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St. Mary's County Times

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2019

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DIST. 29 SENATOR JACK BAILEY ON THE KIRWAN COMMISSION'S CALL FOR BILLIONS MORE IN EDUCATION SPENDING.

WEEKLY FORECAST

Wed 11/27	Thu 11/28	Fri 11/29	Sat 11/30
59° 43°F	50° 36°F	46° 35°F	43° 39°F
AM Showers	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	PM Showers
Sun 12/1	Mon 12/2	Tue 12/3	Wed 12/4
51° 41°F	45° 31°F	42° 31°F	44° 32°F
Rain	AM Showers	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy



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St. Mary's Enjoys Good Health Though Serious Problems Linger

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

A report released on the overall health of St. Mary's County by the health department late last week shows that residents are still among the healthiest in the state, coming in at about No. 5 out of 24 jurisdictions and ahead of neighboring Calvert County, which is at No. 6.

Dr. Meena Brewster, the county's chief health officer, said, however that there is still much work to do to curb chronic diseases as well as dubious personal behavior that can be deleterious to health.

"Compared to other jurisdictions... we're trending fairly well," said Brewster in a Monday interview. "We still have room for improvement."

Brewster said the county still suffers from a lack of access to primary care physicians, which puts an undue strain on the county's only emergency room at MedStar St. Mary's Hospital.

"The report highlights our concerns about chronic diseases, particularly diabetes, which is on the rise," Brewster said.

The county's cancer incidence rates, or new cases of cancer is less than the state average except when lung cancer is concerned, she said.

"We have higher incidence rates than the state-wide average," Brewster told The County Times. "And that could very well be from decades of prior tobacco use."

When it come to cancer mortality rates, St. Mary's "has similar or higher rates than the state for many types of cancer," she said.

"I believe that's due to a lack of access to care," said Brewster.

Though St. Mary's is known for its natural beauty, its residents enjoy far less access to it that might otherwise be used to improve their health through exercise.

According to the report just 62 percent of county residents have adequate access to parks and recreation facilities, which is defined as living within one mile of such space in an urban setting and within three miles in a rural one.

According to the report 93 percent of the state population has adequate access to parks and recreation facilities.

Data from 2017, the latest information available in the report, showed that just 25.9 percent of county residents reported being at a healthy body weight compared to 32.4 percent as the state average; 2016 data showed that 14.3 percent of county residents were classified as overweight, while 15.2 percent were



Dr. Meena Brewster

was particularly alarming, Brewster said.

"We have much higher rates of domestic violence than the state average," Brewster said.

The report quotes the Maryland Uniform Crime Report, showing that in 2017 there were 768 reported domestic violence cases per 100,000 residents; the statewide average was 537 domestic violence cases per 100,000 residents.

As the population in St. Mary's increases, it has reached about 115,000 residents, the conditions are growing for the spread of infectious diseases, Brewster said.

Sexually transmitted diseases such as gonorrhea and chlamydia were also on the rise, she said, and since 2009 the number of infectious disease outbreaks have risen from six to 18 in 2017.

Teen pregnancy is decreasing in St. Mary's, though, Brewster said. Ninety-eight percent of students attending school have been vaccinated.

Such a high number of vaccinated children meant that those without vaccine protections were at less risk of contracting disease, said Brewster.

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YMCA Committee Chooses Potential Site

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

A disused piece of land just a few acres in size directly adjacent to the Lexington Park Library is one possible site for a new YMCA community center after members of the county's exploratory committee agreed to consider it.

The county's newly formed YMCA committee also came to a consensus on where to focus their efforts on a siting for a community center: Lexington Park.

"This is the first site we've agreed could be in contention for a YMCA facility," said John K. Parlett, one of the members of the exploratory committee.

There is interest in putting YMCA or other kinds of community centers in other parts of the county such as Leonardtown or Mechanicsville, Parlett said, but Lexington Park with its population and population density was the most needful.

Lexington Park residents had also been the strongest advocates for the need for a community center, Parlett said.

"Someday it would be nice to have [community centers] in those places," said Parlett.

The object of the committee is to continue to find other sites in the Lexington Park area that might be suitable for a community center or YMCA facility.

Earlier this year representatives from the YMCA on the Eastern Shore came to St. Mary's to speak to county commissioners about how they run their organization and what programs they offer youth and families.

Elected leaders expressed enthusiasm for bringing



A brushy plot of land next to the Lexington Park Library is under consideration as a possible YMCA center site

a YMCA to St. Mary's to help satisfy demands for a community center.

The land next to the library was recently deforested and has since remained fallow; the U.S. Navy had requested the trees there be torn down to help scatter turkey vulture roosts that put pilots in danger, though it was later learned that there was no funding to clean up the site and vultures are known to continue to roost there.

Parlett said the plot of land was in an ideal location, close to schools, churches, emergency services and other recreational facilities such as the gymnastics center in Millison Plaza.

This would allow for a smaller facility on the site as it is not large enough for a typical YMCA building, which can be 70,000 square feet in size, Parlett said.

The land is owned by the St. Mary's County Housing Authority; Parlett said the committee chose the site in anticipation the authority would be amendable to having a community center there.

Having a YMCA "in the heart of Lexington Park" could help boost revitalization efforts there, "with a new sense of pride," Parlett said.

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Hogan Decries Kirwan Vote to Press for Billions in School Funding

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Last week the Kirwan Commission voted to send its recommendations to improve K through 12 education in Maryland to state law makers, setting up what is likely to be a contentious battle in the Maryland General Assembly this January over just how the state is going to pay for the \$4 billion in funding increases over the next decade the commission's report calls for.

Gov. Larry Hogan quickly sounded his displeasure at the commission member's vote without devising a method to pay for the massive increases in education spending.

"After more than three years of meetings, the Kirwan Tax Hike Commission has still failed to produce any plan to pay for its massive spending proposals, which will cost taxpayers more than \$30 billion," Hogan said in a statement. "Local leaders agree with me—they will not support the billions in crippling state and local tax increases that would be required. Some good ideas have been discussed, but the commission mostly focused on simply increasing spending, rather than real accountability measures and better results for our children."

Hogan said his administration would continue to make education a priority.

"I have made education the top priority of my administration, providing historically high funding five years in a row while leading the fight for more accountability in local school systems," Hogan's statement continued. "We pushed for and enacted the casino lockbox initiative to require a further investment of \$4.4 billion more for our schools."

"No governor in Maryland history has invested more in education. I will continue to focus on reforms that will produce better results for Maryland taxpayers, parents, teachers, and especially students."

The vote virtually guarantees a fight in the legislature, which is majority Democrat, many of whom are expected to support tax increases to fund the spending increases.

Sen. Jack Bailey (R-Dist. 29) stated the Kirwan Commission was in essence a carte blanche for spending.

"We need accountability, we can't write a blank check," Bailey said. "We [Calvert and St. Mary's counties] have good schools and educators compared to the big spenders inside the Beltway."

"We should not be throwing good money after bad; when it comes to funding accountability the Kirwan Commission lost its way."

The leader of the state teacher's union lauded the vote of commissioners, which was 19-3.

"This is a potentially game-changing moment for our students and our state—a once-in-a-generation opportunity to expand career and technical education, hire more educators and increase their



William Kirwan

pay, provide additional support to struggling learners, and create lasting educational equity and a more prosperous future for Maryland," said Baltimore County elementary school teacher and MSEA President Cheryl Bost.

"Educators applaud the hard work of the Kirwan Commission and the leadership of Dr. Kirwan and look forward to working with the General Assembly to pass a new funding formula to ensure that every student in Maryland can attend a great public school. We must act during the 2020 legislative session because our kids can't wait for the adequate and equitable school funding that they deserve."

Increasing teacher pay is one of the main areas of improvement in the Kirwan Commission's goals.

But the chief economist at the Maryland Public Policy Institute, Stephen K. Walters, said of the Kirwan plan: "It won't work and it will break the bank."

He criticized the Kirwan Commission for not providing more school choices, such as charter schools and that Maryland schools are not making gains in student achievement despite major increases in school funding.

"The latest National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) makes clear that Maryland's public schools are doing less with more. As of 2017, the latest year for which nationwide census data are available, Maryland spent 22 percent more on a per-pupil basis and paid its teachers 28 percent more than the national average," Walters stated in an opinion piece published in the Frederick News Post. "From 2012 to 2017, the state increased per-pupil spending nine percent; meanwhile, its NAEP scores have been in steady decline. Fourth-grade reading scores, for example, have plunged 11 points since 2011, while fourth-grade math scores are down seven points."

Walters has opined that the actual costs of the Kirwan Commission's recommendations could be closer to \$30 billion rather than the commission's stated \$4 billion price tag.

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Suttler Post Clydesdale Make Third White House Trip

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

For the third year in a row the Mast family of Suttler Post Farm in Mechanicsville have delivered the Christmas Tree, also known as the First Lady's Tree, to the White House on Monday.

A pair of Suttler Post Farm's famous Clydesdale horses, Ben and Cash, made the delivery after being brought to Washington D.C. in a side-by-side horse trailer and being hooked up to a ceremonial wagon which held the official tree.

Daniel Mast, son of Wayne Mast who owns Suttler Post Farm, made the trip with his father and 10-year-old son Wyatt, who got to shake First Lady Melania Trump's hand, Daniel Mast said.

"He liked being off from school," Daniel said, noting they kept their eventual destination a secret from Wyatt. "He really enjoyed it."

"It was an eye-opening experience for him."

The team at Suttler Post Farm get paid to bring the tree to the First Family at the start of the Christmas Season but, Daniel said, "more than likely" they would do it for free.

"It's such an honor," Daniel told The County Times.

He said the way they were chosen



The Mast family of Suttler Post Farm delivered the White House Christmas Tree for the third year in a row Monday.

to be the team to bring the tree to the White House came somewhat suddenly three years ago.

"The U.S. Park Service contacted us," Daniel said. "They found us and knew that we had a carriage service."

Since then they have made the pilgrimage dressed in formal attire, driving the massive Clydesdales on.

They want to keep being the delivery service for the White House Christmas Tree, Daniel said.

"We'll do it as long as they ask us to," he said.

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Variance Granted for Hollywood Square Project

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The St. Mary's County Board of Appeals granted a developer's request to reduce required setbacks from local roads for a commercial project of three shops, including a restaurant and coffee shop, in a small lot on Mervell Dean Road in Hollywood at their Nov. 14 meeting.

The variance was granted on a 3 to 2 vote.

The conditions of the variance were that the developer, Pelbps LLC, must put up a 10-foot buffer of plantings along the immediate section of Clarks Landing Road as well as Mervell Dean Road and a 6-foot buffer of plantings along its rear towards Route 235.

The project would be placed behind the Brusters ice cream shop.

The variances the developer requested were to reduce the setback from roadway from 50 feet to 35 feet along Route 235 and from 35 feet to 25 feet along Mervell Dean Road.

The concept site plan for the project would have three commercial businesses – a coffee shop, a restaurant and a carry out store – next to each other facing out on Mervell Dean Road.

Some on the appeals board members were concerned that three shops would increase traffic on Mervell Dean Road to increasingly cramped levels, but the developer argued that most morning traffic for the coffee shop would be gone by the time either restaurant or fast food store opened.

The site plan had been revised since its first hearing before the board of appeals in August, with square footage reductions to the restaurant and carry out to 1,400 square feet and 1,225 square feet respectively with the coffee shop increasing to 1,200 square feet from 952 square feet.

The site for the proposed project is just .64 acres in size.

Appeals board member Wayne Miedzinski said the size of the lot was less than ideal but he would not stand in the way of it since no one from the community had come out to oppose the project.

"It's 10 pounds in a five pound bag," said appeals board member Rich Richardson.

The project had received initial concept plan approval from the county planning commission in July.

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What's Coming to St. Mary's County

1. CONCEPT SITE PLAN # 19-13200018, 7-ELEV-EN LEXINGTON PARK (Zoning Ordinance 10-02) (Use # 48, Convenience Store, Use # 60, Fuel Sales)

OWNER: VRE Lexington Park, LLC
 AGENT: Kimley-Horn
 LOCATION: 21183 Great Mills Rd TM-051 GRID-07 PAR-0286 ED-08 TAX ID-007160 LAND USE: Mixed-Use High-Intensity
 ZONING: MXH
 ACREAGE: 2.041
 ACTION REQUESTED: Review of a concept site plan for a 4,050 sq. ft. convenience store and a 4,050 sq. ft fuel sales canopy.



