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THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 2021 THU

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VACCINES

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"I THINK A REALLY GOOD, WELL EXECUTED PLAN AVOIDS THE NEED FOR COERCION."
SUPERINTENDENT DR. J. SCOTT SMITH ON PLANS TO REOPEN IN-PERSON LEARNING IN MARCH.

WEEKLY FORECAST

Thu 1/28 36° 23°F Partly Cloudy	Fri 1/29 35° 21°F Partly Cloudy	Sat 1/30 36° 26°F Mostly Sunny	Sun 1/31 39° 33°F Rain/Snow
Mon 2/1 41° 30°F Showers	Tue 2/2 40° 25°F Mostly Cloudy	Wed 2/3 43° 29°F Sunny	Thu 2/4 47° 39°F Partly Cloudy

INSIDE
SPECIAL WEDDING GUIDE

COVID-19

Positive Cases	Deaths
<i>As of January 27</i>	
St. Mary's 5,041	101
<small>Information provided by St. Mary's Health Department</small>	

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Superintendent: Schools On Track To Reopen March 1



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

School Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith said last week that it has long been the plan of the St. Mary's County Public School system to have students back in class on a hybrid schedule by March 1.

Smith sent a letter to parents of students Jan. 22 in the wake of press conference the preceding day in which Gov. Larry Hogan said he would push local boards of education to bring students back to classrooms by the same date.

Hogan said he could not order county boards to bring students back to class but that he would seek all legal recourse available to his administration to "encourage" them to do so.

The governor said at his Annapolis press conference at St. John's College that the science was clear that the risk of community spread of COVID-19 was low in school settings and that many students had lost valuable instruction time since the pandemic started even though school systems had made great strides in offering classes on-line in real time with their teachers.

Hogan appeared to threaten Maryland teachers by noting how, in the City of Chicago, teachers had their pay cut off for not agreeing to return to classrooms and, in South Carolina, teachers had been threatened with having their licenses revoked by the state if they did not return to in-person learning.

"This has always been our plan," Smith told The County Times of the schedule to return students to a hybrid model by the beginning of March. "I think a really good, well executed plan avoids the need for coercion."

Smith has kept schools closed to

students since late last year when a holiday surge in COVID-19 cases here and statewide ran afoul of the state's own guidelines for reopening classrooms.

The Education Association of St. Mary's County [EASMC] castigated both Smith and Hogan for pushing for the March reopening. They claimed Smith had decided to disregard local health metrics and give teachers no warning on the decision to meet the March 1 deadline.

They referenced the letter sent out late last week detailing the system's plans.

"Based on the contents of the letter, St. Mary's County educators can only conclude that SMCPSS has decided to abandon sound judgment and science because the new state guidance conveniently 'contains no reference to community spread data impacting [the] decision to open schools for in-person learning,'" a statement addressed to Smith from the EASMC board reads.

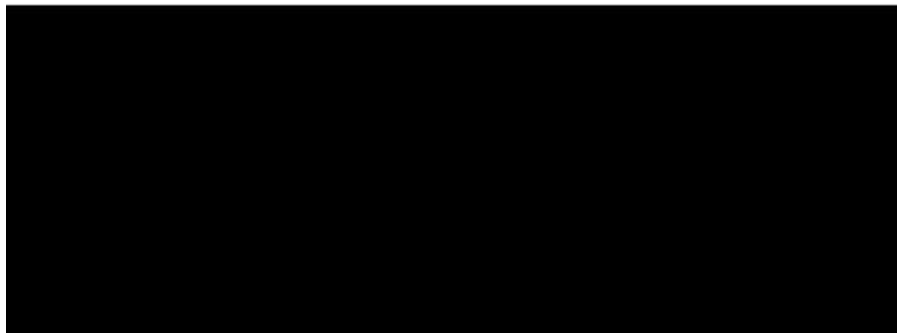
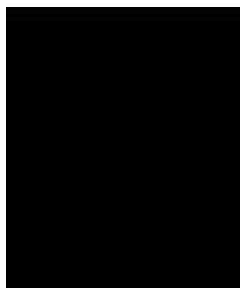
They also expressed consternation at State Superintendent Dr. Karen Salmon for supporting Hogan at the press conference.

"Governor Larry Hogan set a very poor example of leadership when he blamed, shamed, and indirectly threatened educators during his most recent press conference," the EASMC statement reads. "It was disappointing to see the State Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Salmon, stand by his side as he attempted to bully educators. It is heartbreaking that SMCPSS would follow his lead in making educators feel disrespected and disregarded after months of incredibly hard work during incredibly challenging times."

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Hogan Asks For Patience In Vaccine Distribution

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Maryland is doing all it can to distribute what vaccines it is given by the federal government to combat COVID-19, Gov. Larry Hogan said at a press conference in Annapolis Jan. 26, but citizens should be patient and expect to be put on a waiting list to get their dosage.

"For at least the near future the demand will continue to far exceed supply," Hogan said. "This will be a much longer process than any of us would like."

The state was also working to establish half-a-dozen mass vaccination sites "in central locations state-wide," Hogan said, with the first two to open Feb. 5.

Those locations were the Baltimore Convention Center and the Six Flags America site in Prince George's County.

Maryland National Guard members currently deployed to the Capitol will be reassigned to assist in those efforts.

Sites in Southern Maryland and the Eastern Shore are currently under consideration, Hogan said, and the state was working to expand Phase 1 inoculations to the severely immunocompromised.

State-run mass vaccination sites will be open to all Marylanders anywhere in the state for those eligible.

He said 667,275 doses of either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines have been sent to Maryland so far, but a total of 4 million doses will be needed to complete Phase 1 of the vaccination plan.

To give two doses to all Marylanders, which is required for the vaccine to be effective, 12 million doses will be necessary.

"To date, Maryland has only been allotted five percent of that amount," Hogan said.

Hogan said 95 percent of the inventory of vaccine currently received by the state has been distributed for inoculations, but the state only receives roughly 10,000 doses a day from the federal government.

Hogan said 348,026 first doses have been administered, while 208,725 have been reserved as second doses.

Hogan said the Biden administration has committed to increasing vaccine production and distribution by 50 percent and that Hogan would continue to press for more vaccines to be delivered to



Gov. Hogan

Marylanders.

Hogan said it would be "many months" before Marylanders could expect to see a greater surge in vaccine delivery.

The federal contract partnership with CVS and Walgreens pharmacies have completed their initial inoculation clinics at the state's 227 nursing homes, Hogan said, with two more state-wide vaccination clinics scheduled as part of that contract.

Pharmacy inoculation teams will soon begin clinics at assisted living homes around the state, Hogan said.

"They've already begun second shots at these nursing homes," Hogan said.

More than 360,000 doses have been given to all Maryland hospitals but only about 190,000 have been administered, Hogan said; according to one of the latest health orders, hospitals who fall below 75 percent utilization will not be prioritized for new vaccines and will not receive more if they do not show an effort to "pick up the pace."

Hospitals that provide inoculation clinics for the public will be prioritized for vaccine distribution, Hogan said.

The state was also partnering to focus on underserved areas with pharmacies, Hogan said, and was looking to expand those pilot programs once more supply was available.

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Commissioners Move On EMS Billing

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County unanimously put their support behind a bill that would designate them as the authority over providing emergency medical services here, a key step in pursuing the ability to engage in billing for transport by rescue squads for medical care.

The revenue increase, which commissioners and county staff anticipate would come mostly from insurance reimbursements of policies held by those using the service could be used to provide funding for paid medics.

Local rescue squads have long struggled to provide service during the day as volunteers were in short supply because of job requirements; the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the problem of day-time service availability because older volunteers, who were at higher risk from the disease, stopped running emergency calls.

Commissioners moved quickly late last year to use CARES Act funding for contracts with paid providers to augment each of the county's seven rescue squads during the day.

The provisions of the legislation, which must be approved in the Maryland General Assembly, include codicils that ensure rescue squads main-



tain their own governance, county documents show, and that residents will not have to pay out-of-pocket expenses when they call for emergency medical transport.

Commissioner Todd Morgan said the board should look to ensure that certain rescue squads don't receive an undue surplus of funding because of both the billing and the rescue tax revenue they receive yearly.

He said the rescue tax might have to be adjusted for each of the companies each year, Morgan said, which he called a potentially "grueling effort" from a public hearing standpoint.

"I'm going to support this today,"

Morgan at the Jan. 26 commissioners meeting. "But there are a lot of details that remain to be worked out."

Morgan said he wanted to ensure that EMS billing did not detract from the ability of rescue squads to recruit more volunteers; also he wanted to ensure volunteers now serving were still able to accrue length of service financial rewards.

"The concern I have with LOSAP (Length of Service Award Program) is, if we're going to bring in [career staff] how are volunteers going to accrue points for LOSAP?"

"It's a tricky question because we know this is not going to affect fire,

it's going to affect rescue."

Commissioner Mike Hewitt questioned whether it was fair for one company, who might be able to respond more quickly to an emergency call than another, to receive a higher amount of billing revenue share.

Hewitt said he would support the legislation, but believed the pursuit of individual memorandums of understanding with rescue squads, which was underway, would be faster and might allow for the rescinding of the legislative proposal.

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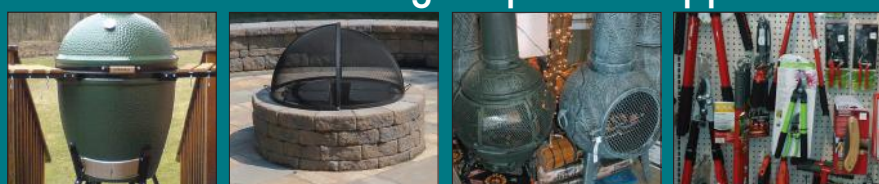


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Commissioners Support Liquor License Fee Waiver

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

A law proposed in the Maryland General Assembly by Del. Matt Morgan (R-Dist. 29A) that would waive the liquor license fee for bars and restaurants in St. Mary's County for one year received the full support of the Commissioners of St. Mary's County this week.

Morgan's intention is to provide some financial relief for bars and restaurants who have suffered loss of business during the COVID-19 pandemic and are struggling to remain open.

County Attorney David Weiskopf advised commissioners that, pursuant to Gov. Larry Hogan's executive orders related to the pandemic, the county's Alcohol Beverage Board has the authority to waive the annual liquor license fees already.

Weiskopf, in a missive to the commissioners, said the beverage board was considering waiving liquor license fees to other entities to include non-profits, many of whom serve alcohol at events such as fundraisers.

Both Commissioner President

James "Randy" Guy and Commissioner Todd Morgan questioned whether liquor stores, which might also be under consideration to benefit from such a waiver, should be included in the beverage board's possible decision.

"I don't think we should include liquor stores," Guy said. "Because they didn't get hurt as bad."

"The person who I talked to who owns a liquor store, he was not hurt."

Morgan said much the same.

"I've talked to a bunch of liquor store owners and none of them have been hurt yet," said Morgan.

When Gov. Larry Hogan ordered the shuttering of what he called non-essential businesses during the worst months of the pandemic, restaurants and bars were included; restaurants were restricted to carryout and delivery service only but liquor stores were considered essential.

Some liquor stores locally reported more than doubling their profits in the beginning weeks of the pandemic last year on some occasions.

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Commissioners Oppose Bill To Change County Voting Method

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Del. Brian Crosby's bill entered in the state legislature that would change the at-large voting method for county commissioner seats and make those positions elected by only those residents living in their designated districts gets no support from the current commissioner board.

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County voted unanimously to oppose the proposed law at their Jan. 26 meeting.

Commissioner Mike Hewitt said the reality of his elected office had residents throughout St. Mary's reaching out to him.

"It's been my experience that people call from all over the county, so if somebody from Commissioner [Eric] Colvin's district called I'd have to tell them 'Hey, that's Tall Timbers you have to talk to Colvin,'" Hewitt asked. "What does that mean for us?"

"We only take care of the constituents in our district?"

Hewitt said Crosby should identify why it was necessary to change the current voting method for county commissioners, where every county voter has a say in who represents each of the

four commissioner districts as well as the at-large commissioner president seat.

"He doesn't believe county-wide votes give blacks a chance to sit at the table," Commissioner John O'Connor said of Crosby's proposal.

Crosby spoke about his proposals on a podcast last week hosted by William Hall, president of the local NAACP Chapter 7025, on his Facebook channel.

The podcast is known as Sunday In The Park.

"Our community, our vote is diluted," Crosby said to Hall on the podcast, stating the change would almost certainly seat one strongly positioned Democrat on the board and perhaps one more.

"District 1 would be extraordinarily competitive," Crosby said.

O'Connor said he disagreed strongly with Crosby's reasoning behind the legislation, noting that minorities could still be successful in a political campaign without changing the system.

"I don't think this is the solution," O'Connor said. "I think you actually create more of a divide."

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Raley Remembered as Tough, Fair “Hanging Judge”

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

He could be curt, tough-minded, uncompromising and was often feared by criminal defendants and unprepared attorneys alike, but Judge C. Clarke Raley commanded equal amounts of respect and admiration for his commitment to the fair administration of the law and his willingness to see justice done.

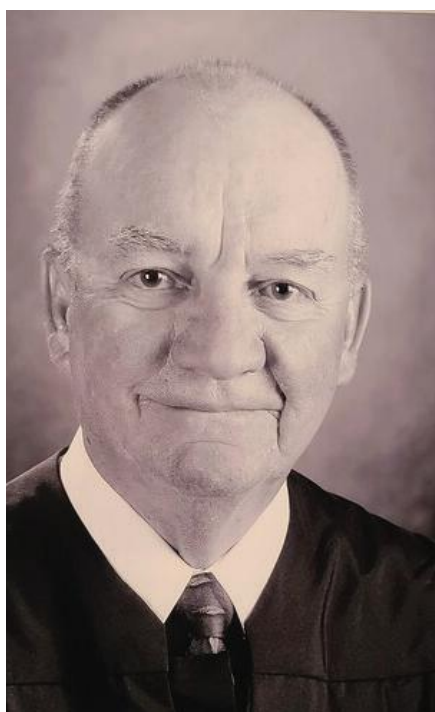
Raley passed away last week at home; his career in the law from working in a law firm to serving as State’s Attorney for St. Mary’s County to being appointed first to the District and then Circuit Court, spanned some 40 years.

He retired in 2011 just a three years before he reached the state-mandated age of 70 to vacate the bench.

Attorney Daniel Slade remembered trying cases in Raley’s court as well as working with Raley while Slade was a clerk for Judge Marvin Kamnetz.

“He was known as the ‘hanging judge,’” Slade said. “That’s because he didn’t hesitate to send someone to jail if they were a criminal and send a message.”

Raley would sometimes give prison sentences to convicted



defendants that were greater in severity than what prosecutors asked for; in one case involving a 2006 shooting in Oakville, Raley sentenced a 27-year-old man to 67 years in prison.

One of the cases Raley was best known for was for Antonio Warren Gantt, a man who robbed a Lexington Park bank twice; on the

second heist Gantt sprayed gasoline on the tellers in the bank and threatened to light them on fire if they did not comply with his demands for money.

