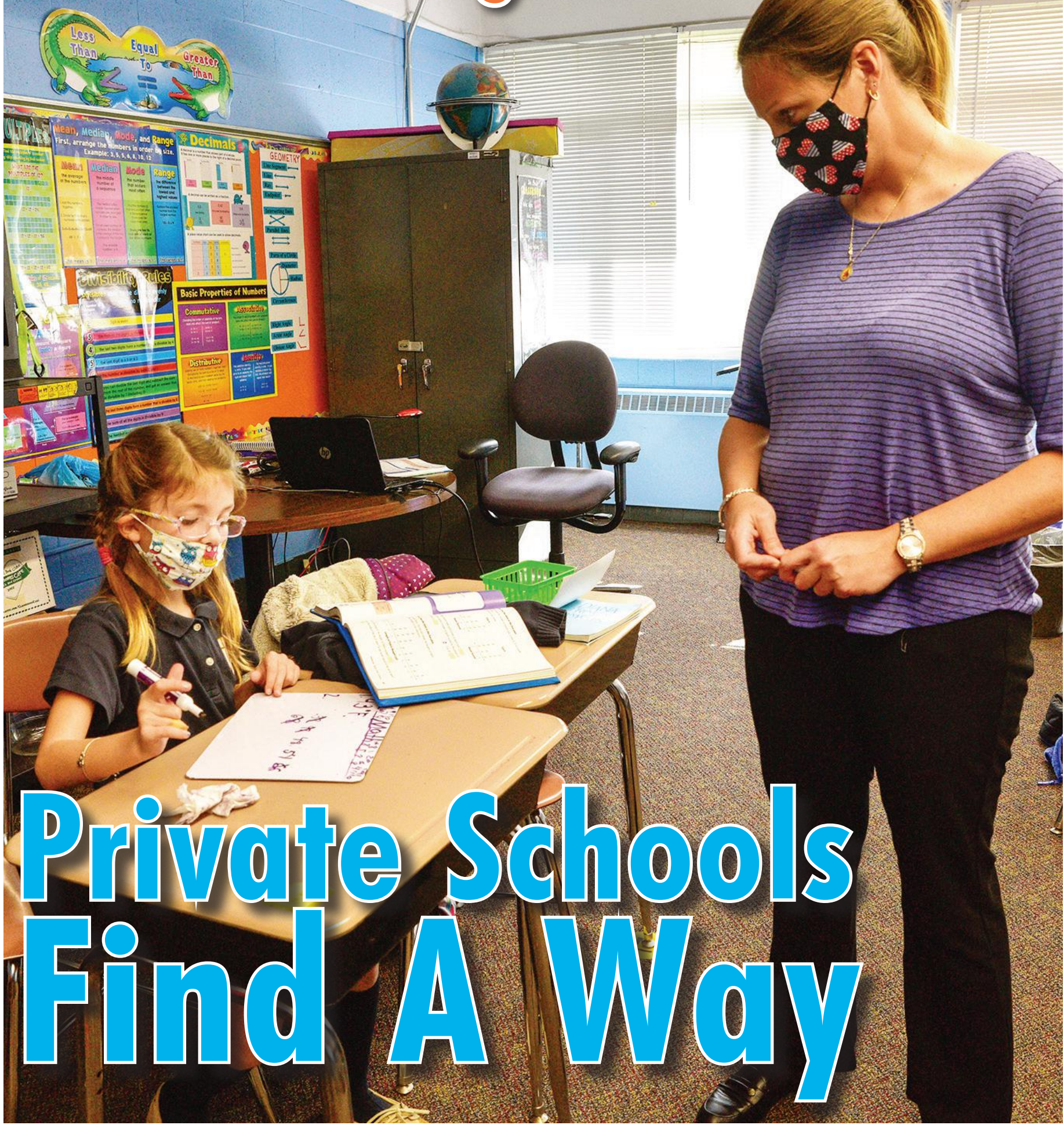


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St. Mary's St. Mary's County Times

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2020

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Private Schools Find A Way

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“IF THE DATA TRENDS THE RIGHT WAY, WE’RE READY TO GO.”
SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT DR. J. SCOTT SMITH.

WEEKLY FORECAST

Thu 11/19 55° 41°F Sunny Mon 11/23	Fri 11/20 63° 43°F Sunny Tue 11/24	Sat 11/21 65° 45°F Mostly Sunny Wed 11/25	Sun 11/22 65° 49°F Partly Cloudy Thu 11/26
65° 43°F PM Showers	55° 41°F Partly Cloudy	57° 39°F AM Showers	58° 43°F Partly Cloudy

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COVID-19

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1771

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Information provided by St. Mary's Health Department

St. Clements Shores Treatment Plant Improvements Come Into Focus

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

For years over 100 residents living in the St. Clements Shore community have had to deal with failing septic systems and the nearby wastewater treatment plant that services the community is already at capacity with 90,000 gallons per day going through a plant with a total of 100,000 gallons per day.

This has left these residents unable to hookup to public water and sewer but the state has finally approved a method for 140 homeowners to apply for Chesapeake Bay Restoration funds to hook up to the plant once it has been expanded.

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County approved this week a public hearing for citizens to comment on changes to the county's comprehensive plan and comprehensive water and sewer plan to make the expansion possible.

Christie Sterling Hollander, chief engineer at the Metropolitan Commission (MetCom), said those residents would still have to wait to get relief.

She said the construction should begin in the spring or summer of 2022 and be completed by December of 2023.

"We still have to get through design," Hollander told the commissioners at a joint meeting with the Metropolitan Commission board of directors, who attended virtually.

Bill Hunt, director of the Department of Land Use and Growth Management, said the plant would be expanded to 200,000 gallons per day capacity but would effectively only be able to function at 180,000 gallons per day as property MetCom owned in the community used to dispose of treated effluent could handle the full expanded volume.

"The owners [of the 140 properties] would be eligible to apply for Bay Restoration Funds to help pay for the connections when they become available," Hunt said at the Nov. 17 meeting.

There are also 158 vacant lots in the community that will have an equivalent dwelling unit (EDU) reserved for them for a potential hook up to the expanded plant, he said.

"They haven't been developed for probably the same reasons the others [septic systems] are failing," Hunt said.

The total increase in EDUs that the expansion should provide was 320, which would be divided between the 140 current property



owners and the 158 vacant lots.

The remainder, Hunt said, could be used to provide sewer connections to other properties outside the state's priority funding area.

Commissioner Mike Hewitt, who has long pushed for expansion of the plant at St. Clements Shores, was pleased to see further progress on the issue.

But he was concerned that the EDUs reserved for the 158 vacant lots might better be used for other property owners nearby who were

also suffering from failing septic systems but might not have reported it for fear that they might be forced to pay an exorbitant amount for a refit.

"I'm a little reluctant to say we should allocate 158 EDUs to vacant lots unless we have some kind of commitment from the owners that they're going to move forward," Hewitt said. "We need to put those EDUs to work now."

guyleonard@countytimes.net

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Governor Restricts Restaurant, Bar Hours, Retail Capacity Over COVID Spike



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Citing increasing cases of COVID-19 infection, hospitalizations and deaths across Maryland, Gov. Larry Hogan restricted retail stores, social and religious organizations, and many other establishments to 50 percent of their capacity starting Nov. 20 at 5p.m.

Last week Hogan restricted restaurants and bars to 50 percent of their state-rated capacity as the state's cases of COVID-19 began to surge and this week, at a Nov. 17 press conference in Annapolis, he said that contact tracing data show that many new cases spring forth from such establishments.

Also, said Hogan, far too many of these establishment fully enforce public health orders, such as capacity limits, social distancing and wearing of masks, especially during the later hours of the day.

Because of this, Hogan also instituted a limit on the hours that bars, restaurants and similar establishments and venues, ordering them to close by 10p.m. statewide, also starting Nov. 20 at 5p.m.

"We've found that compliance with public health protocols drops dramatically at night," Hogan said Tuesday. "We've seen widespread failures to follow public health orders."

Maryland remained under a state of emergency, Hogan said, and the new restrictions included the continual wearing of masks at all indoor public places and outdoor venues were social distancing was not an option.

"The wearing of masks is our single best mitigation strategy against the virus," Hogan said.

Hogan also restricted in-person visits to nursing homes and long-

term care facilities across the state to situations such as compassionate care or providing aid to those with disabilities.

Anyone visiting a long-term care facility must have a certificate of negative virus testing no more than 72 hours before arriving, the governor said.

Hogan said he knew it was difficult to not visit older family members during the coming holiday season but that the state's most vulnerable population had to be protected.

"You are helping keep them safe and saving the lives of our most vulnerable citizens," Hogan said.

The state's health department is also warning that anyone seeking elective surgery should postpone it unless it is urgent or a life-saving procedure.

"I've always been a straight shooter and I'll give it to you straight," Hogan said. "More people are being infected, more people are being hospitalized, more people are being put in intensive care and more people are dying."

For the past 13 days, Maryland has seen more than 1,000 new cases, he said, and there have been 2,149 new cases in the last 24 hours prior to his Tuesday press conference.

So far 4,186 Marylanders have died from the disease, Hogan said, with 26 dying on Nov. 16.

"This virus is spiking out of control," Hogan said. "Maryland hospitals are reaching capacity."

Marylanders must not grow numb to the ravages of the virus, Hogan said, no matter how well the state had reduced its growth in past months.

"We are in a war right now and the virus is winning," Hogan said.

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Commissioners Briefed On YMCA Study

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The Lexington Park community is interested in seeing a YMCA facility built to serve citizens, a feasibility study presented to the Commissioners of St. Mary's County states, there is particular excitement for a warm water pool for sports and leisure time.

Lori Swann, of Triangle 2 consultants, joined Robbie Hill, director of the YMCA of the Chesapeake Nov. 17 to brief county commissioners on their findings.

Swann said the consultants conducted phone interviews with 817 residents in the Lexington Park area that the vast majority, 80 percent, were not members of the organization and a significant amount, 47 percent, were unfamiliar with its programs.

But when asked about what excited them most about having a YMCA in the community, residents said the opportunity to have a pool, things for families to do and a venue to improve health and fitness were the top three options.

About 38 percent who were polled said they were very likely to use a YMCA's programs, while 35 percent said they were unlikely to engage; 18 percent were somewhat likely while 10 percent were unsure, the study reported.

For activities, 64 percent of respon-

dents were most interested in using cardio exercise equipment, while 48 percent were interested in some sort of strength training; 38 percent wanted to meet new people at the YMCA.

Of the senior citizens polled, 69 percent said they would most be interested in taking part in a walking club at the YMCA.

Three sites are under consideration for a YMCA, one in Nicolet Park, one on Shangri-La Drive next to the Lexington Park Library and another next to the Great Mills pool site.

All would serve populations of over 65,000 residents, with more than 15,000 of them being children.

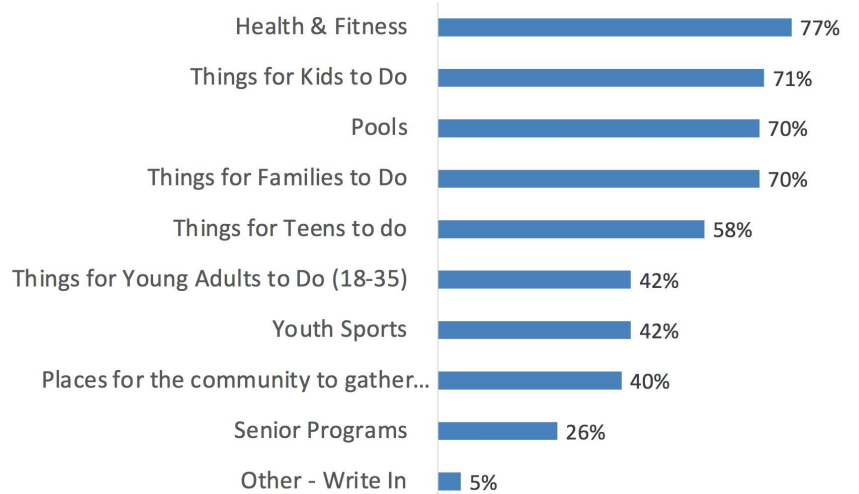
Most respondents surveyed said they would prefer going to the Shangri-La Drive site, but, Swann said, community leaders have concerns the site would not be large enough to accommodate visitors and extra parking.

A concurrent e-mail survey of almost 1,400 residents turned in similar results as the phone interviews, the study showed, regarding overall interest and what programs people would want to engage in most.

"I would expect it to be a success," Swann said of any YMCA built here, after seeing the results of the feasibility study.

Commissioner Mike Hewitt asked

What excites you most about having a YMCA?



Results of St. Mary's County YMCA Survey

how long it would take for a YMCA to break even on costs versus revenue; the plan has been for the county to build the structure and for the YMCA to run operations.

Gill said it typically take 18 months for a YMCA to reach that favorable point, but the incomes in St. Mary's County are far higher than any other of the facilities in his part of the organization.

He also allayed Hewitt's worries

about a YMCA ever being closed regionally; Gill explained that facilities that produced revenue helped keep others running that did not.

As long as the organization as a whole prospered, shutdowns were not necessary.

"We've never closed a facility and the [YMCA] has been on the Eastern Shore pre-dating the Civil War so we've been around a while," Gill said.

