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ON THE COVER

14 2019 was a busy and tumultuous year for St. Mary's



LOCAL

An independent water quality report says tap water here could be more pure



COMMUNITY

College fair coming soon at University System of Marvland campus.

EDUCATION

St. Mary's County Schools offer after school mentoring.

"[PROPERTY RIGHTS] SHOULDN'T CONTINUE TO BE TAKEN BY BIG GOVERNMENT."

WEEKLY FORECAST

Thu 1/2 Fri 1/3 Sat 1/4 Sun 1/5 50° | 41°F 45° | 32°F 54° | 33°F Mostly Cloudy Rain Partly Cloudy Mostly Sunny Mon 1/6 Tue 1/7 Wed 1/8 Thu 1/9 47° | 32°F 44° | 33°F 46° | 30°F 43° I 33°F











Mostly Sunny

Partly Cloudy

Rain/Snow Showers

Mostly Sunny



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State Police Seek Chancellors Run Shooting Suspect

By Guy Leonard Staff Writer

State police investigators have released a surveillance camera image of the person they suspect of shooting another man during a confrontation at the Sheetz convenience store at the intersection of Chancellors Run Road and Three Notch Road Dec. 27.

The suspect is identified as an African American male. He reportedly fled the scene in an SUV with Virginia plates, according to state police.

The victim is identified as Ea'sen Lee Mackall, 18, a county resident.

He was transported by ambulance to Medstar St. Mary's Hospital for treatment of injuries sustained during the incident.

The preliminary investigation indicates an altercation between the suspect and the victim, later identified as Mackall, occurred outside of



Suspect from the shooting at the California Sheetz Dec. 27.

the convenience store around noon; Mackall was shot in the hand.

The suspect immediately fled the scene

An eyewitness to the incident said they saw the suspect and the victim walking

out of the store close to each other; they immediately began to fight upon exiting the

During the altercation the victim was pulled out of his coat and lost a shoe; the alleged shooter produced a gun and fired at least two shots, the eyewitness said.

The eyewitness said after being shot, Mackall walked across Chancellors Run Road to the Hickory Hills Shopping Center parking lot and then came back to the convenience store to retrieve his coat, shoe and items he had purchased while at the store.

State police are still searching for the suspect; anyone with information regarding the suspect or the shooting are asked to call the Maryland State Police Barrack in Leonardtown at 301-475-8955.

guyleonard@countytimes.net



Photo by Ceandra Scott



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Bailey Plans to Address Oyster Leases in General Assembly

By Guy Leonard Staff Writer

Last year Sen. Jack Bailey (R-Dist.29) filed legislation that would have restored riparian rights and the right of first refusal by property owners on the waterfront dealing with proposed aquaculture oyster leases.

It failed.

But Bailey is trying to gather support amongst the delegation to deal with the proliferation of oyster leases allowed by the state within 50 feet of the shoreline of property owners.

A proposed oyster lease in Golden Beach has raised the ire of residents there, Bailey told The County Times, as it would affect some 1,200 homes.

A Dec. 12 meeting between residents and state officials over the oyster lease had many come out in opposition to it, he said.

Bailey said he is working to find some sort of solution to the problem.

"We got little to no traction last year," Bailey said. "I filed it to deal with the public outrage from legislation that was passed back in 2009."

Bailey, who worked as a Natural Resources Police Officer for 30 years and is recognized for his knowledge of the fishery, said the state passed a law 10 years ago which basically eliminated many of the rights of shoreline property owners; this led to the proliferation of

aquaculture leases approved by the state as those same property owners could no longer refuse them as long as they were at least 50 feet from the shoreline.

The shoreline property owners were left without any recourse to effectively oppose oyster leases, which many have regarded as encroachments on traditional recreational venues.

Moreover, their property was taxed at a much higher rate, sometimes four times as much, as an inland property owner for the same amount of acreage, Bailey said.

"Prior to 2009 landowners always had the ability to lease the shoreline for oysters," said Bailey. "In 2009 the property owners... were all of a sudden told you no longer have riparian rights which were under the law.'

While the state has proliferated the number of offshore oyster leases in recent years, most new leases are in St. Mary's County, in front of privately owned shoreline it will not allow oyster leases in front of state-owned land.

The reason, Bailey explained, was that the use of water for recreation would be impeded for those visiting state parks or waterfront. "We're going to try to find a way to resolve some of these problems," Bailey said. "It [property rights] shouldn't continue to be taken by big government."

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Bus Driver Shortage Cancels STS Route

By Guy Leonard Staff Writer

The county's Department of Public Works and Transportation started an extra STS Bus route for the California, Great Mills and Lexington Park area during the summer, but recently announced Route 8 would be shut down at least until early this year.

Mary Ann Blankenship, manager of the STS bus system, told The County Times the new route was designed to "offer an increased frequency of service" in an area that was already served by Route 1.

"We have a shortage of drivers, that's the bottom line," said public works chief John Deatrick. "We are recruiting; we're not leaving anyone without a bus route who had a bus route."

Blankenship said Route 8 was to enhance Route 1 by allowing riders more opportunities to use the STS bus for commuting, going shopping and going to appointments.

Deatrick said a number of factors caused the shortage of bus drivers, either retirements, their moving on to other jobs or disability.

The initial drive to get new drivers to keep the supplemental route going wasnot successful.



"We weren't getting good applications," Deatrick said.

Jacqueline Fornier, transportation division manager, said the county was opening the hiring process for the STS system.

"We need CDL drivers, but we are taking non-CDL drivers," Fournier said.

The county provides CDL training and requires its drivers to earn their CDL qualifications within six months to continue employment.

The county will also pay for the Department of Transportation (DOT) physical examination required for all bus drivers, Deatrick said.

The county requires two bus drivers to reestablish Route 8 but wants to hire six to ensure availability of drivers.

'We're also trying to reduce overtime [costs]," Deatrick said.

Resident Suing Senior Living Home

By Guy Leonard Staff Writer

A resident at the Cedar Lane Senior Living Community in Leonardtown is suing the owners of the facility for negligence, alleging that they failed to take precautions to stop what court filings refer to as a "dog attack" that caused her to fall and sustain serious injury.

Florence Ballengee, the plaintiff, is elderly; she is also a former employee of the county State's Attorney's Office under Walter Dorsey and was a key organizer of the first Project Graduation event.

Ballengee claims in her civil lawsuit, filed in November in St. Mary's County Circuit Court, that a dog owned by two people living at the facility, the daughter of a deceased tenant as well as the daughter's boyfriend, had let their Labrador Retriever run loose without a leash on many occasions in the property's common areas.

On June 9, Ballengee stated in her suit, she was leaving her apartment in the facility to walk her own dog when the retriever ran in her direction.

"The dog approached [Ballengee] in such a manner as to startle her, cause her to lose her balance and fall to the ground," the suit claims. "Cedar Lane knew, or should have known, that [the

daughter and boyfriend] and their dog were living there for an extended period" although not as named tenants on the lease of Joyce Brown.

Joyce Brown was the deceased tenant named in the lawsuit.

The lawsuit goes on to claim that the dog named in court filings was frequently allowed to roam "at large unrestrained by a leash in the common areas, creating a dangerous condition for tenants and their guests."

Ballengee's suit does not name an exact monetary figure in seeking damages from Cedar Lane, only that she seeks an amount greater than \$75,000.

The plaintiff claims she suffered physical and mental distress as well as expensive medical bills as a result of the incident; the injury stated in the suit is permanently injured left hip.

In a response to the suit, lawyers for Cedar Lane deny their clients had any liability and requested a civil trial.

"They claim the "alleged losses and/ or damages were ... caused by the acts and conduct of other parties which intervened between the defendant's alleged act, if any, and the plaintiff's alleged damages, thereby barring the plaintiff from any recovery from the defendant," the response states.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Pier at Piney Point Lighthouse Museum Has Reopened



Piney Point Lighthouse

The pier at the Piney Point Lighthouse Museum and Historic Park has been reopened to the public. It suffered a partial collapse during the summer due to extensive shore erosion but has been repaired thanks to emergency funding received from the St. Mary's County Commissioners and work done by the St. Mary's County Department of Public Works and Transportation.

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources has gotten the shoreline erosion issue under control temporarily with the placing of bio logs and plant-

ings along the beach. Additional work needs to be done for a more permanent fix. The park is open from sunrise to sunset; the museum is open from noon to 4 p.m. every day.

For more information regarding hours of operation, programs, events, admission prices and more, visit the St. Mary's County Museum Division at Facebook.com/SCIMuseum or Facebook.com/1836Light, or on Twitter at @ StClemIsMuseum or @PineyPtLHMuseum, or at museums.stmarysmd.com.





St. Mary's County Government Holiday Hours



All St. Mary's County Government administrative offices will be closed Thursday, Jan. 2, 2020, for the new year's holiday. Offices will reopen Friday, Jan. 3.

All three Senior Activity Centers (Garvey, Loffler and Northern) will be closed Jan 2, 2020 for new year's. No Home-Delivered Meals deliveries will be made on this date.

The St. Mary's Transit System will return to a regular operating schedule Jan. 2.

The Statewide Specialized Transit System (SSTAP) service will be unavailable Jan. 2, and will return to regular service, Friday, Jan. 3, 2020

St. Mary's County Press Release

Animal Control Advisory Board January Meeting

The January 8, 2020 meeting for the Animal Control Advisory Board has been rescheduled.

Rescheduled

The rescheduled meeting will be held on January 30, 2020 at 6 p.m. in the Commissioners Meeting Room inside the Chesapeake Building, located at 41770 Baldridge Street, Leonardtown, Maryland.

If you have any questions, please contact Mary Ann Gardiner at 301-475-4200 ext. 72110.

St. Mary's County Press Release

Environmental Group Warns on Local Tap Water

By Guy Leonard Staff Writer

An environmental watch dog group's report states that while the tap water used by St. Mary's residents may meet legal requirements for consumption, legal does not always equate to being safe.

The Environmental Working Group's (EWG) most recent supplemental report on drinking water quality across the country, shows that the local water and sewer utility, the Metropolitan Commission (MetCom), has provided drinking water that meets federal drinking water standards as set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

But EWG claims the government's standards are often severely outdated.

"The federal government's legal limits are not health-protective," EWG claims in their report. "The EPA has not set a new tap water standard in almost 20 years, and some standards are more than 40 years old."

The research conducted by EWG, and by their standards, showed that local drinking water provided by MetCom had 902 times the amount of arsenic, three times the safe amount of bromodichloromethane and 31 times the safe amount of trihalomethanes.

EWG claims that all three pollutants can cause cancer.

EWG's standards are stringent.

The legal limit for arsenic is 10 parts per billion (PPB), while EWG's standard is .004 ppb. The amount of arse-



nic found in MetCom provided water was 3.61 ppb, far less than the federal standard.

The report also claimed to have found seven other contaminants in utility provided tap water to include barium, chloroform, chlorate, fluoride, haloacetic acids, radium and strontium.

MetCom provides water to much of the Lexington Park Development District and some other areas throughout the county; they have about 17,000 customers but provide water to more than 40,000 people.