In November of 2008, during Gantt’s jury trial in which he was convicted for the robbery as well as assault, the defendant continually acted out in court claiming his rights had been violated.

Raley ordered court security to bind and gag Gantt to control his outbursts.

A higher court later ruled that Gantt would receive a new trial because he was not properly informed he faced life in prison for robbing the same bank twice; Raley recused himself from the trial and admitted in court that he hated Gantt and that the Court of Appeals was in error for giving Gantt a new trial.

“Judge Raley was one of my heroes in the law,” Slade said. “He demanded you be prepared.

“He was incredibly smart; he could recite the law.”

Raley was also known for his dry wit he would often share from the bench.

In one case, when attorneys were arguing over a picayune detail in a

case Raley remarked: “This is like picking fly specks out of pepper.”

Shortly before his retirement, when The County Times asked for an interview, he declined but made a short statement.

“I’ll be retiring April 30 and that’s the beginning and the end of the story,” said Raley from the bench. “I think that’s the longest interview I’ve given the newspaper.”

“People could be afraid of him,” Slade said. “But he had a tremendous sense of humor.”

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The exercise is designed to enhance the readiness of Navy security forces and ensure seamless interoperability among the commands, other services and agency partners.

Exercise CS/SC 21 is not in response to any specific threat, but is a regularly scheduled exercise.

Measures have been taken to minimize disruptions within local communities and to normal base operations, but there may be



times when the exercise causes increased traffic around bases or delays in base access. Area residents may also see or hear security activities associated with the exercise. Advanced coordination has taken place with local law enforcement and first responders.

Area residents may also see or hear security activities associated with the exercise. For information about Exercise CS-SC21, follow Naval District Washington Public Affairs on social media at www.facebook.com/NavDistWash.

For more information, contact the Naval District Washington Public Affairs Office at 202-433-9714.

Additional Phone Support Available for COVID-19 Vaccination Registration



The St. Mary's County Health Department (SMCHD) has partnered with the St. Mary's County Department of Aging & Human Services and the St. Mary's County Library to provide assistance with COVID-19 vaccine appointment registration over the phone for residents who are eligible for the vaccine based on current local criteria.

Registration is required through the state's electronic vaccine registration system in order to schedule a vaccination appointment and receive COVID-19 vaccine; the additional phone support from the Department of Aging & Human Services and the St. Mary's County Library is intended to assist those who may not have access to a computer or who require additional help with the electronic registration process. SMCHD will post available vaccine appointments on the SMCHD website each Friday afternoon once the state notifies SMCHD of the local vaccine allotment for the following week. Registration links will be removed once appointments have been filled.

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St. Mary's County Department of Aging & Human Services

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For all other St. Mary's County community members currently eligible to receive vaccine according to the local vaccination phase

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St. Mary's County Health Department

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• COVID-19 Hotline: Phone Number (301) 475-4330

• COVID-19 Information: www.smchd.org/coronavirus

• COVID-19 Vaccine Information: www.smchd.org/covid-19-vaccine

• COVID-19 Testing Information: www.smchd.org/covid-19-testing

• COVID-19 Data: www.smchd.org/covid-19-data

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Portraits of St. Mary's County: Kit Spalding

By Florence Ballengee
Contributing Writer
Second in a Series

By the time Kit Spalding left home to go to nursing school at Mercy Hospital in Baltimore, there were many life lessons already learned. The lessons she learned were by doing. She was the oldest of ten children being raised by their father. They were lessons that have served her well for all of her 94 years. Named for her Aunt Kitty, who was a nurse, Spalding says there was never a question about her future as a caretaker and a nurse.

Back in the day when the people of St. Mary's County either worked on the water or in the soil, Spalding knew the meaning of hard work and the value of the earth and what it provided.

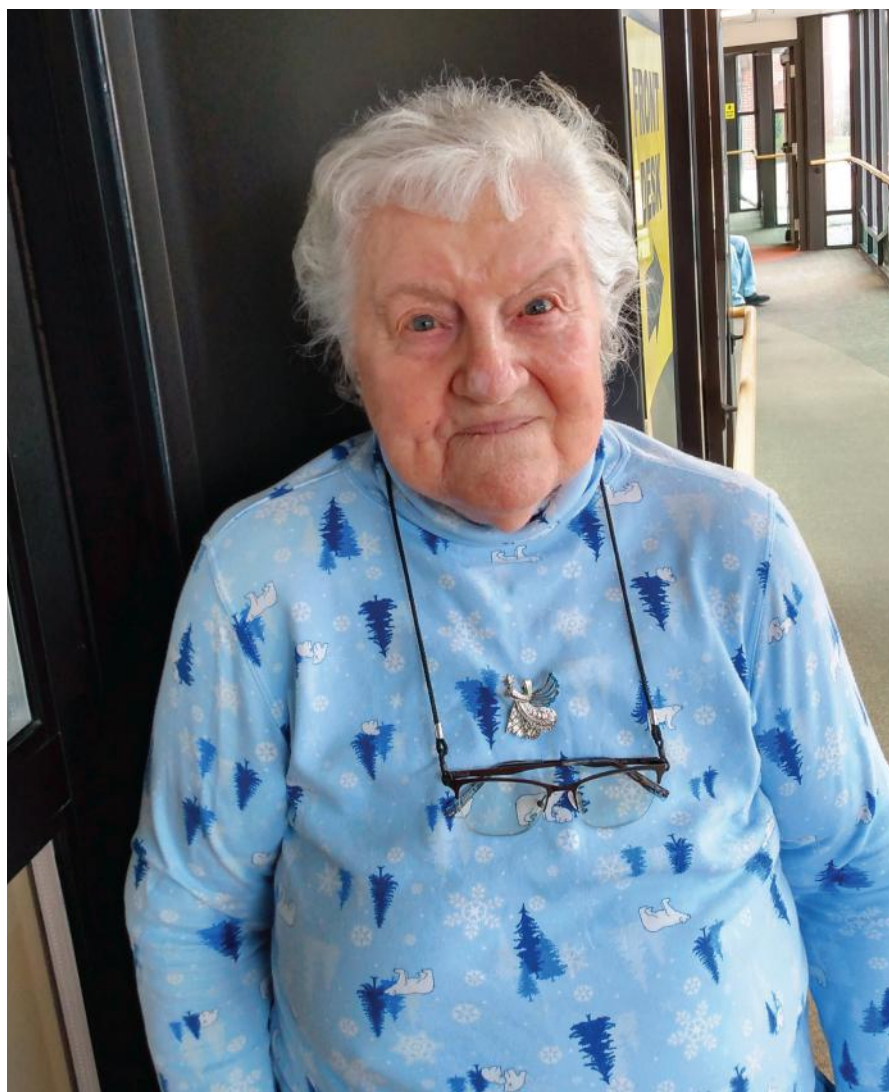
She also knew the meaning of family and of devotion to duty. Her mother died from an infection at childbirth before the advent of penicillin. Kit's father was not only an active farmer which fed the family, but he was the supervisor of the workers who were building the bridge on Route 231 in Charles County that connects Charles and Calvert counties.

Leaving a man with ten children would have seemed insurmountable to some back then but to her father, there was no question as to what he should do. His answer to those who were giving him advice as to what to do with ten children never changed. Yes, he ran a farm and yes, he had a job, but the children were his and he could and he would raise them. And that's exactly what he did.

The children worked in the fields and they worked as a team. She said her father made it fun. On summer mornings the children would get up and their first task was to go get a watermelon and put it in a tub of ice so that when they quit for lunch, they could have ice cold watermelon. They made games out of work and they learned to lean on each other. Spalding says, "We were poor as church mice, but we didn't know it. We had each other".

She attended St. John's School in Hollywood and then attended Great Mills High School where she graduated in 1944. She applied to nursing school and while waiting for admission, she worked as a "pinkie" at St. Mary's Hospital. They were nurses' aides and it provided her with a jump start before her formal education as a nurse.

Attending that particular nursing school would be pivotal in the way her life proceeded. She be-



came acquainted with the Sisters of Mercy and with their way of life, so she began to study nursing as well as entered the novitiate and completed her nurses training and her training as a Sister of Mercy simultaneously.

Upon completion of her nurse's training, she was sent as a nun and a registered nurse to Alabama where she was the only registered nurse at a hospital opened by the church opened the hospital because at that time African American doctors with patients had to use the basement door of the existing hospital and did not have the same access for their patients as the white doctors and patients.

At a young age, her responsibility in the family and her devotion to whatever she took on allowed her to function as the only nurse. This experience was just the beginning of many years of moving from place to place as a nurse and as a nun.

Spalding says that life on that farm, in that loving family, gave her the ability to take on many challenges over the years and to complete them successfully. Two of those challenges were to obtain a Bachelor of Nursing and a master's in psychiatric nursing.

After 25 years in the convent, she left and went to work for the

State of Maryland, living 50 years outside of St. Mary's County. She supervised community mental health facilities and her area of interest and expertise was in children and families. Her understanding of family dynamics all began being raised on a farm in Hollywood. And being raised in a family where she says, "we were each other's best friend".

Her training was varied, and she availed herself of every opportunity to grow and to accept challenges that seemed insurmountable and she did it with care and devotion and skill.

But always she knew that she would return to St. Mary's County. She knew that she would return to the family that remained close to her heart all the years she was gone.

Today that family is huge. They are mostly all here in St. Mary's County and they are closely knit. This year there will be five new babies in the family as there is nearly every year. Spalding says that theirs is a family that loves and cherishes the children.

Spalding says of St. Mary's County that all of her travels and all of the places she lived and worked over the years she was gone never appealed to her the way St. Mary's County has. Her

family originated in Ireland and her father was born on the Jesuit Farm where St. Francis Xavier Church is located. As a lifelong devoted Catholic, the fact that this county was named for the Blessed Virgin is very much a part of her love for the county.

The county has changed. But the family that sprang from the ten children raised by their father on a farm in Hollywood has not changed. Their care for each other is obvious to any observer.

Recently Spalding has had to come to terms with the fact that she can no longer do what she once did physically. She has had to accept help in order to remain living independently. Currently and for the last 13 years she has lived at Cedar Lane.

Spalding's nieces have organized their own family "Meals on Wheels" program for her and they deliver homemade meals to her so that she no longer has to cook. Her nieces can always be counted on, she says, to help her when needed but her niece Anna Long helps her handle her finances and checks on her frequently. She said she is "blessed to have the family I have." With that help and with help from the Office on Aging Senior Services Program she is still able to live independently and with purpose. She has many hobbies and many pursuits and interests. There seems to be nothing she is not interested in including quilting, painting, knitting, crocheting and we would be remiss if we didn't mention that she's a formidable opponent when playing cards. Kit has many friends at Cedar Lane, and she checks on the welfare of several patients much younger and assists them to be able to live independently.

"The Lord is always with me and helps me. He has never let me down and has always provided what I needed." She says she has trouble believing that she's lived such a long life. When asked how she is doing, her answer is always "good enough." And so, she goes through life, one day at a time, being positive and living her life with meaning.

Anyone who comes from St. Mary's County cannot deny the changes that have taken place. Life is different here than when Spalding was being raised here. But the love that the people from St. Mary's have for "this very special place" has not changed. She exemplifies the old saying "You can take the girl from St. Mary's County, but you can't take the St. Mary's County from the girl."

Tax Season Beginning Announced

Electronic Filing Suggested

Comptroller Peter Franchot has announced that processing of personal income tax returns for Tax Year 2020 will begin on February 12, 2021, several weeks later than the traditional mid-to-late January opening date. The delayed start allows the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) additional time to implement changes related to federal COVID-19 relief packages.

Corporate income tax returns will be accepted beginning on February 1, 2021.

“This late-starting tax season is yet another result of the global pandemic that has tragically killed more than 400,000 Americans, destroyed tens of thousands of small businesses, cut millions of jobs and depleted individual savings,” Comptroller Franchot said. “My pledge to Maryland taxpayers is to process state returns as quickly as possible and get refunds back into taxpayers’ hands where it can help individuals and the broader economy.”

Last year, the Comptroller’s Office processed more than 3.2 million individual state tax returns with refunds totaling \$3.03 billion.

As of now, the filing deadline for 2020 tax returns is the traditional April 15, 2021 date. If the pandemic forces any change to that deadline, the Comptroller’s Office will communicate that information.

Taxpayers are encouraged to file their returns electronically for the fastest possible processing and to ensure they receive all possible refunds and to avoid continued delays with the United States Postal Service. A list of approved vendors for use in filing your electronic return can be found on the Comptroller’s website.

Maryland taxpayers can also use the agency’s free I-File system to submit their state tax returns.

Comptroller Franchot recognizes that some Marylanders may have difficulty paying their tax liabilities this year due to the pandemic’s impact on individuals, families and businesses. The agency is working with taxpayers experiencing financial difficulty and providing flexible payment plans.

Several important points taxpayers should know as you prepare tax returns:

The federal stimulus payments signed in March and December ARE NOT considered income and therefore ARE NOT TAXABLE.

Unemployment benefits ARE TAXABLE.

Recipients of forgiven PPP (Paycheck Protection Program) loans DO NOT HAVE TO PAY TAXES on the amount forgiven.

To the extent they are included in federal adjusted gross income, Maryland COVID-19 grants issued by the Maryland Department of Commerce ARE TAXABLE.

Purchases of Personal Protection Equipment, or PPE, ARE DEDUCTIBLE for federal tax purposes, and currently these business expenses deductions flow through to the Maryland return.

Earlier this month, Comptroller Franchot extended filing and payment deadlines for



MD Comptroller Peter Franchot

certain Maryland business taxes and quarterly estimated income tax returns and payments that would be due in January, February and March 2021 until April 15, 2021. No interest or penalties will be assessed and there is no need to file a request for extension.

Taxpayers with COVID-19-related tax questions or regarding tax filing extensions can visit the special COVID-19 page on the Comptroller’s website or email the Comptroller’s Ombudsman at taxpayerrelief@marylandtaxes.gov. More information can be found in the most recent Tax Alert.

Tax fraud is more prevalent than ever. The Comptroller’s nationally-recognized Questionable Return Detection Team flags potential fraud cases and suspends processing from tax preparers when necessary. All taxpayers should be vigilant in protecting their personal identifying information and ensure they are working with trusted preparers. The agency maintains a list of blocked preparers on its website.

As in previous years, the Comptroller’s Office will not immediately process a state tax return if W-2 information is not on file with the agency. Employers are required to report wage information to the Comptroller on or before January 31.

Taxpayers can still get assistance through the agency’s 12 branch offices; however, all in-person customer service operations have been temporarily suspended. Virtual appointments can be scheduled online at <https://www.marylandtaxes.gov/contact-us.php>. Expand the “Local Offices and Directions” tab and look for the scheduling link under each branch office.

The agency’s branch offices and call centers are both open 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Beginning February 1 and continuing through the April 15 tax deadline, telephone assistance will be available from 8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Taxpayers can also call 1-800-MD-TAXES or email questions to taxhelp@marylandtaxes.gov. Please include your name, address and ONLY the last four digits of your Social Security Number in your e-mail message. This will help generate a quick response to your inquiry. Requests for tax forms should be emailed to taxforms@marylandtaxes.gov.

