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# CONTENTS

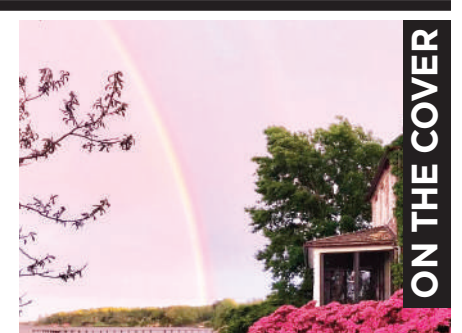
LOCAL NEWS	3	CONTR. WRITERS	23
COMMUNITY	13	LEGALS	24
COPS & COURTS	15	CALENDAR	25
ST. MARY'S H&G TOUR	16	OBITUARIES	26
EXPLORE LEONARDTOWN	18	BUSINESS	
EDUCATION	19	DIRECTORY	30
SPORTS	21	FUN & GAMES	31
PAX RIVER	22		

“FAMILIES HAVE BECOME QUITE ACCUSTOMED TO BEING PROVIDED FREE MEALS.”

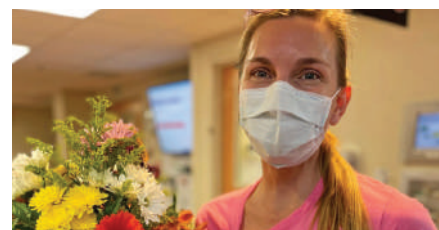
SUPERINTENDENT DR. J. SCOTT SMITH ON FREE MEALS FOR ALL COUNTY STUDENTS CEASING NEXT SCHOOL YEAR.



**LOCAL** 5  
State still studying ways to prevent bridge jumpers



**ON THE COVER**  
**16**  
St. Mary's County showcases its finest homes and gardens



**COMMUNITY** 14  
MedStar nurse honored

### WEEKLY FORECAST

Provided by [www.accuweather.com](http://www.accuweather.com)

THU 5/12		65° /58°	Mostly cloudy	MON 5/16		82° /59°	Mostly cloudy, afternoon rain
FRI 5/13		72° /62°	More humid with a shower	TUE 5/17		78° /59°	Mostly sunny and beautiful
SAT 5/14		73° /60°	Humid with showers around	WED 5/18		73° /58°	Partly sunny
SUN 5/15		81° /61°	An afternoon thunderstorm	THU 5/19		74° /59°	Cloudy with a stray t-storm




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## St. Mary's Schools Shortchanged in Free and Reduced Meal Funding

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

At a joint meeting between the Commissioners of St. Mary's County and the Board of Education, Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith warned that while many other jurisdictions that were more urbanized were benefiting significantly from the state's new Blueprint for Maryland's Future, also known as the Kirwan Commission funding plan, St. Mary's was not so fortunate.

The school system shared projections from the state's Department of Legislative Services that showed their allocation of Blueprint funding was being decreased by about \$13.8 million, in part, because both general student enrollment and those students receiving meals under the free and reduced meals (FARMS) category had declined since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Blueprint funding projections showed that St. Mary's should have received about \$185 million in funding, but that was reduced to about \$171 million, according to Deputy Superintendent for Finance Tammy McCourt.

"This is one of the greatest disconnects we've had in speaking with officials outside the county," Smith told county commissioners. "People are saying 'The Blueprint is enacted and you have all the funding,'

"That is absolutely not the case in St. Mary's County."

FARMS eligible students dropped from 5,363 in 2019 pre-pandemic to just 3,856 in 2021, McCourt said, leading to cuts in funding from the state.

"The reason for this decline is because there is no incentive for those families to put in the application for the free and reduced meals," McCourt said.

This despite the fact that there are many more families who are distressed financially because of the pandemic, school statistics showed, than the state's figures that showed there are 1,507 fewer FARMS eligible students on the school rolls.

"That's because the USDA provided free meals to all of our students over the past two years," McCourt said.

For the current school year the school system was provided a \$5 million grant in "hold harmless" funds from the state, McCourt said, to compensate for declining enrollment.

But that funding will go away next

school year, she said.

Smith said the way the state had provided funds and then decided not to do so the next year was bewildering.

"We have not found a rationale," the superintendent said.

Those families of students who are economically disadvantaged will have to fill out applications to prove their status, Smith said, since the federal government will now be pulling away its USDA meal assistance. Those FARMS numbers will increase in next year's school enrollments, said School Board Member Cathy Allen.

"But since the funding lags we won't have the funding for those students," Allen said.

"It will probably self correct in 2024 but there is no abatement for the coming school year," Smith said.

McCourt said the school system would have to engage in a significant amount of "marketing" to make sure economically disadvantaged families knew that free meals would not be available next school year without the proper applications sent in.

"Families have become quite accustomed to being provided free meals," Smith said.

These included breakfast, lunch and a take-home dinner for students, Smith said.

The school system, like others around the state, is also facing increased teacher pension costs by about a 25 percent margin that local systems must contribute in the face of declining state-level contributions, McCourt said.

Commissioner Eric Colvin said the state was flush with an additional \$2 billion that it could use towards more education funding but chose not to.

"So it's not that they can say there's no money," Colvin said.

The local system was not receiving any more money than they would have under the older funding formulas, Smith said, yet the local system would be called on to spend more on "big ticket" education items.

The money the county schools received were also restricted, McCourt said, to be spent on specific programs only.

Smith said the numbers of state funding had yet to be finalized; the end of May or June could hold those answers.

"We only know it's not going to be more," said Smith.

[guyleonard@countytimes.net](mailto:guyleonard@countytimes.net)

## St. Mary's Gets New Circuit Court Judge



Amy Lorenzini

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

Gov. Larry Hogan announced May 10 that he had appointed Amy Lorenzini to fill the vacancy on the St. Mary's County Circuit Court.

"I am confident that Ms. Lorenzini... will bring valuable experience and knowledge to the bench and honorably serve the citizens of [St. Mary's County] admirably," Hogan said in a prepared statement.

Lorenzini lives in St. Mary's County and has been a prosecutor in the St. Mary's state's attorney's office and a clerk for Judge Marvin Kaminetz.

"I'm honored at the appointment," Lorenzini told The County Times. "I'm excited to have the opportunity to serve St. Mary's County."

Lorenzini has been an attorney with the Prince Frederick firm of Cumberland & Erly, LLC, for the

past 17 years, serving as managing partner for the past eight years. Ms. Lorenzini has a general practice that includes a variety of civil and criminal circuit court litigation. She has been regularly appointed by the court to represent individuals in guardianship matters, children in adoption and custody matters, and military personnel. Before joining Cumberland & Erly, LLC, Ms. Lorenzini was an assistant state's attorney for St. Mary's County for two years, where she was assigned to the child support enforcement unit and prosecuted district and circuit court criminal matters. She is a past president of the Calvert County Bar Association. She received her B.A. from the University of Maryland College Park and her J.D. from the University of Maryland, Francis King Carey School of Law.

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# Bridge Suicide Prevention Measures Still Being Considered

In February, after two people plunged to their deaths after leaping from the top of the Gov. Thomas Johnson Bridge, elected leaders Calvert, St. Mary's and Charles counties called upon Gov. Larry Hogan's administration to install some kind of prevention measures on the span.

Three months and several other jumps later, some of them successful, the state is telling those same local leaders they are continuing to study the problem.

"At the Gov. Thomas Johnson Memorial Bridge, the [Maryland Department of Transportation] State Highway Administration is currently looking at options and performing a study to identify feasible measures that could potentially deter suicides, intervene in attempts, and mitigate risks to individuals and first responders," a letter from state Secretary of Transportation Jim Portis to the presidents of all three boards of county commissioners stated. "We understand that there is not a 'one size fits all' solution.

"Once the study is complete, we will share the results of our find-



ings, as well as potential next steps."

Charles County leaders were also concerned about more bridge jumpers from the Gov. Harry W. Nice Memorial Bridge, which is scheduled to be replaced by a new bridge that is already under construction.

St. Mary's Commissioner Todd Morgan was glib upon reading the letter from the state.

"I think the state is focused on areas other than [Gov.] Thomas Johnson Bridge," Morgan said.

Calvert Commissioner President Earl "Buddy" Hance chuck-

led when asked what his reaction was to the letter from the Hogan administration.

Hance called the letter from the state a "pass the buck answer."

Hance had gone on record in recent months stating that the state had balked at installing a barrier on the bridge that would prevent potential jumpers from completing a suicidal act.

"They said it was too expensive," Hance said, noting that the figure for a barrier at the highest levels of the bridge was in the millions of dollars.

"We clearly understand [the state] they don't want to do anything," Hance said. "But we're still going to press the issue, because it's important."

Anti-suicide measures at the bridge won't end suicidal ideation, Hance said, but it is still a partial solution to be pursued.

"They definitely have an illness," Hance said of bridge jumpers and all those contemplating suicide. "But it [anti-suicide measures] take way at least one option for them to do it."

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# Planning Commission Mulls Cannabis Zoning Amendment

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

A newly proposed zoning amendment dealing with cannabis facilities in St. Mary's includes three categorical uses for growers, processors and dispensaries.

The planning commission, after a nearly three-hour public hearing on the proposal May 9, on a split vote, chose to continue debate on the text amendment until their next meeting June 6.

The medical cannabis industry is heavily regulated in Maryland with the state the sole dispenser of licenses.

The state allows just 22 growers, 28 processing facilities and 105 dispensaries throughout Maryland.

An industrial sized cannabis growing operation, which has proved highly controversial, is under construction on Abell Road in Avenue, with one 50,000 square foot growing house approved and another that could be constructed later.

A medical cannabis processing facility is currently under construction on Mervell Dean Road in Hollywood at the former The Greenery plant nursery site and

the county already has one medical marijuana dispensary — Southern Maryland Relief — operating in Mechanicsville.

Under the new uses in the county zoning ordinance any cannabis facility would have to submit to a public hearing before the county Board of Appeals as all three uses would be under conditional approvals only.

The facility in Avenue was so controversial mainly because the project was handled entirely in-house by county planners and never subjected to a public hearing.

Planning leadership categorized the project as an agriculture industry minor project, which, under the zoning ordinance, meant a public hearing was not required.

The proposed ordinance would impose a 500-foot setback for growers from residences, schools, day-care facilities and substance abuse treatment sites as well as enforce standards of odor abatement from the cultivation of the cannabis plants.

Growing operations would only be allowed in four county zoning areas: industrial district, limited



Medical cannabis growing facility currently under construction in Avenue

commercial industrial district, high intensity mixed use and town center mixed use.

The current facility in Avenue is being built in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Critical Area and in the Rural Preservation District.

Cannabis processors would be allowed in the same four zoning districts with the same restrictions placed on them for setbacks, county planning documents show.

Cannabis dispensaries would be allowed in high intensity mixed-use district, medium intensity mixed-use district, low intensity mixed-use district, corridor mixed-use district, town center mixed use district,

rural commercial limited district (RCL) and the rural service center district (RSC). Setbacks remain in effect for schools, day care facilities, and substance abuse treatment facilities at 500 feet, according to the proposed ordinance.

After considerable discussion four of the seven planning board members voted to continue discussion until the June 6 meeting.

Several members expressed interest in touring a growing facility to ascertain how much nearby areas were impacted by the smell of the cannabis plants as they were being cultivated and harvested.

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# Schools Working to Fill Teaching Vacancies

Conditional	76
SPC1 (Standard Professional I)	206
SPC2 (Standard Professional II)	42
APC (Advanced Professional)	1,135
National Board Certified Teachers	35
<b>New Certificates Processed 2021-2022</b>	
New Certificates Processed 2021-2022	140
<b>Renewed Certificates 2021-2022</b>	
Renewed Certificates 2021-2022	245

Numbers for St. Mary's county teacher certifications

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

St. Mary's County public schools are relying more and more on teachers who have not completed a four-year degree program that leads to a state-mandated certification, officials said this week.

Instead, there are a growing number of teachers who are holding provisional certificates that are good for two years and can only be renewed once before a full certification is required.

Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith told county commissioners at a joint meeting May 10 that the school system was facing many of the same problems of other employers around the nation who are trying to hire.

Dr. Dale Farrell, chief of staff for the school system reported that the use of conditionally certified teachers had reached a five-year high of 76 being hired.

Last year there were just a few over 40 working for the school system, Farrell said.

The ultimate goal for a teacher is to receive an advanced certification, of which there are 1,135 in the school system.

There are 206 who have received their first level of standard certification, while just 42 have received their second level of standard certification.

The highest level, being a National Board Certified teacher, belongs to 35 teachers in St. Mary's County schools.

