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**Ridge Rescue: 70 Years on Call**

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Ridge Volunteer Rescue Squad members respond to a serious vehicle crash



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### WEEKLY FORECAST

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37°   30°F	50°   46°F	53°   41°F	48°   32°F
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Mon 12/16	Tue 12/17	Wed 12/18	Thu 12/19
41°   34°F	42°   32°F	39°   28°F	41°   31°F
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# Commissioners Vote Down Pay Raise For Deputies

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

In a split vote the Commissioners of St. Mary's County voted against aligning the salary schedule for sheriff's office deputies with that of their counterparts in Charles County and the Maryland State Police.

Those who voted against the measure, Commissioner President James "Randy" Guy, Commissioners Mike Hewitt and Todd Morgan all expressed their support for paying deputies more, but said they wanted to have more up to date budget numbers in the coming weeks before making a decision.

Recent budget projections show that the county will have to make up a \$3 million deficit.

But Commissioners Eric Colvin and John O'Connor, who made an impassioned plea for the salary increase and got in a heated discussion over the issue with Hewitt, said the county was wasting money each year by losing deputies to other agencies with better pay and having to constantly pay to train new ones.

"We all know why we're here," said Sheriff Timothy K. Cameron. "It's about attrition... the question is can you afford not to [match the pay scale]



Commissioner Mike Hewitt

"If we don't do something, we're going to lose tenured employees to Charles County."

Deputies got a nearly 10 percent increase in pay three years ago, but they continue to go to agencies which pay more.

Budget projections from the sheriff's office showed that the pay scale proposal would have cost an additional \$1.3 million in fiscal 2020 and a recurring cost increase of \$4.1 million for fiscal 2021.

O'Connor said the county had spent



Commissioner John O'Connor

an extra \$24 million over the past several years above maintenance of effort for the county school system while the sheriff's office had returned millions of dollars because it could not fill vacancies.

He said there had been recent discussions with the Fraternal Order of Police and the county about the new structure for pay and others who now wanted more information could have attended.

"To say there is not enough information, that's a choice," O'Connor said. "The money is there, it's called saying

no to someone else.

"We have the money, everything else is an excuse."

He chided Hewitt for initially wanting to abstain from the vote and later in the debate claimed Hewitt was taking "the coward's way out" for wanting to abstain though he said he supported the idea of a raise for deputies.

"Why do you have to make it personal," Hewitt retorted, soon after voting no in a roll call vote.

At the start of the debate Hewitt said to Cameron: "I want to give you an increase in pay... but can we afford to?" Hewitt later said: "We need to get the total picture of how much it will cost."

"We are wasting taxpayer money each year through having to retrain people," Colvin said.

O'Connor said he would support a tax increase in 2022 if it were necessary to pay for salary increases for deputies.

"We can't do this anymore," O'Connor said of not boosting deputy pay.

The hearing room was filled with members of the FOP waiting for the vote; one woman called out: "Shame, shame, shame on you," after the proposal was rejected.

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# County Health Officials Concerned Over Suicides

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

The number of people who die by suicide each year in St. Mary's County seems to be climbing, according to Dr. Meena Brewster, the county's chief health officer, though the increase in suicides matches the growth of the county's population.

Perhaps their greatest concern though, is that the number of visits to the county's sole emergency room for mental health problems is rapidly increasing; mental health problems can lead to suicide, health officials say.

In 2018, according to a report on Maryland vital statistics, 14 people died by suicide in St. Mary's, down slightly

from 18 in 2017.

There were just five such deaths in 2016 and 15 in 2015.

Brewster said that with all the resources marshaled in St. Mary's to prevent suicide the numbers were, on average, too high though the suicide rate per 100,000 people was commensurate with Maryland and the nation.

"We are concerned more and more about mental health being a priority need in St. Mary's County," Brewster said. "[Suicide numbers] are too high in St. Mary's County, too high in the state and they're too high in the country."

A state-run crisis lifeline, which can be accessed by dialing 211, operates in St. Mary's County but the main crisis number is the National Suicide Preven-

tion Lifeline which can be accessed by dialing 1-800-273-8255 or through texting 741741.

Greg Reuss, a county resident and representative of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, said the vast majority of people who die by suicide suffer from some sort of mental health issue; of those suffering many are afflicted with depression.

Seeking help early was key, he said, to preventing suicide.

"You don't have to wait until you're in crisis," Reuss said.

Any way depressed or suicidal people can be engaged could mean a life saved, Brewster said.

"More time [preventing someone from committing suicide] can stop it,"

she said.

Aside from engaging a suicidal subject to prevent a tragedy, other means restrictions, such as removing firearms or other weapons from the individual were viable options.

Though more people than ever are visiting the MedStar St. Mary's emergency room for mental health crises, health officials say the increased numbers mean more people are taking mental health more seriously.

The key, Brewster said, was to find more primary health care solutions for residents.

"The good news," Reuss said. "There are more people getting help."

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# St. Mary's Schools Show Improvement in State Scores

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

Last year the Maryland State Department of Education started using a new method for ranking schools both by their academic achievement as well as softer metrics such as the culture and climate of the school and the strides students made to improve in key subject matter.

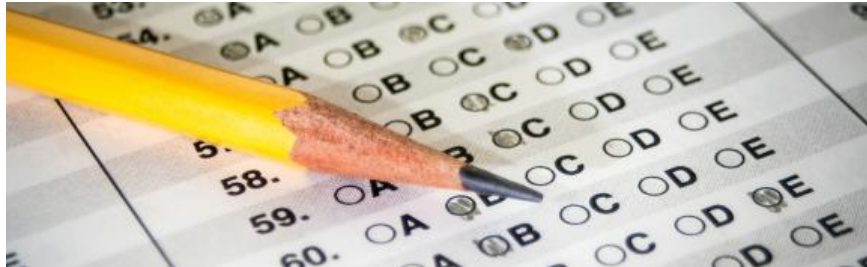
Schools are now ranked using a system of one-through-five stars, poor to excellent, and this year no county school got either a one-or-two-star rating.

Alex Jaffurs, the schools system's senior accountability officer, said that 89 percent of county schools received either a four-or-five star ranking in the latest report from the state.

Of the 26 schools ranked here, three received a three-star rating, 17 received a 4-star rating and six received a five-star rating.

A school's ranking is judged on 65 percent for academic achievement, measured by the MCAP test taken by 3<sup>rd</sup> graders up to seniors in high school, and 35 percent by culture and climate of the school.

"This is a much more wholistic evaluation of a school," Jaffurs told The



County Times.

For instance, Benjamin Banneker Elementary School could earn, in total, up to five points for proficiency in math, but earned just 2.35 points on the new rating scale.

But, under the newly enacted growth metric for mathematics, the school earned 10 out of a possible 12.5 points for improvements and 7.5 points out of 12.5 points for improvements in English language arts.

This level of growth was taken into account along with academic achievement to come up with the school's four-star rating.

Jaffurs said this data, and many other pieces of information taken as part of the overall Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) program was used to make each school better than it was before.

"We're taking the raw data from these metrics, then using that informa-

tion to drive their educational decisions in school improvement master plans," Jaffurs said. "There is also a distinct correlation between students who are not chronically absent (not absent more than 10 percent of school days) and achievement."

School attendance was also a closely monitored data point in the star ranking system.

The broad range of criteria that went into a school's ranking showed St. Mary's students were solid performers, Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith said.

"We're very pleased the report is now fleshed out," Smith said. "We're heartened to see we're consistent year over year."

"A few schools went down, but more schools went up."

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Calvert County			3	14	5
Caroline County			3	6	
Carroll County		1	2	26	9
Cecil County			11	17	
Charles County	1	2	15	17	2
Dorchester County		1	6	4	
Frederick County			8	37	16
Garrett County			2	10	
Harford County	1	3	12	20	17
Howard County	1		12	37	25
Kent County			3	2	
Montgomery County	2	9	52	97	37
Prince George's County	5	17	105	63	4
Queen Anne's County			1	9	2
<b>Saint Mary's County</b>			<b>3</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>6</b>
Somerset County		1	4	1	
Talbot County			2	4	2
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Wicomico County	1		10	8	
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# Tri County Commissioners Reach Consensus on Mutual Aid, CSM Budget Bill

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

Members of all three Southern Maryland county commissioner boards met Tuesday afternoon and came to an agreement, at least initially, on supporting a key piece of legislation that would unify the budget of the College of Southern Maryland (CSM) and, in the case of emergency services, renew the mutual aid agreement between Calvert, St. Mary's and Charles counties.

Commissioners met at the Prince Frederick CSM campus.

Currently the College of Southern Maryland may only spend operating funds in the county which initially provided those funds; each county provides a share of funding to the college's operating budget each year.

Changes to allow the budget to be unified, and thus more flexible, would require leg-

islative changes in the General Assembly; commissioners from the three counties came to a tentative agreement that a memorandum of understanding had to be finalized before the legislation could move forward to receive their final support.

Reuben Collins II, Charles County commissioner president, said the three counties also needed to come to an agreement on ensuring equitable funding for CSM campuses to include numbers of students in attendance.

Under the proposed changes to the law for CSM budgeting, each county commissioner board would review and then approve the budget for the entire college, instead of the single campus in their county.

"It will take a great deal of time to flesh that out," Collins said of the work ahead to change the law.

County leaders from Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's



Calvert Public Safety Director Jacqueline Vaughn, Charles EMS Chief John Filer and St. Mary's Emergency Services Director Steve Walker supported continuing the mutual aid agreement between the three counties.

also agreed that the mutual aid system they share for fire and emergency medical response should be renewed, though upon review of the current aid agreement they found that language had to be standardized in the text before making a final vote in support.

Data presented to the commissioners by Steve Walker, director of emergency services in St. Mary's County, showed St. Mary's was receiving more mutual aid from both Charles and Calvert counties than it was

providing.

In prior years the roles had been reversed, noted Calvert public safety director Jacqueline Vaughn.

"[The mutual aid agreements] do need to continue," Vaughn told Southern Maryland leaders. "The tides have turned... but it does come in cycles."

For 2019, data showed that Calvert responded to 103 fire calls in St. Mary's, while St. Mary's aided in 72 fire incidents across the Patuxent River.

Also, St. Mary's aided in 337 medical calls but received aid from Calvert for 499 such emergencies.

Charles County responded to St. Mary's 724 times for EMS calls, while receiving aid in just 47 such calls from St. Mary's, the data showed.

"I believe our BLS and ALS (basic life support and advanced life support) are at a critical mass," said St. Mary's commissioner John O'Connor. "At some point Charles County is going to say 'We've had enough.'"

Charles County's EMS Chief John Filer said the mutual aid should continue.

"In Southern Maryland we all get along," Filer said. "I would not recommend cutting off mutual aid."

"We should all help when we can."

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## 7-11 Project Public Hearings Rescheduled

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

Dual public hearings for proposed, and controversial, 7-11 convenience stores and gas stations in Leonardtown and Callaway were set to move ahead Monday night before the county planning commission but were abruptly rescheduled.

Christopher Longmore, the local attorney representing the applicant in both cases, told planning commission members that, though they were ready to "substantively" move forward, they legally could not because certain residents impacted by the Leonardtown project had not been adequately informed of the project.

"There were some adjacent property owners who did not receive written letters they were required to receive under the rules," Longmore told acting planning commission chair Joe VanKirk.

Longmore said he was also concerned residents of Callaway adjacent to that proposed site, near the southeast corner of Piney Point Road and Route 5, likewise might not have received adequate notification.

The public hearings were rescheduled to Jan. 27 for the Leonardtown project and Feb. 10 for the Callaway

project.

"Those folks have the right to know just like everyone else," VanKirk said of the need for all adjacent property owners to be properly notified.

The proposed project in Leonardtown would be situated at the intersection of Route 5 and Medley's Neck Road across from Fairgrounds Road and adjacent to Leonardtown Middle School.

Residents living near the site where the 7-11 would be built have strongly opposed the project because, they argue, it would make a precarious traffic situation there even worse; some residents said the 7-11 could also draw a criminal element along with the increased activity there since it was slated to be a 24-hour establishment.