Press Release from Office of MD Comptroller.

On-Farm Stands and Stores Sought for New Directory



In response to the sustained and growing demand for locally sourced farm foods, the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission, (SMADC), is adding a new section to the 2021 edition of the annually published Southern Maryland Farmers Market Guide which will feature a directory of regional farm stands and on-farm stores.

Throughout the pandemic, local farm food resources such as farmers markets and neighborhood farm stands and on-farm stores have become increasingly popular with consumers who are looking for safe shopping environments that provide a dependable seasonal supply of locally grown fruits, vegetables, meats, dairy and value-added products. The new Farmers Market Guide with the added regional On-Farm Stand and Store Directory supports this trend which is expected to strengthen in the coming year as consumers continue to seek out locally grown and produced foods close to home.

SMADC is now accepting applications for the new On-Farm Stand and Store Directory. Listings are open to any farm located in the 5-county region (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George’s and St. Mary’s counties) that hosts an on-farm store or farm stand open to the public (seasonally or year-round), offering predominantly ‘producer only’ farm raised, or farm made value-added products, and/or other Maryland sourced farm foods.

Find the On-Farm Stand and Store Directory Application under 'News and Events' on the SMADC website. Applications are due by February 26, 2021. There is no charge to be listed. The 2021 Southern Maryland Farmers Market Guide including Farm Stand and Farm Store Directory is expected to be published in the early spring and will be available online to view or download on the ‘Get Our Guides’ page at www.SMADC.com.

Press Release from SMADC

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Artwork by Individuals with Disabilities Displayed



Amy Ford, Branch Manager of the Lexington Park Library, stands beside the "Bridge to the Community" mixed-media mural that was created by individuals living with disabilities. The mural is on display at this branch of the library through the end of February 2021.

The "Bridge to the Community" 6ft by 4 ft mixed-media mural of the Patuxent River Shoreline was made possible by the collaborative efforts of creative individuals living with disabilities, led by local artist Linda Craven, under a partnership between Southern Maryland Community Resources (SMCR), Bay Community Support Services (Bay-CSS), Historic Sotterley Plantation and Greenwell Foundation.

The "Bridge to the Community" mural has now been installed for viewing in the lobby of the Lexington Park Library. The mural will be on display throughout January and February. Following that, it will move to the Southern Branch, Cal-

vert County Library in Solomons to be displayed throughout March and April.

Due to COVID safety precautions, the Lexington Park Library has strict access restrictions which currently allow groups no larger than 4 people to come at any one time to see the display. Please contact the library at 301-863-8188 to make appropriate arrangements to view the mural.

Other organizations desiring to display this original artwork are asked to contact Southern Maryland Community Resources at info@somdcr.org or 301-997-8143.

Press Release from SMCR

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Farm Bureau Hosts Virtual Legislative Town Hall

The St. Mary's County Farm Bureau held a Legislative Town Hall virtual event on January 8, 2021 with 21 people attending. Elected officials attending were: Delegate Matt Morgan, Del. Brian Crosby, Del. Jerry Clark, and St. Mary's County Commissioner Eric Colvin. Jaelon Moaney attended representing Senator Chris Van Hollen and Gretchen Hardman represented Gov. Larry Hogan.

Sen. Jack Bailey did not attend the event, but he sent written comments which were read to the attendees.

The delegates discussed how the 2021 legislative session will be conducted in light of the restrictions on social distancing during the pandemic, and how citizens will be able to participate in the legislative process.

Legislative topics discussed by the delegates were: changes to state procurement contracts to promote purchases from Maryland small farm operations; bills pertaining to environmental matters developed over the summer study period; police reform; and additional relief packages from the state and federal government for COVID.

Sen. Bailey reported that he has introduced a bill that will help facilitate the management of the new Regional Agricultural Center (RAC), to allow the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC) to operate the RAC by aligning state law with the already agreed



upon memorandum of understanding with St. Mary's County for the property.

Two farm bureau members brought up issues which were discussed. One member spoke about Forest Stewardship Plans and woodland carbon sequestration. Del. Clark asked the member to follow up with him on this issue.

The other farm bureau member asked for support for agricultural education legislation that may be introduced during this session.

"The Farm bureau appreciates the participation of our elected officials and their representatives at the town hall meeting," James K. Raley, Jr., president of St. Mary's County Farm Bureau.

Press Release from St. Mary's County Farm Bureau.

Remote Work May Offer Financial Benefits

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many of us have been forced to work from home. But once we've moved past the virus, many workers may continue working from home. More than one-third of companies with employees who started working from home now think that remote work will stay more common post-pandemic, according to a Harvard Business School study. This shift to at-home work can affect people's lives in many ways – and it may end up providing workers with some long-term financial advantages.

If you're one of those who will continue working remotely, either full time or at least a few days a week, how might you benefit? Here are a few possibilities:

- **Reduced transportation costs** – Over time, you can spend a lot of money commuting to and from work. The average commuter spends \$2,000 to \$5,000 per year on transportation costs, including gas, car maintenance, public transportation and other expenses, depending on where they live, according to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis and the U.S. Census Bureau. If you are going to work primarily from home, you should be able to greatly reduce these costs.

- **Potentially lower car insurance premiums** – Your auto insurance premiums are partially based on how many miles you drive each year. So, if you were to significantly reduce these miles by working from home, you might qualify for lower rates.

- **Lower expenditures on lunches** – If you typically eat lunch in restaurants or get take-out while at work, you could easily be spending \$50 or more per week – even more if you regularly get coffee drinks to go. By these figures, you could

end up spending around \$3,000 a year. Think how much you could reduce this bill by eating lunch at home during your remote workday.

- **Lower clothing costs** – Despite the rise in "casual dress" days, plenty of workers still need to maintain appropriate office attire. By working from home, you can "dress down," reducing your clothing costs and dry-cleaning bills.

As you can see, it may be possible for you to save quite a bit of money by working from home. How can you use your savings to help meet your long-term financial goals, such as achieving a comfortable retirement?

For one thing, you could boost your investments. Let's suppose that you can save \$2,500 each year by working remotely. If you were to invest this amount in a tax-deferred account, such as an IRA or your 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored plan and earned a hypothetical 6% annual return for 20 years, you'd accumulate more than \$97,000 – and if you kept going for an additional 10 years, you'd have nearly \$210,000. You'd eventually pay taxes on the amount you withdrew from these accounts (and withdrawals prior to age 59½ may be subject to a 10% IRS penalty), but you'd still end up pretty far ahead of where you'd be otherwise.)

You also might use part of your savings generated by remote work to help build an emergency fund containing a few months' worth of living expenses. Without this fund, you might be forced to dip into your retirement accounts to pay for something like a major home repair.

Becoming an at-home worker will no doubt require some adjustments on your part – but, in strictly financial terms, it could lead to some positive results.

*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*

Pet OF THE WEEK MEET OCTOBER



Good luck needs no explanation.
-Shirley Temple

Hello, my name is October. Rumor has it that Tortoiseshell kitties like me are GOOD LUCK. Everybody can use some good luck nowadays, so here is your chance to own a GORGEOUS good luck charm! The TCAS folks say that I LOVE TO TALK and I'm VERY CURIOUS. You will surely FALL IN LOVE with my big amber eyes and BEAUTIFUL FACE. I would love to spend my day to exploring and then retire to your lap for a nap! Take a minute and email animalshelter@charlescountymd.gov to schedule an appointment to meet me ASAP! BE MY MIRACLE and PLEASE CHOOSE ME! When you choose to adopt from TCAS, you are literally saving a life. And remember, if 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>

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Vaccination Moves Ahead, But Frustration Mounts

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

St. Mary's County has moved into the final stage of Phase 1 vaccinations for COVID-19, bringing it one step closer to being able to inoculate the general population but frustration is growing among the eligible population, many 65 years old and up, about the lack of slots available for them to register to get vaccinated.

This age range of residents is in the Phase 1C schedule of vaccinations; Phase 1A dealt with first responders, health care workers and nursing home residents, while Phase 1B was available for residents 75 years old and above.

Elected leaders have asked for patience in light of continued supply shortages of both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines.

Commissioner Mike Hewitt said he had received complaints from residents trying to get vaccine appointments by using the county health department's website but could not enter their information to reserve time.

"Lord knows, we're hearing you, we're hearing you," Hewitt said. "Please call and we'll hopefully hook you up with the right people who can identify your issue and put you on the list and get your appointments made."

Some of the complaints center around residents who register or attempt to register but are informed that they must make another attempt because there are no slots, or doses, remaining.

In essence, there is no option for those eligible for vaccines to be put on a continual waiting list.

"Unfortunately, as this patient registration system is a statewide application there are many aspects that we cannot change nor control locally," said



St. Mary's County Health Officer Dr. Meena Brewster in a statement to The County Times. "The built in waitlist function in this system does not retain patient information past the clinic date and therefore is not an effective feature for call-backs or scheduling future appointments."

When setting up vaccine clinics in the system, [the county health department] disables the waitlist function; however, occasionally the system glitches and causes the function to reactivate for a particular clinic."

Brewster understood that the frustration was palpable.

"We understand the frustration it may cause our community members if they are not able to get appointments or need to re-enter information in the statewide electronic registration system; Please be patient," Brewster said. "Vaccine supply is far lower than demand, but we are getting vaccine supply every week and able to offer more appointments weekly. [The health department] is continuing to get 100 percent of its first dose supply into arms

within a week of receiving the vaccine allotment. There has not been a single dose wasted in our process thus far."

Brewster said that the opening of the Phase 1C category is on a limited basis and the health department is working to ensure that those who were eligible for a vaccine dose in prior stages of Phase 1 could still get one if desired.

"The decision to open eligibility for Phase 1C was made at the state level; locally we decided to start only with the age 65 and older eligibility category of phase 1C," Brewster said. "Occupational groups in phase 1C are being delayed in order to make limited vaccine supply more available to the thousands of residents who are newly eligible in the 65 to 74 age category, as well as those 75 years and older who continue to be eligible from phase 1B and did not already get a chance to get vaccinated."

"Occupational groups from phase 1A and phase 1B will continue to be eligible."

Key to the continuing vaccination effort is ensuring those without on-line

capability can find ways to register for a dose.

"We are partnering with the St. Mary's County Department of Aging & Human Services to make phone assistance available for seniors who do not have computers or otherwise need help registering in the state's electronic appointment system," Brewster explained. "When there are no available or open appointments, [the office of aging and human services] has been able to collect information from callers to put them on a call-back list."

"This is not a wait-list for appointments, however individuals are called back for registration assistance when appointments are available in the order they initially called for assistance with registration."

Health officials are not sure how much of the county's population would have to be vaccinated to achieve a state of herd immunity – or the state in which the virus can no longer effectively spread.

"While we do not yet know what percentage vaccination in the population is needed for herd immunity specific for COVID-19, current estimates suggest 50 to 80 percent of the population will need to be vaccinated to reach the herd immunity threshold," Brewster said. "The total number vaccinated thus far is not enough to achieve 'herd immunity' which is why we are working hard every day to ensure that we use our vaccine allotments effectively and to advocate for more vaccine supply."

"The more people in our community that are vaccinated the better chance we have to protect each other."

Currently, the vaccine supply is only in the hands of the health department, certain pharmacies and the hospital but that may change in the future.

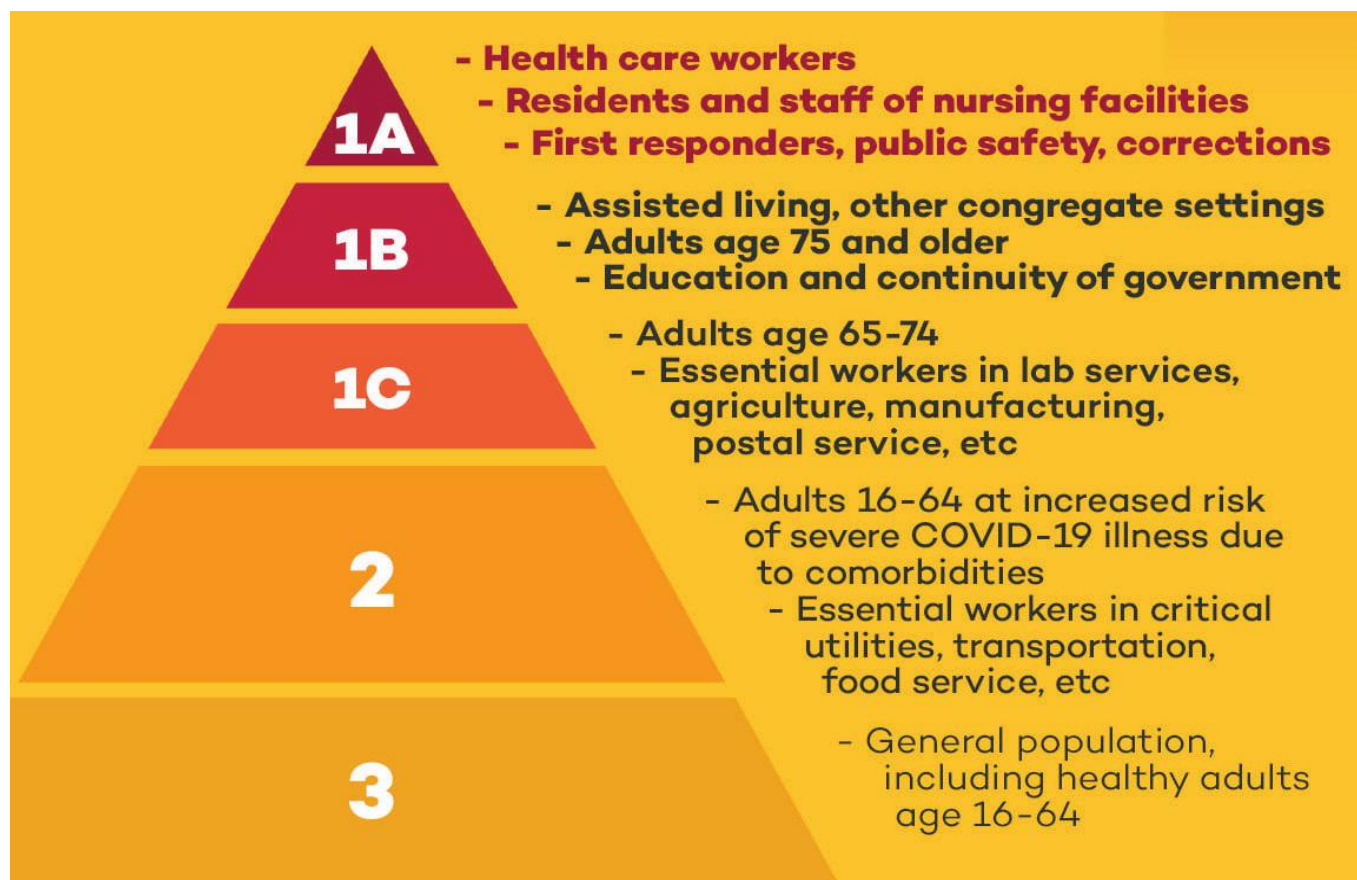
"At this time, local health departments are not allowed to distribute their vaccine allotments to health care provider offices for them to administer," Brewster said. "We anticipate that in the future local healthcare providers will receive their own vaccine allotments to increase access points to vaccines during future vaccination phases."