2. CONCEPT SITE PLAN # 19-13200019, REDEEMING GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH (Zoning Ordinance 10-02) (Use # 38 Religious Assembly)

OWNER: Redeeming Grace Baptist Church
 AGENT: J Hopson Consulting, LLC
 LOCATION: 20741 Soaring Eagle Way TM-050 GRID-17 PAR-0383 ED-02 TAX ID-180704 LAND USE: Residential Low Density
 ZONING: RL
 ACREAGE: 10
 ACTION REQUESTED: Review of a concept site plan for a 19,365 sq. ft. church.

AGENT: Lorenzi, Dodds & Gunnill, Inc.
 LOCATION: 37170 New Market Rd TM-004 GRID-OB PAR-0052 ED-05 TAX ID.O200B5
 LAND USE: Rural Preservation
 ZONING: RPD
 ACREAGE: 89.93
 ACTION REQUESTED: Review of an additional 56.57 acres to an existing mining operation

4. MINOR SUBDIVISION # 19-11000029, HERTZLER FARMSTEAD 1 (Zoning Ordinance 10-02) (Subdivision Ordinance 10-01)

OWNER: Hertzler David B
 AGENT: Little Silences Rest, Inc.
 LOCATION: Thompson Corner Rd TM-004 GRID-21 PAR-0033 ED-05 TAX ID-001218 LAND USE: Rural Preservation
 ZONING: RPD

3. MINOR SITE PLAN # 19-13100030, DARCEY PROPERTY ADDITION (Zoning Ordinance 10-02) (Use # 82, Extractive Industry)

OWNER: Roland E & Mildred H Darcey

ACREAGE: 53.47

ACTION REQUESTED: Review of a 1 lot minor subdivision.

5. MINOR SUBDIVISION # 19.11000030, STAUFFER FARMSTEAD (Zoning Ordinance 10-02) (Subdivision Ordinance 10-01)

OWNER: Edward & Patsy Ann Stauffer
 AGENT: Ben Dyer & Associates
 LOCATION: 19488 Stauffer Ln TM-057 GRID-21 PAR-0003, 286 ED-02 TAX ID-017768, 016036
 LAND USE: Rural Preservation
 ZONING: RPD ACREAGE: 57.98
 ACTION REQUESTED: Review of a 2-lot minor subdivision.

6. MINOR SUBDIVISION # 19.11000031, THOMPSON MINOR SUBDIVISION (Zoning Ordinance 10-02) (Subdivision Ordinance 10-01) HUNTERSVILLE RURAL LEGACY AREA

OWNER: Lvlinor & Rita Buckler
 AGENT: Robert Trautman
 LOCATION: 41 1 10 Old Horse Landing Rd TM-010 GRID-20 PAR-0052 ED-05 TAX ID-062942
 LAND USE: Rural Preservation
 ZONING: RPD
 ACREAGE: 17.056
 ACTION REQUESTED: Review of a 1-lot minor subdivision.

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Patuxent River Man Pleads Guilty To Federal Child Sex Abuse Charges

Justin Paul Keener, 31, of Patuxent River, Maryland, has pleaded guilty to a superseding information charging him with two counts of abusive sexual contact with a child. The guilty plea was entered on November 19, 2019.

The guilty plea was announced by United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Robert K. Hur; Special Agent in Charge John Salazar of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, Washington Field Office; and Special Agent in Charge Jennifer C. Boone of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Baltimore Field Office.

According to his guilty plea, in November 2017, while residing at Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Keener sexually abused a victim who was under the age of 12. In and before November 2017, Keener sexually abused another victim, also under the age of 12, on multiple occasions.

As a result of his conviction, Keener will be required to register as a sex offender in the places where he resides, where he is an employee, and where he is a student, under the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA).

Keener and the government have agreed that, if the Court accepts the plea agreement, Keener will be sentenced to

between 19 and 25 years in federal prison. U.S. District Judge George J. Hazel has scheduled sentencing for January 17, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorney's Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who sexually exploit children, and to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.justice.gov/psc. For more information about Internet safety education, please visit www.justice.gov/psc and click on the "Resources" tab on the left of the page.

United States Attorney Robert K. Hur commended the NCIS and the FBI for their work in the investigation. Mr. Hur thanked Assistant U.S. Attorney Joseph R. Baldwin, who is prosecuting the federal case.

U.S. Attorney's Office Press Release

Identity Needed for Burglary Suspect



The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office is seeking the identity of the person pictured in a burglary case. On Sunday, Nov. 24, 2019 at 8 am, the suspect broke into the victim's detached garage at the 21600 block of Mechanicsville Road in Mechanicsville and took a Stihl leaf

blower, an Echo weed eater, a Dewalt battery charger and batteries.

Anyone with information about the identity of this suspect or this incident is asked to call Deputy Tyler Westphal at 301-475-4200, ext. *8017 or email tyler.westphal@stmarysmd.com.

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Thousands in Southern Maryland pay for dentistry they never get done!

BY: JEFF TOMCSIK
Research Reporter

Statistically about 50% of the local population have dental insurance. Of that percentage only 50% of them properly use the dental benefits they are paying for. Most of them have no idea what benefits they have and how easy it is to lose them. To make the most of their dental benefits the consumer needs to understand how dental insurance works.

Dental insurance plans can be confusing. There are several components to a dental insurance plan. First there is the monthly premium that must be paid by the consumer, or in some cases their employer. There is the discount that is applied to all the dental codes that the insurance company negotiates with the dental offices. These discounts only effect "in-network" dentists and usually average about 30% off the usual and customary rate that a person without insurance would pay. Then there is the annual maximum. This is the amount that the insurance company is willing to pay on the insured's behalf per year. This typically ranges between \$1000 and \$3000 depending on the plan and how much the premium is per month.

While it certainly is a benefit to the consumer to have the lower fees that are negotiated on their behalf between the insurance company and the dental practices that are in-network, this discount doesn't make the cost of the annual fees worth the value. Those who have a healthy smile, would

likely never use the restorative benefit or at least not much of it. In other words, a 30% discount on something not being used or purchased doesn't hold any value.

Most of the insurance plans pick up the entire or at least most of the insured consumers' preventative maintenance. This is usually the procedures that are recommended to be done twice per year by your hygienist. This may include cleanings, x-rays, fluoride, exam, and the like. The insurance company would have you believe they are the hero for paying for these visits, but in fact, the consumer paid for them. They just allowed the consumer to spread the payments out throughout the year in monthly payments or weekly deductions from their payroll. Insured individuals that don't take advantage of their preventative visits by seeing their hygienist twice a year are literally throwing their money away. It would be the equivalent of paying for two nights in an upscale hotel in DC but never showing up for the stay! Who would do that? These dental visits are of equivalent value; but yet 25% of the insured public throws these visits they paid for away.

Regular preventative maintenance visits drastically reduce the likelihood of major restorative procedures in the future. It is a known fact that preventative dental care not only saves the integrity of the smile but it truly saves the patient from high cost restorative care in the future.

The dental insurance company wins when the patient waits to go to the dentist. Those

who pay for dental insurance every year but never go to the dentist are writing a free check to the insurance company. The insurance companies are keeping the money they've earmarked for preventative care as well as the entire annual maximum for those patients. Putting off dentistry until it hurts could easily escalate to \$5000 worth of treatment or much more in one year. The dental insurance company will only contribute \$1500 because that is the average maximum on any given plan which leaves the out-of-pocket due at \$3500 for the insured individual in this example. Whereas, had they gone to the dentist every year and had the work done as needed over the course of four years, their out-of-pocket may have been zero, as the \$1500 per year (\$1500 x 4 years = \$6000) would have covered \$6000 over the four year period.

But the insurance companies do not let annual maximums roll over. They have a strict use it or you lose it policy. One would think that the insured consumer would be able to accrue his or her benefits since they literally paid for them and did not use them. Not the case; leftover benefits become pure profit for the insurance companies. The insurance companies are in business to make money, not to save smiles.

Dental providers see patients every day who put off dentistry and then struggle to pay for the work they need to have done. It is very sad for both the dental provider who wants to help the patient and for the patient who is in pain or embarrassed by the condition of their smile. Dental providers want their

patients to see them as recommended but can't force anyone to do anything. This is why they try to educate them about the benefits that they have with their insurance company, so that when they need work, they understand how to best take advantage of their insurance.

Most dental plans end at the end of a calendar years. The average plan allows for a \$1500 annual maximum. Someone treatment planned today to have \$3000 in restorative treatment done, can start the procedures in November or December and finish them in January. This will allow them to take maximum advantage of the dental insurance they've paid for.

Call your dental office. Ask them if they are in-network with your insurance. If they are, schedule an appointment for a cleaning and a checkup. See if you have any dental work that needs to be done. Then ask your dental office what your annual limit is and how much remains. If you have work that needs to be done, use your annual benefit before the end of the year. Remember, if you don't use it, you lose it.

This article is courtesy of Tidewater Dental with locations in St. Mary's and Calvert Counties. Visit them on the web at www.TidewaterDental.com

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MetCom Employees Receive Life Saver's Award



MetCom employees Amanda Hill and Charlie Bogie receive Life Saver's Award

On October 31, 2019 at the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium, Annapolis, during the 32nd Annual Meeting of the Local Government Insurance Trust (LGIT), the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, John Miller, presented the Life Saver's Award to Amanda Hill and Charlie Bogie of the St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission.

This prestigious award is presented to a person or persons directly responsible for saving a human life. The LGIT Risk Management Committee is responsible for evaluating award nominees and there must be clear evidence to demonstrate that imminent danger existed and that a human life would have been lost if action had not taken place. The act must go above and beyond the regular duties required by the award nominee's occupation.

According to George Erichsen, MetCom's executive director, "It was an honor to be present and witness the standing ovation of hundreds of attendees and we, here at MetCom, are extremely proud of both Amanda and Charlie for their quick thinking and exceptional performance in saving the life of a fellow employee."

Press Release from St. Mary's County Government

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Church's Thanksgiving Dinner Welcomes Entire Community

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Last year, at the Church of the Ascension on Great Mills Road, about 70 volunteers treated their fellow residents, 225 of them, in and around Lexington Park to a full course Thanksgiving meal for free.

It's become a tradition at the church, which was one of the first built in Lexington Park during its beginning boom days in the 1950s and 1960s, to reach out and feed their fellow community members not just in body but in soul.

"It's truly a community dinner," said Karol Wolgemuth the event's organizer, who stays busy with volunteering after a 39-year career with St. Mary's County Public Schools teaching elementary-aged children. "We get a lot of support from outside the church."

Not only does the church welcome anyone who wishes to join in the celebration, but it draws its support from many sources.

Other faith communities pitch in for the one-day affair; even the staff at Historic Sotterley Plantation helps with baked goods each year.

"There's always someone I can count on," Wolgemuth said. "When they call, I'll say 'Bring 60 pounds of potatoes or bring five gallons of milk.'"

The volunteer efforts and donations that go into the Church of the Ascension's Thanksgiving feast are so comprehensive that the church spends little to feed hundreds in just a few hours' time.

"Last year I had receipts for just \$41," Wolgemuth said.

Their volunteers range from the well known and affluent to those who show up to work without Wolgemuth even knowing their last names.

"Judge [James] Kenney, he's been our mashed potato man for years," she said. "And then there are Steve and Steve who wash dishes."

Many who have come to church in the past, as well as those who will come Nov. 28, are needy and want a chance for a hearty, home cooked meal but others come because they are needy for connection and community.

"A lot of people who come for this aren't necessarily the needy, but they are separated from family," Wolgemuth said. "Walden Sierra [the county's main substance abuse treatment provider] brought in a bus load of 25 to 30 people last year.

"They have for the past several years and we hope



Church of the Ascension's Thanksgiving dinner is a relaxed, sit down meal.



Volunteers peeling potatoes for the Thanksgiving dinner at Church of the Ascension.

they do again."

Rev. Greg Syler, who pastors at Ascension as well as a sister Episcopal church in Valley Lee, St. George's, said the free dinner dovetails with the greater mission of the church to strengthen the community.

"It's the church's mission of doing justice and restoring relationships in Lexington Park," Syler said. "We do a lot of feeding of hungry people, but you realize more and more it's about feeding hungry hearts."

Even the way the dinner is presented, on tables where guests can sit, relax and commune with others, is a reflection of the spirit in which the event is held.

It's not set up as a simple chow line to feed the needy like an assembly line.

"We try to make it festive," Wolgemuth said. "We want people to sit down and have a sense of being valued, of having dignity.

"We want it to be a rich experience for them."

Respect for dignity of each living person, Syler said, was a core tenant of the church.

"Respecting the dignity of every human person is a big part of that mission," Syler said.

"It's the recognition that God planted a community here and to take care of that community.

"Other wise it's just a building."

The Thanksgiving dinner tradition is a way of continuing to cement the church's roots in Lexington Park, which is the most populous of the areas in St. Mary's but also has most of the social challenges such as crime, poverty, drug abuse and homelessness.