"Maryland is one of the hardest states to be certified in," Farrell said. "The reason we're hiring so many conditionally certified teachers is we can't find enough

certified teachers."

Colleges and universities are not training enough certified teachers to fill the demand in Maryland, Farrell said.

"Every school system in Maryland is facing the same thing," Farrell continued.

Holders of bachelor's degrees are eligible to get a conditional certificate but they must then complete additional course work that leads to a full certification.

This includes student teaching or one year of teaching in a specific area of study content.

"These 76 teachers not only are working full time but are on a reduced [salary] scale," Smith told commissioners. "They don't make the same amount of money as a Standard Certificate I."

Getting these teachers to higher levels of certification is important, school officials said, as the system is continuing to grapple with numerous vacancies.

There are roughly 78 vacancies for fiscal 2022, the current year, and a projected 81 for next fiscal year.

These are spread over a number of job titles but there are roughly 13 teacher vacancies now that are projected to increase to 45 next year, due in large part to planned retirements, Farrell said.

In special education there are 22 vacancies which are expected to grow to 24 by next year, school reports show.

"None of these are new teachers," Smith told commissioners. "These are just trying to fill the slots we have."

[guyleonard@countytimes.net](mailto:guyleonard@countytimes.net)

# Town Approves Information Technology Contract

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

The Leonardtown Town Council voted unanimously this week to renew the contract for the town's information technology services provider Justech at a much increased price but one that will offer many more options for service.

Last year the town was a tertiary victim of a global cyberattack that is believed to have originated in Russia; Justech worked in the immediate aftermath to restore the town's information technology services to residents to include bill payments.

It took about a week to fully restore all of the town's services as the cyberattack affected nearly all of the town government's computers.

"They were very reactive to the unfortunate hacking we had last year," said Town Administrator Laschelle McKay.

McKay told town council members that in the year since the hacking incident town staff had continued to consult with Justech on their future needs as well as looking to

the Local Government Insurance Trust (LGIT) to further understand the town's level of vulnerability to hacking.

"We realized there were things we really needed to beef up," McKay told town council members.

Justech's services have cost just \$500 a month, town documents show, but the new contract approved at the May 9 town council meeting boosts that figure to \$2,425 a month.

"Previously it was... a much more basic service," McKay said. "We find they are the right fit and we'd like to continue with [Justech]."

The contract is in effect for the next two years and is intended to service the town's office computers and information systems as well as the laptops the town owns for official use.

McKay said the town's small staff made it necessary to outsource its information technology work to a contractor.

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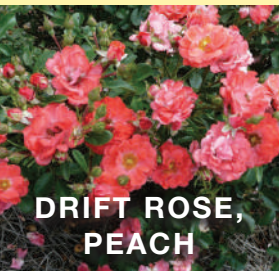
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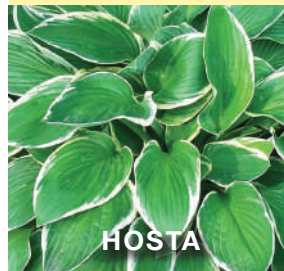
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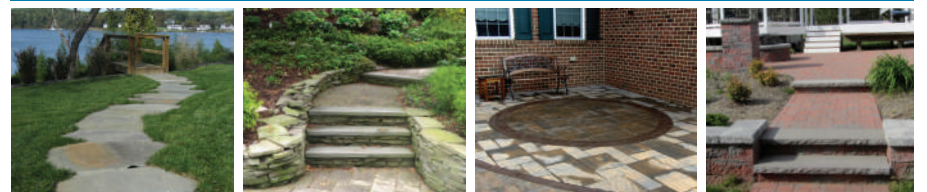
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# Commissioners Spend Down Reserve Funds



By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

After debate over the size of the county's overall fund balance, which is close to \$80 million, county commissioners decided to spend \$25 million in reserve funds on capital construction projects.

The commissioners met this week on May 10 for the first of two budget work sessions after the April 26 public hearing on the fiscal 2023 operating budget, which has increased to over \$314 million.

Commissioners have reduced the income tax rate in the budget proposal to 3 percent after having raised it to 3.17 for the past three years.

Commissioner Todd Morgan told The County Times this week that the expenditure of the \$25 million for construction projects meant the county would not have to go to the bond market for this year as it has in recent years.

The money will go to projects such as the continued buildout of FDR Boulevard, improvements to

public schools and to parks and recreation facilities owned by the county, Morgan said.

The commissioners also decided to increase the sheriff's and corrections officers pay by 6.5 percent, Morgan said, to put them at parity with their counterparts in Charles County.

Sheriff's union leadership had asked for this increase at the April 26 public hearing, citing problems with retaining qualified staff who decided to take positions in neighboring jurisdictions such as Charles County.

The commissioners also allotted an additional \$875,000 towards fuel for school buses, Morgan said, as well as heating oil for school buildings in the fall and winter months.

Commissioners will hold a second budget work session at the May 17 business meeting to further adjust the operating and capital budgets; the final vote to approve the fiscal 2023 budget is scheduled for May 24.

*guyleonard@countytimes.net*

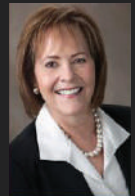
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## Sell it - Buy it at Auction

### 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.

**NOTE: In accordance with the recent Executive Order issued by the State of Maryland (related to the Avian Flu), NO Poultry will be received or sold until further notice. The auction will be held and open for the sale of other animals (such as rabbits, goats, sheep, calves, pigs, etc.) and other items.**

### Grocery Auction – Leonardtown VFD

Thursday, May 26, 2022 @ 6 pm

Leonardtown VFD – Leonardtown, MD

Doors open at 5 pm, Auction starts at 6 pm

### “Ponies, Minis & More” Auction

SAT, JUNE 11, 2022

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# California Man Charged with Rape of a Minor

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigations Division located and arrested Devonte Arnez Shubrooks, 28 of California, May 5 on a warrant for rape and several other charges.

On May 1 Detective Corporal James Bare responded to the 46000 block of Midway Drive in Lexington Park for the report of a sexual assault. Preliminary investigation determined that Shubrooks illegally entered the residence and sexually assaulted an 11-year-old child.

Shubrooks was arrested and charged with: first-degree rape; second-degree rape; third-degree sexual offense; fourth-degree sexual offense; sexual contact; first-degree assault; second-degree assault and home invasion.

Shubrooks is being held at the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center in Leonardtown on a no-bond status.

Anyone with further information about this incident is asked to contact Detective Cpl. Bare at 301-475-4200, ext. 8118 or at



Devonte Arnez Shubrooks

james.bare@stmarysmd.com.

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

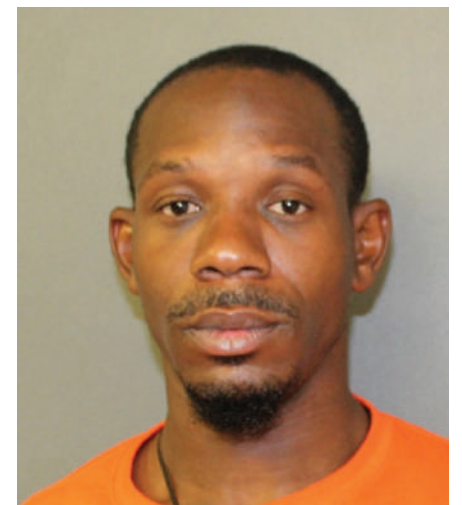
# 2021 Shooting Suspect Arrested

On May 5 members of the Lexington Park COPs Unit located and arrested Zeolaunte Monticello Hilliard, 36 of Lexington Park, on an outstanding warrant for a shooting in March of 2021.

On March 17, 2021, deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office responded to the 21000 block of Pegg Road in Lexington Park, for the reported shots fired. Preliminary investigation determined the two victims were traveling in a vehicle on Pegg Road when Hilliard pulled alongside their vehicle and discharged a firearm at them and their vehicle. Detectives from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigations Division continued the investigation and developed Hilliard as the individual responsible for the shooting.

Hilliard was transported to the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center in Leonardtown, and charged with the following:

- Firearm Use/Felony-Violent Crime
- Handgun on Person
- Handgun in Vehicle
- Assault First and Second Degree



Zeolaunte Monticello Hilliard

- Reckless Endangerment from Car

Hilliard remains incarcerated at the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center on a no-bond status.

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.

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# Seventh District VRS Installation Dinner





# Chamber of Commerce Annual Business Awards



The St. Mary's County Chamber of Commerce selected four outstanding local business to be honored at their 2022 Business Showcase at the Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department in Hollywood May 11.

Askey, Askey and Askey, CPA, LLC received the Lighthouse Award for successful growth in revenues and employment as well as industry leadership and community engagement.

Tobacco Barn Distillery earned the Beacon Award as a small busi-

ness with fewer than 15 employees that has showed growth, professional excellence and innovation.

SOF Market of Leonardtown won the Emerging Business award for demonstrated in the first four, critical years of operation.

Servpro, based in Lexington Park, received the Community Service award for 38 years of continued service and dedication to the community, which included disinfecting key fire and rescue buildings for free during the COVID-19 pandemic.

# MedStar Nurse Honored

Congratulations to Polly Hansen, BSN, RNC-OB, C-EFM, recently named the 2022 Nurse of the Year at MedStar St. Mary's Hospital! Polly was surprised with the news during her shift in the Women's Health & Family Birthing Center on the first day of #NursesWeek.

Polly is known for her compassionate, calm, and supportive approach to labor and nursing, embracing the patient and their loved ones as if they were her own family. "Polly very easily puts herself into the patient's position—therefore, she is never quick to judge and provides empathetic care," one of her nominations reads. "When we pose the question, 'Where is Polly?', the answer is always, 'In her patient's room.'"

A team player and innovator, Polly's advocacy has been instrumental in soon bringing a new pain pump to the unit to assist patients who have undergone cesarean sections. She is also known for "joyfully floating" to other departments when needed, particularly during COVID-19. She



makes a positive impact throughout the entire hospital and is a beloved member of the MedStar St. Mary's family.

Thank you, Polly—you make us #MedStarHealthProud. Happy Nurses Week!

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***Scott Ostrow***

**St. Mary's County Commissioner**



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Authorized by Committee to Elect Scott Ostrow

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

## Shooting in Lexington Park Under Investigation

On May 10, 2022, at approximately 2:55 a.m. deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office responded to the 21700 block of Kearsarge Place in Lexington Park, for the reported shots fired. Deputies arrived on scene within 90 seconds of the initial 911 call and discovered a home had been struck with projectiles. Deputies also observed a vehicle leaving the area at a high rate of speed and attempted to stop the vehicle, however the vehicle fled the area. The vehicle was later located, abandoned. The vehicle was impounded for further processing.

Detectives from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigations Division are continuing the investigation. Anyone with information on this incident is asked to contact Detective Austin Schultz at (301) 475-4200 extension 71953 or by email at [Austin.Schultz@stmarysmd.com](mailto:Austin.Schultz@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.

## Assault

On April 21, 2022, Dep. N. Hill responded to the St. Mary's Coun-

ty Detention and Rehabilitation Center in Leonardtown, for the reported assault. Investigation determined **Dimitri Paul Brooks**, age 27 of Great Mills, threw several items at the victim before punching the victim, causing visible injury to the victim's shoulder. Brooks was charged with Assault 2nd Degree.



Dimitri Brooks

## Escape

On April 21, 2022, **Zachary Anthony Faxon**, age 32 of Lexington Park, was receiving court ordered treatment as part of his incarceration, when he fled on foot from the treatment facility. Faxon was apprehended by correctional officers and charged with Escape 2nd Degree by Dep. Haas.



Zachary Faxon

## Theft

On April 21, 2022, Dep. Wilhelmi was in the 45400 block of Miramar Way in California, assisting with a vehicle stop, when a citizen altered him to an in-progress incident. Wilhelmi then observed a

male fleeing the store. Dep. Wilhelmi followed the individual and located a shopping cart containing computers and clothing. The individual was detained and he provided deputies with a false name. The individual was later identified as **Richard Alvin Nolan III**, age 34 of Lusby. Investigation determined Nolan had stolen an air fryer the previous day. Nolan was arrested and charged with Theft, Theft Scheme and Fraud-Avoid Prosecution.