Vaccines which could still be approved for use could help make distribution to family or private health care providers possible.

"As more vaccines become approved for use that allow single doses and have more stable storage capacity, it will be important for local primary care providers to begin offering vaccination to their patients," Brewster said. "Primary care clinicians understand their patients best, including their medical history and risk factors."

"Vaccination through primary care offices will be an important next step as vaccine becomes more available and more people become eligible for vaccine."

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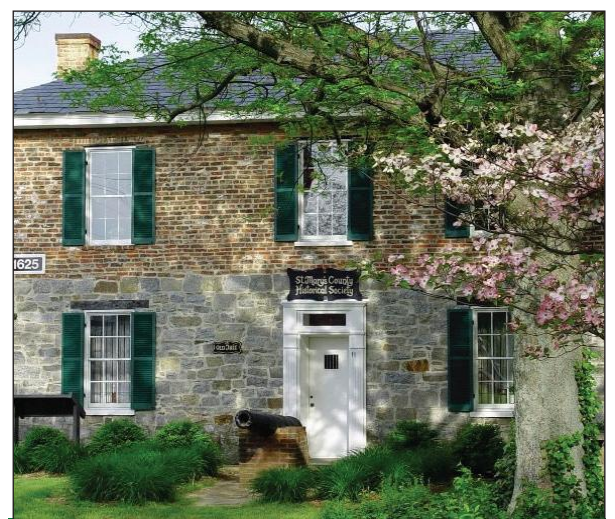
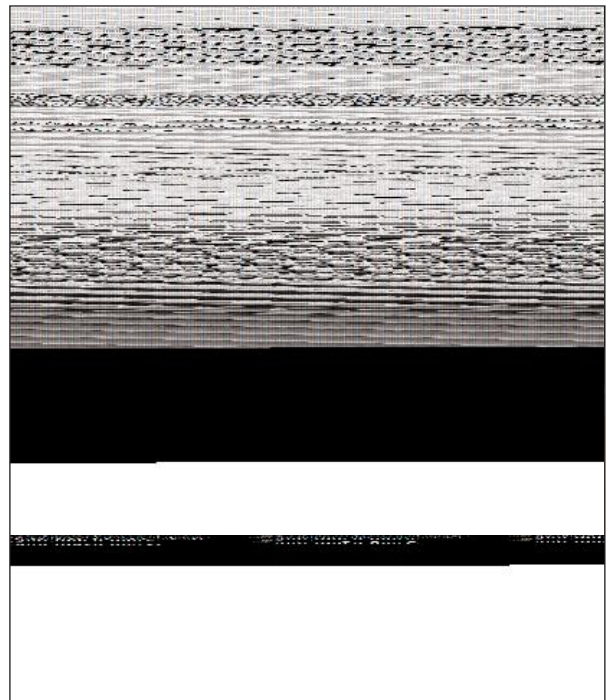
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Legal Notice

Commissioners of Leonardtown Notice of Public Hearing

The Leonardtown Mayor and Town Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 4:15 pm at the Town Hall, 22670 Washington Street, Leonardtown, MD to hear comments on Resolution No. 2-20 request for Annexation of four (4) parcels consisting of 37.6845 acres +/- . More particularly described as the ST MARY'S ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY, LLC PROPERTY (1), Tax Map 41, Parcel 0002, containing +20.4825 acres and ST MARY'S ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY, LLC (2), Tax Map 41, Parcel 221, containing 0.5490 acres and VALLI INVESTMENTS, LLC PROPERTY, 42120 St. Andrews Church Road, Tax Map 41, Parcel 0057, containing 2.147 acres and STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION PROPERTY, described as a variable width public-rights-of-way as shown on State Road Commission of Maryland Right-of-Way Plat No.'s 52610-52612 containing 14.5040 acres.

All interested parties are encouraged to attend or to submit written comments by 4:00 p.m. on February 8, 2021 to the Commissioners of Leonardtown, P.O. Box 1, Leonardtown, MD 20650. Special accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities upon request.

By Authority: Laschelle E. McKay, Town Administrator

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ST. MARY'S SHERIFF'S OFFICE CRIME REPORT

Narcotics Arrest:

On January 23, 2021, detectives from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Vice Narcotics Division, along with deputies from the Patrol Division, conducted a vehicle stop in the 39400 block of Harpers Corner Road in Mechanicsville. Investigation determined the occupants of the vehicle were in possession of a large amount of suspected heroin/fentanyl capsules. The capsules have an estimated street value of \$5,100. The occupants of the vehicle were identified to be **Martin Roland Abell**, age 44, **Corey Scott Briscoe**, age 26, and **Patrick Neal Boothe**, age 34, all of Drayden. All three occupants were arrested and transported to the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center in Leonardtown, and charged with the following:

- CDS: Possession-Not Marijuana (two counts)
 - CDS: Possession with Intent to Distribute (two counts)
 - CDS: Possession-Large Amount
- Assault:**

On Jan. 17, 2021, Cpl. Timothy Snyder observed a known defendant swinging what appeared to be a stick at the victim along Great Mills Road in Lexington Park. In responding, Snyder ordered **Robert Lee Driggers**, 54 of Lexington Park, to drop the weapon - a sharpened piece of

rebar. Once laying on the ground, Driggers resisted arrest. Once placed in handcuffs, Driggers continued to yell at the victim.

The victim had visible injuries to the leg. Driggers was charged with First-Degree Assault, Felony Intimidate/Influence Juror, Second-Degree Assault, Intimidate/Influence Juror, Resist/Interfere with Arrest and Trespassing on Private Property.

Theft Suspect Sought

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office is seeking the identity of the person shown in a theft investigation. On Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2021 at 9:45 pm, the suspect fled the McKay's grocery store in Charlotte Hall with items both in his shopping cart and inside of his clothing that he did not pay for. The suspect was last seen getting into a green over maroon sedan, possibly a Chevy Monte Carlo.

Anyone with information about the identity of the suspect or this incident is asked to call Deputy Michael Graves at 301-475-4200, ext. 78101 or email michael.graves@stmarysmd.com. Case # 3201-21

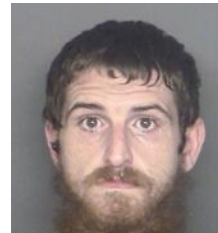
Citizens may remain anonymous and contact Crime Solvers at 301-475-3333, or text a tip to "TIP239" plus their message to "CRIMES" (274637). Through the Crime Solvers Program tipsters are eligible for an award of up to \$1,000 for information about a crime in St. Mary's County that leads to an arrest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



Robert Driggers



Martin Abell



Corey Briscoe



Patrick Boothe



Theft Suspect

Editor's Note:

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



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Chair Yoga

Chair Yoga - Give your body some gentle movement while seated in a supportive chair with a sturdy back on Saturday, February 6 from 2 – 2:30 p.m. We will focus on intentional breathing and gentle stretching of the neck, arms, and torso. Register with an email address on www.stmalib.org to receive a link to join the online event.

How to Help Bluebirds Survive Winter and Prepare for Spring

Join us as Barb Whipkey, of Wild Birds Unlimited in Lexington Park, MD, shares tips on how we can help bluebirds survive when ice and cold winter weather have depleted

their food supply on Wednesday, February 10 from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Many people believe that Eastern Bluebirds move south in winter, but they actually remain right here in Southern Maryland. Bluebirds begin staking claim to nesting sites in February. Barb will share ideas on providing safe nesting boxes, foods for attracting bluebirds, and the importance of offering water for bluebirds. Register on www.stmalib.org with an email address to receive the zoom link.

Virtual Mystery Book Club

Each month we will discuss a different mystery novel. This month's title will be *Miracle Creek* by Angie Kim on Friday, February 12 from 7 – 8 p.m. In the rural Virginia town



of *Miracle Creek*, Young and Pak Yoo run an experimental medical treatment device known as the *Miracle Submarine*—a pressurized oxygen chamber that patients enter for therapeutic “dives” with the hopes of curing issues like autism or infertility. But when the chamber mysteriously explodes, killing two people, a dramatic murder trial upends the Yoos’ small community.

‘Black Men in White Coats’ Film Screening

Watch *Black Men in White Coats*, a new documentary from Dr. Dale Okorodudu. Register with an email address to receive an emailed code to watch the film.

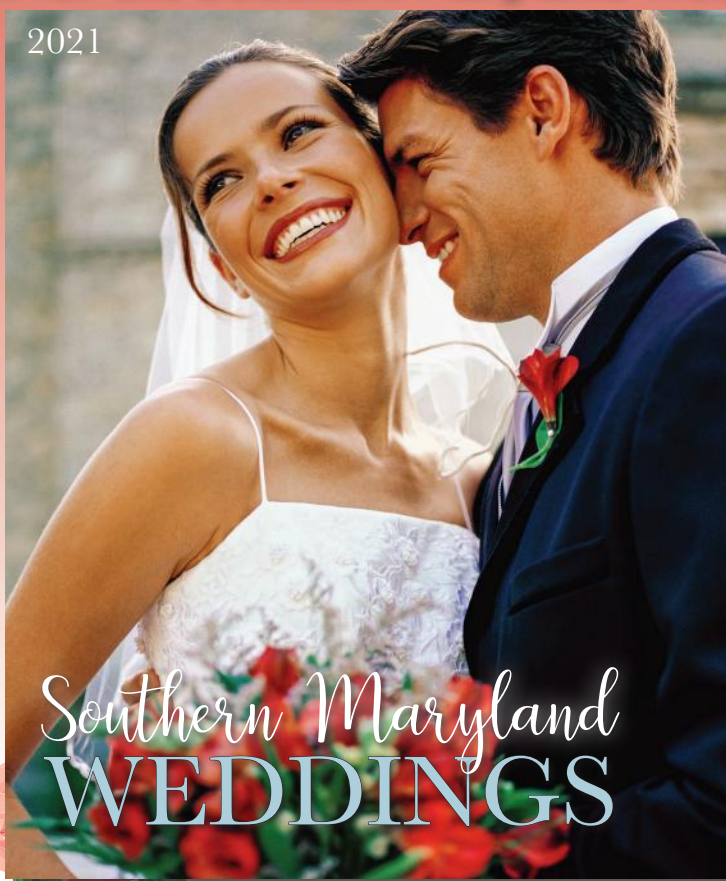
You can watch the film on any device with an internet connection at any time between February 26 and March 2. A discussion about the film is being planned for the first week of March – watch for a save the date!

Fewer black men applied to medical school in 2014 than in 1978 and black men have the lowest life expectancy in the United States. With only 2% of American doctors being black men, this comes as no surprise. This documentary dissects the systemic barriers preventing black men from becoming medical doctors and the consequences on society at large.

Here Comes the Bride!

Look for the Southern Maryland Wedding Guide in today's County Times

2021



Southern Maryland
WEDDINGS

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CountyTimes

Associate Head Basketball Coach Announced

Seahawks Promote Assistant Coach



St. Mary's College of Maryland head men's basketball coach Chris Harney has announced the promotion of Dominic Milburn from assistant coach to associate head coach of the Seahawks.

"It's an honor to have a coach like Dominic Milburn on our staff and he is much deserving of this promotion to associate head coach," stated Harney. "He's involved in every facet of our program, he leads our recruiting efforts and he makes our program better every single day with the work he does with our student-athletes."

Milburn is in his fourth year overall on Harney's staff. The Silver Spring,

Maryland native has helped tutor one First Team All-CAC selection (Spencer Schultz, 2018-19 season), two Second Team All-CAC Selections (Gary Grant and Miles Gillette, 2019-20 season) and one CAC Rookie of the Year (Gary Grant, 2019-20 season). Additionally, Milburn has coached 21 CAC All-Academic Team selections.

Prior to joining the St. Mary's College coaching staff, Milburn had a brief coaching stint at Salisbury University. Milburn played collegiate basketball at Bowie State and Salisbury, and later graduated from Salisbury in 2014.

Press Release from SMCM.

Atlantic East Cancels Conference Competition



**ATLANTIC EAST
CONFERENCE**

After months of careful consideration regarding possible options for safely engaging in athletics this spring, the Atlantic East Conference Presidents' Council and athletic administrators have come to the decision to cancel conference competition in fall and winter sports during the spring 2021 semester with the exception of a possible swimming championship due to its low-risk exposure category and the possibility to run the championship virtually.

The conference office and institutional leaders have agreed upon allowing institutional autonomy to schedule competition at their discretion. Activities are not limited by the conference, and may include practices, strength and conditioning, inter-squad events, and intercollegiate contests where safe to do so.

The Seahawk field hockey and swimming teams will still compete during the spring semester, but without conference competition. Both

teams are associate members of the AEC.

Division III previously announced that all Division III student-athletes are able to participate in athletics during this academic year without being charged a season of participation or semester of eligibility. The blanket waiver allows student-athletes to compete up to the established dates of competition/contest maximums without being charged a season of intercollegiate participation or a term of attendance for any term during the 2020-21 academic year in which they are eligible for competition.

At this time, spring sport scheduling and championships continue to have priority due to their lost season in Spring 2020. The Presidents' Council is scheduled to meet again in the upcoming week to further discuss spring sports scheduling for the upcoming semester.

Press Release from SMCM.

Men's Basketball Edged by Salisbury



The St. Mary's College of Maryland men's basketball team traveled to Salisbury University on Saturday (Jan. 23) afternoon and were edged by the Sea Gulls by a final score of 69-66.

St. Mary's College - 66, Salisbury - 69

How It Happened

- Salisbury jumped out to their largest lead of the opening half, capturing a 19-6 advantage at the 13:21 mark. The Sea Gulls managed to knock down five consecutive three balls to push themselves in the lead.

- Trailing 22-10, the Seahawks closed the gap to 22-21 with an 11 point run. Cameron Rucker, Gary Grant, Micah Henry, and Elijah Crawford recorded scores during the scoring streak.

- Both squads continued to exchange scores until Salisbury held a 32-27 lead with 1:11 remaining. St. Mary's College took advantage of their final possession of the half when Darian Callaway drained a three-pointer. The Seahawks headed into the halftime break trailing 32-30.

- St. Mary's College recorded four blocks and four steals to close the gap in the first half of action.

- The start of the second half was similar to the end of the first, with both teams trading scores. Next, the Seahawks captured their first lead since the opening minutes of the game, grabbing a 57-55 lead with 5:50 remaining in regulation. Daryn Alexander started the run with a layup and Grant tallied the final three points for the Seahawk lead.

- Salisbury eventually took the lead again, but didn't hold onto it long.

Grant once again willed his way to the basket and drained a layup and drew a foul. Grant went on to drain the following free throw. Next, Olu-mide Lewis knocked down a clutch three-pointer to give the Seahawks a 63-61 advantage.