"We're a part of this community and we always want to know what we can do to help," Wolgemuth said.

The menu for the community feast features all the Thanksgiving fare that has come to be tradition with a few special items added.

Included is turkey, enough to feed hundreds, mashed potatoes, gravy, sweet potatoes, macaroni and cheese (made with four different kinds of cheeses), collard greens and Southern-style green beans.

One of the unique dishes brought in is Baltimore-style sauerkraut, more than pickled cabbage, it has folded within apples, onions and caraway seeds.

It's a culinary remnant of a once-thriving German community in Baltimore that offered its contribution to the uniquely American holiday in Charm City.

The feasting doesn't stop there.

"We have every kind of pie you can imagine," Wolgemuth said. "And someone always brings lemon bars."

The operation is so big and requires so much coordination and planning that the turkeys have to be cooked at the sister church in Valley Lee and transported to Church of the Ascension to be carved and served.

The turkeys are cooked the morning of the dinner, served from noon until 3:30p.m., Wolgemuth said, while volunteers begin prepping the dinner the day before, preparing as much as can be stored safely.

Of the 70 regular volunteers who serve the expected growing number of attendees, as many as a dozen to 30 new ones will show up to help, Wolgemuth said. "It's such a joy," she said. "People putting their time and energy into this."

The Thanksgiving dinner serves many on one day, but the church's food pantry serves many throughout the year.

Workers at the pantry see a growing need for food in the community; they can serve up to 30 or more families on a single day seeking help, according to one volunteer.

Just in the past month, Wolgemuth said, there have been 800 people visit the pantry.

"Multiply that by the number of people in their family and you're in the thousands," she said. "There used to be more churches who would do this, but it's labor intensive."

Despite the demand increasing, both for attendees at the Thanksgiving dinner and for food from the food pantry, Wolgemuth said the church will continue to do what it can to serve and to help.

"I would expect the numbers to be even higher this year," she said. "And we'll be ready for them."

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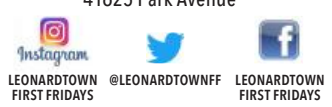
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Teen Court Participates in Bar Association Presentation



"Making the Time for Juvenile Crime."

The St. Mary's County Teen Court Program was selected by Global Youth Justice, Inc., to join representatives from Baltimore City Teen Court to participate in their reenactment of a school bullying case at a plenary session of the Annual Fall Institute of the Criminal Justice Section of the American Bar Association (ABA) Friday, Nov. 8 in Washington, DC. The purpose was to provide a demonstration of the effectiveness of the Teen Court Program as a juvenile diversion in lieu of offenders being sent through the formal juvenile justice system.

Nine St. Mary's County Teen Court student volunteers attended, accompanied by their parents, Teen Court Community Judge Charlottis Woodley, and Teen Court Coordinator Gregory Jones. They were joined by five Teen Court student volunteers from Baltimore City. St. Mary's participants served as the prosecutor, defense counsel, offender, victim, bailiff and jury members. St. Mary's Community Judge Woodley was asked to be the presiding judge.

"These teen volunteers were absolutely outstanding. They were confident with what they were doing despite the audience of senior legal officials and the livestreaming to hundreds of viewers. It is my honor to have these dedicated

young people as part of our program and am so proud of all of them," Jones said.

The session ran overtime due to the questions the ABA participants were asking. The teen volunteers had no reservations with answering the questions themselves, including individually introducing themselves and answering why they chose to volunteer during a reception following the reenactment.

According to a press release from St. Mary's County government, "This was an excellent experience for all involved in this event. The teen volunteers brought great credit and recognition to St. Mary's County, the Teen Court Program, their schools, their parents, and of course themselves. Volunteers came from St. Mary's Ryken High School, Kings Christian Academy, Leonardtown High School, Great Mills High School, and Spring Ridge Middle School."

The county "gives special thanks go to the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services, the St. Mary's County District Court, the St. Mary's County Public Schools, the St. Mary's County Department of Aging & Human Services, and VVS Charters for their support in making this event a success."

*Press Release from
St. Mary's County Government*

Five Photographers, One Show!



Did you know that the Lexington Park Library has a dedicated gallery, featuring the rotating works of various artists in a wide variety of media? Artist Candy Cummings had a vision long ago to create a special space to showcase local talents and imaginations. Be sure to catch the next show opening on December 1st and running through January 15th, 2020.

A new Instagram-inspired exhibit including the works of five local photographers will be on display including images captured while "Out 'N About in St. Mary's County" - #ONastmaryscounty. The selected artists represent a wide variety of backgrounds, interests, and creative perspectives. Featured will be:

- Wednesday Davis (@atmospheres)
- Jenn Dorsey (@badwolf1515)
- Drew Hyde (@dhphotoconcepts)

- Daniel Mumbert (@danmumbert)
- Jeremy Scarborough (@JKS_imagery).

All are invited to a "Meet the Artists Reception" on Saturday, December 7th from 2-4 PM, light refreshments will be served. This show is hosted by the Lexington Park Library and sponsored by the St. Mary's County Arts Council (through support from the Maryland State Arts Council). Select pieces will also be available for purchase. We look forward to seeing you there!

Contact info: email info@smcart.org or call St. Mary's County Arts Council at (240) 309-4061. www.stmarysartscouncil.com

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

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Chesapeake Public Charter School 2020-2021 Lottery Application Information

Beginning Monday, December 2 at 10 a.m. the Chesapeake Public Charter School (CPCS) online lottery application will open.

All interested families must fill out applications online at cpcsapplication.com during the open enrollment period. (This includes all families/siblings who were wait-listed in the 19/20 school year). For the 2020-2021 school year, the online application process opens at 10 a.m. on December 2, 2019, and closes at 12 p.m. midnight on December 31, 2019.

There will be two informational sessions this year to be held on the following dates:

- Tuesday, December 3rd @ 5 p.m. - CPCS Gym

- Thursday, December 5th @ 6 p.m. - CPCS Gym

Families need to enter a valid email address and create a password to create a free account. The application also features a mobile friendly platform. This account will need to be monitored for information regarding submission status, acceptance/wait-list notifications.

- All applications must be completed online. The order in which the application is submitted does not impact the selection process. It does not matter whether a family submits an application on the first day or the last day since the lottery is a random, computer-based drawing. On-site computers will be provided at the school between 9

a.m. and 2 p.m. M-F, if needed for the application process, beginning on December 3, 2019. The application is available in multiple languages.

- The lottery will be run at the end of January 2020.
- Kindergarten families will be notified by email upon completion of the lottery of their acceptance or wait-list status. All other families of students in grades 1-8 will receive an email of their wait-list status, and will be offered seats as they become open through the summer months.

For more information, please contact the school's main office at 301-863-9585, extension 0.

Commemorative Coin Recognizes Students Who are Veterans

The College of Southern Maryland (CSM) is grateful for the men and women who have served, and who continue to serve, in the armed forces. To honor its veteran students, CSM has created a commemorative Veterans Recognition coin for all veterans who attend CSM.

In February, Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan proclaimed 2019 as the Year of the Veteran in Maryland. The yearlong observance is to raise awareness of the brave service and sacrifice United States veterans and families have made for Maryland and the country. Also in 2019 and for the fifth consecutive year, CSM was identified as a Military Friendly® post-secondary school for veterans and their spouses. The 2019-2020 Military Friendly® listing, which is determined by VIQTOY, a service-disabled, veteran-owned small business headquartered in Pennsylvania, honored CSM with the bronze distinction in VIQTOY's latest listing. A bronze distinction school must score within 30 percent of the 10th best school in its category. In February, when CSM was notified of this distinction, CSM Coordinator of Veteran Affairs Laticia Ragin reported that CSM serves a population of more than 700 veterans who use a variety of military benefits, with the majority being post 9-11.

In an opinion piece published on Veterans Day in PennLive Patriot News, John J. "Ski" Sygielski, Ed. D, wrote that according to the National Center for Education Statistics, 37 percent of student veterans attend community colleges, the highest rate among institutions of higher learning. Sygielski is the president of HACC, Central Pennsylvania's Community College.

"When veterans leave the military service and head back to their hometowns across America, they are faced with the challenge of redefining who they are both as members of the local community and of the workforce," Sygielski wrote. "Many of those who served did so in combat specialties (infantry, tanks, artillery, etc.) that have little direct equivalency in the civilian workforce. Those currently serving in the National Guard and Reserves also face a lot of the same issues, since many of them deployed for long periods of time in support of the Global War on Terrorism. Higher education is one path that can assist our veterans in their journey to finding a career path to succeed in today's workforce."

CSM Alum, current student and Army Veteran Sandra Husband agrees that community college is the way to go. She calls CSM "very veteran friendly" and credits CSM with helping her transition her military intelligence background to a career in cybersecurity.

"I found it to be, really, a good place to start considering I had not been in school for a number of years," Husband recently told a weekly newspaper. She served in communications and intelligence fields while in the Army. "The teaching, the instructions were excellent. The instructors were excellent. The teaching environment was really welcoming. ... I'd recommend it to just about anyone and everyone who's thinking about going



Army Veteran and CSM Alum Sandra Husband and CSM Veteran Affairs Coordinator Laticia Ragin display CSM's new Veterans Recognition coin.

back to school, especially if you're thinking about going back, starting out as part-time."

Husband graduated in May 2019 with a degree in cybersecurity and served as a student speaker at the CSM's 2019 Spring Commencement. Husband's moving commencement speech brought thunderous applause when she spoke as a veteran and a wounded warrior and asked every veteran and active military service member in her class, and in the audience, to stand and be recognized for their service to the nation.

Veteran Navy Commander Jeff Foster, of La Plata, earned the bragging rights for the title of oldest graduate when he crossed the stage with Husband to receive his certificate for massage therapy during the spring commencement. Proving you're never too old to learn, the certificate was the latest academic achievement for the 74-year-old who received his first bachelor's degree from the College of William and Mary in 1967. His second four-year degree came when he completed the physical and academic rigors that came with Officer Candidate School when he enlisted immediately after college.

"CSM is good to veterans and is a great option for veterans who want to broaden their skills," he said.

Having spent the majority of his military career at Naval Surface Warfare Center Indian Head Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technology Division (NSWC IHEODTD), Foster retired to work for a local defense contractor, then a homebuilder before he volunteered for 13 years for the ManKind Project.

CSM is approved by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Maryland Higher Education Commission, enabling eligible veterans, service members and qualified dependents of veterans to receive VA educational benefits for VA approved credit certificates and associate degrees and VA approved workforce development programs. First-year seminar courses are available to assist veterans in transitioning to the college experience. Concepts taught in this course that add value to the veteran experience are time management; critical thinking; navigating college resources; diversity; social and emotional intelligence; and program, progression and completion planning.

To learn more about CSM's assistance to veterans, visit www.csmd.edu/student-services/veteran-military-support-services/.

Wanderings of an Aimless Mind

by Shelby Oppermann
Contributing Writer



Turkey Insurance

Okay, my head is spinning like everyone else who is cooking a family Thanksgiving dinner. Every time I get started on my column, I find something else popping in my head about what I might need, or when I should do it. Does this sound familiar to anyone else? I have made the same Thanks-



giving dinner for I don't know how many years, and every year I take the feast to Virginia to be with my brother Billy and his family. This year it will just be with my late brother Billy's wife, his two grown children, their children, and my two sons. My husband will enjoy Thanksgiving with his family and hopefully we will share leftovers together afterwards.

I am always worried about dropping the turkey, especially this year with getting a 22 pound turkey. I did have that happen before and it was a mess with the butter turkey broth pouring into the hot oven. I can barely lift the bird in its bag now, so I can't wait to see what will happen when it is crammed full of stuffing. This morning I heard on the news about Pringles new Roasted Turkey chips which they say in a press release and was stated on the site Business Insurance that, "The new Pringles Roasted Turkey chips will tackle one of the biggest fears on Thanksgiving Day — dropping the turkey — by offering a crunchy, tasty substitute. Dubbing it "Pringles Turkey Insurance," the snack company has released its latest holiday-themed flavor, Roasted Turkey, in stores for a limited time. Don't ask how we crammed this much roasted turkey flavor into every crisp," the chip company wrote on Twitter. "Just be thankful we did."

Apparently, Pringles also had another new chip flavor earlier this month called "Friendsgiving Feast", "featuring The Turducken Stack, which comes with turkey, duck and chicken-flavored chips that you can stack and eat. There's more savory combinations, too, there is also cranberry sauce, stuffing and pumpkin pie flavored chips in the product's special tray." When Pringles debuted these chips, their website crashed. There is a possibility that the website has or soon could crash for the Roasted Turkey chips. I think it would be fun to take one of these Pringle cans to Virginia just in case something happens here or on the road to my turkey. You can never be too prepared.