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Planning Commission Denies Lex. Park 7-11 Plan

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The concept site plan for a new, large 7-11 convenience store and gas station at the corner of Millstone Landing Road and Three Notch Road was denied by the county planning commission at its Nov. 16 meeting.

The main concerns were over the poor condition of the intersections that would feed into the site, now a vacant Golden Corral buffet restaurant.

Four members of the planning commission voted the concept site plan down.

Despite planned improvements to intersections - the developer was going to lengthen southbound left turn lanes on Three Notch Road leading into the site to allow for additional queuing - several members said they did not believe that the developer could do enough mitigation to make the intersection safe.

The project would have increased daily trips in total to more than 4,400 to the site as opposed to a little over 1,300 in the present day.

"We're at four times the amount of traffic," said board member Joe Van Kirk. "And it's four times the traffic at an already failing intersection."

Betty Tustin, the traffic consultant, said many of those trips were already

using the intersection.

"It's not 4,000 additional trips to that intersection," Tustin said. "75 percent of them are already on the road."

"But it is 3,000 more that are stopping and turning at that intersection," Howard Thompson, board chair said.

Thompson added that the project included two food service venues, for tacos and chicken, as well as a car wash.

Tustin said those numbers were already configured in the design team's analysis of traffic volumes.

Commissioner Todd Morgan, calling into the public hearing, said the traffic study did not take into account expansions of nearby businesses and the reopening of another grocery store at the San Souci Shopping Center which would add more traffic to the area.

"People in St. Mary's County are not good drivers," Morgan said. "Any attempt to get through those intersections blocks the box repeatedly."

He wanted the plan to be turned down over concerns he had to the general health and welfare of the community.

Merl Evans, board member, said the problems at failing intersections here "did not happen overnight" but were

a function, in part, of people over the years simply wanting more amenities.

The impacts on traffic were for all to see.

Evans and board member Joe Fazeikas were the only two to vote for approval.

"When you look at Route 235, for those of us who were born here, it can be hard to look at," Evans said.

Planning officials, he said, had an opportunity to address what they want in development districts, town centers and village centers and should be more specific about that when dealing with the upcoming comprehensive plan, rather than what they did not want to see developed there.

"The comprehensive plan lacked specificity," Evans said.

Christopher Longmore, attorney for the applicant, said the opposition to the project was a reflection of community concerns over a proliferation of convenience stores.

"There's nothing in our ordinance that puts any type of limits on the number of those types of businesses," Longmore said. "What you have before you is a project and use that is clearly allowed in the zoning ordinance."

Longmore also said he continually heard the issue raised by board mem-



bers over numerous other hearings that one new business would come to the area and supplant an old one, leaving an empty store front, but the redevelopment planned here faced questions about whether it was appropriate even though it met all zoning requirements.

He said the applicant had not only met all the requirements but had gone above requirements by completing a new traffic study and that rejecting such an application, which included plans to improve and mitigate traffic problems would have "an extreme chilling effect" on investment in the community.

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Leonardtwn Man Sentenced for Fentanyl Distribution

Admits it Resulted in the Death of His Own Mother

U.S. District Judge George J. Hazel on Nov. 17 sentenced Steven Jerome, 33 of Leonardtown, to 150 months in federal prison, followed by three years of supervised release, for the federal charge of distribution of fentanyl. Jerome acknowledged that his distribution of fentanyl resulted in the death of two victims.

The sentence was announced by United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Robert K. Hur; Special Agent in Charge Jesse R. Fong of the Drug Enforcement Administration - Washington Field Division; St. Mary's County Sheriff Tim Cameron; and Charles County Sheriff Troy D. Berry.

U.S. Attorney Robert K. Hur stated, "Steven Jerome knew that the fentanyl he was distributing killed someone and still went on to distribute fentanyl to his own mother, killing her, too. He's now sentenced to 12.5 years in federal prison. Drug traffickers are on notice that dealing in deadly fentanyl increases their odds of prosecution in federal court, where there are no suspended sentences and no parole—ever. We will continue to work with our law enforcement partners to stop the tragic deaths resulting from

opioid overdoses."

According to his plea agreement, Jerome and his co-defendant, Rodney Coby, distributed fentanyl to an individual on September 6, 2017, resulting in the death of the victim. Specifically, on September 6, 2017, Victim 1 drove Jerome from the St. Clement Shores neighborhood of St. Mary's County, Maryland, to Waldorf, Maryland, where Jerome met with a physician to obtain prescriptions for Xanax and Adderall. Victim 1 then drove Jerome to a nearby pharmacy where Jerome filled the Xanax prescription, then to a pre-arranged meeting location in Waldorf where Coby distributed fentanyl to Jerome. Jerome then distributed a portion of that fentanyl to Victim 1.

As detailed in the plea agreement, Victim 1 then used the fentanyl and immediately showed signs of an overdose. Jerome did not call first responders or seek medical attention for Victim 1 because he had an unrelated arrest warrant pending against him. Instead, Jerome drove Victim 1 back to St. Clement Shores, parked the car, and walked to his mother's house, which was nearby. Jerome's mother then called first responders,

who were unable to resuscitate Victim 1. The medical examiner later determined that Victim 1 died of fentanyl intoxication.

On March 26, 2018, Jerome's mother texted him to order a "cap," which is a gel capsule filled with an opioid such as fentanyl. On March 27, 2018, Jerome sold a gel capsule that contained fentanyl to his mother. On March 30, 2018, Jerome's mother used the contents of the gel capsule that he distributed and died from a fentanyl overdose. Next to her body, investigators found a used syringe and the gel capsule that Jerome distributed. The contents of the gel capsule tested positive for fentanyl, and the medical examiner concluded that Jerome's mother died of fentanyl intoxication.

Jerome subsequently admitted to one of his associates that he worked with Coby to distribute narcotics.

Rodney Mondell Coby, a/k/a "Cuz," age 31, of Waldorf, was convicted on February 28, 2020, after a seven-day trial for the federal charges of distribution of fentanyl resulting in death, conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute controlled substances, possession with intent to distribute controlled substances, pos-

session of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime, and being a felon in possession of firearms and ammunition. Coby faces a mandatory minimum of 20 years and up to life in prison for distribution of fentanyl resulting in death. Coby also faces a maximum sentence of 40 years in prison for the conspiracy and for possession with intent to distribute controlled substances; a maximum of life in prison for possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime; and a maximum of 10 years in prison for being a felon in possession of firearms and ammunition. Judge Hazel has not yet scheduled a sentencing date for Coby. Coby has been in custody since his arrest on April 13, 2018.

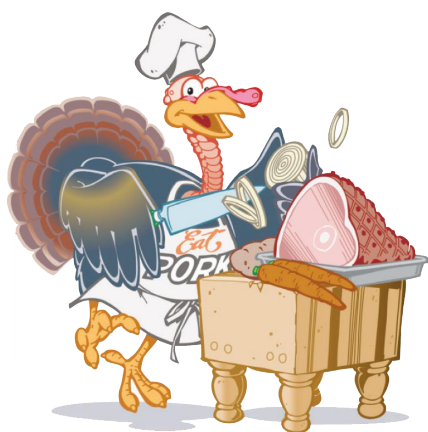
United States Attorney Robert K. Hur commended the DEA, the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office, and the Charles County Sheriff's Office for their work in the investigation and thanked the Prince George's County Police Department for its assistance. Hur thanked Assistant U.S. Attorneys Gregory Bernstein and Erin Pulice, who are prosecuting the case.

Press Release from Office of U.S. District Attorney.

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Tom Waring Remembered As A Quiet Community Pillar

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

A long-time businessman in St. Mary's County, Tom Waring was best known for the many residential and commercial projects he built here but his philanthropy endeared him to many who knew him.

Waring recently passed away leaving behind a legacy that stretched from founding the Patuxent Water Company, the first water and sewer provider in Lexington Park to serving on the Board of Trustees for St. Mary's College of Maryland.

He owned the local Cherry Cove Property Management Company and was well known for his concern for others, especially whether they had a place to live.

"Tommy Waring has done so much for this county," said Robert Schaller, local professor and former head of the county's economic development department. "He worried first about people having a roof over their heads. "That was dignity to him."

Tom Daugherty, son of the Maryland Bank and Trust founder Jack Daugherty, remembered his father's business partner as working closely with him on many residential and commercial ventures.

The elder Daugherty brought his acumen for financing to the partnership, Tom Daugherty said, while Waring had vision.

"My father could find the money and Tommy had a great vision for how to help people," Tom Daugherty said. "There was a mutual respect between them."

Daugherty said his father was honored when Waring named a local conference center after him in the elder Daugherty's honor.

Waring built high income housing but never forgot to find ways to provide those with fewer means a place to live.



The Lord Calvert mobile home park on Great Mills Road is one of his most well known projects.

"He had a great deal of social consciousness," Daugherty said of his father's friend. "He tried to improve the lives of people who were underprivileged or less fortunate than himself."

Despite his wealth, power and influence, Waring was content to avoid attention for his efforts. "He didn't want to be in the limelight," Schaller said. "He carried a lot of sway but he did it in a quiet way."

Schaller said Waring was part of a small group of visionaries who made modern St. Mary's. Daugherty agreed. "He's the last of a great generation who built St. Mary's to the modern standard that it is today," Daugherty said. "He'll be missed."

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Grants Available for Arts Non-profits

Due to the current COVID-19 crisis, the St. Mary's County Arts Council (SMCAC) has established special Operating Grants to support local non-profit arts organizations for operational expenses such as salaries, rent, utilities, etc. The purpose of the SMCAC is to increase the county/community's awareness of the value of the arts and how the arts can enhance the quality of our community and individual lives, to foster and encourage the development of the arts to all individual and artists in St. Mary's County, and to serve as a subsidiary of the Maryland State Arts Council to receive, review, and approve local project grant applications worthy of County and State support.

These special grants have been created to address the needs of lo-



cal arts-related organizations during these challenging times. Full details and the application available for downloading are available at www.stmarysartscouncil.com. Completed applications must be submitted no later than 5 PM on Monday, December 3rd, 2020. For additional information email: info@smcart.org

Press Release from St. Mary's County Arts Council

Student Life Team Distributes Food to CSM Students

During Mobile Hawk Feeder Event



CSM's Student Life Coordinator Melissa Chambers and Operations Manager. Student Life and Athletics Andrea Sherman prepare care packages for distribution.

The College of Southern Maryland (CSM) Student Life team recently held a drive-thru food distribution event at CSM's Prince Frederick Campus to help CSM students who are struggling financially and experiencing food insecurities. Approximately 800 pounds of food were given to students who pre-registered to come to the campus, and deliveries were made to two students who did not have transportation. The Oct. 14 "Mobile Hawk Feeder" student event was the fourth food drive-thru sponsored by CSM since the pandemic began.

"Many of our students, and their families, are still struggling with food insecurities," explained Student Life Coordinator Erika Abell. "Together with our Student Government Association and community partners, we continue to mobilize to create care packages. These students are our family and we approach our support for them holistically. When we know our students are struggling, we do whatever we can to help."

The CSM Student Life team first met in May to empty the campuses' Hawk Feeders micro-food pantries and at that time, packed up 140 bags of food to give away. Since the Mobile Hawk Feeder effort began, nearly 2,800 pounds of food has been distributed to CSM students.

Contributing to the latest Prince Frederick Campus event were Life-Point Church of Waldorf's Pastor Michael and Angela Rogalski. Previous drive-thru events were supported by Pastor John Lewis with the Servants of Christ Church, New Life Church and the Charles County Department of Social Services, who all donated food. In addition, the CSM Foundation supported the ef-



CSM Men of Excellence Program Coordinator Tim Fenner assists with distribution during the Mobile Hawk Feeder event.

fort through funding from its "Help a Hawk" emergency fund.

Since 2017, CSM has offered food provided through Hawk Feeders at each of its four campuses. Hawk Feeders help address the short-term basic food needs any student may be experiencing. Built by a CSM faculty member Bill Luyster, the Hawk Feeders are stocked through individual donations by faculty, staff and students as well as through food drives, under the adage, "Give what you can, take what you need."

Press Release from CSM.



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Pet OF THE WEEK

MEET CALAMITY JANE



Cats never strike a pose that isn't photogenic.

-Lillian Jackson Braun

Hi there everybody! My name is Calamity Jane! My buddies here at TCAS say I'm definitely a NICE NICE CAT! I'm here to tell you that I have PERFECT LITTER BOX HABITS, I enjoy some supervised outdoor time, and I'm ONLY TWO YEARS OLD. I'm such a SWEETHEART and I want you to know that I would LOVE to find my FOREVER FAMILY soon. Is that you? PLEASE CHOOSE ME and you can BE MY MIRACLE!

Email animalshelter@charlescountymd.gov to schedule an appointment to meet me ASAP! When you choose to adopt from TCAS, you are literally saving a life.

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

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

TRI-COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

CSM Golf Classic Stokes Emergency Fund

The 29th annual College of Southern Maryland (CSM) Foundation Golf Classic presented by Marrick Homes raised more than \$25,000 for the CSM 'Help a Hawk' emergency fund and scholarship program established to support CSM's most vulnerable students experiencing challenges from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The event took place at Swan Point Country Club in Issue over a six-week span that began Sept. 3 and allowed golfers to safely play and record their rounds at different times to ensure physical distancing.