- With under two minutes remaining, Brandon Craig of Salisbury recorded three consecutive points to give the Sea Gulls a 67-66 lead. St. Mary's College missed a three ball in their next possession and Salisbury capitalized with a layup on the other side of the floor. The Seahawks eventually turned the ball over on their final possession.

Inside the Box Score

- Grant led the Seahawks with a team-best 19 points and eight rebounds. Crawford tied Grant with the team lead in rebounds collecting eight as well. Two other Seahawks finished the afternoon with double-digit points. Lewis recorded 13 points and Henry tallied 12, respectively.

- St. Mary's College played well on the defensive end, recording eight blocks and seven steals as a team. Albert Scott notched a team-high three blocks, while Grant and Crawford tallied two a piece. Additionally, Crawford led the team with three steals.

- Jordan Oates led the Sea Gulls with a double-double, collecting 11 points and 17 rebounds. Three Sea Gulls finished with 10 points and every Salisbury player that saw action scored.

Up Next for the Seahawks

- Jan. 29 at Lancaster Bible | 7 PM | Horst Athletic Center

Press Release from SMCM.

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PATUXENT RIVER NAVAL AIR STATION

News

U.S. Naval Test Pilot School Celebrates Class 158 Graduation

The U.S. Naval Test Pilot School (USNTPS) held a graduation ceremony for Class 158 at Naval Air Station Patuxent River, January 22. 36 students successfully completed an intense 11-month course of instruction for designation as Engineering Developmental Test Pilots, Test Flight Officers, and Test Engineers.

Retired Vice Adm. David Architzel delivered the keynote address. Architzel is a former Commander of Naval Air Systems Command and a graduate of USNTPS.

Architzel, Col. Richard Mari-gliano, Commander of Naval Test Wing Atlantic, and Lt. Col. Rory Feely, Commanding Officer of USNTPS, presented diplomas and offered congratulations to the new “Testers.” Graduates included members of the U.S. Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Air Force; students from Australia, Germany, Israel, and Norway; and civil service engineers from the Department of the Navy.

Navy Lt. Colin Locke received the Outstanding Developmental Phase II Award, which recognizes the student who produced the best final report. The award is symbolic of the longstanding and mutually supportive relationship between the Empire Test Pilots’ School in the United Kingdom and USNTPS.

Navy Lt. Cmdr. Javier Remotti received the Commander Willie McCool Outstanding Student Award, which recognizes the top performing student in the categories of academics, flight performance, and technical report writing. The namesake award commemorates U.S. Navy Commander William C. McCool, a USNTPS alumnus tragically lost in the Columbia space shuttle accident.

Marine Corps Maj. Kyle Kanode received the Syd Sherby Leadership Award. Recognizing the student who displays exemplary leadership, the award is named after U.S. Navy Capt. Sydney Sherby who established the test pilot training division in 1945, now the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School.



Retired Vice Adm. David Architzel delivers the keynote address at the graduation of U.S. Naval Test Pilot School Class 158 on January 22, 2021 at Naval Air Station Patuxent River. (U.S. Navy photo by Paul Lagasse)

Twenty-three students completed the requirements for the engineering test pilot course. The new test pilots are:

- Lt. Zachary J. Bauer, U.S. Navy
- Lt. Kyle P. Burdick, U.S. Navy
- Maj. Brandon T. Dell, U.S. Marine Corps
- Chief Warrant Officer 4th Class Steven D. Fara, U.S. Army
- Capt. Quinton J. Fenley, U.S. Army
- Maj. Paul M. Gucwa, U.S. Marine Corps
- Capt. Jan-Harald Gustavsen, Royal Norwegian Air Force
- Chief Warrant Officer 3rd Class Kyle Hickman, U.S. Army
- Maj. Aric H. Jensen, U.S. Army
- Maj. Kyle B. Kanode, U.S. Marine Corps
- Lt. James A. Land, U.S. Navy
- Maj. Stephan Ludwig, German

Air Force

- Lt. Michael A. Maynard, U.S. Navy
 - Flt. Lt. Matthew P. McCarty, Royal Australian Air Force
 - Lt. George J. Meszaros, U.S. Navy
 - Lt. Robert M. Nordlund, U.S. Navy
 - Lt. Steven M. Smallwood, U.S. Navy
 - Maj. Neta-Lee Talmon, Israeli Air Force
 - Lt. Benjamin H. Title, U.S. Navy
 - Lt. Tyler A. Trombetta, U.S. Navy
 - Lt. Bryan C. Valliere, U.S. Navy
 - Lt. Tyler P. Vitti, U.S. Navy
 - Lt. Cmdr. Brian R. Warren, U.S. Navy
- Nine students completed the engineering test flight officer course. They are:**
- Lt. Kimberley L. Glaeser, U.S. Navy

- Lt. Jacob J. Leighton, U.S. Navy
 - Lt. Colin T. Locke, U.S. Navy
 - Lt. Cmdr. Javier F. Remotti, U.S. Navy
 - Lt. Jacob W. Schalles, U.S. Navy
 - Lt. Richard N. Smith, U.S. Navy
 - Lt. Joseph E. Swierzowski, U.S. Navy
 - Lt. Brianna L. Valladares, U.S. Navy
 - Lt. Nicholas S. Waugh, U.S. Navy
- Four students fulfilled the requirements for the test project engineer course. They are:**
- Mr. Kenneth M. Cahill, NAWCAD
 - Ms. Amber M. Cook, NAWCAD
 - Capt. Riley A. Livermore, U.S. Air Force
 - Dr. Ryan Turgeon, NAWCAD

Wanderings

of an *Aimless Mind*

by *Shelby Oppermann*



ONE MORE HAPPY, LITTLE CLOUD

Well, it's deadline week here. I have until 3 p.m. Sunday the 31st to get my three paintings into the North End Gallery in Leonardtown's Invitational Art Show for February and March. But like many artists, I never feel completely done with a painting... ever. Right now, I have my birds painting, "Freeing what binds" sitting against the wall in the living room to critique, which is never a good thing. At first, I didn't want clouds, just a perfect bright blue sky. My best friend agreed, but my husband said he thought clouds would be nice. Well, I don't live with my best friend, so you know whose advice I took. Now, I keep fixing clouds, or taking some out completely. I am sick of clouds.

The second painting to enter, the waterfall at Clinton Nature Center, has been done for months, but I did re-vamp that one a bit too, since I found that working from a black background presents challenges of colors and tones not looking bright enough.. The original third painting, a barn painting, was done months ago as well, but I decided not to enter that one at all and opted to start something new of course. Though at this point, I may switch back to the small barn painting. The small painting is for the miniatures part of the show and is supposed to be a Valentine's theme. I had been thinking of adding a small painted quilt square to the barn long before I knew it was a Valentine's theme, so I suppose it could be a heart quilt square if I can't get the new painting done in time. My hands don't work as long or fast anymore.

The last thing we are expected to do is either send in a video or have the town of Leonardtown or North End Gallery create a video artist introduction for a virtual show opening in March. I am such a bad public speaker that I get nervous just thinking about this, even though it is an excellent idea to get the word out during this particular time. Any Toastmasters out there?!

Other than artistic pursuits, this week has been pretty normal. Our bedroom is looking good. Robert has finished painting in there, except for his closet. The new flooring has come, to be put in probably next week, and I ordered the new bed this week. It will take two months to arrive, so we will have to keep this old one for a while longer. The rest of the bedroom set will be ordered from another furniture place, and we were told it is all in stock. So, all we will have left to do, with regard to home updates, will be this office, and the kitchen. These will



both be future year's projects. Heck, it only took 25 – 30 years for the bedroom, why rush?

Really, the biggest thing for us here at The Oppermann house, was Mindy's birthday on the 26th. I can't believe she is already 5 years old. We didn't really celebrate on her birthday because we were both painting on something, but plan to this evening with some Frosty Paws. I did sing Happy Birthday to Mindy several times – she seemed to be smiling when I sang to her, but it is hard to tell. It's funny how it seems like it is harder to believe 5 years has gone by in her age than in mine. It also seems strange to think that in a dog's life that 5 years can be middle-aged in some cases. Not fair, I wish dogs had long lives too.

I guess I better get back to those darn clouds and finish them off. And then varnish the painting as quickly as possible so I am not tempted to add anything else. Well, maybe if I just add one more happy little cloud...

To each new day's adventure,
Shelby

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



Letters to the Editor

Reasonable Party Leaders

To the Editor:

In regard to the column, "Democrats, Republicans, Not Easily Reconciled" (1/21/2021), it was at least refreshing to hear from two St. Mary's County party leaders who spoke in reasonable terms about America's future post-Trump. If we had more such stewards in politics, there would be better prospects for mutual respect and dignity in dialogue.

Our country has suffered through years of dangerous truth-deniers, conspiracy theorists (for example, QAnon), white nationalists and supremacists, blind believers and others like the mad, violent fanatics who stormed the Capitol for a lost, fictitious cause.

We have to return to a government forged in facts, data, science

and wisdom instead of continuing to drown in a morass of "anybody's fantasies are as good as anyone else's."

Human beings are often more motivated by emotions, especially fear and self-interest, than they are by rationality and the common good. Thus, it will not be easy to right the nation. But President Biden has already shown that he is a reflective, energetic, compassionate, and competent leader. We have been yearning for that kind of stewardship.

There is more reason to be hopeful now than in the recent past. I thank Mr. Mattingly and Mr. Willenborg for their sobering thoughts as we enter a new day in America.

*Joseph L. DeVitis
Leonardtown*

Problems Registering for Vaccinations

To the Editor,

I tried to get a vaccine appointment in St. Mary's County using the web site last Friday. I started filling in requested information but got to the end the program and it would no longer move me forward. After repeated tries and checking entries, I tried to start over but the week was full and the registration link was gone. The registration link was opened again on Sunday but was full by the time I got to the web site.

My experience is a common one with registrations running out in minutes. The policy appears to be: provide vaccine to those with the most computer savvy and with the time to continually check and refresh the web site. There seems to be little inclination to get vaccine to the most vulnerable populations contrary to professed policy.

Requiring rapid entry into a system that ultimately denies an appointment only serves to ramp up

frustration and anxiety. Dangling potentially life-saving medicine in front of people only to snatch it away is a cruel joke.

We are all aware that there is a vaccine shortage but that is no excuse for the chaos, anyone could design a better system. A waiting list could be created, provisional appointments could be offered or weekly registrations could be offered to populations by reducing the age year by year starting with people over 90, then 89 etcetera.

Politicians were allowed to cut the line and get priority to vaccines then many of them publicly urge the rest of us to get vaccinated, a virtually impossible task.

A well-fed Marie Antoinette advised starving peasants to eat cake when told that they had no bread. Fortunately, we have more humane ways of getting rid of ineffective rulers.

*Robert Willey
California, MD*



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County Times

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

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!

Curbside Event Coming Up

Did you make an apron to show us for the first Curbside Reveal Event, which is part of our newest series of remote programs- Independent Project Clubs? You still have time to put one together in any design or pattern you desire. Bring it to the Loffler Senior Activity Center on Wednesday, February 10 so we can take a picture of you and your creation that we will post on our Facebook Page. We will also slip a new assignment into your car for you to work on that you can bring to us on Wednesday, March 10 when we have our next Curbside Reveal Event. To participate and make a reservation to show your project or for more information, e-mail Sheila. Graziano@stmarysmd.com or leave a voice mail message at 301-475-4200, ext. 1655.

How to Give Yourself a Reflexology Session

Holistic Wellness Practitioner and Licensed Reflexologist Sarah

Strain will guide you through the basic steps of a self-reflexology session on Friday, February 12 at 10 a.m. Learn how to improve your circulation, reduce stress and pain by applying pressure to various reflex points on your feet and hands. Educational as well as fun, this session is available for up to 20 people via Zoom. Free. Register by e-mail: Sheila.Graziano@stmarysmd.com.

Cooking for One or Two (Virtual Class on Zoom)

Cookbook author and Chef/Owner of No Thyme To Cook, a culinary school in Solomon's Island, will be offering a cooking class via Zoom just for us! We will be preparing a selection from her latest book One Pot Supreme, a collection of delicious and easy recipes that can be made in one cooking vessel. For this class, we've chosen Baked Ravioli with Sausage & Spinach

which will be accompanied by an interesting salad and dressing. Cost is \$25 plus ingredients- HOWEVER, due to a Senior Center Operating Funds grant designated for Covid-19 remote programming, we are able to offer this class tuition-free for 10 people (Cost of ingredients will still apply) Thursday, Feb. 11 at 4 p.m. Please note: Must have at least 10 participants for this event to happen. Register by e-mail: Sheila.Graziano@stmarysmd.com.

St. Mary's Community Calendar

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

Thursday, January 28

CSM Transfer Thursday

Virtual; 11 a.m.

CSM hosts Transfer institutions virtually each Thursday from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Representatives from two different institutions will be available to chat with students and help navigate their future transfer experience. RSVPs are required to access Zoom information. Free. csmd.edu/transferthursdays

SMCPS Webinar Series

Online; 7 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Parents and community members are invited to participate in a FREE Conscious Discipline virtual workshop being offered by Conscious Discipline Master Instructor Amy Speidel. A pre-recorded Conscious Discipline webinar session with Amy Speidel is also available for parents to view. The webinar session may be accessed and revisited unlimited times through November 2021. Registration is required. Please contact Lynn Trehern at pltrehern@smcps.org to register.

Friday, January 29

Beth Israel Synagogue Shabbat Services Online

7 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Shabbat evening services are being held online due to COVID19. 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, February 2

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 at 301-645-0660 or email us at admin@ccsmd.com.

Wednesday, February 3

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)

DAV Assistance Program

St. Mary's Square ReStore; 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Veterans - do you have a service-connected disability? Did you receive an injury while on active duty and are now filing for disability through the Veterans Administration (VA)? The Disabled American Veterans organization is here to assist you with those VA forms at no cost to you. These men and women (who are disabled veterans) are volunteers who ensure you are placing the proper information in the proper blocks and advise you on common mistakes that are made on these VA forms. Their spaces are toward the rear of the building on the left side. Stop by and see if we can be of assistance to you. No appointment necessary.

Thursday, February 4

Tobacco Cessation Program

The Tobacco Cessation Program is free and that takes place over the course of 8 weeks (weekly 1 hour sessions). Participants learn behavioral modifications, stress management, and other techniques to help them quit using tobacco products. Next Series: Thursdays, February 4, 2021 - April 15, 2021 from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Learn more or register at: www.smchd.org/tobacco

CSM Transfer Thursday

Virtual; 11 a.m.

CSM hosts Transfer institutions virtually each Thursday from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Representatives from two different institutions will be available to chat with students and help navigate their future transfer experience. RSVPs are required to access Zoom information. Free. csmd.edu/transferthursdays

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[facebook.com/CountyTimesStMarys](https://www.facebook.com/CountyTimesStMarys)



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

Joseph Henry Cullison



Joseph Henry Cullison, 90 of California, MD, passed away on January 20, 2021 at Calvert Memorial Hospital in Prince Frederick, MD.

He was born on August 11, 1930 in Park Hall, MD to the late James Henry Cullison and Ethel Trossbach Cullison.