Four of the other contaminates, bar-

ium, fluoride, haloacetic acids and radium were all well within federal guidelines, the report stated, and even exceeded EWG guidelines in some cases.

MetCom Director George Erichsen said the utility's water quality reports were available on line for the public's viewing and he encouraged them to do so.

"We are governed by the permits we receive from the state and federal governments," Erichsen said. "And we more than exceed those standards."

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Noise Advisory - NAS PAX RIVER Sets Noise Advisory for Field Carrier Landing Practice Flights Jan. 3-5

Communities surrounding the naval air station are advised that noise-generating testing events are scheduled to take place and January 3 to January 5, 2020 between the hours of 7:15 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Pilots at NAS PAX will be conducting Field Carrier Landing Practices (FCLPs). FCLPs are simulated carrier landings conducted to prepare the pilot to land safely on an aircraft carrier. The practices consist of series of touch-and-go maneuvers, "bounces". Airspeed, altitude and power are all precisely choreographed in order for a pilot to approach the ship within an acceptable window to land on the deck safely. FCLP training is essential for the precision and safety of our military men and women and the success of their mission. Landing on an aircraft carrier is perhaps



the most difficult task in military aviation. It is a highly complex and perishable skill, and requires intense period of training before pilots deploy. Residents may notice increased noise levels due to these operations.

As with all operations, NAS Patuxent River takes precautions to lessen the impact of testing activities on the community. For more information call the Pax River toll-free Noise Hotline at 1-866-819-9028. V/r,

Patuxent River Naval Air Station Press Release









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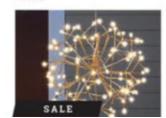
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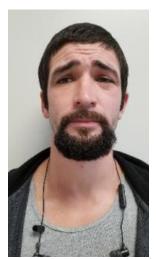
Deputies Seek Sex Offender

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office is seeking the whereabouts of Matthew Scott Hurry, 33 of Mechanicsville, for failing to register as a sex offender. Hurry also has an open warrant for Violation of Probation and a Maryland State Police warrant for assault.

Hurry is a white male, 5'10" tall, 135 pounds with brown hair and brown eyes.

Anyone with information on Hurry's whereabouts is asked to call Detective Cpl. Melissa Hulse at 301-475-4200, ext. *1996 or email melissa.hulse@stmarysmd.com. Case # 72866-19

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



Matthew Hurr

Sheriff's Office Crime Report

Contraband: On Dec. 26, Deputy Bianca Salas responded to the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center in Leonardtown for the report of contraband. Deputy Salas met with staff who advised that **David James** Abell, 42 of Callaway, reported to the



detention center with a tinfoil handmade pipe with marijuana residue. Abell was charged with Possession of Contraband in a Place of Confinement.

Firearm Possession: On Dec. 27 Deputy David Lawrence responded to the 46400 block of Franklin Road in Lexington Park for the report of a burglary. Deputy Lawrence made contact with two subjects in the area for detainment. Marquese Dayequan Milburn, 19 of Lexington Park, said an unknown



person handed him a pistol while walking through the Patuxent Park neighborhood. A Sheriff's Office search of the area located a loaded .22 caliber revolver in a yard where Milburn was observed walking. A search of Milburn located 13 loose rounds of .22 ammunition. Milburn was arrested, transported to the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center where he was charged with Possession of a Firearm/Minor, Handgun on a Person and Loaded Handgun on Person.

Heroin Possession: On Dec. 27 Deputy Michael Graves observed a wanted subject at a car wash on Great Mills Road in Lexington Park. During the encounter with the wanted subject and another familiar subject, Deputy Graves observed in plain view a syringe with suspected heroin residue and a controlled dangerous substance smoking device with suspected crack cocaine in the trunk of the vehicle. A search of the vehicle located an additional six syringe needles with suspected heroin residue inside. A search of Anthony Tyrone Adams, 35 of Lexington Park, located a



capsule of suspected heroin inside of it. Adams was arrested, transported to the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center and charged with CDS Possession: Heroin and CDS Possession of Paraphernalia.

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Latrice Carr to Open the Potomac Jazz & Seafood Festival July 2020

St. Mary's County Artist Selected to Kick Off Popular Jazz Performances at Award-Winning Southern Maryland Festival



Latrice Carr

The 20th Potomac Jazz & Seafood Festival, recently honored as the only event in Maryland to win one of four statewide tourism awards for 2019, recently announced popular local artist and St. Mary's County resident Latrice Carr to open for nationally-known jazz acts at the 2020 event weekend, slated for July 10-12, 2020.

Ms. Carr, a multigenre singer and songwriter originally from Portsmouth, VA, is known for her soulful range and gospel roots, which exhibits her passion for the music she performs. Having begun singing in front of large crowds at an early age, Ms. Carr has become a widely known regular at establishments across Southern Maryland and the Washington D.C. metro area, including singing the national anthem at a variety of professional sporting events like the Washington Nationals, high-profile locations like Maryland Live Casino, and even performances throughout Europe and other mid-Atlantic locations.

Karen Stone, Manager of the St. Mary's County Museum Division, one of the Festival's organizing partners, is elated at the selection of Ms. Carr as opener: "We are absolutely thrilled that Latrice was picked to open our 20th annual Potomac Jazz & Seafood Festival this year. She is an amazing individual and artist, and we are lucky to add such a talented St. Mary's Countian to open for us." Ms. Stone further mentions that "It is an especially appropriate choice as 2020 is the 'Year of the Woman' in Maryland. so it is great to have a remarkable local woman as Latrice lending her wonderful voice to our lineup!"

The Potomac Jazz & Seafood Festival celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2019 and expanded from a one-day Saturday event into a multiday weekend celebration as a partnership of the St. Mary's County Museum Division, the Town of Leonardtown, the Friends of St. Clement's Island & Piney Point Museums, and Visit St. Mary's MD. Hotel packages and giveaways, free Friday night jazz performances on the town square, Prohibition-era movies, cocktails and restaurant specials, new and unique food vendors at the Saturday waterfront festival, and Sunday jazz brunches, art shows, wine tastings and much more, all combined to increase hotel occupancy rates in St. Mary's County an average of 20% for the weekend.

Ms. Carr, who will open for two other large jazz acts during the Saturday "Main Event" of the festival at St. Clement's Island Museum along the beautiful Potomac River, feels grateful to be part of such a legacy: "It is exciting to think that some of the best moments in my life have not occurred yet and this is definitely one

of those moments. As a long-standing resident of St. Mary's County, being the opening act for the 2020 Potomac Jazz and Seafood Festival is a huge honor. This is an event that everyone in the county talks about and being a part of it all is so special to me. Since putting the band together years ago I have always wanted to be included in such a classic county event." She further explains what she has in store for the Festival: "We are working tirelessly to put on the most energetic, entertaining show for everyone who attends! I cannot wait to see all my family, friends and fans there... and to hopefully gain new fans through this experience!"

The event partners are now hard at work planning the 21st Annual Potomac Jazz & Seafood Festival Weekend to take place the weekend of July 10 – 12, 2020.

A variety of discount ticket packages, as well as more information about the Potomac Jazz & Seafood Festival, are available at www.PotomacJazzAndSeafood-Festival.com. Media can contact Andrew Ponti, Marketing Manager, St. Mary's County Museum Division, at Andrew. ponti@stmarysmd.com. For information on tourism group sales, please contact Gail Perry, Sales Lead, Visit St. Mary's MD at Gail@VisitSt-MarysMD.com.

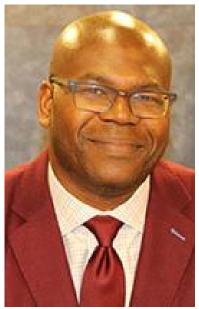
Proceeds from the event go toward funding the nonprofit Friends of St. Clement's Island & Piney Point Museums' mission of supporting the museums and historic sites under the care of the St. Mary's County Museum Division. The event's major partners include the Friends of St. Clement's Island & Piney Point Museums, St. Mary's County Museum Division, Town of Leonardtown and Visit St. Mary's MD.

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Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Prayer Breakfast Coming Jan. 20

Celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during the 16th Annual Southern Maryland Martin Luther King Jr. Prayer Breakfast on Monday, Jan. 20, at St. Mary's College of Maryland. The breakfast will begin at 6:30 a.m. and costs \$10 payable at the door. The program will begin at 8 a.m. at no cost, featuring a keynote address by Dr. Jason Johnson. Following the program, beginning at 10 a.m. the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.®, Nu Zeta Omega Chapter will host a Day of Service, providing services and activities for students of all ages and adults. The breakfast and program will be held in the J. Frank Raley Great Room, Campus Center (18952 E. Fisher Road). The Day of Service will be held within the Campus Center and Aldom Lounge.

Johnson is a political contributor at MSNBC, host at SIRIUS XM, politics editor at TheRoot.com and professor of politics and journalism at Morgan State University, and author of the book "Political Consultants and Campaigns: One Day to Sell" (Routledge, 2011).



Dr. Jason Johnson

He has worked for Republicans and Democrats in the U.S. Internationally, he worked on the London Mayoral election, advised the Independent Electoral Commission in Johannesburg South Africa, served as an election observer in the last three contested elections in Mexico and delivered several invited talks

on American politics to the Australian Embassy. Over the last two presidential cycles, Johnson delivered lecture tours throughout Europe on internet strategy in American presidential campaigns.

Johnson is a graduate of the University of Virginia and received his PhD from the University of North Carolina.

Immediately following the breakfast, the Day of Service will continue with the theme "Advocacy and the Arts." The Day of Service will include blood pressure screening, a non-perishable food drive, and a new or gently worn shoes and eyeglasses drive.

The Annual Southern Maryland Martin Luther King Jr., Prayer Breakfast draws community-wide attendance, including local government officials, religious leaders, and business persons. The event is sponsored by St. Mary's College of Maryland, St. Mary's County Human Relations Commission, St. Mary's County Public Schools, the College of Southern Maryland, and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.®, Nu Zeta Omega Chapter.

College and Career Fair Coming Jan. 24



The Southern Maryland Spring College and Career Fair, sponsored by the St. Mary's County Branch of the NAACP, Local #7025, is set for Jan. 24 at the University System of Maryland at Southern Maryland at 44219 Airport Road in California.

Students and recruiters

may register at: stmarysnaacp.org

The fair is open to Southern Maryland high school students from 9a.m. to 1p.m.

The fair opens to the general public from 11a.m. to 1p.m.

St. Mary's County NAACP Press Release

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Cedar Point Federal Credit Union Commemorating 75 Years

2020 is an important year for Cedar Point Federal Credit Union. It's not every year that a credit union turns 75! While Cedar Point spends most of its time looking toward the future, the credit union also believes in reflecting on and learning from its storied past. Originally formed in 1945, Cedar Point Federal Credit Union served local Navy sailors and civil servants who had bravely worked to protect American shores during World War II and beyond. Skipping ahead to 2009, Cedar Point received its community charter and officially opened its doors to residents of Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's counties.