For the 19th consecutive year, Marrick Homes continued its support as the grand tournament sponsor of CSM Foundation's signature event which has raised more than \$1 million for students through the years. Other generous supporters include Executive Sponsor Nancy Hempstead; Corporate Sponsors Buddy Sprague in honor of the Jack Love Sprague Scholarship, former CSM Coach Danny Williams & Vickie Williams – Century 21 Real Estate and SMECO; Mulligan Sponsors Coldwell Banker Jay Lilly Real Estate, Community Bank of the Chesapeake, Scheibel Construction, McDonald and Eudy Printers, Inc. and Simpson's Old Towne Insurance; and Community Partners Sponsors

CBIZ, Greg and Becky Cockerham in honor of the Marbury Baptist Youth Group, The Greene Turtle of La Plata, Kim and Chuck Rosenfield, PNC Bank and Quality Built Homes.

"The generosity of local businesses, corporations and friends – even when they are faced with tremendous challenges during this pandemic – has been overwhelming to see," said CSM Acting Executive Director of the CSM Foundation Chelsea Clute. "When we decided to move forward with the golf classic and stretch it out six weeks to ensure everyone's safety, our sponsors and golfers didn't waver in their support. We are grateful."

"Southern Maryland always rises to the occasion to support our students when called upon," agreed CSM Foundation Chair Kim Rosenfield. "The funds raised by this event will help our students who are facing tremendous stressors to stay in school. The importance of our Help a Hawk emergency fund – and the money being raised to support our efforts – cannot be overstated."

The 2020 golf classic funds will be added to the \$123,000 that the CSM Foundation has already raised in support of students impacted financially by COVID-19. To date, more



Helping to raise more than \$25,000 for CSM students impacted by COVID-19 and playing on behalf of Grand Tournament Sponsor Marrick Homes from left are Rob Riffe, Joe McArdle, Marvin Oursler, Jay Webster, Ed Webster and John Riffe.

than \$120,000 has been awarded to 378 students thanks to the foundation's Help a Hawk efforts.

The tournament results are:

Tournament Winners

1st Place went to the team sponsored by Buddy Sprague in honor of the Jack Love Sprague Scholarship.

2nd Place went to the team sponsored by Greg and Becky Cockerham in honor of the Marbury Baptist

Youth Group.

3rd Place went to the team sponsored by Grand Tournament Sponsor Marrick Homes.

To learn more about the Help a Hawk emergency fund, or to donate, visit: <https://foundation.csmd.edu/making-a-difference/student-emergency-fund/index.html>.

Press Release from CSM

FROM ABSENCE TO PRESENCE

THE VIRTUAL DEDICATION OF THE COMMEMORATIVE TO ENSLAVED PEOPLES OF SOUTHERN MARYLAND

Saturday, November 21, 2020 @ 11:00 a.m.

The Commemorative is an immersive art experience that honors the story of resilience, persistence, and creative problem solving that defined the lives of the enslaved individuals that lived in St. Mary's City between 1750 and 1815. Constructed on the St. Mary's College of Maryland campus, the Commemorative provides visitors with the space to acknowledge and learn from the lives of those who once toiled there, while providing a place for reflection and introspection about the nature of slavery and its connections to modern society.

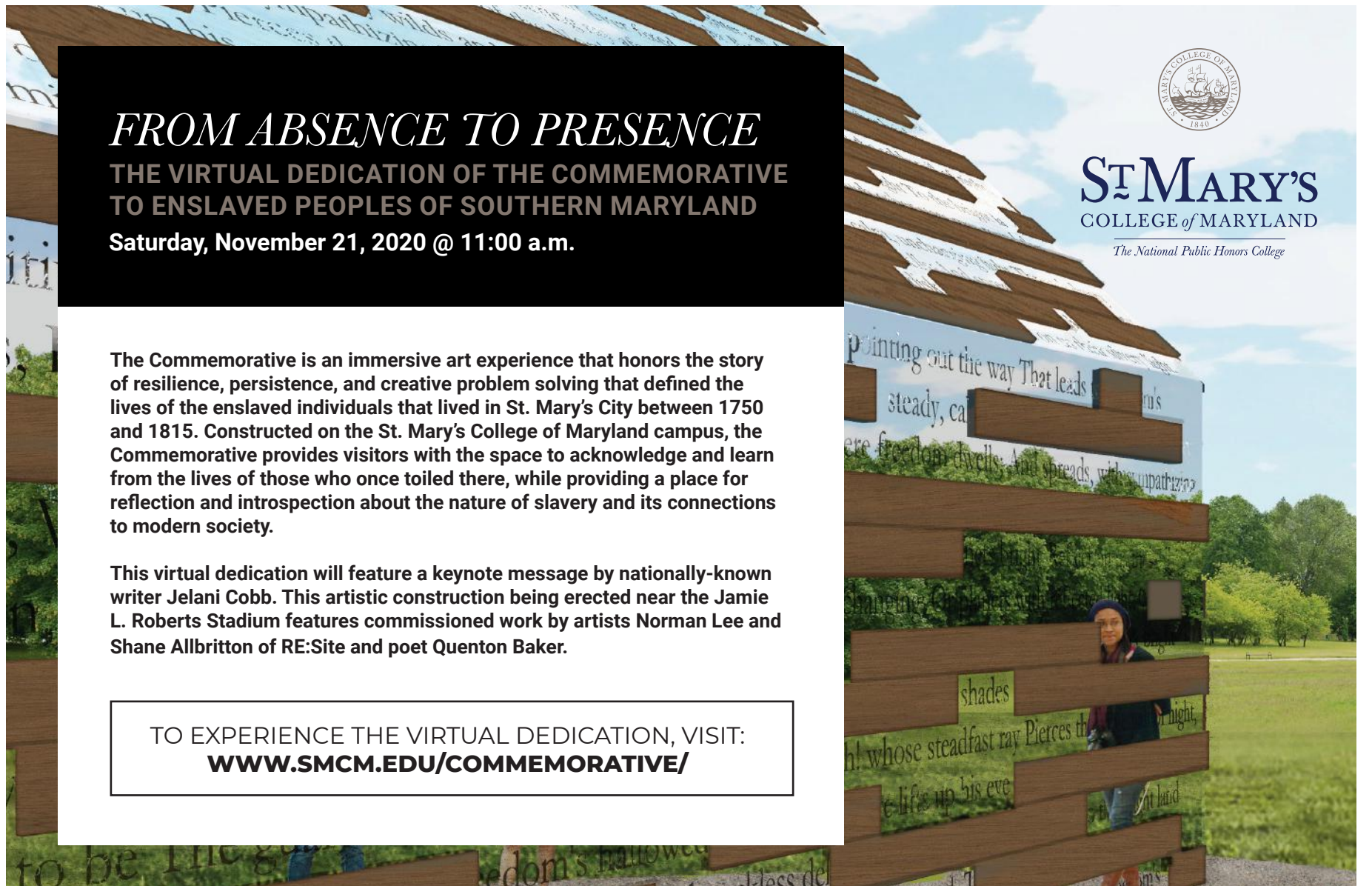
This virtual dedication will feature a keynote message by nationally-known writer Jelani Cobb. This artistic construction being erected near the Jamie L. Roberts Stadium features commissioned work by artists Norman Lee and Shane Allbritton of RE:Site and poet Quenton Baker.

TO EXPERIENCE THE VIRTUAL DEDICATION, VISIT:
WWW.SMCM.EDU/COMMEMORATIVE/



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ST. MARY'S SHERIFF'S OFFICE CRIME REPORT

On View Arrests:

Assault- On October 28, 2020, Cpl. Tirpak responded to the 45900 block of Foxchase Drive in Great Mills, for the reported assault. Investigation determined **Douglas NMN Jones**, age 62 of Great Mills, obtained a knife and threatened to cut the victim during an argument. Jones was arrested and charged with Assault 1st Degree.



Douglas Jones

Assault- On October 31, 2020, Dep. Ryczyn responded to the 46700 block of Shangri La Drive in Lexington Park, for the reported assault. Investigation determined **Tynesha Lashaun Thomas**, age 29 of Lexington Park, assaulted the victim by throwing food at the

victim. During the investigation Thomas became combative and was arrested. While in custody Thomas kicked two deputies who were on scene. Thomas was charged with three counts of Assault 2nd Degree and Resist/Interfere with Arrest.



Tynesha Thomas

Assault- On October 31, 2020, DFC. Holdsworth responded to the 39800 block of Grandview Haven Drive in Morganza, for the reported assault. Investigation determined **Katia Lynn Duffy**, age 24 of Morganza, attempted to assault several individuals at the residence, and assaulted the victim by scratching the victim on the chest when the victim attempted to intervene and stop Duffy from harming others in the residence. During the investigation Duffy attempted to push DFC. Holdsworth's arm away from her. Duffy was arrested and charged with two counts of Assault 2nd Degree.



Katia Duffy

Violate Protective Order/Assault 2nd Degree- On November 1, 2020, Dep. Fenwick responded to the 23000 block of Colton Point Road in Avenue for a reported assault. Investigation determined **Terrell Devantee Atkins**, age 22 of no fixed address, assaulted the vic-



Terrell Atkins

tim by punching the victim in the face and pushing the victim several times. There is an active court order prohibiting Atkins from contacting the victim. Atkins was arrested and charged with Assault 2nd Degree and Violate Protective Order.

Assault- On November 1, 2020, DFC. Holdsworth responded to the 22000 block of Nomoni Street in Leonardtown, for the reported assault. Investigation determined **Derrick Lamont Estep**, age 30 of Leonardtown, struck the victim in the face numerous times causing visible injury to the victim. Estep was arrested and charged with Assault 2nd Degree.



Derrick Estep

Editor's Note:

The above arrests are not an indication of guilt or innocence as the cases have not been adjudicated.

Legal Notices

IN THE MATTER OF THERESA REBEKAH SMITH
FOR CHANGE OF NAME TO THERESA REBEKAH TARTAGLIA
In the Circuit Court for St. Mary's County, Maryland

Case No.: C-18-FM-20-644
NOTICE (ADULT)

The above Petitioner has filed a Petition for Change of Name in which he/she seeks to change his/her name of a minor from THERESA REBEKAH SMITH to THERESA REBEKAH TARTAGLIA. The petitioner is seeking a name change because: Divorced.

Any person may file an objection to the Petition on or before the 12/20/2020. The objection must be supported by an affidavit (written statement confirmed by oath or affirmation) and served on the petitioner (Maryland Rule 1-321). If no timely objection is filed, the court may issue a default judgement or grant the name change.

Debra J. Burch,
Clerk of Court for
St. Mary's County Maryland

IN THE MATTER OF LEAH MARIE SCHARMEN
FOR CHANGE OF NAME TO LEAH SCHARMEN THOMAS
BY AND THROUGH HIS/HER MOTHER STEPHANIE BRESLIN THOMAS
In the Circuit Court for St. Mary's County, Maryland

Case No.: C-18-FM-20-665
Notice

The above Petitioner has filed a Petition for Change of Name in which he/she seeks to change his/her name of a minor from LEAH MARIE SCHARMEN to LEAH SCHARMEN THOMAS. The petitioner is seeking a name change because: Mother's new last name (marriage).

Any person may file an objection to the Petition on or before the 12/26/2020. The objection must be supported by an affidavit (written statement confirmed by oath or affirmation) and served on the petitioner (Maryland Rule 1-321). If no timely objection is filed, the court may issue a default judgement or grant the name change.

Debra J. Burch,
Clerk of Court for
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Private Schools Keep Students in Classrooms

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

As the county's public school system is shutting down any in-person learning until early December, parents are becoming more frustrated, complaining that their children are falling behind in their education because of the necessity to access learning virtually.

Some are looking for another solution. The County Times has learned, by looking to the county's private — many of them parochial — schools as a place to provide classroom space for their children.

"We're getting calls on almost a daily basis," said Susan McDonough, principal at St. John's School. "But we are not accepting any new kids for the school year.

"We're an enrollment-based school but we have to think of safety."

COVID-19 has changed everything for schools, whether public or private, and as case rates rise statewide and in St. Mary's County, administrators and parent boards at private schools have to carefully weigh bringing in any new students versus keeping the appropriate number for the space they have to maintain social distancing.

At Mother Catherine Academy in Clements they have had four cases of COVID-19 among students since they have opened in the late summer but their protocols to combat the virus have helped them to stop it from moving further through their student body.

The relatively low number of students there compared to the space available also helps, said Principal Anthony Wojt.

And, like St. John's School in Hollywood, they are not accepting any new students in the near future, either.

"I closed enrollment even before school started," Wojt said. "I've got 100 kids in a room with a 280-person capacity.

"They [public schools] are already at maximum capacity; I can be more flexible."

In total there are 171 students enrolled at Mother Catherine, an independent Catholic school that also depends entirely on enrollment to keep its doors open, with about 30 of those children starting the school year in a virtual setting.

Since then and with the advent of a handful of COVID-19 cases, other parents have chosen to keep their children in a virtual learning environment as well, Wojt said.

However, despite the positive cases, they have not spread because of the strict health protocols instituted there.

"I feel very confident in our plan," Wojt said. "It's been tested.

"It's been tough but we've been resilient; we stop COVID from using [Mother Catherine Academy] as a vessel for infection."

Not all students are back now, however, with Grades 3, 6 and 8 doing virtual learning.