Joe is a lifelong resident of St. Mary's County. He served in the United States National Guard under the Army from 1947 to his Honorable Discharge in 1967. He was employed by the Department of Defense at Patuxent River Naval Air Station where he worked for over 30+ years of dedicated service. He started his career within the Public Works Department as a dispatcher until his retirement as Maintenance Superintendent. On October 3, 1953, he married his beloved wife, Margaret Trossbach Cullison at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Ridge, MD. Together they celebrated over

67 wonderful years of marriage. He and his wife enjoyed attending church dances, ice skating, and bowling. He grew bountiful gardens for many years and loved spending time on the water, crabbing, fishing and oystering. He loved spending time on the water with his son and grandsons. He was also a skilled carpenter and mason and built many family houses. He and his wife have traveled extensively across the United States and to many countries. He especially enjoyed his cruise to Alaska, and trips to Australia, Hawaii and Scandinavia. He was family oriented and loved spending time with his family.

He was a member of St. John Francis Regis Catholic Church, the National Rifle Association, and NARFE.

In addition to his beloved wife, Margaret; Joe is also survived by his son, Anthony Joseph "Tony" Cullison (Anna) of California, MD; his siblings: James H. Cullison, Jr. (Sharon) of St. Inigoes, MD, Dorothy Smith of Hagerstown, MD, Audrey Pratt of Ridge, MD and 3 grandsons: Daniel Budzenski (Brenda) of San Diego, CA, Christopher Cullison

of Charlotte, NC and Jacob Cullison of California, MD. In addition to his parents, he is also preceded in death by his son, Joseph Henry Cullison Jr., siblings, Agnes Bean, James F. "Billy" Cullison and John Bernard "Bernie" Cullison.

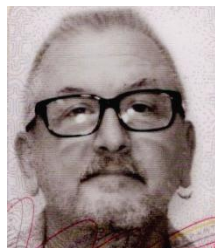
A visitation will be held for the family on Saturday, January 30, 2021 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., followed by a Mass of Christian burial celebrated by Reverend Raymond Schmidt at 12:30 p.m. at St. John's Francis Regis Catholic Church, 43950 St. John's Road, Hollywood, Maryland 20636. Interment will follow in the church cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Alzheimer's Association of Maryland, 10665 Stanhaven Place, Suite 205D, White Plains, MD 20695 or National Parkinson Foundation, Gift Processing Center, Post Office Box 5018, Hagerstown, MD 21741-5018.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Robert John Wirth



Robert John Wirth, 58, of Hollywood, MD passed away on January 19, 2021 at his home.

He was born on October 17, 1962 in Patuxent River, MD

to Mildred Fye Wirth of Hollywood, MD and the late Robert Wirth.

Robert worked as a skilled appliance repairman for many years. He enjoyed working on the older model appliances. He collected antique musical instruments, and was partial to the Victrola he owned. He enjoyed listening to music and playing the trombone. He often went to the Byrd Theater in Virginia to listen to the organ being played. He was the primary caretaker for his mother until recently when she suffered a devastating stroke. He treated with respect, love and compassion. He was a delicious cook. He loved his pet cats, Geraldine and Esther.

In addition to his mother, Robert is also survived by his siblings: Sue Roberta Harris of Gloucester, VA; Judy Sager (Rudi) of Laurel, MD and James Wirth (Stewart) of Virginia Beach, VA; and many nieces, nephews and extended family and friends. He is preceded in death by his father and his brother, Stephen Wirth.

All services will be private.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Carol Judith Neustadt



Carol Judith Neustadt, 76 of Tall Timbers MD passed away on January 12, 2021 at MedStar St. Mary's Hospital. Carol was born in the Bronx, New

York, on March 19, 1944, to Harrison Neustadt and Dora (Goldstein) Neustadt. She graduated from Alfred University in 1965 where she majored in political science and minored in history. After a year of graduate school, and another teaching, she worked for the federal government. She attended night classes at George Washington University Law School receiving her JD in 1974, where she earned membership in the Order of the Coif. What followed was 35 years at the federal Maritime Commission. Even before retiring, she divided her time between homes in Washington D.C. and Maryland.

Carol's partner for over 20 years was Cannon Young, who predeceased her. She has been close to his son Cannon Jr. since they met. Also left behind are family and numerous loving friends including sister Maxine Neustadt Lurie and her husband Jonathan; nephew David Lurie, his wife Nan, and daughter Chiyo; niece Debbie Lurie Silbergleit, her husband Jason and sons Zachary and Colby; nephew Daniel Lurie, his wife Katherine and daughters Magnolia and Willow. Petite, feisty, and fun she did not like being called "Aunt", so it was "Great Carol." And great she was to all of them.

Carol loved spoiling her cats, entertaining family, and friends. She volunteered for many causes including reading to the blind and helping at the Hospice House. She loved cooking, traveling, exercising, book clubs, dominoes with the girls, catching crabs, sunsets on the deck, and breakfast on her pier.

Donations can be made in her memory to the Hospice of St. Mary's, P.O. Box 625, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

All services are private at this time. Condolences to the family may be made at www.brinsfieldfuneral.com. Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A. Leonardtown, MD.



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Bette Frances Werner

Bette Frances Werner, 80 of Lexington Park, MD, passed away peacefully on January 18, 2021



at Genesis Healthcare, La Plata, MD.

She was born on August 13, 1940 in Charleston, SC to the late LeRoy Sidney Leith and Massie Wynona Randolph Leith.

In 1959, Bette graduated from Granby High School in Norfolk, VA. She was still in touch with her girlfriends from high school and enjoyed catching up with them at luncheons. On June 4, 1961, she married her beloved husband, Joseph Andrew Werner, Jr. in Norfolk, VA. Together they celebrated over 59 wonderful years of marriage. In 1974, she moved with her husband and family to St. Mary's County when her husband's navy career took them from California to Patuxent River. She was employed as a Media Specialist for many dedicated years at Spring Ridge Middle School and Great Mills High School until her retirement. She was an avid reader, and shared her love of reading with her children, grandchildren and the school children she taught throughout her career. She was a delicious cook and prepared many home cooked meals for family and friends. A family favorite was her fried chicken and gravy. She had an affinity for the beach and the family enjoyed vacationing in Virginia Beach and Myrtle Beach. She was a talented quilter and made many beautiful quilts for her family. Family was her greatest love and she enjoyed spending her time with them.

In addition to her husband, Joe, she is also survived by her children, Kathleen Michele "Katie" Werner of Lexington Park, MD, Elizabeth Sydney "Beth" Werner (Timothy Keeler) of Riverview, FL, Randolph Stuart "Randy" Werner (Linda) of Hayes, VA and Patrick Joseph "Pat" Werner (Christie) of Lexington Park, MD; her siblings, Sylvia Hampe (Barry) of Lake Ridge, VA and Virginia Evangelista (Mike) of Harleysville, PA; her grandchildren: Christopher Eric "Chris" Adams (Brittany), Andrew Joseph Keeler, Hannah Leigh Werner, Erin Kelly Werner, Lucas Zachary "Luke" Werner, her great grandson, Brandon Adams; and many extended family and friends. In addition to her parents, she is preceded in

death by her infant son, Jonathan Andrew Werner and granddaughter, Sydney Michele Keeler.

Interment will be private. Memorial contributions may be made to Muscular Dystrophy Association, P.O. Box 78342, Phoenix, AZ 85062-8342 and the Jane Hale Sypher Scholarship the College of Southern Maryland, CSM Foundation, La Plata Campus, P.O. Box 910, La Plata, MD 20646-0910.

Condolences may be made at www.brinsfieldfuneral.com. Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Mary Jo Comer



Mary Jo Comer, 82, of Solomons, Maryland, passed to a life of greater glory with God on Thursday, January 14, 2021. She died peacefully at

Asbury Skilled Nursing Center after a long battle with diabetes and dementia.

Mary Jo was born on March 18, 1938 in Charleston, WV, making her appearance in this world only minutes before her twin sister Martha. She was the daughter of the late Ralph and LaRene Adkins James. In addition to twin sister Martha James Brillhart (husband Ron), Mary Jo is also survived by her younger brother Ben James (wife Renda) and sister Judi Sugalski.

Mary Jo attended Charleston High School, where she met her future husband Joseph Ernest Comer. Mary Jo and Joe both attended West Virginia University and married on June 2, 1958. Mary Jo left WVU before graduating and taught school in a one-room schoolhouse in Monongalia County, WV while Joe finished his engineering degree. In 1960, Mary Jo and Joe relocated to Lexington Park, Maryland, where Joe had secured a job as an aerospace engineer at Patuxent River Naval Air Test Center. Mary Jo continued her college education in Maryland, receiving a bachelor's degree in Education from St. Mary's College and master's and Doctor of Education degrees from University of Maryland.

Mary Jo and Joe were married for 50 happy years until Joe's death in November 2008. Their life together was defined by faith, family, dedication to their careers, and love of travel. Mary Jo taught kindergarten at Trinity Lutheran

Church in Lexington Park, high school English at Chopticon High School, and was a Professor of Communications at College of Southern Maryland. She served as Vice Principal at Chopticon HS, was the Supervisor of Language Arts and Foreign Languages for the Charles County Board of Education and led the Maryland Department of Education team in developing the required English high school assessment (HSA) test for Maryland's high school seniors. Mary Jo was a faithful member of Lexington Park UMC where she led the Methodist Youth Fellowship (MYF) group for many years and later, Mt. Zion UMC where she taught Sunday School. Together, Mary Jo and Joe traveled extensively throughout the United States and around the world, culminating in a 50th anniversary cultural and photo safari trip to South Africa and Zimbabwe.

Mary Jo is survived by her daughters Joyce Comer Rose (husband Dale) and Jill Michele Comer Norris (husband Woody); grandchildren Brian Rose, Beau Rose, Samantha Campbell Goldsmith (husband Steven), Matthew Campbell, Christina Campbell Espinosa (husband Allen), Christopher Campbell (fiancé Heather) and Elissa Lily Campbell Norris; and great-grandchildren Trent, Michele, and Andrew. She was preceded in death by her grandson Steven Campbell.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association at <https://www.alz.org>.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Judge C. Clarke Raley



The Honorable C. Clarke "Judge" Raley, 78 of California, MD passed away peacefully at his home on January 16th, 2021 surrounded by

his beloved family.

Clarke was a lifelong resident of St. Mary's County and served this community in a legal capacity for over 40 years. He was born on January 9th, 1943 in Washington DC to Charles Emmerick Raley, and Wilma Jean Raley. Clarke was one of three brothers, he attended St. Michael's school and later graduated from Ryken High School in 1960. Clarke met his high school sweetheart Barbara Ann Puchetti, of Piney Point, MD on the school bus. Clarke and Barbara married in 1961, while Clarke went to the University of MD and he obtained his Bachelor's degree in 1964. During this time, Clarke and Barbara had two children, Charles Christian and Jeanne Marie Raley. Clarke continued his education and obtained his law degree from the University of MD School of Law in 1968. Immediately following law school, Clarke landed a position at Ober, Grimes and Shriver Law Firm. He was very proud of this accomplishment and worked there from 1968-1969. Clarke and Barbara decided to move their young family back to St. Mary's County where Clarke went into private practice in 1969 and worked as a lawyer until 1974. Clarke and Barbara had their 3rd child, Heather Clarke in 1971. Clarke obtained the position of Assistant States Attorney from 1974-1978, then served as the St. Mary's County State's Attorney 1981-1982 before being appointed

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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

to the District Court of MD as Associate Judge from 1983-1998. In 1998, Clarke was appointed as an Associate Judge for the St. Mary's County Circuit Court where he served until his retirement in 2011. The "Judge" was known for being fair and reasonable but tough on crime, a no nonsense kind of person who ran an efficient courtroom.

Clarke loved everything outdoors; he could often be found on the course at the Breton Bay Golf & Country Club where he regularly played in the Men's Association "Blitz" and traveled with the group to visit many courses on the east coast such as Pinehurst. He became an accomplished golfer and was proud of his handicap and the many awards he received as a result of his steady play. Most of all, he enjoyed the camaraderie of his fellow golfers. In his earlier years, as a young teenager he enjoyed working on and racing cars. He was a member of the Triangle Rod and Custom Club. He enjoyed horseback riding where he and Barbara were members of the De La Brooke Foxhounds W fox hunt club. Clarke and Barbara owned horses, where they lived on Tower Hill Road with their family for twenty years. As the children grew older, Clarke and Barbara turned their passion to sailing. They were members of the Southern Maryland Sailing Association, and participated weekly in the Wednesday night sailboat races, the Governor's Cup, and many other memorable races. They loved being on the water so much they ended up buying property on the Patuxent River. Through Clarke's love of being on the water, he again found peace and solidarity in fly fishing. He even made his own flies and could be seen on the bulkhead next to their home casting in hopes of landing a trophy rockfish. He enjoyed trips with Capt. Brady Bounds, honing his casting and searching for the best places to fish.

Clarke took great pride in his home, always tinkering with some project for the house, even where he designed and constructed additional living and storage space. Although he had many hobbies he also enjoyed to travel and some of his favorite places were Martha's Vineyard, New York City, Italy and St. Bart's but his most favorite place of all was his home in St. Mary's County. After a hard days' work he would come home, sit in his lawn chair overlooking the water, crack a cold Miller High Life and admire the boat traffic with his faithful wife of 59 years, and his dog Trap by his side. Clarke

was hard working, dependable, trustworthy, honest and fair. He handled his personal life much like his professional life. He built a strong foundation for his family that one could always count on; one of trust, stability, honor, strength, and love.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara and three children; C. Christian Raley (Nancy) of Hollywood, MD; Jeanne Marie Christensen (David) of Pensacola, Florida; and Heather Raley Alton (Danny) of Drayden, MD. His sibling, L.G. Raley (Merrie-Ruth); 7 grandchildren; C. Christian Raley, Jr (Julia); Catherine Raley, Alexandra Christensen, Ben Raley, Zachary Perkins, Noah Perkins, Sam Alton, and Colin Perkins. He is survived by three great grandchildren; Tripp Raley, Aalayah Christensen, and Austin Raley; and many extended family and friends. Clarke was also preceded in death by his youngest brother John Wayne Raley.

Memorial contributions can be made in Clarke's name to the Hospice of St. Mary's, 44724 Hospice House Ln, Callaway, MD 20620

Angela Evelyn Brown



Angela Evelyn Brown joined our Lord on Friday, January 15, 2021. Angela was born in Baltimore, Maryland on April 25, 1936 as the only child of

Albert D. Perce and Evelyn Byrne Pearce. She was educated in the Catholic school system in the Baltimore area. She was a graduate The Institute of Notre Dame High School. As a side note, Senator Barbara Mikulski was a homeroom classmate. Angela was a parish member of Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church in Lexington Park, Maryland.