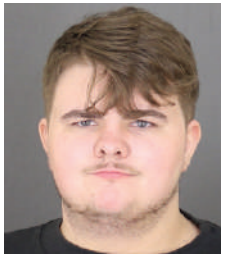


Richard Nolan

## Theft/Assault/Resisting Arrest

On April 22, 2022, Cpl. Beishline responded to the 21000 block of Great Mills Road in Lexington Park, for the reported theft and assault. Investigation determined **Evan Michael Clarke**, age 21 of

Great Mills, entered the business and placed numerous bottles of alcohol in a backpack. The victim attempted to stop Clarke, at which time he attempted to strike the victim. Clarke then knocked several bottles off the shelf, breaking the bottles. Cpl. Beishline observed Clarke in the area however Clarke fled into the woods. Cpl. Beishline located Clarke in the woods, and attempted to take him into custody. Clarke refused to follow commands, place his hands behind his back, and attempted to push Cpl. Beishline. Clarke was arrested and charged with Assault 2nd Degree, Theft, Resisting Arrest, and Fail to Obey a Lawful Order.



Evan Clarke

# Woman Convicted in Animal Cruelty Case

State's Attorney Richard Fritz announced that on April 29, Jennifer Katherine Hurry, was convicted of 20 counts of animal cruelty. She was indicted on these counts for acts of cruelty and neglect of 19 horses, 3 cows, 2 goats and 12 assorted fowl that were seized from her property on January 21, 2021.

Sentencing will be concluded after a pre-sentencing investigation, however, the state was able to obtain an order for the immediate forfeiture of all animals that were seized so adoption proceedings may begin, Fritz's office stated.

Given the number of large agricultural animals to be transported and housed, Days End Farm Horse Rescue was contacted and agreed to facilitate the rescue, which is the largest in St. Mary's County history, according to the state's attorney's office.




Jennifer Katherine Hurry

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# St. Mary's County House and Garden



Williams Residence



Anchored Roots

The St. Mary's County Garden Club offers its House and Garden Pilgrimage on Saturday, May 21 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. This year's tour features many historical properties, gardens, unique homes, a wine tasting, demonstration by the De La Brooke Foxhounds hunt club, and a bourbon tasting.

## The Williams Residence

This house was built in 2010 and is located on Trent Hall Creek. The tree-lined approach to the house is in full bloom in the Spring with thousands of daffodil bulbs. The interior of the house features many Southern Maryland artists' talents and a mix of traditional and antique furnishings within. The deep brick porches surround the front and two sides of the house with a fireplace and summer kitchen for outdoor living. White Chippendale railing adorns the upper porch. The double front doors are flanked with gas lights. The views are spectacular from every window. The house welcomes guests from all approaches. The Williams most recently built an adjacent garage to compliment the house. Owners: Randy and Cindy Williams.

## Delabrooke Manor

On June 30, 1650 Robert Brooke with his family of 10, a household of 28, and a pack of foxhounds arrived by ship from England to settle his original grant of 2,000 acres on the Patuxent River. Brooke was Commander of the newly created Charles County and Acting Governor of the Province in 1652. The 1658 patent as the 18<sup>th</sup> Manor in Maryland will be on view with transcription. The current structure, built in 1835 of brick made locally and parged with ground oyster shell, stands dramatically 25 feet from the river's edge as a four-chimney landmark with the original

blue Welsh slate roof.

De le' Brooke remained in the possession of direct Brooke descendants for eight generations over 277 years. President Roosevelt visited twice in July 1939, when his advisor Secretary Hon. Harry Hopkins leased the house. Here also, the British Ambassador Lord Lothian wrote his final plea for American intervention just before his untimely death in 1941. The Lend-Lease Act passed Congress shortly after his death. Delabrooke welcomed 23 refugee children from London to escape the bombings during the summer of 1941.

Ivy now covers the house. On the façade, bronze history plaques commemorate two major Tercentenary events at Delabrooke; the first, in 1934, honored the founding of Maryland, and the second, in 1950, celebrated 300 years since the landing of Brooke. Five Native Americans attended including Piscataway Chief Turkey Tayac and Princess Morning Star. Signed guest books chronicled all events at Delabrooke since 1927, including 12 Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage Tours from 1936 to 1953.

A long tree-lined lane leads to the manor house circle, framed by two stately iron gas lanterns from the first British Embassy gates, and a pair of perennial flower beds. A statue named "Pneumonia" stands center in the grass circle ringed by conch shells. A ship's anchor rests on the lawn. Walk the 600-foot long pier constructed for President Roosevelt's wheelchair visit in 1939. Stroll the grounds and brick path with sweeping river views. Specimen trees include English Horse Chestnuts descended from one planted by Robert Brooke, and English oaks which are the great-great-grandchildren of the historic tree under which Princess Elizabeth was sitting at Hatfield House when in-

formed she was to become Queen. Also see mature native Catalpa Indian Bean, Mock Orange, Silver Maples, Tulip Poplars, Black Walnuts, Red Oaks, Chinese Elms, Crepe Myrtles, Chaste Lamb Vitex, a long salt-water pool in the field beside a grove of Loblolly pines, and a circular vegetable garden with oyster shell paths. Gardens include heritage irises and hydrangeas planted in 1934, a large azalea hedge from 1958, beds of Lamb's Ear with tree peonies and butterfly bushes, tulips in an oyster shell circle, and a moss lawn at the kitchen door. An abundant rosemary garden and old junipers thrive between the house and the riverbank. English boxwoods planted in the 1940s hedge the brick patio.

Genealogy charts, lists of settlers and owners, historical documents with photographs and dendrochronology will be on display. Owners, Mr. and Mrs. Goodhart

## Birch Hanger Farm

Nestled in the heart of Mechanicsville is beautiful Birch Hanger Farm. Situated on 85 acres, the home was originally built in 1818 by Judge Mark Chunn as a suitable home for his new bride Annie Matilde Dent. In 1870 the home became a private school for boys and remained until becoming a tobacco farm in 1907. The current home, owned by Bill and Heather Schoenbauer, features many of the original rooms including a tack room that was turned into a family den. Two towering southern Magnolias flank each side of the front of the house, and overlooking the double porch you can almost envision carriages pulling up to the circular drive, while visitors come down the long brick walk way to the front door. A beautiful memory garden sits to the far right of the house with a tranquil bench for reflecting.

The house features a new kitchen and master suite built in 2013, with all other rooms being original. Antique furniture pieces in most of the rooms reflect the owners' love of furniture restoration. Four original fireplaces keep the home cozy during cooler weather. A short stroll down the dirt road leads to an original slave cabin, believed to have been built in the 1600's. A pool and pool house, barns, and a detached garage have been added to complete the farm.

## Briscoe Home and Gardens

This Williamsburg style house plan constructed in 1980 was modified on the water side to take advantage of spectacular, Patuxent River water views seen through a natural tree canopy. The charming dormered, clapboard house features brick ends, and foundation clad with handmade, oversized Flemish bond brick. Recent exterior additions include working shutters, copper gutters and an expansion of the waterside deck. Interior improvements focused on the kitchen and the master bed and bath where imported tiles were selected for floors and walls. Family antiques, heirlooms and furniture accumulated from Baltimore, Budapest and Sotterley Plantation, the birthplace of Briscoe's grandfather, are scattered throughout the house. This property has remained in the Briscoe Family since the 1800's during the same timeframe they also owned Sotterley. The "Harry Potter room" was inspired by the Red Room at Sotterley; the paneling and shelving were custom crafted with black walnut sourced from the near-by plantation following storms that felled the trees. More black walnut embellishes the copper ceiling with an ornate mosaic pattern copied from a World Heritage site the couple visited in Portugal. The main brick walkway



# Garden Pilgrimage Coming May 21



Birch Hangar



Baldwin-Briscoe Home

is bordered by mature boxwood. Curving brick paths lead to a woodshed and toolshed, stone steps descend to the riverbank. Other appointments include a chicken coop with enclosed hen yard, a boathouse for kayaks and canoes and the waterfront goose blind. The property consists of 15 largely wooded acres and includes four significant landscape features: A pool and pool house located approximately 60 yards from the house is screened by mature trees and ornamental grasses creating a private oasis. The pool house was constructed using a combination of material which includes old posts and beams from their 19th century tobacco barn. Across the driveway guests can enter an 11,000 sq. ft. live hedge maze through three strategically located arched gates. The design was duplicated from gates at Asticou Azalea Garden in Northeast Harbor, Maine. At the heart of the maze is a two-story “folly” appointed with Sotterley-style Chippendale railing and hand-painted floors. Owners, Samuel C.P. Baldwin, Jr. and Janice Briscoe.

## Anchored Roots Farm

Located on the banks of the Patuxent River, Anchored Roots is a working cut flower farm growing fresh cut flowers for CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) customers, local events and floral designers. Operating since 2017, Anchored Roots Farm has slowly transitioned from a commodity crop field to a diverse crop of perennial and annual flowers. The owners follow organic practices and have implemented several pollinator habitats on their property. Come enjoy the sights and sounds of the season on Anchored Roots Farm! Photography encouraged: A custom designed fresh flower photo-op by owner Priscilla Leitch will be on site to use for your own special photos. Owners Jacob

and Priscilla Leitch.

Tour proceeds will benefit two historical restoration projects. Advance tickets sales are available online at [www.mhgp.org](http://www.mhgp.org). Tickets will also be available on the day of the tour at each site.

## The Mission To Restore

In 1954 Hurricane Hazel damaged All Faith Episcopal Church, destroying its Chancel window and its roof. The parishioners were able to repair the damages, including the installation of the current stained glass Rose Window in the Chancel by its now-famous designer Rowan LeCompte, who also designed and installed stained glass windows in the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. In addition, repairs were also made to the wooden interior at that time including a complete repainting and replastering of the main sanctuary.

But time has taken a toll since the efforts in 1954, with plaster needing repairs, the Chancel altar area needing repainting, and other parts needing restoration. Worn to bare wood pews need repainting, as well as wainscoting to match the colonial green color that appears on the side wall trim. An attempt was made years ago to complete this project, but has stalled due to lack of funds.

This 18th century Maryland National Register architectural masterpiece by noted architect Richard Boulton is in great need of this restoration work.

The second project is Unearthing Maryland's Early Manors. As Maryland's 400th anniversary approaches, St. Mary's College of Maryland (SMCM) archaeologists and students hope to identify some of the earlier colonial settlements that lay beyond the bounds of St. Mary's City but that have as yet not been identified, docu-

mented, and preserved. Most colonists lived on these plantations and yet only a handful have been located. The manor house sites of settler families including Thomas Cornwallis, Robert Slye, Marmaduke Snow, Thomas Notley, and many others as well as mission settlements associated with the Maryland Jesuits contain important clues about life in this early period. Funds received for this project will be used to pay student archaeologists to undertake historical research, field and laboratory work, and analysis and interpretation.

All Faith Episcopal Parish and Church began in 1650 when land grant families and settlers arrived from England. These early Marylanders who resided along the Patuxent River included the Sothoron family of the Plains, The Truman family of Trent Neck (Trent Hall), the Brooke family of De La Brooke, and the Plater family of Sotterley.

In addition to its plastered barrel-vault ceiling, a remarkable series of fluted, square columns with Ionic capitals, and the tripartite Palladian front window piercing the gable above the central door, a Rose Window in the Chancel is a spectacular 20<sup>th</sup> Century addition. The window symbolizes the gifts of God and His bountiful creation. In the center is the dove of the Holy Spirit; in the petals of the rose the twelve crops which sustain farming and human life in the community. Leaves of each plant are shown together with its flower and fruit, all enclosed by a large star, suggesting the immensity of God's universe. Installed after Hurricane Hazel in 1954, the Rowan LeCompte stained glass design is a now-famous addition. His work at the National Cathedral is documented in what became a PBS television special documentary film (easily accessed from the internet). It is a film by Peter Swanson on the art of stained

glass and the work of Rowan LeCompte at the National Cathedral. It's called Let There Be Light--a film that won Best of the Festival at the Washington, D.C. Independent Film Festival. The documentary will be available for viewing in the All Faith Parish Hall, where refreshments will also be available.

Located on the Patuxent River south of Trent Hall Creek was a land grant to Major Thomas Truman in 1654. Thomas, and brothers Nathaniel and James, held large portions of land extending to Upper Marlboro. Trent Hall was owned by the Truman, Greenfield, Briscoe, and Thomas families for many generations. More recently it was the home of former Maryland State Senator Paul Bailey and Vera Virts Bailey, and is currently owned by Dr. Henry and Nancy Virts. Dr. Virts is a former Maryland State Veterinarian, as well as Maryland's Secretary of Agriculture.

There are four fireplaces in the main dwelling, with a total of five fireplaces. There is a large open hearth in the attached kitchen of early brick construction, likely to considerably predate the manor house. Ghosts have been observed in Trent Hall, particularly in the beautiful dining room where the chandelier has been seen moved by spirits.