The rest, though, are learning in classrooms; Mother Catherine teaches students in Kindergarten through Grade 8.

To be cautious, students will go all virtual the few days they are learning on



Mother Catherine Academy continues in-person instruction.



St. John's Catholic School students enjoy classroom teaching.

Thanksgiving week and for a week after the holiday, Wojt said.

Through the entire COVID pandemic, the family and surrounding community have supported the school's efforts, Wojt said.

"It's the most difficult thing we've ever done," he said. "But our community is behind us and our parents are behind us."

Parents have been overwhelmingly supportive of getting their children, at least in some capacity back into classrooms, Wojt said.

"What we've learned with virtual learning is that younger you are the less effective you are," Wojt said.

It's those families with large numbers of children, many of them younger, that are calling Mother Catherine the most to look for solutions, Wojt said.

It's not just families with younger children looking for schooling options, but those with high school aged students as well.

"We've received a lot of inquiries," said St. Mary's Ryken High School President Rick Wood. "Since July we've enrolled 19 students from area schools."

Those public school students are not just from Southern Maryland but also from lower Prince George's County and King George County in Virginia, Wood said.

So far, there have been no cases of COVID at St. Mary's Ryken, Wood said, despite having a hybrid schedule that has half of the school's 700 students coming in on alternating days.

"We're still on the same hybrid plan as when we started on Aug. 24," Wood said. "As of Nov. 17 we've not had any cases.

"Our faculty and staff have really stepped up."

Sanitation is strictly enforced, and students wipe down their desks to disinfect them after each class, Wood said.

Also, masks are mandatory at all times unless students are eating, drinking or engaging in strenuous sport.

The student body there have acted in such a way that they appreciate going back to in-person learning as a privilege.

"The students have really impressed me," Wood said. "They've really honored everything we've asked them to do."

The school's college campus environment, with classes spread out between several buildings require students required to walk in the open air between them.

This helps in combating the spread of the virus, Wood said.

"We are limiting class sizes with only 15 students per classroom," Wood said. "We're keeping windows and doors open."

For the past seven years St. Mary's Ryken has been working with what the public schools have only recently obtained, a one-to-one ratio of internet-capable computers to students.

This pandemic has put their resources to the test.

"It's definitely been about learning new things," Wood said. "We've implemented new technology... so learning is synchronous.

"I think they've [students and teachers] been doing an excellent job with the adjustments."

McDonough also reports that COVID-19 has yet to darken St. John's halls.

Daily health and temperature screenings, constant sanitation and people who feel sick staying home have all contributed to this happy situation, she said.

"We are doing amazingly well," McDonough said. "We've had no cases since Aug. 25."

At their school only a small portion of students are staying home and learning in a virtual setting.

"All our kids are in Monday through Friday," McDonough said. "Less than 20 percent opted to stay home."

Parents who plan to take their families out of state for Thanksgiving have been quick to volunteer to quarantine their students for the following week as a way to ensure the safety of others attending St. John's.

"Parents have been very proactive," McDonough said. "It's about thinking of others."

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Public Schools Classrooms Remain Shut Down

Schools Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith said since the county's positivity rate went above 5 percent and the case rate per 100,000 people went above 15, they had to follow the state's guidance on shutting down in person learning.

"We followed the governor's decision matrix and paused in person learning," Smith said. "If the case rate goes into single digits for cases per 100,000 and the positivity rate goes below 5 percent, we'll have kids back in person.

"If the data trends the right way, we're ready to go."

Dec. 7 could be the earliest date for students to return to in-person learning, Smith said.

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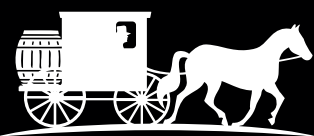
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Thousands in Southern Maryland pay for dentistry they never get done!

BY: JEFF TOMCSIK
Research Reporter

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Enslaved Peoples Memorial to be Dedicated

St. Mary's College Hosts Virtual Ceremony

St. Mary's College of Maryland announces the virtual dedication of The Commemorative to Enslaved Peoples of Southern Maryland with keynote speaker Jelani Cobb will take place on November 21 at 11:00 a.m. at www.smcm.edu/commemorative.

The history of the project dates back to summer 2016 when remains of slave quarters were discovered during archaeological site work in advance of construction of the Jamie L. Roberts Stadium. St. Mary's College President Tuajuanda C. Jordan immediately formed focus groups comprised of students, faculty, staff and community members to decide the appropriate way to honor the slave quarter artifacts discovered.

Once it was decided to erect a structural tribute, President Jordan formed a process whereby the campus community and external community members could learn about and vote on designs submitted for creating a reflective memorial. In March 2019, the design firm RE:site was selected to build the Commemorative. In October 2020, installation on the campus began, leading toward the dedication of The Commemorative to Enslaved Peoples of Southern Maryland.

The Commemorative will serve as an essential learning tool in the College's diversity and inclusion efforts. The immersive art experience honors the story of resilience, persistence and creative problem-solving that defined the lives of the enslaved individuals that lived in St. Mary's City between 1750 and 1815.

Designed by Shane Allbritton and Norman Lee of RE:site and featuring the poetry of Quenton Baker, The Commemorative to Enslaved Peoples of Southern Maryland allows visitors to engage in an individualized experience, contemplating the effects of slavery. The designers used historical documents, archaeological research and slave folklore to recontextualize how we examine this shared history. The inclusion of erasure poetry, largely culled from slave advertisements, and a structure inspired by the "ghost frame" architecture at Historic St. Mary's City, aims to inform and heighten the dialogue around slavery in Southern Maryland and the region. A unique feature is the lighting of the structure at night that beams the erasure poetry onto the surrounding landscape.

The virtual dedication — entitled From Absence to Presence — will feature a keynote by Jelani Cobb, billed as one of the clearest and smartest voices in today's conversations around race issues. Cobb is a staff writer for The New Yorker, a historian and a professor at



Keynote speaker Jelani Cobb

Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism. As a columnist, he received the Sidney Hillman Prize for Opinion and Analysis Journalism. The author of "The Devil & Dave Chappelle & Other Essays" (Basic Books, 2007) and "The Substance of Hope: Barack Obama and the Paradox of Progress" (Walker & Co., 2010), the latter was re-released in October 2020 with a new introduction by the author.

The dedication will also feature Baker reciting several poems found on the walls of the Commemorative, a time lapse of the structure "rising" from the ground, and a student creative piece reflecting on the meaning of freedom.

The Commemorative to Enslaved Peoples of Southern Maryland dedication includes reflections on its importance from the following:

Governor of Maryland Larry Hogan (R-Md.)

U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-Md.)

U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.)

U.S. Congressman Steny Hoyer (D-Md.)

Maryland State Senator Jack Bailey (R-Md.)

Maryland State Delegate/Speaker of the House Adrienne A. Jones (D-Md.)

Maryland State Delegate Brian M. Crosby (D-Md.)

St. Mary's County Commissioner Eric Colvin (R-Md.)

Baltimore City Council President and Mayor-elect Brandon M. Scott (D-Md.)

The Commemorative was made possible through funding by the following: Governor Larry J. Hogan and the State of Maryland, Dr. Jeffrey J. Byrd and Mrs. Elizabeth A. Byrd, Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, Maryland State Arts Council, Southern Maryland Heritage Area, and St. Mary's College of Maryland.

St. Mary's College of Maryland, the National Public Honors College, is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education through 2024-2025. St. Mary's College is ranked one of the best public liberal arts schools in the nation by U.S. News & World Report. Approximately 1,600 students attend the college, nestled on the St. Mary's River in Southern Maryland.

Press Release from SMCM.

Non-Public School Bus Plan Approved

As part of their ongoing support for schools in St. Mary's County, the Commissioners authorized the distribution of the non-public school transportation plan. The plan was developed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and provides detailed guidance for the safety of staff and students.

The revised Parent/Student Handbook and Back to School Plan provides detailed information on the sanitization of buses, how students will load and unload and safe steps drivers will undertake to transfer students at bus stop locations.

The transportation plan was developed collaboratively by

the Department of Public Works & transportation, schools and the St. Mary's County Health Department.

Commissioner decisions and related public documents are available on the county government website in BoardDocs. St. Mary's County Commissioner Meetings may be viewed live Tuesday mornings on SMCG Channel 95 or as a replay Friday nights at 6:30 p.m. Meetings are also available for on-demand viewing on the St. Mary's County Government YouTube Channel.

Press Release from St. Mary's County government.

National Search Begins for New CSM Chief Academic Officer

The College of Southern Maryland (CSM) will launch a national search for a new chief academic officer to replace CSM Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Eileen Abel, who will leave Nov. 30, 2020 to become Executive Director of the University System of Maryland Southern Maryland (USMSM).

"We congratulate Dr. Abel on her new position, and look forward to building on the existing partnership with USMSM that will facilitate access to the baccalaureate degree for more CSM graduates," said CSM President Dr. Maureen Murphy. "Dr. Abel has been an integral part of the CSM leadership team for five years, and I know I speak for each member of the CSM family when I say we will miss her innovative, steady, and compassionate hand in our day-to-day lives."

"A piece of my heart will always be with the College of Southern Maryland," said Abel. "The professionals who join to serve the

mission of our nation's community colleges are like no other when it comes to lifting the underserved, fighting for inclusion and equity, and committing to each student's success. It has been an honor to serve beside my CSM colleagues.

"The Regional Higher Education Centers offer a unique model of access to bachelor completion and graduate programs right here in Southern Maryland," Abel continued. "I look forward to building stronger bridges between CSM and USMSM to create opportunities for CSM graduates to continue their academic journey toward their four-year degrees and beyond."

A CSM interim vice president of academic affairs will be announced soon, said Murphy. The national search for a permanent academic officer will begin January 2021 with the goal to name a permanent replacement in June 2021.

Press Release from CSM

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Virtual Special
LTown Style Presents:



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in Leonardtown

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Style by Dawn/LTown Style*

*The Fenwick Inn
Donna O'Connor & Noelle Jackson*

*Lauren Zimmerman
Port of Leonardtown Winery*

*Changed
DATE!*

November 21, 2020

FEATURING

Local restaurants and food contributors showcasing ways to delight your family with delicious food demonstrations and recipes for your upcoming holiday meals.

Learn and view new ways to surround your home
inside and out with lovely warm enticing holiday decorating ideas!

and much more.....

TUNE IN AT

www.visitleonardtownmd.com

November 21, 2020

3:00 pm to 4:30 pm



Open Camera App on Phone
Point Phone to Scan QR Code
Tap Pop-Up Notification

CSM "GivingTuesday" to 'Help a Hawk'

Benefits Students Impacted by Pandemic

When the pandemic hit in March 2020 and Gov. Larry Hogan ordered Marylanders to stay home, Lisa Tolomei – a single mother of two – immediately settled into her Chesapeake Beach home office. Her daughters Caitlyn and Emily weren't so lucky. The day after Lisa started working from home, Caitlyn was laid off. And the day after that, Emily lost her job. All three Tolomeis are part-time students at the College of Southern Maryland (CSM).

"Caitlyn had just signed a six-month lease on an apartment and her plan was to continue school full time, work and start a life with her future husband," explained Tolomei. "Everything changed in an instant. Her getting laid off meant I needed to assist in paying her bills, making sure she had tuition, rent, car insurance, etc. Emily was planning to start CSM this fall, and she was working to save money for a car. All of our plans and savings got sidelined by COVID almost overnight."

But Tolomei and Caitlyn soon learned they would be receiving financial assistance from CSM through CARES Act funding and CSM's 'Help a Hawk' scholarship – an emergency fund established to help ease the burdens of pandemic-driven unemployment and fatigue; and to keep existing CSM students enrolled.

"I was awarded the Help a Hawk scholarship and it helped me so much," said Caitlyn Tolomei. "Suddenly, I was furloughed



Emily, left, and Caitlyn Tolomei

and living off of unemployment and occasionally watching my godson. I had no clue how I was going to pay my bills, let alone my school needs. Thanks to the scholarship, I was able to pay for my classes and books and stay in school this fall. I am so grateful."

"The CARES Act funds helped me buy the kids food, assist with any residual costs for tuition, and make sure my kids were taken care of," shared Lisa Tolomei. "I also received scholarship assistance from CSM Foundation's Help a Hawk fund which allowed me to continue taking classes during the pandemic. I am grateful to CSM for their generosity and quick assistance. CSM helped my family and many other families tremendously."

"No student should have to choose be-

tween affording to live and affording to learn," said CSM Acting Executive Director of the CSM Foundation Chelsea Clute. "That is why this December 1 on GivingTuesday, we are asking for the public's show of solidarity and support for our CSM students and we are asking them to help replenish our Help a Hawk fund. The pandemic is far from over and we are asking our communities to help us, help our students until they can get back on their feet."

GivingTuesday is a global generosity movement unleashing the power of people and organizations to transform their communities and the world. Created in 2012 as a simple idea: GivingTuesday is a 24-hour giving event that encourages people to do good by giving, collaborating, and celebrating generosity.

The Help A Hawk Fund provides aid to CSM students experiencing financial hardship and began in March 2020 as a Student Emergency Fund in response to COVID-19. To date, the CSM Foundation has raised \$148,000 in support of students impacted financially by COVID-19. More than \$120,000 has been awarded to 378 students thanks to the foundation's Help a Hawk efforts. Continued contributions will replenish the fund and provide direct relief to students in the form of Hawk Feeder care packages; tuition assistance; and technology and educational supplies.