In 2020, Cedar Point is asking its community for a hand. In celebra-



tion of the credit union's 75th Anniversary, it is launching one of the biggest community projects it's ever attempted. This year Cedar Point will carry out 75 Acts of Service to honor each of its 75 years. The credit union's goal is to make a big impact for those who need it most in the communities

serves. Whether that means helping a child learn to read, providing a meal for someone who is hungry, or planting a tree for a local non-profit, the credit union stands ready to lend a hand.

Cedar Point is taking community submissions for this 75th Anniversary project. Community members can visit www.

cpfcu.com/75 submit an idea and read all the updates on the credit union's progress throughout year of giving back. Cedar Point invites you to join us as we celebrate the last 75 years and look forward to a bright future for Cedar Point, our members and our employees.





SOME ANGELS CHOOSE FUR INSTEAD OF WINGS DOGS ARE GOD'S WAY OF PROVING THAT HE DIDN'T WANT US TO WALK ALONE

Hello, my name is Joe the Hound. I'm a FUN LOVING BOY who has been going to many adoption events in the hopes of finding my forever home. My friends at TCAS say it's hard to believe no one has swooped me up yet! I'M SO GOOD. I've worn reindeer ears, I'M ALWAYS POLITE to everyone I meet, both humans and other dogs, and I even told Santa what I wanted most of all....a FOREVER HOME. At about 5 years old I'm the best of both worlds; I can be a BALL OF FUN but then I'm PRETTY CONTENT to just hang out with you. I'd do best in a home with no cats. Wanna make my dearest wish come true? Then hurry and give TCAS a call and you can BE MY MIRACLE! When you choose to adopt from TCAS you are literally saving a life.

PLEASE CHOOSE ME! And, remember, if there is room in the heart, there is room in the house.

Come meet me and the wonderful gang at Tri-County Animal Shelter (6707 Animal Shelter Road, Hughesville) or call 301-932-1713 for more information. To see more of my amazing friends available for adoption, "like" us on Facebook @ Tri-County Animal Shelter Southern MD.



After School Mentoring



After school mentoring applications are available from St. Mary's County Public Schools.

The mission of the After School Mentoring Program is to foster positive mentoring relationships between students in St. Mary's County Public Schools and members of the community and to provide supported, safe, and inspiring environments in which these matches can cultivate the potential of each youth.

After School Mentoring pairs young people with caring and responsible mentors. For over a decade, After School Mentoring is running programs in most elementary schools in the system and will continue to match additional students with community mentors.

At the elementary level, After School Mentoring carefully matches students in grades 3-5 with caring and responsible volunteer mentors. Mentors and mentees meet at the student's school one day a week for an hour and a half throughout the academic year. With the support of a school Site Leader, mentors and students participate in fun and meaningful activities to help build social, emotional, and academic skills.

All After School mentors are provided with comprehensive training sessions and support throughout the program, and a qualified school Site Leader or Mentor Coordinator is present at each mentoring site to provide direction and guidance. Prospective mentors should be willing to commit to at least one year with the program.

If you would like to volunteer as an After School mentor, please complete the application found here. Anyone who has not previously volunteered with SMCPS will also need to visit the SMCPS Volunteer Information web page and complete the steps described to become a registered SMCPS Volunteer.

For more information on After School Mentoring or for assistance with applying to become a mentor, please contact Wade Thompson or Tammy Burr.



ON NEWSSTANDS EVERY THURSDAY & ONLINE AT COUNTYTIMES.NET

After School Seahawks Downed by Bullets



Photo Credit: Bill Wood

The St. Mary's College of Maryland men's basketball team (3-9) took on the Gettysburg College Bullets (7-2) at Washington & Lee University on Sunday (Dec. 29). The Seahawks were downed by the Bullets, 81-70.

St. Mary's College - 70, Gettysburg - 81 How It Happened

- The Bullets captured an early 13-6 lead in the early stages of the contest, but the Seahawks responded with their largest scoring run of the contest, recording eight straight points to take a 14-13 lead with 13:06 remaining in the first half. Miles Gillette highlighted the scoring streak by netting six points.
- St. Mary's College held a slim lead for most of the opening half until the Bullets knocked down six unanswered points to even the game at 30-30 with 1:59 left in the first half. Gettysburg finished the half strong by outscoring St. Mary's College 5-2 and the Seahawks headed into halftime trailing the Bullets 35-32.
- Trailing 42-36 four minutes into the second half, the Seahawks received four straight points from Gary Grant to cut the Gettysburg lead to 47-45.
 Next, Jalen Hayes sunk a three ball with 8:15 on the clock to dwindle the Bullets lead to six. How-

ever, Gettysburg continued to answer the Seahawks with scores of their own and St. Mary's College failed to trim their deficit. In total, Gettysburg drained seven three-pointers in the second half and shot 53.8% from three-point range to prevent the Seahawks from creating a comeback.

Inside the Box Score

- Gillette led the Seahawks with his second-highest scoring total of the season by recording 19 points.
 Hayes followed with 17 points and Grant tallied 16. On the glass, Gillette, Grant, and Jack Foley grabbed six rebounds each. Additionally, Foley notched five blocks and Justin Milstead hustled for three steals.
- Alex Leder led the Seahawks with 21 points and Nick Antolini finished with a double-double, collecting 20 points and 13 rebounds.
- Grant was selected to the all-tournament team, averaging 18.5 points and seven rebounds per game.

 Up Next for the Seahawks
- Jan. 3 vs. Nazareth | 4:00 p.m. | at Elizabethtown Tournament

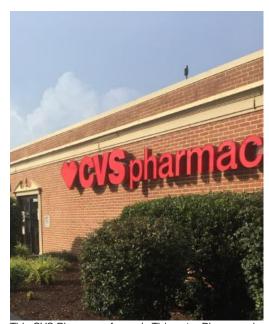
Press Release from SMCM



Fire destoryed a vacant commerical building in Leonardtown



Library Board president Carolyn Guy, foreground, Board vice president Jim Hanley and library director Michael Blackwell.



This CVS Pharmacy, formerly Tidewater Pharmacy in Mechanicsville, was ninth in the state for prescription opioids being shipped to it from 2006 to 2012.

Summer, Fall of 2019 Saw

By Guy Leonard Staff Writer

July

As summer went into full swing in St. Mary's and the mercury rose to sweltering levels of humidity, there was one incident that could still chill to the core.

In early July a homeowner in the Charlotte Hall area found the horrifying spectacle of two Labrador retrievers decapitated and their bodies dumped off the side of the road in a copse of tall grass along Parlett Morgan Road.

The remains of the dogs were transferred to a local veterinarian for examination but have since been taken to Virginia Polytechnical Institute (Virginia Tech) for a necropsy to determine cause of death and other details.

Local examination determined that the dogs were both males, though their ages remain unknown.

The heads were never found.

The effort to find who committed the deed was massive, with local citizens creating on-line accounts to raise money for rewards to find the culprits and continued investigations by law enforcement.

The mystery was never solved.

"Somebody out there had to have seen something," County Commissioner John O'Connor said. "A human being capable of doing something like that to an animal is capable of anything."

Commissioner Todd Morgan said much the same.

"The egregious acts against the animals: despicable," Morgan said.

More than a week before the canines were found another harrowing situation in Leonardtown could have resulted in much worse destruction had it not been for the quick response of the town's volunteer firefighters.

There were no sprinklers or fire suppression systems in the aging building, a long-abandoned furniture store, to fight the blaze; responders from the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department, less than a block away, responded with several apparatus to extinguish the fire.

It took 37 firefighters 45 minutes to

completely control the fire.

The fire was discovered by a witness in a neighboring building, reports from fire marshals state, in the rear of the building.

Fire marshals estimated the building to be a complete loss; the structure at \$200,000 in value and \$15,000 in contents lost.

The vacant building housed Dooley's Furniture decades ago; there were no injuries despite the seriousness of the blaze.

The heat from the flames, which destroyed the building, warped and bubbled the siding on neighboring homes.

The division in the community from the June Drag Queen Story Hour at the Lexington Park Library continued to reverberate to influence the actions of the Commissioners of St. Mary's County.

The opposing sides that day on June 23 brought out a significant sheriff's office and state police response to ensure safety there, commissioners voted to take about \$2,500 out of the library's budget to reimburse the sheriff's office for the cost of deputies.

Though the amount of money was relatively small, the waves of protest it started would hound the commissioners through the fall.

Through all the turmoil, opportunities to make St. Mary's more prosperous still came around.

Sen. Jack Bailey, fresh out of his first year in the General Assembly, came with Jodi Stanalonis, a member of the Maryland Stadium authority and county resident, with an offer the commissioners couldn't refuse.

Both said the state saw the potential for a sports complex in Southern Maryland, which could produce a significant boost to the local economy.

"They definitely see the need in Southern Maryland," Bailey said, adding that authority officials had yet to indicate where in the tri-county area such a facility would go.

Near the end of the year the commissioners would sign on to an agreement for a study on the potential for a sports complex.

"They're going to look at all the pieces of the puzzle and see if St. Mary's County is the right fit for a facility," Stanalonis said.

August

In August county commissioners learned the extent of the opioids that had flooded the community in recent years and given rise to the overdose epidemic.

The ARCOS database, which collates data from the Drug Enforcement Administration, showed that between 2006 and 2012 three CVS Pharmacies in the county were responsible for distributing more than 7 million doses of opioids; the second highest distributer was locally owned, Tidewater Pharmacy in Mechanicsville, with 5.8 million doses distributed during the same time.

Regarding all pharmacies in the county there were a total of more than 32 million doses of opioids distributed here, 25 million of them were in pill form.

The measures of opioids distributed were in total dosage units (TDUs) and medical morphine equivalents (MME).

The 7.3 million doses from the CVS pharmacies translated into 81.8 million MME, the data showed.

Tidewater Pharmacy's 5.8 million doses, however, translated into 126.9 million MME, showing the level of strength in prescriptions was much higher there.

Tidewater Pharmacy, now owned by CVS, ranked No. 9 in the state of Maryland for opioid shipments to their place of business by dosage.

The population of the county at that time was about 104,000 people; a county press release called the new information "grim."

St. Mary's also had its first bank robbery in years.

Corey Scott Angstadt, 51, of California was charged with armed robbery, robbery, two counts of first-degree assault, two counts of second-degree assault, theft, use of a firearm in the commission of a crime and possessing a handgun on his person when he allegedly robbed the Sun Trust Bank in California.

He was charged for the bank robbery on Aug. 22.

Angstadt had already been arrested by police and was in custody on Aug. 21 for the armed robbery he is alleged to have committed on July 24 at Twist Wine and Spirits on Three Notch Road



Much Activity in St. Mary's

across from the San Souci Plaza.

St. Mary's also lost one of its long time residents and luminaries in the defense contracting world.

Bob Waxman passed away at 93.

He was known affectionately as the "Mayor of Webster Field" although he often called himself the "benevolent dictator" of that Navy facility in St. Inigoes. The accolades for Bob Waxman were well-earned during his 55 years at the helm at the facility that was known by different names over time.

"He had the best interests of the Navy and community in his heart and his head," said Commissioner Todd Morgan.

Morgan said Waxman often fought the bureaucracy in his mission to get critical equipment for the warfighters.

Leonardtown continued to grow, prosper and gain attention around the region, so much so that Fox 5 News popular Zip Trip show arrived to showcase all the municipality had to offer.