Listed among planning documents on the county's Department of Land Use and Growth Management web site are two petitions, one printed and the other with signatures – some with phone numbers – of purported county residents who opposed both 7-11 projects.

A third 7-11 project has also been proposed for Great Mills Road in Lexington Park.

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# Tanavage Appointed District Court Judge



James Tanavage

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

James Tanavage, a veteran attorney practicing in St. Mary's County received an appointment from Gov. Larry Hogan this week to the District Court in Leonardtown.

Judge Robyn Riddle, who had been dividing her time between district courts in Calvert and St. Mary's will now remain in Calvert.

Tanavage applied to be appointed to the Circuit Court last year but Hogan appointed Judge Joseph Stanalonis, a former prosecutor, to the bench.

Tanavage told The County Times in a Tuesday interview that he believed his initial interview left a favorable impression with the governor.

"He said he remembered our interview last year," Tanavage said. "He thought I was up to the task of being a district court judge."

Tanavage has been a lawyer for 29 years, both in private practice and as a prosecutor for the St. Mary's County State's Attorney's Office.

Most recently he has served as the counsel for the county's Alcohol Beverage Board.

While circuit court judges must run for office, district court judges do not;

Tanavage will serve a 10-year term.

"I think I have a good range of experience in the kind of cases that are likely to come up in district court," Tanavage, 55, said. "I like being in court, watching and participating in trials."

"Being a judge means participating even more."

Tanavage has long sought a judgeship and he said "being in the right place at the right time" factored into his selection from a small pool of qualified local lawyers.

"The stars have to align... there were other excellent candidates," Tanavage said.

Assistant State's Attorney Buffy Giddens and attorney Daniel Slade also applied for the district court position.

Prior to creating his own firm in 2011, he was an assistant state's attorney in St. Mary's County for 18 years. He also worked as an associate with the firm of Farmer and Braun and served as a judicial law clerk for the Honorable Robert C. Nalley, Circuit Court for Charles County from 1990-1991. Tanavage holds a B.S. from LaRoche College (now LaRoche University) and obtained his J.D. from the University of Baltimore School of Law.

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## MetCom Funding Programs Available to Assist with Public Sewer and Water Connections

In addition to the St. Mary's County Health Department's Clear Water Program that provides Bay Restoration grant funding to existing residential properties with failing septic systems, two new pilot programs are now available through the Metropolitan Commission:

(1) The Connection Incentive Program provides assistance to owners of existing residential properties currently served by septic and/or well systems, with all or a portion of the costs of connecting to available public sewer and water systems. George Erichsen, the Executive Director of MetCom suggests that this program may be suitable for property owners facing these scenarios: failing septic system, a property that cannot pass a percolation test, insufficient open space to add

a new drainage field, a contaminated or failing well, or a property owner who may simply want the convenience and security of a public system connection. Limited funding will be available on a first come, first served basis through a \$250,000 operating revolving loan fund to provide loans of up to \$25,000 per property. Longer term payback periods (reimbursement to MetCom) may also be available for individuals / households that meet certain financial eligibility criteria.

(2) The Special Benefit Assessment Program is a voluntary capital funding mechanism that addresses the need for extending, expanding, and upgrading water and sewer systems to serve existing residential communities and individual properties currently not

served. This program is an excellent opportunity for citizens to collaborate with each other to pool resources making connections more affordable. Individual residential property owners or communities may petition MetCom to extend service to their property and the associated costs to the benefited properties would be reimbursed to MetCom over a period of up to twenty (20) years.

With the funding opportunities now available for connections to public sewer and water, it is hoped that citizens will consider taking advantage of one of these new programs and connect to a public system. If you are already a customer, share this news with a neighbor or someone else that you feel might benefit. For more information on these programs, please contact MetCom at 301.737.7400 or visit our website at <https://www.metcom.org/>, click on either Connection Incentive Programs or Forms & Applications under the Fiscal tab.

## Wharf Pier Designed to Bring More Boaters to Leonardtown



Phase 1 of the Leonardtown Wharf Pier

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

The first portion of the new pier stationed at Leonardtown Wharf should be completed by the end of the month, said Town Administrator Laschelle McKay, and give the town one more tool in its push to boost economic development through tourism and travel.

The pier juts out from the shore 191 feet, McKay said, and currently has nine boat slips available; the only remaining pieces to be installed are stainless steel pipe running under the pier for a fire suppression system and above cabinets for life rings and fire extinguishers.

The first phase of the project cost a total of \$400,000, with the town successfully applying for and using \$199,000 in grant money from the state's Department of Natural Resources to defray the costs.

The second phase of the pier will provide water, electrical and pump out services for visiting vessels, she said, and construction should begin in late spring of next year.

The town will apply for additional grant money in the amount of \$175,000 to fund the next portion of the project.

Plans to put a pier on Breton Bay that was owned by the town began in 2010 when they first opened the wharf property, McKay said.

"From the beginning... we anticipated having slips for transient boaters to come and enjoy all that the town has to offer," she said. "This is just another piece of the economic development puzzle. "We already have some boaters who come to the town and I think this will draw in a lot more."

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Serves 10-15	Serves 15-25	Serves 25-40

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# St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Crime Report

## Motor Vehicle Collision in Charlotte Hall Under Investigation

On December 7 at approximately 11:08 a.m., deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office responded to the 38100 block of Golden Beach Road in Charlotte Hall, for the reported motor vehicle collision. Deputies arrived on scene and located a Ford F-150 and a Chevrolet Cobalt in the roadway. The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Accident Reconstruction Unit responded to the scene and continued the investigation.

Preliminary investigation determined the Ford F-150 operated by Paul Andrew Hamby, age 55 of Mechanicsville, was traveling northbound on Golden Beach Road, when the Chevrolet Cobalt, operated by Noah Andrew Stathers, age 19 of Mechanicsville, entered the roadway. Stathers attempted to make a left-hand turn onto Golden Beach Road and was struck by the Ford F-150. Stathers and a juvenile front-seat passenger were transported via helicopter to area trauma centers with incapacitating injuries. Hamby was not transported to a medical facility from the scene.

At this time, speed and alcohol do not appear to be factors in the collision. Anyone who witnessed the collision is asked to contact Deputy Shawn Shelko

at (301) 475-4200 extension \*8147 or by email at [Shawn.Shelko@stmarysmd.com](mailto:Shawn.Shelko@stmarysmd.com).

For official news and information, follow the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office on Twitter @firstsheriff.

## On View Arrests

**Violate Protective Order-** On November 23 Dep. Wimberly responded to the 23000 block of Gunston Drive in California, for the reported protective order violation. Investigation determined **David Carroll Gass, 59**, of



California, had violated a current court order by contacting the victim which is prohibited by the order. Gass was arrested and charged with Violate Protective

Order.

**Assault First/Second Degree/Reckless Endangerment-** On November 23, Cpl. Beishline made contact with the victim who advised of an assault which occurred in the 20000 block of Rosslare Court in Lexington Park. Investigation determined **Michael Andrea Johnson, 38**, of Lexington Park, had assaulted the




victim by cutting the victim's hand with a knife and threatening to kill the victim during an argument requiring the victim to obtain medical attention for the injury. Johnson was arrested and charged with Assault 1st and 2nd Degree and Reckless Endangerment.

**Assault First/Second Degree/Reckless Endangerment-** On November 24, Cpl. Beishline responded to the 46500 block of Dennis Point Way in Drayden, for the reported assault. Investigation determined **James Allen Spencer Jr., 23**, of Drayden assaulted the victim by



throwing the victim to the ground and strangling the victim causing bruising and other visible injury to the victim's neck. Spencer then punched the victim repeatedly and dragged the victim throughout the residence causing visible injury the victim's face. Spencer was arrested and charged with Assault 1st and 2nd Degree and Reckless Endangerment.

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## Santa and Mrs. Clause Stop in for Breakfast at the Elk's Lodge



Declan Seiss, of Calvert County, shares his Christmas wish list with Santa and Mrs. Clause at the St. Mary's County Elk's Lodge Dec. 8.

## Habitat, TN Bowes Partner for Veteran



Local veteran Jennifer Shea gets a helping hand.

As Patuxent Habitat for Humanity's Veteran Critical Home Repair Program continues to help local veterans in our community sometimes their needs are beyond their volunteers' abilities; that is when they need to call in professional help.

This is what happened with Navy veteran, Jennifer Shea. Her HVAC system stopped working just as the temperatures began to drop. Patuxent Habitat asked TN Bowes HVAC to check if the system could be repaired. Due to the age of her system, TN Bowes determined the cost of the repairs was greater than the replacement cost for a new system. As a result of their generosity Shea's system was replaced just in time for Thanksgiving! She and her daughter are now warm and cozy and can enjoy the holidays!

These critical repairs are only possible through partnering with local companies that believe in their mission,

community donations, their annual Warrior 5K Fun Run/Walk fundraiser, and a grant from The Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Foundation.

Everyone deserves a decent place to live, especially our veterans who have given so much for us. There are so many other veterans who need HVAC and roofs repaired or replaced and most of them cannot afford these major expenses on a fixed income or disability. Without community support Habitat will be unable to continue lending a helping hand to this wonderful group of people that have done so much for our country.

To find out more go to Veteran Critical Home Repair Program on the Patuxent Habitat website: [www.patuxenthabitat.org](http://www.patuxenthabitat.org)

*Press Release from Patuxent Habitat for Humanity*

## 'Whoville' Fun on First Friday!



Christina Allen from Cycling Without Age (St. Mary's County) and our two very special guests!

A big thank you to all who joined us on December 6th for the special "Where's the Grinch?" event! It was an amazing evening of holiday caroling, crafts & story times, games throughout town, tricycle rides by Cycling Without Age - St. Mary's County, the audience participation Drum Circle, specials at the many shops and restaurants, opening receptions at the art galleries, special appearances by Mr. Grinch and Cindy Lou Who!

The "Light Up Leonardtown" contest is open and will run through December 21st, stop by one of the participating shops for a paper ballot and/or vote online for your favorite decorated business. Visit the "Leonardtown Business Association" Facebook page for details or see the paper ballots for more info. By voting you will be entered to win one of

many fabulous prizes donated by local shops and restaurants!

Save the date for our next First Friday event on January 3rd, 2020 from 5-8 PM. Planned events and activities for next year will be announced soon.

A note of appreciation to the Town of Leonardtown, the Commissioners of Leonardtown, LBA business members, the SoMar Drummers, the First Friday volunteers, and Leonardtown Business Association Platinum Sponsors (The County Times, Leonardtown Chevy Buick GMC, Marrick Homes, Quality Built Homes, and Visit St. Mary's) who all helped to make this yet another wonderful community event!

*Submitted by the Leonardtown Business Association (LBA)*

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# Ridge Rescue Serving South County



By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

The emergency medical call volume for the Ridge Volunteer Rescue Squad is about 800 calls a year, one of the lower levels among rescue squads in St. Mary's County, but they have still seen a serious increase in the amount of crashes in their community.

Mandy Purdy, chief at Co. 49, said motor vehicle

crashes are one of the most pervasive of emergency calls in one of the county's most rural areas, and they have mostly been on Route 235.

"There have been a lot of severe crashes on straight-aways," Purdy said. "I think it's just negligence."

And those have all been on a single portion of the road, between the St. James Deli and the Rod and Reel hunting and fishing store in Dameron, she said.

She warned that even on a stretch of road that was

sparsely traveled, it was all too easy to lose control just from not paying attention.

Squad President Debbie Drury said one driver who dropped an item in their car simply reached down to get it and turned the wheel all the way over, causing a crash.

There are 77 members, including associates, at the Ridge rescue squad and they are usually staffed during the evening hours but like many other such squads around the county the daytime hours trouble them.

"One of our challenges is having our crews staffed during the day," Drury said.

"These days everyone has a job," Purdy followed.

In decades past employers would allow their employees who were members of volunteer emergency response groups to leave their jobs and run calls all over St. Mary's, those days are long gone, Drury and Purdy said.