I need to be prepared if anything happens to our Thanksgiving dinner delivery because my grown niece Dori texted back last week after we got times and such straight, "Just so we're clear — turkey with Grandma [my mother's] stuffing, pot cheese and noodles, and apple pies?????" I texted Dori back, "Ha-ha, I was going to bring Wawa turkey gobbler subs [which are amazingly good] and McDonald's handheld apple pies [which I also love]". All I got back was silence. I was going to bring out the Pringles can first, but I might re-think that since I do value my life. Dori is much taller than me, and she was known to have lifted her Dad (my brother) up by one arm to help him up an embankment when their car broke down. Yes, turkey and trimmings will be the first thing she sees and smells.

However, I am still going to find a can or two of those Roasted Turkey Pringles to take just for fun, I guess if I can't find them on their website or in the stores — Amazon and eBay are already out selling them as a collectible. 20 years from now we will all be bringing out our cans of these chips to see if their value has gone up, and maybe people (or me) will really have to use them for a Thanksgiving when that dreaded turkey drop happens.

Happy Thanksgiving to all of you — hope there is lots of love and laughter at your Thanksgiving table.

To each new day's adventure,
Shelby

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

FIVE REASONS NOT TO HAVE A WILL OR A TRUST

Hello to all of you procrastinators out there. Another year has passed and you have still not taken steps to protect yourself and your family with a will or a trust. Why not? Here are the five most common reasons:

I'M NEVER GOING TO DIE: Clearly, the first reason not to have a will or a trust is unrealistic. The saying is "nobody is getting out of this alive." In spite of this, it is amazing how many people put off creating a will or a trust because they are afraid. They think planning for a will or a trust will cause them anxiety about their own death. The easy solution to this problem is to think about creating a will or a trust to protect the people you love. You do not have to face your own death to create a will or a trust, just focus on how you want to protect those you care about. Without a will or a trust, they are defenseless. And, young or old, almost all of us have loved ones we want to protect. Even if we are elderly and alone and do not have any loved ones, many of us want to create a legacy for the charities we care about. If we are young and have children, we are already involved in protecting them. Without a will or a trust, your children could very well end up in foster care when you die. Having children means taking steps to protect them. What good is funding their college education if you have not created a mechanism to distribute your property to them upon your death? How are you helping?

I HAVE NO ESTATE: How about the excuse that you have no estate to protect? Do you have a home? A car, a boat? A bank account? Personal property like furniture, jewelry? All of that becomes part of your estate. If you don't make plans to distribute your property in a will or a trust, the state will decide for you.

EVERYTHING IS IN JOINT NAME WITH MY SPOUSE OR CHILD: I have heard the excuse that everything is in joint name so there is no reason to have a will or a trust. And, it is the case that if property is titled in joint name with right of survivorship, upon the death of one person, the joint owner takes all the property. The excuse is common with spouses. The problem is, of course, spouses often travel together. There are no assurances that both spouses will not die together—if they do, then what? You're back in the same position without a will or a trust—letting the state decide where your property will go. And, what if your property is titled as "tenants in common" not as joint tenants with right of survivorship? In that case, each of you owns 50% of the property so if one dies without a will, the property will not go automatically to the other but instead the state will decide where 50% of the property will go. By the way, please check the title to your property so you know how it is held.

Many people I talk to think that putting their child on the deed to their property solves their problem about not having a will or a trust. But, there are tax and other consequences of doing this. Let's say you bought a house for \$50,000 and market value is now \$100,000. If you put your child on the deed now, that child "takes" their interest in the property at the value you paid for the property, not at market value. That means, if the child sells the

property when you die, the child will have to pay capital gains tax on the difference between \$50,000 and \$100,000. If the child takes the property when you die through a will or a trust, however, the child takes the property at market value and when they sell it for \$100,000, no tax is owed. And, there are other reasons not to put your child on your deed. Once you do so, you expose yourself to the child's creditors. Those creditors may have claims on all the child's property, including property formerly owned solely by you.

IT'S TOO EXPENSIVE: Have you ever purchased a big screen TV? The average cost of a will is about the same as a big screen TV. Trusts are more expensive but do not require probate. Legal fees for making the probate filings can easily become far more costly than a trust. I know some people are using will forms provided online and a word of caution about those. First, the online services do not provide legal advice. It is one form fits all and if you do not fit into the form, too bad for you. After hundreds of years, certain common language has developed that is used in a will or a trust and expertise is required to use that language. You would not go to a plumber to perform surgery on you. Why trust something as important as your family to chance? Creating a will or a trust is your last act of love and affection for your family. What price can you put on that?

MY FAMILY WILL TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING: Whoa. The excuse that "my family will take care of everything" is simply not true. It is amazing how many families fight during the probate process, with or without a will. And, I am not talking about fights over huge estates. Otherwise normal families allow themselves to be torn apart arguing over property—without a will or a trust, the arguments can take on epic proportions. "Dad loved me best" and wanted me to have the gun collection, "Mom told me she wanted me to have the diamond ring". Old wounds reopen, childhood memories come flooding back and family nightmares are common during the probate process. Some people think that the best approach is to leave everything to one child, counting on that child to distribute everything to his or her siblings. Keep in mind that if you leave all your property to one child, that child is under no obligation to share it with siblings even if you specifically put your intention in writing. Even if that child is attentive to your wishes, what if that child has a spouse who wants all the property for themselves? The only way to resolve the situation is to make clear that your property will go to all the children, not just one.

The bottom line is protect your loved ones. Make a will or a trust and do it now. I offer no-charge seminars open to the public that discuss wills, trusts, powers of attorney, living wills and other estate planning topics at 11am on the third Wednesday of every month at my office at 8906 Bay Avenue in North Beach. Give us a call at 301-855-2246 to reserve your spot.

Lyn Striegel



PATUXENT RIVER NAVAL AIR STATION

News

Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program Seeks Donations

Once again, NAS Patuxent River's Marine Aviation Detachment (MAD) is partnering with the local Marine Corps League – a civilian organization of Marine veterans – to collect new, unwrapped toys for less fortunate children in the community.

“Collection boxes are already set up in various buildings across Pax River, including [high traffic locations like] the Navy Exchange (NEX),” said USMC Sgt. Bryan Rangel, this year's MAD Toys for Tots coordinator.

In addition to the boxes aboard Pax River, many more can be found at major businesses and restaurants up and down Route 235.

“Overall, there are about 250 locations between the base and the community,” noted Chuck Jones, Marine Corps League member, and the St. Mary's County Toys for Tots coordinator.

The group works with local social services agencies to identify families in need of extra support, and all toys donated stay here in St. Mary's County.

“Last year, we collected 10,784 toys including books and stocking stuffers, but we gave out 14,330 because we bought some toys with money that had been donated,” Jones noted. “We reached 1,165 kids in the community.”

Marines in full dress blues will be manning collection boxes in front of Walmart and Dress Barn in the community, and the NEX at Pax River, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on both Nov. 30 and Dec. 7, if anyone would like to stop by then to make their donation.

“Helping out with toy separation and distribution is something we like to be part of as well,” Rangel added. “Going out and talking to the youth about Toys for Tots to help collect toys is another example of events we take part in.”

While the Marine Corps coordinator understandably changes year to year, this is Jones' fifth year working with Toys for Tots, and besides the satisfaction of helping kids have a happy holiday, he also enjoys the fact that the effort brings together many different organizations within the community.

“A lot of different organizations get involved – like



the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, car clubs, motorcycle clubs – and I like seeing them all work together,” he said.

Rangel says he's proud to be part of the campaign this year and is appreciative of Pax River personnel for their donations.

“Everyone involved in it works very hard to meet our goals, and the response from Pax is great,” he said. “I get calls and emails every day about buildings that want to participate.”

The Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Foundation is an IRS-recognized not-for-profit charity that raises

funds, purchases toys, provides promotional and support materials, manages all funds raised and donated, solicits corporate support, educates the public and handles day-to-day operations. Since its inception in 1947, 566 million toys have been distributed to date to 258 million children, according to the Toys for Tots website.

The final drop-off day for donations is Dec. 8.

*Donna Cipolloni
NAS Patuxent River Public Affairs*

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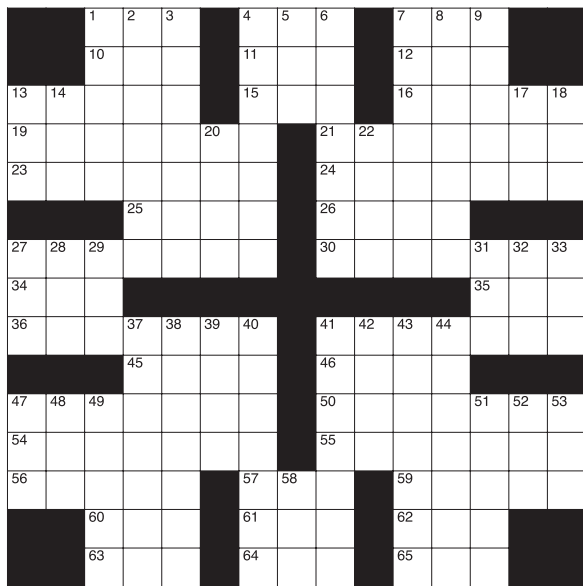
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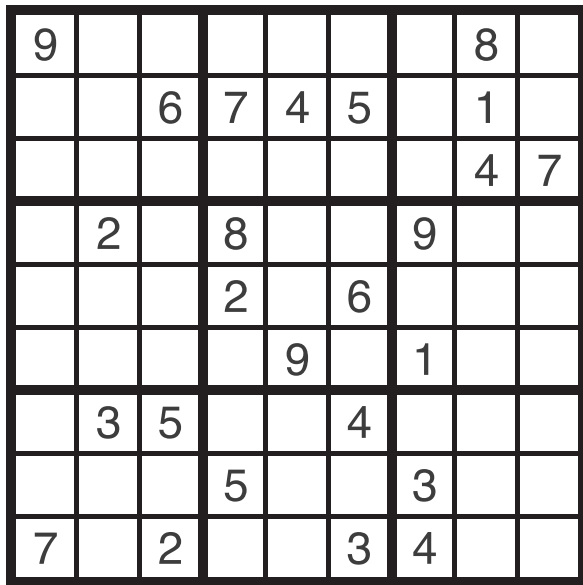
- 1. Small viper
- 4. Some are covert
- 7. A waiver of liability (abbr.)
- 10. Speak out
- 11. Retirement plan
- 12. Small dog
- 13. City in Iraq
- 15. Car mechanics group
- 16. Shrimp-like creature
- 19. Majestic
- 21. TV detective
- 23. Central Canadian province
- 24. Causing to wind around

- 25. Wise man
- 26. Knicks legend Willis
- 27. Muscular weaknesses
- 30. John Stockton compiled them
- 34. South American plant
- 35. To some extent
- 36. Where manners are displayed
- 41. Showy
- 45. Fall down
- 46. Shoelaces are often this
- 47. Disease-causing bacterium
- 50. Egg-shaped wind

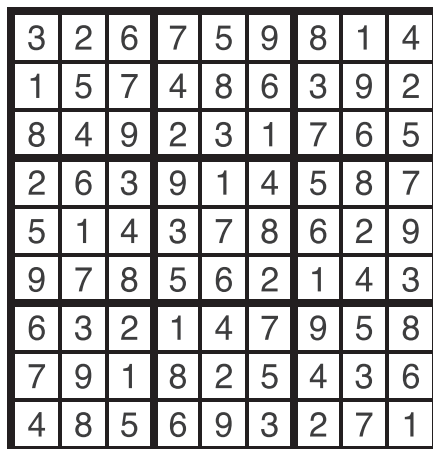
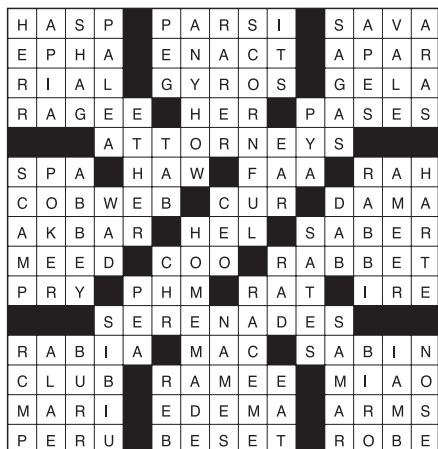
- instrument
- 54. Sufferings
- 55. One who noisily enjoys
- 56. About blood
- 57. Transaction verification system (abbr.)
- 59. Related through female family members
- 60. Low velocity grenade
- 61. "In Living Color" comedian
- 62. Veterans battleground
- 63. Expression of creative skill
- 64. Midway between northeast and east
- 65. Patti Hearst's captors

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Something useful
- 2. It goes great with peppers and onions
- 3. Orifice
- 4. Turned into bone
- 5. The Princess could detect it
- 6. Bands of colors
- 7. Makes use of 8. Central African country
- 9. Lake in the Kalahari Desert
- 13. He was a "Chairman"
- 14. Legally possess
- 17. One point north of due west
- 18. Small peg of wood
- 20. Stretch of swampy ground
- 22. Is indebted to
- 27. Where you were born (abbr.)
- 28. A team's best pitcher
- 29. Cool!
- 31. Female sibling
- 32. This stimulates the thyroid (abbr.)
- 33. Reserved
- 37. More prickled
- 38. Forbidden by law
- 39. One-time presidential candidate
- 40. A TV show has more than one
- 41. A place to stash things
- 42. Defunct currency in India
- 43. Causes to ferment
- 44. A type of gland
- 47. ___ Humbug!
- 48. Everyone has one
- 49. Punctuation
- 51. Central American fruit
- 52. Brooklyn hoopster
- 53. 100 square meters
- 58. Local area network



LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE SOLUTIONS



Memories from Thanksgivings Past

Margaret Joanne Edwards was born on July 3, 1900 and grew up on the Spalding's farm in Chaptico. In 1920 the family moved to Banks O'Dee in Charles County. Later in life Edwards was a prolific writer as was her daughter. Their granddaughter and daughter Priscilla Savary shared with The County Times writings from both of them, including this poem with memories of her childhood during Thanksgiving, which was written in 1977 by Edwards, who after her marriage was called Joan Cox.