Situated directly on the Patuxent River, Trent Hall survived the British warships anchored in 1814 during the War of 1812. The home is considered by many as one of the jewels of colonial Maryland. Owners: Dr. Henry and Nancy Virts. St. Mary's County House Garden Pilgrimage advance tickets sales are available online at [www.mhgp.org](http://www.mhgp.org). Tickets will also be available on the day of the tour at each site.

For information or to take part in the tour visit [stmarysgarden.com](http://stmarysgarden.com).

*Content provided by St. Mary's Garden Club*



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### Leonardtown Spring Events

Latin Nights in Leonardtown Dance Classes & Specials, 5/14, 5/27 & 5/28  
 Coastal Arts Market 5/21

On the Water's Edge Concert Featuring Funkzilla 5/28  
 June First Friday All Weekend, 6/3-6/5

[www.VisitLeonardtownMD.com/LeonardtownAE](http://www.VisitLeonardtownMD.com/LeonardtownAE)




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# Leave the Classroom and Hit the Road with CSM This Spring

The richness of Southern Maryland is on display this spring as the College of Southern Maryland (CSM) unveils a number of experience-based Personal Enrichment classes that will allow students to encounter the history and culture of our region and beyond.

“People that are looking for new things to do that they may not be able to do on their own,” said CSM Director of Personal Enrichment Shaunda Holt. “We are making it easy for them to experience amazing things,”

The experiences stretch the limits of what most people imagine when they register for a class: Students won’t be passively listening to lectures and completing assignments. Instead, they will be immersed in the subject they are studying, doing everything from spreading sauce on an authentic Italian pizza to climbing to the top of a lighthouse to gaze across the water.

The experiences will also far exceed what community members would be capable of planning on their own. In several cases, such as the “At Home With History” class, students will be granted access to areas that are normally closed to the public. And with a qualified instructor guiding participants, the experi-

ence will be much richer.

“Everything comes alive when you have someone that is passionate about what they do guiding your experience,” said Holt. “I have found some amazing people who want to share their knowledge with the community to lead these classes,”

For example, a class on the “Lincoln Assassination” offered this June will be led by historian Bob Bowser, who has been a tour guide at the Dr. Samuel A. Mudd House for the past 13 years. The class will include both a classroom component and a visit to the Samuel Mudd House and will trace the role of Southern Maryland in Booth’s plot.

“People don’t realize how deep the history in our area is,” added Holt.

Mike Callahan, a living history interpreter for Friends of Chapman State Park and other historical sites, will also be leading classes that highlight the history of our area. His popular “At Home with History” class, which kicks off on May 12, takes students into private homes in the area to learn about their historical and cultural significance. He also developed a day trip to visit the area’s lighthouses based on feedback from students, which will be offered later in May.



“This is living history; it’s bringing history alive,” said Callahan. “I have always believed that if you can experience something, you are going to remember it a lot better. I hope people come away from the experiences I am leading with a deeper appreciation and our local history and an understanding of what it takes to be a steward of these properties.”

The experiences will also take students out of the area to explore places they may not have discovered on their own. “Italian Day,” which led by popular instructor Simonetta Baldassari on May 13, will take students to Washington, DC to visit the Casa Italiana Sociocultural Center for a guided tour. After the tour, participants will venture to Georgetown for authentic

pizza, and even can help prepare it. CSM has arranged access and transportation to reach each destination, taking the stress out of an ambitious day trip.

Other experiences offered this spring cover everything from introduction to fly fishing, to dog training, and Holt said that new experiences are being planned for future sessions based on instructor and student interest.

“Everybody can find something that interests them when they look at our schedule,” she said.

Explore the personal enrichment website at <https://www.csmd.edu/programs-courses/non-credit/personal-enrichment> to find the experience that is right for you.

*Press Release from CSM.*



### Introduction to 3D Printing

Have you ever wanted something 3D printed at the library, but not sure how? Now is your chance to learn! Join us at Leonardtown Library on Tuesday, May 17 from 5 – 7 p.m. This introductory course will cover the basics of how a 3D printer works and how to use the PRUSASlicer computer application. Participants will be able to submit one predesigned project from one of our platforms to the library for printing at no charge. No prior experience is needed. Participants may want to have an idea for a project ready in advance and bring it to the class. This will allow for more time to learn computer skills. This is an in-person class held in the Computer Lab and Makerspace. Register on [www.stmalib.org](http://www.stmalib.org).

### Planting to Attract Birds and Bees

Join Chip and Barb Whipkey, owners of Wild Birds Unlimited in Lexington Park and LaPlata, as well as experienced beekeepers, to learn what to plant in your yard to attract the birds and the bees. Thursday, May 19 from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Register on

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

### Paws to Read

For beginning readers or any student who needs a confidence boost. Join “Pets on Wheels” to practice reading out loud to a therapy pet for 15 minute sessions at Charlotte Hall Library on Wednesday, May 18 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Readers should bring a book, or arrive at least 20 minutes early for help to choose a book. Register on [www.stmalib.org](http://www.stmalib.org).

### Ancestry Library Edition: Advanced Session

This session will review Ancestry: Library Edition on a more detailed level and build upon the foundations discussed from the April program. Join us on Monday, May 23 from 6 – 7 p.m. at Leonardtown Library. The first Library: Ancestry Edition session discussed a basic approach to the platform. This one (while beginners and anyone interested are still welcome!) will go through actually searching on Ancestry. Results will be examined, discussed, and analyzed. The purpose is to understand: (1) how to filter search



results, (2) understanding documentation and citation, and the root source, (3) identifying the different types of sources and best practices behind searching on Ancestry. The majority of this program will be spent on the Ancestry website, walking through, step-by-step, a search process, from a generic search to a more advanced one. If you have enjoyed the genealogical sessions offered, and wanted to learn more about Ancestry, we look forward to seeing you! Register on [www.stmalib.org](http://www.stmalib.org).

### Common Thread: In Person!

Join fellow crafters who love all things fiber! Join us on Tuesday, May 24 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. at Lexington Park Library. Open to knitters, crocheters, quilters, embroiderers, cross-stitchers, and any other kind of needleworkers. Bring your current project, mingle with like-minded makers, and swap patterns, ideas, and tips. All skill levels welcome. No registration required.

### Virtual Guided Meditation for Stress Relief

Join Allison as she leads participants through a virtual guided meditation for

stress relief on Friday, May 27 from 6 - 6:30 p.m. Guided meditation, the practice of being led by another person’s voice to help one achieve a relaxed, mindful state, has many benefits. These include stress reduction, helping one focus more on the present moment, and increased self-awareness. Additionally, registered participants can pick up a DIY stress ball kit at any of the three St. Mary’s County Library branches. Register on [www.stmalib.org](http://www.stmalib.org).

### Let’s Talk Life Jackets: Presented by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

Wearing life jackets save lives! This seminar will explain the importance of wearing them, and when you should wear one. In addition, you will learn the different types of lifejackets for various water vessels and water sports. The new life jacket labeling format will also be addressed. Join us at Leonardtown Library on Saturday, May 28 from 10 – 11 a.m. This is a classroom course, not an on-the-water course, and does not provide actual underway experience. Presented by The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Solomons Flotilla. USCGA website. Register on [www.stmalib.org](http://www.stmalib.org).



# Changes to the School Year Calendar

Superintendent of Schools, Dr. J. Scott Smith, announces the 2021-2022 operating calendar adjustments made by the Board of Education at its meeting on April 27, 2022, as follows:

The final day for Students will be Wednesday, June 15, 2022, as only two of the three inclement weather days were used.

The final day for Teachers and 10-Month Staff will be Friday, June 17, 2022, using only two of the three inclement weather days.

Monday, June 20, 2022, all Schools and Offices will be closed for Juneteenth Day, and administrative leave will be granted for all staff.

The calendar for the Chesapeake Public Charter School will be adjusted as follows:

- The final day for Students will be Wednesday, June 8, 2022, as only two of the three inclement weather days were used.
- The final day for Teachers and 10-Month Staff will be Friday, June 10, 2022, using only two of the three inclement weather



Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith

- days.
  - Monday, June 20, 2022, all Schools and Offices will be closed for Juneteenth Day, and administrative leave will be granted for all staff.
- To view the school system calendar, visit our website at [www.smeps.org/calendar](http://www.smeps.org/calendar). For more information, call (301) 475-5511, ext. 32133.

# CSM Announces Public Safety and Preparedness Director

The College of Southern Maryland (CSM) has named Eric Sweeney as the college's new executive director of Public Safety and Preparedness. In this position, Sweeney is responsible for the overall protection of life and property at all CSM locations.

Sweeney comes to CSM after a decorated 31-year career with the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office from which he retired at the rank of captain and commander of the vice narcotics division. He has also taught criminal justice courses at both CSM and the Southern Maryland Criminal Justice Academy.

"We are thrilled to have someone of Eric's caliber join the CSM team," said CSM Vice President of Operations and Planning Dr. Bill Comey. "Eric comes to us with extensive experience in public safety, emergency management, incident command, and COOP management. In addition, Eric has trained police officers from around the country as a consultant/trainer for the Police Executive Research Forum. He has strong relationships established in our region and we are excited to see how he will lead CSM in bolstering our community engagement."

"I am very excited to join the CSM family," Sweeney shared. "My primary goal is to not just ensure a safe environment for everyone as we return to our campuses, but to also maintain an open-door policy and be responsive to, and actively interact with, our stu-



Eric Sweeney

dents and communities."

Sweeney holds a bachelor's degree in Communication Arts from Salisbury University and holds several certifications in executive leadership, command leadership, D.A.R.E. and emergency management. He replaces Interim Executive Director of Public Safety and Preparedness Denise Mohun-Hintze, who stepped in to fill the position after former Executive Director Bill Bessette relocated to New York last fall.

Sweeney and his wife live in Hollywood and are the proud parents of triplets, all of whom are currently seniors in college.

*Press Release from CSM*

## WENTWORTH NURSERY IS HIRING

We are Looking for staff members to join our team at our New Oakville Garden Center.

**Full Time & Part Time Seasonal.**  
**Flexible Schedules.**  
All retail staff must work at least one weekend day.

- Positions Available:**
- Greenhouse
  - Nursery
  - Garden Store
  - Cashiers
  - Loaders
  - Garden Maintenance

### TWO WAYS TO APPLY

#### Online:

Visit [wentworthnursery.com/employment](http://wentworthnursery.com/employment) to apply on-line.

#### In Person:

Stop in to fill out an application and have an interview on the following days:

- Friday, May 13th — 9 am to 5 :00 pm
- Saturday morning, May 14th — 9 am to 12 pm
- Monday morning, May 16th — 9 am to 5 pm

**POSITIONS ALSO AVAILABLE AT OUR PRINCE FREDERICK LOCATION**

## Wentworth Nursery



**Oakville**  
41170 Oakville Road, Mechanicsville  
10 Miles South of Charlotte Hall  
301-373-9245  
800-451-1427

**Spring Hours:**  
Mon.-Fri. 9-6,  
Sat & Sun. 9-5



**Prince Frederick**  
1700 Solomon's Island Road  
Prince Frederick  
410-535-3664  
866-535-3664

[WentworthNursery.com](http://WentworthNursery.com)

## Can't Find Us On The News Stand?

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# Tackle Box Fishing Report



Great pair of fish from just above Little Cove Point, landed on spinning rods jigging chartreuse cocktail lures.

By Ken Lamb  
Contributing Writer

It was a rocky start to the trophy rockfish season a week ago Sunday, but the fishing improved all week until the ugly rain, gale winds, and cold came in Saturday morning. Old Man Winter is kicking up a fuss, and is resisting his eviction notice. This looks like the week that he clears out and we get some 70 degree temperatures and Spring can take up residence.

Stripers showed up in the Cove Point area for trollers and jiggers. Some beautiful fish were on the 18 foot shelf between Little Cove Point and the Cove Point Light. There were fish on the points from CCNP to the mouth of the Honga River for lure casters, but all are under-sized.

Boats out of Deale found their limit of trophy rockfish from

Eastern Bay to the mouth of the Choptank.

All this was before the weather came in and closed us out. The clearing on Monday was good, but the wind and super-high tides kept the boats tied up.

We will all be pioneers on Tuesday when conditions allow us out for the first time in three days. How the weather affected the fish and their whereabouts will be anybody's guess.

Perch, trout, redfish, and crabs have all been on hold in the cold and rain. As soon as the weather warms, they will all hurry to make up for lost time. Be ready.

Bass, crappie, bluegill, and pickerel will all be hungry now. Fresh water fishing will be excellent with the infusion of the needed rain.

## A View From The BLEACHERS



### WHERE TRUTH PREVAILS

By Ronald N. Guy Jr.