Hundreds of residents braved heavy rains to greet the Fox 5 team.

The Zip Trip team interviewed town residents and government officials as well as business owner; it helped to bring more tourism to the county's only municipality.

"It went very well, we got a lot of positive feedback," said Town Administrator Laschelle McKay. "I've been involved with these events before and every time we always have an increase in people coming here to visit."

In the schools, students continued to best the state average on the new MCAP assessment of math and language skills, but they struggled to gain greater mastery.

In their first outing on MCAP less than half of the students from grades 3 through 8 who took math assessments suitable for their class level attained a score of 4 or 5, which are the grades necessary for a proficient rating.

Local students did break the 50 percent barrier for proficiency in English language arts in grades 4, 5, 7 and sophomore year in high school, the state's data shows.

The school system ranked highly, though, in the state's five-star rating system, with no school falling below a three-star rating.

September

As the temperatures began to reduce with the coming of fall the homeless were looking to find a warmer place to stay.

Homelessness was a problem that continued to grow locally.

Those who deal with the homeless on a daily basis, especially those in the Lexington Park COPS Unit, say that more resources for the homeless could bring more homeless here.

"That's a negative side effect that you will see," said Cpl. Timothy Snyder, of the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office.

Jean Harmon runs The Mission on Great Mills Road, which actively aids the homeless with tents, showers, food and a place to stay cool in the summer months.

It's mostly an open space inside where congregants can play pool and listen to Christian Country music on cable TV.

The confluence of drugs and mental illness makes the scourge of homelessness worse but it's difficult to know whether the homeless use drugs to deal with their mental problems or whether drugs actually help bring on mental distress and illness.

"It's like the chicken or the egg," Harmon said. "Unfortunately, it's growing; we have hundreds of untreated mentally ill people." In Chaptico, a beloved local business known for its delicatessen and fried chicken recipe, waded into the national chicken sandwich wars.

Chaptico Market used its fried chicken recipe to make a chicken sandwich, much like those served by Chic-fil-A and Popeyes.

Popeye's upstart sandwich offering made national news and sold out quickly, much to the dismay of some customers.

"That's exactly what it was, people kept asking us if we'd do a chicken sandwich," Lucas Black, owner of the Chaptico Market, told The County Times. "There's a lot of buzz around chicken sandwiches right now."

St. Mary's also got its first indoor shooting range, a boon to local firearms owners who had long struggled to find a place to pursue their hobby safely.

Cindi and Steve Thomas, shooting instructors who have competed in numerous courses of fire internationally and at home, built the new facility on their own property on St. James Church Road at a cost of more than \$2.5 million.

"It's exciting, no doubt," Steve said of their finally being open for business. "All the reviews on-line...everything's been five stars.

"Everybody's been blown away."

The atmosphere the Thomas' are working towards at Flat Broke Shooters is one of safety, relaxation and fun, Cindi said.

"We wanted it to be a comfortable place for everyone to hang out," Cindi said

Gov. Larry Hogan chose a county resident and long time U.S. Army officer to become the leader of the Maryland National Guard

Maj. General Timothy Gowen, new commander of the Maryland Military Department and Leonardtown resident, wanted to make serving in the state's military ranks a sought-after achievement.

"The challenge of the National Guard is recruitment and retention," Gowen, 54, told The County Times. "It's really hard to maintain a sizeable force." A native of Pennsylvania, he's lived in St. Mary's County since 1995 both as a U.S. Army reservist and as an aerospace engineer for Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR).

He graduated from Embry-Riddle University in 1986 as part of the Army ROTC program, he said, and attended flight school.

He served in the Army Reserves for six years in Warminster before that activity was brought down to Patuxent River Naval Air Station; it was exactly where he wanted to be.

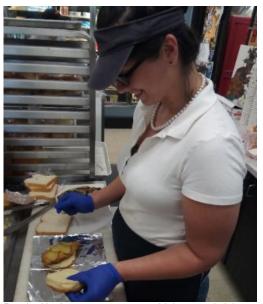
"I wanted to end up here," Gowen, a resident since 1996, said. "I wanted to go to test pilot school."

Gowen served as a helicopter scout pilot during the first Gulf War and helped lead the first assault against the Iraqi army.



15

Fox 5's Tucker Barnes interviews Heritage Chocolates owner Tara Neeley and Morgan Gray.



Brooke Hunley prepares a new chicken sandwich at Chaptico Market using their traditional fried chicken recipe.



Maj. Gen. Timothy Gowen of Leonardtown is Maryland's new military commander.



October

St. Mary's got ready to comply with a new state law that forbade the sale of any tobacco products, including vaping materials, to anyone under 21 years old; the only exception was for military personnel.

The County Times

The law was widely praised by public health officials and went into effect Oct. 1.

Dr. Meena Brewster, county health officer and head of the St. Mary's County Health Department, said the law should have a significant impact on young people using tobacco products, since, in many cases, they were able to get the products from users from 18-to-20 year old once-legal purchasers.

"Changing access for 18-to-20-year olds will have an impact on younger users as well," Brewster said. "People in that age range get addicted harder, faster, stronger.

"It's harder for them to quit."

Using tobacco products at such a young age can have deleterious effects on mental development, Brewster said.

But purveyors and users of vaping products said their products were inaccurately portrayed as overly harmful and not effective in dispelling nicotine addiction.

'Our sole mission is to assist adult smokers in transitioning to a 95 percent safer alternative," said Candace Gott, owner of three Vape Jungle shops in Southern Maryland.

Manufacturers and distributers are not allowed to advertise vaping products as safer than tobacco products, but Gott said she stands firm in her conviction that vaping products are a far safer choice than tobacco.

"I did stop smoking using it," she said of vaping. "I stopped vaping, too."

There are no bans on vaping products here, but Gott said she feared that detractors of vaping will attempt to have flavors banned from the products.

"I would've never quit smoking if I hadn't vaped green apple flavor," she said.

As the county commissioners and community activists grappled with how best to stand up a community center in Lexington Park, one entrepreneur has come up with her own solution.

Trisha Post opened up the Willows Recreation Center this year and was busy getting it ready in the fall.

"I've been working on locations for the last eight years," Post told The County Times. "We're finally there." The building is brand new, built initially for a defense contractor project

that did not materialize, construction crews are busy repurposing it for sport-

'My vision is to have a hard court and turf field indoors," Post said. "The turf can be laid down or pulled back up as needed.

Sunny Malhotra, who currently oversees operations at the Tap House at the Bollywood Masala restaurant in California, will also manage the Sidelines Bar and Grill at the recreation

The facility already as an alcohol beverage license, held by Post.

"I think the county is divided into two platforms, those who use the facilities on the [Patuxent River Naval Air Station] base and those outside the base," Malhotra said. "This will be a common platform... where they can play and socialize together."

The more people coming to St. Mary's the more who will want amenities, so the logic goes and the county could find an influx of hundreds of new jobs with one of the latest defense programs underway.

An advanced unmanned aircraft project being tested in Missouri will make its way to Patuxent River Naval Air Station for its final evaluation in 2021 before being added to the U.S. Navy's fleet.

Along with the arrival of the MQ-25 Stingray, which will operate as an aircraft carrier-based refueling plane for other manned aircraft, will come about 270 more engineering and associated jobs to St. Mary's County.

Jeff Dodge, principal deputy program manager for the MQ-25 project, said the new aircraft should be ready for the deployment to the fleet by 2024 to 2025.

"It will give gas to other aircraft in the air," Dodge told navy officials and county commissioners at a joint meeting. "It will fly like any other tactical plane on board [an aircraft carrier]."

Those already living here in Leonardtown, in the area of Medley's Neck Road, almost all came out to protest a proposed 7-11 24-hour convenience store and gas station.

The proposed convenience store would be located on a site where a longvacant home now stands at the intersection, directly across from Leonardtown Middle School on the Medley's Neck Road side.

The store would be 3,065 square feet in size while the fuel canopy would be larger at 4,502 square feet; the convenience store would face the middle school.

Elaine Deems, a staff member at Leonardtown Middle School, said she could not think of any positive impacts to the area even after watching the presentation on the proposed store.

"On any given morning... traffic can back up all the way down [Medley's Neck Road] to Hanover Woods," Deems told the commission. "Nothing is going to improve there with a 7-11 on the corner."

November

The fall continued to get busier as it went on sometimes for the better, and other times for the worse.

County, state and federal leaders joined U.S. Veterans Administration officials in Lexington Park at the East Run Medical Center to open a satellite community-based outpatient clinic (CBOC) for veterans.

Included at the new satellite office will be primary care for veterans, mental health and telehealth services.

Telehealth allows veterans to have video conference calls with physicians remotely to assess health problems.

A supporting pharmacy is also part of the satellite CBOC.

The new CBOC in Charlotte Hall, south of the veterans' home on Route 5, is under construction with some of the walls of the structure now up.

The main CBOC is expected to open by Spring of next year.

St. Mary's also remembered when racial hate was a common part of its history and that fear of it still lingered.

Community members gathered at MacIntosh Run to remember the waylaying and lynching of a black man, Benjamin Hance, accused of making an indecent proposal to the sheriff's daughter, in 1887.

On Nov. 1, Emancipation Day, elected leaders, community members and representatives from the Equal Justice Initiative, an Alabama-based group that has catalogued the history of lynchings and racially motivated terrorism against blacks after the Civil War, were on hand to remember Hance's tribulation without trial.

Dozens of attendees at the winery property collected soil and placed it in two large jars at the ceremony, one to be taken back to Montgomery, Alabama, to be placed at the National Memorial for Peace and Justice.

A Halloween decoration of a hang man on Belvoir Road in Great Mills immediately sparked an outcry that it was a representation of lynching.



Local elected officials break ground on the detetion center expansion project in Leonardtown, which will include a unit for female inmates and a first ever air conditioning system.



The MQ-25 Stingray



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



Marcia Greenberg collects soil at the site of Benjamin Hance's lynching in 1887 to honor his memory.



Some comments made on social media accused the family who placed the It was their third year to perform

of racism and hatred. The sheriff's office investigated online threats, but no arrests were made, said Jason Babcock, spokesman for the sheriff's office.

hanged man in their yard accused them

William Hall, president of the local NAACP branch, said he had called law enforcement initially about the effigy and spoke with the homeowner almost immediately after officers responded.

Hall said, after speaking with the homeowner, that he did not believe the homeowner tried to be offensive

"I think this is a teachable moment," Hall said. "It did not come from a place of hate.'

County leaders continued to be concerned over the rise of the Kirwan Commission's recommendations to drastically increase funding to public education, to the tune of \$4 billion over the next 10 years.

Local leaders believed tax increases would have to come to support it, despite Gov. Larry Hogan's opposition to the Kirwan recommendations without a funding model.

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

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

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

Howard Thompson, chair of the county planning commission, who had long suffered respiratory problems, received a double lung transplant.

Thompson, who had been on a transplant waiting list, got the call suddenly to come to John Hopkins Hospital for the procedure.

"The surgeon called me and asked: 'Are you ready?'" Thompson said. "I was a little shocked.

