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St. Mary's County Times

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2021

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<p>Thu 12/9</p> <p>45° 37°F</p> <p>Mostly Cloudy</p>	<p>Fri 12/10</p> <p>58° 50°F</p> <p>PM Light Rain</p>	<p>Sat 12/11</p> <p>72° 44°F</p> <p>PM Showers</p>	<p>Sun 12/12</p> <p>53° 35°F</p> <p>Showers</p>
<p>Mon 12/13</p> <p>55° 38°F</p> <p>Sunny</p>	<p>Tue 12/14</p> <p>56° 39°F</p> <p>Sunny</p>	<p>Wed 12/15</p> <p>59° 44°F</p> <p>Mostly Sunny</p>	<p>Thu 12/16</p> <p>63° 46°F</p> <p>Partly Cloudy</p>

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Attorneys Vie for Circuit Court Judge Seat

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Six St. Mary's County attorneys have submitted their names to Gov. Larry Hogan to replace Judge David W. Densford, who recently retired on his 70th birthday.

They are Sue Armitage, Buffy Giddens, Amy Lorenzini, Shane Mattingly, Daniel Slade and Marsha Williams.

Densford served the last 10 years in the position on the St. Mary's County Circuit Court after winning the election and whoever is selected to replace him will serve until the next election in 2022.

Before being elected, Densford was first appointed to the position by then-Governor Martin O'Malley to serve the remainder of the term of Judge C. Clarke Raley.

Circuit Court Judges are mandated to retire at the age of 70.

Giddens has been a prosecutor since 2006, first working in Baltimore City and Anne Arundel County before coming to work in St. Mary's.

"I like the county and I think I'd be a good judge," Giddens told The County Times.

She said her job allows her to help people and she wants the opportunity broaden that ability as a jurist.

"There's more that I can do in that regard," Giddens said.

Sue Armitage said her 30-year legal career has given her a broad basis of experience that would make her a good candidate for the bench.

She specializes in family law.

"I've seen all types of cases," Armitage said. "I love to pick apart facts; I can see things clearly."

"Family law is emotionally charged, those are difficult cases."

Armitage said more than 60 percent of cases in St. Mary's Circuit Court are family law cases.

Williams, of the law offices of Williams, McClernan and Stack in Leonardtown, has been a lawyer for more than 20 years, she said, and has lived in St. Mary's County since 2002.

"I think it would be rewarding [to be a judge,] Williams said. "I believe in giving back to the community."

She added she would be a "firm but fair" judge.

From 2002 to 2017 she worked for the Southern Maryland Legal Aid office representing children in foster care.

Prior to that, she worked as a domestic violence attorney for the House of Ruth in Prince George's County.

Virtually all of her career has been working in the field of family law in which she said she has "a wealth



Amy Lorenzini Sue Armitage



Dan Slade Buffy Giddens



Marsha Williams



of knowledge" that would make her well qualified to deal with the majority of cases in circuit court.

Lorenzini works for a Prince Frederick law firm but lives here in St. Mary's County, she clerked for now-retired Judge Marvin Kaminetz after law school and worked in the county's state's attorney's office for two-and-a-half years as a prosecutor.

Since 2005 she has been in private practice.

"I want a new challenge and the opportunity to give back to the community," Lorenzini said of why she wanted to be a judge.

She has worked in criminal and family law and has been specializing in the last several years in civil law, Lorenzini said.

"I've done a smattering of all different things," she said. "The diversity of my practice would be of great benefit to St. Mary's County."

Slade, whose father is a retired judge, is a lifelong Leonardtown resident who operates an office there.

He said about 20 percent of his practice is working in criminal law with the majority of his work in the civil and family law arenas.

Slade has deep experience in dealing with wills, real estate and trusts.

"It's been an honor serving the people in the county," Slade said. "I want to step up to the plate and move to a higher level of service."

Mattingly did not return phone calls seeking comment for this article.

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State Pays Over Complaint Against St. Mary's College

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The state Board of Public Works recently authorized a payment of \$15,000 to Dr. Kyle Bishop, once the assistant dean of students at St. Mary's College of Maryland, over a complaint she filed last year with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) about being passed over for a promotion in an allegedly unfair manner.

Bishop is now serving as the Deputy Health Officer of St. Mary's County.

Documents from the most recent public works board meeting state the payment of damages was "in full settlement of all claims" Bishop had filed with the EEOC.

Susan Dyer, chair of the Board of Trustees at St. Mary's College said the issue came stemmed from a decision made by college President Dr. Tuajuanda Jordan to name Derek Young as Dean of Students instead of Bishop after the former dean had moved out of the position.

Dyer said Jordan "selected the most qualified person" for the job and that the trustees stood by her decision but a conversation Jordan had

with Bishop over the selection process gave grounds for the complaint.

"A statement about race was made in a private conversation," Dyer said in the exchange between Bishop and Jordan.

Bishop is white; Jordan and Young are black.

Dyer said that Jordan had told Bishop that given significant racial and social strife that gripped the country in 2020 that an African American would be a better candidate for the position of dean of students.

"The statement was inappropriate," Dyer said. "It was not germane to the selection process."

"Mistakes like this have consequences; we look forward to moving on."

Young is currently listed as the interim dean of students at the college.

The student body at St. Mary's College of Maryland is approximately 70 percent white, about 10 percent black with the remainder of the student body made up of Hispanic, Asian or other ethnicities.

Jordan declined further comment for this article.

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Mechanicsville Gravel Pit Approved

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

A new gravel mine on 150 acres off of Morganza-Turner Road got final approval from the Board of Appeals at a Nov. 18 meeting, though the project had been strongly opposed by the surrounding community since it was announced.

The proposal had several rounds of hearings before the appeals board since the summer, once being cancelled in July due to a tropical storm.

The vote to approve the project was split 3-to-2; after the vote there were still calls from the audience against the board's decision.

The applicants, Ed and Kathleen Sloan, were represented by attorney Christopher Longmore.

Chief among the concerns of neighbors to the site were traffic safety, especially sharing a rural route with more, large, gravel-loaded dump trucks.

The board placed a long list of



conditions on the operations of the plant, including a 100-foot buffer around the actual mining site located in the interior of the larger parcel. Only 300 round-trips of dump trucks are permitted during the entire business week; the daily maximum allowed would be just 80 round trips.

The operation must also have a water truck on site to reduce dust and debris in the community; the site also can only operate from 7:30a.m. to 5p.m. from Monday through Friday and only on Saturday for maintenance from 8a.m. to noon.

No operations would be allowed on Sunday, nor would any burning be allowed on the site.

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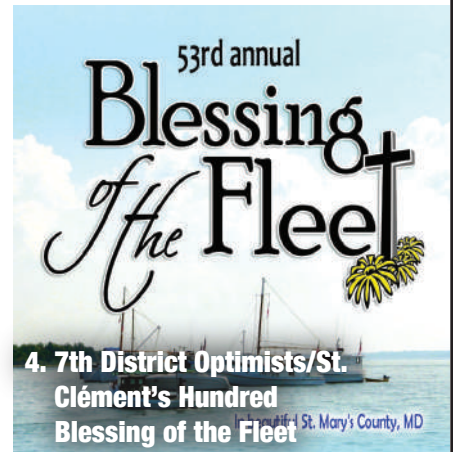
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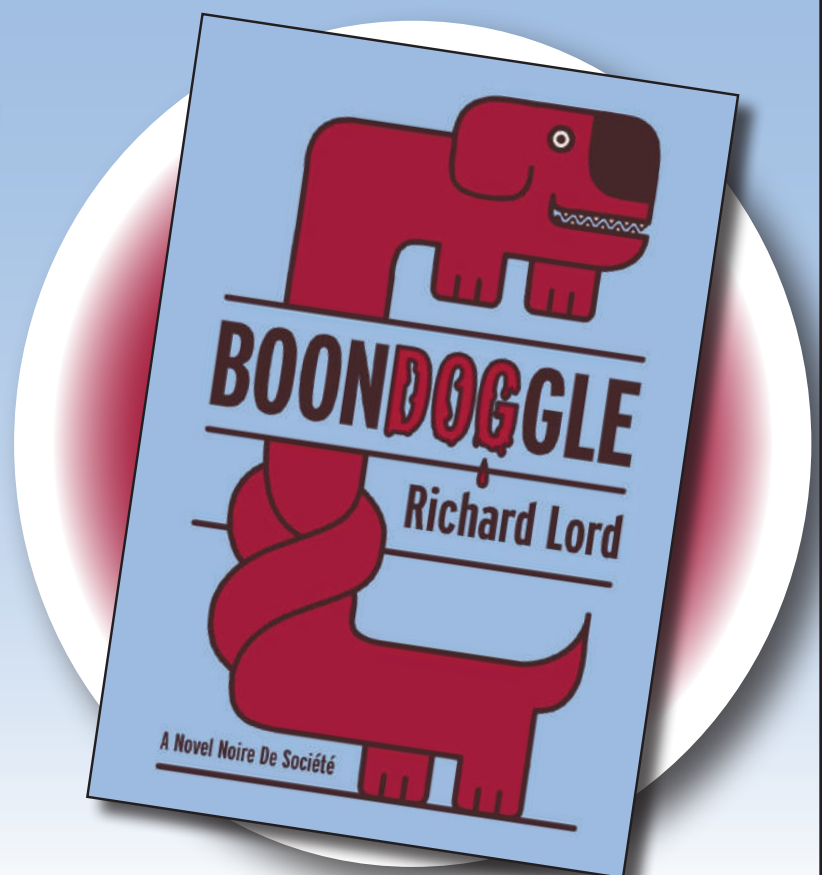
From Local Author Richard Lord

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Commissioners Praise County Attorney After 'Embarrassing' Hearing

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The verbal battle between Redistricting Board Chair Richard Johnson and County Attorney David Weiskopf at that body's Nov. 30 hearing made for one of the most watched video recordings ever on the county's YouTube page.

Both men went back and forth over how to run the meeting, with Johnson attempting to take over the meeting by claiming Robert's Rules of Order with Weiskopf often shouting at him in direct confrontation during the one-hour-and-16-minute meeting.

At stake was whether Johnson would be allowed to take forward a controversial redistricting map for county commissioner districts without any further changes based on a bevy of residents' concerns about gerrymandering and voter dilution.

Johnson would suppress nearly all attempts by his fellow board members to make motions to break deadlocks and tried to adjourn the meeting under his own authority, which Weiskopf railed against.

Though some told county leaders they thought Weiskopf went too far in his role that night; most commissioners came to his defense.

"I want to thank Mr. Weiskopf," said Commissioner John O'Connor during this week's business meeting. "When I hire an attorney I want them to represent me with all the vigor they possibly have. All of it."

O'Connor said Weiskopf stood up for the rule of law when it was under attack.

"If he was not the county attorney, I sure as heck would give him a retainer to represent me," O'Connor said. "I don't want someone who is going to be meek, who is going to stand by and watch the perversion of our democracy... and watch laws and regulations be discarded."



David Weiskopf

Weiskopf's actions, though not appropriate in every situation, were the right course of action Nov. 30.

"His method might be unorthodox, borderline emotional, but I like it," O'Connor said. "Right on, Right on."

Both Commissioner President James "Randy" Guy and Commissioner Eric Colvin supported Weiskopf's actions; Guy lamented the increase in emotional outbursts at one meeting in particular, which involved the concept cite plan for a new YMCA.

Supporters of the project loudly called on commissioners to move ahead at a recent meeting, but their calls had the opposite reaction.

"I'm embarrassed over several meetings we've had one of them... was the one about the YMCA," Guy said. "This is a business meeting and we don't need that. "The first half of [the redistricting meeting] was truly embarrassing... Mr. Weiskopf was engaged, he did a good job."

Guy said nothing of Johnson's actions during the meeting; Johnson was Guy's appointee to the redistricting board.

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Smith Hopeful Schools Leaving Delta COVID Behind

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The levels of new COVID-19 infections in St. Mary's Public Schools have dropped to below the state average, Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith told the board of education this week, after many weeks of being well above that average.


