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County Times

THURSDAY, APRIL 16 2020

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INSIDE

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On the COVID Front Line



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"WE'RE CONCERNED ABOUT THE ASYMPTOMATIC TRANSFER OF THE SICKNESS. THAT'S WHAT THE FACEMASKS ARE ALL ABOUT."
 ST. MARY'S COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER DR. MEENA BREWSTER ON USING FACE COVERINGS TO FIGHT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

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Thu 4/16 61° 41°F Mostly Sunny	Fri 4/17 65° 44°F Partly Cloudy	Sat 4/18 57° 44°F Showers	Sun 4/19 68° 52°F PM Showers
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St. Mary's Health Officer Issues Face Mask Order



Carloyn Banks Butler practices social distancing and wears PPE while shopping.

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Dr. Meena Brewster, St. Mary's County Health Officer, ordered April 13 that anyone entering a grocery store, pharmacy and retail establishment, including large chain retailers, wear a face covering.

Her order states that the face covering order is necessary "for the control and medical containment" of the novel coronavirus.

The order requires customers of at least 2-years-old must wear a face covering while in one of the facilities named in the order; the order states that cloth face coverings "or other masks" are acceptable.

Brewster said in a later interview that the order was specifically designed to target those who may be carrying the virus and are unaware of it.

"We're concerned about the asymptomatic transfer of the sickness," Brewster told The County Times Monday. "That's what the face masks are all about."

This week St. Mary's County reached 108 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and lost its first three residents to the disease, three women who were in their 60s and one in her 70s, the health department reported. "It's been a hard past couple of days," Brewster said, adding that the deaths were "heartbreaking."

She said her order came as a result of not seeing people take enough precautions when going out.

"We've been working with retail stores and we've received complaints

from the community about people not social distancing," Brewster said.

By using more face masks or coverings now, she said, the county could forestall or ameliorate a possible second virus surge.

"We don't know exactly when the biggest surge will hit our healthcare system," Brewster said.

The order also extends to anyone using public transportation in St. Mary's County, so that drivers and passengers – of at least two years of age – must wear a face covering or mask.

The order also extends to public ride share services.

The order also requires grocery stores, pharmacies and retail establishments to enact capacity limits by monitoring how many customers can access their store at a time; queues outside the site must also promote social distancing guidelines while customers wait.

Grocery stores, pharmacies and retail stores must also provide clean and sanitary restrooms to their employees and be stocked with cleaning products; employers must allow their employees to wash their hands at least once every half-hour, Brewster's order states.

Under Brewster's order employees must also wear cloth face coverings or other masks and employers must provide such coverings or give their employees a way to obtain them.

The order also recommends placing physical barriers between cashiers and customers "where possible."

The order went into effect Wednesday, April 15.

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Shoppers outside of BJs during a staged entry. Photos courtesy of Ceandra Scott

Calvert Deputy Released from Hospital Battled Coronavirus for Two Weeks

By Dick Myers
Editor

The Calvert County deputy who tested positive for coronavirus on March 29 was released from Calvert Health Medical Center on Easter Sunday. The family of Cpl. Marty McCarroll says "it's an Easter Miracle."

McCarroll had been hospitalized for flu-like symptoms before receiving the positive test at the hospital.

According to a Facebook post from Sheriff Mike Evans, the deputy "was reunited March 12 with his wife, Tammy after a critical bout of COVID-19. CalvertHealth Medical Center's CEO Dean Teague and Sheriff Evans welcomed him on his release from the hospital. Cpl. McCarroll was escorted by the Calvert County Sheriff's Office and local First Responders to his residence. A special THANK YOU to all of CalvertHealth Medical Center doctors, nurses and staff. Welcome home Marty McCarroll."

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Tammy Higgs-McCarroll welcomed Marty McCarroll on Easter Sunday outside CalvertHealth Medical Center.



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Calvert Schools Prepare for What's Next



Calvert School Superintendent Dr. Daniel Curry.

By Dick Myers
Editor

What's next for Maryland's public schools? Will they reopen before school is scheduled to end, will they remain online for the rest of the year as Virginia has done, or as State School Superintendent Dr. Karen Salmon is reported to have suggested, will the next school year start with students still at home?

Calvert County Public Schools (CCPS) are taking a wait and see attitude according to School Superintendent Dr. Daniel Curry, while at the same time trying to be prepared for whatever is thrown at them.

Curry told the school board at their April 9 meeting that whatever happens for the rest of this year, he wants students to remain engaged: "We want to be sure no one shuts

down. We don't want any of the students to say, 'Okay, third quarter is over. I've got this; this is my grade. I guess I can't hurt it if I don't really do much this last quarter.' We want to keep everyone motivated and involved in the courses, right up to the last day in school, no matter what that might look like."

Curry made the comments during an update of various impacts of the coronavirus emergency. The board also received a briefing from Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Diane Workman on how things have been going so far for students and teachers at home (see separate story).

Students were given a modified spring break with Good Friday and Easter Monday off before starting in earnest this week having their teachers provide them with lessons. Up to that point they had been receiving lessons planned in advance for each discipline.

Curry said the students made up two of the 10 days lost so far by using part of their spring break and will also use another day later this month that had originally been an in-service day for teachers. But that still leaves seven days which Curry and the other superintendents are not sure how they will be handled by the state.

Curry said, "We're still awaiting guidance from the Maryland State Department of Education and the Maryland Board of Education on some issues. We're looking for some waivers to some of the regulations

and as well as many have asked for special modifications of their calendar." He added, "There are some things that are tied to law and state board policy."

Curry observed the state board is scheduled to meet this week and more clarification may come out of that meeting.

He said the state's school systems are working together. "It's really a local issue. But we're trying to get on the same page in some ways and still meet the unique needs."

Grading issues still need to be resolved. Curry said, "We have to balance out the equity issues with regard to those students who haven't been able to do any work online and we've sent them paper packets. There are concerns with regard to how do we evaluate what's been done not only online but on paper."

Curry said Calvert's graduation requirements are stricter than the state's. He noted, "Our guidance counselors are now reviewing all of the seniors to see if we need to wave or change anything with regard to trying to make sure that this unfortunate event doesn't stand alone as something that gets in the way of a child's ability to graduate."

The big question still remains -- when. He said, "If we anticipate getting back to school as we know it in a more traditional sense, then we would have some decisions to make just for a specific time period of work as opposed to decisions that govern promotion and graduation and things like that."

Curry noted that the state's school superintendents had a conference call with the congressional delegation. One issue discussed was internet connectivity. Curry said, "It's kind of a wake-up call to all of America that we'd like to talk about online learning and how that can benefit and extend the opportunities for children in so many ways. But equity wise, without high speed internet, it's still just something that you talk about and not necessarily something that is accessible for all families."

He said monies would be made available to states and school systems for coronavirus mitigation, but they probably would be to cover lost revenue.

Board member Dawn Balinski said she was disappointed the legislators didn't come forward with a plan aimed at internet providers "to service the last mile."

Curry also reported a change from what was originally told the board that bus drivers would not be paid while students were at home. Now it has been decided that bus contractors would receive monies to cover the salaries of their drivers so they can be kept on board. "We don't want to lose any drivers," Curry said.

Curry was asked what would happen if the contractors don't pass the compensation on to their drivers. He responded, "If a driver doesn't get paid, we expect they would let us know."

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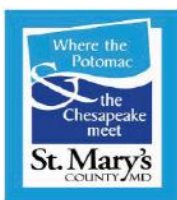


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Smith: St. Mary's Schools Unsure of When to Reopen



Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

School Superintendent J. Scott Smith said Wednesday that, though the system has not received any additional guidance from State Superintendent Karen Salmon on whether schools will remain closed through the rest of the year, he was dubious about students returning after Apr. 24.

"We've been out of school for 23 days," Smith said. "We have 44 days left in this school year."

"We are deeply grieved by the fact that we may not have those 44 days."

Still, he believed schools might have to continue with their distance learning plan currently underway, he told the Board of Education at their Apr. 15 meeting.

"Nobody believes for one moment that on Apr. 27 buses will roll, that children will get on them and go to

schools will open," Smith said.

Salmon spoke to state lawmakers April 8 about how schools are dealing with COVID-19 pandemic and signaled that she was focusing on strengthening on-line learning services and standards for students while all schools were closed.

Her comments seem to indicate that schools might have to prepare to teach students remotely after the summer recess starting in the fall if the pandemic continues.

Sen. Paul Pinsky asked if now was the time to start planning for year-round learning in the face of so much lost time for classroom learning.

"I'm not sure we're going to be doing school the same way moving forward," Salmon said, noting that Pinsky's desired conversation should not be dismissed. "We're not sure this [COVID-19] is something we're not going to

revisit in the fall or the winter."

Salmon said much of the state education department's resources are focused on establishing expansion and accountability for on-line learning now.

Alex Jaffurs, the school system's chief assessments and accountability officer, said the system could adapt to a longer period of on-line learning.

"I would think that we could," Jaffurs said. "We would have to tweak our on-line programs, our deployment and our expectations."

Currently, St Mary's schools are using two on-line platforms, Edgenuity for middle and high school grades and Imagine for elementary grades; both offer uniform lessons for all grade levels ensuring that all students at each level are receiving the same instruction with little to no variation.

A new learning management system just purchased by the Board of Education, called Schoology, offers a more sophisticated service, Smith said, which essentially allows teachers to formulate their lesson plans on-line for each class and provide the kind of experience a student would have in a classroom but provided remotely.

Jaffurs said Schoology also allows teachers to draw on other on-line resources outside of what currently ex-

ists within the school curriculum to aid in student instruction.

"Schoology is a good, long-term solution for remote learning," Jaffurs said. "It allows teachers to differentiate more what their students are learning."

Smith said staff are currently working on building a more robust system of on-line instruction for introduction in the fall, should it be needed.

The local superintendent said St. Mary's County could receive as much as \$2.9 million in federal education aid under the recently passed CARES Act.

Those monies would be used to purchase more laptop computers and WiFi hotspots to be distributed to needy students, Smith said.

He told the school board that the system had about 9,000 computers on hand but was not prepared to hand all of them out to students who did not have one of their own as their were issues about weather the school system could get them back.

Also, school board chair Karin Bailey said certain students not having computer access was not always a socio-economic issue but a geographic one as broadband cable was not available in many of the rural areas of the county.

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Hogan Issues Face Mask Order, Hints at Recovery Rollout

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Gov. Larry Hogan issued an executive order Apr. 15 that required all residents to wear face coverings in public when they go to retail stores and other establishments such as pharmacies and grocery stores; the order also requires those retailers to enact social distancing measures inside their establishments.

The order also extended to anyone riding on public transportation.

The order mirrors the local one issued by Dr. Meena Brewster, county health officer, here in St. Mary's on Apr. 13 and Dr. Harry Polsky in Calvert to start April 16.

Hogan made no announcement about whether schools would reopen Apr. 27 or would remain shuttered for the rest of the year.

Hogan said that, though the number of COVID-19 cases continues to climb as do the fatalities from the disease — more than 300 have died so far statewide — there are signs that social distancing and his orders to limit contact with others and stay home are helping to stem the tide.

“There are initial signs these actions are making a difference,” Hogan said in an Annapolis press conference Wednesday. “Hospitalization rates show possible signs of stabilizing.”

Hogan said the rates of increase for infection and hospitalizations were lower than initially projected, due mostly to residents heeding orders to stay home and distance socially.

Hogan said his administration is working on a plan to recover and reopen the state if certain conditions regarding the coronavirus are met.

“This plan will be well thought out, gradual and safe,” Hogan said, adding to do anything too quickly could only make things worse and damage the economy further from the shutdown. “There is clearly a light at the end of the tunnel.”

The statewide mask order goes into effect April 18 at 7a.m., Hogan said.

He warned that the recovery and reopening of the state's economy would depend in large part on wearing face coverings which residents “may have to become more accustomed to” in order to return to some semblance of normalcy.

Hogan said there were four main parts to the state's recovery plan including “exponentially” increasing the testing capability for COVID-19, increasing the surge capacity statewide, increasing the supply of personal protective gear (PPE) and increasing the state's ability to trace and contact all of the infected to ensure they are isolating themselves.

There are now about 250 health workers undertaking those investigations, Hogan said, and that force would be expanded to 1,000 by bringing in other state employees and contractors to do the work.

Hogan said his administration has a plan to increase testing to 10,000 per day; PPE stocks have increased by one million face shields in the past week and the state also received another 1,000 intensive care beds.

“In the coming week we are expecting delivery of 4.5 million N95 masks, 290 oxygen concentrators and 252 ventilators,” Hogan said.

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It's Not Online Learning Call it 'Continuity of Learning'

By Dick Myers
Editor

“We are in week two of online learning and I think, all in all, that it's going okay,” said Abigail Setzfand, student member of the Calvert County Board of Education.

Even though Setzfand and just about everyone else, including Superintendent Dr. Daniel Curry are calling it online learning, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Diane Workman says don't call it that.

Workman told the school board at their April 9 meeting that what students are doing at home is more than that --- it's “Continuity of Learning,” which she describes as: “A combination of completing online tasks, down-loaded activities, assigned readings and responding to discussion boards.”

The Continuity of Learning, she said, also includes”

- Instruction that allows students to continue learning critical content in assigned courses

- Virtual class meetings, one-on-one discussions with teachers, collaboration with peers to begin in week 3

- Virtual small group targeted instruction

- Teleconferencing for special education, related services, counseling.

Beginning March 12, 229 teachers worked to develop learning in 227 courses and 140 activities. Teachers spent two days in training immediately preceding the April 1 launch.

To get the technology in the hands of students, 1,734 laptops were picked up and distributed to students at home. Once learning commenced, a Help Phone Line was opened and in the first three days 252 calls were received and 202 calls completed, Workman reported.

Beginning April 1, a typical teacher day was as follows:

- 8:00 –3:30
- Learning activities posted by 8:30
- E-mails sent through Teacher Access Center (TAC)/Home Access Center (HAC) to parents and students
- Discussion/check in question posted first thing each day
- Office hours: 8:30 –11:30 and 12:30 –2:30

- Review lessons to be posted, review discussion boards, respond to emails and questions, provide feedback, and address accommodations as appropriate.

