead lighting, and even natural light to make the space attractive and more functional.

- **Frequent run-ins**

The notion that you can have too many cooks in the kitchen refers to having too many people trying to pitch in or offer their opinions. However, it also can apply to when too many people are gathering in a small space. Redesigning a kitchen can improve the efficiency of a space and make the room feel larger.

- **Aesthetic appeal**

Many kitchen remodels have been inspired by unsightly kitchens. Cosmetic changes can lead to big improvements.

Kitchen renovations can add instant appeal and help address issues that tend to plague outdated rooms.



Stay safe around power lines

With the return of spring, many people are excited to head outdoors and get started on some projects around the house and yard. It's important to stay safe and be aware of overhead power lines. Look up.

- Never climb power poles or transmission towers.
- Never climb trees near power lines.
- Keep equipment away from overhead lines when carrying ladders, pool skimmers, and pruning tools.
- If you are doing work close to power lines—such as trimming trees, working on your roof, or doing exterior renovations—keep yourself, your ladder and anything you are handling a safe distance from the power line.

In addition to overhead lines, SMECO has many underground electric lines. Call Miss Utility at 811 before you dig.

- Contact SMECO to disconnect power if you are doing work that requires close contact with overhead lines attached to your home.
- Use a licensed electrician for all electrical work.
- Plant trees away from power lines.

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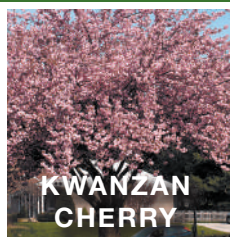
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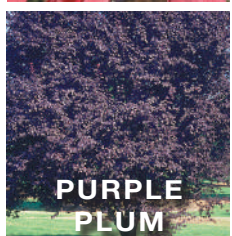
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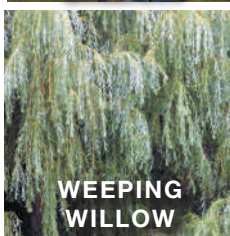
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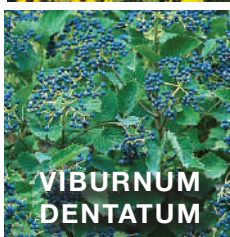
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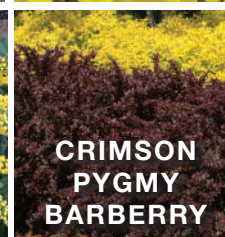
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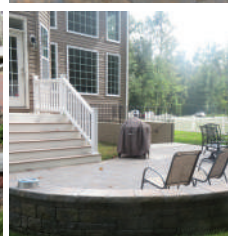
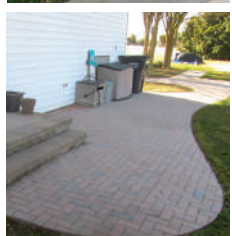
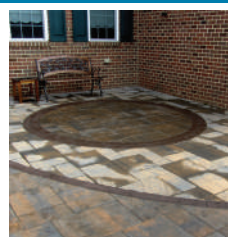


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Wanderings

of an Aimless Mind

by Shelby Oppermann



HAPPY EASTER TIDINGS

The time of Easter and Passover are upon us, and I am so looking forward to seeing the Easter morning light shining through the colorful cellophane which covers the baskets. However, there are times when I wish there was a real Easter bunny who brought the baskets pre-filled and wrapped right to our dining room table. I say that now, but I really do love fixing up all the grandkids baskets. It seems that once all the grandkids get older it is harder to have them all together, especially in blended families. Our oldest granddaughter is away at Texas Tech, so she will be missed terribly.

As soon as Easter merchandise was out this year, I started getting candy, Easter grass, and a few new baskets. I normally have plenty of baskets for the kids as well as baskets for the Easter egg hunt, but last year some of the baskets were brought back and left out by the back door and unfortunately were filled with ants. Those baskets and grass went right in the trash. It hurt a little because most of the kids have had the same baskets their entire lives. Most of the time they dump their baskets into the cellophane bags and leave the baskets, but if any kids can't come, I like for them to see a true Easter basket.

Hopefully, the grandkids will have Easter baskets this year since I haven't even bought all the basket fixings or the ham yet, which my husband will cook in the smoker. As always, I feel like I am way behind – that all the time I thought I had suddenly vanished. Somehow, though, all the shopping will get done. And the dusting and general house clean-up will be done just in time like always. I may not sleep, like most moms and grandmoms, but it is worth it. I will not let go of traditions. Again, I wish the magical Easter bunny could throw on an apron and help with all that also.

I was reading about different versions of how the bunny and Easter became connected. Apparently there is no reference in the bible. But it is thought that since rabbits are so prolific during spring in having kits (kittens) that the theme of new life blends well with the resurrection of Jesus. Most sites I looked at, always mention that Easter has been made into more of a commercially made holiday. The tradition of eggs is believed to represent Jesus' tomb. Some ask, "Then why not a chicken instead of a rabbit as an Easter symbol", though I think chicks, especially Peeps, are fully represented in baskets.

From an Easter bunny origins site: "In terms of the Easter Bunny's specific ties to the Christian holiday, German writings from the 1600s were reportedly among the first to mention an Easter hare. The Easter hare (called



"Oschter Haws" in German) was said to have left colorful eggs for good children around Easter. Children would sometimes prepare "nests" for the eggs and leave carrots for the hare. German immigrants are believed to have brought the Easter Bunny tradition to the United States around the 1700s." The origins of the Easter egg hunt also possibly stem from Germany in that "Some suggest that its origins date back to the late 16th century, when the Protestant reformer Martin Luther organized egg hunts for his congregation. The men would hide the eggs for the women and children to find. This was a nod to the story of the resurrection, in which the empty tomb was discovered by women."

Where would we be without traditions in life? Traditions give people comfort and memories throughout their lives. Children look forward to all the holiday and family traditions, knowing that no matter what happens between families during the year, the children usually have holidays where families get together to create memories. I know as I look on those sunlight-filled baskets this Sunday morning, so much like the stained glass windows of our church on bright, sunny Sundays, that my heart and mind will be filled with the memories of my parents' and brothers' smiles on Easter morning. I think I will make a small basket for myself with a few of my father's favorite candies. I can still remember him sneaking candy from my basket until I told my mother that daddy was eating all my candy. The next year, Daddy had his own basket. This year we will share. Happy Easter week and Easter Sunday to all.

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

A View From The BLEACHERS



UNLIKELY MOMENT

By Ronald N. Guy Jr.
Contributing Writer

The NBA and NHL playoffs are approaching. MLB, after flirtations with disaster, kicked off the 2021 season (whew!). The NFL draft is looming. March Madness just wrapped up and Mike Krzyzewski completed an unbelievable and thoroughly irritating (Maryland fan, here) 42-year run as Duke's head coach.

It is a packed sports calendar, indeed. Nevertheless, there's only one story to write.

Poor Scottie Scheffler. This should be all about him. Dude is the world's top-ranked player and just won the freaking Masters. He'll get his run, but he will never be the 2022 Masters' lasting storyline; that was decided before a single player had teed off.

The first whisper came a week before the Masters' start – Tiger Woods hadn't yet withdrawn. It seemed inconsequential; Woods had done similar things in years past before pulling out with various ailments. But then he flew to Augusta. And played a bit. And then Fred Couples commented on how good he looked. And then Woods held a press conference in front of fawning Masters luminaries and a reverent media and announced his intentions to play. And his belief that he could win. And just like that, Tiger Woods, who nearly lost his lower right leg due to injuries suffered in a horrific car accident last February, made the impossible, possible... again.

There is much about Woods that is off-putting. The obvious: his well-documented evisceration of his marriage. Woods's serial adultery, the night his wife allegedly took a golf club to his SUV and his subsequent accident, and the cringe-worthy press conference he gave weeks later were as surreal as his triumphs on the golf course. Woods is also a prickly fellow and perfectly comfortable holding grudges against former caddies, fellow players and members of the media (just ask John Feinstein) for perceived, and often petty, slights.