"There's good news to share on the COVID front," Smith said Dec. 1 at the school board's business meeting. "We are finding ourselves on the other side, perhaps, of the Delta variant."

The county's new case rate is 9.56 per 100,000 residents, while the state's is over 15.

The county's latest data shows that there were just 92 new cases of the virus reported here last week, down from over 600 in the beginning of October.

Being below 100 new cases per week, Smith said, meant that the county moved down from a high transmission rate to what is known as a substantial transmission rate for the first time since July.

The positive shift here does not

Reported COVID Cases: SMCPSS students / staff : reported COVID cases								
	October 2021				November 2021			
	Week of 10/3/21-10/9/21	Week of 10/10/21-10/16/21	Week of 10/17/21-10/23/21	Week of 10/24/21-10/30/21	Week of 10/31/21-11/6/21	Week of 11/7/21-11/13/21	Week of 11/14/21-11/20/21	Week of 11/21/21-11/27/21
Total SMCPSS								
All Students (attending in-person)	90	73	73	33	33	20	17	6
All Staff (across all buildings and offices)*	19	14	8	6	1	2	1	0

mean that students, faculty and staff can divest themselves of the face masks they wear; that is still a mandate from the state Board of Education that all who are in school facilities must still wear them.

"We have people doing the right thing," Smith said. "People are masking when they have to and getting vaccinated."

The school system has offered \$200 to employees who provide proof of full vaccination, Smith said, and is willing to provide another \$200 upon proof of receiving a COVID booster shot.

The number of cases in schools has dropped precipitously, according to data Smith presented to the school board Wednesday.

In the week of Oct. 3 there were

90 reported COVID-19 cases in students, the data showed — by the week beginning Nov. 21 there were just six student cases.

In September there were over 500 such cases, Smith said.

"We're in pretty good stead," Smith said. "Things are definitely getting better."

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A LIFE WELL LIVED

Robert Eugene Myers 57 of Leonardtown, Maryland was called home by the Lord, Saturday November 27, 2021 at MedStar St. Mary's Hospital, Leonardtown, Maryland, surrounded by family.

Robert was born July 11, 1964 at Beverly Hospital in Montebello, California to the late Kaye Marie (Brendos) Clark and Leland Myers. The late Harry Leeland Clark raised Robert since an infant.

June 20, 1987 Robert married Melinda Stover in Irvine California where Robert was stationed at Tustin MCAS. He then moved to D.C. where he served at the Pentagon and then later moved to Brenton Bay in 1997.

Robert received an MBA from the Florida Institute of Technology (FIT) and BS in Business Administration from Regis University. Robert is a retired 20-year veteran serving in both the United States Marine Corps & US Airforce. Robert in June 2021 retired from the Department of the Navy after 19 years working as a Senior Contracts Specialist, procuring major weapon systems, and engineering services for the Navy.

Robert's life's passion was serving the Lord and has been in the Missions field and leading various ministries for 36 years. He led outreach activities on Tustin Maine Corps Air Station, supporting overseas pastors during his numerous West PAC deployments to the Philippines. Robert led evangelist activities on the USS New Orleans and USS Peleliu. Robert over a 1-year period led an Evangelistic Ministry which consisted of walking a 12' Cross all over St. Mary's County and Washington D.C.

Robert founded The Mission in 2005, with it closing for a short time and reopening in 2012, where he served as the Senior Pastor for The Mission, sharing the gospel with local homeless and working poor of St. Mary's County. The Mission recently opened the first Christian based Care Center dedicated to single men & women. Robert's poor upbringing never left him and he's heart went out to all those who have little. Robert, was the first in the family to own his own home and have a college education.

Robert also loved telling stories and writing poems/prayers which he published a few in the County Times and Enterprise/Southern Maryland News. His latest being last week (Dec 3) in both. But most of all he was a very generous person and was always blessing someone with something they needed out of the blue.

Robert is survived by his wife Melinda; siblings, his twin Richard Eugene Myers (Brenda Kay Moschell) of Leonardtown, MD, sister Joan Marie Clark of Charlotte Hall, MD, brother Edward (Monte) Myers, Charlotte Hall, brother Fabrice Clark (Jeanna Cosbey) of Blue Springs, MO, brother Lenny Clark of San Antonio, TX, and nieces, nephews, and cousins. In addition to his parents, Robert was preceded in death by his younger brother Henry Michael Clark.

Robert's favorite saying was "Let's all tend to the Father's Business and not worry about what's going on in the world".

The family will receive guests and the community on Tuesday, December 14, 2021 from 2:30 to 5:00 p.m. with a Celebration of Life Service, including Military Honors at 4:00 p.m., at Faith Bible Church, 26325 Three Notch Road, Mechanicsville, MD 20659. Inurnment will be held later after completion of The Mission Park.

The entire Mission & Myers Family would like to thank everyone for the hundreds of cards, calls and prayers these last few weeks.

God Bless



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Board of Appeals to Hear Dollar General, Seafood Restaurant Cases

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Two proposed projects rejected by the county earlier this year, one by the planning commission and one by the director of the Department of Land Use and Growth Management (LUGM), will have another chance at getting approval tonight with the county's Board of Appeals.

A plan to build a Dollar General Store in Mechanicsville at the intersection of Route 235 and North Sandgates Road on 2.56 acres was rejected back in August by the St. Mary's County Planning Commission due to traffic safety concerns.

The land was zoned rural for limited commercial use and would have been the site of a 9,100 square foot facility.

In his notice of appeal, the attorney for the applicant, Christopher Longmore, alleged that the planning commission went beyond their scope of authority by taking into consideration traffic concerns "and other adequate public facilities" aspects that were the purview of the land use director to make.

The planning commission voted unanimously to reject the concept site plan at their Aug. 9 meeting.

In June, Bill Hunt, director of LUGM, did not approve a request from Thompson's Seafood on Golden Thompson Road to bring a tavern use as an addition to their business. Longmore, also representing Shuckit's LLC, the owners of the Avenue-based restaurant, said in his notice of appeal that the proposed use was allowed in the commercial marine zone in which the business operated at that the "Planning [Director] incorrectly interpreted and/or applied the applicable zoning ordinance provisions when the Director disapproved the tavern use as an accessory use on the property."

Accessory uses, such as the one the business operators applied for, do not have to go before the planning commission with a concept site plan for initial approval.

In his decision, Hunt argued that the property in question "was not a conforming marina use" according to the zoning ordinance.

The meeting is set for Thursday, Dec. 9 at 6:30p.m.

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St. Mary's Man Wins Over \$30,000

Andrew Mattingly of St. Mary's County didn't watch as his long-odds horses crossed the finish line in a winning fashion for a \$30,018.90 Racetrax prize.

Superfecta box bet strategy pays off A Racetrax player from St. Mary's County was running errands and, as often happens, decided to play a few games. What has never happened before, though, did happen, when he won \$30,018.90 on a Superfecta Box bet.

The winner didn't find out, however, until he got home and checked his ticket.

"I never watch the races. I don't have time for that," said Andrew Mattingly while claiming his prize on Dec. 3 at Maryland Lottery headquarters.

As he does once a week or so, the 22-year-old played high-odds horses - 8, 9, 10 and 12 in this case - on a Superfecta Box bet for four races. On Andrew's second race, the horses finished 12, 10, 8 and 9. The Superfecta Box shakes out to a 10-cent bet per horse per place, but the odds are such that the payoff is a handsome sum.



"It's funny because my wife's sister's boyfriend played the same numbers a few weeks ago and won," said Andrew's dad, who accompanied the winner on the trip to claim the prize.

Andrew said he hadn't given any thought to what he would do with the money and his dad offered a practical suggestion: save some of it!

Sharing in Andrew's galloping success is Murphy's Town & Country convenience store at 21270 Abell Road in the crossroads community of Avenue. The St. Mary's County retailer picks up a bonus of \$300 from the Lottery for selling a winning Race-trax ticket for \$10,000 or more.

2021 St. Mary's Splash



A total of 97 participants braved the cold water on Saturday, Dec. 4, 2021, at Point Lookout State Park and over \$36,000 was raised for Special Olympics Maryland. Event sponsored by the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office.

Sonja Cox: A Power

By Dick Myers
Editor

Sonja Cox is the 5th ever Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative's 84-year history. The co-op's first ever female leader began the job on March 1. "I started on a Monday and before the end of that week, by Friday, we were in pandemic mode," Cox said in a Dec. 1 interview at their Hughesville headquarters.

Even though new to that position, she was far from a stranger to SMECO, having worked there since 1999 and had been the cooperative's vice president and chief financial officer (CFO) since 2006.

"We had activated our pandemic plan. We put together a pandemic cross-functional team to deal with issues that were coming up. Nobody knew what was happening or how to deal with it, because even though we had a pandemic response plan, we had never tested it. We had never had an actual event," she said.

So, she had been involved in the planning. "One of the first things we did was figure out a way to get our office workers to be able to telework, because we didn't have a real live remote work program other than for our contact center employees. And they only did it for a day or two a week. So, we were able within 12 business days to get 243 people enabled to work from their homes," she explained.

It took a herculean information technology effort. "We do have a really good IT team, but we put a process in place where you had to fill out paperwork and your supervisor signed off on it. And it was able to get them access remotely. We had to loan out some laptops and some monitors and things like that," she said.

Some employees without internet access came in, as did Cox. "I felt like I needed to be here since our guys in the field can't telework (they can't do their job from anywhere but in the field), as well as our operations team. So, I came in every day."

At first, she said, "We would have vehicles parked in some of the substations, so they could just meet there and leave from a substation or leave from their home and go to the job site. We rented a bunch of vehicles, so the guys wouldn't have to ride together because at that time we were being told that you need to stay apart, you needed to wear masks. My fear was that it would get into the field crews and spread. And



SMECO CEO Sonja Cox with linemen Calvin Thomas (L) and Andrew DeAtley (R)

we would have nobody to put the power back if we had an outage or if we had a storm."

During those early days of the pandemic, they only had two dozen positive cases among their workforce of 500 people who serve 170,000 members in all of Charles and St Mary's, most of Calvert and a small portion of Southern Prince George's County.

The total positive tests in the 18 months was about 60, with about 400 quarantined over time.

"We're trying to get back to some sense of normalcy now where we've brought our employees back into the office three days a week, and they're still teleworking two days a week," Cox said, "but we're staggering that, so we don't have a hundred percent of the workforce in any of our facilities at the same time."

Will teleworking continue? "I think we will have a lot of employees, with what we've learned, and one of those was that you can be productive in a tele-work environment."

"It works well for some people. Some people don't like it, they want to be back in the office and we're trying to accommodate some of that and be a little more flexible."

They're not requiring vaccinations and will have to see what the courts say about a federal mandate.

"I think right now we only have about 60 percent of our workforce

that's vaccinated," Cox reported.

They do have a medical clinic at the Hughesville headquarters and have had shot clinics there. "We did that about eight years ago as a way to control some of our health-care costs. And, it's been very popular with the employees and a very good benefit," she said.

Cox grew up in the small town of Hartsville, SC and both she and her husband worked in the nuclear power plant there. "My husband got a job offer up here at the nuclear plant," she explained about what brought her to Southern Maryland.

Initially they lived in Calvert and now are in St. Mary's. At first they lived in Huntingtown. "Our kids graduated from Huntingtown High, and we loved it over there and as the kids got older, we decided we wanted to be closer. We liked the square down in Leonardtown."

"I went to work right out of high school," she said, "so I didn't do the traditional college route. I went to Coker College for a couple of years. Then when we moved up here, I transferred to University of Maryland and finished my degree there, got a bachelor's degree in accounting. I got my CPA not long after that." She later got her MBA from Johns Hopkins University.

She worked in some accounting jobs, "but I always liked working in the power industry because that's where I started. So, I applied for a job here and was hired

in January of '99. So, I've been here almost 23 years now." She started in SMECO as accounting and budgeting director.

"Joe Slater (immediate past CEO) was my boss and he promoted me to CFO in 2006. And then when he decided to retire, I decided I wanted to throw my hat in the ring for the CEO job." She considers Slater to be a mentor.