Generous donors and supporters of the

CSM Foundation have already pledged to match 2020 GivingTuesday gifts, dollar for dollar. Visit the CSM Foundation website for a list of matching donors or for more information on how to become a matching donor. Participants can also make a donation during one of CSM's 'Power Hours' on Dec. 1 (8-9 a.m., 12-1 p.m. or 6-7 p.m.) and be entered into a live drawing to win exciting prizes.

Learn more about GivingTuesday at CSM by visiting online at https://foundation.csm.edu/news-events/giving-tuesday-2020?j=69503061&sfmc_sub=1070123979&l=7667323_HTML&u=727493720&mid=10184794&jb=0

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) (S.748) Charitable Giving Incentive: Includes an above-the-line deduction (universal or non-itemizer deduction that applies to all taxpayers) for total charitable contributions of up to \$300. The incentive applies to contributions made in 2020 and would be claimed on tax forms next year. The bill also lifts the existing cap on annual contributions for those who itemize, raising it from 60 percent of adjusted gross income to 100 percent. For corporations, the bill raises the annual limit from 10 percent to 25 percent. Analysis of S.748 prepared by the National Council of Nonprofits.

Press Release from CSM



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Ideas for Thanking Your Family

It's almost Thanksgiving. And although 2020 may have been a difficult year for you, as it has been for many people, you can probably still find things for which you can be thankful – such as your family. How can you show your appreciation for your loved ones?

Here are a few suggestions:

- Invest in your children's future. If you have young children – or even grandchildren – one of the greatest gifts you can give them is the gift of education. You may want to consider contributing to a higher education funding vehicle.

- Be generous. Do you have older children, just starting out in life? If so, they could well use a financial gift to help pay off student loans, buy a car or even make a down payment on a home. You can give up to \$15,000 per year, per recipient, without incurring gift taxes. Of course, you don't have to give cash – you might want to consider presenting your children with shares of stock in companies they like.

- Review your insurance coverage. If you weren't around, it would leave some gaping holes – financial and otherwise – in the lives of your family members. That's why it's essential you maintain adequate life insurance. Your employer might offer a group plan, but it may not be sufficient to meet your needs. There's no magic formula for determining the right amount of coverage, so you'll have to consider a variety of factors: your age, spouse's income, number of children and so on. Also, you may want to consider disability insurance

– if you were unable to work for a while, it could cause a real problem for your family's finances.

- Preserve your financial independence. When your children are young, you take care of them. But you certainly don't want them to have to do the same for you – so it's essential you maintain your financial independence throughout your life. You can do this in at least a couple of ways. First, consider investing regularly in your 401(k), IRA and other retirement accounts. The greater your resources during your retirement years, the less you may ever need to count on your family. And second, you may want to protect yourself from the devastating costs of long-term care, such as an extended nursing home stay. A financial professional can suggest a strategy to help you cope with these expenses.

- Create an estate plan. To leave a legacy to your family, you don't have to be wealthy – but you do need a comprehensive estate plan. You'll have to think through a lot of questions, such as: Have I named beneficiaries for all my assets? How much do I want to leave to each person? Do I need to go beyond a simple will to establish an arrangement such as a living trust? For help in answering all these issues, you'll want to work with an attorney. By making these moves, you can show your loved ones, in a tangible way, how much you value them – and that can help you keep the spirit of Thanksgiving alive all year long.

*Article was contributed by David McDonough
Financial Advisor at Edward Jones.
Office located at 41680 Miss Bessie Dr Suite 302
Leonardtown MD, 20650
301 997 1707*

Reading for Heroes Initiative Announced

The St. Mary's County Equity Task Force, in partnership with St. Mary's County Library and St. Mary's College of Maryland, announces the Reading for St. Mary's Heroes initiative. Reading for St. Mary's Heroes honors the service of frontline and essential workers of the COVID-19 pandemic, including health care providers, public health professionals, law enforcement, emergency medical services, firefighters, public works, teachers, grocery store workers and others.

Reading for St. Mary's Heroes pairs children (prekindergarten - 8th grade) of these frontline and essential workers with high school or college student readers for regular reading sessions held virtually via Zoom. Books selected for the initiative are developmentally appropriate for the child's age and will touch on topics related to Equity. Learn more or sign up to participate in this free program at: www.smchd.org/reading-for-st-marys-heroes

"Families of frontline and essential workers of the COVID-19 pandemic have faced unique stressors during the COVID-19 pandemic; their loved ones have been pulled away for extended periods of time doing high risk work for our community," said Dr. Meena Brewster, St. Mary's County Health Officer. "Supporting the children in these families is one way to recognize their sacrifice. This initiative also spreads awareness of the concept of Equity - the idea that every person has the opportunity to be their best self."

"Reading for St. Mary's Heroes advances

literacy skills and reinforces the power and pleasure of reading and being read to. The initiative will provide opportunities for our high school students to earn community service credit while acting as role models for service to our younger learners," said Dr. J. Scott Smith, Superintendent of St. Mary's County Public Schools.

"This is an ideal opportunity for young people in our community to become positive role models and mentors for their younger peers," Sheriff Tim Cameron said. "I would encourage our high school and college students to participate."

"Librarians chose the reading list carefully to promote many visions of Equity," said St. Mary's County Library Director Michael Blackwell. "The children who read and their reading mentors will emerge from this dark time with a sense of hope and greater self-confidence to pursue their special dreams."

On June 29, 2020, the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office, St. Mary's County Public Schools, and the St. Mary's County Health Department signed a Joint Resolution to Advance Equity locally in regards to public safety, education and health. Learn more at www.smchd.org/equity.

Joint Press Release: St. Mary's County Health Department, St. Mary's County Public Schools, St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office, St. Mary's County Library and St. Mary's College of Maryland

The advertisement features a collage of images. On the left is a magazine cover for 'St. Mary's County Times' with the headline 'EASY PICKIN'' and a picture of crabs. On the right is a 'SOMD Staycation Guide' with the text 'What are Your Plans This Summer?' and a picture of a person on a boat. At the bottom, a hand holds a smartphone displaying the 'County Times' website. A large '100%' graphic is overlaid on the bottom left, and the text 'St. Mary's News In Print & Online' is prominently displayed in the center. The website address 'www.countytimes.net' is at the bottom.

100%
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Letters to the Editor

The Lost Art of Compromise

As an American I have always cherished my rights. I am 74 and have taken quite a journey down "Freedom Road." It all started in 1946 with my birth in Washington, D. C., the capital of "The Land of the Free."

My patriotic trip started in Mrs. Albertti's third grade class. This 72-year old teacher was a wonderful role model for us. First, we all put our hands over our hearts and recited the "Pledge of Allegiance." Then in her beautiful soprano voice she led us as we sang "The Star-Spangled Banner."

As I grew older, I became aware that individuals have different ideas. In this great Democracy we learned to listen to others and present our differing points of view. Sometimes we incorporate those ideas into our own, at other times we don't. The real point is that we listen and interact in a respectful manner with the objective of solving problems.

As I grew older I became aware of political parties. These parties had platforms that they wanted to incorporate into our lives. Our forefathers warned against them in that they would result in divided thought and an inability to listen to the constructive Ideas of the other party. To repeat, the idea is to discuss different points of view and let the majority decide which to incorporate into our lives.

An example of camaraderie is the rela-

tionship between Democrat, Tip O'Neill and Republican, Ronald Reagan. They would argue vehemently, and at the end of the day they would have drinks together.

Somewhere along the way, many of our leaders lost the ability to compromise and solve problems to the betterment of all. A good example has been the fight over a stimulus package. The Republicans believe the economy is on its way up and will improve on its own inertia. They also believe a large stimulus would be used to bail out the Democrat run states that need money. They also fear a huge deficit. The Democrats note that the dreadful pandemic COVID19 has wreaked havoc upon our society.

Among other things, people are losing homes, businesses are collapsing, and people are having trouble putting food on the table.

After months of negotiating, no package. Who suffers? We all do. A divided America that we are!

What is the conclusion? Leaders, think about why you were elected. You were elected to "Form a more perfect Union." We elected you to keep "America the Beautiful!"

*Marilyn Crosby
Lexington Park, MD*

Giving Thanks

On behalf of the Commissioners of Leonardtown and the Commissioners of St. Mary's County, we would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the participants and the generous sponsors and contributors who helped make the Leonardtown Virtual Veterans Celebration such a great success. The event, sponsored by the Commissioners of Leonardtown and the Commissioners of St. Mary's County, was held virtually on Wednesday, November 11, 2020 and aired on www.VisitLeonardtownMD.com, the Town of Leonardtown and St. Mary's County social media pages, and has reached almost 3,000 people to date.

The two-hour virtual event offered a combination of live and pre-recorded content that included scenes from a Veterans Day Parade for the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, local student readings of their winning essays, "What Veterans Day Means to Me", and spotlights on our local War Veterans and the organizations that serve them. The Memorial Wreath Laying Ceremony that aired live during the second hour of the program commemorated the 75th Anniversaries of the victory at Iwo Jima and the end of World War II with guest speaker, Mr. J. Ernest Bell, USMC, Vietnam Veteran and Local Historian; and honorable dignitaries: Steny Hoyer, Congressman, 5th District, U.S. House of Representatives; Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor of Maryland; Peter Franchot, Comptroller of Maryland; Gary D. Knight, Vice Chairman and Secretary, MD Veterans Home Commission; James R. Guy, President, Commissioners of St. Mary's County; the Commissioners of St. Mary's County: Eric Colvin, Michael L. Hewitt, John E. O'Connor, and Todd B. Morgan; Brian Crosby, Local State Delegation; Captain John Brabazon, Commanding Officer, Naval Air Station, Pax River; Daniel Burris, Leonardtown Mayor; and the Commissioners of Leonardtown: Tyler Alt, Nick Colvin, Christy Hollander, J. Maguire Mattingly, and Mary Maday Slade, and the participation of family members of local fallen soldiers who attended as guests of honor and laid wreaths in honor of their loved ones during the ceremony. Thank you again to everyone who participated in or viewed the event and the kind supporters below who helped make the day possible:

Sponsors: Commissioners of Leonardtown, St. Mary's County Government, Ron Bailey Photo Productions, Winson Media, Brinsfield Funeral Home, So. MD Radio, County Times, Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Marrick Homes, Quality Built Homes, Cheseldine Auto Group, Leonardtown Chevy, Buick and GMC, St. Mary's County Arts Council, the Leonardtown Business Association, and Berkshire Hathaway Home Services and McNellis Group Properties.

Contributors and Supporters: Our honorable guest speakers noted above, Mr. Bob Fowler, Mr. Bob Fowler, Jr., Mr.



Larry Brabec, The family of Army Spc. Raymond J. Faulstitch, Jr., Mr. Ron Bailey, Mr. Ed Delmoro, Ms. ALisa Casas, Ms. Amy Carter, Ms. Heather Poston, Ms. Gretchen Heinze Hardman, Brinsfield Funeral Home, Ms. Michelle Gordon, T-Bone & Heather, SOMD Radio, STAR 98.3, WKIK, 97.7, the St. Mary's & Calvert County Times, Mr. Boyd Farrington, Jr., Naval Air Station, Patuxent River Marine Detachment 1305, Mr. Timothy Rourke, Leonard Hall Jr. Naval Academy, Mr. Mike Smith, Ms. Kylie Teston, Ms. Julia Hancock, Ms. Jennifer Cooper, Ms. Bethany Yates, Mr. Jeff Silberschlag, Captain Barbara Ives, Retired, Mr. Hunter Martin, Principal Contina Quick-McQueen, Principal Denise Mandis, Ms. Jackie Snyder, Mr. Mac Bailey, Captain Clay Hamrick, Mr. Chris Bell, Mr. Kevin Mattingly, Leonardtown, Mechanicsville, Ridge Seventh District and Hollywood Volunteer Fire Departments and the Leonardtown and Ridge Volunteer Rescue Squads, Cpl. Kristi Nelson, Cpl. William Rishel, Mr. John Parlett, Cruisn Southern Maryland for Vets, Mr. Bill Higgs, Mr. John Vannatta, St. Mary's Rod & Classic, SOMD Jeepers, Combat Veterans of America Motorcycle Club (CVAMC), The AVA Group, Elks Lodge, Navy Federal Credit Union, Commission for Women, Mr. Steve Wright, Disabled American Veterans (DAV), Southern Maryland Vacations for Vets (V4V), Mr. Jimmy Hayden, Homes for Heroes, RE/MAX 100, MDVA Secretary George W. Owings, Ms. Sharon Murphy, Mr. Russell Keogler, Ms. Ashley Radano, Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, Mr. J. Ernest Bell, Mr. Ertan Lee, Ms. Laschelle McKay, Ms. Teri Dimsey, Ms. Beth Sandberg, Ms. Michele Allen, County and Town staff, and other supporters who make this event possible, and a special thank you to Parade Organizer, Ms. Connie Pennington, for her 20 years of serving the community and helping to organize the Annual Veterans Day Parade. Thank you all for helping to make this event possible!