Still, Purdy said, they manage to staff the station, located near the intersection of Route 235 and Route 5, during the day.

Monday seems to be the worst day for them, though, as that day is the most difficult to find volunteers who can stand ready.

While they have enough to staff the station, even if it's just two volunteers at a time, they can only respond to one call at a time, their numbers still being thin.

"There's usually just one crew," Purdy said.

Command staff at Ridge rescue say that they have only scratched, or failed to answer a call out in their first-due area, about 30 times out of 800 total emergency calls.

Though the scratch rate is a small fraction of the total calls, Drury said the volunteers always want to do better.

"We think it's bad because we don't want to scratch at all," Drury said.

She joined up with the squad nearly 20 years ago after attending a party where she learned a man had just





died at the same location shortly before.

She realized she didn't know anything about rendering basic life support or much about first aid. She joined up and has been running emergency calls ever since.

Even volunteers who first got their start with Ridge rescue but have moved to different locations in the county and taken up with different squads, still come back occasionally and spend a night to help run calls, Drury said.

Sometimes there are volunteers on stand-by at their homes rather than staffing the station; they get messages for emergency call outs on either their cell phones or pagers. Since volunteers are spread out either in Ridge or in other communities in the 1<sup>st</sup> Election District, a volunteer driving an ambulance can call others to meet at an appointed place and get picked up to continue running the call.

It's a system they say works well for them.

The squad has four ambulances and one utility and EMS vehicle, which has everything they need to treat a patient, but it cannot deliver a patient to a hospital, Purdy said.

A volunteer responding to an emergency in the utility vehicle has to wait on scene before an ambulance can arrive for the long trip to MedStar St. Mary's in Leonardtown.

Purdy said response times can be a real challenge for the Ridge rescue volunteers since long winding roads, which are often narrow and sometimes in disrepair, make it difficult to drive quickly.

"Our response times can be upwards of eight minutes," Purdy said. "It takes us 10 minutes sometimes to get down all the way to Point Lookout [State Park] because the road is so bad."

During the summertime most of their calls for service come from Point Lookout State Park, they said, and can be difficult calls to run as the park entrance can be backed up far outside the park with visitors queued up to pay the entrance fee.

During the fall, their focus of calls shifts to St. Mary's College of Maryland, where constant trips to and from the college, especially on event days, keeps them on the move.

The Hallow on the Greens event this past Halloween kept them running from 9:30p.m. to 5a.m. the night of the event, Drury said

"Most of the time it's related to alcohol," said Purdy.

The after-effects often remain in the ambulance.

"We're very good at cleaning up puke," Drury said.

Depending on which history is referenced, the rescue squad got its start in 1949, running a now vintage Cadillac hearse-style ambulance out of the garage of John Erly, a resident of Scotland.

Erly would get a call from someone in the community about the need to get someone to the hospital, Drury and Purdy told The County Times, and he would pick up several neighbors to help out with the transport.

By 1953 the nearby American Legion Post had provided a cupola for the ambulance to be stationed there in a more central location, and the service ran from there.

That's why, Drury said, there are some discrepancies about when the Ridge Volunteer Rescue Squad got its start.

The problem, Drury said, with finding out more about the squad's history, with documentation to reference it all, is that in 2001 the original building caught fire and was destroyed.

The fire initiated in the battery of an apparatus and spread throughout the building, destroying precious records. Some press clippings, photos and other rescue squad documents remain at the new station, borrowed from the community.

"We're trying to find it," Drury said of the missing links in the squad's history.

What they are not missing at the Ridge rescue squad is gender diversity as most of the administrative and line officers are women.

That stems to the rank and file as well. "We have mostly all-women crews," Purdy said.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

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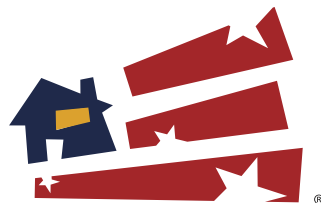
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NURSERIES TRANSFORMED  
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# Store Mixes History with the Holidays



GRANDMOTHER'S STORE IS LIT UP FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON.

By DICK MYERS  
EDITOR

If you are looking to shop this holiday season in a place with a story to tell, Grandmother's Store is just right for you.

The building on Dowell Road in Solomons, just down the street from Annemarie Garden, dates back to 1904. It lived a good long life as a general store and post office before being converted into its current role as an antique, collectable and gift store operated by Brenda Dowell and her partner, who

also own a store called the Harmon House Shoppes on Solomons Island.

Brenda's husband Bucky, who is retired and now helps out at the store, is the grandson of the store's namesake, who was Sadie Garner Dowell. She had become postmistress after the death of her husband, Wilson, who had been postmaster there since 1913. The town was named after him. Before that it had been called Frazier's. The post office was moved to a trailer down the street in recent years, but now has closed, having been



BRENDA AND BUCKY DOWELL STAND IN FRONT OF THIS YEAR'S THEMED CHRISTMAS TREE AT GRANDMOTHER'S STORE ON DOWELL ROAD IN SOLOMONS.

consolidated with Solomons.

The building was added onto several times, the last being in 1935, including the addition of a second floor. All of it was used by the general store and post office but in later years antiques were added until the complete conversion in 1983.

Brenda and Bucky have been married for 53 years. They met at Our Lady Star of the Sea school. She grew up on Solomons but later moved to Dowell near Bucky's family home. Both rode the bus to school and that bus dropped off the kids in the neighborhood outside the store for candy and ice cream.

Bucky Dowell quipped, "I am now officially not working, however, I need a full-time job so I can have time off because she keeps me busy here." His work life included the Air Force, Maryland State Police, and hospital and court security.

Shelves from the store, lined with some items from it, and the customer window from the post office share space among the items for sale in the old building's eight rooms, packed with what Brenda estimates are tens of thousands of items.

Mrs. Dowell explained that the store's merchandise is a mix of old and new, a perfect selection for holiday giving. She said,

"We try to go for unique every year. For 30 some years we've had a theme tree and this year it's wildlife. One of our vendors does handmade ornaments. They're hand painted with crab shells, oyster shells, and other nautical items."

Some other gift ideas, she said: "We have a full line of china sets and furniture. I do have depression glass. We sell jams and jellies made in Maryland and a full line of teapots and teas and things that ladies might be interested in."

Dowell said, though, that for someone who really knows the likes and dislikes of the person receiving the gift, antiques can be a viable option. For instance, she said, "We keep a table here with predominantly men's stuff and tools and I do sell antique tools and wood planes."

For women, she said, "There's just about anything they want to get interested in. For a person that you are having a hard time picking something out for, an arrangement with jellies and so forth makes a good gift. Teapots and teas are a good gift or that special teacup that all ladies like to have. We have those."

Grandmother's Store is open Friday through Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. through the holiday season.

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# Shepherd's Old Field Market Gears Up For Christmas



TREATS LIKE HOT CHOCOLATE ARE THERE TO GREET VISITORS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.



THE INTERIOR OF SHEPHERD'S OLD FIELD MARKET IS DECORATED FOR CHRISTMAS FROM TOP TO BOTTOM.

BY GUY LEONARD  
STAFF WRITER

This will be the second Christmas season for Shepherd's Old Field Market (SOF), the combination mall for boutique shops and food and drink vendors in downtown Leonardtown, said SOF owner Gerrie L'Heureux, but the community gathering place is even more festive than last year.

The major event for SOF this Christmas season will be Dec. 15 for an open house featuring caroling, a barbershop quartet and visits with Santa Clause.

The open house also includes a photo booth for visitors to take pictures of themselves in a holiday theme; hors d'oeuvres and drinks will also be provided free to guests at SOF, L'Heureux said.

"Each vendor has their own sales," L'Heureux said. "A lot of them are getting their spaces stocked."

"They're decorating and getting in the Christmas spirit."

SOF is a place where the products are unlike any others in St. Mary's, L'Heureux said.

"A lot of the items are already unique, specialized or handmade," she told The County Times.

The exterior of SOF is decorated like Whoville in the Dr. Seuss book The Grinch Who Stole Christmas.

The entire entry space of the marketplace has already been decorated to honor the Christmas season.

More than just a shopping experience, SOF also has food and drink available for visitors and their Brüdergarten offers alcoholic beverages in an upbeat bar atmosphere with games.

SOF is still growing, though it has far surpassed its occupancy and community interest from just a year ago, L'Heureux said.

"This Christmas there are a lot more vendors and a lot more variety," L'Heureux said. "We're still looking for more vendors and food court opportunities."

"You can't rest on your laurels."

L'Heureux wanted SOF to be more than just a gathering of boutique shops but a gathering place for the residents of Leonardtown as well, uniquely located to be accessible on foot as well as by vehicle.

"There are exciting things coming to SOF," L'Heureux said. "We want people to make it a hangout, especially in bad weather."

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# Nurseries Transformed into Winter Wonderlands



DISPLAY INSIDE THE CHARLOTTE HALL WENTWORTH'S STORE WITH OWNER RICHARD WENTWORTH.

By DICK MYERS  
EDITOR

If you're not yet in the holiday spirit, Wentworth Nursery locations in Charlotte Hall and Prince Frederick are the places to go to transform you.

And transform is a perfect word

to describe what happens there every year. "We pretty much tear the whole store down and put it back up as Christmas," said Brittany Simpson, who oversees decorating the Charlotte Hall store.

Simpson has a team of store helpers. She said, "We usually



POINSETTIAS GROWN BY DAWN AND HER TEAM AT THEIR CHARLOTTE HALL GREENHOUSES. PHOTO BY REBECCA SHERMAN.

pick nine to 10 themes. We have a couple of new themes this year, but we do the theme sections where we put up the whole Christmas tree and then have all the trees priced separately and the ornaments to sell."

She added, "Then we do the big bows and tree toppers and everything. So, I'm trying to give a little bit of variety to everyone when they're looking for something."

New this year, she said, is "technically we've been calling it Regal; it's essentially that old-fashioned white and blue, kind of like you would see on china. So, we have a whole section based off that that is blue and the red with the poinsettias.

Also new this year is "a Buffalo plaid section, which has all of the black and white plaid and the red and black plaid.

Every year, she said, the nautical theme and the candy land section prove to be the most popular.

The trees at the Prince Frederick store are also themed, according to store manager Rebecca Sherman. "We have a fully-decorated, 12-foot tall tree when you walk in and it's flanked by other decorated trees as well. And it's all inspiring," she said.

Sherman added, "We have the huge tree that is a Woodland theme, with a lot of animals

with wood textures and a little bit of metal texture. We have a multicultural tree, which is actually teal with some exciting succulent stems tucked into it and some really funny and interesting ornaments. We have things with traditional look to them, which are your red and green Santa and some retro kind of feel, and some more metallic gilded kind of a look."

Of course, The Prince Frederick store is also filled with wreaths and ablaze in red from the poinsettias. But Sherman noted that a flower called anthurium is also an alternative. It's a tropical flower and "some actually have kind of a kid candy-came kind of a stripe to them."

It's fun to watch the reaction when customers enter. Sherman said, "This year I've actually personally seen several people walk in and just say, 'Wow!' When kids are in, they walk around, and they look at all the trees. We actually have one tree that has ballerinas and unicorns and rainbows on it and kids really seem to love the trees."

Simpson in the Charlotte Hall store said, "The whole store kind of just screams Christmas right now. So as soon as you walk in you kind of get bombarded with the lights. Typically, it's an overall good reaction from all the customers."



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# The Apple Basket Gears Up For Christmas

BY GUY LEONARD  
STAFF WRITER

Visitors to The Apple Basket antique and gift store in Mechanicsville this Christmas season will be greeted with spaces crammed full of holiday gifts and house accents.

But store manager Jason Chiarizia says what customers find is not nearly as much as was brought in before the season even began.

“We started putting Christmas stuff out since the beginning of October,” Chiarizia said. “In one day we can sell \$1,000 worth in items.

“[The amount of items] has thinned out, believe it or not.”