SMECO is routinely in the top 10 of electric co-ops in the country. They are different in that they don't generate their own power. She said, "We manage our power supply needs on the market. So, we're trading power in the marketplace to get the best prices."

They're also different from many other co-ops in that they are regulated (by the Maryland Public Service Commission).

"They regulate our rates and anytime we need to borrow money, they have to approve that. So, we spend quite a bit of time up in Baltimore with different cases that we have with the public service commission," Cox noted.

SMECO had a contract to purchase power from Potomac Electric Power Company (PEPCO) until 2003 when the state mandated "retail choice."

They now use a firm in Indianapolis called Aces Power Marketing to help them manage the power supply. "We have agreements with about 15 different power suppliers. So, we go with whoever we get the best price

Job as SMECO's CEO



SMECO
People. Power. Progress.

from; that's how we manage our portfolio," Cox said.

SMECO has their own solar farm in Hughesville. "We're following the state guidelines, or the state mandates as far as renewable energy goes. We have to have two-and-a-half percent of our load from solar generated in the state of Maryland. We are managing that either through a contract for solar facilities and we own this solar farm over here. It's a five and a half megawatt solar farm. That covers part of our needs. We have a long-term contract on a 10-megawatt solar farm down Renner Road in Charles County, and that covers another part of our needs. And then we go out and we purchase solar renewable energy credits to cover some of our needs. And we're always looking. We have solar developers coming to us all the time, bringing us transactions and we look at all those from a financial perspective to see if it makes financial sense to go with an actual solar power contract or buy renewable energy."

By 2030, 50 percent of their power has to be generated by re-

newable energy. Wind is another renewable energy source along with solar.

To get there, she said, "We would just contract with people or entities that are building renewable facilities. We have a lot of wind contracts already," she said.

The following is the current mix of SMECO's energy supply:

- Natural gas: 56.08 percent
- Nuclear: 16.72 percent
- Wind: 15.17 percent
- Coal: 9.46 percent
- Solar: 1.01 percent
- Hydro: 0.99 percent
- Solid and Wood Waste: 0.27 percent

Cox said, "Our board is looking at the environmental attributes and how this helps the environment. So, I believe that we would be doing some of this, even if it wasn't mandated."

She was asked as a large company if they were having problems finding employees, as others in the country have. She responded, "It's what keeps you up at night. I think the biggest thing is the labor market at this point for me. We have a very safe and reliable system. Safety is always something that is

top of mind. But we have an aging workforce. Our average age here is 54. So, one of the things that I've tackled since taking over is to look at our succession plan for our line crews, as well as for our engineering and technical staff."

"Who do we have in the pipeline that can come up and take over some of these duties as people retire?" she wants to know. "We just added another class of 15 apprentice lineman. We train our own lineman here. It's a four-year program. And right now, we're running three classes."

They have a partnership with CSM for a pre-apprentice training program with available scholarships. While in that program they spend a week at SMECO and "learn some of the things that we would teach them in the first six months of our program."

They're also doing a campaign to attract engineers. She explained, "We've put together a professional growth plan for an engineer. So, if we hire someone right out of college, they know what they need to do to in order to move up in the organization in their field."

At issue, she agreed, "The generation today is looking for more of a work-life balance and our guys spend a lot of time at work because, when you have an

outage, they're pretty much 24/7." She added, "And then we have storms and they work a lot of holidays. They're very dedicated, but I think the potential employees that we're seeing now are really looking for more of a work-life balance."

The good news: "I think it's a great place to work. I don't just say that because I'm the CEO. I said that from the first day. We're a big company, but we're small enough that you can really get to know everybody who works here, and we work together as a team. It's like a family atmosphere. I've worked at bigger, larger companies where you don't have that. I really feel like we all care about each other."

She added, "I go out in the field to visit the guys on the job site because I want to know how they're doing, and I want to talk to them and know how their families are doing. I think a lot of our employees feel that way. And, if you're looking at, from pay and benefits, we have great benefits."

She noted, "We have really good vacation. We have 401-k, we have sick leave. We have really good benefits. I've worked in other places. So, you know, I have that comparison."

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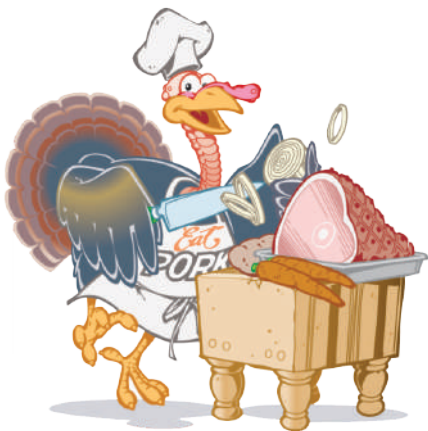
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MARYLAND STATE POLICE BLOTTER

On 12/3/2021, Tpr C. Riggs conducted a traffic stop on MD Rt 5 at Baptist Church Road, Mechanicsville, MD. A probable cause search of the vehicle was conducted which yielded multiple glass smoking devices, all containing CDS, Cocaine. The occupants of the vehicle were identified as Kevin Maurice Walls, 59 of Lexington Park, MD, Sandra King, 44 of Pasadena, MD and Michelle Sinlao Alvarado, 37 of Lexington Park, MD. Walls and King both had open warrants through the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office. All occupants of the vehicle were arrested and transported to the St. Mary's County Detention Center where they were each charged with Possession of CDS: Not Marijuana and Possession of CDS: Paraphernalia. Walls was also charged with Possession of CDS: In a place of confinement.

On 12/6/2021, Tpr C. Riggs conducted a traffic stop on MD Rt 235 at Buck Hewitt Road, Lexington Park, MD. A probable cause search of the vehicle was conducted which yielded CDS Marijuana, greater than 10 Grams. The driver of the vehicle was identified as Gregory Jeston Jackson, 32 of White Plains, MD. Jackson was issued a criminal citation for Possession of CDS: Marijuana Greater than 10 Grams and released from the scene.

The following people were arrested for Driving under the Influence:

- On 12/5/2021, Jose Antonio Jorge-Hernandez, 43 of Temple Hills, MD was arrested by TFC J. Greathouse

- On 12/6/2021, Colton Lee Dunston, 28 of Mechanicsville, MD was arrested by Tpr N. Zack

The following people were arrested for Open Warrants:

- On 11/30/2021, Andre Raynard Hillard-Johnson, 27 of Washington, DC was arrested by Tpr D. Black for Firearm Possession with Felony Conviction

- On 11/30/2021, Anthony John Knittle, 38 of Lexington Park, MD was arrested by Tpr J. Barlow for FTA: Driving while license was suspended

- On 12/1/2021, Lynece Ziaire Kinard, 22 of Leonardtown, MD was arrested by TFC M. Posch for FTA: Driving without required license

- On 12/1/2021, Daysha Nicole Montgomery, 24 of Lexington Park, MD was arrested by Tpr N. Zack for FTA: Driving while license was suspended x4

- On 12/3/2021, Desiree Nicole Thompson, 32 of Lexington Park, MD was arrested by Tpr C. Riggs for Possession of CDS: Not Marijuana and Intoxicated Public Disturbance

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 7, 2021

- On 12/3/2021, Douglas Bernard Mason, 38 of Lexington Park, MD was arrested by TFC R. Kaszubski for FTA: Possession of CDS: Not Marijuana and Possession of CDS: Paraphernalia

- On 12/3/2021, Jill Marie Knittel, 42 of Hollywood, MD was arrested by Tpr J. Pope for FTA: Driving while license was suspended

- On 12/5/2021, Dejuan Antwan Stafford, 36 of Lexington Park, MD was arrested by Tpr K. Poland for FTA: Driving while license was suspended x2

- On 12/5/2021, David Michael Swiderski, 34 of Brandywine, MD was arrested by TFC J. Greathouse for 2nd Degree Assault and Malicious Destruction of Property

- On 12/6/2021, James Willie Holmes, 26 of Mechanicsville, MD was arrested by Tpr N. Zack for FTA: Driving an uninsured vehicle

- On 12/6/2021, Sergio Rashad Rice, 40 of Hollywood, MD was arrested by TFC J. Greathouse for Indecent Exposure, Failure Obey a Lawful Order and Disorderly Conduct

Editor's Note:

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

Countdown to Christmas



2021

St. Mary's Christmas Calendar

Dec 8 - Jan 2 *Dec 10 - Dec 12*

**St. Clement's Island Museum
Christmas Doll & Train Exhibit**
Admission: \$3.00 Adults/\$2.00 Seniors and Military/\$1.50 Children/5 and under Free.

Location: St. Clement's Island Museum

Enjoy a holiday exhibit of antique and collectible dolls (like Barbie, American Girl and more), classic trains and other retro toys in this festive holiday display inside the museum from 12 p.m. - 4 p.m. daily.

UNIQUE GIFTS: Complete your holiday shopping inside the Museum Store with affordable art, jewelry, books and other local items, perfect for everyone on your list!

Museum is closed on Christmas Eve and Christmas.

Casual Christmas at Flat Iron Farm

Admission: Free

Location: Flat Iron Farm

Come kick off the holiday season right in St. Mary's County! Come visit Flat Iron Farm for fun holiday activities, say hi to Santa, hay rides and pony rides, a petting zoo, crafts, hot cocoa, holiday shopping, and much more!

Hours: 12/10 - 12/11: 5 p.m. - 9 p.m., 12/12: 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Dec 11

Christmas Vendor Show

39590 Sunnyside Rd

Clements, MD

Admission: Free

Location: Briar Branch Alpacas

Boutique

Time: 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Enjoy holiday shopping at Briar Branch Alpacas Boutique for all your holiday needs. Come see the alpacas, find the perfect cozy alpaca product, grab a bite to eat and something to drink and enjoy the holidays!

Dec 14

Meet and Greet with Santa

Admission: Free

Location: Town of Leonardtown

Get the opportunity to meet Santa one on one! Reservations for private Meet-and-Greet with Santa are available for families with loved ones with disabilities and for families celebrating a baby's 1st Christmas. Please contact Brandy Blackstone (brandy.blackstone@leonardtownmd.gov) to reserve a time.

Tuesday, December 14th: 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Saturday, December 18th: 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Dec 18

Fly-In Farmers Market

Admission: FREE

Location: St. Mary's County Regional Airport - In The Terminal Building

Time: 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Visit this unique farmers market with local foods and products displayed inside the local terminal airport. Haven't seen Santa yet? Look to the skies, not for reindeer and sleigh, but an airplane. Santa is scheduled to land at 11:30 a.m. Shop for your holiday fare and purchase your next beverage, appetizer, side dish, main course, or dessert at this local Airport Farmers Market.

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THE EXHIBITS & STORES OPEN DAILY EXCEPT CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY



South Point Church Aims To Be Open For Christmas

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

For the first time in almost two decades, the members of South Point Church will have a place to call their church home.

Construction on their first permanent building, located on St. Andrew's Church Road across from Fairgrounds Road in Leonardtown, is nearing completion.

Church leadership is confident that they will be able to open for in person services for Christmas Eve.

"We've been portable for 16 years," said Jennifer Curtis, a member of the church's executive council. "So, we're very excited."

First the church met at the former Southern Maryland Higher Education Center before moving to Leonardtown High School; they've had some of their services recently at R/C Theatres as well as moving to on-line formats.

Curtis said pre-pandemic that the church brought in about 900 members throughout an average week, now their attendance is about evenly split between in-person and virtual.

While construction continues at the site, Curtis said, services should be able to go forward despite the building not being entirely completed.

"That is our goal," she said. "We are on track to get into the building."

"We'll definitely not be finished but we will be functional."

The building is about 22,000 square feet in size, she said, and it



will include an auditorium, space for children's ministries and an early learning center that will be open to the public, not just to church members.

"We're going through the licensing process for that with the state," Curtis said.

The church is relying on a construction loan to finish their long-awaited project but their congregation has been generous in donating to get the project started.