It had been a furious comeback. After an early deficit and praise being heaped upon media-darling Tom Izzo, Maryland trailed Michigan State by just a single point in the waning seconds. All-everything senior guard Greivis Vasquez penetrated the lane and drained a short jumper to put the Terrapins ahead 83-82 with 6.6 seconds left. Michigan State in-bounded the ball and Draymond Green advanced it feverously up the court. Green stopped at the top of the key and threw a pass, one that nearly clipped another Michigan State player streaking into the frontcourt, to Korie Lucious. Lucious dribbled left and fired a shot as time expired.

It went in. And just like that, Maryland's bid for a Sweet Sixteen berth failed, the college career of Vasquez ended and legendary coach Gary Williams's last great team was no more. It hasn't been the same in College Park since. Hyperbole? Unfortunately, no.

The game was played on March 21, 2010. I watched with my dad. It was emotional. There was screaming. The language was... yeah. I'm still not entirely over it. It comes to mind every time Maryland plays Michigan State. Every time. Maryland didn't play great, but they fought for 40 minutes - a typical gritty, gutsy Williams team. Lucious's shot was a joke. Dude barely contributed. He averaged 5.6 points per game that season. And Green's pass was lucky to even get to him. Argh! I do not like Michigan State, I do not like Tom Izzo, I do not like Korie Lucious, I do not like green eggs and ham, Turtle fan that I am.

The game comes to me in my dreams sometimes. A nightmare? No. I bend reality. Lucious misses the shot. Or he isn't even on the team (he was kicked off the team the following season...more salt enters my wound). Or Green's pass deflects off the trailing teammate and trickles out of bounds. Or Vasquez's shot that put Maryland ahead is actually at the buzzer and not the six-second mark. I make no apologies. These are my dreams. In this realm, reality is up for interpretation - mine.

There is a lot of alt-reality go-

ing on now, and it isn't occurring harmlessly in dream state. The truth is malleable. Concrete facts have morphed into soft Play-Doh and are subject to alteration and weaponization. It is reasonable to believe in different dimensions and parallel universes, but there is no line between some of this stuff now. It is this dimension and this universe intentionally fractured into coexisting sub-realities.

The nation's political sewer is the most obvious playground for this disturbing fact-fictionalism. It's here where one party's members allegedly harvest the blood of children, John F. Kennedy Jr. returns from the beyond, COVID and climate change aren't real, vaccinations are government mind and body control, and Donald Trump is a political messiah who really won the 2020 election. Truth isn't derived from an amalgamation of unquestioned facts; it's pick-a-topic, assign it an inflammatory name or slogan and blast it in short sound bites, over and over, louder and louder. Like the wave of a Jedi's hand, suggest that the blue room is actually green, often and obnoxiously enough, and the hue begins to change.

Macro level, it is a troubling trend of self-victimization and bait-taking that is counter to, even threatening of, fundamental American ideals. This once great bastion of democracy - a grand system with inherent discord that assumes the existence of shared, fundamental truths and a respect for the democratic process and will of the people - has become a caricature of itself.

Which is why sports - a place where truth prevails - is such a pleasant retreat. At the end of any contest, there is an undeniable, accepted verdict - a winner and a loser. Gripes about play calls, lineup decisions or poor officiating never change the outcome. Losing players and stakeholders can fuss, moan and lament what could have been, but none of it can alter facts. None of it can change an opponent draining a three at the buzzer to send your team packing and crush your soul on an otherwise beautiful spring afternoon.

Send comments to Ronald-GuyJr@gmail.com

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# PATUXENT RIVER NAVAL AIR STATION

# News

## Navy's Rotary Test Squadron Changes Command



Lt. Col. Matthew Baumann (left) takes command of Air Test and Evaluation Squadron (HX) 21 from Cmdr. Dan Short (right) during a change of command ceremony at Naval Air Station Patuxent River, May 5. During a change of command ceremony it is custom the outgoing commanding officer passes the squadron flag to the incoming commanding officer. (U.S. Navy photo by Kaitlin Wicker)

Lt. Col. Matthew Baumann took command of Air Test and Evaluation Squadron (HX) 21 from Cmdr. Daniel Short during a change of command ceremony at Naval Air Station Patuxent River, May 5.

Force Requirements Director for Naval Air Forces Capt. Tamera Graham was an early career mentor for Short and presided over the ceremony.

"Teams like the [HX-21 Blackjacks] don't come about on their own, they develop through a culture of ownership, trust, and purpose," said Graham. "Cmdr. Short - that's a culture you've led here, and Lt. Col. Baumann - you've been an integral part of that."

Baumann served as the HX-21 Chief Test Pilot during Short's tour as commanding officer. Prior to joining HX-21 as Chief Test Pilot, Baumann served as the Integrated Product Team lead for the CH/MH-53E Super Stallion.

He also oversaw the survivability systems for the MV-22, CV-22, and CMV-22. At HX-21, Baumann previously served as the H-1 department head and operations officer.

"Today we are given the opportunity to look back at these accomplishments and feel proud of what we've done," said Baumann. "We must continue to look forward in the right direction, and I look forward to supporting the squadron in that effort."

A 2013 graduate of the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School, Baumann has over 2,000 hours in 28 different aircraft. His personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

"Blackjacks are the best team I've ever been on," said Short. "[This team] always said 'yes, if' never 'no, because' - my only

challenge was keeping up with how fast you were going."

Prior to leading HX-21 in 2020, Short served as Chief Test Pilot and Government Flight Test Director for both the MH-60 and CH-53K programs. At MH-60, he led developmental efforts on the U.S. Navy MH-60R/S, HH-60H, and FMS H-60s including the helmet display and tracker system, rocket and weapons systems, and the first flight of the Spanish SH-60F. At CH-53K, he led the structural envelope expansion, fly-by-wire flight control law development, and performance flight test. Short also served on the staff of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Air Programs. He was the first Navy pilot to fly the CH-53K.

A 2008 graduate of the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School, Short has over 2,950 hours in 52 different aircraft. His personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation

Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, and Humanitarian Service Medal.

During the ceremony, Naval Test Wing Atlantic Commodore Col. Richard E. Marigliano awarded Short a gold star in lieu of his second award of the Meritorious Service Medal and presided over the change of command ceremony.

HX-21 is a component of Naval Test Wing Atlantic, test wing under the Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division. Nicknamed the "Blackjacks," the squadron provides developmental flight test and evaluation for U.S. Navy and Marine Corps rotary-wing and tilt-rotor aircraft. NAS Patuxent River is home to HX-21 since 1949 where the squadron advances capability and readiness for six families of aircraft including the CH-53E/K, the C/MV-22, the H-1Y/Z, MH-60R/S, the Presidential Helicopter fleet.



# Wanderings of an Aimless Mind

by Shelby Oppermann



## IT'S THE LITTLE THINGS

It doesn't take a whole lot to make me happy. Receiving handwritten letters in the mail like we used to is always a treat. Of course, now, in the digital age, it is just as wonderful receiving e-mails, messages, (and even live voice calls) from readers and friends just to chat and find out how each other is doing. Listening to the birds that start to sing as the dawn breaks each morning is a beautiful little thing that sometimes I almost forget to really listen to and appreciate. Each new day is wonderful, even if the birds also have to compete with the neighborhood rooster.



of color throughout the front and back yards. Robert takes such good care of the yard, and we get to enjoy it when we sit out at the firepit area out front. If the windy days let up we may even get to light the firepit soon.

I'm still excited about getting a paper shredder for \$5 in our neighborhood. I was trying to figure the thing out this morning, and then started shredding documents that I had been collecting in a bag for quite a while. Mindy, the crazy hound dog was not happy with the shredder sound at all, and her eyes looked a little buggy. After a few minutes, I think she saw that I was smiling, and it wasn't coming after her. I did set the machine up on the dining room table because I remember hearing stories, one from my old boss, about dogs putting their tongues in the opening.

Last week, I refreshed all the fairy garden structures with colorful paint to hopefully make neighborhood children (or adults) smile. Every time I drive around the corner to our house I know I smile at how cheery the fairy garden looks now. I'm hoping the tree stump that it is based around doesn't rot away before all the houses and figures. I'll just have to drag over another interesting stump to decorate if that happens. I am eyeing another old stump in the yard for a possible third fairy garden area, though my husband may nix that idea.

Other things that make me happy are when my husband brings flowers for no reason, or when he says, let's go out to eat. I saw a cute sign in the kitchen center area in Lowes the other day. It had a revolving center part that said, "Let's stay in" on one side and "Let's go out" on the other side. I was tempted to buy it, but it must have been a display. Sometimes all we need to be happy are "Sunday drives" whether it be on a Sunday or not. Stopping for Chaptico Market fried chicken and watching the sunset at Chaptico Wharf makes for a very enjoyable, simple evening.

One of my most favorite things is being with all our friends at church. And that begins with pulling into the parking lot and hearing the church bell ringing, to our choir with our traditional way of holding hands in a circle during the "Our Father who art in Heaven" prayer, and in hearing Father Dan's sermon for the day. Of course, refreshment hour is a wonderful time to catch up on what has happened with each of us during the week. Having a community of friends is so important whether it be in church, with our softball and Clements Cuties friends, winery friends, or being with friends that have been with us through all the happiness and challenges that life brings. Yes, we appreciate and take time for these blessings of our lives; some little and some that become a big part of what makes life so special.

A couple weeks ago, my husband transplanted three azaleas that were on a side of the house no one ever sees to the front yard. We worried a bit that they might not make it through the transplantation, but they are now blooming and beautiful. I stare at them quite often and they make us both happy. I'm still happy about all our winter pansies that have made it through fall, snow in winter, and spring downpours to bring bright spots

To each new day's adventure, Shelby

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

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# Pet

## OF THE WEEK

### MEET TUCKER



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

Hi, my name is Tucker. My TCAS pals want you to know that while I'm EXTRAORDINARILY HANDSOME, I'm much more than just my dashing good looks. I'm ALL CHARM! If you're looking for a FRIENDLY, SOCIAL GOOFBALL who loves to PLAY and make FRIENDS with everybody he meets then I'm the dog for you! Now, I can be a little energetic with smaller kids, since I tend to jump, so I may do better with older kids. I'm also working on my housebreaking skills and leash walking, but I AIM TO PLEASE! I can't wait to meet you so grab your fav device and email animalshelter@charlescountymd.gov to schedule an appointment to meet me ASAP! BE MY MIRACLE AND PLEASE CHOOSE ME! When you choose to adopt from TCAS, you are literally saving a life.

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

# TRI-COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER



# St. Mary's Youth Memorial Annual Outdoor Mass

On Saturday, May 21, 2022 the St. Mary's Youth Memorial will conduct their Annual Outdoor May Mass to pray for our beloved and deceased Loved Ones. The Youth Memorial is located at:

20016 Point Lookout Rd. (Route 5), in Lexington Park, MD 20653 (formerly a Great Mills zip code area).

This special place of Faith and Peace is for all of St. Mary's County parish members, and for all citizens of St. Mary's County to visit. There you will find a beautiful statue of Mother Mary enshrined in a Grotto and faithfully looking out the over the 222 names engraved in Granite.

These engraved names represent beloved Youth, Young Military Soldiers, and Special Needs persons who have all died early in their life;

A Living Rosary will start at 10:15 am. and the Communion Mass will start 11:00 am. to be held under the protection of the pavilion with seating provided. All are welcome including the General Public.

Parking on-site is available and we recommend arriving early for preferred parking. Parking for any



religious and Handicap persons will be available on the Blacktop parking area. We ask all others to park in the adjacent grass lot. We look forward to having you experience this beautiful Grotto and spiritual place on May 21st.

\*Note: Any questions please call Knights of Columbus SK, Chuck Shilling @301-535-8339 for more details.

# Legal Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

MARK GOODMAN

Case No. C18CV22-000052

Plaintiff

v.

ANTONIO ROBERTO RENASCO

and

DENISE A. BLAKE

and

ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND,

and

all unknown owners of the property AND ANY PERSON HAVING OR CLAIMING TO HAVE AN INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS: **1.50 ACRES S/S BRETON BEACH RD**, BEING known as being recorded in Liber MRB 30 page 30, and running thence with said road in an easterly direction for a distance of 315 feet, thence leaving the road running in a southerly direction a distance of 208 feet; thence running westerly for a distance of 315 feet to the southeast corner of the Beckley Land; thence northerly with the Beckley Land a distance of 208 feet to the beginning.

Defendants.