And then there's his astounding arrogance – a more complicated trait. Woods carries himself with an air that golf needs him more than he needs it. It reminds of Aaron Rodgers's steadfast belief – proven correct – that he could

coerce the Green Bay Packers to kowtow to his quarterbacking greatness. Woods certainly is correct in his judgment of his power over golf – the game with him and without him are two very different things. Off-putting? Yes. An impetus for his success? Indeed. And a big reason behind the drive that made this amazing Masters moment possible? Without a doubt.

For good or ill, greatness is often measured by hardware – rings, MVP awards, Player of the Year honors or other accolades. Second place is first loser. A season that ends without a confetti shower is a failure. Such is the common competition speak to capture when one's best wasn't good enough. It is easy to interpret such a mentality and apply to it life – get that job, drive that fancy car, captain that sleek boat, build that 5,000-square-foot mansion...or else you have fallen short, failed to achieve. Never mind your happiness, the goal is to impress.

Sports and life are more complicated than that. There is context to every story – athletic or personal. Sports decide contests with a scoreboard, but victors aren't always winners and the defeated don't always lose. Woods didn't win at Augusta National this weekend, but his effort was an indisputable success. In fact, if I'm voting, this performance ranks right up there with his 1997 and 2019 green jackets as his most impressive Masters showings. The man almost lost his leg. He is lucky to be alive. There was no indication, even a couple of weeks ago, that he could will his bionic body – the reconstructed left knee, the five-time surgically repaired back and metal lower right leg – to even play four rounds over four consecutive days, much less do it on golf's greatest stage. But he did, and at age 46. Woods pushed through physical pain, overcame the psychological challenge and did the once unthinkable. At Augusta last weekend, Woods created unlikely moment, and an inspirational story of perseverance – for anyone dealt a bad hand or battling against conventional wisdom, stereotypes or even unprecedented circumstances – simply by being present and competing.

Send comments to Ronald-GuyJr@gmail.com

Tackle Box Fishing Report

By Ken Lamb
Contributing Writer

Blue catfish are all up and down the Patuxent River eager to take cut bait. Dallas Croce and Zack Romer went to the Public Park at Myrtle Point on Sunday afternoon and caught eight hefty catfish. The biggest of their eight fish was 20 lbs. 10 oz, and put up a great fight. They ended up with nearly 60 pounds of beautiful snow white catfish filets. This kind of shore fishing, making long casts from the beach provides plenty of fun and food!

Dexter McClendon brought one in from the Patuxent also that weighed 18 lbs. 10 oz. One of many that took his fresh alewife bait.

The catfish are in the shallows and the deep. Boaters fishing the deep holes in the middle of the Patuxent between the mouth of St. Leonard Creek and Sotterley Point are doing very well. The fish are in the 60 to 70 feet trench and can range up to 40 pounds! The terminal tackle that works best in the



Dexter McClendon with catfish from the Patuxent

deeper water is a Santee Rig that has a torpedo float which keeps the bait up off the bottom.

The Potomac has catfish too, both in the shallows and deep. The cats are ranging all the way down the mouth of Smith Creek. There may be some at Point Lookout for surf casters.

The cold for the past two weeks has kept our summer fish on hold. But, with the temperatures soaring into the low 80's by mid week, the perch, crabs, and trout should come on strong. The black drum should be booming at Cape Charles and Tangier sound.

It has been a long, cold winter; and it is over.

Bluegrass Comeback Concert Series Continues

Bringing back the concert series at a new venue



Fast Track Bluegrass band

The final show in the Bluegrass Comeback series will take place on Sunday May 1, 2022, and will feature a new group of Bluegrass entertainers, Fast Track Bluegrass band.

A Bluegrass concert series that was established by Jay Armsworthy had a 15-year stint at the American Legion in Hughesville, Maryland. Due to covid, two shows were canceled. Once all clear of restrictions were lifted, the decision was made to close their doors to the public except for private events. Jay Armsworthy found new doors that opened and welcomed a new home for Bluegrass music, the Calvert Elks #2620 in Prince Frederick, MD. A larger venue with comfortable cushioned seating has made a wonderful comeback for Bluegrass in Southern Maryland.

Fast Track is a band that formed following the retirement announcement of long time Cardinal Tradition band leader, David Parmley. Three of the four members decided to form the band and sought out to fill the remaining spots, mandolin, and guitar, seeking instrumentalists who were also strong vocalists.

The five members of Fast Track are not only all highly decorated in awards from the IBMA and SPBGMA organizations but are also veteran players on the Grand Ole Opry stage, across the United

States, Canada, and throughout Europe.

The Fast Track members are Dale Perry (banjo, bass vocals), Steve Day (fiddle, vocals), Ron Spears (bass, vocals), Shayne Bartley (mandolin, vocals), and Duane Sparks (guitar, vocals). The band has already successfully released two full-length albums with Engelhardt Music Group of Nashville, TN, with a third recording expected later this year. There is just no stopping once you jump on this FAST TRACK!

Opening the show will be show host, Jay Armsworthy, along with special guests.

Doors open at Noon and the show starts at 2:00 pm. Tickets for the show will be \$20.00 per person available at the door. Children under twelve are free with a paid adult. Food and beverages will be available for sale at Noon for a separate price. The Calvert Elks #2620 is located at 1015 Dares Beach Road in Prince Frederick, MD. For more information about the show or tickets, call 301-737-3004 or go to <https://bluegrass-comeback.webador.com/>

"Bluegrass Comeback to Southern Maryland" has been a series of events welcoming back live bands after a pandemic. Coming in the fall of 2022, "Southern Maryland Bluegrass", a whole new series of concerts at the Calvert Elks. More info to come.

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Letters to the Editor

Del. Crosby's Record

To the Editor

In response to the 3/31 letter from Joie Samuelson regarding the Great Mills/Rt. 5 intersection:

Delegate John Bohanan proposed the improvement to the intersection in 2008. Under the subsequent Delegate, Deb Rey, no progress on the traffic issues with the Rt. 5/Great Mills Rd. was achieved. The following is a brief timeline of Brian Crosby's efforts to remedy this situation.

2/2019: Brian has his first meeting with SHA. They reviewed the plan for the intersection and discussed funding options. Greg Slater assured that funding for planning was going to be in the 2020 budget, Right of Way was going to be in the 2021 budget, and construction in the 2022 budget.

4/2019: Delegate Crosby's office received info sheet for the projected project and costs: planning and design funded for a total of \$5.1 million, identifying the planning and design in Spring 2019, complete design and planning Summer 2019, identified \$25.9 million unfunded for the \$31 million project.

7/2019: Instead of funding the project, SHA looked to federal funds through a BUILD grant for the intersection of two state roads.

2/2020: Federal BUILD grant was not awarded.

9/2020: No responses from SHA, SHA went after a second BUILD grant that was not awarded.

3/2021: No updates. They were trying to complete right-of-ways, but were not offering a price to homeowners. Right of ways were fully funded.

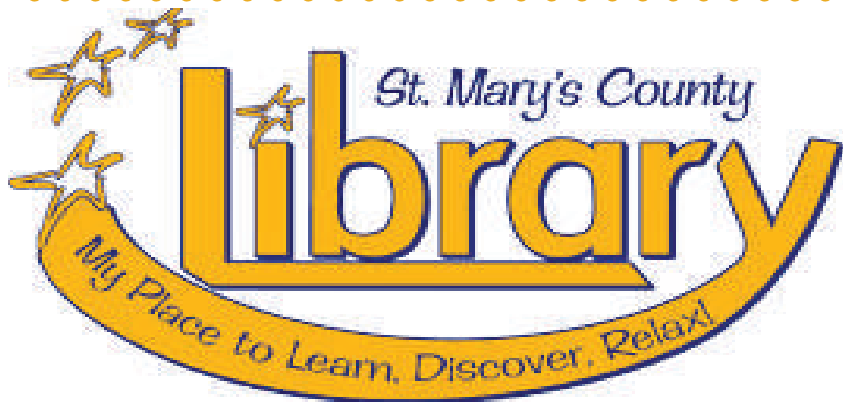
12/2021: A third round of federal grants was denied. By this point, there had been no attempt to use state funds for anything beyond the planning and right of way.