Sincerely,

*Brandy Blackstone
Public Relations & Events Coordinator
Commissioners of Leonardtown
Alisa Casas
Communications Director
Public Information Office
St. Mary's County Government*

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PATUXENT RIVER NAVAL AIR STATION *News*

V-22 Flights Begin at Japan's Kisarazu Air Field

Japanese Self-Defense Forces began V-22 flight operations at Kisarazu Air Field Nov. 6, marking the first international partner to fly the U.S. military aircraft.

"The JGSDF [Japan Ground Self Defense Force] is taking a big step toward integrating the V-22's unique capabilities into its mission," said Col. Matthew Kelly, program manager for the V-22 Joint Program Office (PMA-275). "Beginning with Japan's selection of the V-22 in 2015, it has been an honor working with our international ally and partner to make this program a reality."

The flight followed a ceremony earlier in the week, marking Japan's V-22 program activation.

The activation of the JGSDF's Transportation Aviation Group flight operations is a major milestone for both the Japanese and V-22 Joint Program Office and follows a key success this summer: delivering the first aircraft to Japan, on schedule, during a global pandemic.

Within the last few months, the PMA-275 international team continued to work closely with the JGSDF, completing required maintenance and expediting spares and support equipment deliveries ahead of these initial flight operations. To make all of this happen, various

members of the V-22 community came together including Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Fleet Readiness Center Western Pacific, Bell Boeing and Rolls-Royce.

"The PMA-275 team coordinated with our partners, both industry and DoD, across the globe to ensure long-term success for its V-22s," Kelly said. "I am proud of the entire team's achievements and dedication especially during this challenging time— it was a true "Team Osprey" effort!"

In addition to the JGSDF, the V-22 is critical to three U.S. branches of military, the Air Force, Marine Corps and Navy. For the U.S. Special Operations Forces, the CV-22 supports long-range infiltration, exfiltration and resupply missions. The Marine Corps' MV-22B provides assault support transport of combat troops, supplies and equipment during expeditionary, joint or combined operations. The CMV-22B is the Navy's carrier onboard delivery replacement aircraft, currently in flight test.

PMA-275 manages the cradle to grave procurement, development, fielding, sustainment and disposal of the tiltrotor program for the DoD and the JGSDF.



III Marine Expeditionary Force Commanding General, Lt. Gen. H. Stacy Clardy addresses attendees at the Japanese Ground Self Defense Force's Transportation Aviation Group (TAG) Ceremony for Japan's V-22 Program Activation.

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St. Mary's Community

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.

Friday, November 20

Beth Israel Synagogue Shabbat Services Online

7 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Shabbat evening services are being held online due to COVID19. Beginning July 17, 2020, Beth Israel Synagogue will hold online services EVERY FRIDAY at 7 PM. Check our website calendar (bethisraelmd.weebly.com/calendar.html) for event details.

Tuesday, November 24

Grief Support Group

Calvary Chapel; 7 p.m.

Help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member, or friend. The support group meets weekly. You are welcome to begin attending at any point. You'll find it to be a warm, caring environment and will come to see your group as an "oasis" on your long journey through grief. For more information call the church office and leave a message 301-645-0660 or email us at admin@ccsmd.com.

Wednesday, November 25

Wayback Wednesdays

We hope you're loving our weekly video series showing some of the stories that make St. Mary's County's history so unique and interesting. We thought this would be a fun way to bring our closed museums to you while we all keep our social distance. Join us every week for short videos featuring everything from the quirky to the fascinating - tune in! We have several episodes in the playlist! [Facebook.com/SCIMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/SCIMuseum)

Ongoing

Health Department Drive-Thru Flu Vaccine Clinics

The St. Mary's County Health Department (SMCHD) is partnering with St. Mary's County Public Schools to offer free drive-thru flu vaccine clinics for children (ages 3 - 18 years) at the locations listed below. Children must be residents of St. Mary's County though they do not need to be enrolled in the public school system. Advance registration is required at www.marylandvax.org in order to ensure adequate vaccine supply:

Great Mills High School

Monday, October 26, 2020
4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Leonardtown High School

Tuesday, October 27, 2020
4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Chopticon High School

Wednesday, October 28, 2020
4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Spring Ridge Middle School

Thursday, October 29, 2020
4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

SMCHD is also partnering with Med-Star St. Mary's Hospital for additional drive-thru flu vaccine clinics for both children and adults as outlined below:

Medstar St. Mary's Hospital

Outpatient Pavilion in Leonardtown:
Saturday, October 17, 2020

East Run Center in Lexington Park:

Friday, October 23, 2020
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Children ages 3 - 18 are free (funded through SMCHD)

Adults over the age of 18 are requested to provide a \$10 donation

Participants receiving vaccine are asked to please:

Follow directional signage

Stay in your vehicle - Clinic staff will come to you

Wear a cloth face covering or mask when interacting with clinic staff

Advanced registration is required at www.marylandvax.org.

COVID-19 Appointment-Free Testing

Lexington Park Office:

Tuesday and Thursday from 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

46035 Signature Lane, Lexington Park (co-located with U-Haul Moving & Storage)

For assistance or accommodations, call ahead to (301) 862-1680

Leonardtown Office:

Monday - Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

21580 Peabody Street, Leonardtown

For assistance or accommodations, call ahead to (301) 475-4330

SMCHD COVID-19 Testing:

Walk up for testing, parking is available

Appointment-free

No doctor's order needed

Free of Charge (no out-of-pocket cost, co-payment, co-insurance, etc.)

Bring health insurance information and identification, if possible - Uninsured community members are welcome

ST. MARY'S COUNTY Library

Library Closed for Thanksgiving

The three St. Mary's County Library locations will close at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, November 25 and remain closed Thursday, November 26 and Friday, November 27 in observance of Thanksgiving. All locations will be open on Saturday, November 28.

Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You, by Jason Reynolds - Book Discussion

Join other teens online on Monday, November 16 from 4 - 5 p.m. to discuss this critical and pivotal work by one of the top authors in YA literature today. Register early on www.stmalib.org to reserve a Library copy of the book to read in advance. As part of the Community Conversations on Race series, teen librarian Miss Elizabeth and Spring Ridge Middle School media specialist Priscilla Dyson will facilitate a conversation on Jason Reynolds' adaptation of the adult work *Stamped* from the Beginning by Ibram X. Kendi.

In Relentless Pursuit of an Education - Book Discussion

Join us virtually on Tuesday, November 17 from 7 - 9 p.m. to hear from speakers who are featured in the book 'In Relentless Pursuit of an Education!' Register on www.stmalib.org and checkout a copy of the book from the Library. For American Education Week, we are discussing the local history book *In Relentless Pursuit of an Education*. In their own words, residents of St. Mary's County, Maryland, tell of the separate and unequal black schools that existed until the county complied with Brown v. Board of Education in 1967. This discussion will feature students whose experiences are in the book and guest speakers from the Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions who will be talking about their experience interviewing former students of segregated schools. We will also hear how students today are working to improve equity in their schools.



Outdoor Storytime at Patuxent River Naval Air Museum

Join the St. Mary's County Library outdoors at the Patuxent River Naval Air Museum (22156 Three Notch Road Lexington Park, MD 20653) on Saturday, November 21 from 10:30 - 11 a.m. for an outdoor storytime! Check the weather before you come! Stories, rhymes, songs, and activities for children with their adult caregivers. Siblings welcome; no registration required. This activity will take place outdoors on the Flight Line, which is a paved area. Participants should bring blankets or chairs for comfort, and follow social distancing practices during the event. This outdoor event is weather-dependent; in case of bad weather it will be cancelled. If in doubt, please check with the library or museum to confirm that the event is still on. The museum entry fee will be waived

for all children 10 & under attending the storytime, and offered at a reduced price of \$3 to all adults. Masks are encouraged during the outdoor storytime, and required to enter the museum buildings.

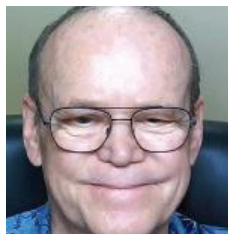
Common Thread

Common Thread will be held on Tuesday, November 24 from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Join fellow crafters who love all things fiber - virtually! Registration is required (with an email address) on www.stmalib.org. You'll receive an email with a link to join the Zoom meeting before the program. Open to knitters, crocheters, quilters, embroiderers, cross-stitchers, and any other kind of needleworkers. Work on your current project and chat with like-minded makers. All skill levels welcome.

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

In Remembrance

Terrence (Terry) Munsinger



Terrence (Terry) Munsinger passed away peacefully at his home on November 11, 2020. Terry was born in San Bernardino, California

January 23, 1952. He was preceded in death by his parents Douglas Owen Munsinger and Glory Patricia Diely. He is survived by his wife of 28 years, Laura Munsinger and sons Joe Munsinger and Bryna of Portland, Oregon, Greg Railey of Dayton, Ohio, Lawrence Railey and Jennifer and grandchildren Jacob and Juliet of Apollo Beach, Florida.

He worked for the Federal Government for 30 years, the last 12 years at Patuxent River, Maryland as a Program Manager. He was so proud and honored to work for the Government.

He especially enjoyed working on his 1968 Barracuda and spending time with his beagles; he was nicknamed the "beagle whisperer". There will be a private cremation. Dona-

tions may be made to Beagle Rescue of Southern Maryland.

Deborah Jean Forrest



Deborah Jean Forrest, "Debbie", 67 of Ridge, MD passed away on November 10, 2020 in Leonardtown, MD. Born on March 31, 1953

in Leonardtown, MD she was the daughter of the late Margaret (Buckler) Reeder and George Reeder. Debbie was the loving wife of the late Patrick John Forrest, Sr. whom she married on October 24, 1970 in Hollywood, MD and who preceded her in death on November 17, 2015. Debbie is survived by her children Patrick John (PJ) Forrest, Jr. (Trina) of St. Inigoes, MD, Christopher Forrest of Ridge, MD, Jesse Forrest (Amy) of Ridge, MD, Angela Forrest of Ridge, MD, 8 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild. Siblings Loretta Adams of Hollywood, MD, George Reeder of Conway, SC, Kirk Reeder, Diane Matthews of Fordyce, AK, Judith James of Mechanicsville, MD,

Rosetta Miller of Hollywood, MD, Tina Reeder of Hollywood, MD, and Catherine Healy of Lexington Park, MD. She was preceded in death by her brothers Richard Reeder, and Rodney Reeder.

She was a lifelong St. Mary's County, MD resident and homemaker. Debbie enjoyed crabbing, playing rummy, spending time with her children, grandchildren and great grandchild. She enjoyed a cold beverage under her favorite shade tree with her many friends and family.

Contributions may be made to the Ridge Vol. Rescue Squad P.O. Box 456 Ridge, MD 20680.

Christine Phillips



Christine Phillips passed away peacefully on 5, November 2020. A Navy wife for 33 years, "Chris" is survived by Charles

"Butch" Phillips, her husband of 53 years, their sons Aaron and Heath, 6 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren, as well as her younger sisters; Jaycene, Bernadine, Claudine, and Nanneene.

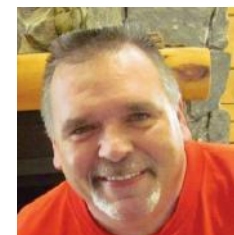
Chris and Butch married at ages 19 & 21 and set off on an adventurous life, relocating every few years as their Navy career demanded. Loved by all who knew her, she was often called "that Crazy Cat Lady" as she fostered and found forever homes for stray felines at every opportunity.

Family and friends celebrate Christine, and a life well lived.

David Bruce Skalniak

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of David Bruce Skalniak

Dave was a resident of California, Maryland and passed away at



Hospice House in Callaway, Maryland after a courageous fight against cancer. Dave was granted his angel wings on November 10, 2020.

Born in Dundalk, MD. on May 6, 1960. Dave graduated from Patapsco High School. He continued his education and served in the United States Navy. He recently retired after working for many years as Station Head at Patuxent Naval Air Station.

David was a devoted son, husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend. Those he met remember Dave's infectious smile, kindness and sense of humor. Dave enjoyed fishing and had accomplished wood working skills.

Dave is survived by his father, Walter A. Skalniak Jr., wife Monique Skalniak, son David B Skalniak Jr., grandson Robert B. Skalniak, sisters, Terese Lefebvre and Susan Grieb and brother, Walter J. Skalniak Sr.

He was preceded in death by his mother Lucille Skalniak.

Dave passed at 60 years old. His life would seem too short to many, but those who were touched by him understand the quality of existence far exceeds the quantity of time, Dave loved deeply and will be surely missed.

David's wish was to be cremated. A small service will be announced for family and friends.

In lieu of flowers please make donations to:

Hospice House of St. Mary's
P.O. Box 625
Leonardtown, MD 20650

Ricky Ray Adkins

Ricky Ray Adkins, 61, of Lexington Park, MD passed away on November 13, 2020 at MedStar St.

Mary Catherine Kane Sept. 18, 1924- Nov. 19, 2019

On the day that you went home to be with the Lord, our hearts were broken. Life has not been the same for us. We miss you, Mama. Love, Ellen & Larry



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Charlotte Hall, MD 20622
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FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED FOR TWO GENERATIONS

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Mary's Hospital with his family at his side.

He was born on December 11, 1958 in Leonardtown, MD to the late Shirley Ellen Teasley Adkins and Doffis Ray Adkins.

Ricky was a delicious cook and made many Sunday dinners for his family. His homemade cornbread was a specialty. He learned to cook by spending time with his mother in the kitchen. He also enjoyed fishing, playing horseshoes, and cheering on the Washington Redskins. He was very neat, and liked to make sure everything was also clean and tidy. He enjoyed spending time with his friends and family.