"I was in Wal-Mart buying lemons; I'll never forget that spot.'

Thompson does not know the identity of the lung donor, only that it was a 50-year-old male.

"I pray for the man who donated those lungs and for his family," Thompson said. "God bless him."

Near the end of the month Suttler Post Farm of Mechanicsville was once more called upon to hitch their regionally famous Clydesdale horses to a carriage and deliver the White House Christmas Tree.

the honor.

'The U.S. Park Service contacted us," Daniel Mast, son of Suttler Post owner Wayne Mast,said. "They found us and knew that we had a carriage service. "We'll do it as long as they ask us to."

In the latest development in the Drag Queen Story Hour controversy, the county commissioners voted to put \$4,000 back into the library system budget for safety and security purposes; earlier in October the Attorney General's Office issued an opinion that their removal of \$2,500 previously was constitutionally dubious on First Amendment grounds.

Commissioner Mike Hewitt, who opposed the September decision by commissioners to move the money, did not support the latest motion either.

"This doesn't stop us from being sued by American Atheists [Legal Center]," Hewitt said, adding the commissioners were "doing an about face" from their previous actions.

"I can't support giving them [the library] more money than what we essentially fined them."

December

Year's end for St. Mary's County also had its highs and lows.

Public health officials worried over what they perceived as rising numbers of suicides as well as the drastically increased use of the MedStar emergency room for mental health needs

"We are concerned more and more about mental health being a priority need in St. Mary's County," County Health Officer Meena 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."

Opioid related deaths in St. Mary's also pushed towards record breaking levels.

The number of opioid related fatal overdoses through the end of November reached 32, initial law enforcement reports showed, which outpaces the fatalities from 2018 and is just one away from the all-time high of 33 deaths in

Sheriff Timothy K. Cameron agreed that fentanyl was the catalyst behind so many deaths.

"I don't think you'll see a decline [in opioid related deaths]," Cameron told The County Times. "The difference is the prevalence of fentanyl in everything.

The Maryland Lottery announced that someone had purchased a winning \$1 million Powerball ticket at a convenience store in Charlotte Hall: the winner had yet to come forward.

The County Times

The store was the New Market Citgo, located at 29290 Three Notch Road in Charlotte Hall.

Hollywood residents also learned that the county is considering improving a dangerous intersection in their midst.

While considered a minor highway project in the county, the effort would center around placing a traffic roundabout at Old Three Notch Road and Route 245.

"It only makes sense," said public works chief John Deatrick. "We're trying to prepare for the future."

The Hollywood Commercial Center, which promises an additional 10,000 traffic trips per day there, was the catalyst for the project.

The county commissioners received much criticism for voting down a proposal to put sheriff's deputies on the same pay schedule as Charles County deputies and state police, though they promised some sort of pay raise in the near future.

Debate at the dais was rancorous at times

"We have the money, everything else is an excuse," said Commissioner John O'Connor.

He claimed Commissioner Mike Hewitt was taking "the cowards way out" for wanting to abstain from the vote, though Hewitt soon after voted

"Why do you have to make it personal," Hewitt retorted.

One project, which brought together elected leaders, service organizations, local businesses and citizens, was designed to bring hope to needy families in peril of not getting enough food.

The Feed St. Mary's Food Bank aims to bring in donations of food to be sent out to local food pantries, giving them a more ready and plentiful supply of nutrition for those in need.

"We think we're ready for a good, solid start,"Linday Lymas, past Lexington Park Rotary Club president, said. "We just wanted to give back to the community."

Her research into the problem of food security led her to pursue the county's first-ever food bank.

"The team never stopped moving forward," Lymas said. "The most difficult part was to find a suitable location."

guyleonard@countytimes.net



St. Mary's Planning Commission Chairman Howard Thompson



Lymas shows George Hurlburt, left, and Commissioner Mike Hewitt the new freezer at the



County officials are considering a plan to improve the intersection of Old Three Notch Road and Sotterley Road with a traffic circle.





PATUXENT RIVER NAVAL AIR STATION



F-35 JPO Executive Director Holds Town Hall with Pax Workforce

The F-35 Joint Program Office (JPO) Executive Director, Tanya Skeen, held her first town hall with the JPO's Patuxent River workforce Dec. 9 at the Center Stage Theater.

Skeen is meeting with employees throughout the F-35 Enterprise to communicate what's happening with the JPO's upcoming Organizational Pivot, the "180-Day Sprint," and her workforce initiatives.

"We are trying to structure the organization more like a "normal" PEO shop with program management offices ... for what we call our product lines," she said, in response to an audience member's explanation of the pivot.

Better accountability, a clear chain of responsibility for a product line, and to look like "the rest of the (acquisition) world" are reasons for the pivot, Skeen explained.

The outcome will be that one person is responsible for cost, schedule and performance throughout the lifecycle of that product," she said. "It's about holding people accountable, it's about giving them the tools so that you can deliver that capability. That is the 'why' for what we're doing."

One question focused on whether structure changes would be defined by variants of the air system.

"Is that going to be broke down by A, B, and C? Or, is it just one big air vehicle (office)," asked an attendee, querying whether the program office would have separate offices for the Air Force's, Marine Corps', and Navy's variants, respectively, of the joint strike fighter.

"The variant lead ... has been considered and decided that there's too much to keep common to try to



F-35 Joint Program Office employees assigned to NAS Patuxent River gathered to hear directly from and ask questions of the JPO's Executive Director, Tanya Skeen, during her town hall Dec. 9 in the station theater..

break it up in that way," Skeen responded, explaining that development, production and sustainment are done very similarly across the variants.

The executive director shared that the teams defining the details of the organizational pivot were in discussions that week figuring out exactly what the new program management offices would look like, to include the placement of billets, the IPTs, and the various functional duties.

"So, when I talk about a (program office), that means

that we have engineering, we have logisticians, we have contracting, we have finance, we have all of those functions under that PMO," she said. "A very, very different way of doing business than what we do today."

"We need to look more like the rest of the world," Skeen said, explaining another reason for the pivot. "We are commonly told 'The JPO is different; JSF is ...unique.' That never works."

She said the JPO can't try to change the entire Air Force and Navy to understand the current organization so the organizational pivot looks to redefine the JPO as "easier to do business with and within."

"Similarly, from the outside, if you're trying to do business with this thing called the JPO, it looks like a Borg, like this entire black box over here that you don't know where you enter, you don't know who you're supposed to deal with; it's incredibly confusing."

Asked how this pivot fits in with the [Naval Air Systems Command (Mission Aligned Organization), "I think it very nicely aligns to the notion of what MAO is doing for (Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division) and NAVAIR," Skeen said. "We are aligning against the mission to deliver the products for our customers," she said.

Acknowledging that for some F-35 JPO employees there is "reorg fatigue," Skeen thinks this is a "better way for us to move forward for the future, and certainly (Air Force) Lt. Gen. Fick and I are 100% aligned on where we're going."

Attendees also asked about the future of the joint strike fighter's Autonomic Logistics Information System (ALIS); and the program office's information technology (IT) as well as other items of interest to the Pax River workforce.

Skeen's town hall is one communication tool that achieves the program office's goal of ensuring "that as a JPO community we gather to discuss issues that affect us."



Michael J. Land F-35 Patuxent River Integrated Test Force Public Affairs





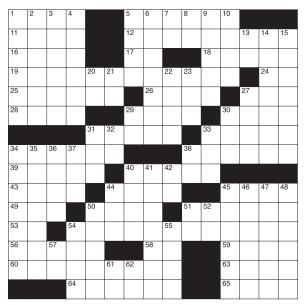
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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Database management system
- 5. Soft blue-gray mineral
- 11. Algerian coastal city
- 12. A healthy redness 16. El ___, border town
- 17. Part of the mind
- 18. Female body part
- 19. Atrocities
- 24. You can call Paul Simon this
- 25. Copyread
- 26. Large integers
- 27. Large, flightless bird
- 28. Bread and whiskey are

two

- 29. Indicate pain or discomfort
- 30. Worry
- 31. Wild goats
- 33. Belittle
- 34. More supernatural
- 38. Wakes up
- 39. Intestinal pouches
- 40. Popular dance
- 43. American state
- 44. CSI actor
- 45. Having a keen
- enthusiasm for
- 49. Swiss river
- 50. Restaurant item

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51. Intense unhappiness

- 53. Unit of loudness
- 54. Increase in velocity
- 56. Mesoamerican religion
- 58. Early multimedia
- 59. Forearm bone
- 60. An unprincipled person 63. Swarming with
- 64. Shellfish
- 65. Root of taro plant

CLUES DOWN

- 1. More silly
- 2. Adult beverage
- 3. Iron used for lofting
- 4. Noses
- 5. Smile
- 6. One who examines closely
- 7. Lethal dose
- 8. Denotes past
- 9. "This Is Us" actor Fitch
- 10. Dabbling ducks
- 13. Polish beer
- 14. A type of cat 15. Shows respect for
- 20. Of I
- 21. Commercial
- 22. Chai and chamomile are
- 23. Lodging option
- 27. Geological times
- 29. Unit of electrical inductance (abbr.)
- 30. Where G-men work
- 31. Hot beverage
- 32. One of the six noble
- 33. Southern constellation
- 34. South American nation
- 35. Suitable for use as food
- 36. The back
- 37. I (German)
- 38. Blood group
- 40. Fit to stand trial
- 41. Praise excessively
- 42. Female's title
- 44. EU predecessor
- 45. Acutely insightful and wise
- 46. Disguised
- 47. Improved the
- appearance of 48. Generator
- 50. The real _ , the genuine article
- 51. Male's title
- 52. Home of the Hawkeyes
- 54. About aviation
- 55. At all times
- 57. Military peace officer
- 61. College degree
- 62. Indicates position

LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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Wanderings Aimless Mind



"Cutting the cord on old habits"

Happy New Year!

2020; a new clear-eyed view of the coming year...let's hope

I have wondered lately what will be invented this year. Everything happens so fast now. Each morning on Good Morning America I hear about some new gadget that is supposed to save us time, make us healthier, or in some cases open us up to scarier ways where hackers can track our movements. I read in the AARP magazine this morning that, on average, people only use their fun new health gadgets like health watches for an average of three months. No one has given me one of those for Christmas yet, most likely because they know I would either break it or forget to use it. I did get my husband one last year, and he does use it quite often, though it is definitely not compatible with his summer pool work.

What is your vision for the New Year? Have you made your plans to live healthier, maybe make that trip you have dreamed about? Some of my big goals are to keep decluttering. And yes, again this year, I will follow organizing expert, Peter Walsh's 31 days to get organized challenge 2020. He just published his first video, on this New Year's Eve, a few hours ago. Peter encourages us to live richer, fuller lives by decluttering and not worrying about "things" so much. This theme has been very prevalent all over television and Social Media for quite a few years now. I keep hoping I will be completely organized soon - I know, I say that every year, though I have made a huge amount of progress following his video prompts every January each year.