Turkey Haven

We used to call it the "turkey tree"
 For that's where they perched at night;
 The wily fox couldn't jump so high –
 Though 'dinner' was just in sight!

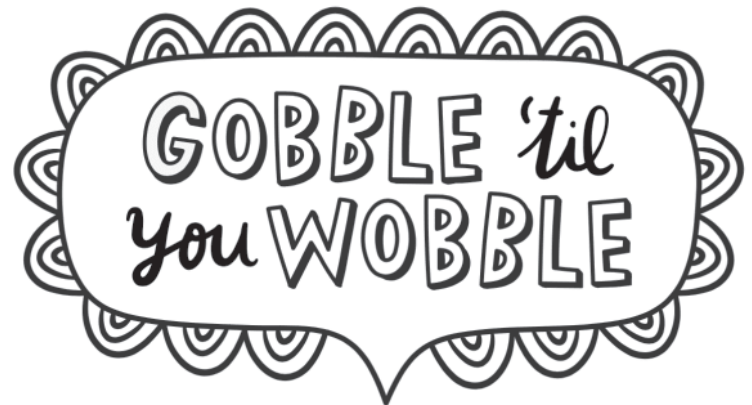
Reynaud may've slept beneath the tree
 Frustrated, and wishing in vain
 That a juicy bird would fall in the night –
 But was foiled and foiled again

Passing years and storms took toll
 Of the limbs of the old "turkey tree,"
 Only a few gaunt arms remained
 Where sheltered a turkey could be

Turkeys no longer the refuge need
 For they are but part of the past
 When many Thanksgiving dinners, indeed –
 The old locust tree held fast!

Joan M. Cox

COLORING CORNER



The Tackle Box Fishing Report

By Ken and Linda Lamb
Contributing Writers

Stripers are schooled up and feeding everyday in the Bay and rivers. The fish are mostly 20 to 28 inches in the bay and mouth of the Potomac. Best locations are mid-bay from Point No Point to 72A, the Middle Grounds, the "triangle" about two miles out off Point Lookout. The mouth of the Potomac has had breaking rockfish from Ragged Point all the way to Smith Point, with great action off Verman Beach.

That being said, these fish are not eating lures 24 hours a day. Good days are terrific for trollers and jiggers alike with eager fish hitting lures with abandon. Other times will find searching birds and fishermen looking for fish that will bite. They will turn on sometime during the day, if you can't find them right away you have to be patient and wait them out.

On the occasions when the fish are being coy, the trollers have the upper hand. They can cover a lot of water waiting for strikes and looking at the fish finder. The lovely Hard Head Custom Bait umbrella rigs that are aimed at these sized fish are irresistible to them.

When the fish are hot, the jiggers can move in and use light tackle to enjoy the tenacity of fight offered by these hefty, healthy stripers.

The Patuxent has some fine rockfish



Eric Packard with a rockfish from the Patuxent River.

on the oyster bars and drop offs. There can be an infestation of little rock up the river frothing around on the surface attracting plenty of gulls. Bigger fish are on the bottom and trollers are doing very well from Half Pone Point to Sheridan Point.

White Perch are in the deep holes around Point Patience and around Kingston Hollow to the Solomons Bridge. They love bits of blood worm on spinner hooks.

Catfish are at Bushwood Wharf.

There is a fine crappie bite in the fresh water ponds and at St. Mary's Lake. They love live minnows.

A View From The BLEACHERS

The Way They Were

By Ronald N. Guy Jr.
Contributing Writer

Before getting to the nostalgia, a fond farewell is in order.

Fred Cox was the kicker for the Minnesota Vikings from 1963-1977. He played in four Super Bowls and retired as the NFL's second leading scorer. My introduction to Cox came only upon his passing last week at the age of 80; I, like many others of my vintage, owe him a tremendous debt.

Beyond his football accomplishments, Cox was a chiropractor and, most significantly, an inventor. In the early 1970s, Cox and collaborator John Maddox developed a kid-friendly football. The prototype, made of foam, was adopted by Parker Brothers and, voila, the NERF football was born.

When you are 10, there isn't much you can do with a regulation football. It's too big to throw, too hard to kick and catching it can be painful. But a NERF football makes a kid an instant NFL quarterback. I had one my entire childhood (who didn't?). It was at the center of epic backyard football battles and begrudgingly accepted indoor games of catch with my dad (mom rejected outright a real football being thrown inside, but a NERF offered a reasonable compromise). The NERF football evolved into NERF basketball, another staple of my childhood. I had a hoop in my parents' rec room, in my college dorm and my son has one on his bedroom door now. Simple foam sports balls created many great memories and I...we...owe them all to Fred Cox – kicker, chiropractor and contributor to happier childhoods. Thank you, sir.

Onward, then, to unfortunate breakups and squandered futures...

In the four seasons from 2014-2017, the Pittsburgh Steelers ripped off 45 regular season wins and made four playoff appearances. How good is that? Context (you know where this is going): Over the same period, the Fightin' Snyder's of Washington won 28 games, made one brief playoff appearance and never tallied more than nine wins in a season. Further, those 2014-17 Steelers won more than 10 games three times, something Washington hasn't done since...1991.

At the root of the Steelers' suc-

cess was a dynamic "Killer B's" offense – QB Ben Roethlisberger, WR Antonio Brown and RB Le'Veon Bell. During the stretch, Roethlisberger put up gaudy numbers, Bell was arguably the best dual-threat running back in football and Brown was simply the NFL's best wide receiver. Together, they seemed destined to be the newest additions to a long line of Steelers immortals and to ultimately share busts in the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Just two years off that high, two of the B's – Bell and Brown – are gone and the third, Roethlisberger, is on injured reserve. How did it happen? Well, it's complicated... too complicated for this space. Suffice to say, those tried-and-true culprits of greed, ego and selfishness were involved. So too were the harsh realities of the business side of the NFL. Brown's saga is a soap opera. Something personal happened between him and Roethlisberger and the Steelers organization. In under a year, Brown's gone from being the best wide receiver in football, to traded (to the Raiders), released twice (by the Raiders and Patriots) and now out of football altogether. Bell, meanwhile, was mired in a contract dispute – understandable for running backs with short earning widows – that saw him miss a season and ultimately sign with the moribund Jets. And while Roethlisberger's still in Pittsburgh, he's hurt, the team is 5-5, the future is uncertain and it's hard not to wonder why the face of the franchise couldn't broker a deal and make this all work. There was much to lose and, ultimately, all involved did.

Look, life is messy – professional athlete or not. It is filled with forks in the road and there is no natural inclination toward happy endings. But these three...sheesh...they botched it. They had long-lasting legacy stuff in their hands and let it slip away. The greenest of grass was beneath their feet in Pittsburgh. Not one of them will be as great apart as they were together.

Penny for their wrapped-in-Wonder-Woman's-truth-lasso thoughts now. Do they long for the way they were? As a football fan, I sure do.

Send comments to
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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

Brenda Faye Hodges



Brenda Faye Hodges, 69, of Mechanicsville, MD passed away peacefully at her home on November 20, 2019.

Brenda was born on July 16, 1950 in Laurens, South Carolina to the late Robert Clifford Butler and Minnie Lee (Lyons) Butler of Faulkner, MD.

Brenda met her best friend and husband, James Henry Hodges over thirty-four (34) years ago. Brenda lost her husband on July 2, 2009. He was her rock, her heart and her love. There are rejoicing in heaven together once again.

She was adored and loved by her family and community. Brenda was a wonderful cook who was always available to celebrate any holiday, special occasion or just a family dinner. She was a dutiful wife, mother, sister, grandmother and great-grandmother.

Brenda found joy in sewing and crafting. She made beautiful works of art her family will treasure for generations. Never one to pass up a flea market or antique store, Brenda was always on the lookout for a valuable bauble or piece of furniture. She adored the Christmas season and celebrated for weeks before and after. The season of giving was her favorite, so as you wrap presents, sing carols or stare into the twinkling lights, remember Brenda and her beautiful smile.

She will be missed and memories of her inherent joy will last a lifetime for her family. Her passing is hard, but her family is taking solace in knowing she is with her beloved husband in her golden palace in the glorious heavens.

Brenda is survived by her mother, Minnie Lee Butler of Faulkner, MD; children, Lisa Marie Howard (Duke) of Waldorf, MD, and Nicki Showalter (Claude) of Mechanicsville, MD and six (6) grandchildren; one (1) great-grandchild; (1) honorary grandchild; brothers, David Butler of Mechanicsville, MD, Steve Butler of Shelby, NC and numerous nieces, nephews and extended family. She was preceded in death by her father, husband, and brother, Ricky Butler, and sister, Carolyn Taylor.

In lieu of flowers, the family would request donations be made in Brenda's name to Hospice of St. Mary's, Post Office Box 625, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

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

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

Michael Olin Emerson



Michael Olin Emerson, 79, of Mechanicsville, MD, passed away on November 19, 2019 at MedStar Washington Hospital

Center in Washington, D.C., with his loving wife at his side.

Mike was born on June 5, 1940 in Norfolk, VA, to the late Olin Virgil Emerson and Mary Olivia Agostini. He married his wife Judy Richardson Emerson on September 2, 1961, in Dylan, SC. Together they celebrated over 58 wonderful years of marriage, renewing their vows on their 50th anniversary at Our Lady of the Wayside Church with family and friends.

Mike and Judy shared a life of travel, including a work trip to Hawaii that prompted moving the family of five kids to Hawaii for eight years. There Mike and Judy had two more daughters and adopted three additional children. Mike also earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science at the University of Hawaii and started a family enterprise named Emersons Hawaii. Selling Polynesian jewelry was the secret to financing school for ten kids, and teaching them about hard work.

Mike always had an innate love for the water, and naturally settled in St Mary's County in 1977. Living near the Chesapeake Bay, he enjoyed beaches, boating, and crabbing, and access to the finest seafood on earth. He eventually retired from 30 years of Government Service as a Computer Analyst working for the Department of Defense at Patuxent River Naval Air Station. He also completed 28 proud years of service as a Chief Warrant Officer (CWO2) in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserves. He would spend his free time traveling with Judy, and practicing grand-dad jokes with his loving children.

In addition to his beloved wife, Mike is survived by his children: Michael David Emerson (Becky) of Owings, MD, Jonathan Alan Emerson (Alicia) of Easton, MD, Janet Marie Stevens (Jim) of Martinsburg, WV, Kathleen Suzanne Clark of Norfolk, VA, Lynda Keikiokaaina Ciardiello (Michael) of Breezy Point, MD, Darlene Olivia Vann (Jay) of New London, CT, Kalena Maliaunani Emerson of San Tan Valley, AZ, Lyly Brantley, Lyla Amador-Schoettle and Lyda Amador all of Verne, CA; his sister, Kathleen Olivia Tucker of Pacific Grove, CA; his 21 grandchildren; one great grandchild; and many extended family and friends.

Memorial contributions in lieu of flowers may be made to Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic Church, P.O. Box 97, Chaptico MD 20621. Condolences to the family may be made at www.brinsfieldfuneral.com.