2/2022: HB1022 is put in by Del. Crosby to mandate funding for the intersection

4/2022: \$10 million is pre-authorized for construction on the intersection in the capital budget, an interim report and construction completion date of January 1, 2025.

SHA and the administration have pushed this project back for several years. The governor would much rather invest billions in sports stadiums than invest a few million to fix an important intersection. BRAC is always looming. This intersection is always a ding on BRAC. In spite of the governor's, and quite frankly the legislature's, indifference to rural Maryland, Brian got the funding for the intersection. The governor is sitting on \$6 BILLION in Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act funding and has not spent a dime of it. This is on the administration. Brian got it done.

*Peter Neus
Hollywood MD*



Yoga Basics Class

Join staff from Evolve Yoga + Wellness virtually with the Library for Yoga Basics on Friday, April 22 from 6 – 7 p.m. The class focuses on gentle stretches, breathing, and simple range of motion of the major joints. Attention to technique for efficient alignment in basic postures will be addressed. Use of props is encouraged to find optimal alignment in a gentle way. This class includes relaxation. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Travel The World: Puerto Rico

Learn all about Puerto Rico from a Puerto Rican on Wednesday, April 20 6:30 – 8 p.m. Our Puerto Rican presenter will take you on a trip to Puerto Rico, discussing tourist attractions, language, customs, cuisine, and clothing. And you'll even learn some common expressions in Spanish used there! Experience the world from the comfort of your own home in our ongoing series! This presentation is sure to delight, entertain, educate and inspire! This program includes a Q & A session! Register to receive the link to the Zoom meeting on www.stmalib.org.

Getting Started with Genealogy: The Basics Part 1

Karen, Frankie, and April from the St. Mary's County Genealogical Society and the St. Mary's County Historical Society will be here to teach you how to find your ancestors using free resources, where to find records to verify your lineage, and how to record your findings. Join us Thursday, April 21 9:30 – 11 a.m. at Leonardtown Library. Please bring any names, dates, and locations you are interested in researching. All skill levels are welcome. This is part 1 of a 2 part class. Part 2 is scheduled for April 28, 2022. This is an in-person class held in the computer lab. Register on www.stmalib.org

All About Hummingbirds

Join Barb Whipkey virtually, owner of Wild Birds Unlimited in Lexington Park and LaPlata, for this talk all about hummingbirds on Thursday, April 21 from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Barb will discuss nesting behaviors, attracting hummingbirds to your feeders, and more. Barb will even give some of her tips for hand feeding the hummingbirds. Make this your best hummingbird season



ever! Register with an email address to receive a link to join the online event on www.stmalib.org.

Ancestry Library Edition: at Lexington Park Library

Interested in starting your genealogical research but do not know how to start? Join us on Monday, April 25 from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. at Lexington Park Library as we provide an overview of Ancestry Library Edition, a free service available at St. Mary's County Library. Genealogy is a massive interest among many people, both near and far, and Ancestry is one of, if not the most, well known and most utilized genealogical database. The St. Mary's County Library offers this service free to anyone in the Library – a wonderful amenity that allows individuals to perform their research. We will offer answers and clarification, along with a tutorial, of how to use Ancestry to research one's own genealogy, in addition to how to start researching one's family history. From understanding the sources provided, to identifying where to acquire more information, to simply learning how to get started using Ancestry, we will be showcasing this

database to those who are interested in better understanding Ancestry. This session is open to anyone, regardless of experience. Register on www.stmalib.org.

All Books Considered Dial A for Aunties by Jesse Q. Sutanto

Join Catherine, an adult services librarian at Lexington Park, as we discuss Dial A for Aunties by Jesse Q. Sutanto for the Staff Picks Book Club on Monday, April 25 7 – 8 p.m. When Meddelin Chan ends up accidentally killing her blind date, her meddling mother calls for her even more meddling aunties to help get rid of the body. Unfortunately, a dead body proves to be a lot more challenging to dispose of than one might anticipate, especially when it is inadvertently shipped in a cake cooler to the over-the-top billionaire wedding Meddy, her Ma, and aunties are working at an island resort on the California coastline. This is a madcap bonkers mystery with a cute romance tied in. Sign up and receive the zoom link the day before the event. Register on www.stmalib.org.



PATUXENT RIVER NAVAL AIR STATION

News

U.S. and Australia Conduct First Joint Logistics Nemo on NGJ-MB Pods



The Department of Defense (DoD) Women's History Month poster pictured, is the second in a series of posters commemorating the 75th Anniversary of World War II. The theme of this year's Women's History Month is "Honoring Trailblazing Women Who Have Paved the Way for Future Generations."

Photo and story by Kristine Wilcox
PMA-234 Communications

For the first time, U.S. and Australian fleet aviation maintainers worked together on the newest Airborne Electronic Attack (AEA) weapons system during a recent logistics demonstration conducted at Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Maryland.

Five U.S. Navy Sailors and two Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) airmen participated in a six-week training event in February and March with the AN/ALQ-249 Next Generation Jammer Mid-Band (NGJ-MB) pods that will be used on the EA-18G Growler aircraft.

During the demonstration, the fleet members performed critical maintenance tasks on the jamming pods. They were required to remove and reinstall 60 components, such as arrays, pumps, and actuators. The fleet maintainers also verified step-by-step procedures from the technical manuals

and provided feedback to the government product support team.

This was the second logistics demo for the AEA Systems Program Office (PMA-234), but the first to include RAAF cooperative partners.

"It was great to have our RAAF airmen join us for this event," said U.S. Navy Capt. David Rueter, PMA-234 program manager who oversees the NGJ-MB program. "Not only was it the first time the maintainers had access to the Mid-Band pods, but also the first time they worked together as a team, and it was seamless."

RAAF Leading Aircraftmen Adrian Bailey said that while the two countries operate the same pods now, seeing how the U.S. Navy does things differently was eye-opening.

"It's really invaluable for us Aussies to be here now, and while we won't get the pods for a few years, we can take [the training] back and highlight the issues now,

so we're more prepared for it," Bailey said. "It's very different from how we operate the ALQ-99 pods and it's good to get a head start."

U.S. Navy Aviation Electronics Technician 2nd Class Cristian Cano said participating in this event will have long-lasting benefits.

"We have two junior guys participating, and I expect they'll be in the Navy for some time, so when the pods get to the fleet, these guys may be subject matter experts. Hopefully, the senior guys working on ALQ-99 pods will be leading the Mid-Band classes," Cano said.

Danielle Raffa, PMA-234 Supportability Test and Evaluation lead, who coordinated the logistics demonstration, said conducting an exercise like this allows the teams to find and address any deficiencies before the final version of the pod gets to the fleet. She said they received great feedback

from the maintainers and will use it to improve the pods.

"It's been a really good opportunity," Bailey said. "How many times do you bring out a new weapons system and they say, 'let's get the maintenance guys there first to see if they can improve it.' I haven't heard of that too many times."

The NGJ-MB system, developed by Raytheon Intelligence and Space, is part of a larger NGJ system that will augment and ultimately replace the legacy ALQ-99 Tactical Jamming System currently used on the EA-18G Growler. NGJ-MB employs external jamming pods that use the latest digital, software-based, and Active Electronically Scanned Array technologies, providing enhanced AEA capabilities to disrupt, deny, and degrade enemy air defense and ground communication systems. Additionally, NGJ-MB brings increased power and jamming capability at longer ranges.

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, Apr 14

Spring Break—Cochineal Red: The Perfect Color

Historic St. Mary's City
18751 Hogaboom Lane
St. Mary's City
11a.m. to 2p.m.

Spring is the time for exploring color. Join us for an informative hands-on program and learn about the history and traditions of the sacred red dye made from insects.

Activity included in general admission.

Maundy Thursday Worship

Patuxent Presbyterian Church
23421 Kingston Creek Road
California
7p.m. to 8p.m.

We invite you to Maundy Thursday Worship.

(To view online, please subscribe to the Patuxent Presbyterian Church YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/channel/UCreJBwKjJhKbpu4lS5Ef4)

Friday, Apr. 15

Spring Break—Self-Guided Scavenger Hunt

Historic St. Mary's City
18751 Hogaboom Lane
St. Mary's City
10a.m. to 4p.m.