The capital campaign donations from church members alone raised \$2 million to begin construction of the new church, Curtis said.

"None of this has been easy," she said. "But we've been able to navigate with God's grace."

Christmas Eve services are set for Dec. 23 at 5p.m. and Dec. 24 at 3p.m. and 5p.m.

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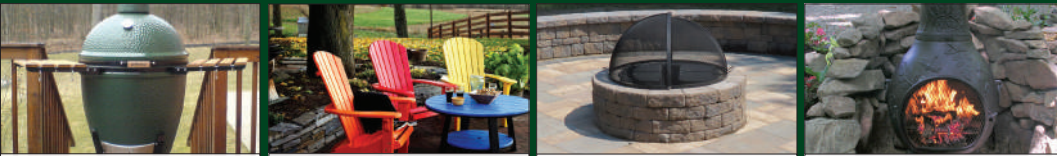


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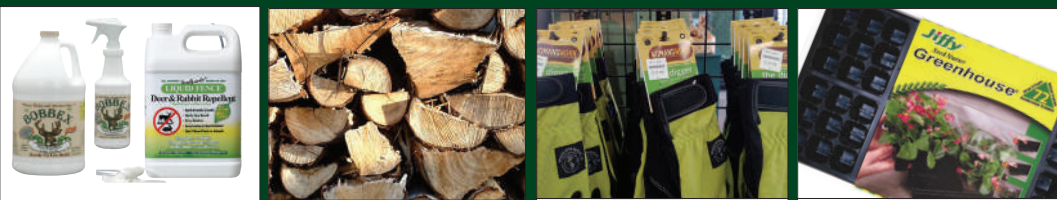
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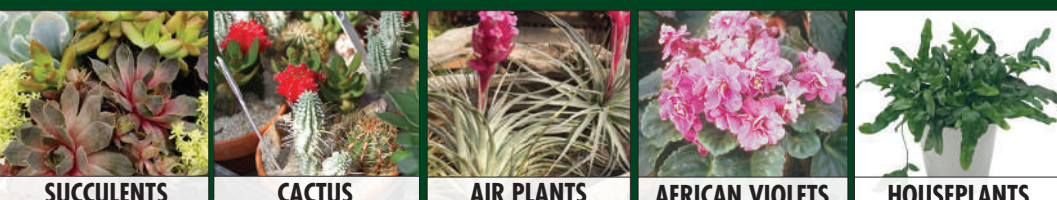
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Wanderings of an Aimless Mind

by Shelby Oppermann



FINALLY GETTING IN THE SPIRIT



Do you know what the most wonderful time of year is?! It's the day after open enrollment for Medicare ends and all those endless days of one after the other commercials yelling, "Call this free hotline number to get all the benefits you deserve... for free!!!" are over. Well, I guess it gives lots of old actors, news and sports figures a steady income during open enrollment season. Actually, I was excited for an hour or so this morning until I saw all the ads for life and burial insurance, and reverse mortgages rushed in to fill the space. The bath fitter, lawyer help lines, and "I've fallen, and I can't get up" ads are back too.

I called one of those Medicare hotlines earlier this year out of curiosity, and our zip code doesn't qualify - sounds like our whole area does not qualify. When we went on Monday to discuss Medicare at The Loffler Center, the specialist reaffirmed that with my husband's status as a Retired Federal Firefighter with commercial insurance, that we don't need Medicare Part B or any supplemental plans, in fact it would end up being more by patchworking all that we need together. So, we will keep everything the same.

I am just starting to get in the Christmas spirit. More and more brightly lit Christmas trees can be seen through living room windows. Yards all over are looking festive and fun. I love seeing The Grinch cut-outs pulling the light strands off the houses. And who doesn't get a smile when they drive by Capt. Leonard's and see the boat lit up every year, or Tom Hodge's Auto Dealership to see the lit-up car. Thank you all for keeping some things as traditions when so much else changes. But my new favorite is the big RV sitting parallel to northbound Rt. 235 in Hollywood, with Cousin Eddie from the movie Christmas Vacation smoking a cigar in his bathrobe draining the sewage out the RV. I love it! All I have to do now is see the movie which I love sooo much, and I will be truly ready for the Christmas season. I already saw The Grinch who stole Christmas,

and most of the other vintage animated and Claymation specials, so all that is left is Christmas Vacation.

Last Saturday, the great first responders at The Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department and The Mechanicsville Rescue Squad made our neighborhood and other local neighborhoods feel the true giving nature of Christmas with their annual Santa Runs. I'm out there the whole time waving, every time Santa passes by. Thank you to all the Fire Departments, Rescue Squads, and Auxiliary Units who help brighten the holidays for us, along with all the amazing life-saving work they do every day.

This Saturday, we need to get the old display tree from Target out of the big shed to the new(er) garage to let the musties air out of it, and to make sure that there are no creatures living in said tree. Yes, we all remember the squirrel scene from Christmas Vacation. I just read an old interview with Chevy Chase about "the squirrel scene" where he said that the original, trained squirrel died the day before the scene. A non-trained squirrel was brought in, and it was all chaos after that. Hard to say if that story was made up, but the look of fear in his eyes when the squirrel leapt from the tree sure looked real.

We go all out for Halloween, so we will probably not decorate the yard much, if at all, for Christmas, though we used to go all out for Christmas too. Robert's shoulder surgery has been shifted for the 3rd time to Dec. 16th; he won't be in any shape to pull out anything big or put it away. My big plan is to put wide red & white ribbon on the street pole and get our wreath up. I'll decorate the inside of the house like usual, but I will spend my time hand painting ornaments again (like the last 30 years) and taking care of my biggest project - making sure the big guy (and I don't mean Santa) is healing and happy.

To each new day's adventure,
Shelby

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

A View From The BLEACHERS



Caught Napping

By Ronald N. Guy Jr.
Contributing Writer

It is a random Tuesday night. Dinner is done. Work is over. The kids are reasonably on-track, which offers a rare respite from the nearly omnipresent grip of parental worry. Three things remain on the day's agenda: the couch, the remote and a sporting event to aid a slow drift into dreamland.

The time of year and night of the week dictates the choices. It's fall, but Tuesday lands between NFL and college football cycles. Early regular season NBA basketball lacks intrigue. That leaves the always fast-paced NHL and, as luck would have it, a Capitals game had just started.

Ten minutes pass. Then 20. Then 30. The stress of the day starts to fade. The hypnotic powers of a full stomach begin to take hold. Eyes descend to half-mast. Through the mental fog, long-time Capitals' play-by-play man Joe Beninati calls out in a quick, grabbing crescendo, "Ovechkin shoots..."

The shot went wide, but I'm on full alert again and feeling a tinge of guilt for the lackluster concentration. Do I appreciate what is on the screen? Do I get it? Really get it?

A long time ago, a fictional high schooler, after an epic day playing hooky, said, "Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop to look around once in a while, you could miss it." It didn't mean much initially, but time has validated Ferris Bueller's wisdom. Life is fluid. The best of times. The worst of times. Neither last. Phases end. Others begin. Kids grow up and move on. Career evolutions uproot. Loved ones pass away; new ones are born. Before you know it, there are more years off your stern than likely await beyond your bow. The nostalgia switch gets flipped and suddenly you're showing signs of being the grizzled life-veteran on the porch reminiscing about the good old days - the guy you swore you'd never be! Life tends to have its way with us all in that respect. Life is the kitten, we are balls of yarn. Funny thing though, the passage of time and experiences and people...it all makes you appreciate moments more

and battle against the relentless scroll. So when you find yourself in the midst of something special, like during a hockey game on an otherwise nondescript Tuesday night, by all means, stop and look around.

Had that aforementioned Alex Ovechkin slap shot landed in the back of the net, it would have been his 750th career goal (not to worry, he scored number 750 two games later, literally while I was writing this). The all-time NHL record is 894 goals, held by the immortal Wayne Gretzky. Ovechkin, 36, put any question to bed about his intention to chase that once irreproachable record by signing a five-year contract extension with the Capitals this offseason. So it's on.

Age, injuries and the now on-going possibility of COVID schedule changes and canceled games are risks, but Ovechkin has a legitimate shot at Gretzky's mark. He's netted 750 goals in 1222 career games, 0.61 goals/game pace. Ovechkin led the league with 48 goals two years ago, scored 24 in 45 in a COVID-shortened season last year and has tallied 20 goals in just 25 games this year. Dude is aging like wine, better than me.

It's more than the record though. Ovechkin has transcended "great." He's above "just" a hall of famer. Ovechkin is a great among hockey's greats. More broadly, and to add a local spin, in the annals of D.C. sports, he's in the fraternity with Walter Johnson and Sammy Baugh. Expanding further to include Charm City, he's in the pantheon with Johnny Unitas and Cal Ripken Jr. Ovechkin is simply one of the greatest athletes ever. In any sport. And he's ours. Right now. In this moment. And if life is any guide, this time with Ovechkin is fleeting. It is unique. Special. Something to cherish. Nothing like it will happen again (or at least it won't in my lifetime).

And I was dozing off as history was unfolding before me. Napping on a legend - not my finest moment. Hopefully the sports gods accept this conciliatory piece as adequate penance.

Send comments to Ronald-GuyJr@gmail.com

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Letters to the Editor

Veterans Day Parade

To the Editor

On behalf of the Commissioners of St. Mary's County and the Commissioners of Leonardtown, we would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the participants and the generous sponsors and contributors who helped make the 46th Annual Veterans Day Parade and Memorial Ceremony such a great success. The event, sponsored by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County and Commissioners of Leonardtown, was held on Thursday, November 11, 2021 in Leonardtown Square, and attended by approximately 5,000 people of all ages.

The parade, which began on Fenwick Street and proceeded to the center of Historic Downtown Leonardtown and ended at Courthouse Drive, featured Veterans, dignitaries, elected officials including Governor Larry Hogan, local high school marching bands, military units, color guards, classic and antique cars, Boy and Girl Scouts, cheerleaders, motorcycles, and horses, as well as fire, police and emergency personnel and equipment. Immediately following the parade, the Memorial Wreath Laying Ceremony was held in the Town Square. This year's Ceremony commemorated the 80th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor with guest speakers and honorable dignitaries: John C. Wobensmith, Maryland Secretary of State; Gary D. Knight, Vice Chairman and Secretary, MD Veterans Home Commission; James R. Guy, President, Commissioners of St. Mary's County; Jack Bailey, Gerald Clark, Brian Crosby and Matthew Morgan, Local State Delegation; Captain Derrick Kingsley, Executive Officer, Naval Air Station, Pax River; Daniel Burris, Leonardtown Mayor; and the Commissioners of Leonardtown: Tyler Alt, Nick Colvin, Christy Hollander, J. Maguire Mattingly, and Mary Maday Slade; Dr. Maureen Murphy, President, College of Southern Maryland; and the participation of family members of local fallen soldiers who attended as guests of honor and laid wreaths in honor of their loved ones during the Ceremony. Thank you again to everyone who attended the event and the kind supporters below who helped make the day possible:

Sponsors: Brinsfield Funeral Home, So. MD Radio, Cedar Lane, RT&T, InDyne, Southern Maryland Vacations for Vets, St. Mary's County DPW&T, St. Mary's Ryken, St. Mary's County Fairgrounds, St. Mary's County Public Schools, Naval Air Station Patuxent River, SOMD Express, Patuxent Transportation, St. Mary's County Government, Spring Dell Center, Dunkin Donuts and The Printing Press.