- Plan lessons and collaboratively plan with others.

- Daily planning: 2:30 –3:30

- Advised to take movement breaks
- Emphasize teachers to balance your work life and family life each day

A high school student's schedule

would be as follows:

- Monday and Wednesday –Math, Social Studies, CTE/NJROTC, PE/Health

- Tuesday and Thursday –English, Science, World Language, Fine Arts, ESOL

- Friday is a make-up day and should be used as a continuation of learning for the week.

- It is recommended that, when possible, students work through their online learning activities between 8:30 –11:30 and 12:30 –2:30 daily

A middle school schedule was:

- Monday and Wednesday –Math, Social Studies, Related Arts/World Language, PE/Health

- Tuesday and Thursday –ELA, Science, Music/Grade 8 Art

- Friday is a make-up day and should be used as a continuation of learning for the week.

- Recommendation for students to work through their online learning activities between 8:30 – 11:30 and 12:30 –2:30 daily.

Elementary schoolers would:

- Monday and Wednesday –Math, Science

- Tuesday and Thursday –ELA, Social Studies

- Friday –PE, Art, Music, Library, and make-up day for learning posted Monday through Thursday

- Recommendation for students to work through their online learning activities between 8:30 –11:30 and 12:30 –2:30 daily.

Fridays are set aside as a day that students can continue working on the learning activities posted during that week. Students can finish any work assigned as well as pose questions to any of their teachers about the week's learning activities.

The principals aren't left out of the loop. They are to:

- Monitor Student Engagement
- Monitor students not engaging and determine appropriate follow-up
- Monitor Teacher Engagement through Ongoing Communication

- PLC meetings
- Weekly newsletters
- Staff meetings
- Communication to Parents
- Parent newsletters
- Phone calls

- Everything is being done with equity in mind, Workman said.

Workman said a follow up on how students are doing found only a half dozen who hadn't engaged in the “new normal” learning model.

Principals report 100 percent engagement by the teachers.

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Flags Lowered For Local Volunteer Firefighter



The flags are to remain lowered until sunset the day of his interment on a date to be determined.

According to Bay District Volunteer Fire Department President Wayne Johnson, Marcus Paxton was an active senior member of the department, a medic with Charles County, and a paramedic serving in Baltimore City. "The Bay District Volunteer Fire Department is mourning his loss and sends our condolences to his family," said Mr. Johnson.

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County extend their deepest sympathies to the Bay District Volunteer Fire Department and the family of Mr. Paxton. "We are saddened to hear of the death of Mr. Paxton and recognize this deep loss to our community," said Commissioner President Randy Guy.

St. Mary's County Press Release

This is to advise that Commissioner President Randy Guy has ordered the Maryland state flag and the St. Mary's County flag immediately lowered to half-staff. This action is in honor of Bay District Volunteer firefighter Marcus Paxton, who died April 10.

Hogan Orders State Spending, Hiring Freeze

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Gov. Larry Hogan ordered a halt to all state spending that was not related to either emergency COVID-19 response or paying state employees at an afternoon press conference in Annapolis April 10.

He also instituted a state-wide public hiring freeze.

He also said he has directed the state's budget office to come up with recommendations for immediate budget cuts; Hogan signaled he would not approve any of the many bills passed in the General Assembly that would require increased spending.

Later in the press conference he stopped short of saying he would veto any bills.

Hogan said neither he nor anyone in the executive branch has looked at any of the 679 bills sent to them since the closure of the legislature.

Hogan said Comptroller Peter Franchot's revenue estimates given on the same day showed Maryland could lose up to \$2.8 billion in revenue for fiscal 2020, which represented a 50 percent loss of revenue for the next 90 days and a 15 percent drop for the remainder of the fiscal year.

"It is very unlikely any of the bills requiring additional spending will be signed into law," Hogan said.

Bills that are not vetoed and go the required 30 days without the governor's signature pass into law.

The governor also said the state would access its financial reserves to deal with the COVID-19 crisis response.

"We will be spending much or perhaps even all of the state's Rainy Day fund," Hogan said, adding that revenue loss and emergency spending would likely "create a multi-year budget issue"

Hogan said he has ordered the "full

weight" of the state government to aid with the backlog of residents seeking to apply for unemployment who only have access through phone networks to do so.

Approximately 95 percent of unemployment applications, filed on-line, have been successfully submitted, he said, but the remaining five percent are struggling to make contact over the phone lines.

In the past week 108,000 Marylanders have filed for unemployment and throughout March some 240,000 applied, he said.

"These are not just numbers," Hogan said. "Each of these is a struggling Marylander facing real economic hardship."

Hogan said he had directed the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (DLLR) to use all its resources to counter the problem.

DLLR Secretary Tiffany Robinson said her department was working to install more computer servers to speed up on-line applications, adding more employees from other departments and hiring additional contract employees to deal with the surge in unemployment applications.

Robinson said service centers, while not open to the public, were still open for business and fully staffed; she said hours would be extended into Saturdays to take more phone calls and on-line applicants should consider trying to file early in the morning or in the evenings to avoid lags in virtual service.

Hogan also said he supported the vote of the State Board of Elections to use mail-in ballots for the delayed June 2 primary election; votes with special needs would have arrangements made for them to continue to participate in the process.

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Calvert's Mayors: 'Make the Twin Beaches Count'

By Dick Myers
Editor

With all the upheaval caused by the coronavirus pandemic, participating in the 2020 Census may have taken a back seat by some people. The mayors of Calvert County's only municipalities hope to bring the civic awareness front and center.

In an effort to make the "Twin Beaches Count," North Beach Mayor Mike Benton and Chesapeake Beach Mayor Pat Mahoney have entered into a friendly competition.

If the Town of North Beach has a higher self-participation score, Mayor Mahoney will buy Mayor Benton two-dozen hard shell crabs.

If the Town of Chesapeake Beach has a higher self-participation, Mayor Benton will buy Mayor Mahoney two dozen tacos and a couple of margaritas.

According to information on the census from North Beach, "It's quick and easy! You can respond in one of three ways: by phone 844-330-2020, online at my2020census.gov or by mail. Respond today! If North Beach has a higher self-participation rate, Mayor Mahoney will have to pay up! Let's go, North Beach!"

Chesapeake Beach is equally gung-ho to best its neighbor.

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This Project has been financed in part with State funds from Maryland's 2020 Census Grant Program. Project content or opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the State of Maryland or any of its instrumentalities.

Court Hearing Set in Suit Against Calvert Seeks to Overturn Master Plan Update

By Dick Myers
Editor

A court hearing has been rescheduled for June 6 on Calvert County's motion to dismiss a suit by four citizens seeking to overturn the adoption last August of the update of the county's comprehensive plan.

In anticipation of the hearing the plaintiff's attorney filed a response to the county's request for dismissal and in turn the county's attorney, John Mattingly has filed a strident response in which he said it provides him an opportunity to chastise the plaintiffs for "bad faith and gamesmanship for which the Court should not countenance."

The suit was filed Dec. 24, 2019 in Calvert County Circuit Court by attorney G. Macy Nelson on behalf of Susan Dzurec and Myra Gowans of Huntingtown, Phyllis Sherkus of Dunkirk and Michael King of Prince Frederick, members of a newly formed citizens group called Calvert Citizens United (CCU).

The citizens group had earlier filed a petition for judicial review seeking to overturn the plan. The suit filed Dec. 24 formalized that request.

The suit alleges two flaws in the commissioners' 3-2 decision to adopt the plan update. It says that Commissioner Kelly McConkey, now commissioner president, should have recused himself on the 3-2 vote that placed two pieces of property he owns in Huntingtown into an expanded Huntingtown Town Center. The suit said that violates the county's Ethics Ordinance (a complaint has also been filed with the ethics commission and McConkey has subsequently sued that volunteer board).

The suit alleges he "voted on a matter of which he had a material interest and knowledge of that interest." The suit alleges the vote could for the two properties "potentially dramatically increase their real estate value."

The suit says there was not an exemption for McConkey to vote under state law because there were enough remaining votes available to constitute a quorum.

In the case of McConkey's properties, the vote would have then been 2-2, which would have reverted the decision back to the planning commission's recommendation, which was to only include the high school in the expanded town center.

The suit alleges a second fatal flaw in the commissioners' vote. After the final public hearing, the BOCC voted to add a provision in the plan which stated individual town center master plans were subsumed by the overall master plan.

The suit argues another public hearing should have been scheduled and because it wasn't, "it violated the state statute governing the adoption of the comprehensive plan."

In their motion to dismiss filed Feb. 20, the BOCC through Mattingly says as to the allegation of conflict of interest on McCo-

nkey's part, the plaintiffs failed to exhaust other administrative remedies. They say that the issue is now before the Calvert County Ethics Commission and that body has not resolved the matter. "The entirety of Count 1 is based upon what has yet to be determined - an ethics violation," the motion to dismiss says.

The plaintiff's response, through their attorney filed March 10, rebuts that allegation. It says the defendant's argument that a judge would have to probe McConkey's motives is false because they are not making any allegations about motives. They say state and county ethics laws prohibited the vote regardless of his motives.

As to the county's allegation that the plaintiffs failed to exhaust all administrative remedies, they reply that the Ethics Commission has been delayed because McConkey appealed their involvement to the Court of Special Appeals.

Before that appeal the Ethics Commission, according to the plaintiff's filing, had rendered a preliminary ruling that stated: "From the information currently available to us, it appears that you failed to recuse yourself from the discussion and voted on matters related to expanding the Huntingtown Town Center...Your conduct was also contrary to the advisory opinion on recusal issued by the Ethics Commission on September 1, 2015 and summarized by Commissioner Hutchins at the BOCC meeting on August 6, 2019."

The request for dismissal also addresses the suit's second count alleging that an additional public hearing should have been called for the change that required the county plan to supersede any town center master plan. The county alleges that decision was not part of the comprehensive plan vote. The plaintiffs argue otherwise.

The dismissal request also alleges the plaintiffs didn't establish standing. Their rebuttal says, "It is clear that their suit is brought on behalf of the citizens of Calvert County and would impact all other taxpayers and landholders within the county's borders." They allege the BOCC decision will cause an increase in taxes to pay for the added growth.

Mattingly in the latest rebuttal called the plaintiff's amendment as to standing "a desperate attempt to survive the motion to dismiss," and repeated his allegation that it was all "gamesmanship."

As to the contention that the comprehensive plan vote could potentially cause an increase in property tax rates, the latest submittal from the county contains an affidavit from Director of Finance and Budget Tim Hayden saying "Calvert County does NOT have a budget deficit," although the response does not address potential future deficits.

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UPDATE for the Tri-County Livestock Auction:
 The livestock auction scheduled for April 15th has been cancelled. The auction committee is monitoring the situation and is working with local authorities on plans for re-establishing future auctions.

A special thanks to all of our community front line workers


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AUCTION SERVICE

Leonardtown Adopts Budget, Tax Rates

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The Leonardtown Town Council adopted their fiscal 2021 operating budget Apr. 13 unanimously and maintained the property tax rate at .1266 cents per \$100 of assessed value.

The adopted budget is \$1.85 million for operating expenses; the town's budget officer, Rebecca Sothoron said if the town had adopted a constant yield rate of .1249 cents per \$100 of assessable value then the town would have lost \$9,000 in extra revenue from increased property values.

The budget keeps water and sewer rates the same, Sothoron said but calls for a five-to-six-percent increase in fees for trash pickup.

A significant variable in the town's financial outlook for fiscal 2021 will be how much the town collects in income taxes, Sothoron said, since the deadlines for filing those payments have been

shifted out from the original Apr. 15 deadline to July.

"Income tax is going to be a very big moving target," she told the town council. "It reminds us that our Rainy Day fund is there for a reason and we may have to use it to balance the budget."

The town's unassigned fund balance, according to budget documents, is 57 percent of current revenues.

In other news the town council also approved a task order for engineering contractor GHD to design the expansion for the town's wastewater treatment plant on Van Wert Lane; the engineering and design task order expenditure was \$934,774.93.

The redesign and expansion of the treatment plant will expand the capacity there to one million gallons per day; the current capacity is 680,000 gallons per day.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Metropolitan Commission Work Continues

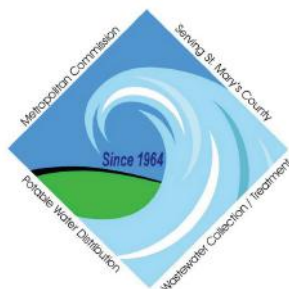
As the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic impacts communities throughout the state, our crews remain focused on serving you and continue to work around the clock to ensure that safe, reliable water and sewer services continue. While the Sat. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission is considered to be an Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce at this time, we have always taken our responsibility of being a steward of critical infrastructure very seriously. As you are trying to remain safe through this crisis, the last thing you need to worry about is the reliability of your public water supply and the disposal of waste water. Clean water is a vital necessity at all times, but especially now as it is critical that everyone is able to wash their hands to help prevent the spread of this new disease within our community.

Although MetCom has suspended customer water/sewer disconnections, there may be times when we must plan a temporary service interruption to address critical work that must be performed on our system. In some cases, emergency work, such as a water main break, may also require an outage without advanced communication. To keep you better informed, we are pleased to announce a new partnership with the St. Mary's County Health Department and County Department of Emergency Services to provide Reverse 911 calls in the event of such an outage. We will do our best to minimize the inconvenience by scheduling the work during late night hours and limit the duration to the fullest extent possible.

Although our administrative offices remain closed to the public, you can call us anytime at 301.737.7400 if you have a water or sewer problem or related emergency. With many people spending a significant amount of time at home, you might experience higher water usage than normal. Please be aware that this can impact your monthly bill and you may want to consider implementing some water conservation practices. If you have questions or concerns with your bill or need to request a payment plan, please email billing@met-com.org or call us at 301.737.7400 ext. 201 between the hours of 9am – 3pm.

When you see our crews working, we ask that you acknowledge them with a friendly wave and let them know you appreciate what they do for you each day. We appreciate all the community support. For more information regarding COVID-19, visit the SMCHD website, www.smchd.org/coronavirus for local updates and information or call the St. Mary's County COVID-19 Community Hotline, Monday through Saturday from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. at 301.475.4911.