### ORDER OF PUBLICATION

The object of this proceeding is to secure the foreclosure of all rights of redemption in the following property, sold by the Collector of Taxes for St. Mary's County to the Plaintiff:

Account No: 03-031403

Known as: 1.50 ACRES S/S BRETON BEACH RD

The Complaint states, among other things, that the amounts necessary for redemption have not been paid. It is therefore on this 22nd day of February, 2022, by the Circuit Court for St. Mary's County, Maryland.

ORDERED, that notice be given by insertion of a copy of this ORDER in some newspaper having a general circulation in St. Mary's County once a week for 3 successive weeks, warning all persons interested in the property to appear in this Court by the 22nd day of April, 2022 and redeem the property and answer the Complaint, or thereafter a Final Judgment will be entered foreclosing all rights of redemption in the property, and vesting in the Plaintiff a title, free and clear of all encumbrances.

Debrah Burch  
Clerk of Court for  
St. Mary's County Maryland

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# St. Mary's Community Calendar

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

## Thursday, May 12

### Yard Sale

St. Andrew's Church Early Start  
44078 St. Andrew's  
Church Road  
California

8a.m. to 5p.m.

Early start 8 a.m. ending at 5p.m. Come get your treasures before the rain begins.

## Friday, May 13

### Pre-Order for pizza UNCOOKED Drive Thru CARNIVAL Pizza

Hollywood Volunteer  
Fire Department

Hollywood

4p.m. to 7p.m.

UNCOOKED Drive Thru Carnival Pizza on May 20, 2022 sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department.

\$12 Uncooked Pepperoni

\$10 Uncooked Cheese

Cash, Checks and ATM on site:  
Credit Cards Accepted

Pre-Order is Highly Recommended and will be accepted until May 18, 2022.

Call Elaine Quade to pre-order at 301-373-2695

## Saturday, May 14

### Little Explorers: It is a Bug's World

Historic St. Mary's City  
18751 Hogaboom Lane  
St. Mary's City, MD

10a.m. to 9p.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

### Open House at Cedar Lane Senior Living Community

22680 Cedar Lane Court

Leonardtown

Date: 5/14/2022

11a.m. to 2p.m.

The public is invited to swing by our Spring Open House at Cedar Lane Senior Living Community to enjoy property tours, refreshments and a peak inside the apartments of some of our residents. Cedar Lane—housing you can afford, a community you will love! [www.cedar-lane.org/](http://www.cedar-lane.org/)

### Community Service at Youth Memorial

Saturday, May 21

20016 Point Lookout Rd.

(Route 5)

Lexington Park, MD 20653

St. Mary's Youth Memorial will conduct their Annual Outdoor May Mass to pray for our beloved and deceased Loved Ones.

This special place of Faith and Peace is for all of St. Mary's County parish

members, and for all citizens of St. Mary's County to visit. There you will find a beautiful statue of Mother Mary enshrined in a Grotto and faithfully looking out the over the 222 names engraved in Granite. These engraved names represent beloved Youth, Young Military Soldiers, and Special Needs persons who have all died early in their life; A Living Rosary will start at 10:15 am. and the Communion Mass will start

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We ask all others to park in the adjacent grass lot. We look forward to having

you experience this beautiful Grotto and spiritual place on May 21st.

\*Note: Any questions please call Knights of Columbus SK, Chuck Shilling @301-535-8339 for more details.

## Sunday May 15

### Play chess for fun.

Taphouse-1637

23418 Three Notch Road

California

11:30 a.m. to 1:30a.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](http://www.taphouse1637.com)

### Immaculate Conception Church Dinner

Pre Order/Drive thru

Immaculate Conception Church  
28297 Old Village Dr.

Mechanicsville

Noon to 4p.m.

Sunday May 15 12:00 To 3:00  
Pre-Order / Pre Pay- Drive Thru

only dinner

Steamed Ship Round, Fried Chicken, Shrimp Salad, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Green Beans Cole Slaw, Applesauce \$25.00 per dinner Visit [ICCURCHMD.org](http://ICCURCHMD.org). Order BY Wednesday the 11th Any Question call 301-884-3123 or 301-904-0796

## Wednesday, May 18

### May Health Watch Presentation

Loffler Senior Activity Center  
21905 Chancellors Run Rd

Great Mills

10a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

A basic plan can help you make the most of your appointment whether you are starting with a new doctor or continuing with the doctor you've seen for years. We can offer a few tips that will make it easier for you and your doctor to cover everything you need to talk about as well as some hand-outs that will help you stay on track. Advance registration is required for this program. Seating is limited.

## Thursday, May 19

### LVRSA Queen of Hearts Fundraiser

Action Lounge and Billiards  
25470 Point Lookout Road

Leonardtown

4p.m. to 8p.m.

Please join us for some food and friends and to take a chance to pick a card and find the Queen of Hearts to win. Each Thursday there will be a chance to win until she's found. There is also a nightly 50/50 raffle. Thank you for your support to the LVRSA. Thank you for your support and good luck!

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

## In Remembrance

### Susan Theresa McGregor



She was born on June 7, 1959 in Leonardtown, MD to the late James Latham Mattingly, Sr. and Hazel Beatrice Toute.

Susie married her beloved husband, William Chaptico, Maryland but later moved to Hollywood to be close to her sisters. She enjoyed playing Bingo and card games, especially Pokeno, and Rummy 500. She loved watching TV shows, her favorites being Perry Mason, the Golden Girls, Two and a Half Men, and the Big Bang Theory.

She is survived by her children, Wesley William McGregor (Cammyelle) of Hollywood, MD and Michael

McGregor (Stephanie) of Glen Burnie, MD; her siblings, Rosie Mattingly, Priscilla Mattingly, Debbie Hamilton (Douglas), Gloria Bolt (Willie, Sr.), Mary Mattingly, Linda Miller, Carla Mattingly, Judy Worrell, Michele Messineo, Cindy Mattingly, Alice Mattingly, Joseph Mattingly (Melody), and William Mattingly (Elsie); her grandchildren, William McGregor and Abigail McGregor; and many extended family and friends. In addition to her parents she was preceded in death by her siblings, Barbara Mattingly, Brenda Mattingly, James Mattingly, Jr., George Mattingly, and John Mattingly.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Susan G. Coleman Foundation, P.O. Box 650309, Dallas, TX 75265-0309.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

### Mary Ann Blair

Mary Ann Blair, 83, of Leonardtown, MD, passed away on May 6, 2022. She was born on January 11, 1939 to the late Alfred and Lucy Blair in Washington, D.C., and was the youngest of five siblings. Mary Ann is survived by her children Diane White (Andy) of Cle-



ments, MD, Thomas Westfall of Chaptico, MD, and Joe Westfall of Lothian, MD. She was preceded in death by her siblings Edward Blair, James "Teeny" Blair, Francis (Sis) Boswell, and Daniel Blair.

Mary Ann was a lifelong St. Mary's County, MD resident and graduated from St. Dominic's High in 1957. She worked as a Shipping Clerk for the Naval Air Warfare Center for 21 years, retiring in 1993. She developed a love for animals at a young age. From dogs, cats, horses, chickens, and more, she loved them all. As a young girl, she had a chicken named Chickadee that went everywhere with her. As an adult, she had many dogs and bred Yorkies for a decade. She took in a number of stray cats over the years, giving them a comfortable and loving home.

Traveling with her sister, Francis (Sis), Mary visited her brother Eddie in California and brother James (Teeny) in Florida. The siblings always had a good time together, and took advantage of visiting tourist attractions while in the area. Mary Ann and Sis also enjoyed shopping together locally and visiting D.C. on occasion.

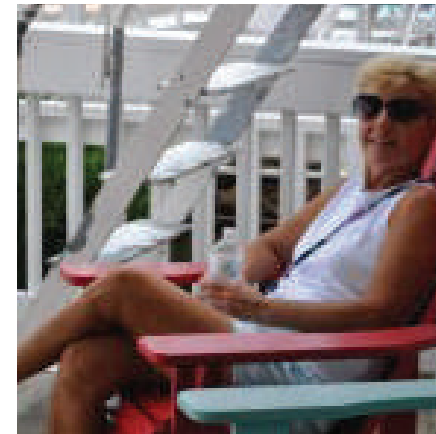
In addition to her love of family and animals, Mary Ann had a passion for collecting. She enjoyed collecting angels, Longaberger, Boyds Bears, and Beanie Babies over the years. Mary Ann touched the hearts of everyone she met and was a generous and kind person. She will truly be missed.

The family will receive friends on Wednesday, May 11, 2022 from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD. A funeral service will be held in the funeral home chapel on Thursday, May 12, 2022 at 10:00 AM with Deacon Ammon Ripple officiating. Interment will follow in Charles Memorial Gardens, Leonardtown, MD. Serving as pallbearers will be Brandon Russell, Andy White, Jack Boswell, Steven Blair, Thomas Westfall, and Joe Westfall.

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

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

### Anne Marie Alvey



Anne Marie Alvey, "Sissy", 62, of Leonardtown, MD, passed away on May 5, 2022 at home. Born on October 6, 1959 in Leonardtown, MD, she was the daughter of Lois Ann Alvey of Leonardtown, MD and the late Leonard Jackson "Jack" Alvey. In addition to her mother, she is survived by her children Shannon Daly (Matthew) of Mechanicsville, MD and April Long (Michael) of Leonardtown, MD, her siblings Ronnie Alvey (Denise Costanzo) of Colton Point, MD, Barbara Emmart (Michael) of Mechanicsville, MD, and Eddie Alvey of Hollywood, MD, as well as her grandchildren Jayden, Trevor, Jackson, Raina, Owen, and Saylor.

Sissy was a lifelong St. Mary's County, MD resident and graduated from Chopticon High School in 1977. She started her career with the St. Mary's County Library at Tudor Hall in Leonardtown, MD at the age of 15. Sissy served the patrons of the library for 46 years, making numerous friends throughout her time there before her retirement in 2021. After her retirement, Sissy spent her time making her log cabin a cozy gathering place for all, especially her grandchildren. Family was of the utmost importance to her. She hosted family dinner every Wednesday, making sure every grandchild's favorite foods were served. Sissy was a devoted mother and grandmother, never missing a birthday, sporting event, or any chance to spend with her daughters and their families. She was an avid gardener and worked diligently on her lawn and flower gardens, watching her flowers bloom with each season. The ocean called her name every year, and she took beach trips each June with the whole family joining her. Sissy enjoyed lengthy walks on a daily basis. She loved travelling with her best friend, Tere Vallandingham; from the Grand Canyon to the Smokey Mountains and everywhere in between, they were Thelma and Louise. Sissy was a beloved daughter, sister, mother, gram, and friend who will be sorely missed.

The family will receive friends on Wednesday, May 11, 2022 from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD, where a funeral service will be



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held at 11:00 AM in the funeral home chapel with Father Ray Schmidt officiating. Interment will be private.

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

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

### Edward Herman Bowles



Edward Herman Bowles, 69, of Mechanicsville, MD, passed away on May 1, 2022 at his home. Born on July 27, 1952 in Leonardtown, MD, he was the son of the late Joseph Herman Bowles and the late Livy Ann Harrison. He is survived by his siblings Joanne Benfield, Livy Lee Herche, Donnie Bowles, David Bowles, Jackie Zielstorf, and Dale Bowles, as well as his half siblings Lilly Griffith and Joe Bowles. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his sisters Sandra Kay Thompson, Judy Lynn Kara, and Sharon Jean Bell, as well as his nephews Steven Benfield and Justin Bowles.

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

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

### Terry Lynn Carson



Terry Lynn Carson, 63, of Lusby, MD, formerly of Fort Washington, MD, passed away on April 24, 2022 at her home with her loving family by her side. Born on January 14, 1959, she was the daughter of Ronald Steven O'Leary

and Jeanette Lee O'Leary. Terry is survived by her children Sara Lynn Merritt of La Plata, MD, Bernard Stephen Carson of Lusby, MD, her siblings Kevin O'Leary of Fort Washington, MD, and Tray Donnelly of Rotonda West, FL, and four grandchildren.

Terry graduated from Friendly High School in 1977, and moved from Accokeek, MD to Calvert County, MD in 1990. She was a Registered Nurse and Medical IT Specialist at MedStar St. Mary's Hospital for 30 years.

A funeral service will be held at a later date.

Contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Road Memphis, TN 38105 and CareNet Pregnancy Center of Southern Maryland, 2196 Solomons Island Road Suite 3, Prince Frederick, MD 20678.

### Donald Eric Little



Donald Eric Little, 61, of Hollywood, MD passed away suddenly and peacefully on Sunday, May 1, 2022.

He was born on July 16, 1960 in Pittsburgh, PA to the late Faber Donald Little and Eleanor Ann Pryce Little.