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Kathleen Ann (Jester) Farrell



Kathleen Ann (Jester) Farrell, age 65, of Charlotte Hall, MD passed away on November 17th, 2019 surrounded by her beloved family.

She was born November 7, 1954 on Maryland's Eastern Shore where she met the love of her life Stacey Sylvester Farrell, Sr. whom she was married to for more than forty-three (43) years.

Mrs. Farrell spent her entire life caring for others, she worked as a geriatric nurs-

ing assistant, a certified medications aid, and later as the head of medical records and central supply for several medical facilities throughout the state of Maryland. Her biggest joy came from being a wife and mother and later a grandmother and then great-grandmother. Mrs. Farrell's love and guidance wasn't limited to her immediate family, she spent nearly twenty years officially and a lifetime unofficially in the role she called being a 'Chosen Parent' and received the Maryland Foster Parent of the Year award in recognition of her dedication to helping children in need.

Family functions found Ms. Farrell behind the stove for days as she provided bountiful feasts and take-home meals for her family and friends. If you ever left the Farrell home hungry, it wasn't for Ms. Farrell's lack of trying! As all of her children came and went, she was at peace knowing they could cook, clean, pay bills, and totally run a home. Family was her number one priority and she encouraged her family to come together to honor traditions and to celebrate holidays. There was always room for one more at the table.

The words on a piece of paper will never be able to describe how much love she shared and how deeply her family loved her back. She was preceded in death by her father, Claude Marine Jester, her sister Kelly Jester, her brother Mark Allen Jester, Sr., and her nephew Matthew Lee Jester. She leaves behind, to cherish her memory and live her legacy, her beloved husband, Sta-


cey Sylvester Farrell, Sr. of Charlotte Hall, her children Daniel Albert Humpleby, Sr. (Tina) of Lexington Park, MD, William Marine Humpleby (Sherry) of Millsboro, DE, Stacey Sylvester Farrell, Jr. (Christina) of Mechanicsville, MD, Kathie Jo Smith-Farrell (Garry) of Colton's Point, MD, Tamara Reed-Farrell (Jamie) of Baltimore County, MD, Jennifer Taylor (JR) of Fayetteville, NC, Ninah Hinson of California, MD, Amanda Cantrell of Lexington Park, MD, Danielle Marshall of Lusby, MD, as well as over 100 chosen children from the surrounding counties that needed love. Ms. Farrell is survived by her mother, Barbara Jester and sister, Claudia Norris of Federalsburg, MD, sister, Belinda Jane Jester, and Doris Jester of Cambridge, MD who was not just a sister-in-law, but a best friend and chosen sister. Ms. Farrell was blessed in life and will be cherished by her thirty-four (34) grandchildren and eighteen (18) great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made in Kathleen's name directly to Brinsfield Funeral Home & Crematory, P.A., Post Office Box 128, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622.

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

Raymond Lovern Rhodes, Jr.

Raymond Lovern Rhodes, Jr., 84, of Charlotte Hall, MD departed this life on November 18, 2019 at University of Maryland




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Charles Regional Medical Center, La Plata, MD.

Raymond was born October 6, 1935, in Williamsburg, Pennsylvania.

He was the son of the late Raymond Lovern Rhodes and Martha Naomi (Peck) Rhodes.

Raymond met and fell in love with his wife of over fifty-nine (59) years, Donna Rae (Brickley) Rhodes. Together they built a wonderful and loving marriage and they had two wonderful, and honorable sons, Raymond Lovern Rhodes, III and Randall Lee Rhodes.

Raymond was a caring husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather and brother who loved his family above all else. His world revolved around his family and spending time with them brought him great joy.

He spent his life working hard and supporting his family. He loved traveling with his family all over the USA. He started his painting and home improvement business from scratch. Raymond retired in 2001 and enjoyed his retirement with his wife. He loved working around his home and helping anyone who needed help.

Whether you knew him as Raymond, Dad, Poppy, RayRay, or Great-grandfather, you knew his commitment to his family. The legacy of honor, strength and hard-work he projected will be carried on and duplicated for generations. Raymond was a man of many attributes and left his family with many memories. He will be missed by many, but none as much as his family.

Along with his wife Donna, he is survived by his sons, Raymond Lovern Rhodes, III and fiancée Debbie Clayton of Charlotte Hall, MD, and Randall Lee Rhodes and wife Kim Rhodes, of King George, VA.; and two (2) granddaughters, Brittany Oliver and Rebecca Rhodes and four (4) great-grandchildren, Blake, Cole, Emily and Jace. He is also survived by his god-children, Penny and Tiffany (son, Bennett) and sister, Sandra Westendkircher of Winchester, VA; and several nieces and nephews. Along with his parents, Raymond was preceded in death by his sister, Barbara Butler.

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

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

Dorothy "Jean" Buckler



Dorothy "Jean" Buckler, 78, of Leonardtown, MD died peacefully Monday, November 18, 2019, at her home with her family

at her side.

She was born on April 12, 1941 in Hollywood, MD to the late Francis Roger Hayden

and Agnes Teresa Hayden. She and her only sister, Ann were raised in Sandy Bottom, Hollywood, MD. She attended St. John's Catholic School and graduated from St. Mary's Academy in 1958.

Jean is a lifelong resident of St. Mary's County. During high school she made some lifelong friends, especially seven who bonded together and formed a sisterhood for life, calling themselves the "YaYa's". On August 2, 1958 she married her high school sweetheart, Howard Theodore Buckler, Jr. at St. John Francis Regis Catholic Church. Together they worked hard to establish their home on "Scrubby Oaks" and were blessed with three beautiful children, Ronnie, Chris and Michelle. They celebrated over 45 wonderful years of marriage before his death on February 15, 2004. Jean was an excellent cook and frequently hosted homemade Pizza nights on Fridays for her children and their friends, Sunday family dinners and holiday spreads. Like many families in St. Mary's County during this time, they too farmed, raised tobacco, soy beans and hogs which made it possible to have a family vacation every summer in Ocean City because they all loved the beach. As Junior harvested the crops and garden, she would can and preserve their bounty. She enjoyed making homemade jelly, eggnog, root beer and stuffing hams during the holidays.

Jean was employed as a legal secretary in Leonardtown for 28 years for Senator Paul Bailey and attorneys, Joseph D. Weiner, Willard Broms and John Bailey, until her retirement in 1986. She enjoyed daily crossword puzzles, dancing, playing cards, especially pitch and hosting other game nights at her home for her family and friends. She and Junior both loved Christmas and always made it special for their entire family. Jean was a friend to many and known to all as being fun-loving with a passion and zest for life! She had a special relationship with her sister-in-law, Linda who was more like a daughter. She was the proud grandmother "Baba" to Ryan, Todd, Aaron and Alex. She loved spoiling all of them and having movie nights and sleepovers with them during their childhood.

Jean is survived by her children Francis Roger "Ronnie" Buckler of Leonardtown, MD, Christopher Howard Buckler (Patty) of Leonardtown, MD and Michelle Denise Roberts (Raymond) of Leonardtown, MD; her sister, Agnes "Ann" Moreland (Stuart) of Mechanicsville, MD; her sister-in-laws, Linda Buckler Mattingly (Mock) and Rose Marie Buckler; her grandchildren, Ryan Matthew Cease of Wake Forest, NC, Aaron Patrick Buckler of Leonardtown, MD, Alex Nicholas Buckler of Leonardtown, MD and Todd Nathaniel Cease of Leonardtown, MD; Allie Weiland, of Leonardtown, MD who she loved like her own son; seven (7) nephews and (1) very special niece. In addition to her parents and husband, she is preceded in death by her infant son, David Howard Buckler; mother-in-law, Mary Agnes Buckler; father-in-law, Howard Theodore Buckler, Sr.; brother-in-law, William Leroy Buckler; daughter-in-law, Wanda Louise Buckler (Thompson); and nephew James Howard Theodore "Teddy" Buckler.

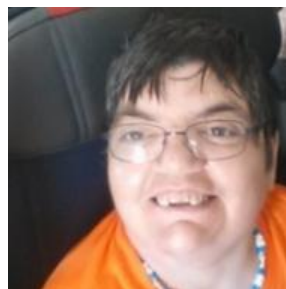
Memorial contributions may be made to Leonardtown Volunteer Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 299, Leonardtown, MD and Hospice of St. Mary's, P.O. Box 625, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

Condolences may be made at www.brinsfieldfuneral.com.

fieldfuneral.com.

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A., Leonardtown, MD.

Mary "Frances" Gray



Mary "Frances" Gray, 49, of Charlotte Hall, MD passed away on Monday, November 18, 2019 after a short, courageous battle with

cancer.

Born on December 6, 1969 in Leonardtown, MD, she was the daughter of the late Elmer F. Gray and Janet (Jody) Gray.

In addition to her mother, she is survived by her sister, Carol Lynn Bowles, brother in law, Gregory, niece, Josephine and nephew, Gregory II, all of Charlotte Hall, MD. Frances was educated in the St. Mary's County Public School system and graduated in 1990. She began employment as a Stocker at Vintage Values in Leonardtown, through The Center for Life Enrichment, where she worked until early 2019.

Frances was a loving, kind, sweet soul who loved everyone she met, but most of all her family. She enjoyed volunteering and being in the community, helping anyone she could. Frances also enjoyed playing games, including "Uno" and "That's It". She loved all animals and thoroughly enjoyed any opportunity to shower affection. She gave the best hugs and will be missed, and forever in our hearts.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in Frances' name may be made to: The Center for Life Enrichment, 25089 Three Notch Road, Post Office Box 610, Hollywood, MD 20636 or online <https://tcle.org/donations/>

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

All arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A., Charlotte Hall, MD

Robert Michael Insley



Robert Michael Insley passed away at Hospice House in Callaway, Maryland on November 10, 2019. His life was celebrated at

a private family ceremony.

He was the son of Buddy and Mary Ann Insley of Hollywood, Maryland. He was the brother of Rick, Sheila, Chris, Terri, Tracey and Kim. Those who knew him will remember the joy and laughter he brought into their lives. His siblings who loved him with all their hearts will remember how blessed they were to have Mike as their brother.

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

Arrangements made by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Robert Ignatius Springer, Sr.



Robert Ignatius Springer, Sr., 86, of Valley Lee, MD, passed away on November 15, 2019 at MedStar Washington Hospital

Center in Washington, D.C.

Born on June 16, 1933, he was the son of the late Thomas Eugene Springer, Sr. and Annie Marie Cecil.

On July 12, 1958, Robert married his beloved wife, Bonnie Carol Tephacock Springer at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Ridge, MD. Together they celebrated over 52 wonderful years of marriage before her passing in June 2011. He was employed by Dean Construction, Bobby Wise, and the Trading Post for over 50 dedicated years as a construction foreman, building roads across St. Mary's County, Patuxent River Naval Air Station, and surrounding counties. Robert believed in hard work and doing the job right the first time. He spent his free time farming the family farm in Valley Lee, where he grew soy beans, corn, and hay, and raised cattle. He and his wife enjoyed their trips to see the Redwood Forest, the Badlands, Mount Rushmore, and Niagara Falls as well as regular trips to West Virginia to visit family. In their younger years, they also enjoyed attending firehouse dances and playing games of pitch with friends. He also enjoyed reading the newspapers, and family get-togethers. His children and grandchildren were very important to him and he enjoyed spending time with them.

Robert is survived by his children: Robert I. Springer, Jr. (Lisa), David W. Springer (Lori), and Andrew E. Springer (Cindy), all of Valley Lee, MD; his siblings, Charles Cecil Springer (Katz) of Valley Lee, MD and Marian S. McKay (Bobby) of Ridge, MD; and his grandchildren, Megan Springer, Brice Springer, Andrew Keith Springer, Courtney Springer, Brooke Springer, and Hailey Springer.

In addition to his wife and parents, Robert is preceded in death by his son, Joseph Keith Springer and his siblings, Thomas Eugene Springer, Jr., John Francis "Puggy" Springer, and Annie Marie "Jiggy" Wilkinson.

Memorial contributions may be made to Second District Volunteer Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 1, Valley Lee, MD 20692.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Bernard "Ralph" Lawrence, Jr.

Bernard "Ralph" Lawrence, Jr., 58, of Mechanicsville, MD passed away on November 20, 2019 in Washington, DC. He was born on July 18, 1961 in Leonardtown, MD and was the loving son of the late Doris Jean Lawrence and Bernard Ralph Lawrence, Sr. Ralph was the loving husband of Kimberly Lawrence. He is survived by his son Christopher Michael Lawrence of Mechanicsville, MD; siblings Donna Emerson of Hollywood, MD, Bernice Ryce (Kenny) of Hollywood, MD, Marietta Peake (Kenny)



of Churchton, MD, James Lawrence (Lisa) of Hollywood, MD, Cathy Buckler (James) of Mechanicsville, MD.