Follow this museum-wide self-guided scavenger hunt designed to help you discover the many artifacts at the museum. Pick up your scavenger hunt at the Visitor Center & The Gift Shop at Farthings Ordinary.

Activity included in general admission.

7th District VFD Auxiliary Drive Thru Shrimp & Fries Dinner

7th District VFD Firehouse
21660 Colton Point Road
Avenue
5p.m. to 7p.m.

Menu will include 8 Fried Shrimp, Fries, Cole Slaw, Roll and Dessert. \$15.00 Carry out only.

Thanks in advance for your support.

Stay Safe and Make Sure you have Working Smoke Alarms on every level of your house and in every room.

Saturday, Apr. 16

Intro to Boating Safety

Leonardtown Library
23630 Hayden Farm Lane
Leonardtown
10a.m. to 11a.m.

This course is free and is presented by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Solomons Flotilla 23-02. Register at: www.stmlib.org/events/calendar/

Learn the most critical components of boating safety for new boaters.

The seminar includes the importance of life jackets, how to get a free boat safety check, navigating on the water, navigation rules, safe fueling, anchoring, and knots.

This is a classroom course, not an on-the-water course, and does not provide actual underway experience.

Sunday, Apr. 17

Play chess for fun

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

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

www.taphouse1637.com

Monday, Apr. 18

Companions and Buddies for Singles Seniors

23630 Hayden Farm Ln
Leonardtown
5p.m. to 7p.m.

This is a group of singles seniors ages 50 and up. We meet on Mondays at the Leonardtown Library. We have half hour socializing. We plan on events to go to such as movies, dine out, movies, plays, picnics and trips. For more information call Christine Olson 301-997-4160 or email mccambridgec@yahoo.com or just show up.

Tuesday, Apr. 19

2022 Legislative Review Luncheon with St. Mary's Delegation

21890 Society Hill Rd.
Leonardtown
11a.m. to 2p.m.

This will be an opportunity to listen to our St. Mary's Delegation members review the 2022 legislative session and engage in a moderated discussion about what to expect in the upcoming year.

Tickets are \$35. Register here: cca.smcchamber.com/EvtListing.aspx?dbid2=MDSTM&evtid=35324&class=E

or call the St. Mary's County Cham-

ber of Commerce at 301-737-3001 by April 8th to guarantee your spot.

Wednesday, Apr. 20

Little Explorers: Earth Day

Historic St. Mary's City
18751 Hogaboom Lane
St. Mary's City
10a.m. to 4p.m.

For pre-school children ages 3-5 years

Spend the morning learning and making discoveries through stories, play, art, music, science, and nature.

\$4 per child/ Members \$3. One accompanying adult free— full-day admission included.

Location: HSMC Visitor Center

St. Mary's County Public Schools Virtual Job Fair

Leonardtown
Noon to 8p.m.

Please join us for the SMCPS virtual job fair! We will be interviewing for many positions. Our students can't wait to meet you! Register NOW for interviews: cfplus.page.link/dgkv.

Friday, Apr. 22

Earth Day for Pet Parents

40845 Merchants Lane
Unit 100

Leonardtown MD, 20650 [View Map](#)

9a.m. to 7p.m.

Join us for a day of learning about how pet parents, can help our planet!

Talking About:

Pet Safe and Eco-Friendly Cleaners
Pet and Environmentally Safe flea and tick preventatives

How Pet Nutrition can affect our beloved Chesapeake Bay

Recyclable Pet Products

Holistic Medicine and Therapy

Pet OF THE WEEK MEET BLUE JEANS



Nothing makes you smile more
Than looking into the face
Of a dog that loves you.

Hi, my name is Blue Jeans. I'm an ACTIVE, HIGH ENERGY BOY who LOVES TO PLAY with my squeaky toys. I came to TCAS as a stray but my pals here say I'm smart and I do know some basic commands. I fancy myself a food connoisseur so I don't like sharing my food. (You see, I just need to have some space while I'm taste-testing.) What I do LOVE is getting ear scratches and I'll just lean right into your hand for more! I'm really a pro at showing you AFFECTION. I'll freely share KISSES and will crawl my wiggly, tail wagging self right into your lap! If you think I'd be the PERFECT FIT for your family then email animalshelter@charlescountymd.gov to schedule an appointment to meet me ASAP! BE MY MIRACLE AND PLEASE CHOOSE ME! When you choose to adopt from TCAS, you are literally saving a life.

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

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22685 Washington St,
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301-475-5151

Easter Sunday Buffet Breakfast 8am to 1pm. Sunday April 17

Adults
\$16.99

Children (4-10)
\$8.99

Children (3-U)
Free

Scrambled Eggs
Sausage & Gravy
Biscuit Casserole
Waffle & Chicken
Drizzled with Maple Syrup
Honey Sliced Ham
Buttermilk Pancakes

Pork Sausage
Home Fries
Deviled Eggs
Fresh Fruit
including Melons,
Pineapple & Grapes
Cinnamon Apple Sauce
Served Warm

Toast
with Butter & Jam
Cinnamon Rolls
Banana Bread
Mini Muffins
Old Fashioned Carrot
Cake
Easter Cookies

Saturday May 7th!
9am-3pm

CRAFT AND VENDOR SHOW

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Easter Bunny!**

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APRIL 16TH 11AM-4PM

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SUNDAY 11 AM-5 PM
SEPTEMBER 2ND AND 3RD 5-10 PM
SEPTEMBER 10TH 12-5 PM
OCTOBER 7TH 5-10 PM

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Leonardtown Early Spring Events

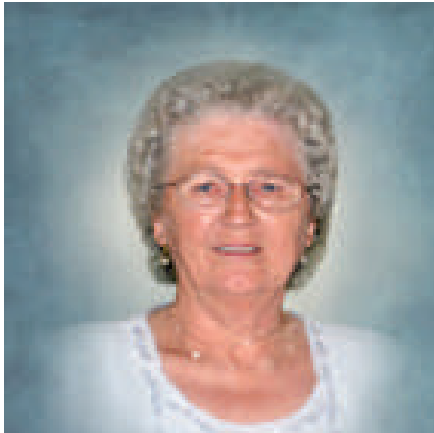
Leonardtown Luau, 4/22, Hospice Run, 4/23, Car Show, 4/24,
Music & Dance Appreciation Day in the Square & Concert at the Wharf, 4/30
Mad About Leonardtown First Friday Weekend Events, 5/6 - 5/8

www.VisitLeonardtownMD.com/LeonardtownAE

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

Margaret (Betty) Elizabeth Dean



Margaret (Betty) Elizabeth Dean was granted her angel wings on April 5, 2022. Betty was born on March 27, 1931 and just recently celebrated her 91st birthday. Her final days were spent surrounded by family and friends that Betty had touched in some small way throughout her very memorable life in St. Mary's County, MD.

Betty married her late husband Lemuel Caleb Dean on September 14, 1948. Betty was a homemaker, babysitter, and housekeeper. She was the adopted daughter of the late

Elwood and Mary Schaffer. In addition to her late parents and husband, she is preceded in death by seven siblings, Paul Schaffer, Fred Schaffer, James Bernard Russell, Sidney Lewis Russell, William Claude Russell, Albert John Russell, and Mary Russell Quade.

Surviving Betty are her five children, Diane Elizabeth Standish (John) of Mechanicsville, MD, Wendy Louise Wright (Ken) of Sandusky, OH, Yvonne Carol Dean of Kensington, MD, Gerald Elwood Dean (Cynthia) of Mechanicsville, MD, and Dale Robert Dean (Debbie) of Mechanicsville, MD. She is also survived by 14 grandchildren, 37 great-grandchildren, and 21 great-great-grandchildren. Betty was preceded in death by her grandson, Gene Aloysius Cusic, Jr., and great-grandson, Steven Allen Cusic, Jr.