He is survived by his siblings: Danny R. Adkins, Sr. (Debbie) of Lexington Park, MD, Larry W. Adkins, Sr. (Mary Jane) of Lexington Park, MD, Ronnie C. Adkins of Lexington Park, MD, Joyce A. Dunn of Lexington Park, MD, Randy A. Adkins of Lexington Park, MD, and Janie D. Stauffer (Eddie) of Leonardtown, MD; his nieces and nephews: Danny Ray Adkins, Jr., David Wayne Adkins, Brian Aaron Adkins, Amy Jo Darnall, Larry W. "PeeBoo" Adkins, Jr., Mickey Lee Adkins, Nicholas R. Davis, Robert William Unkle III, Madison Dunn, Timothy John Unkle, Jr., and Candace Lynn Unkle; and many extended family and friends. He is preceded in death by his parents.

All services will be private. Condolences to the family may be made at www.brinsfieldfuneral.com. Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Elizabeth Tandy Wilkerson



Elizabeth Tandy Wilkerson "Beth", 69, of Leonardtown, MD passed away on November 8, 2020 at MedStar St. Mary's Hospital, Leonardtown MD.

Beth was born on March 28, 1951 in Leonardtown MD she was the daughter to the late Louis Fredrick Burris and Mary Jean McNey Burris. On March 3, 1973, she married her beloved husband David Vincent Wilkerson. Together they celebrated over 43 wonderful years of marriage. She retired from the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) after 30 years of employment serving as Lieutenant/Assistant Manager. After retirement Beth continued her

career as a Federal Contractor for approximately 10 years supporting Naval Air Systems Command Patuxent River, MD. Beth enjoyed the holidays, going to the casinos, riding horses, playing pitch, dates with her girlfriends and spending time with her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. She was known for her homemade spaghetti and sweet iced tea.

Elizabeth is survived by her children Tandy Marie Burch (Paul) of Leonardtown MD, Michael Shane Wilkerson of Ridge MD, step-children Lisa Lynn Moyer (Darvin) of Manheim PA, David Scott Wilkerson (Tammy) of Leonardtown MD, 10 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren. Siblings, Freddie Burris of Clements, MD and Danny Burris of Leonardtown, MD. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, and her siblings, Tommy Burris and Caroline Russell.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association, P.O. Box 417005, Boston, MA 02241-7005.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

James Leon Wilt



James Leon Wilt, 86, of Avenue, MD (formerly of Mechanicsville, MD) passed away on November 6, 2020 at his home with his loving

family at his side.

He was born on June 22, 1934 in Rainelle, WV to the late Leon William Wilt and Betty F. Phillips.

In September 1954 Jim enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corp and proudly served his country until his Honorable Discharge in September 1957. On September 14, 1957, he married his beautiful bride, Regina McCall Wilt at St. Ann's Church in Lansford, PA. Together they celebrated over 63 wonderful years of marriage. Jim is a graduate of American University in Washington, D.C. with a degree in Administration of Criminal Justice and The FBI Academy in Quantico Virginia. He was employed for 17 dedicated years as the Captain of the Fairfax County Police Department until his retirement. In 1974, he founded Diversified Detection Services, Inc. (DDS, Inc) which he owned and operated until his retirement. He was an investigator and polygraph examiner.

He was a member of St. Aloysius Catholic Church and Knights of Columbus, Council #1470 as a Fourth

Degree Knight. He was a past member of St. Bernadette's Church in Springfield, Virginia for 42 years.

In addition to his loving wife, Regina, he is also survived by his son, James Kevin Wilt of Avenue, MD, his sister, June Stankovich of Florida; his grandchildren: Sean Wilt, Allyson Wilt Estes, Michael Wilt, Emily Wilt and great granddaughter; Penelope Wilt; and extended family and friends. In addition to his parents, he is also preceded in death by his son, John Riley Wilt, his daughter-in-law, Meta Wilt, and his siblings: Jack W. Wilt, Betty L. Hart, Joe R. Wilt, and Bobbie L. Neeley.

All services will be held at a later date at Arlington National Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Vincent DePaul, c/o St. Aloysius Catholic Church, P.O. Box 310, Leonardtown, MD 20653.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Leonard Stanley Buckler



Leonard Stanley Buckler of Charlotte Hall, Md. passed on November 8, 2020.

Stanley was the youngest son of George Lafayette and Mamie Dyson Buckler of Laurel Grove, Maryland. He had a brother, George L. Buckler and sister Elizabeth Buckler Burch. He is preceded in death by his parents, brother and sister.

Stanley is also preceded in death by his wife Norma N. Buckler, they celebrated over seventy years of marriage before her passing on September 19, 2020. They have three devoted daughters and son-in-laws, Susie (Joel), Vicki (John) and Patsy (Bob), five granddaughters, eleven

great grandchildren and three great great grandchildren.

Stanley loved his family, church and country. His devotion to his family was displayed each and every day. He began serving his church (Mount Zion United Methodist Church) as a young boy, arriving early before the service to stock and start the wood stove, so church would be warm when others arrived, cutting the grass for many years, serving on numerous committees and many members of his church referred to him as the walking history book of Mt. Zion.

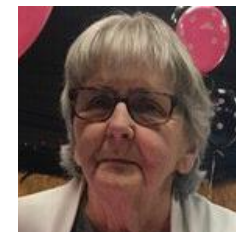
Stanley was drafted into the Navy in 1943 and participated in the greatest amphibious operation in history (D-Day), landing on Normandy Beach and proceeded to assist in liberating Nazi occupied Europe.

After the war, he returned to Washington, D.C., working for Gulf Oil, and in 1948, he returned to St. Mary's County and began a long career with the Burch Oil Company. Stanley made many friends throughout the county, but especially in the southern portion of the county.

Stanley's final career was with Brinsfield Funeral Home. He enjoyed twenty plus years working with Brinsfield and felt as though they were a second family. The Brinsfield family assisted, cared, comforted and gave Stanley such great respect.

Stanley served on many boards in St. Mary's County and loved it when board members, church members, old friends, nieces, nephews and cousins would drop by for a visit.

Mary Lue Russell



Mary Lue Russell, 76 of Great Mills, MD passed away on November 11, 2020 at MedStar Southern Maryland



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

In Remembrance

Hospital.

Mary Lue Russell was born on March 9, 1944 in Whiting, Missouri to the late Amos Davenport and Nona Pearl (Brown) Davenport.

Mary Lue Russell grew up in Missouri as one of twelve children until moving to Maryland in 1999. She married Clarence Russell on May 27, 1999. They were married for 14 years until his passing in 2013. She enjoyed watching live television shows, the weather channel and the Washington Nationals Baseball team when they were in season. Granny Mary enjoyed canning all vegetables, making tomato soup, pickles and her famous BBQ sauce. She also raised chickens so they would have fresh eggs and poultry. She enjoyed visiting with her Amish friends. She loved being with her grandchildren and playing with them when they would visit. Family meant everything to her. Her dog Yuma will always be her special baby.

She is survived by her daughter, Christi Brewer of Great Mills, MD, and her Step-Children Charles "Rocky" Russell (Becky) of Lexington Park, MD; Rick Russell of Glendale, AZ and Sheila Miller (Guy) of Baltimore, MD; her grandchildren Michael Russell, Mark Russell, Tabbetha Koslofsky (Mike), Sandra Scott (Eric), Ricky Woodburn, Kenny Woodburn, Michael George (Christina) and Nicole George (Andy); and great grandchildren, Kaitlyn Russell, Shellby Fitzgerald, Evan Koslofsky, Hailie Koslofsky, Hayden Scott, Jase Scott, Camdyn Woodburn, Emma Woodburn, Eric Risbon, Lucy George, Fitzgerald George, Reid Tennyson and Savannah Tennyson. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, her son Jamie Lynn Cade and great grandson Hunter Scott.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Wesley Lindy Nichols



Wesley Lindy Nichols, 89, of Charlotte Hall, MD departed this life on Sunday, November 8, 2020 at the Hospice House of St. Mary's, Calla-

way, MD.

He was born on December 18, 1930 in Copper Hill, VA to the late, Ira Richard Nichols and Ollie Mae (Wimmer) Nichols.

Wesley, affectionately called Samson, met the love of his life, Marian L. Owens and knew he had to make her his forever. They married on July 16, 1949 and celebrated over seventy-one (71) years of marital bliss. Their love was inspiring and grew with each passing year. Their enduring union welcomed eight (8) children, Kathy, Diane, Patricia, Carol, Tammy, Shelia, Wesley and Ronald.

A hard-working man, Samson supported his family as a heavy equipment operator at Driggs Construction Company until his retirement in 2001, this was after over sixty (60) years of dedicated service. He never felt like he was going to work, more that he was allowed to "play" with the grown-up version of Tonka trucks.

Samson was a kind and generous man. The type of man to give you the shirt off his back, but also willing to show you the way to take care of yourself. He lived a simple life with his beloved wife and treasured moments surrounded by his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and he was enamored with his nine (9) great-great grandchildren.

Whether you know him as Wesley, Samson, Dad, Brother, Grandfather, Great-grandfather, or friend, you knew a wonderful and caring man. He will leave behind a legacy of strength, love and happiness.

Wesley is survived by his beloved wife, Marian L. Nichols of Charlotte Hall, MD; his children, Kathy M. Haag (Kenneth) of Titusville, FL, Diane Nelson of Ripley, MD, Patricia Harrington (Lance) of Indian Head, MD, Carol Bailey (Teddy) of Charlotte Hall, MD, Tammy Payne of LaPlata, MD, Shelia Shadle (Kevin) of Waldorf, MD, Wesley L. Nichols, Jr. (Debbie) of VA, and Ronald D. Nichols of Charlotte Hall, MD; thirteen (13) grandchildren; nineteen (19) great-grandchildren and nine (9) great-great grandchildren. He is also survived by his siblings, Lena Hoback, Betty Martin, Sue Smith and Fred Nichols and many nieces, nephews and extended family. He was preceded in death by his parents, Ira and Ollie Mae Nichols, and siblings, Tommy Nichols, Marshall Nichols, Carl Nichols, John Nichols, Raymond Nichols, Ina Morgan and Pearl Sowers.

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

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

All arrangements have been made at Brinsfield Funeral Home & Crematory, P.A., Charlotte Hall, MD 20622.

Carol Linda Samuel



Carol Linda Samuel, 67 of Leonardtown, MD passed away on November 8, 2020 at home with her family by her side.

Carol was born on December 25, 1952 in Baltimore to Robert Rutherford and Ellen May Gardiner.

Carol grew up in Baltimore, MD until she moved to St. Mary's Coun-

ty in 1974. She married John Alvin Samuel on December 28, 1977 in Leonardtown, MD and have spent 42 wonderful years with each other. Together they raised four wonderful children. Carol was employed with the St. Mary's County Public School System as a Para Professional until she retired in 2015. She enjoyed cruising around town in dad's many antique cars. She loved his 1923 T Bucket Roadster. She loved cruising around on ships with her family. She went on at least 2 a year for many years. She loved to read books and different scandalous magazines. She was a big fan of Elvis Presley's music and movies. She was passionate about mentoring young adults. Carol was especially happy doing arts and craft projects with her grandchildren and great grandchildren. She absolutely loved celebrating Christmas from decorating the house from top to bottom and everywhere in between to wrapping all the presents she loved buying. This was her favorite time of year. For Carol the most important thing to her was family and spending time with them.

She is survived by her husband John Alvin Samuel; her children April Frederick (Ryan) of Hollywood, MD; Jay Johnson (Santee) of Leonardtown, MD; Bobby Samuel (Erica) of California, MD and Timmy Samuel of Leonardtown, Md., her brother Howard Rutherford (Ginny) of Baltimore, MD and sister, Roberta Merrill (Buddy) of Florida; her Grandchildren are Bj, Mikey, Austin, Kylie, John Charles, Jackie, Jenny, Becky, Christina, Brandon, Cobi, Mia and Ethan; and her great grandchildren Ricky, Mandy, Justin, Haley, Katie, Kera, Mari, Lola and Molly and Ryan.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Cheseldine

Clemie
(11/04/11)

Marguerite
(11/18/11)

Billy
(11/22/03)



Gone are the smiles and faces we loved so dear and silent are the voices we loved to hear. We think of you in silence and often speak your names, now all we have are memories and your pictures in a frame. Even though we cannot see you, you are always at our side and your love for our families will forever be our guide.

Your Loving Family

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301-373-4125
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Wanderings

of an Aimless Mind

by Shelby Oppermann



19 YEARS AND COUNTING...

It's anniversary week, 19 years and counting. Yesterday we celebrated at Rucci's Italian Restaurant in White Plains. And what better way to celebrate than with the man you love, lasagna, Chianti, and flaming cannoli?

We have definitely made it through the wedding vows with flying colors, except for the parting part, thankfully: "Will you love her/him? Comfort her/him, honor and keep her/him, in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others keep thee only unto her/him as long as you both shall live? To have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and health, to love and to cherish, until we are parted by death. This is my solemn vow." An unqualified yes to all. Traditions and vows are nice to have in a changing, sometimes scary world. But when you know you are with the person you are meant to be with, then everything seems manageable. Sharing your life, children, grandchildren, worries, moods, and most importantly, listening, compromising, laughing, and loving is a gift and a privilege I am so grateful for.