Christmas is the biggest time of the year for The Apple Basket, which has been in business for more than 35 years; customers come from Southern Maryland and even farther away.

“People just come in here to get ready for the holiday season,” Chiarizia said. “They get ideas to decorate their own houses when they come here.

“We have people who will bring family and friends here when they come in for the holiday,” he said. “There are people who will travel hours just to come here.”

The ebb and flow of items coming into the shop consists in large part of antiques from estates as well as items that are specialty products; quite a few are hand made, Chiarizia said.

“We’re always buying stuff from estates,” he said. “Everything’s changing.”

The focus at The Apple Basket for the Christmas season, or any other time of the year, is finding unique items that are not likely to be found anywhere else.

“We’re always looking for something special,” Chiarizia said. “We’re looking for something that a homeowner really wants.”

Jewelry is an important product line in the store as are home goods and decorations; furniture is also in high demand.

Years ago, customers wanted furniture that was primitive and rustic in appearance, but years



CHRISTMAS NUTCRACKER DOLLS ARE PLENTIFUL AT THE APPLE BASKET FOR HOLIDAY DECORATIONS



THE EXTERIOR AT THE APPLE BASKET IS DECKED OUT FOR CHRISTMAS

later, Chiarizia said, customers are looking for furniture that is painted with cleaner lines.

No matter the product, whether antique or newly made, Chiarizia said, nothing is brought into the store without being inspected and carefully considered.

“We hand pick everything in the store,” Chiarizia said.

Though interest in antiques, gifts and curios changes with the times, The Apple Basket hopes to provide St. Mary’s with the best the region has to offer.

“Good pieces will always be in style,” Chiarizia said.

The Apple Basket is located off of Route 235 on Mt. Zion Road.

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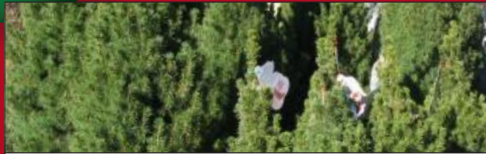
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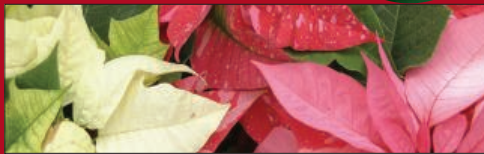
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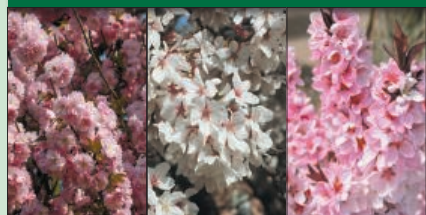
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# SMECO Employees Raise \$57,450



Pictured from left are Carolyn Robinson, Spring Dell program participant; Catherine Raines, R.N., Chief Executive Officer of Bay-CSS; Renee Seigley, Director of Development of The Arc Southern Maryland; Stephanie Raines, Bay-CSS Director of Marketing and Development; Angie, Keesee, Director of Marketing and Development of Spring Dell; Melanie Dutton, Spring Dell program participant; Natalie Cotton, SMECO's government affairs and community relations director; Denise Chalmers, senior buyer at SMECO; and Austin J. Slater, Jr., SMECO president and CEO.

Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative (SMECO) employees held two fund-raising events and recently donated \$57,450 to three organizations in Southern Maryland: The Arc Southern Maryland in Calvert County, Spring Dell in Charles County, and Bay Community Support Services in St. Mary's County. Each organization will receive \$19,150. "We selected these three organizations that assist intellectually and developmentally disabled people as this year's recipients because they provide services to individuals and families who need support for everyday living," said Natalie Cotton, SMECO's government affairs and community relations director.

"Contributing to these groups that help Southern Maryland families enjoy meaningful lives is an honor," said Richard Jarboe, SMECO supply chain director. "Our annual charity golf outing has become an extraordinary fundraising event because we are able to work with our vendors, who make big-hearted contributions. It means a great deal to us to be able to provide a donation that will help make our community even better."

SMECO employees raised the money through the SMECO Annual Charity Golf Outing in October and the SMECO 75 Bike Ride held in June. The events are supported by SMECO vendors, the cooperative's board and executive team, and employees who volunteer. The cooperative selects different organizations each year to benefit from its fundraising events. In seven years, SMECO employee fund-raisers have contributed \$328,100 to local organizations. Contributions, which may be tax deductible, can be made to the SMECO Charitable Foundation.

The Arc Southern Maryland is dedicated to their mission: creating opportunities for independence and personal success for people with different abilities in inclusive communities. "We believe everyone deserves a good quality of life and that small steps to independence empower each person and their family. Opportunities don't just happen; they have to be created,"

said Renee Seigley, Director of Development. "We are so thankful to SMECO and their event participants for supporting our work. We will utilize these funds, in part, to enhance our vocational training and career placement programs."

Bay Community Support Services (Bay-CSS) assists individuals in St. Mary's County with increasing their participation in the activities of daily living and promotes independence. "Our clients want to be included in the workforce and the community. We help them with obtaining and keeping jobs, and we encourage them to enjoy their interests, such as attending worship services and participating in other activities," said Catherine Raines, R.N., Chief Executive Officer. "Our organization plans to use the SMECO contribution to create an adaptive and inclusive music therapy program led by a board certified music therapist. Additionally, Bay-CSS plans to create adaptive computer labs at our day activity centers for employment, learning, and recreation."

For more than 50 years, Spring Dell in Charles County has supported adults with disabilities. "We are committed to helping the people we support achieve independence and find gainful employment. There are so many opportunities for them in our community, and it's our job to assist them with finding out what they enjoy doing, no different than anyone else," said Angie Keesee, Director of Marketing and Development. Spring Dell plans to use the contribution from SMECO to supplement funds designated for their Work Readiness Program, which assists people in developing job skills to be ready for the workplace by teaching them interpersonal skills, teamwork, and customer service. Keesee added, "Improving the lives of others is important work, and we are grateful for the support and opportunities we receive from the community."

Cotton added, "We are already planning our ninth annual bike ride for June 6, 2020. Next year, our contributions will go to organizations concerned with preventing and treating individuals and families affected

by the opioid epidemic."

Cyclists who want to participate in the SMECO 75 Bike Ride can register online at Active.com beginning January 1, 2020. The SMECO 75 Bike Ride is open to the public. Participants can choose among three routes of 29, 47, and 75 miles that start at the co-op's headquarters in Hughesville and go as far as Colton's Point in St. Mary's County. According to Cotton, "Our employees and vendors make the SMECO 75 bike ride successful and fun. The community atmosphere and enthusiasm of the participants make the event a great experience. Raising funds for deserving organizations is a bonus."

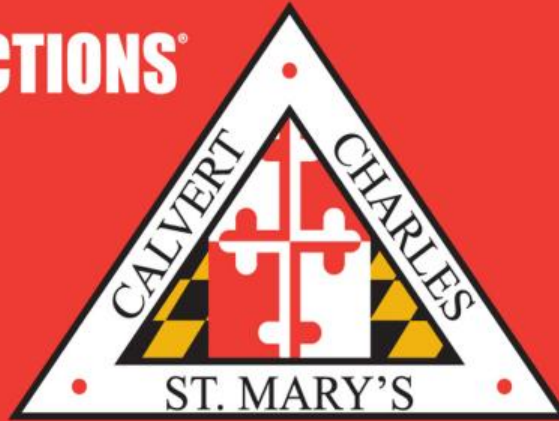
Cotton said, "We are especially thankful for business partners who help raise funds by providing donations and participating in the event. Major contributors include ABB, Adams Jenkins and Cheatham, Booth and Associates, CGI, Cigna Health, Community Bank of the Chesapeake, CW Wright Construction, DLA Piper LLP, Duncan Weinberg Genzer Pembroke, Glen and Barbara Ives, Hafets and Associates, ICF International, IP Datasystems, Keller and Heckman, McNees Wallace and Nurick LLC, MSI Inc., New River Electrical Corporation, Prudential, Schiebel Construction, Sensus USA, TRC, UDC, Venable Foundation, and VFP, and we thank them for their support."

Jarboe added, "We are grateful to our Golf Outing sponsors for their generous contributions. Platinum Sponsors include Altec, Anixter, CDW, Brandywine Power, ICF International, Irby Utilities, Lawrence Abell & Associates, New River Electrical Cooperation, PJ Martini & Associates, Sargent & Lundy LLC, The Okonite Company, TRC Solutions, and Wesco Utility. Gold Sponsors include Bradley Electrosales Corp., Itron, Meridian Imaging Solutions, SMO Energy, and Super Salvage. We rely on them for their donations and appreciate their assistance."



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**TRI-COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER**

# The Tackle Box Fishing Report

By Ken and Linda Lamb  
Contributing Writers

The striper fishing is excellent in the bay from the HS Buoy south to Smith Point. There are miles of breaking rockfish under vast flocks of gulls and gannets most every day. The truly hot spots shift daily, but the most consistent area is straight out the center of the Potomac River about three miles.

Bigger fish are from 72A to the HS Marker. Many of the rockfish in the mid-bay have sea lice and are skinny compared to the fat, sleek domestics.

Trollers and jiggers are catching fish in the 19-to-32-inch range.

The rockfish activities up the rivers has slowed. There are fish, but you have to work for them and many are undersized,

Some hardy souls fishing after dark under the dock lights around Solomons Island and the Navy Recreation Pier have hooked some huge fish up to 40



Fishing is still good in the cold weather.

inches and in the 25-pound range.

There are still some bass, pickerel, and crappie in the ponds and St. Mary's Lake.

## A View From The BLEACHERS Fighting Dictators

By Ronald N. Guy Jr  
Contributing Writer.

In the 1980s, Michael J. Fox was one of pop culture's biggest stars. For young boys he was a cool as it gets; for adolescent girls, his posters occupied prime real estate on bedroom walls.

Fox rose to prominence playing the right-leaning, Ronald Reagan loving Alex P. Keaton in the hit television series "Family Ties." His on-screen charm quickly transcended the small screen via the role of a lifetime: the DeLorean-driving, time-travelling, guitar shredding Marty McFly in the iconic "Back to the Future" trilogy. Somehow avoiding the Keaton/McFly typecast, Fox successfully returned to television in the 1990s on the show "Spin City".

Life, of course, is never only about adoring fans and blockbuster films, literally or figurative. And it certainly hasn't been for Fox. Not-so-great news arrived in 1991: Fox was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. The actor would now have to figure out how this curve ball would impact a role he had been playing his whole life – that of Michael J. Fox.

Fox's 2009 autobiography, "Always Looking Up: The Adventures of an Incurable Optimist" offers a powerful window into this evolution. The title is a humorous play on Fox's modest 5'4" stature and a direct introduction to the essence of the book - an inspirational story on coping with challenging circumstances. Fox addresses many topics - his youth, career milestones, alcoholism, family life, parenthood, religion and his political fight for stem cell research - but the book is centered on a brutally honest account of his daily and progressive struggles with PD.

I just finished the book and am not ashamed to say that it stirred considerable emotion. One excerpt, among many, that resonated was how Fox talked about fighting the progression of PD tooth and nail so that it did not dictate how he lived his life.

The concept of a life-dictating force - and resisting it - is powerful. The dictators are everywhere - some realized, some anticipated others inevitable. They arrive early, on-schedule or by complete surprise. No one avoids them all.

The connections with sports are obvious. There are many reasons for sports' broad appeal; one that

transcends teams and rivalries is an underlying appreciation for the journey each athlete took just to make it and the challenges all face in dodging dictating forces - day to day, week to week and year to year - to remain on the field, the ice or the court.