Although she was a resident of Lexington Park, Maryland, she was recently living at the Solomons Nursing and Rehab Center in Solomons, Maryland. Angela is survived by her husband, Captain Donald L. Brown, USN (Ret) of Lexington Park; her daughter Deborah B. Radivo and son-in-law Nick A. Radivo of Centreville, Maryland. She is predeceased by her 9 year old daughter, Barbara E. Brown; her parents of Baltimore; her mother and father in law, Hazel and Nelson "Chub" Brown of Fort Scott, Kansas and an aunt and uncle, Colonel and Mrs. Joseph Buchta, USAF (Ret)

of St. Petersburg, Florida.

Angela learned of some opening government jobs and applied for and got a position with the National Security Agency. She soon learned that she could not tell anyone where she was employed other than the Department of Defense. She was a hard worker and quickly became an administrative assistant to a senior agency official. While working at the agency Angela began dating a midshipman at the U.S. Naval Academy who upon graduation was assigned a tour of duty in the Far East, primarily Japan. The relationship continued during the absence. Upon his return and assignment to the National Security Agency, Don asked Angela to become his bride. They were married on June 27, 1959 at the U.S. Naval Academy Chapel and established a home in Laurel, Maryland.

Angela and Don enjoyed the remainder of his 31-year Navy career together as they moved from one part of the world to the next. Angela's first overseas tour was in Turkey during the Cuban Missile Crises. Next came Monterey, California while Don attended the Naval Postgraduate School to study Electronics Engineering and add Deborah to the family. Following tours included several assignments in the Washington, D.C. area; San Miguel, Republic of the Philippines, where she was involved along with other wives in monitoring the wellbeing of wives of naval personnel deployed to ships operating in the Gulf of Tonkin and detachments "in country" Vietnam. She also attended local Philippine functions as part of the Navy people-to-people program and interfaced with local Philippine officials; U.S. Naval Communication Area Master Station, Guam, where Don was the Executive Officer while Angela represented the command as 1st Lady at many military and local island functions. In 1975, Angela was involved in "Operation New Life" when over 100,000 evacuees were taken to Guam for care and processing when Vietnam fell to the communists. Don's command ended up operating three different evacuee camps. As the first camp was opened on about eight hours advance notice before they arrived, Angela organized and lead the command wives in feeding and supporting other needs of the arriving families at the first camp. The food was prepared by navy cooks, but since the station was a 24 hours a day 7 days a week fully operational command, there were no extra military personnel. So, the support and work of the family

volunteers was important and appreciated. Following the completion of Operation New Life of the Indochina Refugee Program, Angela was awarded a Letter of Appreciation for "Extraordinary Effort" by Rear Admiral Kent Carroll, Commander U.S. Naval Forces Marianas and a Certificate of Appreciation from the Interagency Task Force for Indochina Refugees "For valued service to the humanitarian effort of resettling the refugees from Indochina in '1975" signed by Donald Rumsfeld, Secretary of Defense and Julia Taft the Task Force Director. Also, Guam was wiped out by Typhoon Pamela in 1976 and again Angela saw needs. The local American Red Cross support office operated out of the Brown's kitchen. In 1979, Don became the Commanding Officer of Naval Security Group Activity Adak, Alaska and Angela was again in her unofficial role of first lady with responsibilities of overlooking support of families both civilian and military. She hosted many visitors to Adak and welcomed new command officers and spouses.

Upon moving to St. Mary's County in 1985, Angela again became an involved citizen. She became involved in activities at her church, Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church in Lexington Park and worked with an interfaith group supporting senior citizens in the county. The director of St. Mary's County Department of Social Services, Ella May Russell, recognized Angela "for outstanding and dedicated service" as a member of the Interfaith Volunteers. Also, she decided to get involved with the Republican Party to try and level the political field for a large number of citizens in St. Mary's County. During the 1990's she served several terms as President of the Republican Women of St. Mary's County; as a Vice President of the Maryland Federation of Republican Women and as St. Mary's County Chairman for the Ellen Sauerbrey for Governor campaign. She also worked as a volunteer for many other republican candidates up and down the tickets. She also served as a Red Cross Volunteer, working at blood drives and as a member of the local disaster team responding to local fires to assist victims. At the IHM Catholic Church she served many years as a Eucharistic minister. Also, she served as a long-time volunteer of the IHM St. Vincent de Paul organization and their food pantry operation gathering donated food, distributing food and serving as the organization's treasurer. She also served for at

least 15 years as the organizer of the church's fall dinners.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you consider a donation to the local St. Vincent de Paul of IHM non-profit organization for the operation of their food pantry and other assistance to those in need. Their address is 22375 Three Notch Road, Lexington Park, MD 20653.

Angela's interment will be in Arlington National Cemetery with her and Don's daughter, Barbara, at a future date.

James Allan Tucker



James Allan Tucker went to be with the Lord on Monday, December 21, 2020, at the age of 78, at his home in Moore, South Carolina, after

a long battle with Lewy Body Disease. Born on January 20, 1942, he was the son of Charles Irvin Tucker, Sr. and Marguerite "Margaret" Amy Tucker. Allan grew up in Hollywood, Maryland, and was one of 6 kids.

In addition to his parents, Allan was preceded in death by his sister Phyllis (Tucker) Rodgers, his brother Clyde LeRoy "Roy" Tucker, and his brother Charles Irvin "Junior" Tucker, Jr.

Allan is survived by his wife Cynthia Lloyd "Cindy" Tucker, his childhood sweetheart whom he married at Hollywood United Methodist Church in 1962. Allan is survived by his siblings Darlene Guyther of Leonardtown, MD, and sister "Max" McConnell of Palmetto, FL; his children William A. "Bill" Tucker of Oak Island, NC, Dana Gladysz and her husband Ed of Lost Creek, WV, and Emily Rollins and her husband Scott of Duncan, SC; his grandchildren Nathan Gladysz of New Jersey, Jonathan (and Desiree) Gladysz of Lost Creek, WV, Ethan (and Kaitlin) Tucker of Columbia SC, and Caroline Rollins of Duncan, SC; and his great-grandchildren Solly and Rosie Gladysz of West Virginia and Charlie Tucker of Columbia, SC.

Music was his first love, and he sang in multiple choruses and choirs, taught himself how to play the guitar and most any other instrument placed in his hands. If music was his first love, woodworking was his second. Allan loved to create and fashion wood into beautiful yet useful pieces, including countless beautiful children's rocking horses and wooden

train sets that will be cherished for generations. His last place of employment was Sawyer's Cabinet Shop located in Campobello, SC.

Allan loved the Lord and showed His love by serving others. His gifting in woodworking led him to build items for several area churches, including a large conference table, several welcome center counters, kneelers, communion tables, and a wooden cross for a sanctuary. His gifting in music led him to sing in choirs, quartets, participate in dramas, and play in the worship band. Allan also served on the Board at Spartanburg First Church of the Nazarene as well as with their Compassionate Ministry.

He was a humble, gentle, and honorable man who listened more than he spoke. Allan will be remembered for his love of the water, being silly with the kids and grandkids, and the feeling that you were always safe and protected in his presence.

The family would like to thank Interim Hospice for their care and support. Many thanks to family and friends who loved on us during this time.

In lieu of flowers, you may make donations to the Ballet Spartanburg Center for Dance Education. Please specify that the donation is to benefit their Friday Parkinson's Dance group. 200 E. Saint John St., Spartanburg, SC 29306. <https://www.balletspartanburg.org/parkinsons-class>

Shirley Ann Morris



Shirley Ann Morris, 76, of Avenue, MD passed away on January 21, 2021 in Leonardtown, MD. She was born on February 28, 1944

in Leonardtown, MD and was the daughter of the late Mary Lillian Lathroum Anderson Blackistone and Thomas Dewey Blackistone. Shirley was the loving wife of the late Charles LeRoy Morris who preceded her in death on April 24, 1991. Shirley is survived by her children Dorothy Snoots (Greg) of Mechanicsville, MD, Charley LeRoy Morris, Jr. (Linda) of Abell, MD, Conrad Benjamin Morris (Brenda) of Bushwood, MD, Wesley Leonard Morris of Avenue, MD, 7 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. Siblings Carolyn Stine of Cobb Island, MD, Regina Erickson of South Carolina, Brenda Mattingley of Avenue, MD, and LeRoy Black-

istone of Clements, MD. She was preceded in death by her daughter Donna Jean Morris and siblings Dorothy Ann Norris and Junior Blackistone.

Shirley was a lifelong St. Mary's County, MD resident and homemaker.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, January 28, 2021 from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home Leonardtown, MD. Due to COVID-19 a Mass of Christian Burial will be for family only. Serving as pallbearers will be Raymond Snoots, Greg Snoots, Andre Morris, Christopher Hayden, Mike Lacey, and Joe Blackistone.

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

Arrangements provided by the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, P.A. & Crematory Leonardtown, MD

Florence Parry



Florence Parry, 91, of Mechanicsville, MD passed away on January 21, 2021 at her home surrounded by her family. She was born on

August 26, 1929 in Hammonton, NJ, to the late Dominic Damiano and Mary (Rodeo) Mazzio.

Florence married the love of her life, James Richard Parry and they spent 43 wonderful years of marriage together in Waldorf, MD until his passing in April, 2015. Florence loved her husband and missed him every day they were separated.

She loved her family more than anything and was happiest when surrounded by her daughter, grandson and her pets. Florence was a hard-working woman who worked until she was 83. She cast a bright light on this world and she will always be remembered through the precious memories she made with her friends and family. A wonderful cook, her family looked forward to her culinary talents, especially, her green bean stew and ice box cake. If you were lucky enough to be invited for dinner you never walked away hungry or without a smile on your face and laughter in the air.

For all of her good deeds, Florence bestowed upon family, friends and strangers, her family is taking solace in knowing she has earned her angel wings.

She is survived by her daughter, Brenda Pate of Mechanicsville,

MD; her grandsons, Louis Berenato and Grant Anthony Pate; siblings: Marie Nye of Waterford, NJ and Frankie Damiano of Atco, NJ; and daughter-in-law, Marie Ruhland. In addition to her parents and loving husband, Florence is preceded in death by her son, Louie Berenato and siblings, Peter Damiano, Donald Damiano, Dominic and "Junior" Damiano.

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

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

Donna Jean Cranford



Donna Jean Cranford, 76, of Mechanicsville, MD, passed away suddenly, January 19, 2021. Donna was a remarkable woman whose

deep faith, commitment to family, strong work ethic, and kind, charitable actions defined her daily existence. The earthly world has lost a wonderful soul.

Donna was born on October 25, 1944, in Washington, DC, to Harold and Helen Distad. She grew up in Coral Hills and Mitchellville, MD, and had many fond memories of her childhood that included her family and many valuable life lessons taught to her by her father. Donna attended Mount Calvary Catholic School in Forestville, MD, and graduated from Frederick Sasser High School in Upper Marlboro, MD, in the Class of 1962.

Donna married her high school sweetheart, Philip M. Cranford, on January 30, 1965, at Holy Family Church in Mitchellville, MD and started their family that December. Throughout the years, they made homes in Waldorf, MD (Country Club South, Beantown Park), Leonardtown, MD, and, ultimately, in Mechanicsville, MD. Donna made lifelong friends in each of these places and found great joy in their friendships. Donna and Phil would have celebrated 56 years of a loving, supportive, and committed marriage at the end of this month.

Donna was a career bookkeeper. She worked at the Department of Agriculture, St. Josephite's Seminary in Northeast DC for Father Bob Kearns, Pargas Propane Company, and Paschal & Weiss Law Offices for Paul Paschal. Her favorite of all her jobs was working with her three brothers at the

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family business, Distad's Service Station, in Southeast DC. Her best and funniest stories were always about "the Station."

Donna's life revolved around her family and her faith. Donna was deeply committed to her husband, daughters, and siblings, and she put her five grandchildren on a pedestal and always made efforts to be present in each of their lives. She looked forward to the annual birthday trip she took with her twin sister, Diane, their "sisters' trip," attending her grandchildren's concerts and sporting events, taking them birthday shopping, helping with school projects, and watching Nationals' games on television with Phil.

Donna had a ready smile, a gentle nature, and a calm, pleasant demeanor. She had many talents from which her family and friends benefited. Donna was an accomplished seamstress, having made many dresses, costumes, curtains, and doing plenty of mending over the years. She enjoyed cooking for others, trying new recipes, and was an expert cookie and pie maker. She also enjoyed making prayer bracelets and rosaries. Donna always put others first and was generous with her time and talents. She lived a simple and selfless life.

Donna loved the Catholic faith and lived her faith daily. She was a devout member of Immaculate Conception Parish in Mechanicsville and recently found comfort in attending Adoration several times a week at St. Michael's Parish in Baden, MD. She prayed the rosary daily and had a special devotion to the Blessed Mother. It was important for her to support families in need at Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter through charitable donations to local Catholic churches. She was also a generous supporter of Catholic education.

Donna is survived by her husband Phil, daughters Karen Thompson (Mike), Jodi Irwin (Chris), Catherine Silverstone (David), and Nikki Cranford; grandchildren Brittney Irwin, Sarah Irwin, Samuel Silverstone, Allison Thompson, and Jillian Silverstone; and her siblings Janet Sherbert, twin sister Diane Fields, John Distad, Roy Distad, Kay Lamon, Rick Distad, and Jean Wilson.

In lieu of flowers, please Offer a Mass in Donna's name and make a donation to your local Catholic Church.

Robert "Bob" Michael Davis

Robert "Bob" Michael Davis, 76, the loving husband of Linda



Jane (Hare) Davis, died at his home on January 14, 2021. Born July 15, 1944 in Lansing, Michigan, the second (2) of six (6) chil-

dren. Born to the late George and Rosella (Prowdley) Davis.

Bob was married for fifty-seven (57) years to his childhood sweetheart, Linda. After graduating from Johns Hopkins University in 1966, he entered the retail grocery business. Former Vice President of Food-a-Rama, he fulfilled his lifetime dream to be a grocery business owner, purchasing the Charlotte Hall IGA. Establishing RLS Charlotte, Bob owned and operated the Charlotte Hall and North Beach IGA locations with his wife and son. Retiring his business ownership in 2001, Bob continued to work part time in the grocery business for Mattingly's and later McKay's. Bob enjoyed retirement with Linda in their Mechanicsville home.

Bob is survived by his wife, Linda; daughter Kelly Huebler (David); son Steven Davis (Dina); grandchildren, Abigail and Christopher Huebler; and his sisters, Susanne Davis, Patricia Troyer and Carol Davis. Bob is preceded in death by his brothers, Ransom J. Davis and John Michael Davis

All services at this time are private.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

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

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

Francis Norman Countiss
Francis Norman Countiss, 73, of Lexington Park, MD, passed away peacefully on January 16, 2021 at MedStar Washington Hospital Center.

He was born on January 16, 1948 in Maddox, MD to the late Joseph Ignatius "Nace" Countiss and Mary Ellen "Mamie" Curtis Countiss.