Press Release from St. Mary's County government.



Propane Tanker Overturns in Huntington



Calvert County deputies along with rescue units were dispatched on Monday, April 13, around 8:44 a.m., to a report of an overturned vehicle in the area of Huntington Road and White Marsh Ct. in Huntington.

Units arrived on scene to discover a single vehicle accident involving an overturned leaking propane tanker. The driver of the tanker was uninjured.

HAZMAT crews along with rescue units from North Beach VFD, Dunkirk VFD, Prince Frederick VFD, St. Leonard VFD and Huntingtown VFD responded to the scene and worked for over five hours to contain the leak.

The cause of the crash remains under investigation.

Press Release from Calvert County Sheriff's Office.

CALVERT MSP CRIME REPORT

April 14, 2020

Warrant Service - On 4/7/2020, Trooper Moorman and Trooper First Class Matthews responded to the Lothian Firehouse, Lothian, MD, to make contact with a trooper from the Maryland State Police, Glen Burnie Barrack. Once on scene Trooper Moorman and Trooper First Class Matthews took custody of Steven Edward Justice, who had an active warrant (Violation of Probation-2nd Degree Assault) through the Maryland State Police, Prince Frederick Barrack. Chase was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and the warrant was served without incident.

Stolen Vehicle/Vehicle Pursuit/Use of Force - On 04/8/2020, Trooper First Class Oleksak, responded to Mom and Pops Liquors, St. Leonard, for a vehicle theft report. While on scene a broadcast came out for reckless operations that fit the vehicle description that was reported stolen. Calvert County Sheriff's Office deputies as well as Trooper First Class Matthews, Trooper First Class Whitman, Trooper Brown, and Trooper Moorman responded to the general area in an attempt to locate the vehicle. Trooper First Class Matthews located the vehicle in question and activated his emergency equipment lights northbound on Mackall Road. The vehicle did not acknowledge his emergency equipment and accelerated onto Broomes Island Road. A pursuit was initiated and the vehicle continued westbound on Broomes Island Road back towards the location of Mom & Pops Liquor, St. Leonard. The vehicle abruptly entered the driveway behind the Mom and Pops Liquor. Trooper First Class Oleksak, Trooper First Class Matthews, and Trooper First Class Whitman apprehended the juvenile suspect in a downstairs room as the juvenile pretended to sleep. The juvenile resisted slightly as

he was being handcuffed. There are no injuries to the juvenile or any responding police units. The stolen vehicle was returned to the victim on the scene with no damage. The juvenile suspect was transported to the Maryland State Police, Prince Frederick Barrack where he was charged and released to his father's custody.

DUI/CDS Arrest/Firearm Seizure - On 04/10/2020, Trooper First Class Stull conducted a routine traffic stop on Rousby Hall Road, in the area of Clubhouse Drive, Lusby, for traffic violations. A probable cause search was conducted on the vehicle. CDS-Not Marijuana was located in the vehicle and a Winchester 60A, 22 caliber rifle. The driver was identified as Lance Craig Latham 2nd. Latham was shown to be prohibited from possessing all firearms. Latham was subsequently placed under arrest for DUI, CDS-not marijuana, and possessing a firearm. Latham was transported to the Maryland State Police, Prince Frederick Barrack for processing prior to being incarcerated at the Calvert County Detention Center. All CDS and firearms were packaged and processed at the Maryland State Police, Prince Frederick Barrack.

Warrant Service - On 4/12/2020, Trooper White, responded to Patuxent Plaza, Solomons, MD, to make contact with a trooper from the Maryland State Police, Leonardtown Barrack. Once on scene Trooper White took custody of Santo Alberto Chase, who had an active warrant (FTA - Driving Uninsured Vehicle) through the Maryland State Police, Prince Frederick Barrack. Chase was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and the warrant was served without incident.

Press Release from MSP Barrack U – Prince Frederick

ST. MARY'S SHERIFFS OFFICE CRIME REPORT

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office is seeking the whereabouts of Dana Marie Royster for Second-Degree Escape from the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center. Royster did not return to a rehabilitation center in Frederick as required.



Dana Marie Royster

Royster is 36 years old, is 5'4" tall and weighs 130 lbs with brown hair and brown eyes.

Anyone with information on Royster's whereabouts are asked to call Detective Cpl. Melissa Hulse at 301-475-4200, ext. 71996 or email melissa.hulse@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.

DUI/Drug Arrest- On March 21, 2020, Dep. Burgess attempted to stop a vehicle in the 20500 block of Treetop Road in Lexington Park. James Craig Proctor, age 32 of Lexington Park, failed



James Proctor

to stop and deputies pursued the vehicle. Proctor stopped the vehicle and fled on foot. Proctor was quickly located and taken into custody. Located in Proctor's vehicle was suspected CDS smoking device containing residue (suspected cocaine). Proctor was arrested and charged

with CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia, CDS: Possession-Not Marijuana, Driving While So Far Impaired by Drugs Cannot Drive Safely, Driving Vehicle While Impaired by a Controlled Dangerous Substance, Driving on Revoked License and Privilege, Attempt by Driver to Elude Uniformed Police by Failing to Stop, and Attempt by Driver to Elude Police by Fleeing on Foot.

DUI/Drug Arrest- On March 31, 2020, Dep. Haas conducted a vehicle stop in the 46400 block of Midway Drive in Lexington Park. Contact was made with the operator of the vehicle, Kelli Aaliyah Richardson, age 19 of Lexington Park. Observed in the vehicle's ashtray was suspected marijuana. Also located in the vehicle was suspected K2, an envelope containing a green leafy substance, and a suspected CDS smoking device containing residue. Richardson was taken into custody and tried repeatedly to pull away from officers, and attempted to flee from officers on foot while handcuffed. Upon entering the detention center a small plastic baggie containing a white powdery substance fell from Richardson's pants. Richardson was charged with two counts of Possession of CDS: Not Marijuana, Possession of Contraband at Place of Confinement, Resist/Interfere with Arrest, Driving While So Impaired by Drugs and Alcohol Incapable of Driving Safely, Driving While Impaired by Controlled Dangerous Substance, and Attempt by Driver to Flee Uniformed Police on Foot.



Kelli Richardson

Richardson was taken into custody and tried repeatedly to pull away from officers, and attempted to flee from officers on foot while handcuffed. Upon entering the detention center a small plastic baggie containing a white powdery substance fell from Richardson's pants. Richardson was charged with two counts of Possession of CDS: Not Marijuana, Possession of Contraband at Place of Confinement, Resist/Interfere with Arrest, Driving While So Impaired by Drugs and Alcohol Incapable of Driving Safely, Driving While Impaired by Controlled Dangerous Substance, and Attempt by Driver to Flee Uniformed Police on Foot.

Troopers Investigate Shooting At Residence In Lexington Park

Troopers from the Maryland State Police Leonardtown Barrack and Criminal Enforcement Division are on the lookout for a suspect vehicle and suspect who is believed to have fired several shots at a residence in Lexington Park.

The suspect vehicle is described as a blue Nissan or Hyundai vehicle with an unknown number of assailants involved. A residence on Mako Way in Lexington Park was the target of the shooting. No injuries have been reported at this time.

On April 12 at approximately 3:45 a.m., Maryland State Police at the Leonardtown Barrack received a call from a citizen who heard what they believed to be gunshots in the area of Mako Way. Leonardtown Barrack troopers responded to the area,

located several shell casings from apparent handgun fire and began interviewing residents in the neighborhood and made contact with the household whose dwelling was struck by at least one round of ammunition. No one with injuries was located during this neighborhood canvas.

Interviews of several households yielded a description of a vehicle seen leaving the area after the sound of gunshots. Witnesses informed police the vehicle appeared to be a blue Nissan sedan or a Kia.

Anyone with information regarding this shooting or the suspects is urged to contact the Maryland State Police Leonardtown Barrack at 301-475-8955. Calls may be kept confidential.

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NOTICE OF LEONARDTOWN ELECTION AND DEADLINE FOR FILING

Election of one (1) Mayor and two (2) Council Members for the Town of Leonardtown will be held on Tuesday, May 5, 2020.

Notice is hereby given that an election of one (1) Mayor and two (2) Council Members for the Town of Leonardtown shall be held on Tuesday, May 5, 2020, and that the polls shall be open at the Town Hall, 22670 Washington St., Leonardtown, Maryland, between the hours of 12:00 pm and 7:00 pm, on said date, for voting.

The deadline for candidate filing is Monday, April 20, 2020 at 4:30 pm. Candidates may file at the Town Office, 22670 Washington St., Leonardtown, Maryland.

In order to hold elective or appointive office as Mayor/Council Member, one must be a citizen of the United States, a resident of the Town for at least one year, and at least twenty-one (21) years of age. Property ownership alone does not qualify for election or appointment as a Mayor/Council Member.

VOTING QUALIFICATIONS

To qualify to vote in a Town Election one must be registered. To register, one must be a citizen of the United States, at least eighteen (18) years of age, and have resided in the Town for at least thirty (30) days immediately preceding the election.

VOTING REGISTRATION

Deadline for registration to vote is Friday, April 17, 2020 at 5:00 pm. Registration shall be at the St. Mary's County Board of Election Monday through Friday, between the normal business hours of 8:00 am through 5:00 pm, located at 41650 Tudor Hall Road, Leonardtown, MD.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING APPLICATION FOR ABSENTEE BALLOT: TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2020 AT THE TOWN OFFICE BY 4:30 PM.

DEADLINE FOR OBTAINING EMERGENCY BALLOT: TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2020 AT THE TOWN OFFICE BY 7:00 pm.

Emergency ballots are for any voter who, becomes unable to go personally to the polls because of illness or infirmity or condition of employment that occurred after the deadline for submittal of application for Absentee Ballot, (April 28, 2020).

To obtain forms or for any questions, please call 301-475-9791 or email leonardtown.commissioners@leonardtownmd.gov.

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Leonardtwn to Celebrate Virtual Earth Day



The Commissioners of Leonardtown and the Leonardtown Business Association (LBA) invite you to join them in celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day and the 20th Anniversary of Leonardtown Earth Day on the Square with the Leonardtown Earth Day Virtual Celebration on Sunday, April 19, 2020. While it's not possible to gather together in the Leonardtown Square this year, the Town of Leonardtown and the LBA are happy to be able to bring you the wonderful programming you've come to love like the popular Reptile World Show with Michael Schwedick, Clearwater Nature Center's Birds of Prey Exhibit, the Waterman Tour with Captain Phil of Fish the Bay Charters and much more in the comfort of your own home.

The event kicks off at 10:00 a.m. with the airing of the Tree Planting Ceremony that was held at Tudor Hall Manor in Leonard-

town, Maryland. The ceremony was sponsored by Wentworth Nursery who donated the beautiful, newly-planted dogwood tree that is the centerpiece and symbol for the day's event, and features local artists, organizations and businesses leading a day of informative, educational and inspirational classes and demonstrations, and exciting entertainment throughout the day's programming (both pre-recorded and live broadcasts are planned).

Tune into the Town of Leonardtown Facebook page starting at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, April 19th. The programming will also be available from the Visit Leonardtown MD Website (www.VisitLeonardtwnMD.com). Please mark your calendars and invite your friends and family to join us for a one-of-a-kind celebration.

Leonardtwn Press Release

Leadership Group Active During Crisis

Leadership Southern Maryland (LSM), in a press release, said, "The LSM family is committed to supporting our Southern Maryland communities during the COVID-19 crisis. Pulling together our networks and resources to help organizations in the region during this unprecedented time is what LSM is all about!"

The group recognized their following graduates for what they are doing to help others:

Sue Alexander LSM'19 is making PPE masks for CalvertHealth Medical Center and Calvert Hospice.

Christina Johannsen LSM'19 & Erin Ramos LSM'20 are involved with St. Mary's Young Professionals in creating a "Takeout Takeover." A few times a week, the group promotes a quasi cash-mob encouraging all local young professionals to support a specific locally owned restaurant.

Ashley Raley LEAP'20 is supporting local DoorStep families, purchasing items to provide lunches for families in need.

Karrie Wood LSM'20 ordered food from Target to ship directly to End Hunger in Calvert County. As an executive vice president at Community Bank of the Chesapeake, Wood was also involved with the bank's digital cash mob to support local restaurants.

LSM Communications Chair Kristine

Wilcox, Class of 2015, sent a letter to all graduates asking them to support a variety of short- and long-term efforts "that will hopefully help those in need."

She said, "Knowing that we are not able to physically join together as a group, we are initially collecting monetary donations that will be used toward these efforts."

She said the immediate needs are:

Breakfast drop at hospitals - We are working through the logistics to offer breakfast items from local restaurants that deliver (supporting two groups with one effort).

Signs of encouragement at hospitals - we are also planning to produce road signs that can be placed in the path of the staff entrances to offer words of encouragement as they continue to fight on the front lines.

Wilcox added, "These efforts are only the first phase of our plans. Depending on the level of support we receive, we will be expanding our focus beyond the healthcare sector in the coming months."

"In addition, we are looking at long-term efforts including sponsoring a blood drive in late summer through the Red Cross. This is not a blood disease, but we know the blood banks will continue to need concerted donation efforts since they are not currently able to offer mobile services."

Press Release from LSM.

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CalvertHealth, Doctors and Nurses Just Doing Their Job



CalvertHealth's Chief Medical Officer & Cancer Center Program Director Dr. Theodore Tsangaris, and Michelle Smith, a nurse in the intensive care unit. Photo courtesy of CalvertHealth Medical Center.

By Dick Myers
Editor

The number of reported coronavirus cases in Calvert County has passed the triple digit mark (102 on April 15). As in most communities around the country, the epicenter of the battle against the pandemic is community hospitals like CalvertHealth Medical Center.

The courageous battle by doctors, nurses and other hospital staff has not gone unnoticed by the media and the public, with the word "heroes" often spoken.

But the people on the front line inside the hospitals don't consider themselves to be heroes. Michelle Smith, a nurse in CalvertHealth's intensive care unit said, "No, I don't. I come in here, I do my job. I love what I do." She gets satisfaction from patient feedback. "I do what I love to do. I enjoy it. I think it's the right thing to do. And I wouldn't consider myself a hero."