I have one project (photo attached) that should take me the entire month of January, if not longer: The dreaded TV, and media equipment cords. I don't even know where to start. I'm pretty sure there are probably cords mixed in there from 20 years ago. There is also a good chance that nothing will ever work right again. Should I even try the computer cords here in the office? Maybe not. The worst cords in this house are the hundreds of cable cords that run all the TVs for just



two people. Every time the cable company comes they are amazed that anything works at all. Cords run through bedroom closets, in the coat closet, into the laundry room, and under the steps. One cable cord comes out of the wall in the guest room. It's quite a mish mash and may take the next decade with the help of the cable company to fix this cord octopus. It is actually very scary looking in some areas. We are supposed to switch to better cable cord they tell us anyway. Of course, the other big project is

always paperwork. There is a constant filing pile. This year, I want to finish inputting all of my husband's customer addresses so he can easily access them via his phone. I have gotten through half of the A's. Then I am going to go through every file in the file cabinets and do some weeding. That should be another full year project.

Most of all, I want to weed through my brain, and get rid of bad habits, thoughts that keep me from moving forward, and starting to get back to my calm center again. Also, in that list should be eating healthy and laying off sugar. I can do this. I might need a little help with this, so if you see me tell me to stay on track, and if you need it I will do the same for you. We can do this together and make this coming year the best ever.

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

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

Joseph "Joey" Francis Angle



Joseph "Joey" Francis Angle, 48 of St. Leonard, MD died Thursday He his home. is survived by his wife, Rose Angle, his son Jimmy Angle and his sister Barbara Shaw

(her husband Mark and daughter Kory), as well as many aunts, uncles and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents Francis Harrington Angle and Barbara Jean (Masgay) Angle and a sister Karen Angle.

He was born in Leonardtown, MD, and grew up in Ridge, graduating from Great Mills High School in 1989.

Joey was a proud first responder, starting at the age of 16, volunteering with the Ridge Volunteer Rescue Squad, Ridge Volunteer Fire department, Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Company, where he served as Chief, and Kentland Volunteer Fire Department. He worked in fire protection at the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant until the early nineties when he left to pursue a career in law enforcement. He began his career in Alexandria as a deputy sheriff, transferred to the Calvert County Sheriff's Department and ended his career as a Sgt. With the Prince George's County Police Department. He was very proud of his squad.

Joey loved to listen to music and would often travel around the DMV to hear local bands. He loved his dogs and hanging out at "the spot" with his brother Sam Tiru.

A graveside service will be held on Thursday, January 2, 2020 at 11:00 am at St. Michael's Cemetery in Ridge, MD. Flowers may be sent to Rausch Funeral Home 4405 Broomes Island Rd. Port Republic, MD 20676, in lieu of flowers donations may be made to Humane Society of Calvert County, PO Box 3505, Prince Frederick, MD 20678.

Jacqueline Dana "Jackie" Mulcahey



Jacqueline "Jackie" Dana Mulcahey, 55, of Mechanicsville, MD passed away peacefully at her home on December 28. 2019.

Jackie was born on May 1964 16

29 Palms, California, to the late William Aloisi and Eileen Morgan of Boston, Massachusetts

Jackie met her best friend and forever love, James Mulcahey while out with friends. Together they have spent almost thirty-seven (37) years together. Their love produced one daughter, and a beautiful, intelligent granddaughter.

She was a wonderful woman who loved her family. Jackie was so proud of her granddaughter, Layla, and the wonderful young woman she was becoming. The bond between a grandmother and grandchild is undeniable, but the bond between these two was unbreakable. Layla was Jackie's greatest joy in life.

Jackie could spend the day shopping and still never have a hair out of place. Never vain but always wanting to look her best, Jackie took pride in her appearance. A beautiful woman on the inside and out, she filled the world around her with grace, happiness. She could spend an afternoon quietly writing or even better watching the waves hit the sand on the beach. A long-time sun worshipper, summer was Jackie's favorite season. She spent many vacations on the shores of Myrtle Beach with her family and friends.

Her bright smile and quick wit will be dearly missed. To know Jackie was to know a fun, energetic and loving soul. Memories of her inherent joy will last a lifetime for her family. As you stand under a blue sky with the sun shining down upon you, know that Jackie is smiling watching you from above and never far away.

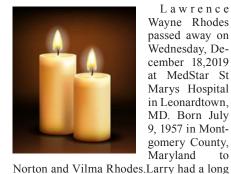
Jackie is survived by her husband, James Joseph Mulcahey, III; daughter, Shannon Mulcahey of Waldorf, MD; granddaughter, Layla Paige Misrell of Waldorf, and her mother, Eileen Morgan of Boston, Massachussetts. She is also survived by her brothers, Michael, Mark, and John Aloisi, and sister, Judy Aloisi-Hamilton. She was preceded in death by her father, William Aloisi.

The family will receive friends for Jackie's Life Celebration on Saturday, January 4, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. at Calvary Chapel of Southern Maryland, 29948 Three Notch Road, Unit 9, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622 and it will be officiated by Pastor Paul Goodwin. Interment will be private.

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

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

Larry Wayne Rhodes



Lawrence Wayne Rhodes passed away on Wednesday, December 18,2019 at MedStar St Marys Hospital in Leonardtown, MD. Born July 9, 1957 in Montgomery County, Maryland

career in leading sprinkler system projects then moving to Leonardtown started his restaurant, Big Larrys Eatery. Larry is survived by his sister Darlene Tressler of Falling Waters, WV, two nephews and one niece and their families. At his restaurant he always prepared excellent sandwiches, soups and salads. His ice cream was a big hit with the children. Larry especially enjoyed the groups of children that would come in to enjoy ice cream. Always taking time to meet his customers Larry made many local friends. The restaurant evolved into a great meeting place for locals to catch up with each other. Groups having lunches included many local authorities plus veterans often from the VA home in Charlotte Hall.

Sarah Ilene Higgs

Sarah Ilene Higgs, 81, of Mechanicsville, MD departed this life on Thursday, December 26, 2019, at MedStar St. Mary's Hospital,



MD surrounded by her loving family.

Leonardtown,

Sarah was born June 18, 1938 in Laurel, Mississippi. She was the loving daughter of the William Suddith and Vetry Sarah

(Roseberry) Suddith

She married the love her life, James C. Higgs in 1986. Together they celebrated over thirty (30) years of marriage. She worked as a stocker for Giant Foods for over thirty (30) years. She enjoyed her job and retired in 2000.

Sarah was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and friend to all that she knew. After she retired, she enjoyed crossword puzzles, collecting bears and spending time with her family. Sarah was a wonderful woman who cherished taking care of her grandchildren. As the grandchildren and great-grandchildren surrounded her, she would smile and laugh at their antics. Full of love and laughter, Sarah brought happiness to those around her. To know her was a blessing, to remember her an honor. As the sun beams down through the clouds, know Sarah is rejoicing in her new golden palace, healthy, happy and wishing you peace.

She is survived by her husband, James C. Higgs; children, Vicki Underwood (Leroy) of Charlotte Hall, MD, Susan Underwood (David) of Mechanicsville, MD, Karee L. Tarbox (Matt) of Brandywine, MD, Archie B. Rodgers (Sue) of Myrtle Beach, SC and Chris Warder of Washington, D.C.; and stepchildren, Maryann Carlton of Port Tobacco, MD, Bonnye Borden (Brad) of Wyoming, and April Higgs of Mechanicsville. She is also survived her fifteen (15) grandchildren; twenty-five (25) great-grandchildren and one brother, William Suddith of Canyon Lake, TX. Sarah is preceded in death by her parents, William Suddith and Vetry Suddith.

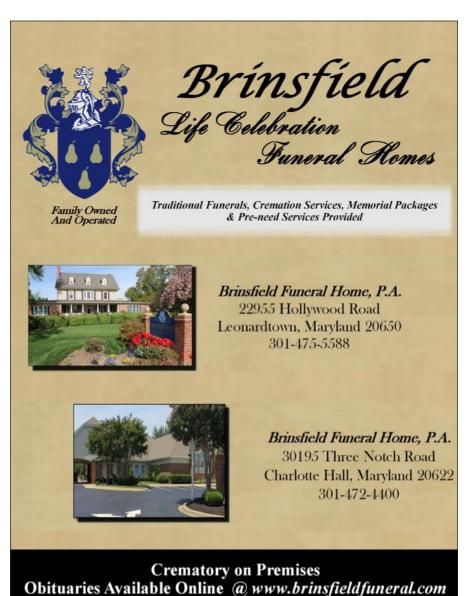
Interment will be private.

In lieu of flowers the family would like donations be made in Sarah's name to Tri-County Animal Shelter, 6707 Animal Shelter Road, Hughesville, MD 20637 or ASP-CA, https://secure.aspca.org/donate.

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

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







James Franklin "Jim" Williams



RMC James Franklin "Jim" Williams, USN (Ret.) passed away on Christmas Eve, December 24, 2019 at MedStar St. Mary's Hospital with his loving family at his side listening to

his favorite song, "Amazed."

He was born on February 28, 1946 in Asheboro, NC to the late James Dennis "JD" Williams and Susan Irene Caviness Williams

Jim graduated from Seagrove High School where he was a star basketball player and he would reminisce about the days playing ball with his brother Tommy. He joined the United States Navy in September 9, 1965 and proudly served his country for 20 dedicated years of service until his retirement in October 1985 as a Radioman Chief. He then began his second career with BAE as a field engineer for 21 years when he retired again. On November 4, 2001 he married his beloved wife, Janet Horn Williams in Tall Timbers, MD. Together they celebrated 18 wonderful years of marriage. In retirement he began working with his wife at their business, J-N-J Custom Stitches, in which they provided quality embroidery services to many local businesses. His hobbies included playing golf, softball, and taking cruises with his wife. They particularly enjoyed Half Moon Key in the Bahamas. He was a dedicated and loving husband, father, Paw-Paw, JWilli, brother, and friend to many.

In addition to his beloved wife, Janet, Jim is also survived by his children Kimberly Yost (Melvin) of Lexington Park, MD and Michael Williams (Mandy) of Lusby, MD; his grandchildren: Megan, Bradleigh, and Jack Williams and Gloria Yost; his brother, Tommy Williams (Claudia) of Jay, FL; stepchildren: Jerry Tapponnier (Brandi) of Leonardtown, MD, Jennifer Merson (Todd) of Hollywood, MD, and Joseph Tapponnier of Leonardtown, MD; step-grandchildren: Anna and Abby Merson, Ezra, Natalie, Vivanne, and Charlotte Tapponnier; and many extended family and friends. In addition to his parents, he is also preceded in death by his sister, Nancy C. Roberts and her

husband, Michael; and his mother-in-law, Anna Horn.

Interment will be held at a later date at Maryland Veterans Cemetery in Cheltenham, MD.

Memorial contributions may be made to Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 50, Leonardtown, MD 20650 and Leonardtown Volunteer Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 299, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

John Joseph Gallagher, Jr



John Joseph Gallagher, Jr., 75, of Lexington Park, MD passed away on December 26, 2019 at his home, surrounded by his loving family.

He was born in Philadelphia,

PA on October 13, 1944 to the late John Joseph Gallagher and Marion Rosalie Bonner Gallagher.