Contributors and Supporters: Our honorable guest speakers noted above, Ms. Mary M. Washington, Captain Barbara Ives, Lt. Krystle Rossignol, Chaplain Clay Hamrick, Ms. Bethany Yeh, Ms. Kylie Teston, Mr. Mike Smith, Leonardtown Elementary School, Captain Walter Francis Duke Elementary School, Leonardtown High School Marching Band, Mr. Hunter Martin, Ron Bailey Photographic Studios, Ms. Michelle Gordon, T&T Street Sweeping, Carter's Bus Service, Towne Florist, Goode Companies, The families of Army Spc. Raymond J. Faulstitch, Jr., Seaman First Class L. Stanley Bucker, Fireman Second Class Bob Fowler, and Senior Chief Larry Brabuck, and The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office, Leonardtown Volunteer Rescue Squad, Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Dept., St. Mary's Ryken High School, The State's Attorney's Office, Southern Maryland Vacations for Vets, Disabled American Veterans (DAV), Homes for Heroes, Naval Air Station, Patuxent River Marine Corps League, Detachment 1305, the 29th Infantry Division stationed at Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Army Recruiters Office of Lexington Park, CSM Veteran Services, Mission 22, the Leonardtown Business Association, County and Town staff, our dedicated volunteers, and other supporters who make this event possible, and a special thank you to Parade Organizer, Ms. Connie Pennington

Thank you all for helping to make this event possible!

Sincerely,

Brandy Blackstone

Public Relations & Events
Coordinator

Commissioners of Leonardtown

Alisa Casas

Communications Director
Public Information Office

St. Mary's County Government

Commissioner Silence

To the Editor:

It only took a few moments of silence from the St. Mary's County Commissioners on 16 November to delete all the work done by the citizens of the county to get a YMCA.

There had just been a presentation by YMCA officials. Then came the motion "I move to approve the YMCA site selection concept plan and to adjust Project RP-2004 to reflect the results of the feasibility study and authorize the Commissioner President to sign any related documents." There was silence from the Commissioners who could have said "second" and moved the county forward to getting a YMCA.

The lack of a second to the motion deleted all the work done by residents of St. Mary's County to secure an outstanding program available throughout the world.

Those few moments of silence deleted the six years of work by volunteers who call themselves the Steering Committee to get a community center in Lexington Park.

The silence deleted the many months of work done by the YMCA Exploratory Committee, who were selected to represent all of St. Mary's County.

The silence deleted the work done by

the YMCA Task Force, which included many outstanding citizens of our county.

The silence deleted all the letters from county businesses people and Navy Contractors sent supporting a YMCA.

And, the silence and lack of a second to the motion deleted all the 3500 plus names of county residents that were on the petitions for a YMCA/Community Center that had been presented to the Commissioners at a previous meeting.

What were Commissioners Morgan, Colvin and O'Conner thinking when they had this opportunity for St. Mary's County, and they were silent and choose not to second the motion?

Did they not realize that their lack of recognizing the work done by the citizens of St. Mary's County to get a YMCA would be upsetting and it would be vocalized by those present at the meeting?

What were our St. Mary's County Commissioners thinking when they refused to second the motion that would have given our residents the YMCA they had worked so hard to obtain?

The citizens of St. Mary's County are looking forward to getting the answers.

Joan Sullivan- Cowan
Lexington Park

Minority Report on the Redistricting Process

The Chair would like to say he still does not support this "new" map which disenfranchises over 80,000 registered voters that did not attend these public forums for they had no issues with the map we presented. The chair also lacks confidence in the St. Mary's County Attorney insisting that the county government does not use Robert's Rule of Order, despite the official documents signed by Commissioner President Guy and County Attorney Weiskopf saying St. Mary's Government documents, do cite under Article VIII Parliamentary Authority "Rules of Order for St. Mary County Boards and Commissions" "direction of the commissioners of St. Mary's County, the rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, including the provisions of \$49 entitled "Procedure in Small Boards" shall govern". The Chair has also observed certain Board Members are now wandering off the original boards' task of "Only" using population in a map, for this "new" map now appears to be Gerrymandered. The Chair has also been informed that a board member is currently being solicited by the GOP to run in the Maryland State Legislature. Is this why the "new map" was created to appease a minority in number of individuals attending the public forums, vice the protecting the now 80,000 disenfranchised registered voters in order to look like a negotiator? Time will only tell.

Regards,
Rich Johnson

SMC Resident of District 1 and now former Redistricting Chair

If you would like to submit a Letter to the Editor
include your name & town of residence.
Email: DickMyers@countytimes.net

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Saturday & Sunday 10am-6pm



Legal Notices

Notice is hereby given that the following vessel(s) have been abandoned for 60 days on the property of: Point Lookout Marina LLC., 16244 Millers Wharf Rd., Ridge MD 20680, 301-872-5000

The vessels are described as:

1. MD 5794 AR
Hull # SCR89009H687
1987 Sportcraft 27' Cabin boat,
Name "Outlook"
2. MD 3275 BW
Hull# EGG33667M77L
1977 Egg Harbor 33' Cabin Cruiser
3. MD 2452 BL
Hull # 285110
1972 Uniflite 28'2" Cabin Cruiser
4. MD 6253 BC
Hull # CBA380004H
1964 Chris Craft 38' Cabin Cruiser,
Name "Madison E"
5. MD 5176 AS
Hull # BVKB02FLA888
1988 Bayliner 25' Cabin Cruiser,
Name "Coop De Doop"

Applications for titles will be made in accordance with Section 8-722 of the Annotated Code of Maryland, Natural Resources Article if these vessels are not claimed and removed from the above property within 30 days of this notice.

NOTICE

The following individuals are applicants for nomination to Governor Hogan for appointment to the Circuit Court for St. Mary's County:

Sue Ann Lewis Armitage
Buffy Nicole Giddens
Amy Danielle Lorenzini
Alfred Shane Mattingly
Daniel Aaron Martin Slade
Marsha Lynette Williams

The Trial Courts Judicial Nominating Commission for Commission District 12 – Calvert & St. Mary's Counties - will accept signed, written comments regarding the listed applicants for use in its evaluation process. Comments must be received by Thursday, December 30, 2021.

Please address your comments to:

Trial Courts Judicial Nominating Commission for Commission District 12
c/o Administrative Office of the Courts
Maryland Judicial Center Human Resources Department 187 Harry S.
Truman Parkway, Fourth Floor, Annapolis, MD 21401

Debra Kaminski or Ebonye Caldwell
(410) 260-1271 or (410) 260-1289
debra.kaminski@mdcourts.gov
ebonye.caldwell@mdcourts.gov
Maryland Relay Service: TTY/Voice (800) 735-2258

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

Nutrition Education at Loffler

Nutritionist Donna Taggart will present Are you Nuts? All about Nuts and Your Health

On Monday, December 13, at 10 a.m. at the Loffler Senior Activity Center. Registration is required- please sign up by leaving a message on our reservation line: 301-475-4200, ext. 1660, beginning at 8 a.m. on November 20. ADDITIONALLY- Donna will be offering free personal nutritional counseling at 11 a.m. on the same day if you make an appointment with her by text message or calling 240-538-6539.

Nutrition Education: Nuts & Your Health

Donna Taggart, Certified Diabetes Educator and Registered Dietician, will be at the Northern Senior Activity Center on Monday, December 13, at 12 p.m. This is a perfect time to help answer your healthy eating questions. The topic for December is all about nuts and your health. There is no cost to attend; however, advance sign up is required. Register for the presentation by calling the reservation request line at 301-475-4200 ext. 3115.

Healthy Holiday Hacks

Mary Tennyson will present Healthy Holiday Hacks at the Loffler Senior Activity Center on Wednesday, December 15, at 10 a.m. Now that we are in the midst of the holiday season, we are surrounded by the most tempting of foods, drinks, and get-togethers. There are simple adjustments you can make that allow you to enjoy holiday traditions without the discomfort that sometimes accompanies too much fine food and

fun. Call the reservation line at 301-475-4200, ext. 1660, and leave a message if you want to sign up for this presentation. Limited to 12 seats. Free

Just Us 2

Join us on Friday, Dec. 17, at the Garvey Senior Activity Center for a special musical performance! Pat Nutter and Chris Tenney have performed at a wide variety of establishments throughout Southern Maryland and most recently at the Saturday Night Live Open Mic in Prince Frederick. They are a duo that performs bluegrass, classic country, gospel, and original music. Their music will get your toes and fingers tapping along with their lively music. Lunch will be served before the music starts. Seating Begins at 11:30 a.m. Cost for lunch is by donation for those ages 60 and above and \$6 for those under the age of 60. To make reservations, call 301-475-4200, ext. 1075, for more information or to make a reservation.

Still Looking for Decorating Ideas?

Last year during the COVID Christmas Season the Department of Aging & Human Services made a series of videos so that folks could access activities since we could not offer them in person. Though we are back in business, the videos are still available. If you would like some ideas for Christmas Décor that are very easy and quick to do, go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PACxQkDF86Q&t=122s> Most of these things can be done in mere minutes with items that are so easy to acquire you may already have them on hand!

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www.somd.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.

Friday, Dec. 10

Elf The Musical

Newtowne Players
21744 South Coral Drive
Lexington Park
8p.m. to 10:30p.m.

Buddy, a young orphan, mistakenly crawls into Santa's bag of gifts and is transported to the North Pole. The would-be elf is raised, unaware that he is actually a human until his enormous size and poor toy-making abilities cause him to face the truth. With Santa's permission, Buddy embarks on a journey to New York City to find his birth father and discover his true identity. Faced with the harsh realities that his father is on the naughty list and his half-brother doesn't even believe in Santa, Buddy is determined to win over his new family and help New York remember the true meaning of Christmas.

This modern-day holiday classic is sure to make everyone embrace their inner elf. After all, the best way to spread Christmas Cheer is singing loud for all to hear.

BOX OFFICE INFORMATION

Adults \$18, Seniors/Students/
Military \$15, Children \$13
<https://www.newtowneplayers.org/tickets.html>

Saturday, Dec. 11

Christmas in April Open House

Summerseat Farm
26655 Thrice Notch Road,
Mechanicville
8a.m. to Noon

Christmas in April will be having their annual Open House/Christmas Bazaar at Summerseat

Farm.

We will have fresh Christmas greens, holiday decorations and holiday gifts. Also baskets, beautiful live wreaths and swags. The house will be open, so come in to visit, say hi and enjoy a snack.

Look around the farm to visit with the animals. For more info, please dial 301-884-2905.

Monday, Dec. 13

Pax River Quilters Guild

20850 Langley Rd,
Lexington Park
6:30p.m.

Pax River Quilters Guild Welcomes You Visit our Website www.paxriverquiltguild.com or email prqsomd@gmail.com for an application and for more information to join our group. Pax River Quilts Guild is a 501(c) (3) Organization and is open to everyone. Currently meetings are the 2nd Monday of each month at 6:30pm. Following CDC Guidelines. Everyone is required to wear a face covering. This Month Monday Dec 13, 2021, We will be having our Christmas Meeting, there will be a Strips Raffle, Gift Exchange and Fat Quarter Raffle, Contact Cindy Miskolczi for for info 301-769-1151.

Volunteers Needed for Turkey Drive

Great Mills High School,
Great Mills Road
Lexington Park
3:30p.m. to 6p.m.

Volunteers are needed for the Annual Mike's Food Fund Turkey Basket distribution event. Due to ongoing COVID restrictions, this year we will be once again outside

in the parking lot at Great Mills High School and it will be a drive through event.

We need help unpacking and handing out the turkey baskets to those in line. We will only be doing this two days this year due to COVID concerns and guidelines. Masks are required for those not fully vaccinated and social distancing measures will be in place.

Also, Mike's Food Fund is in need of monetary donations if you can help out. Dinner costs have risen from \$ 20 to \$ 35 each. Please stop by Mike's Bikes or mail a check to :

Mike's Food Fund, 21310 Great Mills Road, Lexington Park, MD 20653.

Thank you in advance for your help!

Friday, Dec. 17

Southern Maryland Traditional Music and Dance

Christ Church Parish Hall,
Chaptico

Acoustic musicians of all skill levels are warmly welcomed to perform their favorite holiday tunes. Sign up in advance by contacting Mike Smith smtmdmike@gmail.com. A pot luck dinner will be held prior to the open mic, at 6:30 pm. Bring a favorite dish or dessert to share. Music begins at 7:30 PM. Admission is free.

Visit www.smtmd.org for directions and more information.

We will be following the St. Mary's County Health Department guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19. At present, the health department strongly urges wearing masks while attending indoor gatherings.