CalvertHealth's Chief Medical Officer and Program Director of the Cancer Center Dr. Theodore Tsangaris, MD agreed. "This is really what we do. This is maybe slightly different circumstances, but we're exposed to hazards and what we do all the time, particularly in the OR."

Dr. Tsangaris added, "I think we're all very anxious to get back to doing what we're normally doing on a day-to-day basis."

Smith and Tsangaris talked to The County Times via phone interview

arranged by the hospital. They were asked how things have been there for the past few weeks.

Smith said, "I would say we've definitely been very busy. I've been in the ICU for over 12 years and we've seen some of the sickest patients during this time. There's a lot of teamwork between the departments and within our department."

She said there was much planning for the coronavirus. "It was kind of amazing to me. If there's a situation and I'm thinking, 'What are we going to do?' And you know, in my supervisor's writeup, we planned for this, this is what we're going to do." Still, she said what they are doing now is "a step up" from what they were used to.

Dr. Tsangaris said, "What Michelle said was spot on. I will tell you that I think the biggest thing that we have done well is our communication. We have been incredibly transparent, and incredibly forthcoming with what's going on. We have set up a sort of a command center that we meet every day of the week, including the weekends early in the morning to discuss the current status."

He added, "I have to say this organization has been tremendous. I think we have been ahead of many things that have gone on not only on the state level but in the county here at Calvert because we are constantly meeting, constantly communicating and constantly getting that communication out.

For instance, we were the first to close our ORs, anticipating the shortage of material resources, PPE and we think have just done a remarkable job. We have struggled getting some of the same equipment. We're not the same as New York city, but, from a scale standpoint, we haven't had, knock on wood, same volume, but given the size of this hospital, I think we've done a remarkably good job.

"I'm very impressed and I've worked with some pretty incredible institutions, including Hopkins. And I have to say, if I was sick, if I had a problem with this virus. with this whole event, I'd be more than happy to be at CalvertHealth."

For the crisis, it's been all hand on deck. Dr. Tsangaris said, "We've asked physicians and nurses to identify skill sets that they are familiar with, maybe haven't used in a while, but who would be able to help."

Everyone is working longer hours, he said. "I think this is what you're seeing all over the hospital, whether you're a provider or a nurse or ancillary care. Everybody's pitching in and not going home until the job is done, until there's fresh people who are coming on to take over."

There haven't been any restrictions on staff going home, but he said, "People are appropriately taking care of themselves. We've encouraged their good nutrition, sleep, exercise when

they can."

Smith explained, "Personally, I have been working extra hours, definitely longer days. We have a great team. We kind of work together on our schedule so someone can do something."

She noted, "When I do go home, I pretty much get undressed in my garage, take my clothes straight to the laundry room, which is right off the garage. And not taking anything home from here, even simple things like a writing pen that I'd be using at work that I could take home that one of my children could touch."

Dr. Tsangaris said, "We've reached out to the community doing what we can. We have a community hotline so the community can call (410-535-8469) and get some answers to some of the questions that they may have about the disease."

To get an appointment for The Community Drive-Thru Viral Testing you must call 410.535.8436. All persons must be Calvert County residents, ad will be asked for a driver's license upon arrival and must be at least 18 years old. Screening calls will take place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesdays. On the call you'll speak to a nurse practitioner to ensure you meet criteria for testing. Due to the limited number of tests available, appointments will be reserved for those with symptoms who meet the criteria for testing.

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Medstar St. Mary's Nurses, Doc



MedStar St. Mary's Chief of Nursing Dawn Yeittrakis



Intensive Care Physician at MedStar St. Mary's Dr. Jean Pierre El Khoury



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

As local nurses and doctors continue the front-line fight against COVID-19 the work load is only rising but they say they are bearing up under the strain and can see some hope that their efforts, and the community's, might be turning the tide against the disease.

Indeed, the progress they see in getting positive outcomes – patients recovering from the deadly respiratory disease – is helping them to keep going.

“One of the things that drives us is teamwork,” said Dawn Yeittrakis, chief of nursing at MedStar St. Mary's Hospital. “We're keeping each other going.”

“Most of the people who are infected will recover,” said Dr. Jean Pierre El Khoury, an intensive care physician at MedStar. “But we certainly need to do as much as we can to continue social distancing.”

Social distancing, preventing the spread of the disease by avoiding close contact with others, seems to be working, but both Yeittrakis and El Khoury said everyone must be on their guard against infection.

“Anecdotally speaking, I think we're seeing some stabilization but it's really too early to be certain,” she said.

El Khoury said the rise in infected

patients was “not as severe as what we had planned for.”

“It's encouraging that the numbers are not doubling the way we thought they would,” El Khoury

Their work in the intensive care unit is informed by constant on-line sharing of information, Yeittrakis said, that allows intensivists, anesthesiologists and emergency room physicians to come up with the best protocols each day on how to most effectively treat patients.

Each patient who comes into the ICU, El Khoury said, gets some level of oxygen assistance, all the way up to being placed on a ventilator, after being carefully screened and tested to see where they sit on the spectrum of infection from mild to severe.

Shortness of breath and fever are the most prevalent symptoms they see, El Khoury said, but they have also seen more unusual symptoms that have been widely reported across the nation such as loss of the senses of taste and smell.

“Some patients are having diarrhea or gastrointestinal problems without breathing problems at first, then they develop them,” he said.

The intensive care specialists are using several different treatments to fight back the COVID-19

virus, including the controversial hydroxychloroquine anti-malaria medication.

“We've seen some patients improve [after being given hydroxychloroquine] but we can't say we are 100 percent sure if that was the reason.”

El Khoury said there is no evidence to suggest that any of the medications now being used are always effective, but they have been seen to provide some relief and aid in recovery.

“We'll use these treatments if the benefits outweigh the risks,” El Khoury said.

Dr. James Damalouji, chief of the emergency department, said the numbers of patients coming into that department has dropped off.

“The overall volume has been down to 35 to 40 percent of what we normally see,” Damalouji said. “What we're seeing is a higher acuity of patients.”

Though patients are fewer, he said, their need is serious and not all are COVID-19 patients.

He said social distancing practices have kept St. Mary's from experiencing a surge of coronavirus patients into the emergency department.

“We haven't seen a huge surge of cases, but it's been a constant flow,” said Damalouji.

The emergency staff has actually

been reduced because of the lower volume but are working longer hours, he said.

Doctors are on 10-to-12-hour shifts, while nurses are on their routine 12 hour shifts.

Should the surge in COVID-19 patients come, Damalouji said, the hospital had done all it could to prepare, including setting up tents to house patients if there was overflow.

“We've planned for it,” Damalouji said. “Everything is in place.”

More than treating the COVID-19 patients, MedStar is training regional physicians and nurses in how to treat infected patients using a simulated patient in various scenarios that teaches them critical medication as well as ventilator management, Yeittrakis said.

The training could give an edge to medical professionals who have yet to encounter an infected patient, but might do so soon, Yeittrakis said.

Susan Bricker, an intensive care nurse at MedStar, said the stress of caring for such sick people was intense.

“It's a very trying time for us all,” Bricker said. “We're a close-knit team... these are times of high stress.”

Since little is known for certain about the virus, information on how to deal with it and treat it changes almost every day, Bricker said, which



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Doctors Fighting COVID-19 Head On



Chief of Emergency Department at Medstar St. Mary's Dr. James Damalouji

means that doctors and nurses have to coordinate closely.

One method of aiding treatment for COVID-19 patients who are difficult to oxygenate is putting them in a prone position, turned over on their stomach, while hospitalized.

It aids in oxygenation of patients, she said, and is one of the best practices promulgated from the constant data sharing between physicians.

But it's not easy.

"It's quite a thing to prone a patient in that condition," Bricker said.

Of all the symptoms patients share, Bricker said, the most common seems to be fear.

"Fear is what you see in the eyes of these patients," Bricker said. "They're in critical condition... and we're the only system of support they have at the time."

When patients are in the ICU, they are not allowed visitors, either family or friends, and aside from the nurses and doctors caring for them, they are alone.

Bricker said it is then up to the care givers there to provide love, support and calm to the suffering.

It's part of their training as a nurse but it is also difficult.

"When they come to us, they



Intensive Care Nurse Susan Bricker at MedStar at St. Mary's.

are short of breath and anxious," Bricker said. "They are looking to us desperately for help.

"There's anxiety in the staff as well, but the level of care doesn't change."

Talking to patients, trying to reassure them, is difficult when wearing full protective gear, Bricker said, but they still try to give as much emotional support as possible.

"Even if it's just to hold their hand," Bricker said.

The nurses and doctors have to support each other as well, she said.

"We try to talk about our feelings," Bricker said. "We get a lot of support from the community, that helps keep us going.

She praised the continual donation of medical supplies and protective gear from private citizens.

"And the food, the food is endless," Bricker said. "And we try to find humor when we can."

If there is anything good to come from the COVID-19 pandemic, Bricker believes the nurses and doctors have found it.

"Morale is very high in the ICU," she said. "I think we're in a good place; this crisis has brought us closer together."

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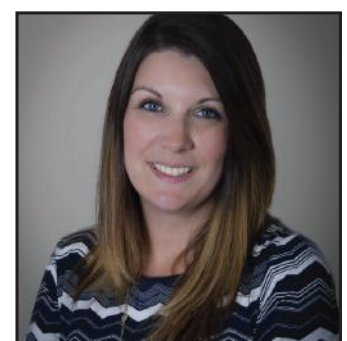
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Buy Local Challenge Celebration Rescheduled



The Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission, (SMADC), a division of the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, has postponed the 2020 Annual Buy Local Challenge Celebration until July 2021. The event was to be held on Monday, July 27, 2020 at Serenity Farm in Benedict, Charles County.

The decision to postpone the event was reached by mutual agreement of the Buy Local Challenge (BLC) Celebration planning team, which includes SMADC's director and staff, representatives from Charles County Economic Development and Tourism offices, and event co-hosts the Robinson family of Serenity Farm, Inc.

"We decided to cancel the Celebration due to the continuing uncertainty going forward regarding large public gatherings as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and, most importantly, to safeguard the health of our farm hosts, guests and vendors," explained Shelby Watson-Hampton, SMADC's director. "We are particularly sensitive to the suffering of many families and businesses at this difficult time and feel, under the current circumstances, that cancellation is the best course of action for all concerned. As the event takes many months to plan, we would be actively engaging with farmers and vendors during this time to set up a large event several months from now, and we feel that is not

appropriate given the circumstances." "The SMADC team is united in their commitment to holding the best Buy Local Challenge Week that they can, under the current circumstances," said Watson-Hampton, "We look forward to sharing all that Southern Maryland has to offer." SMADC staff will re-focus their efforts to buy local via online resources to encourage support of local farms and producers during this year's Buy Local Challenge Week, (July 19-26, 2020).

The annual Buy Local Challenge Week, always the last full week of July, will be promoted and enhanced to provide the latest information on where consumers can find and buy farm products. BLC Week plans include a dynamic and engaging suite of online materials to be enjoyed and shared, including contests, farmer interviews, virtual farm tours, online cooking demonstrations, as well as resources and guides to farm stands, farmers' markets and local stores that offer locally produced foods and beverages.

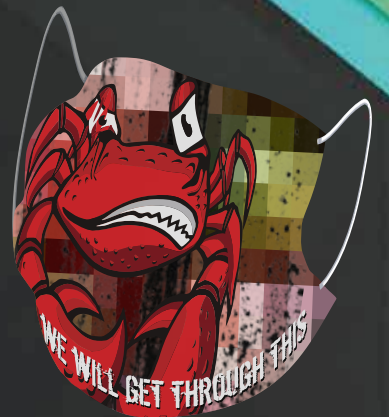
For more information on Buy Local Challenge Week, and forthcoming BLC Celebrations, visit buylocalchallenge.com, and visit the SMADC website at smadc.com for the latest region-wide directories and resources to find Southern Maryland farms and food.

Press Release from SMADC.

HELP FIGHT THE AFFECTS OF COVID-19

As a small St. Mary's County based business, we are dedicated to helping fight this virus. Together we will stand strong and beat this.

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SMECO Director resigns After Nearly 30 years

Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative's (SMECO) Board of Directors recently announced that Samuel "Jack" Hammett has resigned his seat on the Board as of March 31, 2020. Hammett represented Calvert and Anne Arundel counties and served on SMECO's Board since 1990.

"Jack Hammett has been a pillar of the community in Calvert County for decades, and his presence on SMECO's Board has been invaluable. We could always count on Mr. Hammett to be honest and fair-minded and to have our co-op members' best interest at heart," said Sonja Cox, SMECO president and CEO. She added, "We will miss his foresight and his wise counsel."

Hammett is the owner of Hammett's Building Services. He is the secretary of the Calvert County Plumbing Commission. He is past chairman of the Calvert County Fire and Rescue Commission and past member of the Maryland State Fire Commission. Hammett is a founding member, former board member and treasurer of Calverton School. In addition, Hammett is a member and



Samuel "Jack" Hammett

past president of the Calvert County Lions Club, as well as a life member of the Calvert County Historical Society.

Hammett served as Vice Chairman of the SMECO Board from 2008 to 2013. He served on the Personnel and Benefits Committee and the Board Risk Oversight Committee. He received both the Credentialed Cooperative Director designation and the Board Leadership Certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Press Release from SMECO

Creative Submissions Now Accepted!

QUARANZINE

A COLLECTION OF CREATIVE WORKS FROM OUR COMMUNITY

The St. Mary's County Library in partnership with the St. Mary's County Arts Council are accepting content for "Quaranzine," a collection of creative works from our community that document how we have responded to this strange time that we find ourselves in.

All ages are welcome and encouraged to submit work; keep in mind that content should be appropriate for a wide audience and applicable to the topic.

The St. Mary's County Library will host this e-gallery, along with a partnership with the St. Mary's County Arts Council, and will be accepting the following submissions:

- Art - images of your work of any media
- Writing: Essays, Poetry, Fiction, Top Ten lists, Reviews, etc (500 words or fewer)
- Visual Tutorials - "how to do" - drawing, painting, music, sewing, etc.
- Comics / Anime/ etc.
- Photography
- Recipes, and more!