John enlisted in the United States Navy after high school and proudly served his country as an Aviation Fire Control Technician until his Honorable Discharge. During his service he earned the National Defense Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device, Vietnam Service Medal with two bronze stars. After the Navv. he earned his Bachelor of Science Degree from University of Maryland in Electrical Engineering. He was employed for over 42 dedicated years to the Department of Defense and various government contractors (BAE Systems and JF Taylor) as a skilled Electrical Engineer. On July 8, 1988, he married his beloved wife, Marianne "Anne" Gallagher in Snow Hill, MD. Together they celebrated 31 wonderful years of marriage. He was an avid reader and also enjoyed fishing and travelling to the mountains, especially in North Carolina. He coached St. Mary's County Special Olympics for 12 years and also helped to manage their accounts. He loved his family and spending time with them, especially his grandchildren.

In addition to his beloved wife Ann, he is

also survived by his daughters, Kelly C. Mc-Callister (Daniel) of Deep Gap, NC and Caryl A. McElhenney (Shaun); and his brother, Chris Gallagher (Sally) of Boulder, CO; and four grandchildren: Darren and Sadie Tipton of Lusby, MD, and Gillan and Madeline McCallister of Deep Gap, NC. In addition to his parents he is also preceded in death by his son, Brian Gallagher and his brother, Michael Gallagher.

Family will receive friends on Friday, January 3, 2020 from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m., with a Mass of Christian Burial celebrated by Reverend Peter Giovanoni at 1:00 p.m., at St. Michael's Catholic Church, 16566 Three Notch Road, Ridge, MD 20680. Interment will follow in the church cemetery.

Serving as pallbearers will be Shaun McElhenney, Daniel McCallister, Chris Gallagher, Darren Tipton, Dave Staso, and Jose Casas.

Memorial donations may be made to Hospice of St. Mary's, P.O. Box 625, Leonardtown, MD 20650 and St. Mary's County Special Olympics, P.O. Box 921, Hollywood, MD 20636.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

William Johnson "Bill" Palmer, Jr.



William Johnson "Bill" Palmer, Jr., 75, of Charlotte Hall, passed away on Monday, December 23, 2019 at Med-Star Washington Hospital Center surrounded by his loving

family.

Bill was born on February 24, 1944 to the late William Johnson Palmer, Sr. and the late Bernice Esther Lockhart Palmer.

Bill met his wife, Catherine Wengerd Palmer and they were married on September 13, 1963, celebrating over fifty (50) years of blissful marriage. They began their family, welcoming five (5) children.

Bill enlisted in the US Navy at 19 years of age and received numerous awards for his service, to include: Vietnam Service Medal,

National Defense Service Medal, Meritorious Unit Commendation, Good Conduct Award and Sea Service Deployment Ribbon. Bill was proud of his service, especially his contribution to the Vietnam War. He was honorably separated in 1983, retiring after 20 years of service.

Bill enjoyed keeping his hands busy with rope knot art and woodworking. He was quite the artist making many intricate pieces his family will treasure. Bill's love of the sea, travelling and firearms were both a direct product of his time spent in the Navy. He was a happy man who enjoyed singing, beekeeping and reading to his grandchildren. Family was everything to Bill. He was a member of the Beekeeper's Association and the Charles County Amateur Radio Club. A man is only as great as the legacy he leaves behind and Bill was surrounded by wonderful people. A more kind, strong, and honorable man could not be found. He will be missed by many but none more than his family.

Bill is survived by his wife, Catherine; his sons, William J. Palmer III (Teffany) of Tennessee, James E. Palmer (Elora) of South Carolina; daughters, Tammy L. Smith (Jeff) of Lusby and Mary B. Alberding (Gary) of Pennsylvania; brother, Jonathan L. Palmer Sr. of Charlotte Hall and sisters, Elsie H. Palmer-Willis of Colorado, Bernice E. Howell of Arkansas and Rebecca E. Phelps of Virginia; 4 grandchildren and many extended family and friends. He is preceded in death by his parents, his son, Charles A. Palmer and his brother, Paul Edward Palmer, Sr

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in Bill's name may be made to The Honeybee Conservancy, 1732 1St Avenue., #28748, New York, NY 10128 or the National Kidney Foundation, 30 East 33rd Street, New York, NY 10016.

Condolences can be made at www.brins-fieldfuneral.com

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

Frank M. Garcia, Jr.

Frank M. Garcia, Jr., of Callaway, MD, passed away on December 24, 2019 at Suburban Hospital in Bethesda, MD, with his eldest son at his side.

He was born on March 23, 1936, in Corpus Christi, TX to the late Francisco Garcia,



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The County Times



Sr. and his late mother Guadalupe Cuadros Garcia

Frank went to Tennessee Temple University and graduated with a degree in Theology. After graduation he moved to Geor-

gia where he became an Independent Baptist Minister and evangelist until his retirement. After retiring he spent many days fishing up and down the Atlantic coast of Florida which was one of his most loved activities. He was an avid reader of the Bible and loved sharing God's plan of salvation to anyone who would lend an ear. He adopted a verse from the book of Philippians, Chapter 1, Verse 6 and it followed his name anytime he signed anything. He called it his LIFES VERSE and it read "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." Frank also enjoyed western movies and listening to country and old gospel music.

He is survived by his children: Gary Garcia (Lisa Denise) of Callaway, MD, Kimball Joey Garcia of Rossville, GA, and Tammy Jeanine Larmon of Lafayette, GA.; his two grandchildren, Jessica Leigh Starnes (Mark) of Piney Point, MD and Fallon Larmon of Lafayette, GA; two great-grandchildren, Trent Levi Starnes and Aurora Capri Starnes of Piney Point, MD and many extended family and friends. In addition to his father, mother, and all siblings he is also preceded in death by his son, Lester Lee Garcia.

All services will be private. In lieu of flowers please make a donation to the Alzheimer's Association at www.alz.org.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A

Dorothy Ann (Mickey) Norris

Dorothy Ann (Mickey) Norris, 84, of Hollywood, MD passed away peacefully at her home on December 24, 2019 surrounded by her loving family. Born on July 14, 1935 in Palmers, MD.

Mickey was married to the love of her life Joseph A. (Buba) Norris on December 23,



1950. They were married for 39 years until his death in May 11, 1989.

She was preceded in death by their daughter Ann Norris, her mother and father, Mary Lilian and

Thomas Dewey Blackistone, and her brother Junior Blackistone. She was also preceded in death by her two son in laws James Ernest (Ernie) Woodall and Dan Alen (Doe Doe) Sparks. She leaves behind her remaining siblings Caroline, Shirley, Gina, Roy, and Brenda. Together Mickey and Buba raised four daughters Linda (Ernie) Woodall of Avenue, MD, Debbie (George) Sparks, Lou (Dan) Sparks, and Jane (David) Burroughs all of Hollywood, MD.

Mickey was a devoted Christian and homemaker. She worked many years for the Board of Education, until her retirement as a cafeteria worker.

She enjoyed working outside tending to her flower beds and yard. She had a passion for cooking wonderful food, enjoying having family gatherings, and parties. Mickey also loved spending time and spoiling her grandchildren. Her favorite past time was listening to music. Mickey enjoyed following her favorite bluegrass band "The California Ramblers" where you would often find her behind the microphone singing her favorite song "Darling, Let's turn back the years".

Mickey leaves behind 8 grandchildren Jamie Woodall, Chrystal Thompson, Denise Chapman, Boogie Sparks, Shane Burroughs, Brianna Burroughs, Joshua Sparks, and Abigail Sparks. As well as, 9 great grandchildren.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Dementia Society of America, P.O. Box 600 Doylestown, PA 18901 and Hospice of St. Mary's P.O. Box 625 Leonardtown, MD 20650

Winifred Lee Merson

Winifred Lee Merson "Winnie" of Clements, MD passed away on December 23, 2019 in Great Mills, MD. Born on July 29, 1943 in Leonardtown, MD she was the lov-



ing daughter of the late Mary Lillian Hall Bailey and Thomas Aloysius (Teen) Bailey. Winnie is survived by her children Michelle Renee Merson Bekel of Callaway, MD, Eric "Todd"

Merson (Jennifer) of Hollywood, MD and 2 grandchildren Anna Paige Merson and Abby Lynn Merson., brother Thomas Christopher "Chris" Bailey (Kathy) of Avenue, MD, nephew Christopher "Ryan" Bailey (Jordan), two nieces Alison Rose Bailey and Sydney Jane Bailey. She was preceded in death by her best friend Joyce King of Fredericksburg, VA. She was a lifelong St. Mary's County, MD resident and a graduate of Margaret Brent. Winnie was a homemaker and self- employed.

Winnie loved her multiple rescue cats. She also enjoyed crafting, being outside, being with her friends, watching nature and fixing things. Winnie had a wonderful quirky sense of humor. Winnie got more joy from giving than receiving and always thought of everyone else first.

A Graveside Service will be held on Friday, January 10, 2020 at 10:00 AM in St. Joseph's Catholic Cemetery Morganza, MD with Father Drew Royals officiating.

In lieu of flowers the family has requested donations be made to Animal Relief Fund P.O. Box 184 Hollywood, MD 20636, Seventh Dist. Vol. Rescue Squad P.O. Box 7 Avenue, MD 20609 and American Heart Association 415 N. Charles Street Baltimore, MD 21201.

Joseph Phillip Dorsey



Joseph (Shaffer) Phillip Dorsey, Sr., 91, of Hollywood, MD passed away on December 21, 2019 at MedStar St. Mary's Hospital surrounded by his loving family. Born on No-

vember 19, 1928 in Hollywood, MD. He was

the son of the late John Ignatius and Annie Mignonette (Redman) Dorsey. Shaffer was the loving husband of the late Catherine R. Dorsey, whom he married on September 28, 1953 in St. Aloysius Church.

Shaffer is survived by his children; Donna M. Bean (Leonard), Nancy L. Snellings, Ann Dorsey, Joe P. Dorsey (Laurie), all of Hollywood, MD, and Gloria (Dee) Diaz (JJ) of Las Vegas, NV. 9 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his siblings; Mary Magdalen Abell, Catherine Victoria "Kitty" Dixon, William Walter "Bonnie" Dorsey, Barbara Elizabeth "Peggy" Montgomery, Evelyn Anna Mae Armsworthy, Grace Theresa Davis, Elbert Dorsey, and Ignatius "Tinker" Tolson.

Shaffer enlisted in the National Guard of Maryland and the National Guard of the United States on November 19, 1947 as a Combat Construction Specialist. He was in Company "B" 121st Engineer (C) Battalion. He received an Honorable Discharge from the National Guard of the United States.

He served in the Army of the United States as a Corporal, INF-USAR Ready reserve and was inducted February 20, 1951 and then transferred to the army reserve November 20, 1952. He received an Honorable release from Active Duty. His most significant duty assignment was "L" Co 9th INF REGT Korea. He received the Korean Service Medal w/2 Bronze Stars and the United Nation Service Medal Combat Infantry Badge.

He was a lifelong St. Mary's County resident and went to St. John's School. He was employed with SMECO for over 32 years retiring as Crew Lead on December 31, 1990.

Shaffer enjoyed Bingo, playing cards, playing his guitar, listening to bluegrass and country music, as well as playing the lottery/scratch offs.