The family will receive friends on Monday, December 2, 2019 from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM with prayers recited at 7:00 PM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home Leonardtown, MD. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Tuesday, December 3, 2019 in Our Lady of the Wayside Church Chaptico, MD with Father Michal Sajnog officiating. Interment will be private. Serving as pallbearers will be Christopher Lawrence, James Lawrence, Matthew O'Dell, Nicholas Shadwell, Bill Mattingly, Kenny Ryce, John Fitzgerald, Paul Stewart and Wally Norris. Contributions may be made to St. Mary's County Special Olympics 25926 Whiskey Creek Road Hollywood, MD 20636.

Joseph Parran Nelson, Sr.



Joseph Parran "Smokin' Joe" Nelson, Sr., 59 of Clements, Maryland passed away at his residence on Sunday, November 17,

2019. Born November 21, 1959 in Leonardtown, Maryland, he was the loving son of the late Michael Sylvester Nelson, Sr., and Neadurra Ellen Bean Nelson Hall.

Joe met the love of his life, Victoria "Tina" Nelson, in 1985. They were married on November 4, 2000 in Charlotte Hall, Maryland and in 2015 renewed their vows at Sacred Heart Church in Bushwood, Maryland. Tina was his soul mate, best friend and devoted wife.

He was the loving father of Joseph Parran "JoeJoe" Nelson, Jr. of Hughesville, Maryland and Neadurra Nicole "Nikki" Nelson of Clements, Maryland. He is survived by his step-mother, Margaret "Liz" Nelson of Clements, Maryland. His siblings are Michael S. Nelson, Jr. (Donna) of Valley Lee, Maryland, Agnes K. Mayor (Edward) of Chaptico, Maryland, James L. Hill, Sr. (Kim) of Mechanicsville, Maryland, Nancy M. Russell (Andrew) and Leonard M. Nelson, Sr. (Samantha) both of Clements, Maryland. His grandchildren are Joseph P. Nelson, III, Lucas A. Nelson and Eleanora J. Nelson all of Mechanicsville, Maryland.

Joe was a lifelong resident of St. Mary's County. He was a jack-of-all-trades. Being an excellent carpenter he could build a home from top to bottom. He enjoyed working on cars and he could rebuild an engine in his sleep. He was a great asset for many years to his wife by keeping her mail delivery cars in perfect running order.

Joe's one great love was being at Maryland International Raceway whenever he could. Racing was in his blood. It was there he earned the name "Smokin' Joe" for his famous burnouts. He also enjoyed hunting, crabbing and family get-togethers.

Joe never met a stranger. He was a friend to everyone and would talk your ear off if given the chance. He was so proud of his family and enjoyed spoiling his grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. He was fondly called "Uncle Joe" and he was a fun role model to each of them. If you asked Joe

what he most treasured out of life he would say his family and friends, his race car and hanging out at Abell's Diner.

Memorial contributions may be made in the name of Neadurra N. Nelson (Education Fund) care of PNC Bank, Leonardtown, Maryland.

Charles Eugene Berry



Charles Eugene Berry was called to eternal rest on Friday, November 8, 2019 at his home in Lexington Park, MD. Charles was

born May 5, 1956 in Leonardtown, MD, to the late Wallace and Genevieve Berry. He was the third of seven children and received his early education in St. Mary's County Public Schools. Charles graduated from Great Mills High School in 1974.

Charles was employed by various employers over the years; but retired after 40 years of service with the U.S. Government Publishing Office in Washington, D.C.

Charles was highly regarded in the community. He loved serving and giving back to those in need. This gave him much gratitude. He could always be found feeding and sheltering the homeless with his two favorite organizations; WARM (Wrapping Arms 'Round Many) and The Mission. Charles served as an election judge for St. Mary's County, as well as a counselor at the Walden Center. Charles served as a Freemason and was also involved in the Knights of Columbus and the Elk's. One of his favorite pastimes was learning about African American history. Charles had a passion for his people. His collections of African American art are like no other. Charles enjoyed driving his vintage automobiles, visiting museums, attending political events, gospel concerts, and meeting celebrities, being sure to come back to his family sharing his excitement about the pictures taken and the autographs he received. In fact, Charles met and shook hands with four sitting presidents: Reagan, Carter, Clinton and George W. Bush.

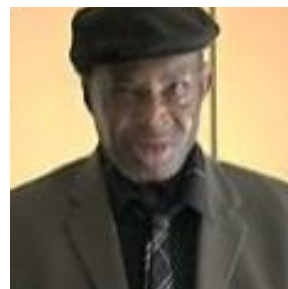
Charles was preceded in death by his parents, Wallace and Genevieve Berry; grandmother, Catherine Cutchember; sister, Joyce R. Herbert; brothers, Joseph Berry and David Berry, and nephew, Ronald Calvin Berry Jr.

He leaves to cherish in memory three sisters, Mary Lou Cutchember (Melvin), of Valley Lee, MD; Jacqueline Berry (John), of Great Mills, MD; Yvonne Thompson of Baltimore, MD; three brothers; Wallace Berry (Paulette), of Temple Hills, MD, Ronald Berry Sr. (Ester), of Valley, Lee MD, Michael Berry (Debra), of Lexington Park, MD; brother-in-law, Tyvie Herbert Sr.; five nieces, Chiton Berry, of Baltimore, MD, LaKitia Chapman, of Washington, DC, Shonda Berry, of Lexington Park, MD, LaToya Brown, of Charleston, SC, Delisha Berry, of Temple Hills, MD; seven nephews, Telly Thompson, of Baltimore, MD, Dwight Berry, of Largo, MD, Damien Berry, of Clinton, MD, Lance Cutchember, of Valley Lee, MD; Troy Berry, of Waldorf, MD; Tyvie Herbert Jr., of Charlotte, NC, Tremaine Berry, of Lexing-

ton Park, MD; seven great-nieces, twelve great-nephews, one great-great niece, one great-great nephew, God-Mother, Lottie Greenwell, of Callaway, MD and a host of aunts, uncles, cousins, relatives and friends.

Family and friends united on Friday, November 15, 2019 for visitation at 10 am until Mass of Christian Burial at 11 am at St. George's Catholic Church, 19199 St. George's Church Road, Valley Lee, MD 20692. Interment followed at Charles Memorial Gardens, Leonardtown, MD 20650. Arrangements by Briscoe-Tonic Funeral Home.

Robert Morlene Holt



Robert Morlene Holt, affectionately known as "Bussie", 67 of Hollywood, MD, entered into eternal life on November 4, 2019

at his home. Robert was born on April 19, 1952 to the late Carrie Elizabeth (Mason) Holt and John Columbus Holt.

Robert attended St. Mary's Public Schools. Robert was a farmer for years and afterwards he became employed at Captain Leonard's Seafood until his retirement. He enjoyed spending time with his family. He loved his niece, Latasha and his nephew, Kelvin, who he lived with for years. He enjoyed watching sports. His favorite team was the Redskins. He always said to his sister, Evangeline, "did they win". He also enjoyed very much his brother-in-law, Joseph Nelson's cooking.

A special THANK YOU to Latasha and Kelvin Morgan for the special love and care given to Robert.

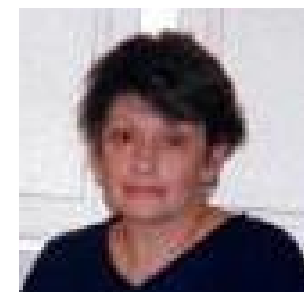
In addition to his parents, Robert was preceded in death by eight siblings, Sarah Holt, Pauline Medley, John Philip Holt, Arcadia Holt, Agnes Courtney, Patrick Holt, John Columbus Holt, and Rose Holt.

Robert leaves to cherish his memories one sister, Evangeline Holt of Leonardtown MD; one brother, David Holt of La Plata, MD; and a host of nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends.

Family and friends united on Friday, November 15, 2019 for visitation at 9 am until

Mass of Christian Burial at 10 am at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 29119 Point Lookout Road, Morganza, MD 20660. Interment followed at Charles Memorial Gardens, Leonardtown, MD 20650. Arrangements by Briscoe-Tonic Funeral Home.

Shirlynn Lamar O'Brien



Shirlynn Lamar O'Brien, 72 of Mechanicsville, MD, passed away in Callaway, MD, on November 6, 2019. "Lynn" as she was af-

fectionately known, as well as "Chick" to family and friends, was born on March 20, 1947 in Washington, S.E., DC. to the late Bernard L. Gordon and Shirley A. Dean Gordon. After graduating from Anacostia High School in 1965, Lynn met and married the love of her life, her husband, David M. O'Brien on October 21, 1967.

Lynn loved to plant flowers and decorate. She had 3 kitties that she adored. Lynn loved and enjoyed being around family and friends. There was nothing but giving to all of those she knew and who knew her. Lynn always put others first.

Lynn leaves behind to cherish her sweet memories her husband of 52 years, David M. O'Brien, of Mechanicsville, MD; her children, Heather O'Brien, of Hollywood, MD, Michael O'Brien, of Hollywood, MD, Shannon O'Brien, of Montross, VA, Kyle O'Brien Walker, of Youngstown, OH; four grandchildren, Jeffrey, Kevin, Marcus, Griffin; four great grandchildren, Travis, Landon, Nellie and Vivian, as well as nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

To know Lynn was to know a kind, generous, fun-loving and wonderful special person. She will be missed and will forever be in our memories forever.

Family and friends united on Monday, November 18, 2019 for visitation at 9 am until time of service at 11 am at Briscoe-Tonic Funeral Home, 38576 Brett Way, Mechanicsville, MD. Interment followed at Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery, Cheltenham, MD.

REMEMBRANCES
IN PRINT & ONLINE

County Times
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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, Nov. 28, 2019

Thanksgiving Day

Friday, Nov. 29, 2019

Hearth and Home in Early Maryland

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

Explore 17th-century foodways, and celebrate the end of the growing season. Discover what it took to weather the winter before refrigerators, electric stoves, and grocery stores. Bring a canned good for the Southern Maryland Food Bank and save \$1 on admission.

\$10 adult; \$9 senior; \$6 youth; free to ages 5 and younger, and to Friends members. (240) 895-4990, info@HSMCDigshistory.org, www.HSMCDigshistory.org

Christmas on the Square and Annual Tree Lighting

22670 Washington Street
Leonardtown
4:30p.m. to 8:30p.m.

Come early so you have time to park and make your way to the Square promptly at 7:00 PM for Santa's arrival and the lighting of the Town Christmas Tree! For more information, please contact Brandy Blackstone at brandy.blackstone@leonardtownmd.gov or 301-475-9791.

Maritime Performance Series: Timothy Seaman

Calvert Marine Museum
14200 Solomons Island Rd S,
Solomons
6p.m. to 9p.m.

Seaman is a master of the hammered

dulcimer, creating cascades of beautiful sound. Every selection is introduced in a manner that creates a meaningful context, enriching the experience of listening. His musical genre is a vibrant self-style blend of Appalachian, classical, Celtic, and contemporary approaches. He also plays the flute, whistle, mountain dulcimer, vocals, and psaltery. Buy tickets at bit.ly/MaritimeConcerts. Tickets are \$20 online, \$25 at the door.

Saturday, Nov. 30, 2019

Newtowne Players "Seussified Christmas Carol"

Three Notch Theatre
21744 South Coral Drive
Lexington Park
8p.m. to 10p.m.

Tickets, available at www.newtowneplayers.org, are \$15 for adults; \$13 for military, seniors, NTP members and students; and \$10 for children under 12. Reservations may be made at 301-737-5447.

"A Seussified Christmas Carol" is a whimsical reinvention of Dickens' most beloved Christmas story in wacky rhymed couplets. With zoot fruited juices and binka bird geese, from Bed-Headed Fred to Timmy Loo Hoo, this tale of glorious holiday cheer is like something Dr. Seuss might have come up with—if he ever had his way with the story.

Sunday, Dec. 1, 2019

Holiday Shopping at The Belmont Farm

The Belmont Farm
24079 Budds Creek Rd.
Clements
10a.m. to 1p.m.

In the spirit of Christmas, we are partnering with St. Mary's Helping Hands

Food Pantry who are always in need of supplies for St. Mary's County residents. We will be accepting donations of toiletries or non-perishable food items at the event. This event is privately organized and not sponsored by The Belmont Farm. Contact raleyevents@gmail.com with any questions.

Holiday Bazaar

Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department
28165 Hills Club Road
Mechanicsville
10a.m. to 3p.m.

Come join us for crafters and much more. We do accept Visa, MasterCard and Discover. For interested vendors or more information please email Amy at bazaar@mvfd.com or call 240-249-5808.