Betty loved her sports! She played women's slow pitch softball for Murphy's IGA Team for many summers. She played right field and then became one of their pitchers and won many games for them. She was a big Baltimore Orioles fan and never missed a game on TV. Then there was tennis that she followed for many years, enjoying watching the Williams sisters play. One of the most important sports was watching her sons, Jerry and Dale, play

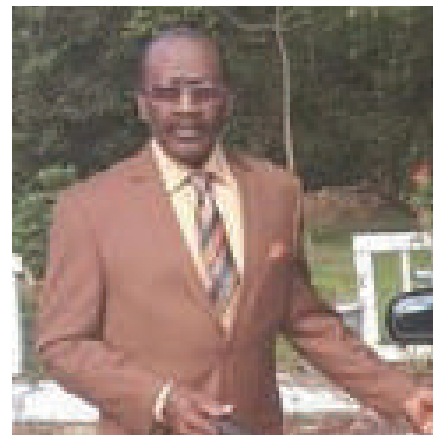
horseshoes for the Men's Horseshoe League. When Betty wasn't keeping up with her sports, she loved her flower garden, with the many birds that visited her feeders she hung in her yard. One of her favorite past times was sitting on her front porch, as friends would pass and honk their horns to say hello. Her family and friends were always greeted with her special iced tea. No one could duplicate Betty's tea; it was the best! During the days, Betty loved to watch her favorite TV shows, "Let's Make A Deal", "The Price Is Right", and most of all, "The Young and the Restless" soap opera which she had watched since the beginning in 1973. Of course, there were many family gatherings through the years that were so special to her heart as she watched her family grow.

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

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

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

Joseph B. Baker Sr.



On April 4, 2022, Joseph B. Baker Sr., passionately known as Chaptico, Maryland to the late James Richard and Catherine Countiss-Baker, raised as the seventh of eleven children, he loved and admired all ten of his siblings. Joseph Loveville, MD.

On June 12, 1965, Joseph married the love of his life and soulmate; Agnes Marie Banks, he was a caring, loving, and devoted husband for 56 years.

You could always find Joseph busy with his hands doing yard work, cooking with a passion on the grill, or building home projects. He also enjoyed watching his favorite football team, the Baltimore Ravens, with a cold beer in home improvement, landscaping; truly the hands and heart of

Joseph leaves to cherish his memory, his loving and faithful wife Agnes, four children: Stephanie Elizabeth Baker, Beverly Louise Baker (Joseph), Joseph Benjamin Molly. Six grandchildren: Joseph William Medley III, Erica Elizabeth Baker, Corey Antione Adams, Demetrius

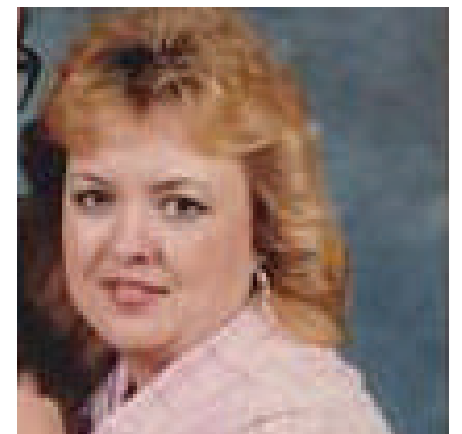
DeSales Clyburn, Deasia Nicole Clyburn and Brioni Monae Baker; ten great grandchildren; three sisters Annie Baker, Mary Mixx"

Joseph was preceded in death by his parents; James and Catherine, siblings: James Richard Jr., William Hayes, Edna Cecelia, William Edward, Robert Andrew, Thomas Frederick, and Louis Jerome; godson John Francis DeSales Clyburn.

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

Arrangements are by Brinsfield Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD.

Nina Gail Graves



Nina Gail Graves passed away at the age of 70. She was born on December 1, 1951 to the late George Raymond Berry, Sr. and Alta Nina Berry.

Nina worked for the College of Southern Maryland as an Executive Assistant to the Dean for 19 years. She could spend countless hours pursuing her love of crafts of all types during her free time. Nina was a loyal supporter of the ASPCA and The Humane Society. In addition to her parents, Nina is preceded in death by her husband of 47 years, Harry W. Graves. She is survived by her sons Sean Berry and William Graves, daughter-in-law Erin Graves, granddaughter Gwendolyn Graves, brothers Richard L. Berry, George R. Berry, Jr., Glen J. Berry, and David A. Berry, and sister Sharon A. Moore, and many nieces and nephews.

There will be a Memorial Life Celebration on Thursday, April 14, 2022, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. with a Memorial Service immediately following at Brinsfield Funeral Home & Crematory, 30195 Three Notch Road, Charlotte Hall, MD.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Nina

Condolences can be made to the family at www.BrinsfieldFuneral.com

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

Ralph Joseph Russo

Ralph Joseph Russo, of Valley Lee, MD passed away on April 6, 2022 at MedStar St. Mary

He was born in Philadelphia, PA to the late Joseph John Russo and



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Philomena Mae (Mancini) Russo. Ralph proudly served in the U.S. Navy for four years and then served in the Reserves for 12 years. He graduated from Temple University.

Ralph is survived by his loving wife of 60 years, Eleanor Ruth; along with three children, nine grandchildren, and eight great grandchildren.

The family will have private services at Holy Face Catholic Church.

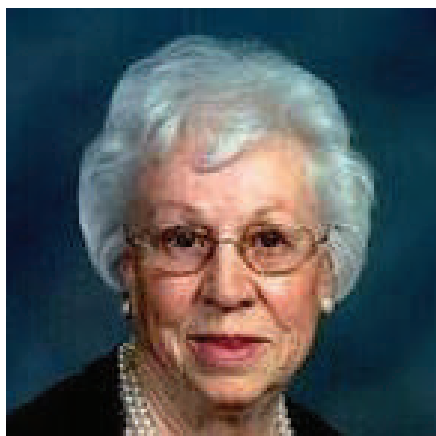
Pallbearers will be John Chapman IV, Russell Murray, James Barnes, Jr., Matt Spalding, John Chapman III, and Ralph Thomas Russo.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Second District Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 1, Valley Lee, MD 20692 and the Holy Face Catholic Church, 20408 Point Lookout Road, Great Mills, MD 20634.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Mabel Loretta Cheseldine Hayden



Mabel Loretta Cheseldine Hayden, 99, of Leonardtown, MD passed away peacefully on April 4, 2022 with her loving family at her side.

She was born on March 2, 1923 in Avenue, MD to the late Garrett Cheseldine and Mary Lillian Gass.

She loved God and her family. At the age of 7 she began playing the organ for services at Holy Angels Church in Avenue, MD. After marriage she moved to Leonardtown to raise her family. She then played for St. Aloysius Church and was

a member of The Catholic Daughters for decades. She worked at, and retired from, the Safeway Grocery Store in Lexington Park, MD. At Safeway, she met her longtime friend, Virginia Gragan. Mabel is a lifelong resident of St. Mary

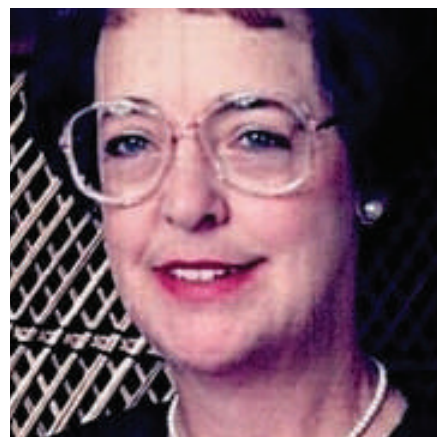
Mabel is survived by her sons, Charles Hayden (Patricia) of Hollywood, MD and James R. Hayden (Mary Puddin" Bushwood, MD; her grandchildren: Brandon Hayden, Jamie Hayden, Jesse Hayden, Jody Hayden, and Jennifer Campbell; and eleven great grandchildren: Mykayla, Nace, Matthew, Mason, Justin, Allison, Nathan, Austin, Hayleigh, Kyleigh, and Charleigh. In addition to her parents and husband, she is also preceded in death by her siblings, Beatrice Mattingly, James Cheseldine, and Robert Cheseldine.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Aloysius Catholic Church, P.O. Box 310, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Mary Catherine Abell



Mary Catherine Abell, 82, of Leonardtown, MD passed away peacefully on April 8, 2022 at Hospice House of St. Mary

She was born on January 21, 1940 in Leonardtown, MD to the late Michael Love Joy and Mary Magdalen Gattton Joy.