Go to <https://www.stmalib.org/quaranzine-call-for-submissions/> to submit and also for full details and guidelines.

Press Release from St. Mary's County Arts Council.

Community Honors Staff at St. Mary's Nusing Center



Photos courtesy of Ceandra Scott

A View From The BLEACHERS

Corona the Genie

By Ronald N. Guy Jr.
Contributing Writer

It has been 36 days since the NBA suspended its season and 34 days since schools closed. This week we woulda, coulda been wondering how Phil Mickelson and Tiger Woods missed the cut at The Masters and why the golf gods ruined our sacred spring event and “A tradition unlike any other.”

Oh to have such problems.

Instead we, all of us – not blues or reds, black or white, Christian or Jew, gay or straight, etcetera and so forth – are dealing with, well, you know – the microorganism that hatched from Hell, spawned in Wuhan, China and silently proliferated the globe.

But that’s not why you started reading. It was the intriguing title, wasn’t it? No? What then? Sheer boredom? Understandable and since you’re here - on to the story.

While strolling down my lane, properly masked and remaining at least six feet from other humans (which isn’t all bad depending on those encountered), I find what appears to be a genie’s lamp in the grass. Skeptical but old enough to remember re-runs of “I Dream of Jeannie,” I rub it with no expectation of magic. But sure enough, a groggy genie (or was he drunk?) appeared and reluctantly offered to grant three wishes.

There’s a catch, though. My initial doubt that this lamp was little more than a hollow trinket severely limited the apparition’s offer. The genie, we’ll call him Corona, knew I was a sports writer in a time of no sports. Corona, wanting to help my plight but also penalize for my doubt, said he would grant three interviews with any sports luminaries of my choice, but one had to be an active player, one retired and one deceased.

I chose Nationals pitcher Sean Doolittle, former New Orleans Saint Steve Gleason and ‘Skins Hall of Famer Bobby Mitchell, who passed away on April 5. At least that’s how the bizarre dream went. Social distancing has activated my subconscious - and arguably a wicked psychosis.

The choice of Doolittle de-

fies explanation; maybe his love of Star Wars piqued my interest. Gleason, I get – his story is inspirational. Watch the documentary “Gleason” if you haven’t...just have tissues near. Picking Mitchell was obvious too; he is the most important person in the history of Washington professional football.

Whoa. What? Most important?

It’s fair to take umbrage. Sammy Baugh, Sonny Jurgensen, John Riggins or Joe Gibbs would all be reasonable candidates. Baugh was a superior player. Jurgensen and Riggins are more popular. Gibbs is more accomplished. But Mitchell, who played for the ‘Skins from 1962 to 1968 and served in the front office from 1969 through 2003, likely had the longest tenure with the team (setting aside Jurgensen’s broadcasting career). And like the others, his bust resides at the Pro Football Hall of Fame and his name appears in the ‘Skins Ring of Fame.

Tenure, touchdowns and shrewd personnel moves aren’t what separate Mitchell’s resume in the annals of franchise history, though. When Bobby Mitchell took the field for Washington in 1962, he became the first African American to play for the last NFL team to integrate. This happened a shameful 15 years after Jackie Robinson first played for the Brooklyn Dodgers, 16 years after African Americans first played in the NFL - and it happened in the capital of a nation that was supposedly founded on freedom and equality. Mitchell’s donning of the burgundy and gold didn’t solve racism, but it promoted its continued confrontation. And his first appearance on the ‘Skins roster maintains a dubious relevance today as the organization, nearly 50 years later, is still struggling with racial awareness (the nickname).

Mitchell was vastly under-appreciated by the fan base and the organization at large. Fact is, a statue of Bobby Mitchell should reside outside of FedEx Field and his number 49 should join Baugh’s as the second in franchise history to be retired. That’s how you honor your most important player.

Pet OF THE WEEK



MEET ELVIS

I like pigs
Dogs look up to us,
Cats look down on us,
But pigs treat us as equals
-Winston Churchill

Hi everybody, my name is Elvis Pigsley! As you can see, I’m an AMAZINGLY CUTE little fella with a SMILE on my face. I’m only 9 MONTHS OLD, LOVE TO PLAY with my jolly ball and roll over for belly rubs. FRIENDLY just comes naturally. I totally love hanging out with people and I’ll even snort at you to pay attention to me! I’m that PERFECT PACKAGE of smart and affection! So SEND THAT EMAIL to TCAS and set up an appointment to come meet me. I’ll be waiting! BE MY MIRACLE! When you choose to adopt from TCAS, you are literally saving a life.

PLEASE CHOOSE ME!

And remember if there is room in the heart, there is room in the house.

Contact the wonderful gang at Tri-County Animal Shelter at animalshelter@charlescountymd.gov. To see more of my amazing friends available for adoption, “like” us on Facebook @ Tri-County Animal Shelter Southern MD. TCAS is located at 6707 Animal Shelter Road, Hughesville, MD.

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

In Remembrance

John Joseph Noel



John Joseph Noel, 81, of Solomons, Maryland (formerly of Waldorf, Maryland), was born in Washington, DC November 28, 1938 and passed away on April 8, 2020 from complications of pneumonia. He was preceded in death by his parents Joseph and Ethel Noel, sister Jeanne Pryble and daughter-in-law Mary Noel. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Angela, children Brian and Mark of George Town, Grand Cayman Island and Renee of Chapel Hill, NC, and five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. John was the president and owner of Noel Sheet Metal Fabrication, which he started in 1980. Prior to that he was a mechanic with sheet metal Local 100 union contractors. John was a volunteer for the reconstruction of the steeple at St. Joseph's Church in Pomfret, Maryland, a softball coach for SMYO, and involved in many other community events. John also was an avid Washington Nationals and Redskins fan, and thoroughly

enjoyed cheering on the Nationals at several playoffs and World Series games in 2019. He was a friend to many and dearly loved his family, as well as spending summers tending to his garden.

Memorial contributions may be made to Solomons Volunteer Rescue Squad and Fire Department, 13150 H.G. Trueman Road, Solomons, MD 20688 or the Intracranial Hypertension Research Foundation, 6517 Buena Vista Drive, Vancouver, WA 98661 (<https://ihrfoundation.org/hypertension/info/C12>).

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

Kenneth Lee "Hoof" Hoofnagle



Kenneth Lee "Hoof" Hoofnagle, 80, of Lusby, MD and formerly of District Heights, MD passed away on April 10, 2020 at his residence. Born May 16, 1939 in Washington,

DC, he was the son of the late William B. Hoofnagle and Ethel (McGunigal) Hoofnagle.

Hoof graduated from Suitland High School in 1958 and married his wife, Margaret "Dee Dee" (Zanelotti) Hoofnagle on October 10, 1959 in District Heights, MD. He served in the Air Force National Guard. Hoof and Dee Dee moved to Calvert County from Prince George's County in December 1969. He started H & H Construction Company with Arnold Humphries in the early 1970's. Hoof was a supervisor and plant manager for the University of Maryland - Chesapeake Biological Laboratory for twenty five years. He was Charter President of the Solomons Optimist Club and a member of SMILE. He enjoyed carpentry and golf.

Hoof is survived by his wife Margaret "Dee Dee" Hoofnagle; his granddaughter, Chelsea of Lusby, MD; and siblings, Wm. B. Hoofnagle (Ann) of NC and Richard Hoofnagle of Deer Park, TX. He was preceded in death by his son Timothy.

Services are private.

Memorial contributions may be made to Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church, 90 Alexander Lane, Solomons, MD 20688 or Calvert Hospice, P.O. Box 838, Prince Frederick, MD 20678.

Funeral arrangements were by Rausch Funeral Home.

Darla June Briggs



Darla June Briggs, 59, passed away in her home in Stokesdale, North Carolina on April 9, 2020, surrounded by her immediate family. She was born at Washington Hospital Center in Washington, D.C. on June 6, 1960. She was the daughter of the late Eldred William Nicholson, Sr. and Catherine Dolores (Pruitt) Nicholson. She was raised in Cottage City, Maryland and graduated from Bladensburg High School in 1978. She married Michael Lee Briggs, Sr. in Edmonston, Maryland on July 26, 1980. They raised their children, Michael Lee Briggs, Jr. and Carina Lynn McDaniel, in Prince Frederick, Maryland and later relocated to their new home in Stokesdale, North Carolina in June of 2018. She is survived by her husband of 40 years, two children, and five siblings: Eldred William Nicholson, Jr., Karen Sue Paddy, Kevin Lee Nicholson, Jr., Kathy Denise Newcomer, and Darrell Jay Nicholson. She loved her family and friends dearly and was very much looking forward to becoming a grandmother in September. She was very outgoing and social and made new friends everywhere she went. She was partial to the color pink, cats

(especially her 17-year-old cat Kitty), and tea parties.

Memorial contributions may be made to American Cancer Society, 405 Williams Court, Suite 120, Baltimore, MD 21220; 800-227-2345; Link: <https://www.cancer.org/>

Funeral arrangements were by Rausch Funeral Home.

Mary B. Eten



Mary B. Eten, 96, of North Beach, MD passed away peacefully on Tuesday, April 7, 2020 in the home of her daughter, Katherine E. Harbaugh and son-in-law, Edward M. Golden. She was born October 10, 1923 in Princeton, West Virginia and was the daughter of the late Clarence E. and Anna Bee Palmer Biggs. She was also preceded in death by her daughter Priscilla Ann Crabtree (died May 30, 1984) and husband William H. Eten (died June 16, 2010). They were married 64 wonderful years. She retired from Safeway Grocery Stores on December 7, 1982 after 34 years of service. She always enjoyed playing golf and continued to play for many years after retirement. She also enjoyed spending time with her dog Maxwell (who has since passed and will be buried with her), spending time with friends and family, going out to dinner and playing slots in North Beach.

Surviving is her daughter Katherine and her husband Edward of North Beach, Maryland. Three grandsons; William R. Crabtree and his wife Stacey of Glenn Dale, Maryland, Kevin S. Crabtree of Gambrills, Maryland, and Shawn K. Harbaugh and his wife Denise of North Beach, Maryland. She is also survived by a host of great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews, and was loved by her family and many close friends. Everyone will truly miss her friendly and caring ways.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Mary's memory may be made to the Calvert Animal Welfare League, 1040 N. Prince Frederick Boulevard, Prince Frederick, MD 20678; 410-535-9300; Link: <https://www.cawlrescue.org/>

Funeral arrangements were by Rausch Funeral Home.

Charles P. Thompson



Charles P. Thompson, 81, of Knoxville, MD passed away on April 4, 2020 in Knoxville, MD. He was born in Baltimore, MD

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in 1938 to James S. Thompson, Sr and Lucy G. Thompson. Charles is survived by his brother James S. Thompson, Jr. and niece Tracey L. Johnson. All services were private.

Interment was in Chesapeake Highlands Memorial Gardens, 3270 Broomes Island Road, Port Republic, MD 20676.

Funeral arrangements were by Rausch Funeral Home

James (Jim) Roch Andre



A long-time Washington area resident passed away at his home of heart failure, in North Beach, MD, on April 4, 2020. Jim knew he had limited time and wrote

his own obituary, as follows:

"Jim was a native of New Orleans ("NuWallins") and a graduate of Holy Cross High School in the ninth ward. He went on to LSU in Baton Rouge and graduated with a Masters Degree in Political Science and Clinical Psychology.

He joined the U.S. Army for a six-year commitment, with only six-months active duty. He married his first wife at Fort Gordon, GA at the end of active duty. There are two sons from this union: James R. Andre Jr., and Michael David Andre.

His second marriage lasted 27 years and produced another beautiful son, Brett Quimby Andre. They lived in Capitol Hill in Southwest DC, across the street from the Eastern Market.

Then, he got lucky. After returning from many years in the world of software and hardware, he met Lynda Striegel in 2004, and they decided to start traveling, soon, in international venues.

Three weeks in China, included a close look at the Terra Cotta soldiers, in Xi'an. Then, riding on the back of an Asian elephant in the Golden Triangle of Thailand, the following year. Two years later, they road in a Jeep in the middle of a migration of zebras and wildebeasts, going North from Tanzania, into Kenya. The herd was almost surrounded by elephants, lions, hyenas, plus an assortment of graceful antelopes. Machu Picchu and the Galapagos were amazing. Jim and Lyn went to the French Riviera, and the Italian Riviera. Then, a few days in Tuscany, mostly in Siena and Florence where Lyn, the artist, fell in love with the countryside and the paintings in the museums. It is a place to visit more than once.

Then, on April 4, 2020, death stilled the fighting heart of Jim Andre."

Jim is most remembered by his

friends for being a gentle man in the best sense, a storyteller, great cook and good neighbor who would do all kinds of tasks to help others without being asked. He bore his last illness with courage and, at the end, was blessed to die at home in his sleep. He will be missed. His friends and family will hold a celebration in his honor when circumstances permit.

Jimmy Pierce Neal



Answered his Last Alarm on April 9, 2020 at Hospice of St Mary's, Callaway, Md. Born in West Graham, Va. on April 5, 1931 to Floyd and Donnie Cable Neal.

Beloved husband for 51 years to Mary Martha Neal, who preceeded him in January 2018. He is survived by his son Mark Neal and step-son Thomas E. Gardner (Donna), step daughter-in-law Christine Gardner and step son-in-law James Cain. His grandchildren, Michael, Matthew, Mark, and Billie Neal, step-grandsons Brandon Gardner, Wm. Robert Gardner III, Adam Cain, Benjamin and William Harding and step-grandaughter Tiffany Mitsouras. In addition to numerous great and great-great grandchildren, many nieces, nephews, and close friends. He was preceded in death by his son David Neal, step-son William R. Gardner, Jr., step-daughter Martha Ann Cain, and his sister Charlotte Joan Gardner.