Eric was raised in Johnstown, PA and graduated from Mercersburg Academy. He owned and operated J.R.'s Bar & Grill, the iconic Washington, D.C. tavern, for 26 years – purchasing it in 1996 after serving as bartender and manager since its opening in 1986. He also owned several former bars and restaurants including Cobalt Dance Club, 30 Degrees Lounge, and Level One restaurant in Dupont Circle for 20 years as well as J.R.'s Bar & Grill in Denver, CO. He started the nationally famous 17th Street High Heel Race in 1986 which still draws thousands of spectators and runners every Halloween. He mentored hundreds of employees and "counseled" thousands of customers over his 36-year career – never meeting a stranger and always remembering names and details. He enjoyed boating on both the Potomac and Patuxent Rivers for over 40 years and was an expert water and snow skier. His infectious smile and witty sense of humor made him a people magnet and he was much loved in the Washington D.C. and St. Mary's County communities.

Eric is survived by his partner of 20 years, Barry Spencer; his brothers: Rick Little (Pavis) of Falls Church, VA, Tom Little (Christine) of Biglerville, PA; and Ben Little (Elizabeth) of McAllister, MT; his nieces and nephews: Benjamin Little, Casey Little, Samantha Little, and Tyler Little; and many extended family and friends. He is preceded in death by his parents.

Family will receive friends for Eric's Celebration of Life on Wednesday, May 18, 2022 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m., with a Memorial Service at 7:00 p.m., at Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A., 22955 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650. Interment will be private.

Memorial contributions may be made in Eric's name to the Alzheimer's Association, 225 N. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60601 or [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org).

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

Arrangements by Brinsfield Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD.

### Lawrence Jack Van Gilder



Lawrence Jack Van Gilder, 71, of Charlotte Hall, MD, a proud Vietnam veteran of the United States Air Force, passed away on May 3, 2022.

Jack was born on July 1, 1950, to William Stephen and Doris Jean Van Gilder in Morgantown, West Virginia. After Jack graduated from Sidney Lanier High School, AL, he pursued a degree in communications at West Virginia University. In January 1971, he enlisted in the United States Air force.

After three years in the Air Force, Jack went on to work as a systems technician for 40 years, for telephone companies: C & P Telephone, American Bell, Bell Atlantic, AT&T, and ending his career with Verizon. Known as the "Wizard" at work, Jack

loved what he did for a living and loved helping people. There was no technology problem he couldn't fix.

Jack met Ellyn when he moved to Temple Hills, MD, not knowing they lived down the street from one another. Jack married the love of his life, Ellyn Jane Van Gilder, on April 3, 1971. Together they spent 49 years growing in love and marriage. Jack and Ellyn went on to have three children: Greta Houser of Mechanicsville, MD, Andrew Van Gilder of Charlotte Hall, MD, and Bonnie Timms of Virginia Beach, VA.

Jack retired in November of 2010 after 40 years in the field. While retired, Jack had time to do what he loved doing most which was spending time with his wife, his children, grandchildren, HAM radios, and making people smile.

Jack was predeceased by his wife Ellyn Van Gilder. He is survived by his parents William and Doris Van Gilder, his daughter, Greta Lyn Houser (Brian Houser), his son, Andrew Jack Van Gilder of Charlotte Hall, MD, and his daughter, Bonnie Timms (Jeff Timms) of Virginia Beach, VA. He is also survived by his brother William Stephen Van Gilder, Jr. (Carol Van Gilder) of Birmingham, AL, and his sisters Carol Elliott (Ron Elliott) of Montgomery, AL, and Joyce Bray of Greensboro, GA, along with many nephews and nieces. He also has six grandchildren: Blake, Grant, and Brilee Houser, and Gavin, Dylan, and Archer Timms.

The family will receive friends for a visitation on Wednesday, May 11, 2022, from 1:00 pm-2 pm with a Funeral Service following at 2:00 pm at Brinsfield Funeral Home & Crematory, P.A., 30195 Three Notch Road, Char-

*Thank you Lord for  
Doug Delahay Woodburn  
5/12/2000 - 8/3/2019  
"love you pumpkin"*



*Words cannot say  
We miss you everyday  
Through the month of May  
We remember your Birthday*



*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

lotte Hall, MD 20622.

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

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

## Deborrah Keene Ferguson



Deborrah Keene Ferguson, 68, of Mechanicsville, MD, passed away unexpectedly on May 2, 2022, surrounded by loved ones.

Deborrah was born on April 3, 1954, to Walter and Audrey Keene in the city of Dunn, NC. After Deborrah graduated from Wakefield High School in 1972 in Arlington, VA then pursued a degree in Nursing at Shenandoah University.

After graduation, she worked in health care as a registered nurse for over 35 years. The majority of it is in kidney dialysis, with Fresenius Medical Care. Deborrah was passionate about nursing and loved what she did for a living, and even inspired her daughter in becoming a nurse. She was a great role model.

Deborrah retired in 2015 and married Steven Soaper residing in Mechanicsville. While retired, she had time to pursue her love of camping, crafts, making gift cards, and baking lots of cookies. She also enjoyed spending time with family and her grandchildren.

Deborrah was predeceased by her parents Walter and Audrey Keene, her brother Walter Keene, and her first husband Richard Ferguson. She is survived by her husband Steven Soaper of Mechanicsville, MD, her daughter Holly Fleshman (husband Nick Fleshman) of Hollywood, MD, and her niece Katherine Hatcher (husband PJ Hatcher) of Mechanicsville, MD. She is also survived by her nephews Justin and Jayden Hatcher, as well as her grandchildren Miles and Macie Fleshman.

Services will be held at Brinsfield Funeral Home & Crematory, P.A., 30195 Three Notch Road, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622 on Saturday, May 7, 2022. The family will receive friends for the Visitation from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm with the Funeral Service starting at 4:00 pm. Interment will be private.

Wake immediately following service

es for friends and family.

The family welcomes donations in lieu of flowers, to the American Kidney Foundation in honor of her husband Steve and her career, as well as the local volunteer rescue squad that helped take care of her.

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

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

## Irene Myrtle Wilt



Irene Myrtle Wilt, 97 of Hollywood, MD passed on April 21, 2022 at her home.

She was born on November 25, 1924 in Roanoke, WV to the late Alton Park-er Heath and Mina Finster.

Irene lived in St. Mary's County, MD for the last 24 years moving from Buckhannon, WV. She married her husband Emery Thomas Wilt on February 26, 1943 and spent 59 years together before his passing in 2002. She enjoyed spending time with friends and family. She will be remembered for her great Christmas Candy that she baked into her 90's and the beautiful quilts and needlepoint projects that she made by hand. She enjoyed trips to Niagara Falls and Dollywood with her sister Mary and their husbands. Most of all she enjoyed spending time with her children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren.

She is survived by her children Sharon Ferris (Leonard) of Leonardtown, MD and Sandra Overman of Newport News, VA; her siblings/ Leona Mon-eypenny of Buckhannon, WV, Jean Summers of Lady Lake, FL; Mary Wall of Chocowinity, NC; A.P. Heath of Weston, WV; Joe Heath of Roanoke, WV and her grandchildren Kim Elgert, Deanna Shiplett, Robert Thomas Hood, Sr.; Robert Overman and Michael Overman and her 8 great grandchildren and 3 great-great grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers please make donations in her name to the Hollywood Volunteer Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 79, Hollywood, MD 20636

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

## Barbara Ann Bond



Barbara Ann Bond, 79 of Leonardtown, MD passed on April 23, 2022 at MedStar St. Mary's Hospital with her loving family beside her.

She was born on December 27, 1942 Baltimore, MD to the late Vincent De-Paul Susnowitz and Rose C. Brennan Susnowitz.

Barbara lived in St. Mary's County, MD for the last 47 years moving from Baltimore, MD. She married her husband Robert Edward Bond in 1962 and were married in Baltimore, MD. They enjoyed 59 years together before his passing in 2021.

In her early years, Barbara loved to get dressed up and dance at local hotspots in Baltimore and St. Mary's County. She enjoyed meeting new friends and helping those in need. She loved to garden; from vegetables to lovely flowers. Barbara was very artistic, and developed a passion for ceramics, starting her own business – LP Ceramics. Her proudest title was “Nan” to her grandsons. She spent most of her time caring for and doting on them. She enjoyed watching them grow and mature into adulthood. While she loved her family, her greatest love was her husband, Bob. She missed him dearly since his passing in 2021, and longed to be reunited with him.

She is survived by her children Sharon Lee Marie Johnson (Benjamin) of Great Mills, MD and Holly Lynn Barry of Jacksonville, FL; her siblings Brenda Ledford of Baltimore, MD; Vincent Susnowitz of Cumberland, MD; John Susnowitz of Baltimore, MD and Sharon Phillips of Burlington, VT and her grandchildren Nicholas A. Shepherd, Matthew J. Donovan, Jacob R. Johnson, Samuel Johnson and Alyssa Key; her great grandchildren Lucas R. Shepherd, Lance W. Shepherd, Vincent L. Key and Julian DuSablon. She is preceded in death by her parents and her sisters Patricia Hackman and Rosemary Childs.

Serving as pallbearers will be Nicholas Shepherd, Matthew Donovan, Jacob Johnson, Joseph Donovan and Ben Johnson.

In lieu of flowers please make donations in her name to the Hospice of St.

Mary's, P.O. Box 625, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

All Services are Private.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

## Michael Patrick Herron



Michael Patrick Herron, 46, of Leonardtown, MD passed away at MedStar St. Mary's Hospital on April 27, 2022 surrounded by his family. Born on August 6, 1975, he was the son of Jack Edward Herron and Mary Patricia Hurley Herron.

Michael, also known as “Mike” and “Captain Mikey”, attended La Plata High School and College of Southern Maryland. He then became a successful Management Information Program Manager for the National Guard Bureau. He was also President and part owner of Bay Medical helping provide medical equipment to people with disabilities and promoting healthy lifestyles by encouraging participation in adaptive sports.

In his free time, he enjoyed taking family and friends on his pontoon boat, playing rugby for the Capital Punishers, attending Capitals hockey and Washington Redskins football games, going to Disney World with his family, going on cruises, being at the beach or playing with his brown lab Maggie.

Mike was a giver, he would give you anything he had including the shirt off his back. “No” was a word he rarely used. He was always helping family, friends or even strangers. Making others smile and happy is what made Mike happy. From starting Bay Medical, to helping family with their computers, to spoiling his nieces with Dairy Queen, to planning family vacations, there was nothing Mike wouldn't do for the ones he loved. He left a big impact on so many hearts and he will be truly missed.

Michael is survived by his parents Jack and Mary Herron of Mechanicsville MD; his brothers, Timmy Herron (Stacey) of Waldorf MD, Matt Herron (Katey) of Leonardtown MD, and Justin Herron (Crissy) of Mechanicsville MD; his nieces Olivia Mckenzie, Lily Hill, Alyssa Herron, Madison Herron,





Emma Herron, Zoey Herron, Scarlett Herron; his nephew Henley Herron and his great niece on the way Oaklynn.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in Michael's name may be made to Medstar National Rehabilitation Network Adaptive Sports Program, mail to: Medstar Health Office of Philanthropy 10980 Grantchester Way, 7th Floor, Columbia, MD 21044.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

### Clara Rosetta Joy



Clara Rosetta Joy, 92, of Hollywood, MD passed away on May 7, 2022 at her home surrounded by all her children's love. Clara was born on August 14, 1929 at the family home located in Hollywood, MD to the late Robert Ditman and Myrtle Madeline Ferguson. She was the oldest of five siblings with James Ferguson, Robert Ferguson, and Agnes Marie (Higgs) preceding her in death with Catherine (Suite) being the only surviving sibling.

Clara is survived by her loving children, Charles Joy (Garnett), Robert Joy (Joan), Clara Morgan (James), John Joy (Elaine), James Joy, Larry Joy, Ronnie Joy, Connie Martin (Charlie), Patricia Pennock (Doug), and Joseph Farrell (Tammy). Preceded in death are Joseph P. Joy and Virginia Ann Morgan (Raymond).

Clara was also blessed with having thirty-two (32) grandchildren, fifty-four (54) Great grandchildren, and fifteen (15) Great-Great grandchildren to love and adore.

Clara was a lifelong St. Mary's County resident. Born in Hollywood on a small farm, she learned the ways of the land by growing vegetables, planting flowers and other plants of

all kinds. She loved to can everything grown from the garden enabling her to provide for her family. She was an amazing cook too! It was nothing for her to whip-up something on the spur of the moment to melt in your mouth.