Mary is a lifelong resident of St. MaryRiver as a dedicated and reliable administrative assistant until her retirement. On November 28, 1964, she married her beloved husband, David Lloyd Abell at St. Michael

Growing up and in her younger years, Mary enjoyed water skiing with her sister, fishing and catching soft crabs. She and her husband enjoyed vacationing every year in Myrtle Beach, SC. They grew bountiful gardens which they shared with their family and friends. She also canned much of their harvest. She was a delicious cook and enjoyed hosting Easter and Christmas family dinners. She made many varieties of cookies for all her family and friends and gave everyone tins of homemade goodies at Christmas. She crocheted many afghan blan-

kets for her family. She also was a volunteer for the hospital for many years. She enjoyed taking care of other people and was always concerned for others more than herself.

Mary is survived by her son, David Abell, Jr of Valley Lee, MD; her brothers, Joseph M. Kovich, Carol Kovich Woodard; and many extended family and friends. In addition to her parents and husband, she is also preceded in death by her sister, Shirley Kovich.

Family will receive friends on Saturday, April 23, 2022 from 11:00 to 12:00 p.m., with a Mass of Christian Burial celebrated by Reverend Paul Nguyen at 12:00 p.m., at St. George

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Second District Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 1, Valley Lee, MD 20692 and Hospice House of St. Mary

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Mary Elsie Redmond Bowles, 98, passed away on April 3, 2022, at the Hospice House in Callaway, Maryland. She was born on March 10, 1924, in Hollywood, Maryland, to James Oscar & Mary Edna (Hewitt) Redmond, both deceased. She was a life-long resident of St. Mary.

Nuebling (George) of Land O Lakes, Fla., Heather Strausbaugh (Bob) of Hanover, Pa., Jennifer Brannon (Shawn) of Pittsboro, N.C. and Charles J. Bowles (Patricia) of Pittsboro, N.C.; in addition to her brother, Charles Irving Redmond of Clements, Maryland, and the Camp Maria Retreat Center, 41290 Camp Maria Road, Leonardtown, MD, 20650. www.brinsfieldfuneral.com. Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

James Wingfield Harrison



Jim grew up in Lexington Park, and California, MD. During his teenage years, he worked for his father, T.L., at the four local movie theaters in St. MaryTesterman in 1966. In 1967, they had their first child, Elise Evelyn, and shortly thereafter, returned to The United States, settling in St. Mary's County, MD.

He went on to work for Potomac Electric Power Company as an electronic repairman, and progressed into the position of electric shop foreman. During those years, Jim and his wife, Carol had two more daughters, Jeppa Virginia, and Lynn Michelle.

Later, he began teaching electricity and electronics at the Harry Lundeberg School of Seamanship. Following that position, he joined Dynelectron/Dyncorp as an engineering technician. After years of hard work and dedication, Jim retired. He did, however, return after retirement, to work as a subcontractor for Eagle Systems to design and wire a computer system.

He is survived by his loving wife of 55 years, Margaret Caroline Harrison. Together, Jim and Carol had three daughters, Elise Evelyn Ryce (Ricky), Jeppa Virginia Thornburg, (Greg) and Lynn Michelle Fox (Mike). Cadey, and Paige.

Jim was an avid outdoorsman. He also was a sports fanatic. He loved the Baltimore Orioles and the Washington Redskins. Jim was a natural teacher and coach. He coached his daughters, for many years on the ball field. If he wasn't coaching, he was always in the stands cheering them on, offering them advice and instruction.

Spanky. Jim trained Spanky and had him by his side for 16 years. It was an impressive team and truly amazing to watch.

Jim enjoyed the company of his three sons-in-law. He spent time hunting, fishing, and watching them play on their softball teams. He loved to swim. He enjoyed our family camping trips. He loved to spend every minute he could with his children and his grandchildren. He loved to tell stories. He read constantly. He was quite a history buff. He was very knowledgeable about almost everything. He liked puzzles and old movies. He and his family enjoyed many family vacations at the beach.

He was an adored husband, son, brother, father and grandfather and friend. He was a faithful and loyal family man, always putting them first. Jim had a big personality, loved a good laugh, and his loss is devastating to all who knew him and to those that loved him.

In lieu of flowers, the family request donations to Mount Zion United Methodist Church, Laurel Grove, Maryland.

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

Arrangements are by Brinsfield Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD.

Donald Eugene Mastracco, Jr.

Donald Eugene Mastracco, Jr., 70, of Piney Point, MD, passed away on April 3, 2022.

Donald, known as Mastracco in Washington, D.C. After graduating from Crossland High School in

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



1970, he went on to study at Frostburg State University.

Don would later have three children; Daniel Mastracco of Phoenix, AZ, Laura Gardiner of Mechanicsville, MD, and Robin Endress of Aldie, VA. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sister, Debra Pentz.

After retiring from Giant Food following 30 years of service, Don spent time enjoying his family.

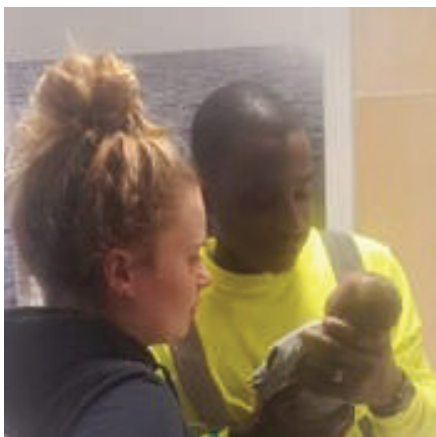
He is survived by his children; Daniel Mastracco of Phoenix, AZ, Laura Gardiner (Mike) of Mechanicsville, MD, and Robin Endress (Joe) of Aldie, VA, and his grandchildren William Raley, Jr., and Olivia Endress.

The family will be accepting friends for Don Brinsfield Funeral Home & Crematory, P.A. at 30195 Three Notch Road, Charlotte Hall, MD on Monday, April 18, 2022, from 10:00 am to 11:00 am with the Funeral Service beginning at 11:00 am. Interment will follow after the service at Queen of Peace Cemetery Chaptico Rd, Mechanicsville, MD 20659.

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.

Izayik Makeen Somerville



Izayik Makeen Somerville was born on March 21, 2022 at 8:10 p.m. at MedStar St. Mary's Marcelis Somerville and Emily Gibson. He passed 8 days later in the Neonatal Unit (Nicu) at MedStar Georgetown Hospital in Washington, D.C.

Izayik weighed 2 pounds & 5oz. He was 13 inches long. He was born at 26 weeks & 5 days. He came unexpectedly, but lived a strong life. His middle name actually means Izayik was an extremely active little boy inside & outside the womb. He was eating 10ML of milk by day 2 of life. Izayik got to have his father feed him, and wipe milk from his lips. Izayik held his mother. Izayik knew his parents' voices, smell, and touch. He was, and is a special little boy. An angel wrote down in his parents book of life Izayik's birthday, and whispered as she closed the book, this boy is

Izayik is survived by his parents, Marcelis Colontae Somerville and Emily Anne Gibson, his siblings, Cayden Robert Somerville and Kingston Rodney Somerville, his dog, Daniya Somerville, his grandfather, Francis Desales Gibson III, and his grandmothers, Marjorie Elaine Ewaldt and Anessa Chontae Somerville. He was preceded in death by his grandfather, Robert Elwood Morgan, Jr.

A Memorial Service will be held at a later date.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Edward Robert Gryszkiewicz, Jr.



Edward Robert Gryszkiewicz, Jr. passed away on April 1, 2022.

He was born on November 27, 1957, to the late Delores Gryszkiewicz and Edward R. Gryszkiewicz, Sr.

Ed was a resident of St. Mary's.

Ed is survived by his wife Cyn-di, stepchildren Justin Thompson (Kat), Bryan Dedo, and Jamie Gibson. Step grandchildren William, Lauren, Cynthia, Drew, Alanna, Megan, Zoe, and Derrick. His brother Mickey (Wanda), nephews Jason, Robbie, Mitchell (deceased), and niece Haley.