After high school he attended Bluefield College prior to joining the U.S. Marine Corp and serving in Japan, Hawaii and Korea. Settling in Prince George County after his military service, he lived in Seabrook, Md from 1967, until moving to St.Mary's County in 1993. A bookkeeper for West Bro. Brick Co. before getting his CDL license and driving for Hess Oil Company, American Tour Bus Line and Gold Line. This allowed him to travel many places in the United States. He retired in 1998 and a few years later purchased a motor home to travel the country with his wife and camping club friends.

He joined the Kentland Volunteer Fire Dept(KVFD) in January, 1962 and was made a life member in 1972. While involved with KVFD, he served as sargent, captain and deputy chief. He loved calling Bingo three times a week for Kentland. His services to Prince George County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association (PGCVFRA), included Secretary 1986 to 1989, Chaplain for the County, later becoming Chaplain emertius. He was inducted into the PGCVFRA Hall of Fame in 1994. The only man ever to receive the honor of being inducted into the Ladies Auxillary for PGCVFRA

in 2001. He received the Norris Beard Humane Award in 2000.

In lieu of flowers contributions in his memory to Hospice of St. Mary's County, 44724 Hospice Lane, Callaway, Md. 20620 or Kentland Vol. Fire and Rescue, 7701 Landover Rd., Landover, Md 20785

Edna Mae Dennin



Edna Mae Dennin, 86, of Leonardtown, MD passed away on February 21, 2020 at Hospice House of St. Mary's in Callaway, MD.

Born on March 2, 1933 in Washington, DC, she was the daughter of the late William Fletcher and Dora Dodson.

Edna was a hardworking and dedicated woman and everyone who knew her could see that. She supported her family as a bookkeeper for Gateway Ford Tractor until her retirement in 2016. She worked until she was 83 years old, and she only retired when her vision worsened. Edna loved to gamble and especially enjoyed playing the slots. She also enjoyed rooting on her favorite sports teams, Yankees for baseball and Dolphins for football. On Sundays you could find her cheering on Kevin Harvick in the NASCAR race. Above all, Edna loved her family and spending time with her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

She is survived by her children: Linda Cicala (Mico) of Ocean City, MD, Sharon Swanson (Stuart) of Hancock, MD, Allen Place (Karen) of Deale, MD, and Stephanie Newton (John) of Hollywood, MD; her brother, Paul Fletcher (Marianne) of San Diego, CA; her grandchildren: Amanda Altiero, Joseph Cicala, Angela Folger, Adam Place, and Johnny Newton; as well as 8 great grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, Edna is preceded in death by her brother, Howard Fletcher.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Devon "Peaches" Shvonne Mackall



Devon "Peaches" Shvonne Mackall, 39 of Lexington Park, MD passed away on April 5, 2020 at her home with her loving family at her side.

She was born on April 7, 1980 in Leonardtown, MD to David Alvin Hostetler and Barbara (Centrell)

Hostetler of Hollywood, MD.

She is a graduate of Leonardtown High School. On February 16, 2011 she married her beloved husband, Leonard Mackall in Leonardtown, MD. Together they celebrated over 9 wonderful years of marriage. She was employed by St. Mary's Hospital as a cafeteria aide and by Walmart as a Sales Associate. Her family was always her first priority and she loved spending time with them. She and her daughter enjoyed shopping together. She was an animal lover, especially her cats, Fluffy Love, Sassy Heart and Starlight, her boxers, King Brutus and Bella Rose, and two rabbits, Peter and Cottontail.

In addition to her parents and husband she is also survived by her daughter, Jenna "Pookiebear" Mackall of Lexington Park, MD; her step-children, Antoine Mackall of Baltimore, MD and Tyeisha Mackall of Lexington Park, MD; her siblings, Katina Jefferies of Lexington Park, MD, Samie Jefferies of Charleston, WV, Beth Rece of Hollywood, MD, Kathy Boggs (Matthew) of Great Mills, MD, and Beverly Boatright of Hollywood, MD, her step-grandchildren, Ja'Lasha "Baby Girl" "and Le'Twain "L.T." Harrod of Lexington Park, MD; and many extended family and friends.

Due to COVID19 Pandemic all services will be private.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Angelina Theresa "Lina" Smith

Angelina Theresa "Lina" Smith, 85 of Leonardtown, MD passed away on April 6, 2020 at her home with her loving family at her side.

She was born on December 3, 1934 in Queens, NY to the late Giovanni Cardascia and Maria Linsalata Cardascia.

After living in Portsmouth, New Hampshire for many years, Lina moved back to Maryland and eventually settled in St. Mary's County in 2006. She was a loving aunt who enjoyed spending time with her family. She loved going to the beach, especially along the northeastern coast line of New Hampshire, Maine and Nova Scotia where she found peace and tranquility. She was a fantastic baker who specialized in desserts, notably her cherry cheesecake and homemade bread and butter. She enjoyed gardening and helped to maintain a beautiful flower garden while living at Cedar Lane Retirement community. She also enjoyed antique shopping, bargain hunting and collecting little knick-knacks mostly of angels.

Lina also had a passion for birds she loved her cockatiel "Danny" and over the years raised several different varieties of finches, parakeets, and cockatiels.

Lina is survived by many nieces and nephews and extended family

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

from all over the United States who bought her much joy and happiness throughout her life. In addition to her parents she is also preceded in death by her husband, William Smith; sisters, Lola Statler, Portia O'Brien, and Mary Anne Pulvirenti, and her brother, Frank Cardascia.

A visitation and Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at a later date.

Condolences to the family may be made at www.brinsfieldfuneral.com. In lieu of flowers the family asks that you consider making a donation to Cedar Lane Retirement Community or Historic St. Mary's City.

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Douglas Paul Hubenschmidt



Douglas Paul Hubenschmidt, 77, of Mechanicsville, MD passed away peacefully on April 9, 2020 at UM Prince George's Hospital Center in Cheverly, MD resulting from a brain trauma.

He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, son, brother, and friend. Born on May 27, 1942 in St. Louis, MO, Doug was the son of the late Lorraine Badley Rush and Joseph Paul Hubenschmidt.

Doug was raised in St. Louis and joined the United States Air Force in 1960 after graduating high school. He was stationed at Andrews Air Force Base and met the love of his life, Bev, at a USO dance. They were married for 55 wonderful years. Doug retired from the U.S. Department of Labor as a Systems Analyst.

Doug is survived by his wife, Beverly Hubenschmidt. Together they had one daughter, Debra Lynn Stergar (Glenn) of Hughesville, and two sons, Michael James Hubenschmidt (Angela) of Waldorf, and Steven Paul Hubenschmidt (Heather) of Mechanicsville. Doug was "Pop Pop" to nine amazing grandchildren: Kaitlyn Stergar, Kristin Stergar, Samantha Schramm (Sean), Amanda Hubenschmidt, Jamie Hubenschmidt, Aaron Hubenschmidt, Amber Hubenschmidt, Steven D. Hubenschmidt, Austin Brown, and great-grandson, Erik Schramm. Doug is also survived by his sister, Valerie Jean Kinealy (Jack, deceased), and nephew, Kevin Scott Goins (deceased).

Doug was a devoted Christian who loved the Lord. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, reading, and driving his golf cart. More than anything, he loved his family and spending time together for family get togethers.

Due to the Corona virus pandemic all services will be private. A celebration

of life will be held on a later date at Real Life Wesleyan Church, Mechanicsville, MD.

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

Contributions in Doug's memory may be made to: Real Life Wesleyan Church, 27399 Old Village Road, Mechanicsville, MD 20659.

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

Hazel Regina Cullison McDaniel



Hazel Regina Cullison McDaniel, 83 died on April 10, 2020, peacefully at her home in Mechanicsville, MD., with her family surrounding her.

Hazel was born on August 21, 1936, in Drayden, MD. She is preceded in death by her parents Emerick Francis Cullison and Catherine Regina (Sheehan) Cullison, and two children, Tami Medders and Terry York. She attended Catholic school at Little Flower in Great Mills, MD. She graduated high school from St. Michaels in Ridge MD.

She is survived by her husband, Lee William McDaniel of 40 years. Five Children- Cathy Gossett (Kim) Etowah, TN., Patty Hancock, Mechanicsville, MD., Glenda Fritz (Joe), La Plata, MD, Leo Bean, Valley Lee, MD., and Tim Bean (Mike) Rehoboth, DE. Hazel has 14 Grandchildren and 15 Great Grandchildren, and two siblings, Betty Pasik and Francis Cullison.

As a single parent, Hazel raised 5 children. She worked at the Naval Ordnance Station, Indian Head, MD in the Extrusion plant. She also worked part time driving a school bus, and at the A&P grocery store. She sold home interiors in the evening. Hazel worked at the Halfway House as a waitress, and retired from St. Mary's Landing as a waitress and hostess. Hazel enjoyed talking to the many people and friends she met.

Hazel was devoted to her family. She enjoyed cooking, traveling, gardening, and visiting relatives and friends. She loved to sew, and made many of her children's clothes. She loved music and enjoyed going to dances with her husband Bill.

She was active in the Bryans Road Ladies Auxiliary. She was an officer in Optimist Club -4th District. She led many fundraising events to provide activities for children in need, and college scholarships for young adults. She was an active member of Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic Church. She taught religion classes to children and devoted many years volunteering in the

food pantry.

A private family funeral Mass will be held at Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic Church. The interment will be held at the St. Georges Catholic cemetery in Valley Lee, MD. Donations can be made in Hazel's memory to Our Lady of the Wayside Food Pantry or Hospice of St. Mary's County.

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

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

Martha Ann Asher



Martha Ann Asher, 85, of Mechanicsville, MD departed this life on Tuesday, April 7, 2020, at Sage Point Senior Living in LaPlata, MD with her beloved husband by her

side.

Ann was born February 17, 1936 in Annapolis, MD. She was the daughter of the late Martin Richard Adams and Anna Inez Adams.

She married the love her life, best friend and soulmate, Benjamin Franklin Asher, Jr., on October 3, 1954. They have spent the last 65 years side-by-side. They met when they both were seventeen and in High School and immediately saw their future in the other's eyes. Together they have daughter, Melanie Kay Asher and her sons Branden Mark Williams and Austin Hunter Willams. Daughter Kathleen Ann (Asher) Wenk and her partner, James P. Cantoni, Son Benjamin Alan Asher, Sr and wife Sandra Kay, five (5) grandchildren, three (3) great-grandchildren and three (3) great-great-grandchildren. An inspiration to the sanctity of marriage they have shown true and everlasting love exist.

There are few couples who can build a successful business and work together every day, but Ann and Ben found the secret. They owned and operated A & B Co. Ltd. together, in Mechanicsville, MD until the late 1990's. She had the spirit and ingenuity needed to be a successful woman.

Ann was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and friend to all that she knew. Ann was a devoted grandmom, spending time with her grandsons, Branden and Austin. Kay and the boys would take them to Cracker Barrell every Sunday, her favorite restaurant. Once retired Ben and Ann would travel in their RV. She favored Myrtle Beach, SC and the friends they made at a campground they frequented and hang out at the pool. They visited Branson on one memorable trip and several to Vegas. Her RV was truly her second home and she found great

joy in navigating and co-piloting for Ben as they traveled across the country with their dogs. When she was at her home, she loved her flowers and plants. She was a talented crocheter and made many beautiful afghans for her family. Ann loved her family and whether she was cooking them a delicious meal, sitting beside her, she always put them first. Her two other loves were her dogs Neil and Punkin. A mother's love is everlasting, a grandmother's love is blessed and without the love shared between them life would be lonely.

Ann is survived by her beloved husband, Benjamin Asher, Jr.; children, Melanie Kay Asher, of Mechanicsville, MD, Kathleen Ann Wenk (James P. Cantoni) of Connecticut and Benjamin Alan Asher, Sr. (Sandra) of Mechanicsville; five grandchildren; three (3) great-grandchildren and three (3) great-great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, grandson Ross Andrew Asher, and siblings, Tommy, Stephen, Joe and Richard and her sister May Adams. She also had many Sister and Brother in law's and extended family.

All services will be private at this time. The family will hold a Life Celebration in the coming months.

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

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

Suzanne Latta Shaw



Suzanne Latta Shaw, 74, of Charlotte Hall, MD departed this life on Friday, April 3, 2020, at the Hospice

House in Callaway, MD surrounded by her loving family.

Suzanne was born on November 20, 1945 in Martinsville, Indiana. She was the loving daughter of the late Jack P. Latta and Anamae (Woods) Latta.

She married the love her life and best friend, Jerry W. Shaw and they celebrated over fifty (50) years of wedded bliss before his passing in 2016. Their love grew each year and their family knows they are now reunited again in the heavenly skies.

A woman who worked as a nurse to support her family, Suzanne was a caring and compassionate caregiver. She loved dedicating her life to protecting and caring for her community. When she wasn't working, she enjoyed travel. She had a dream to visit every state and almost succeeded. With only a few places left on her bucket list, you can bet she has Jerry by the hand and they are visiting them all with the greatest view.

Whether you knew her as Suzanne,



Mom, or Mimi you know she was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and friend to all. She was a wonderful woman who loved her family. One of her favorite things to do was to head south to the Outer Banks, NC and sit back watching her children and grandchildren run across the sand and splash in the ocean. The next time you find yourself sitting on the shore and the waves lapping at your feet, know Suzanne is sitting with you enjoying the view too.

She is survived by her loving children, Brian Shaw of Fair Hill, MD, Jeffrey Shaw (Denise) of Leonardtown, MD and daughter-in-law, Donna Shaw of Georgia; five (5) grandchildren, Rachel, Jacob, Sarah, Erin and Josh. She is also survived by her sister, Jean Ellen Maase (Phil) of Columbia, MD and many extended family and friends. Along with her parents, she is preceded in death by her husband, Jerry W. Shaw, and her son, Timothy W. Shaw.

At this time, all services are private. The family will plan a Life Celebration at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family would request donations be made in Suzanne's name to Hospice of St. Mary's, Post Office Box 625, Leonardtown, MD 20650 or Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, 27108 Mt. Zion Church Road, Mechanicsville, MD 20659.

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

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

Francis M. Greenwell



Francis M. Greenwell, 83 years of Leonardtown, MD, on Saturday, April 4 left for his final journey to heaven in the arms of his loving wife, Pat. He was born in Leonardtown,

MD on December 11, 1936 to the late James C. and Mary Genevieve Norris Greenwell of Leonardtown, MD.