In the ever-present battle between athlete and dictator, there are many inspiring stories of human achievement. Let's start with a trio of quarterbacks. Tom Brady's battle against age is redefining paradigms. Russell Wilson, all 5'10" of him, successfully overcame the naysayers who labeled him too short for the NFL. Lamar Jackson, "cursed" by elite athleticism, was once now infamously dismissed by former NFL executive Bill Polian as nothing more than potential NFL wide receiver. When considering athletes who have defeated the dictation of injury, I think of our World Series champion Nationals: Ryan Zimmerman (shoulder, foot), Howie Kendrick (Achilles), Trey Turner (broken hand/finger), Stephen Strasburg (elbow) all fought their own battles against serious injury to make October magic. NBA players DeMarr DeRozan and Kevin Love have braved struggles with and removed stigmas attached to mental health. Washington Mystics All-Star Elena Della Donne persevered through chronic Lyme disease. Former Washington defensive tackle Tony McGee, one of "The Black 14" - 14 African American players kicked off the 1969 University of Wyoming football team for seeking a way to protest the prejudice policies of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints - made it to the NFL despite the overt racism present in a desegregated America. For years, female athletes fought for equal access and equal institutional support; the US Women's National Team has renewed the fight for equal pay. And so many athletes have made it despite seemingly insurmountable social and/or economic conditions.

Age, injury, illness, racism, sexism, un-even access to opportunity, unconventional and misunderstood talent - these are just a few of the dictators that threaten what we do, how far we go...fundamentally how we live our lives. Encounters are inevitable; as Michael J. Fox and the sports world prove, capitulation is not.

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# Wanderings

of an Aimless Mind

by Shelby Oppermann  
Contributing Writer



## “Just bouncing around the house today”

Wow, this little dusting of snow on the ground this morning really put my Christmas decorating in hyperdrive (can you tell I am getting excited about seeing Star Wars on opening night), which also means my mind is more scattered than normal. Any of you who know me personally, especially my husband, know that I am a bouncer. Those of you who are bouncers know who you are. I bounce from room to room in a frenzy when I get like this. I start on one project, then think, well let me pull this out and get that started and it turns into a never ending circle which leads from room to room to workshop to outside and I'm left wondering if I finished anything. It's like that old cartoon where the husband comes home from work, sees his wife exhausted but doesn't see what she's done and asks, “What did you do all day?”. In this case, it is always me asking myself that. You can clean out papers, clothes, and file all day, but it is hard to see the work you put in.

Yesterday was definitely one of those bouncing days. I have the Christmas village set-up on the dining room cabinet top, but no lights, no fluffy snow. The bay window display has a wrought iron tree on a bed of snow with mini lights going hallway up the tree – ran out – now I have to run back to Ace Hardware in Charlotte Hall. Then I can put my really old vintage ornaments on that tree. A few weeks ago, I picked up a \$5 white Christmas tree at our church craft show in the white elephant sale. It is already fully lighted, thank goodness, and sitting on top of the wine barrel, but is waiting for its vintage ornaments.

At the same time yesterday, I decided to consolidate all the ornaments in four half-size Rubbermaid boxes into one half-size box to give to my younger son for he and his two little boys' tree. These were the ornaments of he and his older brother's childhood. Since all the holiday boxes are stored under the steps, I also cleaned and Lysol'd each and every ornament and the Rubbermaid box so they would be clean and fresh for him. This was after I cleaned out everything from under the steps, swept it out (apparently this is where the water beetles and spiders like to go and

die) and finally went in the huge 4 foot Rubbermaid box packed when my mother died nearly 20 years ago. It was just family pictures I had framed for her over the years, and old photos of myself and my two brothers in those old Clinton 5 and dime metal frames from the 60's and 70s. Surprisingly, everything was in good shape, and the cigarette smoke smell had finally faded. As I weeded through boxes, I also threw in Silica Gel packets to hopefully keep moisture and mold at bay. I did find a treasure in the box: a 1960's melted plastic popcorn Santa which used to hang on our outside door growing up. Well, with all things vintage being in fashion, Santa now has pride of place on the living room wall. I love his cheery wave and the remembrances of Christmases and loved ones from the past. In fact, Santa actually looks a little frenzied too – he fits right in at this house.

I feel lighter today, though I am still bouncing; so many projects, so little time, and hopefully enough Prednisone. This morning as I tried hard to buckle down and focus on writing this week's column, I also have been jumping up and weeding out my clothes in anticipation of picking-up a very cool, hand-painted armoire from our dear friends tomorrow, bouncing down to the laundry room because, I almost forgot, I also started weeding through and trying to organize that room this week. All the while, my mind is racing, with part of the Confession prayer we read each Sunday at church going through my head, “Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.” You know which line I am focusing upon - goodness, I know how to lay the guilt upon myself. I think my best plan of attack today is to re-focus on being calm and accepting of myself and my limitations. Yup, that all sounds nice, but I better get up and get bouncing along.

*To each new day's adventure,  
Shelby*

*Please send your  
omments or ideas to:  
shelbys.wanderings@yahoo.com  
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## IF YOU HAVE A LIVING TRUST, PLEASE READ THIS

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

Placing your assets into your living trust.

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

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

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

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

do the work to fund the trust is that clients do not re-title the assets.

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

Keep Your Living Trust Up to Date

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

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

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

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

*Lyn Streigel*



# PATUXENT RIVER NAVAL AIR STATION

# News

## Pax Sailor First Service Member to Receive Emergency Management Certification

A Sailor assigned to NAS Patuxent River became the first service member to be recognized as a Certified Navy Emergency Manager, Nov. 20.

Chief Damage Controlman Johnathan Zavatsky was presented with the certification on the Washington Navy Yard, after serving as an emergency management officer (EMO), completing personnel qualification standards (PQS), a series of online courses and the Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) Emergency Manager Course.

“This is another milestone in my career,” said Zavatsky. “I always shoot to do the best that I can and I think this is just a testament to that.”

Part of the reason no Sailor had received the certification prior, is because of the requirement that applicants serve in the EMO position for three years.

“By the time you do your three-year tour as an EMO, people are looking to transfer, but I’ve been a damage controlman for 16 years and worked in emergency management, so CNIC was willing to waive the additional year for me,” said Zavatsky.

Zavatsky arrived at Pax River two years ago and made an immediate impact on the way the installation approached emergency management.

“He came in and our program was broken,” said Patrick Paulsen, NAS Patuxent River emergency management officer. “Chief learned our program, learned how to operate it and became an expert. He’s worked through multiple hurricanes and real world events, in addition to being the go-to-NCO on the installation.”

“Chief Zavatsky accomplishing this is consistent with his performance as a non-commissioned officer,” said Paulsen. “I can’t say enough good about him. I retired after 26 years in the Army, working most of my career in Special Forces and he’s one of the top NCOs I’ve ever had the privilege of working with. He’s a phenomenal individual, leader and team player.”

Zavatsky recognizes the contributions of those



DCC John Zavatsky, assigned to Naval Air Station Patuxent River, qualified as a Navy Certified Emergency Manager, presented by Capt. Stephen D. Barnett, CNIC’s deputy commander-military, Naval District Washington.

around him as key factors in his accomplishment.

“It was a lot of hard work, but it wasn’t just about me. I always try to do the best that I can, but this was about the people who helped me get here. Pat Paulsen, Jeff Sanford, who is the region emergency manager for Naval District Washington and Stephen Henrick were

all a big part of this and a lot of the credit. I couldn’t have done it without them,” said Zavatsky.

*MC2 Jason Amadi  
Naval District Washington Public Affairs*

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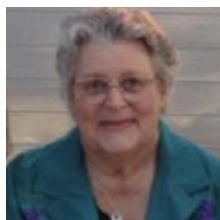
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The County Times runs complimentary obituaries as submitted by funeral homes and readers. We run them in the order we receive them. Any submissions that come to [guyleonard@countytimes.net](mailto:guyleonard@countytimes.net) after noon on Mondays may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

# In Remembrance

## Barbara Sharon Alton



Barbara Sharon Alton, 71, of Mechanicsville, MD passed away due to complications from surgery on December 5, 2019 at Medstar St. Mary's Hospital.

Barbara was born on August 22, 1948 in Burke, South Dakota to the late George and Marcelane (Forsch) Knittel.

As the oldest of five children, Barbara would assist her mother with the care of her siblings, housework and care of animals on their farm.

Later she left her farm life behind and moved to San Diego, CA. Barbara married Phillip Edward Keeney in 1967 and together they had four children.

Barbara later met and married William Paul Alton (Paul) on July 13, 1985. She loved preparing large elaborate dinner parties for friends and family. Many of which were holiday meals where, as a Navy wife she opened her home to military personnel during the holiday season when they could not spend it with their own families. Barbara was very proud to be a Navy wife, married to Paul, and assisting active duty military.

Barbara was very creative. Her creative interests included floral arranging, cross stitch, scrapbooking, cooking and baking. She also shared these interests with her dearest friend and soulmate, Tammy Allenberg, who preceded her in death.

Barbara enjoyed and loved her family very much.

Barbara is survived by her husband, William (Paul) Alton of Mechanicsville; her children, Renee Sammons (Paul) of Grand Junction, CO, Tammy Coulter (Pete) of Rappahannock Academy, VA, Diane Keeney of Deltona, FL, and Daniel Keeney of Fredericksburg, VA; and ten (10) grandchildren, Thomas Bethel, Ryan Baggs, William Baggs, Amity Morlang, Gillian Sammons, Christian Tanner, Zachary Tanner, Joshua Castro, Annabelle Castro, and Noah Castro; one (1) great-grandchild River Rey Elsburg. She is also survived by her siblings, Joyce Schwartzlow of Rockford, IL, Marlon Knittel of Rockford, IL, Gaylon Knittel of Jacksonville, FL. Barbara was preceded in death by her parents, and brother, Loren Knittel.

Interment will be private. The family will be holding a private Memorial Service.

In lieu of flowers or contributions please send donations to Hospice of St. Mary's County, Post Office Box 625, Leonardtown, MD.

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

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

## Timothy Patrick Pumphrey



Timothy Patrick "Timmy" Pumphrey, 61, of Mechanicsville, passed away peacefully on Thursday, December 5, 2019 at the University of Maryland Medical Center in

Baltimore.

Timmy was born on November 12, 1958 to the late Edward James Pumphrey, Jr. and Joan Patricia (O'Neill) Pumphrey.

As a young man he worked as a locksmith. He was an intelligent worker who excelled at any job he attempted. Although personal struggles kept him down, he overcame his demons and he would have been five (5) years sober this month. This accomplishment made his sister and brother very proud.

Timmy was a simple man. He enjoyed relaxing on his couch with a cup of coffee, watching television and movies. He watched so many movies, it was common for him to be able to recite word for word dialogue. He enjoyed reading his Bible and knew it well. He found pleasure in feeding the squirrels and birds around his house and he would make sure they got fed at any cost.

If you knew Timmy, you know he loved his family. A close-knit group, his brother and sister were his best friends. Family was very important to him; he cherished every moment spent together. He will be missed by his family, but they're taking solace in knowing he is in a glorious heaven reuniting with their beloved parents.

Timmy is survived by his sister, Suzanne Blocker (Ronald) of LaPlata, MD, brother, Edward Pumphrey (Karen) of Bowie, MD; and nieces and nephews, Kevin, Sean (Sophie), Ryan, Amanda, Brittany (Chris), Ronnie, and John (Bailey). He is also survived by numerous aunts, uncles and cousins. He was preceded in death by both of his parents.

The family will receive friends for Timmy's Life Celebration on Thursday, December 12, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Brinsfield Funeral Home & Crematory, 30195 Three Notch Road, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622. A funeral service will be held on Thursday, December 12, 2019 at 12:00 p.m. and officiated by Richard Pumphrey also held at Brinsfield Funeral Home, Charlotte Hall. Interment will be private.

Condolences can be made at [www.brinsfieldfuneral.com](http://www.brinsfieldfuneral.com)

Arrangements made at Brinsfield Funeral Home & Crematory, P.A., Charlotte Hall, MD.

## Mary Theresa Russell



Mary "Cook" Theresa Russell, 61, of Clements, MD, passed away on December 5, 2019, at MedStar St. Mary's Hospital in Leonardtown, MD with her loving

family at her side.

She was born January 21, 1958 in Leonardtown, MD to the late George and Teresa Cook.