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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

Joseph Parran "JP" Ridgell



Joseph Parran "JP" Ridgell, 75, of Ridge, MD, passed away on December 3, 2021 surrounded by family and love. Born November 12, 1946 in Scotland, MD, he was the son of the late Tennyson Aloysius and Mary Olive Ridgell.

Joseph was a lifelong resident of St. Mary's County. He graduated from St. Michael's Catholic School in Ridge, MD. He joined the Ridge Volunteer Fire Department from April 4, 1968 to May 5, 1986. He returned on February 2, 2007, and continued his service

in the Department. During his first 18 years, he was a very active member in all Department activities, particularly fire prevention education programs. He was appointed to Engineer, Fire Marshal, Fire Captain, Assistant Fire Chief, and elected to the Board of Directors and Treasurer.

Joseph also served on several committees including carnival, firehouse renovation, and fire truck replacement. He earned many awards for fire prevention activities from Southern Maryland Fireman's Association and the Maryland State Fireman's Association for several years. He received the RVFD Top Responder Award for multiple years, and was named RVFD Firefighter of the Year in 1977. Joseph received his Life Membership for 25 years of service on December 8, 2014.

Joseph was also a career firefighter with the Patuxent River Naval Air Station Fire department for a number of years. He held other jobs including working in lumber yards and being a truck delivery driver.

In addition to spending time with his family, Joseph enjoyed crabbing, gardening, playing cards, doing puzzle books, and watching westerns. He particularly enjoyed giving his grandchildren lawn mower rides, playing with

his cat, and watching the Waltons.

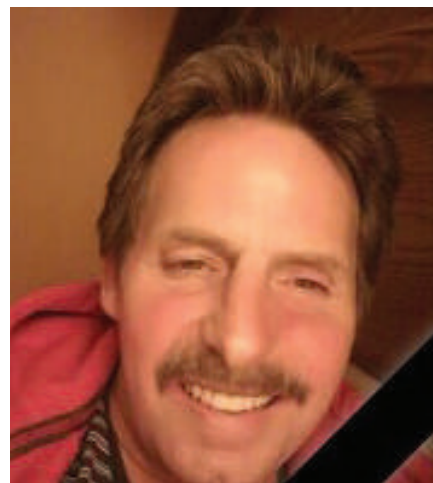
Joseph is survived by his wife Darla; his three children, Shawn Staff of Topeka, KS, Jennifer Ridgell, and Kristie Ridgell of Ridge, MD; his brother Bernard (Mary) Ridgell of St. Marys City, MD; and seven grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his parents Tennyson Aloysius and Mary Olive Ridgell, as well as his brother John "Johnny" Ridgell.

The family will receive friends on Wednesday, December 15, 2021 at St. Michael's Church in Ridge, MD with visitation from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 AM with Father Peter Giovanoni officiating. Interment will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Ridge Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 520 Ridge, MD 20680, Hospice of St. Mary's County, P.O. Box 625 Leonardtown, MD 20650, or St. Michael's School, P.O. Box 259 Ridge, MD 20680.

Condolences may be made to the family at www.mgfh.com. Arrangements provided by the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, P.A. & Crematory, Leonardtown, MD.

Timothy Shawn Gibson



Timothy Shawn Gibson, 63, of Mechanicsville, MD passed away peacefully at his home on Wednesday, November 17, 2021. He was born on October 29, 1958 in Washington, DC to the late, Roy Leonard Gibson, Jr. and Joan Elizabeth (James, Gibson) Kratko. He was the oldest of four siblings that grew on the Little Big Horn Farm in (Baden) Brandywine, MD.

Tim was an Ace Carpenter and loved wood working. He helped to build many homes in Colorado, Georgia and Maryland. He was a master at the finish work in these homes. He compared all his work to that which he did in Vail Colorado. He also loved working with Heavy Equipment. He worked at Gundle Lining Systems where he still holds the record for plastic deployment. He deployed and welded 697,450sf in One

Day. He was extremely proud of this accomplishment.

Though they may not have known, Tim was very proud of his six children, Dale, Laura, Shawunny, Jesse, Ali and Cody. He worshiped them from afar and spoke of them and their accomplishments with pride. Tim enjoyed spending time with his family and friends and he loved his grandchildren, Parker and Connor.

If you asked Tim what he loved most in life, he would say, his family, playing his daily numbers, treasure hunting for silver and gold, watching old movies, working out at the gym and debating today's world issues with his brother-in-law Dave Smith. Tim was always trying to find a fastest path to becoming rich in life as he never thought he would live past 40 and felt he needed to have something to leave on to those he loved. However, we already knew Tim was rich in life and his endeavors would only be his hobbies. Tim firmly believed in reincarnation and we truly hope his next trip around affords him a better life than this life did. He broke his back at the age of 38 which disabled him, he was a 3-time survivor of cancer, and he survived the stem cell transplant that put him in remission. Tim loved to fly the Ultralights in NV and feel the wind in his face. The passion he developed for the open road started as a young man. He left home at an early age and the world taught him and shaped him into the man he was today. A very proud man who would never ask for anything from anyone. He learned very early he could only count on himself. Tim was able to see parts of the world we could only dream about. He also enjoyed maintaining his health and spent many hours at SMAC gym where he found many friends that he enjoyed working out with. It was also where he met Kirby. Kirby and Tim were brothers from other mothers and they became fast friends. Tim was truly a great man in his own right with a true heart of gold. We accepted him as he was and he felt he finally belonged. Tim will be missed forever. When you feel the wind brush across your cheek, know it is Tim flying by on his way to the golden streets of Heaven and hoping his breeze will help to dry your tears.

Tim is survived by his children, Timothy Dale Mitchell of Leonardtown, MD, Laura May Bowie of Indianhead, MD, Shawunny Michelle Gibson of Detroit, MI, and Ali Gibson of Las Vegas, NV, Jesse Gibson of Las Vegas, NV, Cody Parsons of Las Vegas, NV and two (2) grandchildren, Connor Noah and Parker Marie; and siblings, Ross Leonard Gibson, Joan Valerie Smith, and Ronald Michael Kratko, II. Tim was preceded in death by his parents, Roy Leonard Gibson and Joan Elizabeth Gibson Kratko.

The family will receive friends for

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a Tim's Life Celebration Memorial Gathering on Friday, December 10, 2021 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Brinsfield Funeral Home & Crematory, P.A., 30195 Three Notch Road, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622. A Funeral Service will be at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, December, 10, 2021 officiated by Deacon Bill Kyte also at Brinsfield Funeral Home, Charlotte Hall, MD. Interment will be private.

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

All Arrangements have been made by Brinsfield Funeral Home & Crematory, P.A.

Dulcie Bell Gurganus Hammett



Dulcie Bell Gurganus Hammett, 86, of Saint Leonard, MD, passed away on December 1, 2021 at her home. She was born on July 28, 1935 to parents Russell and Verdenda (Dennie) Gurganus. She lost her father at the tender age of five. Dulcie had a brother, Eugene Gurganus, twelve years her senior.

Dulcie graduated from Washington and Lee High School in 1953 and then went on to attend and graduate from Strayer Business College where she excelled at typing and shorthand.

On a blind date, Dulcie met Robert (Bob) Hammett and he proposed marriage three weeks later. They wed on December 10, 1955 at St. Peter's Church in Washington, DC and proceeded to have three children Tracey, Robin and Russ. They were married for 48 years.

Dulcie was a devoted stay at home mom for several years while her children were young but as they got older, she took a job as an office manager for doctors Parisi, Eagan and Kane and then as an insurance officer for Dr. Howell where she worked until she retired in 1994.

Dulcie enjoyed being on the water and she and Bob owned three different boats, two sailboats and a recreational tug over the years, on which they enjoyed weekend outings. She and Bob bought their dream home on St.

Patrick's Creek in St. Mary's County where they lived until Bob passed away after a struggle with cancer.

Dulcie enjoyed painting on canvas and was quite talented, then began painting ducks and other wood carvings when Bob took up carving as a hobby. Together they created many cherished heirlooms that their family values greatly.

Dulcie was kind and giving with a witty sense of humor. She loved her family and her family dearly loved her. She was a caretaker at heart so it was extremely hard on her after she suffered a stroke in September of 2020 that left her paralyzed on her left side and unable to care for herself any longer. She was blessed to have her daughter Robin, who lived with her since Bob's passing, and cared for her daily in their home after the stroke. Constant companionship was provided by their little Boston Terrier Fairlight. Her daughter Tracey, son Russ and daughter-in-law Tami visited almost every weekend after her stroke providing cooked meals for the week, emotional support, and an opportunity for the family to be together to celebrate the close bond they all have. Dulcie will be missed beyond measure.

She leaves behind her children and Russell's wife Tami, six grandchildren-Brandon, Candice, Shannon, Russ Jr., Emily and Ryan, eleven great-grandchildren- Sarah, Dakota, Evan, Carson, Ethan, Eva, Aaron, Melanie, Aria, Finn and Hurley, and one great-great-grandchild Crew. She also leaves behind her sister-in-law Patricia Hammett to whom was not only family, but a very dear friend and sister-in-law Rosalie Gingery who lives in California, along with many other family members and friends who she cherished.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, December 16, 2021 from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM at Trinity United Methodist Church, Prince Frederick, MD, where a Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 AM with Pastor Jim Swecker officiating. Interment will follow at St. Michael's Catholic Cemetery, Ridge, MD. Serving as pallbearers will be Chris Drieslein, John Fenwick, Mike Harris, Victor Kline, Greg Usilton, and David Wooldridge.

The family asks that in lieu of flowers, you consider making a donation to Calvert Hospice (www.calverthospice.org) an organization that has provided immeasurable comfort and care to Dulcie and her family during this most difficult time.

Condolences may be made to the family at www.mgfh.com. Arrangements provided by the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, P.A. & Crematory, Leonardtown, MD.

Capt. Patrick Edwin Buckley



Capt. Patrick Edwin Buckley, USN, (Ret.), 59, passed away on December 1, 2021 at Johns Hopkins Medical Center in Baltimore, MD after multiple post-surgery complications. His loving family was with him at his side as he passed.

Pat, Buck, or Pops, as he was known to his friends and family, was born on March 20, 1962 in Honolulu, HI to the late CAPT John Buckley, USN (Ret.) and Lorraine Buckley (Dionne). He grew up on and near multiple Navy bases until his family settled in Vienna, VA.

Pat was a 1984 graduate of the United States Naval Academy where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Applied Mathematics and received his commission as a Naval Officer. Pat earned his "Wings of Gold" in 1985 and went on to become an accomplished Naval Pilot in the Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Community. Captain Buckley retired after 25 years of honorable service in July 2009 and continued to serve as a Government Civil Servant at Patuxent River Naval Air Station after retirement.

Pat married his hometown sweetheart, Jean Marie Janas, on November 16, 1985, at the United States Naval Academy. They were lucky to spend over 36 wonderful years together; their biggest blessings being their three sons, Sean, Daniel, and Joseph. All three followed in Pat's footsteps, attending the Naval Academy (2012, 2019, 2022). Pat enjoyed tailgating Navy Football games while pouring Uncle Jim's Bloody Marys, making homemade limoncello, and driving with the top down in his Porsche at all times (and temperatures) of the year.

Pat is survived by his wife Jean, his three sons Sean (Amy), Daniel, and Joseph; by his mother Lorraine Buckley; by his grandchildren Grayson, Graham, and Virginia; and by his two brothers Tim and Kevin Buckley. He is preceded in death by his father John Edwin Buckley, and his sister Kelly Ann Buckley.

The Buckley Family will host a cel-

bration of life in the Spring of 2022 in Annapolis, MD with details to follow. Interment will be held at a later date at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD and Hampton National Cemetery in Hampton, VA.