When Robert asked me to marry him 20 years ago, I told him, even before I said yes, that my health was probably only going to get worse. No one wants to be a burden on their partner. A true, loving partner takes that on with eyes wide open. That is just what Robert did, nothing dissuaded him, he was in this marriage for the long haul, as am I. I do wonder at times if Robert really knew what he was getting in to.

Robert has learned to "understand" and enjoy the artist mentality and the events that come with that. He becomes the eye in my hurricane of thoughts and ideas and can help me calm and direct the storm into one or two directions. I have learned to enjoy and love the great group of people and life of the local softball world. The inclusion in each other's hobbies and loves has been a wonderful part of our marriage. Robert is an amazing supporter of my art and encourages me when I think I am the world's worst artist or if I can't find an inner spark to get going. He is my spark.

That spark also can light into some fiery disagreements, as in most relationships. It sure would be a boring world if we both felt the same about everything. Wait, it would probably be a very serene world if he would just agree with everything I said. And that's exactly what he says too sometimes. But what is life without spark and fire. He has the great ability to listen to my point of view, and I try to do the same for him. There are many times when we have to stop and say, "Lets just agree to disagree." And,



just in case, we also know when to go off to our own corners at home and be by ourselves.

By nature, I am a happy loner who is happiest with a book and tuned out to everything around me. I used to like to keep all my thoughts in my head, though working in retail did help with learning communication skills. When Robert and I were first together, he used to get a bit upset when I was sitting quietly with my own thoughts and gradually encouraged me to share what I was thinking. In order for him to stop asking what I was thinking, I began actively emptying out my thoughts to him. Big mistake, now I can't seem to quit talking, much to his chagrin.

This column is an extension of that I suppose. It's so strange going from such a quiet child, teenager, and young woman where no one really knew what I thought to being completely open with my husband and as result, with you my readers. I can go back to being quiet I suppose. My mother actually took me to a psychologist as a teenager so that he could get me to talk. I seemed to have shut down at a certain point. He became so eager to do so that he actually shook me by my shoulders in frustration. I guess I was afraid to let one thing out which would lead to a dam busting of emotions and hurts. Gradually, as I got older, I realized that holding so much in is very toxic and unhealthy. I tell people all the time that it is good to talk and get those toxins out of the body. There aren't many stories in this world that haven't been told or experienced before. I know I feel better when words and thoughts flow out and take those toxins with them – it allows all the good thoughts, and love from a good man to flow in and heal my spirit. Onward to year 20.

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

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

National Family Caregiver Month Virtual Symposium

Make sure to check out our 2020 National Family Caregiver's Month Symposium - <https://www.stmarysmd.com/aging/virtual-senior-center/caregiver-resources/>! The symposium will run through the month of November and will feature speakers, weekly informational videos, resources, prizes, and more! Contact Daphne Bennear at Daphne.Bennear@stmarysmd.com or 301-475-4200, ext. 1069, for more information!

Coffee with the Sheriff

Are you interested in learning about the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office? Do you want to know more about issues that affect you? This is an opportunity to hear from Sheriff Timothy Cameron directly! Join use for Coffee with the Sheriff on Wednesday, December 2, at 1 p.m. on Zoom! A moderated question and answer session will be held following Sheriff Cameron's presentation.

Registration is required. For more information, or to register, contact Sarah Miller, Community Programs & Outreach Manager, at 301-475-4200, ext. 1073, or email Sarah.Miller@stmarysmd.com. A link will be sent to you prior to the start of the event.

Loffler Book Club

This group will meet next on Friday, December 4, at 10 a.m. in the Facebook Chat Room. Read "The Seven Days of Us" now (Some copies are being held at the Lexington Park library-schedule your curbside pickup by e-mailing Catherine.DiCristofaro@stmalib.org)

Summary: What happens when a scattered family finally must come together for the first time in years and ends up forced to spend a week together in quarantine over the holidays? For the next seven days, the Birches are locked down, cut off from the rest of humanity--and even decent Wi-Fi at Weyfield Hall, their family's aging country estate. (Amazingly enough, this book was written 2 years before our

own quarantine experience!) If you want to be a part of this, contact Sheila.Graziano@stmarysmd.com for instructions and details.

Tasty Christmas Cottage

For over a decade, this workshop has been a beloved Loffler event. Even though things must be done differently this year, we are not doing without the Tasty Christmas Cottage tradition! We will simply do it live stream via Zoom on Wednesday, December 16, and Thursday, December 17, at 11 a.m. Two days will be needed for this project- the first day we will construct the cottage and let it dry overnight. The next day we will decorate it with sweets. This cute little item is made with Pop Tarts put together with royal icing, so it makes up (and holds up) nice and easy. (Doesn't crumble like graham cracker houses.) If you would like to attend this 2-day workshop, register by contacting Sheila.Graziano@stmarysmd.com. Successful registrants will be sent an ingredient list. Registrations will be limited to eight students.

Looking for Volunteer Discussion Leaders

If you are comfortable leading and conducting virtual meetings or classes using Zoom or similar platforms, I am looking for some volunteer leadership for discussion groups and classes such as Pain Management Support Group, Current Events, Craft Classes and other topics of interest. Please contact Sheila.Graziano@stmarysmd.com to discuss serving the community in this fun and rewarding capacity.

Videos from Aging & Human Services

The Department of Aging & Human Services is proud to announce our brand new Virtual Senior Activity Center and YouTube page! Go to <https://www.stmarysmd.com/aging/virtual-senior-center/> or www.youtube.com, keyword SMC Aging & Human Services, to see what we have for you! There are more videos coming soon!

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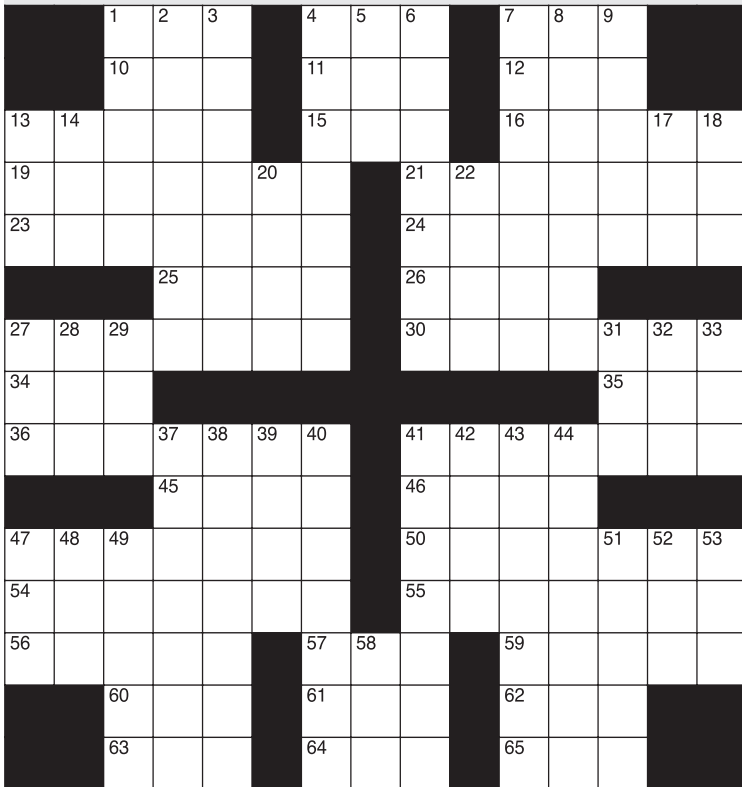
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GAMES & PUZZLES



CLUES ACROSS

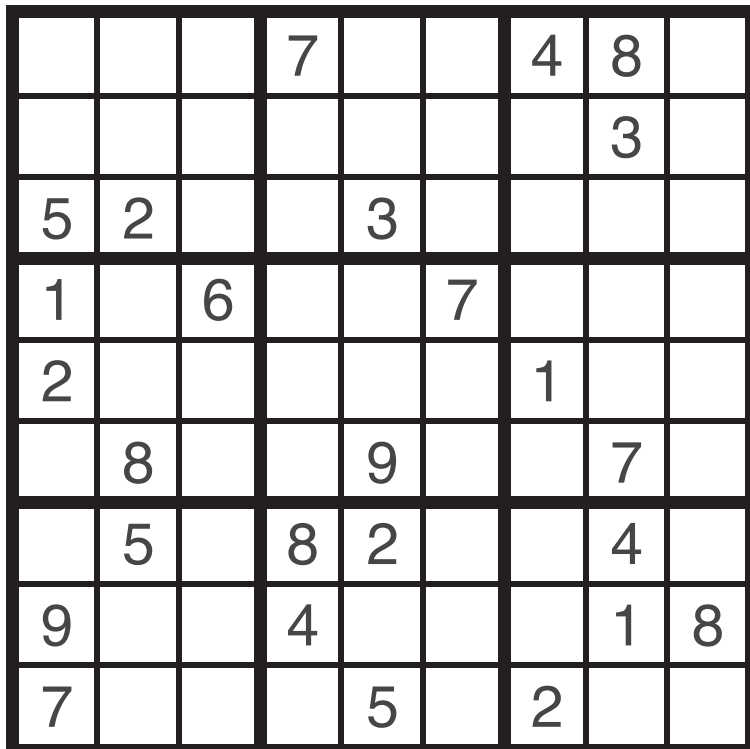
- 1. Autonomic nervous system
- 4. At or near the stern
- 7. Adenosine triphosphate
- 10. Polynesian garland of flowers
- 11. Chinese revolutionary
- 12. Green veggie
- 13. Large group
- 15. Swiss river
- 16. Semiaquatic mammal
- 19. Wrongdoers
- 21. Home to Disney World
- 23. Spanish doctors
- 24. Newborn child
- 25. Absence of difficulty
- 26. Large, stocky lizard
- 27. Earned top billing
- 30. A long wandering and eventful journey
- 34. Water (French)
- 35. Brew
- 36. Winged horse
- 41. A usually malignant tumor
- 45. Alfred __,

- American actor
- 46. Austrian river
- 47. A reminder of past events
- 50. Connected with
- 54. Status
- 55. Dean residence
- 56. Egyptian city
- 57. Boxing's GOAT
- 59. Straits along the Red Sea
- 60. "The Partridge Family" actress Susan
- 61. Get some color
- 62. Facilitates hearing
- 63. Commercials
- 64. A team's best pitcher
- 65. Patti Hearst's captors

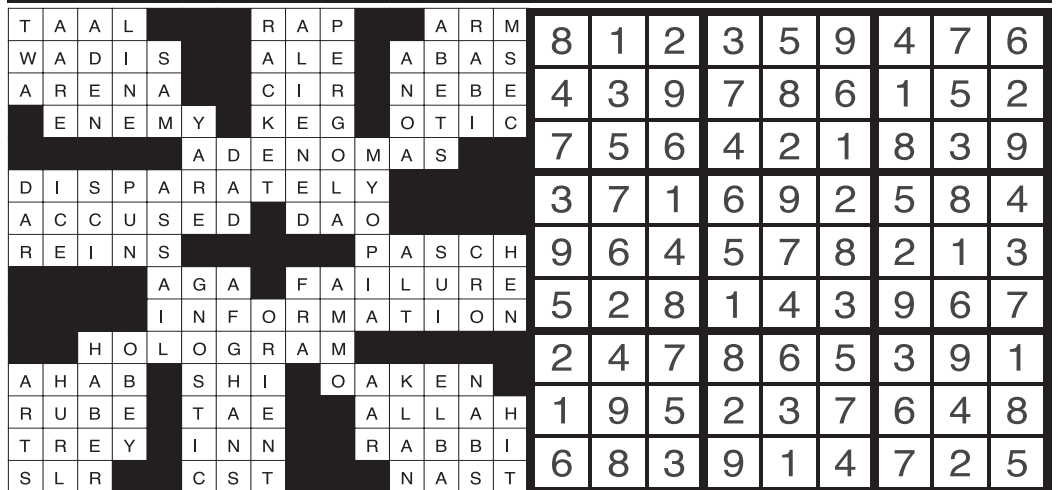
CLUES DOWN

- 1. Speak up
- 2. More informative
- 3. Where passengers sit
- 4. Gathered
- 5. Supervises flying
- 6. Home of the Blue Jays
- 7. Public statement of regret
- 8. Lockjaw
- 9. Indian city
- 13. Patriots' Newton
- 14. Relative biological

- effectiveness (abbr.)
- 17. Sun up in New York
- 18. Eggs in female fish
- 20. Stood up
- 22. NBA legend Willis (abbr.)
- 27. Calendar month (abbr.)
- 28. Exercise regimen ___-bo
- 29. The 8th month (abbr.)
- 31. ___ Paulo, city
- 32. Tall deciduous tree
- 33. Affirmative
- 37. Notified of danger
- 38. NFL game days
- 39. Archaic term for "to"
- 40. Plant pores
- 41. Canned fish
- 42. Phil ___, former CIA
- 43. Connects with
- 44. Of the skull
- 47. Time zone (abbr.)
- 48. When you hope to get there
- 49. Hindu goddess
- 51. Land
- 52. Pitching stat
- 53. Field force unit
- 58. Lakers' crosstown rivals



LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE SOLUTIONS



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



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