A Memorial Mass will take place Saturday, January 25, 2020 at St. John's Catholic Church in Hollywood, MD at 10:00AM with Father Raymond Schmidt officiating.

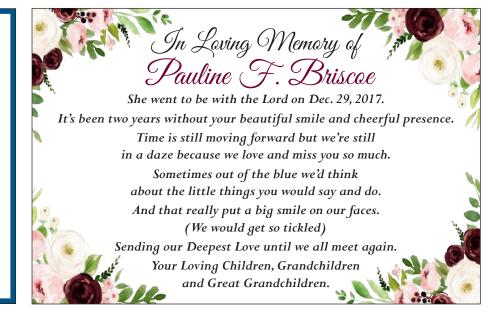
Contributions may be made to the Center for Life Enrichment, P.O. Box 610, Hollywood, MD 20636 and/or A Community That Shares (ACTS), P.O. Box 54, Bushwood, MD 20618.



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Community <u>Calendar</u>

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

UPCOMING

Pitch Card Party

Hollywood Rescue Squad January 17, 2020

6:30p.m. - Doors open at 5:30p.m..

Cost \$20, each bump will cost additional \$1 per partner at table. BYOB. Beverages and snacks can be purchased. Contact bonnielemonds@hotmail.com or 301-247-8397.

Thursday, Jan. 2, 2020

American Legion Post 221 Meeting

21690 Colton Point Rd

Avenue

8p.m. to 9p.m.

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

Friday, Jan. 3, 2020

A New Year, a New You, a New Look

First Friday Downtown Square Leonardtown 5:00-8:00 PM

Come for dinner, dessert, Open Studio/ Art Workshops, one-evening-only specials at participating shops and restaurants, and Opening Receptions at the local art galleries (note: no Drum Circle this month, will continue in Feb.).

Our "Keep the Cheer Here" theme promotes Shopping Local and supporting our small businesses who give back to our community year-round with their involvement with local charity groups and organizations. First Friday merchants raise funds for the St. Mary's Medstar cancer program and other non-profits, drive the local economy by creating employment and career opportunities, as well as promote local musicians and artists through events hosted by the Arts & Entertainment District.

Let's show our Small Businesses, friends and neighbors some support by Shopping Small! Check back often for updated information, make Leonardtown your "Special Place To Be" every First Friday! We look forward to seeing you soon!

Seafood Dinner

American Legion Post 238 6265 Brandywine Rd Hughesville

5:30p.m. to 7:30p.m.

Featuring Soft Crabs, Oysters, Steamed/Fried Shrimp, Fish Filet, Hush Puppies. Price—\$7 -\$20. For more info call 301-274-3522 or check us out on the Web www.alpost238.org or Facebook

Roaring 20's Party—Youth Group Fundraiser

Mt Zion UMC

27108 Mt. Zion Church Road

Mechanicsville

7p.m. to 11p.m.

From the church that gave you prohibition, bootleggers, and a decade of crazy antics, Mt Zion UMC welcomes you to the 2020's by going back in time to the 1920's

Guys don your top hats and ladies put on your flapper dresses and swing on by our "book club" speak easy. This fundraiser event for the Mt Zion Youth Group features music and dancing, hors d'oeuvres and desserts, and bootleg mocktails. Special appearance by Josh Riley, local jazz and blues musician ~9:30. This is a youth fundraiser and such we will not serve real alcohol. Tickets: \$20 for 18 and over, \$15 for 17 and under events.ticketprinting.com/event/Roaring-20s-Youth-Group-Fundraiser-36484

Saturday, Jan. 4, 2020

Mother Catherine Academy Bingo

Mother Catherine Academy 38833 Chaptico Road Mechanicsville

6:30p.m. to 8:30p.m.

Doors open 4:30. Regular Games start at 7:00. 301-884-3165

Wishing our local newspaper readers a happy & healthy New Year! St. Maris Times 301-373-4125 • WWW.COUNTYTIMES.NET

Sunday, Jan. 5, 2020

VCMI St. Mary's Church Service

Chancellors Run Park

Loffler Room

10a.m. to Noon

Non-denominational Church Service

We welcome you! A Church of Love

Join us for Sunday service, with Pastors Tyrone & Cynthia Marshall. You wont leave out the same way you came in! See you soon!

Monday, Jan. 6, 2020

Elks Holdem Bounty Tournament

St. Marys County Elks Lodge

Fire Dept. Lane

California

7p.m. to 10p.m

\$25 Buy in = 6,000 chips. \$5 add-on = 1,500 chips and raffle drawing. This tournament is part of our leaderboard challenge. Earn 1 point for every person knocked out before you. Cash games will start as soon as there are enough players that are interested.

Wednesday, Jan.8, 2020

DLLR Veteran Assistance

Calvert Library Prince Frederick

850 Costley Way

9a.m. to 12:30p.m.

Representative from DLLR Disabled Veteran Outreach Program will be available to meet with veterans seeking employment. Registration encouraged, but not required. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. CalvertLibrary.info.

Thursday, Jan. 9, 2020

Queen of Hearts LVRSA Fundraiser

Fitzies Marina and Pub Restaurant

Joe Hazel Rd.

Leonardtown

4p.m. to 7p.m.

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. Thank you for your support to the LVRSA.

Maryland in the Age of Sail: European Expansionism 1095-1500

Calvert Marine Museum 14200 Solomons Island Road

Solomons

7p.m. to 9p.m.

Join Mark Wilkins, Curator of Maritime History at the Calvert Marine Museum, as he explores "Maryland in the Age of Sail". This eight week lecture series includes topics ranging from European influence to the tobacco trade to the Civil War on the Chesapeake and more, through the 20th century. Lectures are free and open to the public.

St. Mary's Department of Aging & Human Services

Programs and Activities

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

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

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

Drums Alive

Using rhythm as the source of inspiration to discover a new group fitness experience Drums Alive® combines the benefits of a traditional physical fitness program with the brain affected benefits of music and rhythm. Drums Alive® is a program that fosters a healthy balance physically, mentally, emotionally and socially! Drums Alive® stimulates people whether they are young or old, healthy or ill. When we drum and dance, we are having FUN! This in return releases endorphins and releases negative feelings. The rhythmical patterns of the drum increase synchronization of brain wave activity which in turn provides feelings of euphoria and improved mental awareness. Drums Alive Golden Beats® is specially designed for the senior population. Kathy Creswell, Program Specialist at Garvey Senior Activity Center, is the instructor for this new program and will demonstrate different levels of participation that best meet the class's physical needs. You do not need any prior experience in drumming or music! Come join us at the Garvey Senior Activity Center on Wednesdays at 8:45 a.m. from Jan. 8-Feb. 12. This class is FREE, but space is limited so make sure to sign up quickly. Class participants can sign up at 8 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 3. Attendance at all classes is mandatory. For more information or to sign up, call 301-475-4200, ext. 71050.

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.

What's in Your Fridge?

Registered Dietitian Donna Taggert, RD/LD/CDE will be at the Northern Senior Activity Center on Monday, Jan. 6 from 1-2 p.m. to give a presentation called "What's in Your Fridge." This class will guide you into better eating practices for your 2020 health goals. Space is limited. To sign up for this presentation in advance, please visit the signup table or call 301-475-4200, ext. 73103. Also, ask about scheduling a free, individualized nutrition counseling session.

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.)

Assess Your Mental Health at Loffler

There is a new Health Watch Coordinator at the Loffler Senior Activity Center: Meet Mary Tennyson on Thursday, Jan. 9, at 10 a.m. when she will be on hand to discuss ways you can assess your mental well-being. To sign up call 301-475-4200, ext. 71658, or stop by the reception desk. Free.

Learn the Quick and Easy Way to Fill Out the Census Form!

25

Another decade begins- which means it's time for the census! There will be a presentation at the Loffler Senior Activity Center on how to fill out the newest census forms on Thursday, Jan. 16, at 9 a.m. Call 301-475-4200, ext. 71658, or stop by the reception desk for more information or to sign up.

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

New Year, New Budget!

Lexington Park Library will host New Year, New Budget! with Melanie Dafler on Saturday, January 11 from 9:30 – 11 a.m. New year new budgets! Come and learn the best way to stretch a dollar in in the day to day shopping in St. Mary's County. Learn the best ways to save money without driving yourself crazy. Taught by a local mom and small business owner Melanie Dafler.

Spend an Hour with a Job Coach

Leonardtown Library will host Spend an Hour with a Job Coach on Monday, January 13 from 9:30 a.m. - 3 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. Appointments will be available on the hour from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

New Storytime Schedule at St. Mary's County Library!

Storytime is back at the St. Mary's County Library starting on Monday, January 13. Check www. stmalib.org for the full schedule, including new storytimes such as evening Pajama Storytimes, Saturday Sensory-friendly storytimes, and many new days and times to choose from. Starting with the January storytime session, day-time weekly storytimes will be seating-limited based on a first come, first served basis.

College Scholarships and Financial Aid Opportunities for Maryland Residents

Leonardtown Library will host College Scholarships and Financial Aid Opportunities for Maryland Residents on Wednesday, January 15 from 6 – 7:30 p.m. Join Marsha Wilcox Assistant Director of the Office of Student Financial Assistance St. Mary's College of Maryland as she explains the importance of filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The discussion will focus on the aid opportunities the FAFSA gives college students and the importance of meeting the state of Maryland deadlines. The various Maryland scholarships available to MD residents will be discussed in detail as well

Cricut for Beginners

The Charlotte Hall Library will hold Cricut for Beginners on Thursday, January 16 from 6-7:30 p.m. Learn how to use the new St. Mary's County Library Cricut machine. This home die-cutting machine can be used for cutting paper felt vinyl fabric craft foam and other products such as fondant. Presenter will demonstrate how a design is created on the computer and sent to the Cricut machine for cutting. Attendees will create a small project to take home with them. Registration required.

Snow Much Fun!

The Charlotte Hall Library will hold Snow Much Fun! on Saturday, January 18 from 2-3 p.m. Enjoy the magic of winter with snow themed crafts and activities! Recommended for children ages lower through upper elementary. Registration is required and opens on January 4.

Glow in the Park for Teens and Tweens

The Lexington Park Library will hold two sessions of "Glow in the Park" on Thursday, January 9. The first session will be from 5-6 p.m. for teens 13-18, and the second hour 6-7 p.m. for tweens 8-12.

It's dark outside so get your glow on! Come in to make GLOW IN THE DARK SLIME and play glow in the dark games. All materials provided no experience needed and no registration required.

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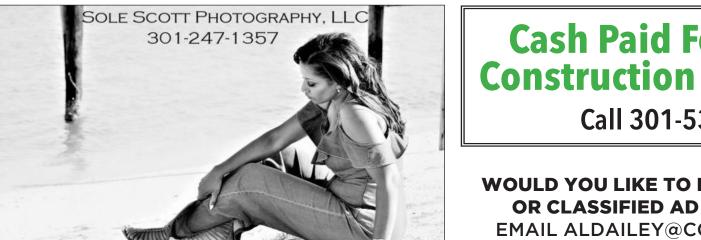
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The County Times





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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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