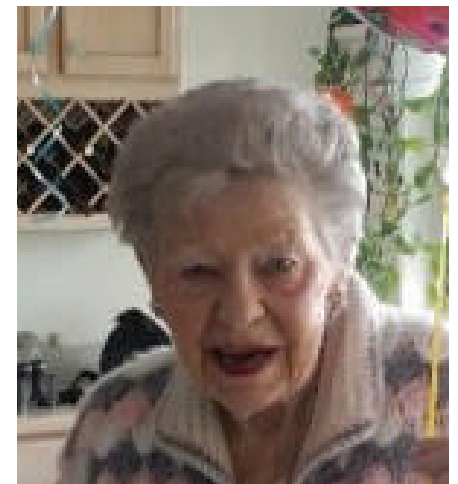
In lieu of flowers please send memorial contributions to The Wingman Foundation.

Website: wingmanfoundation.org
2248 Meridian Blvd, Minden, NV 89423

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

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Kathleen Elizabeth Roth



Kathleen Elizabeth Roth, "Kitty", 89, of Scotland, MD, passed away on November 29, 2021 at her home. Born on September 19, 1932 in Astoria, NY, she was the daughter of the late Veronica McCabe Higgins and the late Patrick Higgins. Kathleen was the loving wife of John Roth, Sr., whom she married on June 23, 1951 in Astoria, NY. She is survived by her children, John Roth, Jr. of Audubon, PA, Michael Roth of Leonardtown, MD, Thomas Roth of Callaway, MD, and Terrance Roth of Scotland, MD, as well as four grandchildren and six great grandchildren. Kathleen was preceded in death by her sister, Mary Glynn.

Kathleen graduated high school in 1949, and was a hairdresser at Hotel Barbazon in Manhattan, NY for 12 years, retiring in 1961. She moved to St. Mary's County in 1975 from La Plata, MD.

Kathleen loved traveling, cooking, gardening, playing with her great grandkids, her dogs, and fishing. She was very active in the church at St. Cecilia's in St. Mary's City, MD and St. Michael's in Ridge, MD. She and her husband were avid travelers to locations all over the world, including Panama, Guatemala, Russia, China, Costa Rica, Egypt, Switzerland, Dominican Republic, Thailand, Venezuela, Japan, Mexico, Germany, England, Ireland,

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

Scotland, Gibraltar, Spain, Portugal, Morocco, Canada, and Taiwan. Kathleen's favorite sayings were "it is what it is" and "do your best and leave the rest."

The family will receive friends on Thursday, December 9, 2021 from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM at St. Cecilia's Catholic Church, St. Mary's City, MD, where a Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 AM with Father Larry Swink officiating. Interment will follow at St. James Catholic Cemetery, Lexington Park, MD. Serving as pallbearers will be John Roth, Michael Roth, Terry Roth, Tom Roth, Blake Roth, and Nolan DiBenedetto.

Condolences may be made to the family at www.mgfh.com. Arrangements provided by the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, P.A. & Crematory, Leonardtown, MD.

Robert Eugene Myers



Robert Eugene Myers 57 of Leonardtown, Maryland was called home by the Lord, Saturday November 27, 2021 at MedStar St. Mary's Hospital, Leonardtown, Maryland, surrounded by family.

Robert was born July 11, 1964 at Beverly Hospital in Montebello, California to the late Kaye Marie (Brendos) Clark and Leland Myers. The late Harry Leeland Clark raised Robert since an infant.

June 20, 1987 Robert married Melinda Stover in Irvine California where Robert was stationed at Tustin MCAS. He then moved to D.C. where he served at the Pentagon and then later moved to Brenton Bay in 1997.

Robert received an MBA from the Florida Institute of Technology (FIT) and BS in Business Administration from Regis University. Robert is a retired 20-year veteran serving in both the United States Marine Corps & US Airforce. Robert in June 2021 retired from the Department of the Navy after 19 years working as a Senior Contracts Specialist, procuring major weapon systems, and engineering services for the Navy.

Robert's life's passion was serving the Lord and has been in the Missions field and leading various ministries for

36 years. He led outreach activities on Tustin Maine Corps Air Station, supporting overseas pastors during his numerous West PAC deployments to the Philippines. Robert led evangelist activities on the USS New Orleans and USS Peleliu. Robert over a 1-year period led an Evangelistic Ministry which consisted of walking a 12' Cross all over St. Mary's County and Washington D.C.

Robert founded The Mission in 2005, with it closing for a short time and re-opening in 2012, where he served as the Senior Pastor for The Mission, sharing the gospel with local homeless and working poor of St. Mary's County. The Mission recently opened the first Christian based Care Center dedicated to single men & women. Robert's poor upbringing never left him and he's heart went out to all those who have little. Robert, was the first in the family to own his own home and have a college education.

Robert also loved telling stories and writing pomes/prayers which he published a few in the County Times and Enterprise/Southern Maryland News. His latest being last week (Dec 3) in both. But most of all he was a very generous person and was always blessing someone with something they needed out of the blue.

Robert is survived by his wife Melinda; siblings, his twin Richard Eugene Myers (Brenda Kay Moschell) of Leonardtown, MD, sister Joan Marie Clark of Charlotte Hall, MD, brother Edward (Monte) Myers, Charlotte Hall, brother Fabrice Clark (Jeanna Cosbey) of Blue Springs, MO, brother Lenny Clark of San Antonio, TX, and nieces, nephews, and cousins. In addition to his parents, Robert was preceded in death by his younger brother Henry Michael Clark.

Robert's favorite saying was "Let's all tend to the Father's Business and not worry about what's going on in the world".

The family will receive guests and the community on Tuesday, December 14, 2021 from 2:30 to 5:00 p.m. with a Celebration of Life Service, including Military Honors at 4:00 p.m., at Faith Bible Church, 26325 Three Notch Road, Mechanicsville, MD 20659. Interment will be held later after completion of The Mission Park.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Susanne Pearson "Sue" Evans

Susanne Pearson "Sue" Evans of Leonardtown, MD died on December 1, 2021 at her home with her loving family at her side. She was born in Pittsburgh, PA on March 30, 1945 and was the daughter of the late William B. and Retha M. Pearson.

She is survived by her husband of 50



years, Charles D. Evans; a son, Thomas and his wife, Jennifer of Poulsbo, WA; a daughter, Christina M. Evans of Ashburn VA and her husband, John Bolland; her beloved granddaughters, Nadia Mari Binford of Ashburn, VA and Sadie Rae Evans of Poulsbo, WA. She also leaves behind a brother, William H. Pearson and his wife, Ann of Mechanicsburg, PA. She is also survived by a beloved niece, Kathy Schreiber and her family, and a nephew, Thomas B. Pearson of Scotia, NY and his family as well as nephew Ron in Texas. In addition to her parents, she was also preceded in death by her sister, the late Dolly Pearson Tesseine.

Sue is a six year veteran of the United States Navy and graduate of Pensacola Junior College and the University of Connecticut. She retired from Patuxent River Naval Air Station in 2002 following a long career as a Civil Servant working for the Department of the Navy.

She was a long time member of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church and served several terms on the vestry of the parish. Along with volunteer activities at the church, Sue also volunteered at the St. Mary's Garvey Senior Center, Literacy Council of St. Mary's and Hospice of St. Mary's. She enjoyed sewing, reading, crafting, traveling and visiting with friends. Most of all, she loved her Charlie, Tom, Christina, Jenn, John, Nadia and Sadie with a passion. They were the greatest joys of her life.

Interment will be held at a later date at Arlington National Cemetery.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Ronald "Ronnie" Scott Morgan

Ronald "Ronnie" Scott Morgan, 56, of Willow Springs, NC passed away too soon on December 4th, 2021, due to a chronic medical condition. As in life, he managed his illness with strength and dignity wanting to spend as much time with his loved ones as possible. On his final day, he was surrounded by his wife and four daughters, whom he adored.



Ronnie was a hard worker in life, but he considered his family as his biggest accomplishment. He was a dedicated, loving husband to his wife, Colleen, as well as a devoted and loving father and grandfather. He taught them to laugh and enjoy every moment life has to offer. Ronnie was a very giving person who cared for others more than himself and was always willing to help others.

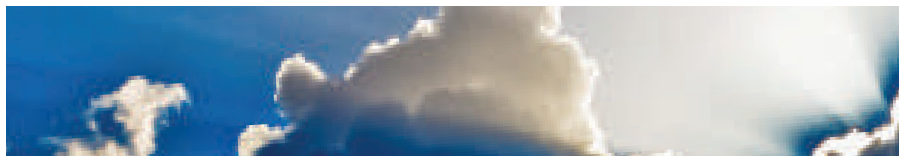
Although he had spent the past 15 years in North Carolina, a piece of his heart had always remained in St. Mary's. Some of his hobbies included fishing, traveling, gardening, horse-shoes, and darts. He loved cooking his favorite dishes for his family and friends and enjoyed all seafood, especially crabs. More than anything in life, he cherished time spent with his family and dogs.

He is survived by his wife of 38 years, Colleen, his daughters and their significant others, Amanda Hill (Billy), Heather Owen (Charlie), Brianna Hill (David), Caroline Morgan (Jonathan); 7 grandchildren, Scott and Kaylin Hill, Charlie, Morgan, Jackson, and Hailey Owen, and Brody Hill, and his siblings, Bill Morgan, Elaine Berry, Delores Burch, Beverly Dean, Gary Morgan, Sharon Downs, Cynthia Popielarcheck, Gregg Morgan, and Shawn Morgan, as well as many cousins, nieces, and nephews. Ronnie was preceded in death by his parents, Leo and Mary Helen Morgan, and his sister, Theresa Tippet.

The family will celebrate Ronnie's life with a memorial service held at Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department on Thursday, December 16th, 2021. Immediate family will gather from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. followed by remaining family and friends until 6:00 p.m. Prayers will be recited at 6:00 p.m.

Charles Phillip Hagen

Charles Phillip Hagen, age 81 of Northfield, passed away peacefully at his home surrounded by his loving family on November 25, 2021. Charles was born in Boyceville, WI on May 15, 1940 to Adolph and Hazel Hagen. He grew up and graduated school in Grenora, ND. Charles entered the US Navy in 1958, at age 18. On May 20, 1961 he married M. Charlene Lumpkins at



Robin Marie Poe, 58, of Mechanicsville, MD, passed away on November 14, 2021 in Washington, DC. Born on October 21, 1963 in Leonardtown, MD to the late Elmo Jackson Hicks and the late Mary Evelyn Evan Hicks, Robin was raised in Hollywood, MD along with her seven brothers. She was the loving wife of Dale W. Poe, Sr., whom she married on December 28, 1987 in Leonardtown, MD. Robin is survived by her children Gary Kavaky, Jr. (Brooks-Ann) of Spotsylvania, VA, Dawn Poe Johnson (Larry) of Corinth, MS, Don Johnson of Corinth, MS, and Dale Poe, Jr. of Mechanicsville, MD, her siblings Ronald Hicks (Chery) of North Carolina, Thomas Hicks (Betsey) of St. Leonard, MD, Jack L. Hicks (Kim) of Leonardtown, MD, brother-in-law Randy Poe (Anna) of Lexington Park, grandchildren Chris, Brianna, Adam, Caroline, Chloe, and Alana, two great grandchildren, as well as many aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews. She was preceded in death by her siblings Joseph A. Hicks, Richard Hicks, Timothy R. Hicks, and John L. Hicks.

Medleys Neck Church in Leonardtown, Maryland. He spent 21 years in the US Navy living in Maryland, Virginia, Morocco, Spain, Pennsylvania, Japan, Hawaii, Florida, North Dakota, and Minnesota always together with his family. He retired from the US Navy to North Dakota where he received his BA from Minot State College, and his MS Degree from Central Michigan University. He worked 23 years for SRT Communications & Frontier Communications before retiring again.

Charles is preceded in death by his loving wife, M. Charlene Hagen, and brother, Arvin Hagen, parents, & in-laws. He is survived by his children, Debbie Hagen-Baca, Sheila Hagen, and Brad Hagen (Shila); grandchildren, Matthew (Tina), Paris (Karl), Rio (Austyn), and Joseph; great granddaughter, Hazel; siblings, Alden Hagen, and Karen (Dennis) Christianson; sister-in-law, Beverly Hagen, many nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Funeral Service will be held 10 AM Friday, December 17, 2021 at the Trinity Lutheran Church, 803 Winona St., Northfield, MN with a visitation on Thursday (11/16) from 4-7 PM at the White Funeral Home, 20134 Kenwood Tr., Lakeville, MN (952-469-2723) also 1 hr. prior to the service at church. Interment, Fort Snelling National Cemetery.