There will be a

In lieu of flowers, the family would like donations made to Tri-County Animal Shelter, 6707 Animal Shelter Rd, Hughesville, MD 20637 in his name.

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

com.

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

Duane Henry Hintz



Duane Henry Hintz, a retired Air Force officer and a technology enthusiast with a passion for starting churches, received his eternal crown of glory on April 4, 2020, after cardiac failure.

The eldest son of Orlo and Berdella Hintz, Duane was born July 27, 1943. (He shared a birthday with his grandfather Henry Hanke.) He was the eldest of six children, and blessed to grow up in a Christian home on a farm in rural New London, Wis. He officially became a reborn child of God through his home baptism on August 22, 1943 and was confirmed in the Lutheran faith on July 14, 1957. A 1961 graduate of Washington High in New London, Wis., Duane went on to pursue engineering at the University of Wisconsin. Upon his graduation in 1966, with a B.S. in Agriculture, Duane was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force.

His career in the Air Force took him first across the country, training at Chanute AFB in Illinois prior to serving four and a half years as an aircraft maintenance officer at Nellis AFB in Nevada. While he was there, he was among the service members at Nellis who helped encourage the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod to form its first church in the area: Mount Olive Lutheran Church in 1971.

In August 1971, he began a 13-month tour at Osan AFB on the outskirts of Seoul, South Korea. Orders to Dyess AFB in Kansas sent him back to the States, though he also did a six-month stint at Anderson AFB in Guam. In Abilene, Duane helped establish a mission church, hosting meetings to explore the possibility of a WELS start-up. Duane's next orders were to March AFB in California, in August 1975 as a Logistics controller. He enjoyed his time at St. Paul's Lutheran church in Riverside. He then was stationed at Castle AFB in Atwater, Calif. While there, he graduated from the University of Southern California in 1979 with a M.S. in systems management, and he was awarded a meritorious med-

al for his outstanding achievements to the 93d Bombardment Wing. He also celebrated a truly memorable Thanksgiving Day that same year by marrying Edith Schneider of Howards Grove, Wis., whom he met through a missionary family friend of his mother. Together, they played an integral part at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Modesto, Calif., where Duane helped guide the church through a difficult period as well as the construction of their first church building project.

Their son, Reuben was born in July 1981. In January 1982, when Reuben was just six months old, Duane departed for an 18-month unaccompanied tour at Kadena AFB in Japan. During his tours in Asia, he embarked on trips to Hong Kong, Taiwan, the Philippines, Diego Garcia, China, Japan, and Hawaii, with Reuben and Edie able to visit and enjoy some of those adventures on two separate trips.

Now a senior logistics officer, Duane was transferred to Andrews AFB on the outskirts of Washington, D.C., in 1983, where he met some of his very best friends while living in Cheverly. He and his family became active members at Divine Peace in Largo, Md. He retired from the Air Force as a major in 1986 and embarked upon a career in engineering support and aviation logistics for Department of Defense programs, including the EA-6B Prowler and F/A-18. In 2003, he was proud to pin Navy bars on Reuben upon his graduation from Virginia Tech.

Duane was then offered a contractor job in Southern Maryland. Edie was hesitant about the move — there was no WELS church in the area! — so Duane told her to do something about it. That's how they came to start what became Shepherd of the Bay. He and Edie moved to Hollywood, Md., in 2000, where he spent eight years working on a number of aviation-related projects and programs until he retired in 2008. Duane served in a number of roles for Shepherd of the Bay, including as church treasurer, an elder, assisting the church's audio-visual and computer efforts, and running the PowerPoint slides during worship services. As a result of his nearly 14-years of involvement at Shepherd of the Bay, the church conducted its first worship service in its own building and sanctuary on Jan. 16, 2011. He also was the guardian of the church's kitchen door until spring 2020, when he was called home to heaven.

Duane loved McDonald's — he was a morning regular — and loved tinkering with the latest and greatest computer and tech advances as well as dispensing advice about all things related to the Internet, apps, and gadgets. He was so proud of his son, whose tours and travels in the Navy and in Asia after his military service later led Reuben to Singapore to pursue a MPP and PhD. Duane and Edie traveled to visit him in Japan and Singapore, among



other travels in the region.

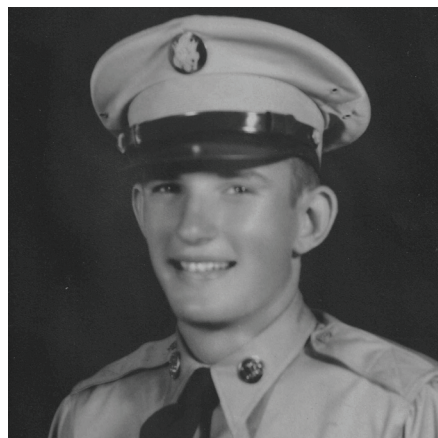
He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Edie, and son, Reuben, and his siblings, Daryl (Mary) Hintz of Appleton, Wis.; Rev Gerald (Nancy) Hintz, of Waukesha Wis.; Rev Michael (Julie) Hintz, of West Bend, Wis.; Corrine (Gary) Ziesemer, of Green Lake, Wis.; and Carol Gagnow, of Appleton, Wis.; as well as 20 nieces and nephews, 37 great-nieces and great-nephews and numerous cousins.

He is also survived by his aunt and uncle Mildred (Harold) Daberkow and joined his uncle and aunt Merlin (Dorothy) Hintz in heaven.

A memorial service will be held at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 21, at Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran Church, 9463 HG Truman Rd, Lusby, MD 20657. The service will be livestreamed on YouTube; connect at shepherdofthebay.com. His ashes will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery on Friday, April 22. Family and friends will gather at 10 a.m. at the Memorial Avenue gate. All visitors 16 and older will be required to show ID.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran Church for the purchase of new hymnals.

Dale Sherwood Bittner



Dale Sherwood Bittner, also known as "Poppy" to his granddaughters, returned to his heavenly home on Wednesday April 6th, 2022. God blessed him with 90 fulfilling years. Dale was born to the late Arthur M. Bittner and Clara J. Leydig on September 6th, 1931 in Cumberland, Maryland. Growing up during the Great Depression shaped Dale's formative years and resulted in a lifetime of frugality and mischief, although to many he was known as a teddy bear.

Dale's fate was sealed when God brought along Ruth C. Randall. She noticed the handsome young man

across the pews and declared to her fellow choir members, having never met him, "That's the man I'm going to marry!" Dale never stood a chance. Inseparable, they spent the next 42 years together until Ruth's passing in 1996.

A point of pride in his life, Dale served in the US Army as a tank gunner for three years during the Korean War. Dale's service to the country and his community did not end with his honorable discharge. His love of knowledge led to a 35 year career as a school teacher for Prince George's County, Maryland. True to his mischievous nature, Dale was known to pull pranks on his colleagues every chance he got.

When Dale wasn't hard at work he devoted all of his free time at home to Ruth and their two daughters Debbie and Linda (and his other "children" Chevy and Honda). Their love of the outdoors led to many trips across the country, including their favorite spot at Loft Mountain Virginia where they spent many nights laughing around the campfire.

A self-proclaimed handy-man, Dale was convinced he had to do everything himself. Whether it was building the back porch to his own house or a family duck pen, no project was too daunting for this selfless man. Even after the passing of his true love Ruth, Dale dedicated every moment to supporting his two daughters, granddaughters, and every beloved pet along the way.

With a smile and a wink, everyone instantly fell in love with this kind and gentle man. Dale aka Poppy will be deeply missed by every relative, friend, nurse, and pet. We can find comfort in knowing that Dale is with the Lord, reunited with the love of his life in Heaven.

Left with decades of fond and colorful memories Dale is survived by his two daughters Deborah A. Bittner-Denham and Linda L. Bittner and his two granddaughters, Ashley M. Denham and Jennifer M. Denham. To the family dog's delight Dale has left behind his stash of circus peanuts, milky ways, and peppermint patties.