Mary was a lifelong resident of St. Mary's County and a graduate of Chopticon High School. She was a dedicated employee at the Center for Life Enrichment for over 35 years as a caregiver until her retirement in September of 2019. She loved and cared for all of her clients and treated each as her own family.

In her younger years, Mary and her friends spent weekends having a good time on the Square in Leonardtown. She enjoyed playing pitch with her family on Saturdays. Her family was her greatest love and she especially enjoyed time spent with her grandchildren, Julia and Ethan. She was an

excellent cook and her culinary skills were the highlight of countless family gatherings. Her hobbies included playing bingo, relaxing in her front yard watching the birds in their feeders and collecting solar lights for the yard. Mary enjoyed vacationing at Myrtle Beach with her daughter, son-in-law and grandkids.

Mary is survived by her companion of 32 years, James Joy of Clements, MD; her daughter, Amber Marie Joy (Daniel) of Chaptico, MD; her siblings: Tommy Cook of Port Tobacco, MD, Bobby Cook of Welcome, MD, Margaret Goosetree of California, MD, Sandy Thomas (Larry) of Hollywood, MD, Wayne Cook (Jen) of California, MD, Ann Evans of Lexington Park, MD, Joe Cook (Julie) of Mechanicsville, MD, and Ray Cook (Mai) of Callaway, MD; her grandchildren, Julia and Ethan Coleman; and many extended family and friends. In addition to her parents she is also preceded in death by her brother, Joseph Cook.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Center for Life Enrichment, 25995 Point Lookout Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

## William Thomas Hanbury Sr.

William Thomas "Billy" Hanbury Sr, 81, Charlotte Hall, MD passed away peacefully on December 2, 2019.



William T. Hanbury, Sr., affectionately known as Billy, Uncle Bill, Daddy and Dad, was born in Washington, DC at the old Sibley Hospital in NW DC, he lived

in Charlotte Hall with his wife, Catherine of 51 years for the majority of his life. He called it "God's Country". He fell asleep into death on December 2, 2019 after a battle with cancer with most of his children lovingly by his side. He wouldn't have wanted it any other way.

Billy was the sixth (6th) child of Lewis F and Audrey G Hanbury. The family of boys were known as the Fighting Hanbury's, as the family was devoted to boxing, stock car racing and each other. Billy always looked up to his brothers and sister as his role models after having lost their father when he was ten (10) .... he lived his childhood surrounded by his brothers, a sister, their spouses and nieces and nephews as his parental figures and playmates all in one. These role models instilled in him the great characteristics of being industrious, hard-working, honest and family oriented. The love between he and his siblings was built on devotion to one another.

He had his first child at 23 and his last 3 years later. Parenthood was quite the challenge and required a LOT of adjustment over the years; he learned quite fast that patience



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is a virtue not all of us possess. Next to parenthood and being a devoted-husband he never found anything much more important than going to work to provide for his family. Even while having only a motorcycle to commute to work each day year-round, he never found it in him to take a break from work. Billy viewed working as an Operating Engineer out of Local 77 as working with big boys Tonka Toys. Always looking out for his family first, he suffered through many a cold commute rather than complain and take a new toy for himself. Billy did find great enjoyment in stock cars, camping and crabbing, eating crabs, showing hospitality, and whittling wood into ornate and intricate artisan pieces from ordinary household objects.

On March 29, 1969 he and Cathy dedicated their lives to serve Jehovah and symbolized this by water baptism as a Jehovah's Witness. Billy's faith helped him to become the man he always aspired to be. Billy continued in his progressive bible studies, and service to help others learn the good news for the entirety of his life, joyously so. One of Billy's greatest honors and enjoyment was in building Kingdom Halls around the area, and volunteering during disaster relief efforts.

He is survived by his youngest brother, Marty; his 5 children, William T. Hanbury, Victoria Hanbury, Diane Connick, Andrew Hanbury and Adam Hanbury; 7 grandchildren, and 5 and ½ great grandchildren. (go ask Mikey about the ½)

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

All arrangements being made at Brins-

field Funeral Home & Crematory, P.A., Charlotte Hall, MD.

### Lori June Papadakis



Lori June Papadakis (nee Lemke), aged 52, of Mechanicsville, MD, died December 2, 2019, at her home after a courageous battle with cancer.

Lori was born in Milwaukee, WI, on November 18, 1967, but spent her childhood in Wauwatosa, WI. At age 5, she became a believer in Jesus Christ, but it wasn't until she was 12 that she had a truly serious conversation with Him.

Growing up, if the lights were on at church, she was there. She was part of the church's acapella group, hand bells, youth group, puppets, and singing. She regularly attended church summer camp, first as a participant, and later as a counselor.

In high school, she travelled to Washington, D.C., as part of a choir group that sang in the Russell Rotunda in the U.S. Capitol as part of a competition. Her group won first prize. She graduated from Wauwatosa West High School in 1986.

In 1988, Lori joined the U.S. Navy and served four years. She worked on the Naval Reactors Program in Crystal City, VA, as a Yeoman Third Class. After the Navy, Lori worked the next 26 years at the Food and Drug Administration in both Washington,

D.C. and College Park, MD, as a program specialist and a contracts manager.

She met her beloved husband, Tony, at First Baptist Church in Alexandria, VA, and they were married there in 2007. They subsequently moved to Southern Maryland. During this time, Lori took up micro-farming and built an entire food production ecosystem in her back yard. She was also very interested in healthy living and nutrition.

Lori is survived by her husband; son, Vincent Pisciotta (Rylie); grandson, Gideon Pisciotta; stepchildren, Alexandra Papadakis, Nicholas Papadakis, and Alyssa Papadakis; sisters Lynda Haasch (Donny) and Lisa Szibel (Dave); and her sister-in-law, Christine Trent (Jonathan). She also leaves behind a cherished German Shepherd, Hulda, as well as a cat, sundry fish, and eleven ducks.

In lieu of flowers, Lori wished for a small donation to be made to either CareNet of Southern Maryland, P.O. Box 31, Lexington Park, MD 20653 or to Grace Chapel Ministries, 39245 Chaptico Road, Helen, MD 20635.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

### Patricia Ann Swann

Patricia "Patty" Ann Swann, 65 of Lexington Park, MD passed away on December 1, 2019 at Sagepoint Senior Living Center.

Patty was born on October 30, 1954 in La Plata, MD to the late Charles Bowen Swann



and Nancy Patricia (Gardiner) Swann.

Patty was a lifelong resident of Charles and St. Mary's Counties. She grew up in Waldorf where she was a member of

St. Peter's Catholic Church. She was a hard working woman who held a number of jobs over the years starting at her father's Mobil Gas Station in Waldorf, MD. She tended bar at the Desert Inn in Waldorf and the Brass Rail in Great Mills. She then went on to work at several local convenience stores including 7-11, Quick Shop and Sheetz. She was an excellent pool shooter and played on leagues for the Desert Inn and Brass Rail. She was a lifelong Washington Redskins fan and enjoyed her favorite NASCAR driver - Chase Elliott. She will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

Patty is survived by her brother, Freddie Swann (Kim), of Leonardtown, MD; niece, Angie Insley (Chris), of Hollywood, MD; nephew, Chris Swann (Jenn), of Leonardtown, MD; great nieces, Fiona and Avery Insley and great nephew, Caden Insley. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her brothers, Smiley Charles Bowen and Francis "Frankie" William Swann.

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

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

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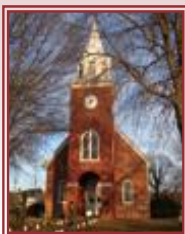
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Home, P.A., Leonardtown, MD.

### Sonja Joan Veneziani



Sonja Joan Veneziani, 74, of Charlotte Hall, MD passed away peacefully at the farm she was raised on December 2, 2019.

Sonja was born on September 6, 1945 in Mechanicsville, MD to the late Otto Stasch and Mary Christine (Williams) Stasch.

Sonja met her best friend and future husband, Daniel P. Veneziani when he came along to fix their telephone wires while she worked at the farm. Lucky for them, the telephone kept breaking and Daniel was able to admire the love of his life, until he knew he couldn't live without her. They celebrated over fifty-three (53) of marital bliss and welcomed two sons, John and Gregory.

She was adored and loved by her family. Sonja spent her younger years working on her family farm in the tobacco fields. Although she loved the farm life and being outside, she was happy to leave the fields behind. She was a wonderful cook who was always available to throw together a family dinner. She was a dutiful wife, mother, and sister.

Sonja was a country girl at heart and animal lover by choice. She never met an animal she couldn't tame. Throughout her life she had many loved and cherished pets. Her family knows she is reunited in heaven with all of her beloved animals. To know Sonja was to know a kind, loving soul. She will be missed and memories of her inherent joy will last a lifetime for her family.

Sonja is survived by her husband, Daniel P. Veneziani; two sons, John Veneziani (Courtney) of Charlotte Hall and Gregory D. Veneziani (Hope) of Mechanicsville and one brother, Robert "Bobby" Stasch of Mechanicsville, MD. She was preceded in death by her parents and younger brother Stevie.

In lieu of flowers it is asked that donations be made to Hospice of St. Mary's, Post Office Box 625, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

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

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

### Henry Lewis Lee



Henry Lewis "Billy" Lee, 88, of Lexington Park, Maryland passed away on December 4, 2019 at MedStar St. Mary's Hospital in Leonardtown, Maryland. He was

the loving son of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Robert and Gertrude Moore Lee of Compton, Maryland. Billy and his young siblings were raised by their Uncle Richley and Aunt Marguerite Moore Delahay who operated Delahay's Marine Railway and Boat Yard at the mouth of Breton Bay. His Grandfather Henry Wehrheim (for whom he was named) and his mother Gertrude Moore Lee were known for serving as Compton Post Office postmasters. Following in their footsteps

Billy Lee made his career in the U.S. Post Office working for many years in the Leonardtown Post Office as a Master Postmaster. He proudly served in the Army National Guard where he spent a short tour in Germany. He worked and retired from Public Works on Patuxent Naval Air Station. Then following his career on Patuxent Naval Air Station, Billy worked many more years as a general contractor.

Billy was a lifelong St. Mary's County resident, attending elementary school at Our Lady's in Medley's Neck and graduating from St. Mary's Academy High School. He especially enjoyed the waterways in the County and having coffee with his friends. As a devout Catholic, he volunteered with fellow parishioners and traveled to Grotto of Our Lady of Fatima.

He was preceded in death by his sisters; Margaret "Margie" Taylor Goddard, Virginia Taylor Morgan, Hilda "Boots" Lee Bailey; and brothers: Alvin Earl Taylor, John Robert "Bobby" Lee, James Kenneth Delahay, and Ronald "Ronnie" Clement Delahay. He leaves behind many friends and family to mourn his passing.

In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church 22375 Three Notch Road Lexington Park, MD 20653.

### James LeAnder Miles, Jr.



James LeAnder Miles, Jr. affectionately known by all as "Midget" transitioned to heaven peacefully on Monday, December 2, 2019 at Chesapeake Shores Nursing and

Rehabilitation Center. Born on January 12, 1937 in Chaptico, Maryland, James was the loving son of the late James LeAnder Miles, Sr. and Nellie Ellen Curtis Miles.

James was raised into the Catholic faith and humbly received his sacraments at an early age in Chaptico, Maryland. Throughout his life, James faithfully continued to attend Mass at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church in Morganza, MD St. Aloysius Roman Catholic Church in Leonardtown. James was a lifelong resident of St. Mary's County and completed the necessary education requirements by attending a one room schoolhouse in Loveville, Maryland. After graduation, James worked for Garner Construction and Gatton Construction for many years until his retirement in July 1999. James enjoyed hanging out in Leonardtown, reading the newspaper, taking care of his beloved cats, and watching football and baseball games with family. Although James did not have children of his own, he loved and was very fond of his many nieces and nephews.