After graduation from St. Mary's Academy he attended St. John's College in Annapolis, MD. In 1957 he secured a position at the Smithsonian Institution where he worked for 43 years and served as Chief Taxidermist and Conservator for several of those years. His first task at the Smithsonian Institution was to assist with the mounting of the African Bush elephant in the Rotunda.

During his time at the Smithsonian he traveled to various parts of the world and 46 of the 50 States in the US collecting scientific specimens for research. While working at the Smithsonian he attended the Department of Agriculture Graduate School, Washington, DC and George Mason University, Fairfax, VA

He retired in 1999 from the Smithsonian Institution and continued to pursue his professional photography career His photographs have been published nationally and internationally as well as being exhibited in several areas of the United States. For the last 30 years he and his wife appeared in period costumes at Historic Sotterley Plantation in Hollywood, MD. For several years he has been a member of "The Friends of Newtowne Manor House Steering Committee for the restoration of the Manor house and a member of St. Mary's County Historical Society. He was a long time member of the choir at St. Francis Xavier Church.

Frank loved his family dearly and cherished all the fun activities that the family had over the years. He felt it was important to be an uncle who was involved with all or any of the activities that he felt was important to his nieces, nephews and godchildren...

He is survived by his devoted wife, Pat. They have enjoyed fifty-seven happy years together. Frank is also survived by six sisters and one brother: JoAnne Choporis of Leonardtown, MD, Mary Genevieve Norris, Leonardtown, MD, Thomas Jefferson Greenwell (Lois), Nellysford, VA, Sybil Costanzo, California, MD, Carole Wible (Joe), Leonardtown, MD, Elizabeth Matthews (George), Williamsburg, VA. He is also survived by a myriad number of loving nieces, nephews and godchildren. He was preceded in death by his siblings: Mary Combs McCarthy, Kitty Lee Radford, James C. Greenwell and Benedict Greenwell.

Frank loved nature and he hoped that through his photography people would appreciate the beauty of nature and take the time to stop and smell the flowers or listen to the beautiful birds singing that God had created.

Donations may be made to St. Francis Xavier Church for the Newtowne Manor House, 21370 Newtowne Neck Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650 or Historic Sotterley Plantation, P.O. Box 67, Hollywood, MD 20636

Due to the current environment a funeral/memorial mass will be held at a later date.

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

Arrangements made by Brinsfield Funeral Home.

Dora Joan Kirby



Dora Joan Kirby, 78, of Hollywood, MD, died of natural causes on April 6, 2020. After battling Alzheimer's for many years, she determined that she had done all she could do on this side of heaven, gave up

her body and marched herself into the arms of Jesus to receive her heavenly crown.

Dora Joan was born to the late Paul Jones Thompson and

Dorothy Beatrice Thompson on May 28, 1941, in

Leonardtown, MD. She graduated from Leonardtown High School in 1959. She attended Eastern Nazarene College for 1 year before she was married in 1961.

She was preceded in death by her parents; former husband, John Calvin "J.C." Kirby, Jr.; and her sister, Linda June Thompson.

Dora is survived by her three children: Dedreia (Gary)

Weslow of Pasadena, MD; Jeff (Anna) Kirby of Hollywood, MD; and Gaytha Kirby of Glen Burnie, MD; six grandchildren and four great grandchildren with another due to arrive in June and siblings: Karen (Steve) Hoopengardner of Hollywood, MD, and Mendell (Karen) Thompson of Port Charlotte, FL.

She led a life well lived. Raised on Dodge Hill Farm in Hollywood, she lived her life wild and free — as most country girls do. She was active in the community and her church, Hollywood Church of the Nazarene, for all of her adult life.

Her many accomplishments include, but are not limited to, racing Go Karts, boat racing in the Powder Puff boat races, competing on a bowling team, playing softball in the Senior Olympics, and event planning and coordination. She was also the former President of the Kiwanis and went on to serve as Lieutenant Governor for many years. She actively participated in the Elks Lodge, Southern Maryland Boat Club, Homemakers Association, St. Mary's County Fair board, and more committees than we can count at Hollywood Church of the Nazarene.

Dora was a successful businesswoman who owned Dora's Floral Boutique and was an accomplished Home Interiors

Decorator for many years. She was head of housekeeping at St. Mary's College, was a lead hostess at the Belvedere restaurant, and was a census volunteer and election judge in her spare time. She was passionate about car racing, roller skating, antiquing, flea market picking, and going into the hair salon for her weekly pampering.

She had a love for animals of all shapes and sizes and cared for no less than 25 dogs, cats, and goats over her lifetime.

Whether she was climbing fences, helping her daddy tend the farm, or dressed to the nines for a special event, Dora lived and loved life to the fullest. She always had a song in her heart and a pep in her step. When music was playing, she would sing along, and you couldn't keep her off the dance floor — whether she had a partner or not. She had a special love for "her man Elvis Presley" and was frequently asked to sing any Patsy Cline song.

She left a wonderful legacy of making every day count. She was so proud of her family: she enjoyed watching her grandsons play baseball & softball, her granddaughters sing, and her one granddaughter compete with the Maryland Twisters for Special Olympics. She bragged on their multiple unique talents and abilities any chance she could. She always beamed when any one of her children, grandchildren, or great grandchildren walked into the room.

A Celebration of Life service will be held at a later date; further information to come. Please follow Hollywood

Church of the Nazarene on Facebook (facebook.com/hollywoodnazarene) or call/text Gaytha at

443-848-1806 to be notified when the event is scheduled. The family requests that floral remembrances be held at this time and instead given for the Celebration of Life service. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Hollywood Church of the Nazarene in her memory.

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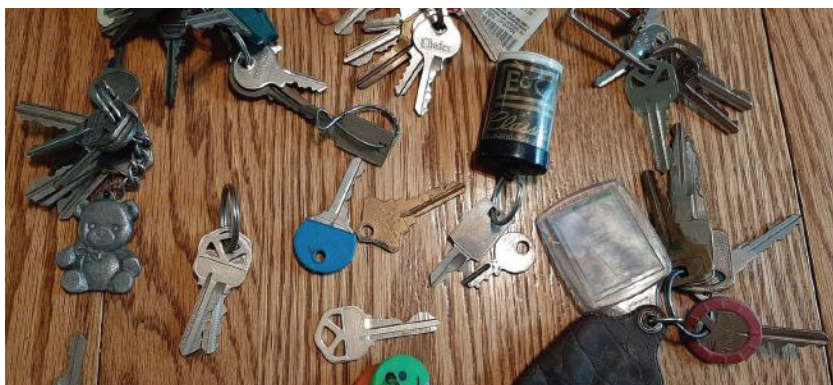
Wanderings

of an Aimless Mind

by Shelby Oppermann



“Rummaging through the excess”



I hope everyone is doing well at home and adjusting to life as it is now. No police have been called to our home so I think we must be doing pretty well.

Here in Mechanicsville, I am still sorting through a lifetime of memory detritus, working on projects, and trying to organize whatever is left from this opportunity for massive de-cluttering. It feels never-ending at times. There are people living in countries where they all share one room, yet we have the typical suburban two story split-foyer and there never seems to be enough room for everything—and there are only two of us. Wow, the guilt of saving and excess. I am working on it. Continually. It doesn't help that there was so much to bring home and store from my old frame shop and most recently, from my vintage/antiques booth at the Hughesville Village Market. By the way, the Market is still going strong – it was just me that left cause of my bacterial infection.

While organizing, I seem to be finding lots of old keys, and now I am wondering what sort of art project I can do with them that hasn't already been done. Back to Pinterest for ideas. It's hard to throw out old keys because you wonder up until the last second what they might still open. I have a feeling that one of those keys in the photo might go to my old Olds Delta '88 – gosh I loved that car, sure wish I hadn't blown-up the engine, but it was my first car.

A cute little ornate key has surfaced, and I found that it went to the music box table my brother bought me when he traveled to Italy during his early years as a Test Pilot in the Air Force. What are the odds of still having a key that small from when you were little? What are the odds

of still having the table for almost 50 years? But I actually still use the table in my workshop – it holds my space heater, pencil sharpener, and calculator, and now it has its little key stuck back in its little lock.

Now if I could find the little key that went to my grandmother's hope chest which has long since been shabby-chic'd (I know that sounds horrible to do, but there is a story behind why that had to happen – of course). Not that the hope chest is locked, I just want to get the lock and hope chest reunited. I know that key is here somewhere, and I will eventually find it during my rummaging and cleaning. An image of where that key is hiding keeps flashing through my mind.

I figure if I keep listening to the Music Choice Soundscapes channel on our TV, I should eventually be calm and focused enough to find all things that I have ever lost, including the hope chest key, my memory, and also be able to solve the problems of the world, or maybe just the world's most current, pressing problem.

Right now, all I am looking forward to is having a huge blow-out yard sale. And I imagine that many others are planning the same thing. In all honesty, the yard sale can wait, because as soon as it is safe to do so, I want to hug our kids, grandkids, fellow church members, friends, grocery workers, nurses and doctors, first responders, and random people on the street, oh, and go winery visiting again. Is that too much to ask? Simple life, simple needs...and a bit 'o wine.

To each new day's adventure, Shelby

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

ALZHEIMER'S: AFTER THE DIAGNOSIS, THEN WHAT?

Contributing Writer:
Lynda J. Striegel

Once a loved one has a diagnosis of Alzheimer's, what can be done to provide protection to that person and the rest of the family?

Fortunately, Alzheimer's disease is being diagnosed at earlier stages. With an early diagnosis, the person with the disease most often has time and capacity to make some decisions about their own care before the loss of cognitive abilities prevents them from doing so. It is critical that those diagnosed early take advantage of that time by doing some financial and legal planning.

First, discuss your diagnosis with your loved ones. Let them know you are assembling all your financial information and pursuing legal solutions so that your wishes can be made known.

The pace of Alzheimer's disease is unknown. It can progress slowly or quickly in different people. Do not put off your discussion of what you want. Review all of your financial and insurance resources, including investment portfolios, retirement accounts, bonds, social security, pensions, life, health, disability and long-term care insurance. Generally, what you want to do is assemble your financial life into a pile of documents that can be easily accessed by others. Don't forget to add a list of your computer and account passwords. This "roadmap" will make it easier for a family member or loved one to assist you when you need it.

Check your insurance policies for long-term care options, including home care, assisted living facilities and nursing homes. And, while you are going through the process, do not hesitate to contact advisers such as your insurance agent, to ask questions about your coverage.

Check your beneficiary designations on all your insurance and retirement policies and make sure those are as you want them.

Next, see an attorney for estate planning. This involves creating a very important document—the Power of Attorney or POA. Under a POA, you appoint someone to take care of you medically and financially and also to act as your Guardian. You can only execute a POA if you are competent to do so, that is you understand what you are doing. You must anticipate that at some point you will not be competent to create a POA; that's why the POA should be created as soon as there is a diagnosis. Of course, the POA is a critical document whether or not a person has Alzheimer's disease. Put simply, no one can help you medically or financially unless you designate them in a document, the POA.

Choosing someone to appoint as "attorney-in-fact" in the POA can be a difficult decision. As I say, choose people that love you because they certainly will have power. And, most POAs have no trigger events. This means that if you are unable to care for yourself, the POA steps in and takes care of you. The POA doesn't need to have doctors certify that you

cannot make decisions for yourself. You can choose one person for medical care and another for financial care, but make sure they can work together to help you. Keep in mind that the person you choose doesn't need to be an expert in these matters. That person just needs to love you.

On the medical side, you want your POA to address HIPAA. HIPAA is a law providing protection against disclosure of your personal medical records. But, if you were to go into a coma and be unable to personally consent to someone getting your records, they wouldn't be able to do so. That's why you need to give consent to your POA to get your medical records under HIPAA no matter what your condition. The medical side of the POA should also give your attorney the power to hire and fire doctors and caregivers, direct or withhold medications, take you out of the hospital against medical advice and release the liability of the doctor or hospital. In this way, your POA has maximum powers to assist you if you need it.

Although you appoint loved ones to care for you medically, you never want to put someone you love in the position of pulling the plug on you. You make those decisions for yourself in a document called a Living Will. This is the standard "no heroic measures" document. Preparing this document will take the burden of final decision-making off your loved ones.

Financial caretaking is a critical part of a POA. Someone who can help you pay your bills, access bank accounts, etc. will be critical to you. The language now used in POAs covering finances has been worked out a couple of years ago between the banks and attorneys so that it is now in standard form and banks are required to accept it and permit your POA access to your financial accounts. If your POA is older than two years, have it checked by an attorney to ensure the financial language will work for you.

Finally, you would think that your loved ones would be able to put you into an institution if you required it, but they do not have the power to do so unless you name them as your Guardians in your POA. If you do not have a POA that appoints your loved ones as Guardians, they will have to go through a court procedure to be named as your Guardians. That takes time and can be quite costly.

Of course, other documents such as a Will or Living Trust will also be important in protecting yourself and your loved ones. But, the Power of Attorney is the best place for you and your loved ones to start. Getting that done will give you peace of mind knowing that people who love you will have the power to take care of you.

Please keep our less fortunate neighbors in mind especially at this time. Give to Project Echo, our homeless shelter in Prince Frederick. Go to www.projectecho.com to make your donation. Thank you.

St. Mary's & Calvert

Community Calendar

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

Thursday April 16

Chesapeake Town Council Meeting with Public Hearings

6:50 p.m.

Due to COVID-19, this meeting will be conducted virtually. Residents have opportunities to join the meeting via web and phone access. Public comment will be accepted via writing by 5:00 pm on April 16th. Comments should be sent to Sharon Humm at shumm@chesapeakebeachmd.gov or by calling Town Hall at (410)257-2230 prior to 4:30 pm on April 16th and select option #1. To connect via computer go to <https://zoom.us/j/810265215> once you are connected on your device join via audio. To connect via phone dial toll free 929-205-6099 and enter Meeting ID #810 265 215. You can also download the Zoom App on any Smartphone and participate with your phone.

All other meetings of public bodies of the Town are suspended until further notice.