Family and friends united on Tuesday, April 12, 2022 from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm for viewing and visitation at Briscoe-Tonic Funeral Home, 38576 Brett Way, Mechanicsville, MD. Service was held on Wednesday, April 13, 2022 at 10:00 am at Briscoe-Tonic Funeral Home, Mechanicsville, MD. Interment will be on Friday, April 15, 2022 at 12:00 noon at Mount Lebanon Cemetery, Glencoe, Somerset County, Pennsylvania.

TIPS TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR LIVING TRUST

Contributing Writer:
Lynda J. Striegel

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

1. Placing your assets into your living trust.

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

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

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

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

neys should do that work for the clients.

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

2. Keep Your Living Trust Up to Date

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

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

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

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



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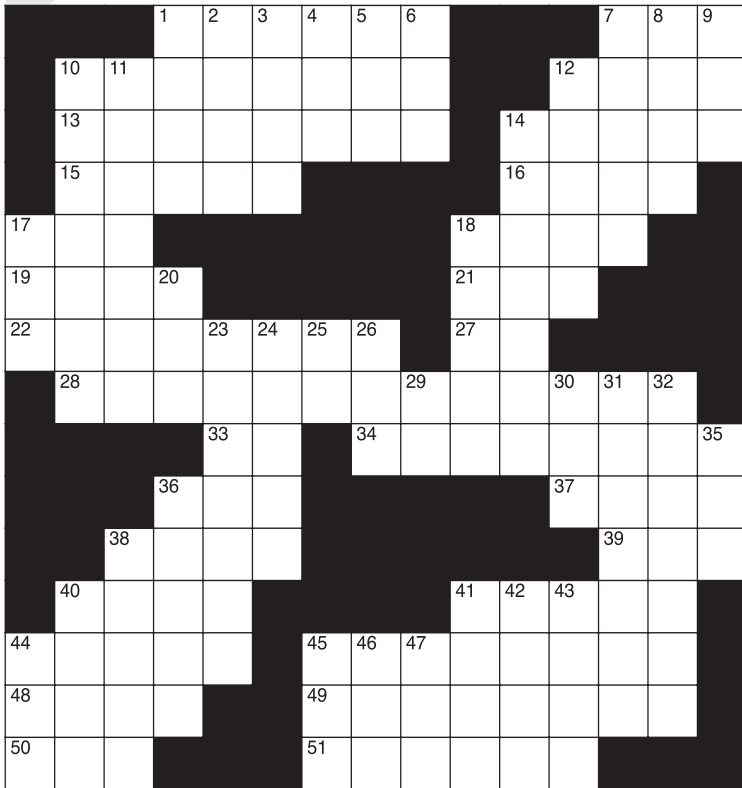
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GAMES & PUZZLES



CLUES ACROSS

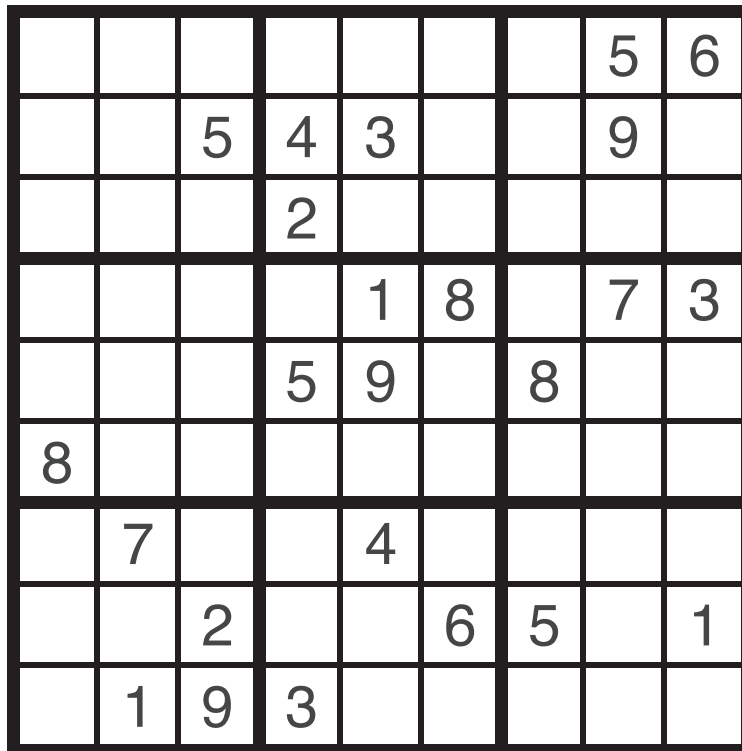
- 1. A woman of refinement
- 7. Body part
- 10. One who imitates
- 12. Tropical Asian starlings
- 13. A type of delivery
- 14. W. Australian capital
- 15. Many wombs
- 16. Wings
- 17. Expression of amusement
- 18. Brews
- 19. Mild yellow Dutch cheese
- 21. Mild expression
- 22. Solitary
- 27. Distance to top
- 28. The rebirth of a soul in a new body
- 33. Police who investigate police (abbr.)
- 34. Begrudged
- 36. Popular sports league
- 37. Autonomous republic of Russia

- 38. Double-headed drum
- 39. Type of light bulb
- 40. Czech River
- 41. Male servants (Span.)
- 44. Previously
- 45. Minor
- 48. Metrical foot
- 49. Days that follow Mondays
- 50. Small European viper
- 51. News shows have one

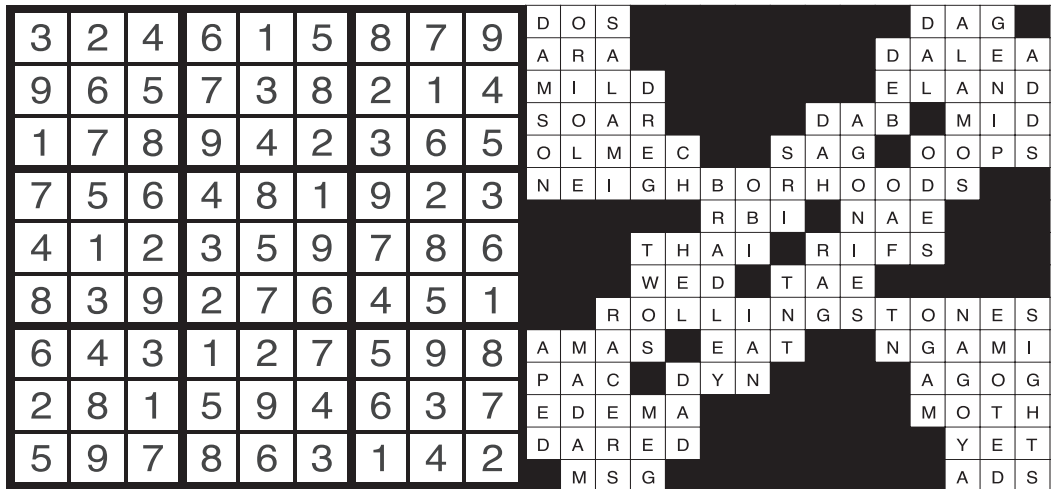
CLUES DOWN

- 1. Inspiration
- 2. Resembling wings
- 3. Form of Persian
- 4. Consumed
- 5. Extinct flightless bird of New Zealand
- 6. Sea eagle
- 7. Jaguarundis
- 8. Poker stake
- 9. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
- 10. South American nation
- 11. A colorless, odorless gas
- 12. Disturbance

- 14. Artist's tool
- 17. Polish peninsula
- 18. Ottoman military leaders
- 20. Bird-like dinosaur
- 23. Drinking glass
- 24. Central Florida city
- 25. One's mother
- 26. To do it is human
- 29. Atomic #10
- 30. Used to write
- 31. The branch of medicine concerned with the ear
- 32. Adversaries
- 35. Have already done
- 36. One of conspicuous wealth
- 38. It flies over sporting events
- 40. Geological times
- 41. Net
- 42. Musical phrase
- 43. Chadic dialect
- 44. Private Internet Access (abbr.)
- 45. Lizard genus
- 46. Woman of the church
- 47. Having ten



LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE SOLUTIONS



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