Thursday, Dec. 5, 2019

American Legion Meeting

American Legion Post 221
21690 Colton Point Rd
Avenue
8p.m. to 9p.m.

American Legion Post 221 invites all active duty personnel and veterans to join us for our monthly meeting on the first Thursday of each month at 8:00pm. Visit our website at www.alpost221.webs.com/ or e-mail us at alpost221@aol.com. Call (301) 884-4071 for more information.

Friday, Dec. 6, 2019

Holiday Open Mic

Christ Episcopal Church
37497 Zach Fowler Road
Chaptico
7p.m. to 10p.m.

Come out for some great Holiday-

themed music and friendship, to hone your performance skills, to meet new friends and possibly learn a few new licks. The doors open at 7:00 PM, and the music starts at 7:30. (There will be a potluck at 6:30 if you care to join us). The admission is \$7, and performers are admitted free. To sign up to perform (holiday-themed music), please contact Mike Smith at smtmdmike@gmail.com. Visit www.smtmd.org for more information.

Saturday, Dec. 7, 2019

Festival of Trees

University System of Maryland at Southern Maryland
44219 Airport Rd.
California
10a.m. to 4p.m.

Bring the whole family and kick off the holiday season with the 12th Annual Festival of Trees—a beautiful tradition for a great cause! Enjoy FREE admission to stroll through a whimsical world of generously donated trees and wreaths with live entertainment, activities for children, photos with Santa Claus, and more! Bid on your favorite tree/wreath to take home, too. Visit HospiceOfStMarys.org/FestivalOfTrees for sponsor and event details. For additional information, call Hospice at 301-994-3023.

Sunday, Dec. 8, 2019

Fish and Shrimp Dinner - Drive-Thru

Hollywood Volunteer Rescue Squad
12p.m. to 3p.m. (or sold out)
Includes french fries, cole slaw, and roll. \$15. Contact Joan, 301-536-3904.

Health-care Holiday

To the Editor:

A decision the county commissioners made last week resulted in several articles, some unflattering comparisons to a green Christmas character and many many emails from concerned educators. Before I address the issue and our proposed solution, I want to state that I do respect and appreciate the amazing job our educators do and how hard their work is—to suggest otherwise is just ridiculous. There is no other profession where such trust is placed on people and I know the long hours of work that our teachers put in to ensure the success of our children.

Dr. Smith, the school superintendent, brought forward a proposal to use \$4 million of the school system's fund balance for various projects. As the board of county commissioners, part of our job is to approve the budget developed by the Board of Education and then approve any changes to this bud-

get throughout the year. We approved all of these changes for things such as technology upgrades and maintenance needs, but we held off approving \$1.5 million for a two-month health care holiday for the educators.

A health care holiday is where the school system covers the premium costs of the health care plan that are usually taken out of the employee's paychecks. This has been provided as a bonus to employees in past years, so employees were understandably upset when we did not approve it yet this year and I do not begrudge anyone for advocating for themselves. It is also important to understand that the majority of the fund balance that was realigned came from a health insurance rebate to the school system that was provided, in large part, due to the diligence of employees in cutting costs in healthcare.

As county commissioner, we need to always keep in mind the big picture. Expenses are always increasing, needs

are growing, and funding is finite, but the people who choose to work in our county are our most valuable resource. School system health insurance is an 80/20 split, meaning the school system pays 80 percent of the premium costs and employees pay 20 percent of the cost in their paychecks.

I can not speak for the entire board of commissioners, but a plan that has been proposed and I believe would be acceptable is 20 percent of the health care refund go back to the employees (since they are the ones that helped enable it) and the remainder of the funds be applied to the OPEB account—OPEB (Other Post-Employment Benefits) is used to pay for educator's retirement plans and has been woefully underfunded since being transferred from state to local responsibility. I have expressed my support for this plan to Superintendent Dr. Smith, BoE Chair Karin Bailey, and Education Association of St. Mary's County (EASMC)

President Jill Morris. This would allow for a healthcare holiday for the educators and hopefully express that we do still value their work and appreciate them choosing to live, work and raise their families in St. Mary's County. This would also allow for important long-term financial issues to be addressed in a fiscally responsible manner.

The County Commissioners will have a joint meeting with the Board of Education in early December and I hope we will be able to take this action at that meeting.

As a community, we have a lot to be thankful for this Thanksgiving, and I wish you all a happy holiday and encourage everyone to thank a teacher, police officer, EMS personnel or firefighter every time you see them!

Eric Colvin
County Commissioner, District 1

St. Mary's Department of Aging & Human Services Programs and Activities

Loffler Senior Activity Center 301-475-4200, ext. 71658
Garvey Senior Activity Center, 301-475-4200, ext. 71050
Northern Senior Activity Center, 301-475-4002, ext. 73101

Visit www.stmarysmd.com/aging for the most up-to date information

Brought to you by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County: James R. Guy, President; Michael L. Hewitt; Eric Colvin; Todd B. Morgan; John E. O'Connor; and the Department of Aging & Human Services

Gift Donations Needed for Christmas Gift Bingo

Every year at the Loffler Senior Activity Center we offer a special day of Bingo in which Christmas shopping items are the prizes. We will have a full house of 50 players and are looking for donations of gifts for our prize table. Donations should be new items, not shop-worn or expired foodstuffs, but items that are suitable for gift-giving. They should not be gift-wrapped. Donations can be dropped off at the Loffler Senior Activity Center Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., now through Dec. 17. Thank you for thinking of us. If you have questions call 301-475-4200, ext. 71658.

Holiday Magic

Looking for practical make-up and hair styling tips for older women? Want to jazz up your holiday look by shopping in your closet and adding an accessory or two? Join Diana Diggins owner of Halo Hair Care Studio in Lexington Park and local wardrobe consultant Robbie Loker as they help you tap into some holiday magic on Monday, Dec. 2, from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Northern Senior Activity Center. The cost is \$15 per person and is due at sign up. Space is limited. To sign up with payment in advance, please visit the front desk. For availability call 301-475-4200, ext. 73103.

Whole-Body Tension Relief

Learn this easy, targeted, self-treatment method that will give you drug-free pain relief that is both immediate and long lasting. Led by Judi Lyons, learn to use simple soft tennis ball techniques that reduce or eliminate pain and improve the condition of muscles and fascia to benefit posture, mobility, stability, range of motion, blood flow, nerve function, and the immune system. This workshop

addresses multiple issues and conditions from head to toe and is tailored to participants' specific needs. Class will be held at the Northern Senior Activity Center on Tuesday, Dec. 3, from 1-4 p.m. The cost is \$30, includes two therapeutic-grade balls and is due at signup. To sign up and pay for this class in advance, please visit the front desk. For more information call 301-475-4200, ext. 73101.

Holiday Music Showcase with Lunch

Enjoy a lovely meal while Diane Trautman plays holiday tunes on the piano. Following the meal, Kathy Creswell will lead us in the Holiday Music Showcase at the Garvey Senior Activity Center on Wednesday, Dec. 4, at 12 p.m. You won't want to miss this lively holiday celebration. Sign up in advance by calling 301-475-4200, ext. 71050.

Fabric Holiday Wreath Class

Learn to make an adorable, festive holiday wreath with fabric and a wreath form. Experienced crafter Valerie Jenkins provides all instruction and materials for the class. Class will be held on Thursday, Dec. 5, from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Northern Senior Activity Center. The cost is \$7 and is due at sign up. To sign up with payment in advance, please visit the front desk. For availability call 301-475-4200, ext. 73103.

Make a Fresh Holiday Wreath

Use fresh greens and a decorative bow to create a beautiful wreath for your holiday décor at the Loffler Senior Activity Center. Or, surprise someone with one that you made yourself! Carol Davis will facilitate this workshop on Wednesday, Dec. 10, from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. Participants will walk out with a fresh wreath at the conclusion of the session. Fresh-cut greens, bows and wreath frames

are included; just bring gloves to protect your hands and a pair of snips if you have them. Cost is \$30 per person, and pre-payment is required upon registration, by Dec. 3. Call 301-475-4200, ext. 71658 or stop by in person to sign up and make payment arrangements. 10 participants are needed to hold the class.

Gingerbread Houses Craft Class

Come join us as we create the time-honored tradition of holiday gingerbread houses at the Garvey Senior Activity Center on Wednesday, Dec. 11, at 10 a.m.! We will supply all the materials and you supply the creativity. Each person will take home one gingerbread house. We will have hot cocoa and cookies to enjoy as well. Cost for the class is \$5. Payment is due when registering. Space is limited. To learn more or to sign up, call 301-475-4200, ext. 71050.

Christmas Party: Celebrate the Season

Set aside Friday, Dec. 13, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for the annual Department of Aging & Human Services Christmas party, which will take place at the Loffler Senior Activity Center. Tickets are available at all three senior activity centers for a suggested donation of \$14. Our theme is Celebrate the Season. We will enjoy all of our favorite party elements such as Mean Gene DJ, dancing, raffles, door prizes galore, party favors and a toast to the season of giving. Our feast, to be catered by Mission BBQ, will include Sliced Smoked Turkey, Country Style Macaroni & Cheese, Homestyle Green Beans & Bacon, Savory Collard Greens and a Dinner Roll. We will follow this up with a slice of Apple Pie and a scoop of Vanilla Ice Cream for dessert. Call 301-475-4200, ext. 71658 for more information. A limited number of tickets are available.



Library Holiday Hours

All three locations of the St. Mary's County Library will close early at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, November 27 and will remain closed on Thursday, November 28 and Friday, November 29 in observance of Thanksgiving. All three Library locations will be open for regular business hours on Saturday, November 30.

Library Closed for Staff Day

All three locations of the St. Mary's County Library will be closed on Friday, December 6 for staff training. All three locations will be open regular business hours on Saturday, December 7.

Completing the FAFSA Form – the First Step in Paying for College

Leonardtown Library will hold a class on Completing the FAFSA Form – the First Step in Paying for College on Wednesday, December 4 from 5:30 -7:30 p.m. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the primary application for federal, state, and institutional financial aid programs. If you don't

complete this form you could be missing out on a lot of financial aid, regardless of your financial situation. Thirza Morgan, Financial Assistance Advisor from CSM, will join us to discuss the FAFSA process, how eligibility for need based financial aid is determined, different types of college financial aid, requirements, and sources. Immediately following the information session, Mrs. Morgan will be available to assist students and parents with completing the FAFSA for the 2020-21 academic year. Please bring your social security number, 2018 tax information (W2 forms for students and parents and federal tax form 1040) along with records of untaxed income, social security benefits, and child support received or paid in 2018. Registration recommended on www.stmalib.org.

Art on Your Own Terms

Lexington Park Library will hold Art on Your Own Terms on Monday, December 16 from 6 – 7:30 p.m. Come brighten your day with a little "art therapy," and use creativity as your outlet for stress! Experiment with a variety of art supplies, and make a project to take home. Materials provided. Ages 18 and up. No registration required.

Stay and Play

All three locations of the St. Mary's County Library will hold Stay and Plays weekly while storytime is on break from December 16 through January 12. Charlotte Hall Library will hold Stay and Play on Wednesdays from 10 – 11 a.m. (except December 25 and Jan-

uary 1), and Lexington Park and Leonardtown will hold Stay and Play on Thursdays from 10 – 11 a.m. During the Storytime break, visit your library every week for a toddler/preschool playgroup. We'll provide the playthings; you bring the fun! No registration.

U.S. Census Bureau Recruitment

The Lexington Park Library will host the U.S. Census Bureau on Monday, December 16 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. and the Charlotte Hall Library will host the Bureau on Tuesday, December 17 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. U. S. Census Bureau personnel will provide information on jobs and help with the job application process. The Census is conducted every 10 years and the goal is to count everyone where they live. Hiring will be done within the local community to get a complete and accurate count of each person.

Spend an Hour with a Job Coach at the Library!

Leonardtown Library will host 'Spend an Hour with a Job Coach' on Monday, December 16. Appointments will be available on the hour from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Southern Maryland JobSource job coaches will be available to meet with job seekers on-on-one, for an hour long appointment. If you would like assistance with writing your resume, conducting a job search, polishing your interview skills, or career change advice call the Leonardtown library at 301-475-2846 to schedule an appointment.



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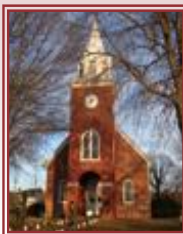
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Sunday Worship
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 10:00am Holy Eucharist, Rite II,
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24422 Mervell Dean Rd • Hollywood, MD 20636



301-373-2500

Katie Paul, Pastor

Sunday Worship 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.
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All of our services are traditional.

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