He loved going to church, reading his bible and praying the Rosary. He was a big football fan of the Dallas Cowboys. He got a kick out of talking about games between the Cowboys and the Washington Redskins with his nephews and friends at the Nursing Home, who were all Redskin fans. He loved the ribbing that he received about being a Cowboys' fan in Redskin Country. Francis was a very giving person. He

loved to buy Christmas gifts for family members and friends and he always knew the perfect gift for each. He would buy sympathy cards for every family member or friend and always insisted that others share with him in signing the cards. He had an insatiable sweet tooth and loved buying sweets from the vending machines at the Nursing Home. He loved spending time with his family, especially his nieces and nephews. Periodically he would call Maurice and Jeff if only to put the nearest nurse or aide on the phone to talk to them. When Maurice was married in September 2017, it was an absolute must that Francis attend his wedding which he did in his red jacket and red bowtie. Also, he held in his heart dearly his great-great nephew Jayden whose picture he kept on his bulletin board.

After his elementary school education, Francis attended various Disability Programs: Freedom Landings, Rock Creek Program, and UCP/BayCSS Group Homes. He spent the last 5 years of his life at Chesapeake Shores Nursing Home.

Prior to an accident that left him unable to walk, Francis was known for zipping around town on his bike with a sweeping feather in his cap.

He is survived by his sisters Mary L. Martin and Ann L. Countiss of Lexington Park, MD and his brother Charles E. Countiss of Aberdeen, MD; along with many nieces, nephews, extended family and friends. In addition to his parents, he is also preceded in death by his sisters; Elisabeth C. Countiss; and Elsie C. Countiss and his brothers; Joseph I. Countiss Jr., William A. Countiss, James A. Countiss and John P. Countiss.

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

Condolences may be made at www.brinsfieldfuneral.com.

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Laverne Sweeney Herndon



Laverne Sweeney Herndon of Hollywood, Maryland, went home to Jesus on Friday, January 15, 2021, at the age of 79.

Laverne was born in Washing-

ton, D.C., at Columbia Hospital for Women, on May 31, 1941. She was the daughter of the late Daniel and Mavis (Thompson) Sweeney, also of Hollywood, Maryland. Laverne's only child, Daniel James "DJ" Villa, 55, passed away in his sleep on August 5, 2020, in Missouri.

Laverne graduated from Leonardtown High School in 1960, and also attend Eastern Nazarene College in Massachusetts. During college, she was a member of the Evangelistic Association, and Sigma Delta Kappa. She went on to serve more than 41 years of dedicated service working for the Department of Navy, both at the Patuxent Naval Air Station, in Lexington Park, Maryland, and in Arlington, Virginia. During her service, she received multiple certificates and awards for her outstanding performance. Laverne was a dedicated mother. She was heartbroken by the untimely death of her only child, DJ, late last year.

Laverne is survived by her brother, Daniel "Danny" Sweeney Jr., and her two grandchildren, Vance Villa of Missouri, and Carly Villa of North Carolina.

She is also survived by lots of loving cousins from her Thompson side and her Sweeney side. Some have treasured memories of their childhood walking to Grand-Mom (Daisy) and Grand-Pop's (Briscoe Thompson's) farm; running errands, feeding chickens, slopping the pigs, and sometimes wishing they had not decided to visit their Grandparents on the farm!

Laverne attended Leonardtown Church of the Nazarene. Growing up, she attended Hollywood Nazarene Church.

A graveside service is being planned for later this spring, and will be held at Hollywood Nazarene Church with Rev. Paul MacPherson officiating. Specific times and dates will be announced at a later time.

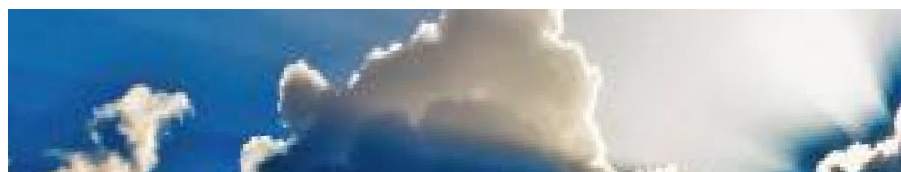
Memorial contributions may be made to either the Leonardtown Nazarene Church or the Hollywood Nazarene Church.

If you would like to be notified once the service plans are finalized, please email Donna Lee (Sweeney) Palmer at: talk2donna-palmer@gmail.com

Sharon Lee Clark

Sharon Lee Clark, 70, of Mechanicsville, MD passed away peacefully with her husband Thomas Clark at her side on January 16, 2021 in their home.

Sharon born on July 20, 1950 to the late Russell Clevis Baker and



Regina Elizabeth Cheeks Baker.

Sharon married Thomas Clark on June 16, 1979 in Prince George's County, MD. They

celebrated 41 wonderful years together. Sharon was a dedicated Registered Nurse at Washington Hospital Center's emergency room for more than 30 years. Together Sharon and Tom enjoyed camping in Williamsburg, VA, Gettysburg, PA, and Frontier Town, Berlin, MD. Sharon was a fantastic cook with one of her specialties being her lasagna. She was also an avid bowler. Sharon enjoyed flower gardening, but most of all she cherished spending time with her family.

In addition to her husband, Sharon is also survived by her son, Jeff Thomas Clark of Mechanicsville, MD. She is preceded in death by her parents and her daughter, Amanda Beth (Mandy) Clark.

The family will receive friends on Sunday, January 31, 2021 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., with a Prayer Service at 3:00 p.m., at Brinsfield Funeral Home, 22955 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650. A Funeral Service by invitation will be held on Monday, February 1, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. at All Faith Episcopal Church, 38885 New Market Turner Road, Mechanicsville, MD 20659. Interment will follow in the church cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Mechanicsville Volunteer Rescue Squad, Post Office Box 15, Mechanicsville, MD 20659 or to All Faith Episcopal Church, Post Office Box 24, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Charlotte Ann Droddy



Charlotte Ann Droddy, 79, of Leonardtown, MD (formerly of Upper Marlboro, MD) passed away on January 25, 2021, at her home with her

loving family by her side.

She was born on May 11, 1941 in Clarksburg, WV to the late Howard J. Wolfe and Anna Rock Wolfe.

Charlotte is a 1959 graduate of Victory High School in West Vir-

ginia. On May 21, 1962, she married the love of her life, Jerry Lee Droddy in Winchester, VA. Together they celebrated almost 59 wonderful years of marriage. She was a devoted and loving wife, mother, sister and grandmother. She was her family's biggest cheerleader, believing in them and supporting them in all of their endeavors. She became a wonderful cook after she was married, with her father teaching her by phone. She especially enjoyed making holiday meals for her family. Some of her specialties and family favorites included oyster dressing, stuffed peppers, cabbage rolls and lasagna. She enjoyed having parties and cookouts at her home on the Potomac River and having all of her children and grandchildren at the house and enjoying the water. She especially loved Maryland blue crabs and could pick them all night long. She loved beach vacations to Ocean City and later Myrtle Beach. Trips home to visit her family in West Virginia were very important to her. Charlotte was an avid Washington Redskin fan and proudly drove a customized Redskin van back in the day.

In addition to her beloved husband, Jerry, Charlotte is also survived by her children: Monica Droddy of Hollywood, MD, Jerry L. Droddy, Jr. of Myrtle Beach, SC, Jacqueline Droddy (Keith Devoto) of Shady Side, MD, and Terry Droddy (Christopher Volta) of Upper Marlboro, MD; her siblings: Shirley Riggs (William Wesson) of Vienna, WV, Martha Shaffer of Clarksburg, WV, Carolyn "Sue" Welch (Richard) of Bridgeport, WV, John Wolfe of Clarksburg, WV, and Lawrence Wolfe of Lost Creek, WV; her grandchildren: Amanda Baker (Eric), James Droddy, Jera Droddy, Jacob Campbell, Taylor Fowler, Anna Devoto, Brooke Volta; her great grandchildren: Eva Baker, Charlotte Baker, Theo Baker, Emmy Baker, and Ryland Droddy; and many nieces, nephews and extended family and friends. In addition to her parents, Howard and Anna Wolfe, she is also preceded in death by her brother, James "Bud" Wolfe; brothers-in-law: Joseph Shaffer and Howard Riggs; and sister-in-law, Eva "June" Wolfe.

In light of COVID-19, all services will be private.

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

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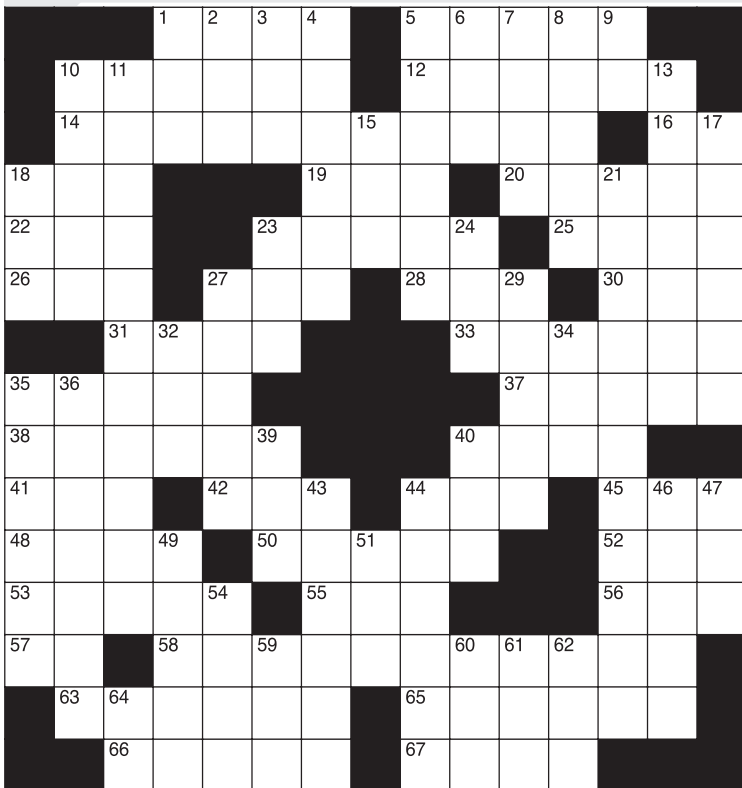
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GAMES & PUZZLES



CLUES ACROSS

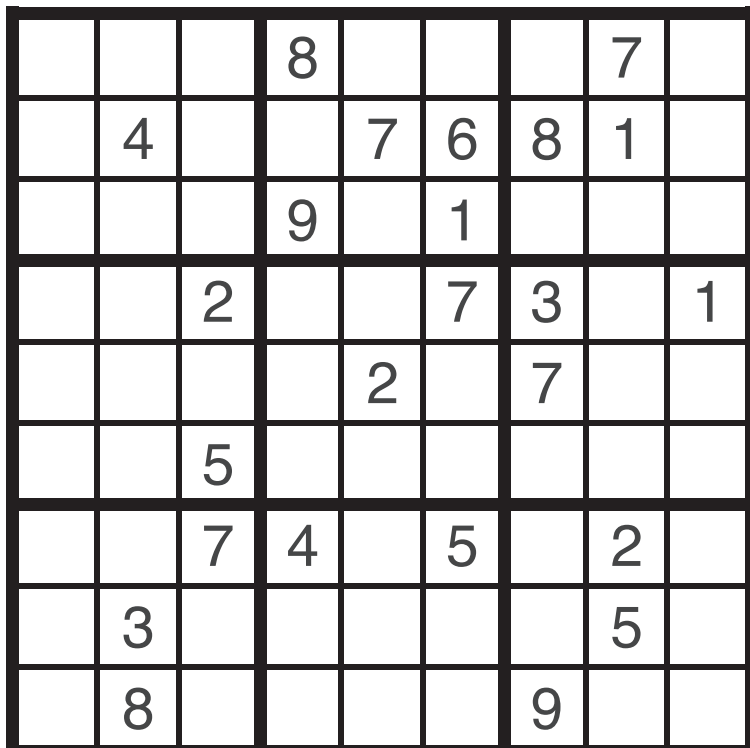
- 1. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- 5. 2014 Winter Olympics host
- 10. Soft fabric
- 12. Covered in flowers
- 14. Works at a college or university
- 16. Keeps us cool
- 18. Corpuscle count (abbr.)
- 19. Similar
- 20. Birthplace of Muhammad
- 22. They ___
- 23. Preamble to a book
- 25. Southern China people
- 26. Hair product
- 27. The woman
- 28. Partner to cheese
- 30. One point north of due east
- 31. Round Dutch cheese
- 33. Be in awe of
- 35. Christmas song
- 37. Emits coherent radiation
- 38. Something that is comparable to another
- 40. Monetary unit
- 41. The cutting part of a drill
- 42. Resinlike substance secreted by certain insects

- 44. Touch lightly
- 45. Toyota SUV
- 48. ___ and Andy, TV show
- 50. Made less dangerous
- 52. Assets under management (abbr.)
- 53. Nostrils
- 55. Moved quickly
- 56. Thai isthmus
- 57. TV personality Roker
- 58. Honors anew
- 63. Rags
- 65. One who obtains pleasure from inflicting pain or others
- 66. Marketplaces
- 67. Dark brown or black

- horrifying
- 15. Equal (prefix)
- 17. Hosts film festival
- 18. Tattered piece of clothing
- 21. Rich desserts
- 23. Unique motor (abbr.)
- 24. Disfigure
- 27. Chemical substance
- 29. Slang for famous person
- 32. Department of Labor
- 34. The A-team rode around in one
- 35. Beach cabin
- 36. Living things
- 39. Gun (slang)
- 40. Disconsolate
- 43. Stroke gently
- 44. Actress Richards
- 46. "Cletus Hogg" actor
- 47. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
- 49. Brazilian mountain range
- 51. Upset
- 54. One with supernatural insight
- 59. Insecticide
- 60. Taxi
- 61. "Much ___ about nothing"
- 62. Cannister
- 64. Popular clothing retailer

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Nowhere to be found (abbr.)
- 2. Not new
- 3. Brew
- 4. Stain with mud
- 5. Chief or leader
- 6. Luke Skywalker's mentor ___-Wan
- 7. Type of sauce
- 8. Sharpens
- 9. Priestess loved by Zeus
- 10. Jean Henri ___, French entomologist
- 11. Regulates supply of fuel
- 13. Disturbing and



LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

A	Y	P					T	E	C	H	2	8	1	4	6	7	9	3	5								
R	E	A	P				B	O	O	L	E	3	5	7	1	8	9	2	4	6							
N	O	P	E				P	E	N	C	I	L	9	4	6	3	5	2	8	7	1						
I	M	I	N	O			P	R	E	T	E	N	D	1	7	2	6	4	8	3	5	9					
C	A	S	K	S			F	E	E	L	I	N	G	5	3	4	9	2	1	6	8	7					
A	N	T	I	H	I	S	T	A	M	I	N	E	6	9	8	7	3	5	1	2	4						
					D	E	C	A	L	E	4	1	9	8	7	3	5	6	2								
					B	O	O	E	R	A	8	6	5	2	9	4	7	1	3								
					C	O	N	C	E	N	T	R	A	T	I	O	N	7	2	3	5	1	6	4	9	8	
					M	A	L	A	I	S	E																
					M	I	S	S	T	E	P			M	I	M	I	C									
					E	L	A	T	E	S				O	B	O	E										
					L	O	B	E	S					S	I	N	S										
					T	S	A	R																			

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