James leaves to cherish in his memory four siblings, Charles H. Miles of Clayton, NC; John L. Miles of Morganza, MD; Laura E. Frederick of Great Mills, MD; and Mary A. Evans of Leonardtown, MD; one aunt, Artina Miles of Mechanicsville, MD; two brothers-in-law, Harry Mason of Hollywood, MD and Robert Warren of Upper Marlboro, MD; two godchildren, Carl Gordon and Ellen Edmondson, and a host of nieces and nephews, relatives, and friends who he loved most dearly. James was predeceased by his parents, James and Nel-

lie Miles, siblings, Paul R. Curtis, Eliza C. Mason, Nellie C. Warren, and Nancy Ann T. Fantroy, sister-in-law, Gertrude Curtis, Patricia Miles, and Thyris Miles.

Our family will unite with friends on Thursday, December 12, 2019 for visitation at 9:00 AM until Mass of Christian Burial at 10:00 AM at St. Aloysius Roman Catholic Church, 22800 Washington Street, Leonardtown, MD 20650 with Father David Beaubien officiating. Interment will follow at Charles Memorial Gardens, 26325 Point Lookout Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650. Pallbearers will be Joseph Johnson, Jr., Harry Frederick, Kaheel Stone and Justin King. Honorary pallbearers will be Harry Mason and Carl Gordon.

### Donna Marie Emerson



Donna Marie (Lawrence) Emerson, 69, of Hollywood, MD passed away on December 2, 2019 at her residence. She was born on November 5, 1950 in Leonard-

town, MD and was the loving daughter of the late Bernard Ralph Lawrence, Sr. and Doris Jean Lawrence. Donna is survived by her daughter, Veronica Johnson (Wade) of Hollywood, MD grandchildren Olivia Higgs, Rebecca Johnson, Jarrett Higgs, and Nathan Johnson; siblings, Bernice Ryce (Kenny) of Hollywood, MD, Marietta Peake (Kenny) of Churchton, MD, James Lawrence (Lisa) of Hollywood, MD, Cathy Buckler (James) of Mechanicsville, MD and sister in law Kim Lawrence of Mechanicsville, MD. She was preceded in death by her brother Ralph Lawrence of Mechanicsville, MD.

Donna was a life-long resident of St. Mary's County, MD. She graduated from Chopticon High School in 1968 and worked for the U.S. Navy for 34 years as a Budget Analyst. She absolutely adored her grandchildren. She enjoyed attending their academic and sporting events over the years. She loved playing bingo and traveling.

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

### Florence Margaret Kessler



Florence Margaret Kessler "Peggy", 85, of Lexington Park, MD formerly from Collingdale, PA passed away on November 29, 2019 at her home surrounded

by her family. She was born May 23, 1934 in Philadelphia, PA and was the loving daughter of the late Florence Marian Batty Phillips and George Fox Phillips.

Peggy was the loving wife of Leonard El-

wood Kessler, whom she married on November 24, 1956 in the Church of the Nazarene in Collingdale, PA. They recently celebrated their 63rd anniversary.

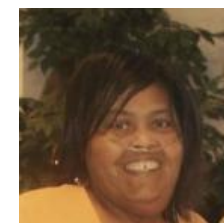
Peggy is survived by her children, Susan Kessler-Fleury of Lexington Park, MD, Barbara Smith (Nelson) of Lexington Park, MD, Dianna Nueslein (Rick) of Hollywood, MD, Michael Kessler (Bonnie) of Lexington Park, MD, Joyce Kessler of Lexington Park, MD, Annette Wimmer (David) of Springfield, VA, Karen Stanley (Michael) of Lexington Park, MD, Jay Kessler (Ann) of Lexington Park, MD, daughter-in-law Renee Kessler of Evans, GA, 21 grandchildren, 21 great grandchildren, siblings Russell Phillips, Pierce Phillips, and Paul Phillips. She was preceded in death by her son Stephen Kessler, siblings baby Marian Phillips, baby David Phillips, Donald Phillips, Richard Phillips, and Edward Phillips.

Peggy was a 1952 graduate of Collingdale High school and attended Eastern Nazarene College. She moved from Collingdale, PA with her family to permanently reside in St. Mary's County, MD in 1966 where she was a homemaker as well a business owner. She worked at Kessler Body & Equipment Company and Ye Olde Ice Cream Parlour & Restaurant until retiring in 2004.

Peggy was the St. Mary's County representative of The Salvation Army, ringing the bell at the red kettle and wrapping/delivering gifts to under-privileged families on Christmas Eve. In addition, she volunteered with The Republican Women of St. Mary's traveling to the White House every Monday to work in the Correspondence Office. She was also active with The Soroptimist Club of St. Mary's and the Women's Ministries of the Nazarene Church.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in Peggy's memory to the Ridge Volunteer Rescue Squad (16515 Three Notch Rd, Ridge, MD 20680), The Leonardtown Church of the Nazarene (22730 Washington St, Leonardtown, MD 20650), or the Hollywood Church of the Nazarene (24710 Sotterley Rd, Hollywood, MD 20636).

### Agnes Contadina Plater



Agnes Contadina Plater, 52 of Leonardtown, MD, entered into eternal rest on November 30, 2019. Family and friends will unite on Friday, December 13,

2019 for visitation at 11 am until Mass of Christian Burial at 12 noon at St. Aloysius Catholic Church, 22800 Washington Street, Leonardtown, MD. Interment to follow at Charles Memorial Gardens, Leonardtown, MD. Arrangements by Briscoe-Tonic Funeral Home.

REMEMBRANCES  
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# Community Calendar

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

## Thursday, Dec. 12, 2019

### Queen of Hearts LVRSA Fundraiser

*Fitzies Marina and Pub Restaurant  
Joe Hazel Road  
Leonardtown  
4p.m. to 7p.m.*

Please join us to take a chance to pick a card and find the Queen of Hearts to win the jackpot. Each Thursday there is the opportunity to take a chance to win until the Queen is found, with the jackpot rolling over each week. Tickets are sold from 4pm-6:45, with the drawing at 7pm.

## Friday, Dec. 13, 2019

### Park Place Toastmasters Club Meeting

*Church of Ascension  
21641 Great Mills Road  
Lexington Park  
Noon to 1p.m.*

Come visit us to find out how we can help you develop your speaking, listening, and leadership skills in a non-threatening environment!

### Spaghetti Dinner

*Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department  
28165 Hills Club Road  
Mechanicsville  
5p.m. to 7p.m.*

This event will be dine-in or carry out. Dinner will be \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for ages 6 to 10 and under 5 are free. The menu consists of Spaghetti, Salad & Garlic Bread (no meat and gluten free options are available upon request). We do accept VISA, MasterCard and Discover. All proceeds benefit the Mechanicsville Vol. Fire Dept.

### Baked Chicken Dinner

*American Legion Post 238 ALA  
6265 Brandywine Rd  
Hughesville  
5:30p.m. to 7:30p.m.*

American Legion Post 238 American Legion Auxiliary presents baked Chicken Dinner with sides and dessert. Price \$12. For more info call 301-274-3522 or check us out on the Web [www.alpost238.org](http://www.alpost238.org) or Facebook

### 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](http://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.

## Saturday, Dec. 14, 2019

### Annual Breakfast with Santa at the Forrest Center

*Dr. James A. Forrest Career and Technology Center  
24005 Point Lookout Road  
Leonardtown  
8a.m. to 11a.m.*

Santa will make his grand entrance at 8:30 a.m. Enjoy a delicious breakfast prepared by the Forrest Center's Culinary Arts students. Admission to this event, which includes breakfast, is \$10 for adults, \$5 for students and free for children 3 and younger. An omelet bar is available for an additional \$2.00. Proceeds will benefit the Forrest Center's SkillsUSA chapter and student programs.

### Fruit/Nut/Cheese Sale

*St. John's School  
43900 St Johns Rd  
Hollywood  
8a.m. to 5p.m.*

We have a selection of oranges, grapefruit, cheese, and pecans for sale. To order or to obtain additional details, please visit [www.sjhollywood.org](http://www.sjhollywood.org). Pickup is December 14-15. Please address questions to Mike Thompson at [mikeandbarbarat@gmail.com](mailto:mikeandbarbarat@gmail.com) or 301-373-8545.

### Evergreen Workshop

*Historic St. Mary's City  
47414 Old State House Road  
St. Mary's City  
10a.m. to Noon*

Meet at The Shop at Farthing's Ordinary. Design a holiday centerpiece that is uniquely yours, using a variety of fresh evergreens. Light refreshments and materials will be provided. Bring your own hand clippers, if you have them. Appropriate for ages 12 and older. \$40 per person (\$30 Friends members). To register, contact the museum visitor center at (240) 895-4990.

### 9th Annual Christmas Gospel Concert Benefit Homeless Shelter

*Bay District Volunteer Fire Department  
46900 South Shangri-La Drive  
Lexington Park  
4:30p.m. to 8p.m.*

The New Briscoe Brothers Gospel Group is sponsoring a Christmas Gospel Concert to Benefit "The Missions" Homeless shelter. Admission \$12 at the door. We will have door prizes and delicious dinners on sale to include our crab cakes. Admission will be reduced if you bring needed items, such as socks (white), hats, gloves, gently used coats, canned goods, hand can openers, powdered milk and toiletries. Contact Oscar Briscoe 240-210-5590 or David Briscoe 240-925-2507 for further information.

### The Story of Christmas

*First Missionary Baptist Church  
46370 Pegg Lane  
Lexington Park  
5p.m. to 7p.m.*

For additional information please contact First Missionary Baptist Church at 301-863-8388, we are located at 46370 Pegg Lane, Lexington Park, MD 20653.

### Contra Dance

*Christ Church Parish Hall  
37497 Zach Fowler Road  
Chaptico  
7p.m. to 10p.m.*

The Southern MD Open Band will be playing live acoustic string music and caller Jason Little will teach and call the dances. The beginners dance workshop (no partner required) starts at 7pm, and the dance begins at 7:30pm. Admission is \$10 for non-SMTMD members; \$6 for SMTMD members (band members and children under 17 are free). There will be an ice cream social during the intermission. Please bring a water bottle to the dance. Go to [www.smtmd.org](http://www.smtmd.org) for directions and more information.

**Do you have something to add  
to our Community Calendar?**

**Email your event to  
[timescalendar@countytimes.net](mailto:timescalendar@countytimes.net)**

## Sunday, Dec. 15, 2019

### Breakfast with Santa at the Hollywood Rescue Squad

*Hollywood Volunteer Rescue Squad  
43256 Rescue Lane  
Hollywood  
8a.m. to noon*

Breakfast includes scrambled eggs, fried potatoes, bacon, sausage, pancakes, gravy and biscuits, cinnamon apples, assorted juices and coffee. All you can eat for \$12.00, \$6.00 for ages 6-12 and 5 and under are free! Come and get your picture taken with Santa.

### Breakfast with Santa-Our Lady of the Wayside

*Our Lady of the Wayside's Loretto Hall  
37575 Chaptico Rd.  
8a.m. to 11a.m.*

Menu includes scrambled eggs, French toast, pancakes, sausage, bacon, coffee and juice. Prices-Adults-\$10 Children 6-12 \$6 and children 5 and under are free. Feel free to take pictures of your children with Santa. For more information contact Brenda Russell at [rsbrsll@aol.com](mailto:rsbrsll@aol.com) or at 301-247-1871,

### Santa Bingo

*Mother Catherine Academy  
38833 Chaptico Road  
Mechanicsville  
Noon to 2p.m.*

Doors open at Noon bingo starts at p.m.. The cost is \$5.00 for children to play bingo. We will be selling pizza, hot dogs, snacks and drinks. If you have any questions, please call the school 301-884-3165

### Living Nativity & Christmas Concert

*Leonardtown Baptist Church  
23520 Hollywood Rd.  
Leonardtown  
5p.m. to 9p.m.*

The Living Nativity will begin at 5 PM and run until 6 PM. Then everyone is invited inside for a Christmas Concert at 6:30 PM. The Living Nativity will reopen following the Concert at 8 PM. All are invited and this is a free event.