Virtual viewing: <http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxsQkluzeXJqx-EakLvOCbeg> Robin Marie Poe

Robin Marie Poe



Robin was a lifelong St. Mary's County, MD resident, and graduated from Leonardtown High School. Robin had met the love of her life, Dale W. Poe, Sr., and together they shared four amazing children, six grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. Robin loved to go out dancing with Dale, and they were known as "The Dancing Poes." Robin was such a fun-loving person who never knew a stranger, as she took the time to speak and share her kind spirit with all she knew and met.

Robin's hobbies included her baking with Ol Big Red (miner), working in her flower gardens with her beautiful flowers, and sit and enjoy the outdoors with her two beloved fur babies, Trixie and Reese. Robin also loved playing pool and was on a league. She loved to get together with Dale and her friends and sing karaoke, especially known for singing Loretta Lynn's Coal Miner's Daughter, among many other favorites. Robin loved to be near the water, especially St. George's Island to watch the beautiful sunrises and sunsets, and she loved her seafood. Robin loved her family so much, spending time with her family, siblings, and good friends is what mattered to her.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Friday, December 17, 2021 at 11:00 AM in St. Francis Xavier, St. George's Island, MD with Father Paul Nguyen officiating. Interment will follow in the church cemetery.

Condolences may be made to the family at www.mgfh.com. Arrangements provided by the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, P.A. & Crematory, Leonardtown, MD.

FINANCIAL LITERACY TIPS FOR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN

Contributing Writer:
Lynda J. Striegel

With the holidays upon us and family gatherings now more possible, now may be a great time to teach your children and grandchildren about finance. How can you start teaching your children and grandchildren? Here are three tips.

1. Explain what money is and how it works.

Unfortunately, many children hear only negative comments about money from overhearing what their parents say. This can easily turn into a fear about money, specifically not having "enough". If this fear is coupled with ignorance about how money works, the child will not have the confidence to tackle money issues. Your goal is to give your child or grandchild the confidence to learn about money. Money should be explained in objective terms—what is it? How does it work? What do those pennies mean? How do the pennies turn into dollars? A simple way of teaching about money is to start in the grocery store. If you give your child or grandchild a dollar, for example, and ask them to buy some fruit with the dollar, they will quickly understand how the money is used to purchase food. Take a field trip to the grocery store letting the child handle some money and pay for groceries at the checkout. You will be amazed at how helpful grocery store clerks, managers and others will be when they know you are trying to give children confidence about money. All of us know how important it is to teach children about money.

2. Teach your children and grandchildren that people have to earn money to live.

I recall one incident in my childhood that left a lasting impression on me. I was about 5 or 6 and took a grape in the grocery store and promptly ate it. My father saw me and explained I had stolen that grape from the employees of the store; that employees had to earn money for their families and I had taken their money by stealing something they could

no longer sell. My father made me take one penny, find the store manager, apologize for stealing the grape and offer to pay the penny to the store and its employees—all by myself. Needless to say, I did what my father asked, in tears and with great fear, and I never forgot the lesson. I couldn't wait until my own child made the same mistake so I could repeat the lesson. He did and I did. Somehow we need to teach children and grandchildren what money means in the context of other people and their families.

3. Get creative with the concept of savings.

Savings is a harder concept for younger children and grandchildren. They need to see their savings in the form of one or more piggybanks. Using a piggybank for small children and a checking account for older children will teach saving as a concept. But saving in a vacuum will not generate excitement among children. Setting goals for expenditures and saving for those goals will teach budgeting. Using more than one piggybank for different purposes can help even young children learn how to budget. By setting aside some money in the "spending" piggybank and other money in the "sharing" or "saving" piggybanks, children can learn to allocate money to various purposes. With older children, opening a checking account and a savings account is a major step towards maturity. Guide the older child through the process.

However you approach the subject, you are the primary teacher for your children and grandchildren and it is never too early to start them on good money habits. Enjoy your children and help them learn more about finance while doing so.

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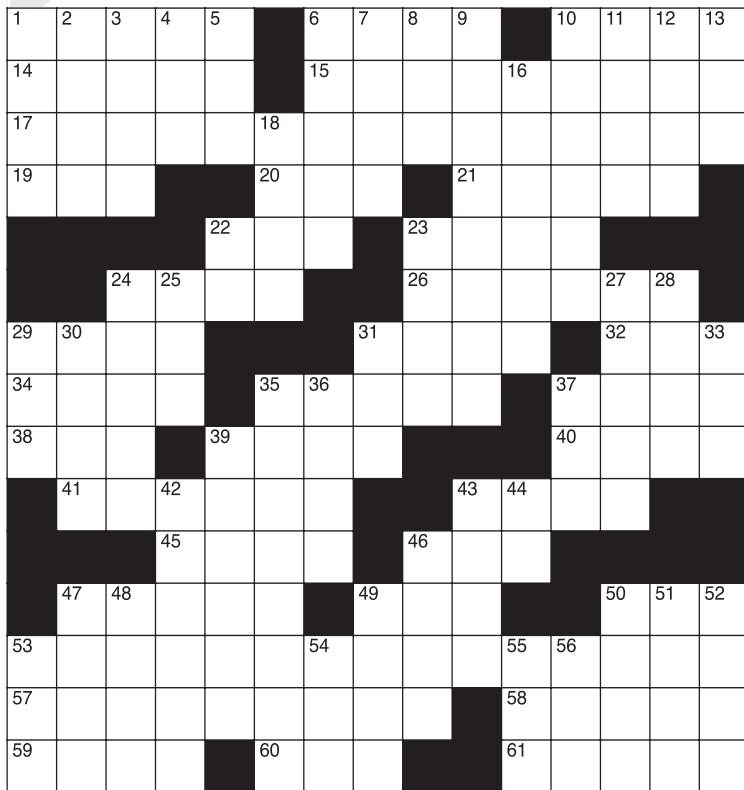
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GAMES & PUZZLES



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Polish city
- 6. Very eager
- 10. Identifies a specific person or thing
- 14. Tennis great Naomi
- 15. One concerned by professional advancement
- 17. PGA Championship reward
- 19. A fashionable hotel
- 20. Norse mythology afterlife location
- 21. Stood up
- 22. Car mechanics group
- 23. Weather forecasters use it (abbr.)
- 24. Broken branch
- 26. Astronomy unit
- 29. East Asian nursemaid
- 31. "Airplane!" actor
- 32. Exclamation that denotes disgust
- 34. "Batman" villain
- 35. Downfalls
- 37. Philippine province
- 38. Once-vital TV part
- 39. Valley
- 40. Tax
- 41. Classic Scorsese

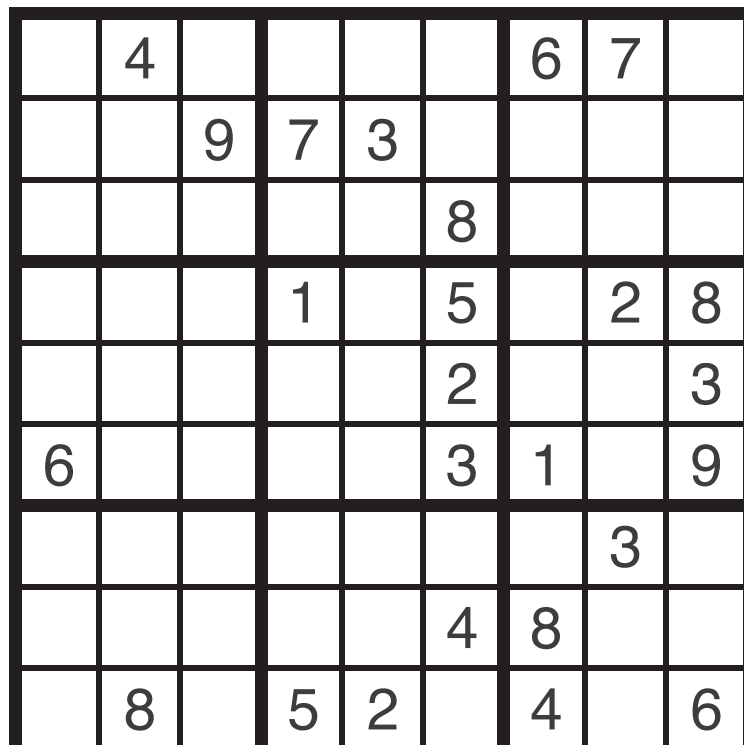
film

- 43. Subway dwellers
- 45. Book part
- 46. Taxi
- 47. Pancakes made from buckwheat flour
- 49. Swiss river
- 50. Founder of Babism
- 53. Have surgery
- 57. Withdrawal from a larger entity
- 58. Lot's father
- 59. Greek war god
- 60. 2,000 lbs.
- 61. Lemur

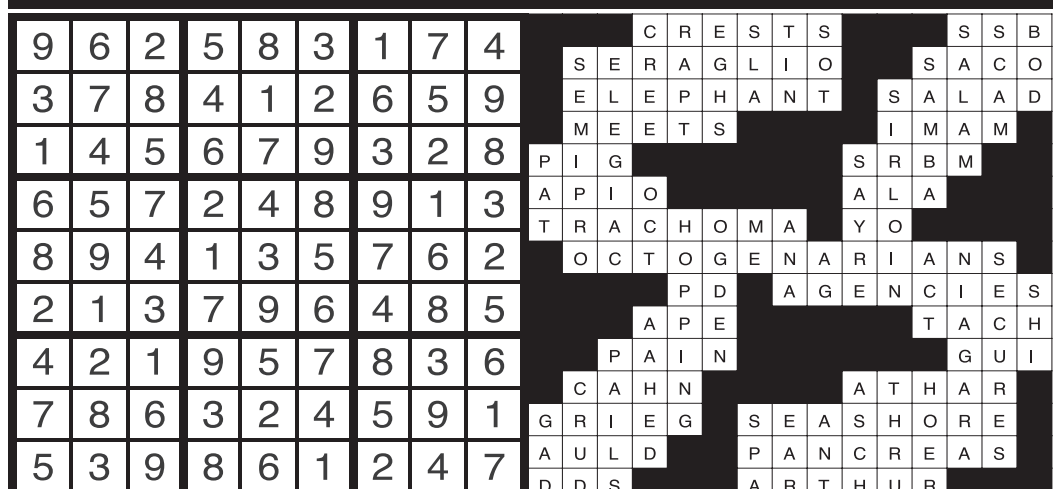
CLUES DOWN

- 1. Quarrels
- 2. Right away
- 3. Comedian Carvey
- 4. Egyptian unit of weight
- 5. A Brit's mother
- 6. Tropical tree
- 7. One who speaks Gaelic
- 8. NHL legend Bobby
- 9. Vacation spots
- 10. Military personnel
- 11. Shakira's don't lie
- 12. Wimbledon champ
- 13. Teletypewriter
- 16. Mistakes
- 18. Whale ship captain

- 22. Thus
- 23. From end to end
- 24. Kids love him
- 25. One and only
- 27. Fencing swords
- 28. Taxis
- 29. Basics
- 30. Refuse of grapes
- 31. Go quickly
- 33. French ballet dynasty
- 35. Most open
- 36. Popular soap ingredient
- 37. US time zone (abbr.)
- 39. Items of food
- 42. Backbones
- 43. Infrequent
- 44. Blood type
- 46. "Let It Snow!" songwriter
- 47. Dutch colonist
- 48. Pike
- 49. Egyptian sun god
- 50. A cardinal is one
- 51. From a distance
- 52. Bolivian river
- 53. N. American student organization (abbr.)
- 54. River (Spanish)
- 55. Chinese life force
- 56. Chinese surname



LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE SOLUTIONS



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