Clara loved to travel and make day trips. She enjoyed summer vacations with family to White Lake, SC and trips to the local Amish communities, where she was known as "Ms. Betty", where she was treated as one of their community members. She looked forward to Saturday yard sales and trips to thrift stores where she would pick up various items for one of the kids or just pick it up in case "Someone might need it". Always looking out for others more than herself because it was just "Her Way".

Clara loved family get-togethers immensely. She enjoyed watching and listening to her children as they told stories both of good, not-so-good, and funny; each followed with laughter. She joined in jokes or she would start them. She had a Beautiful sense of humor and not afraid to show it. She would be first to throw on a pair of dark shades and hat to swagger her way across a room.

She was a doctor who mended scrapes and wounds, a confidant who listened endlessly to all our problems and then our dreams, a banker and accountant who made a modest amount stretch to provide for all her children. She was a humble servant of the Lord who never complained; making due with what she had and doing it with gratitude for what she had. She also was a teacher who taught us Life's ins and outs and how to cope when things got rough, she looked for the Possible in the Impossible, and how to be strong when life gave you too much to endure. Ultimately, it was the "Importance of Family" and "Loving with all your Heart" that was her "Definitive Happiness".

The family will receive on Monday, May 16, 2022, from 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM in St. John's Catholic Church Hollywood, MD where a mass of Christian burial will be celebrated at 9:00 AM. Interment will follow in the church cemetery. Pallbearers will be grandsons Paul Joy, Michael Pratt, Keith Joy, Randy Morgan, Wayne Morgan, Thomas Farrell, and Daniel DeLozier.

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

# PROTECTING YOUR ASSETS AND YOUR CHILDREN THE SECOND TIME AROUND

Contributing Writer:  
Lynda J. Striegel

What are pre-nups? These are prenuptial agreements entered into by prospective husbands and wives that set forth how the couple wants to manage their assets in the event one of them dies or there is a divorce. Some people consider pre-nups to be anti-romantic. However, others recognize that these days, when so many people get divorced or whose spouses have died and then get re-married, pre-nups play an important role in taking care of children from a prior marriage and protecting the assets of those who have been previously divorced.

Not long ago, we were approached to create a pre-nup for a wonderful couple in their mid-80's. The couple met in an assisted living facility, fell in love and decided to get married. Both of them had been married and had adult children and grandchildren from their prior marriages. Rather than create controversy in the family about inheritances, the couple decided to make it clear in their pre-nup that each of their children and grandchildren from prior marriages would continue to receive the inheritances they were expecting from their parent or grandparent after marriage. With the pre-nup signed, the children and grandchildren of the couple were able to celebrate the new marriage with no concerns about what would happen when their mother/grandmother or father/grandfather died. In this case, both parties had assets to protect for their children and, by creating the pre-nup, both parties helped create family harmony with their new extended family members.

Pre-nups are commonly used to protect children from a prior marriage. What does a pre-nup involve? Primarily, each party exchanges financial information with the other. One of the primary assets a person has is their retirement account. When a person marries, their new spouse has a legal claim on the retirement account of the other spouse. Particularly in cases of a second marriage where children are involved, most parties want to preserve their retirement accounts for their children. The pre-nup makes that clear—each party agrees they will not claim against the retirement account of the other in the event of death or divorce.

Similarly, if one party owns a house, upon marriage the other may assert a legal claim to ownership of one-half of the house. Under the pre-nup, each party clearly states that when they marry they will not assert any claim to the house the other owns.

What about other assets each party

might own individually? The pre-nup addresses those as well. For example, suppose one party has a valuable stamp collection that they have promised to a grandchild. The pre-nup will make it clear that the stamp collection is the sole property of one party and will not be distributed or divided up on the death of that party.

The pre-nup addresses property owned by each party individually prior to their marriage. But, what about property the soon to be married couple acquire after marriage? This too is addressed in the pre-nup. Ordinarily, the couple decides that they will split any assets they acquire after marriage, fifty-fifty. So, if they buy a house together as joint tenants with right of survivorship, and one of them dies, the other takes complete ownership of the house. In the event of a divorce, the other has a claim for 50% of the value of the house. Of course, there are lots of other factors that are involved, but you get the picture.

In a pre-nup, each party exchanges personal financial statements with the other. These financial statements must be complete and detailed so that one party can never accuse the other of hiding any assets.

A pre-nup is a contract between the parties. As such, it is enforceable in a court of law. Some people think that their Will or a Trust has decided who owns what assets after death, but whatever you have decided in those documents is not enforceable because the surviving spouse can execute a new Will or Trust after the death of the other spouse that completely changes the distribution of the property. People that use pre-nups are concerned about this. Even if your potential spouse has an excellent relationship with your children from a prior marriage, when you die, how can you be assured those children will be protected? Not with a Will or a Trust—only through a pre-nup.

To those who claim the pre-nup is anti-romantic because it addresses what happens on divorce or death, think again. Divorce may not be inevitable but death is. If you want to truly protect your children the second time around and preserve family harmony, both parties should welcome the opportunity to do so in a pre-nup.

Join me for a discussion of this and other matters on the third Wednesday in June at 11 am at our offices at 8906 Bay Avenue, North Beach, MD 20714. Call 301-855-2246 to reserve your seat. See you there.



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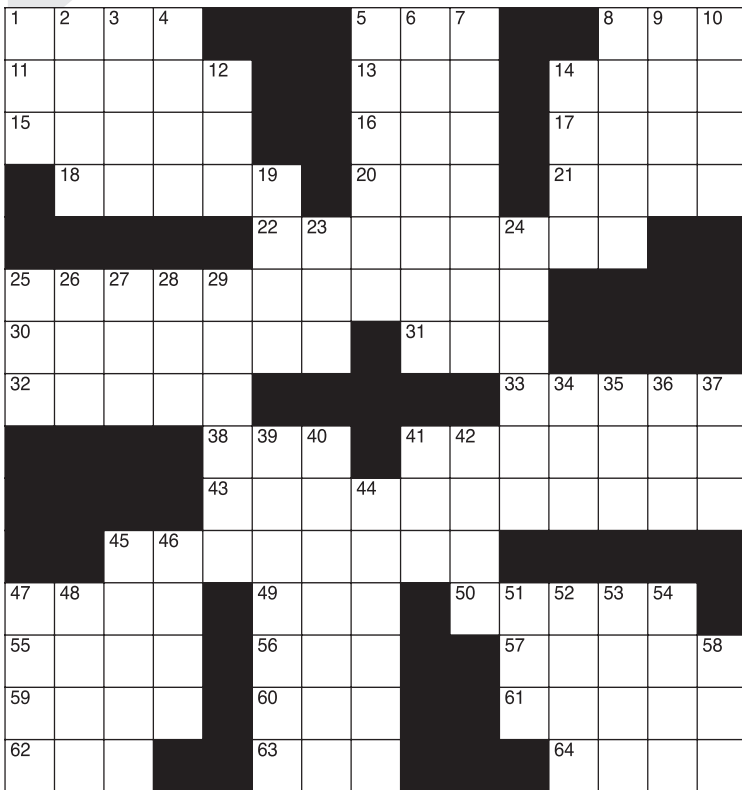
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# GAMES & PUZZLES



**CLUES ACROSS**

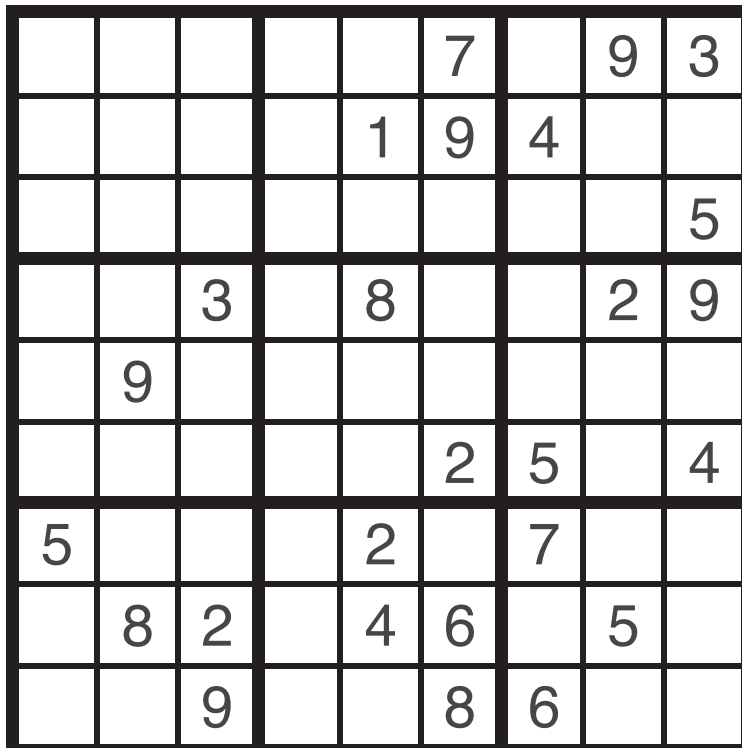
- 1. Scream loudly
- 5. Antidepressant (abbr.)
- 8. The bill in a restaurant
- 11. Oblong pulpits
- 13. Adult female chicken
- 14. Abnormal breathing
- 15. Financial obligations
- 16. Belonging to a thing
- 17. Winged
- 18. Peoples
- 20. College hoops tournament
- 21. An informal body of friends
- 22. Region of the world
- 25. In an early way
- 30. Connected by kinship
- 31. Type of tree
- 32. Official order
- 33. Foundation for an idea
- 38. Small, faint constellation
- 41. Book lovers
- 43. Vegetable
- 45. Cabbage variety

- 47. A way to heal
- 49. Illuminated
- 50. Dish that features a stick
- 55. Insurance-related costs (abbr.)
- 56. Solid water
- 57. Soldier's gear
- 59. "Uncle Buck" actress Hoffmann
- 60. Former measure of length
- 61. Arabic name meaning "spring"
- 62. Doctors' group
- 63. Actress Susan
- 64. Appropriate

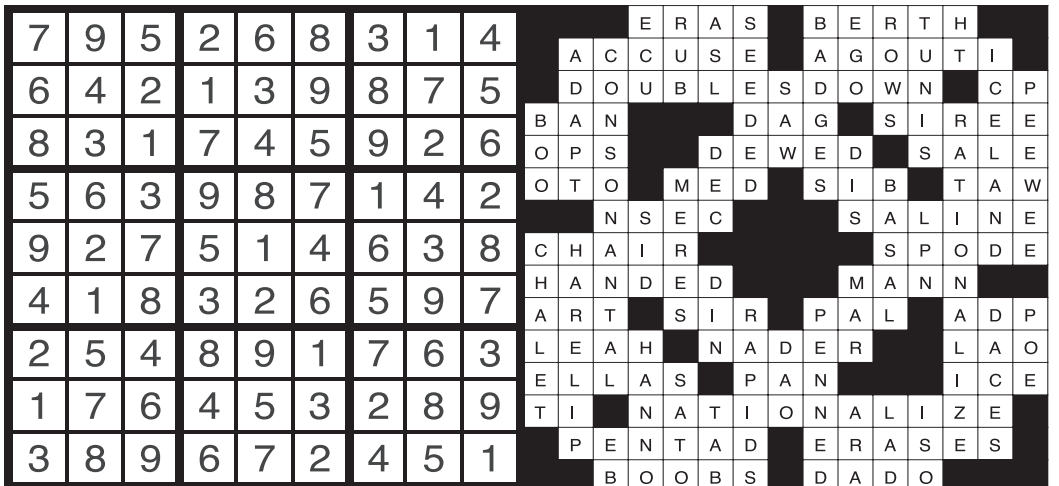
- 14. Indian musical pattern
- 19. Fulfill a desire
- 23. Water soaked soil
- 24. Brass instrument
- 25. Before
- 26. Popular color
- 27. Peyton's little brother
- 28. Partner to cheese
- 29. Put onto
- 34. "Much \_\_ about nothing"
- 35. A way to mend
- 36. Anger
- 37. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 39. Mobilized
- 40. Resembles an earlobe
- 41. Cut of meat
- 42. Nigerian people
- 44. Recently
- 45. Square stone building at Mecca
- 46. Adhere to orders
- 47. Adventure story
- 48. Marine bivalve mollusk
- 51. Retrospective analysis (abbr.)
- 52. Actor Pitt
- 53. Tibetan village
- 54. A way to change by heating
- 58. A beam of sunshine

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Cool!
- 2. Hebrew unit of measure
- 3. Swedish rock group
- 4. College army
- 5. Black eye
- 6. One who stopped working
- 7. Teach a value
- 8. Rhythmic patterns
- 9. "MASH" actor Alda
- 10. "Friday Night Lights" director
- 12. Midway between south and southeast



**LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE SOLUTIONS**



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



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