## Monday, Dec. 16, 2019

### Help with Mike's Food Fund

*Zion Methodist Church  
21291 Three Notch Road  
Lexington Park  
5p.m. to 7p.m.*

Volunteers are needed by Mike's Food Fund to help package and deliver holiday turkey dinners (a frozen turkey, bag of potatoes and canned veggies) to local families in need. We have over 2,500 families in need this year, so any and all help is appreciated. We need volunteers to deliver dinners to addresses all over the county and help to package up and load the dinners for the drivers. Help is needed night or when the turkeys run out. Great opportunity for families and those students needing volunteer hours.

### St. Mary's County Genealogical Society Potluck

*University System of Md at So MD  
44219 Airport Rd  
California  
Bldg 2, Rm 135  
7p.m. to 9p.m.*

Bring a dish to share and either a vintage or ethnic family related ornament to show. There is an optional cutthroat Chinese gift exchange - bring a gift valued at \$15 or less. A fun, relaxing evening. Always open to the public! For more information contact April Havens at [genelib18@outlook.com](mailto:genelib18@outlook.com)

## 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](http://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

### Enhance Fitness Free during the month of December

Enhance Fitness is an evidence-based group exercise and falls prevention program that helps older adults at all levels of fitness become more active, energized, and empowered to sustain independent lives. Through a generous grant, this class is available at all St. Mary's County Senior Activity Centers at no cost during the month of December. It meets at the Loffler Senior Activity Center on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Class is at 2 p.m. on Mondays and Fridays; 1 p.m. on Wednesdays. If you haven't tried this fun class yet, now is the time to try it for free. Call 301-475-4200, ext. 71658 for more information.

### Charles County Show Troupe Holiday Luncheon

The Northern Senior Activity Center is proud to sponsor the Charles County Show Troupe for their holiday performance of "Christmas Love" on Wednesday, Dec. 18, from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. This variety show will feature, singing, dancing, comedy, and more. The performance will be followed by lunch and door prizes. The menu for this event is stuffed shells with tomato sauce, garlic bread, seasoned spinach, and dessert. Suggested donation for a ticket is \$5 for this event. To sign up and pay in advance, please visit the front desk. For more information regarding this event, please call 301-475-4200, ext. 73103.

### Drama Speaks Lunchtime Theater

"Perplexing Polar Problems": Santa is not always his jolly self. Problems occur in his Polar

Kingdom and they are very perplexing. Without warning, Santa finds himself facing labor and production problems, especially concerning his elves. Join us at the Garvey Senior Activity Center on Wednesday, Dec. 18, at 12 p.m. and learn about the somewhat unusual solution to

Santa's problems in this delightful show. It will brighten your holidays! The lunch that day will be stuffed shells w/tomato sauce, seasoned spinach, garlic bread, pears, pineapple chunks, bread pudding w/vanilla sauce. Cost for lunch is by donation for those ages 60 and above and \$6 for those under the age of 60. To make reservations, call 301-475-4200, ext. 71050.

### Holiday Wreath Centerpiece

Dazzle your friends and family at your upcoming holiday events by making your own holiday wreath centerpiece with fresh evergreens and flowers! Learn to use a fresh floral foam wreath form to create your own custom piece complete with accent candle in glass votive to add that warm and cozy glow. Class will be at the Northern Senior Activity Center on Thursday, Dec. 19, from 10-11:30 a.m. The cost is \$25 and includes all materials and instruction. Space is limited. To sign up with payment in advance, please visit the front desk. For availability call 301-475-4200, ext. 73103.

### Diabetes Self-Management Program

Living with diabetes is a full-time job. The Diabetes Self-Management classes gives attendees tools need to take control of their disease. Topics covered include nutrition, stress management, medication management and many more! This class will be held at the Garvey Senior Activity Center on Mondays at 1:30 p.m., Jan. 6-Feb. 24. Space in the class is limited. Register by calling 301-475-4200, ext. 71050. There is no fee to attend; however, attendance at all six sessions is highly recommended.

### Educational Video Series

In January, the EVS (Educational Video Series) at the Loffler Senior Activity Center will present a Hallmark Hall of Fame movie that is based on a true story: Front

of the Class tells the story of Brad, who, as a young child, started making funny noises - all the time. Only he and his supportive mother realized that he could not control it. He was teased, misunderstood, and punished for disrupting class. By the time he was diagnosed with Tourette Syndrome, Brad had learned to hate school. When an understanding school principal offered encouragement, he decided to become a teacher. Now he has to find a school where someone with Tourettes can teach in front of a class. After 24 schools turn him down, he discovers one that will finally give him a chance. This movie will be shown on Wednesday, Jan. 8, at 10 a.m. (Free- 97 minutes) Register to see this movie by calling 301-475-4200, ext. 71658, or stop by the reception desk to sign up. (Seating is limited to 16.)

### Luncheon with Phil McKenney

Back by popular demand! Phil McKenney will be at the Garvey Senior Activity Center on Wednesday, Jan. 15, at 12 p.m. for another great interactive music program. By the late 1950's the Wild Men who had created Rock-n-Roll just a few years earlier had been pretty much wiped out either by their own excesses, by the powers that be who hated them or by fate. A new group of clean-cut pop singers took over. They wore suits, skinny neckties, were non-threatening and controlled the record charts for the next several years. They were the Teen Idols, the second wave of rockers and this is their story! The menu for the day will be baked ham, green beans, tossed salad, WW dinner roll and a fruit cup. Cost for lunch is by donation for those ages 60 and above and \$6 for those under the age of 60. To make reservations, call 301-475-4200, ext. 71050.

# ST. MARY'S COUNTY Library

### Library Holiday Hours

All three locations of the St. Mary's County Library will be closed on Tuesday, December 24 and Wednesday, December 25 in observance of Christmas. All three Library locations will be open for regular business hours on Thursday, December 26.

All three locations of the St. Mary's County Library will close early at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, December 31 and will remain closed on Wednesday, January 1 in observance of New Year's Day. All three Library locations will be open for regular business hours on Thursday, January 2.

### Happy Noon Year!

All three locations of the St. Mary's County Library (Lexington Park, Leonardtown and Charlotte Hall) will hold Happy Noon Year! On Tuesday, December 31 from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. All the fun of a new year's party for our young friends with early bed times! Ring in a happy NOON year with songs, crafts, and activities, and an exciting countdown. Recommended for ages Preschool through lower

elementary.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.



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# Winter?

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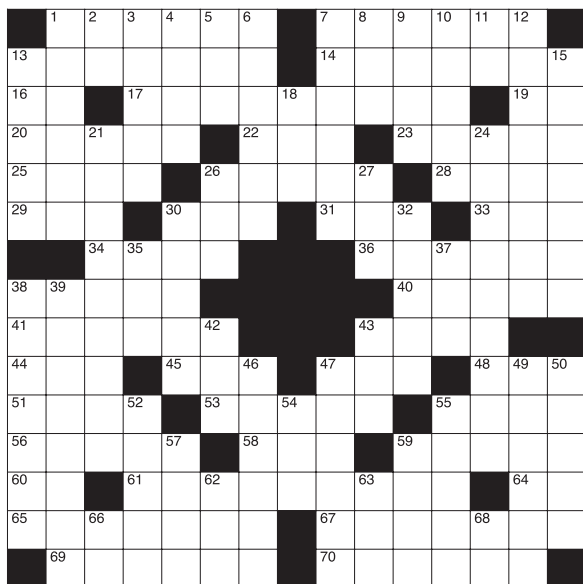
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# Fun & GAMES



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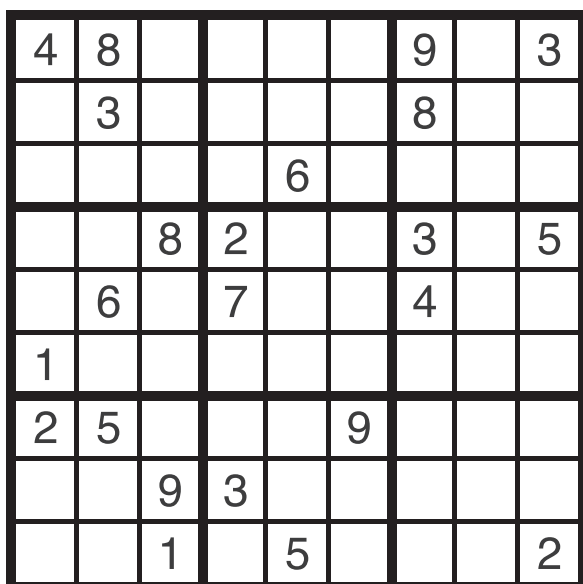
- 1. Rope used as a lasso
- 7. Lomb's partner
- 13. North African nation
- 14. Rounds up cattle
- 16. Densest naturally occurring element
- 17. Home of the Brewers
- 19. Atomic #44
- 20. Vetches
- 22. Moved earth with a tool
- 23. Cavalry sword
- 25. Supplements with difficulty
- 26. Encouraged
- 28. Speech defect

- 29. Periodical (abbr.)
- 30. Very cold
- 31. \_\_\_ Paulo, city
- 33. Former OSS
- 34. Approves food
- 36. Cars need them
- 38. Sweden's dominant phone company
- 40. Long lock of a woman's hair
- 41. North American natives
- 43. Fly high
- 44. One type is fire
- 45. Nocturnal bird
- 47. More than one male
- 48. LOTR actor McKellen
- 51. Employee stock

- ownership plan
- 53. Tony-winning actress Daisy
- 55. Tennis star Kournikova
- 56. Pulitzer-winning composer
- 58. The opposite to pro
- 59. Safecrackers
- 60. Denotes past
- 61. Parrots
- 64. One quintillion bytes (abbr.)
- 65. Reduce the importance of
- 67. Stiffly
- 69. In a sensible way
- 70. Signs

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Capital of Zambia
- 2. Article
- 3. Country star LeAnn
- 4. Egyptian goddess
- 5. Afflict in mind or body
- 6. Showy but cheap
- 7. Belgian urban center
- 8. Short-winged diving seabird
- 9. Deploys
- 10. Ballplayers can legally do it
- 11. Centiliter
- 12. Contrary beliefs
- 13. Type of pole
- 15. Distinguish oneself
- 18. 8th month of the year (abbr.)
- 21. One who monitors
- 24. Petty quarreling
- 26. Fiddler crabs
- 27. Touch lightly
- 30. American state
- 32. Pro wrestler Randy
- 35. Indicates spelling mistake
- 37. Macaws
- 38. Gradually narrowed
- 39. Installments
- 42. Female sheep
- 43. Politician
- 46. Servant
- 47. Said to facilitate concentration
- 49. California ballplayers
- 50. Once Toledo's tallest building
- 52. A type of pie
- 54. State of southwestern India
- 55. Principal member of Norse religion
- 57. Counterspy
- 59. Wellness practice
- 62. \_\_\_-de-sac: dead end street
- 63. Used to cook
- 66. Type of hospital
- 68. Direct message



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## Letters TO THE Editor

### Thanks to Local Businesses To the Editor

Each year, the National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) St. Mary's County Chapter 0969 solicit donations for St. Mary's County Hospice and the Alzheimer's Foundation. We, the Chapter members would like to express our appreciation to the managers of the following stores: McKay's Hollywood, Charlotte Hall and Leonardtown; Ace Hardware - Leonardtown and Charlotte Hall; Chaptico Market; Tractor Supply - California; Dollar General - Ridge; True Value Hardware - Ridge and Walmart. In addition to the collections, NARFE Chapter member, Sherry Quade donated a handmade quilt with the Alzheimer's Purple and the Hospice Blue colors. The quilt was raffled off at our October meeting.

This year, NARFE Chapter 0969 collected \$16,000. The Chapter has made the following donations: \$8,000 to Hospice of St. Mary's, \$4,000 to Alzheimer's Research, \$2,000 to the St. Mary's Nursing and Rehabilitation (Alzheimer's Unit) and \$2,000 to the Charlotte Hall Veteran's Home (Memory Care Unit).

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts to the businesses and the NARFE 0969 Chapter members.

*Judith Loftin, Chair  
Ann Tippett, Co-chair  
Hospice and Alzheimer's Committee  
NARFE Chapter 0969*

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



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