Ongoing

She: An Expression of Womanhood

Anmarie Garden; Exhibit Temporarily Closed

CalvArt Gallery

Temporarily Closed

ArtWorks@7th

Temporarily Closed

Calvert Marine Museum Closing

The museum will be closed until further notice in order to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and to keep the community safe. While the museum is unable to serve you in person, we hope you will enjoy our collections and exhibitions online at www.calvertmarinemuseum.com and on social media. The CMM family looks forward to welcoming guests back to the museum soon and will continue to provide updates as they become available.

Calvert County Government Closings

Calvert County will be closing

some public spaces due to the spreading of COVID-19 throughout Maryland. Notices are as follows:

- Water fountains at all county-operated facilities, including dog parks, have been taken out of service.

Department of Parks & Recreation

- All community centers are closed.
- Edward T. Hall Aquatic Center is closed

- County parks will remain open for passive activities until further notice.

- Organized sporting events at county-owned parks are canceled.

- Indoor and outdoor recreational programs and activities at county parks and facilities are canceled until further notice. This includes sports, special events, aquatics, community center programs and rentals.

- All large special events and gatherings, including private events, are canceled.

- All Parks & Recreation programs at school facilities are canceled.

- All Parks & Recreation events scheduled through April 30 are canceled.

- Breezy Point Blast-Off scheduled for May 16 is postponed until September.

St. Mary's Metropolitan Commission Notice

The health of everyone in our community is of paramount concern to us. In an effort to help prevent the further spread of COVID-19, protect the health and safety of our employees, customers, and the citizens, the St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission would like the public to be aware of the following additional measures being implemented:

As a part of the phased scaling back of operations, effective Monday March 23, 2020, construction inspection, plan / plat review services, and non-emergency Miss Utility locates will be discontinued until further notice.

Unless determined to be mission critical, all capital construction projects will be handled under a force majeure event and work may be suspended.

Septage hauling operations at Marlay Taylor Water Reclamation Facility will be discontinued at noon, daily. In the event of an emergency,

haulers may contact our Wastewater Superintendent at 240.298.4451.

We will maintain all our core critical functions at our treatment and water distribution facilities, labs and in our field maintenance operations, with social gathering and distancing protocols. Our field professionals remain available and are always on stand-by to address emergencies 24/7. For emergencies, please contact us at 301.737.7400.

St. Mary's Government Meetings Notices

All St. Mary's County Government meeting spaces are closed until further notice. St. Mary's County Government and St. Mary's County Health Department have partnered to open a COVID-19 information call center. Community members can call the center Monday - Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. to speak with staff, obtain information about the disease, or get their questions answered: 301-475-4911. For more information, visit the St. Mary's County Government website.

St. Mary's City Notices

Due to ongoing concerns about the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), Historic St. Mary's City (HSMC) will delay the planned March 17 opening to March 31. As a state agency, HSMC must follow the orders from Maryland Governor Hogan who directed "the Department of Budget and Management to implement a period of mandatory telework. This includes HSMC staff. All Historic St. Mary's City events and programs also are canceled until further notice. Historic St. Mary's City walking trails remain open. Please check the Maryland Department of Health website and HSMC social media accounts for additional updates.

St. Mary's Court Notices

The Circuit Court of St. Mary's County is open. All jury trials, both civil and criminal scheduled between March 16 - April 3 are canceled. All nonessential judicial activities have also been postponed. For more information, <https://www.stmarysmd.com/circuit-court/> or call 301-475-4200, ext. 74163.

St. Mary's Recreation and Parks Notices

All recreation programs and events are cancelled and all facilities are closed until further notice. This includes Margaret Brent, Leonard Hall, Hollywood and Carver Recreation Centers. This also includes the Great Mills Swimming Pool, St. Mary's Gymnastics Academy and Chancellors Run Regional Park indoor facilities. All organized practices and games are cancelled in St. Mary's County parks until further notice. Maryland Day event at the St. Clement's Island Museum on March 25 has been cancelled. The St. Clement's Island and Piney Point Lighthouse and Museum are closed and events are cancelled until further notice. The Wicomico Shores Golf Course Pro Shop is open for golf from 8:00am-4:00pm Wednesday-Friday until further notice. The Riverview Restaurant will be closed. County parks, open spaces and the Three Notch Trail continue to be accessible to the public for passive recreational use. Please practice proper social distancing guidelines provided by the CDC for outdoor recreation. For complete St. Mary's County information related to the COVID-19 Operational Status, please review the latest press releases at www.stmarysmd.com.

St. Mary's Transit System Notices

St. Mary's County STS Bus System will implement service reductions on all parts of the STS System modes effective Monday, March 23, 2020.

Local Fixed Route Bus - to minimize operator contact, passenger must place fare or ticket in the fare box or show their monthly pass or daily pass while boarding the bus.

No more than 9 passengers are allowed on the bus at a time. Additional riders must wait until the following hour to ride the bus. First responders and medical service workers will be given priority boarding.

Monday through Friday STS will follow these supplemental schedules:

Rt. 7 Southern Route- Every hour, 6 a.m. to 6:45 p.m.

Rt. 11 Great Mills/California Route- Every hour, 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Rt. 12 Leonardtown Route NB/SB- Every hour, 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

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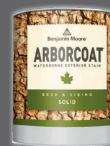


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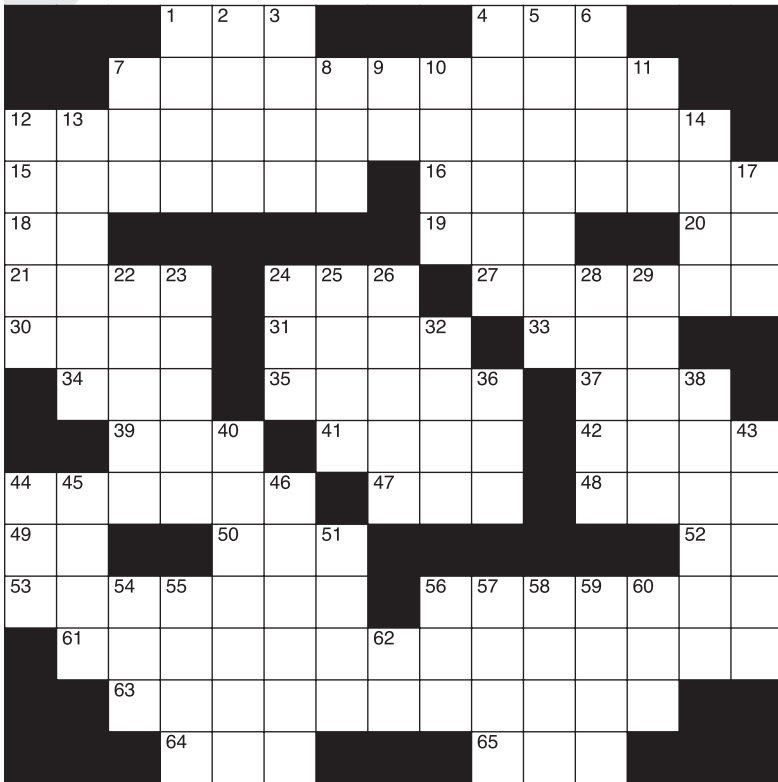


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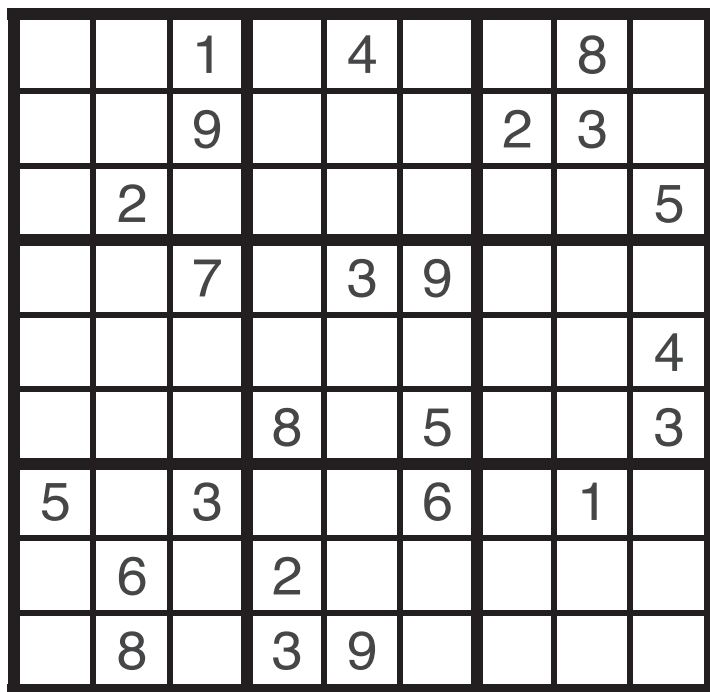


CLUES ACROSS

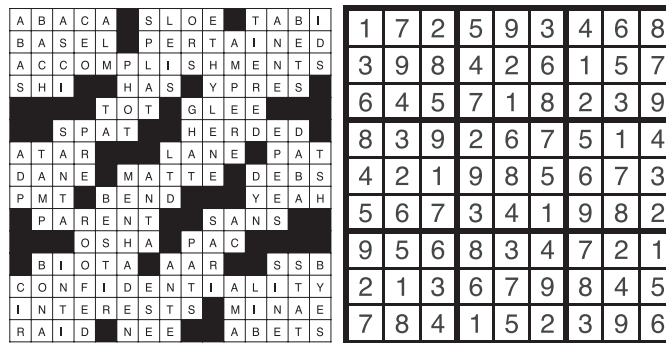
- 1. Germanic mythological god
- 4. Cash machine
- 7. Improvement
- 12. What voters want
- 15. Sheepish
- 16. Placed at powerful level
- 18. Measure of illumination
- 19. Trent Reznor's band
- 20. Commercial
- 21. Amounts of time
- 24. English broadcaster
- 27. Rolls of tobacco
- 30. Position
- 31. Expresses pleasure
- 33. Corporate exec (abbr.)
- 34. Body part
- 35. Bleated
- 37. Businessman
- 39. Beats per minute
- 41. Defunct Italian monetary unit
- 42. Broken branch
- 44. Put in advance
- 47. Arrest
- 48. Prefix indicating adjacent to
- 49. Artificial intelligence
- 50. Disfigure
- 52. The Fighting Irish (abbr.)
- 53. Not in any place
- 56. Predict
- 61. A system of getting stuff from one place to another
- 63. Philosophy of the principles of things
- 64. US gov't office (abbr.)
- 65. Seaborgium's former name (abbr.)

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Network connector
- 2. Primordial matter
- 3. Get up
- 4. Uncoordinated
- 5. Ill-fated cruise ship
- 6. Work hard
- 7. Drivers' speed
- 8. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
- 9. Healthcare pro
- 10. Egyptian Sun god
- 11. Expresses the negative
- 12. Some are three-legged
- 13. Clothing manufacturer
- 14. Close by
- 17. Tooth caregiver
- 22. Housing material
- 23. Flows through
- 24. Founder of Babism
- 25. Honorific title
- 26. A type of letter
- 28. Seize and hold firmly
- 29. Artery
- 32. Body fluids
- 36. Press against lightly
- 38. An island in the Pacific
- 40. A reminder of past events
- 43. Austrian spa town
- 44. Peter's last name
- 45. Something a mob might do
- 46. Of the bones of the feet
- 51. "Amazing Stories" writer
- 54. Nazi-resistant youth group (abbr.)
- 55. Used to have (Scottish)
- 56. A way to cook
- 57. Japanese port city
- 58. Type of precipitation
- 59. Engrave
- 60. Female sibling
- 62. Expresses emotion



Level: Intermediate



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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.



ST. MARY'S
County Times

P. O. Box 250 • Hollywood, MD 20636

What Do YOU Think?

WEEK 2

Has anyone ever asked you, “What do you think about the man, Jesus?” How would you respond? I was nine years old when I first started to consider the answer to that question.

My mom and dad were not churchgoers, but we did have Bibles around our house. We had one that sat on the living room coffee table with retro 1970s green and brown ashtrays on either side. The front cover was printed with HOLY BIBLE. When I saw those words, the first thing that came to my mind was “This is holy?” At nine years old, my only concept of “holy” came from seeing Charleston Heston in The Ten Commandments! I remembered seeing him, as Moses, coming into the presence of the Lord and God saying to him, “Do not come any closer. Take off your sandals for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” I also saw the movie King of Kings at Easter time. Those movies were my frame of reference both for what “holy” meant and for what I thought about Jesus. At some point, I remember going into my bedroom and opening a small, green Gideon New Testament and finding that there were large passages of red lettering in certain of the books-- Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John--the Gospels, and that the red letters meant that those were words that Jesus had spoken. That was when I started to get to know this man, Jesus. I am now 55 years old and still reading the Bible and praying and getting to know Jesus more and more fully.

So what do YOU think about Jesus? Jesus actually asked His own disciples that question! In Matthew 16:15, Jesus asked them, “**...But who do you say that I am?**” Surprisingly, only one of the 12 disciples could answer! Peter was the only one to respond, and he said, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

Friend, no matter whether you are 9 years old or 99, you are never too young or too old to get to know the man, Jesus, and today is the perfect day to start. Luke 11:9-10 says, “**And I say unto you, ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For everyone that asks receives; and he that seeks finds; and to him that knocks it shall be opened....**” The Lord has given you a promise that if you seek and ask, you will find Him and He will answer.

A preview of what’s coming next: Jesus was called “Messiah” which means “Savior.” Why would anyone need a Savior? Next week, I will discuss repentance--what it is, why it’s important, and how repentance comes through the shed blood of a savior, a perfect sacrifice, the man called Jesus.

In closing, let me say “Thank you!” to everyone that contacted me over the last week. Though the churches are closed (Many do continue to spread the message of the Savior on-line.), let us remember that the Lord does not live in a church building. Jesus lives in the hearts of men and women and children who call him Savior.

Anyone, who wants a Bible, Prayer or just wants to talk about what’s in this first week’s message please call:
240-718-8911

Until Next Week, may the Lord bless you.
Pastor, Rob Myers, The Mission



THE MISSION



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