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DENIED**

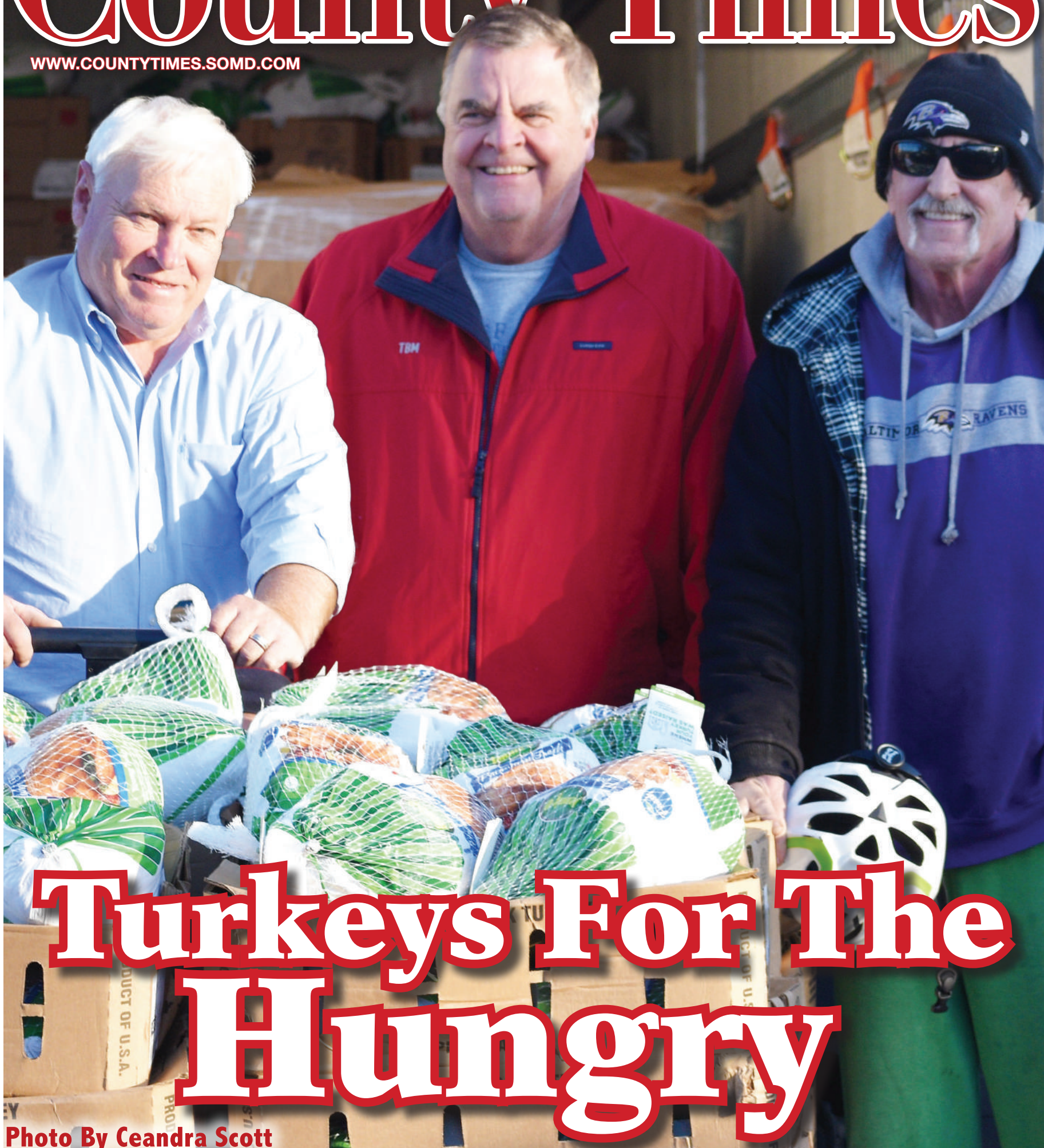
**NEW REDISTRICTING
MAP APPROVED**

**REALTORS BRING
GIFTS TO SENIORS**

St. Mary's County Times

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2021

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Turkeys For The Hungry

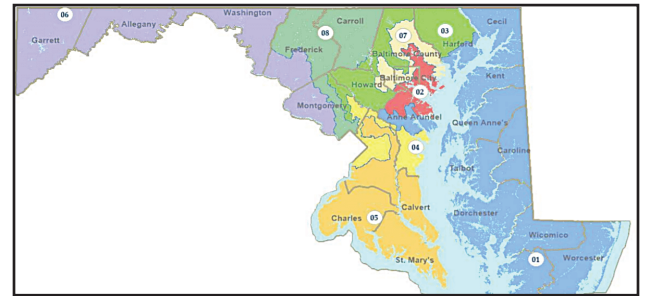
Photo By Ceandra Scott

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Mike's Bikes 38th annual holiday turkey dinner drive.



REDISTRICTING 17
Look for another round of hard debate next General Assembly



COMMUNITY 14
Holiday Horses at Greenwell State Park



“GIFT CARDS DON'T FILL PEOPLE'S BELLIES.”
COMMISSIONER TODD MORGAN ON LOCALLY OWNED BUSINESSES SUPPORTING FOOD DRIVE


WEEKLY FORECAST

Thu 12/16 64° 53°F Partly Cloudy	Fri 12/17 63° 51°F Cloudy	Sat 12/18 67° 41°F PM Showers	Sun 12/19 48° 33°F Partly Cloudy
Mon 12/20 46° 36°F Showers	Tue 12/21 48° 32°F AM Showers	Wed 12/22 49° 34°F Partly Cloudy	Thu 12/23 52° 38°F Partly Cloudy

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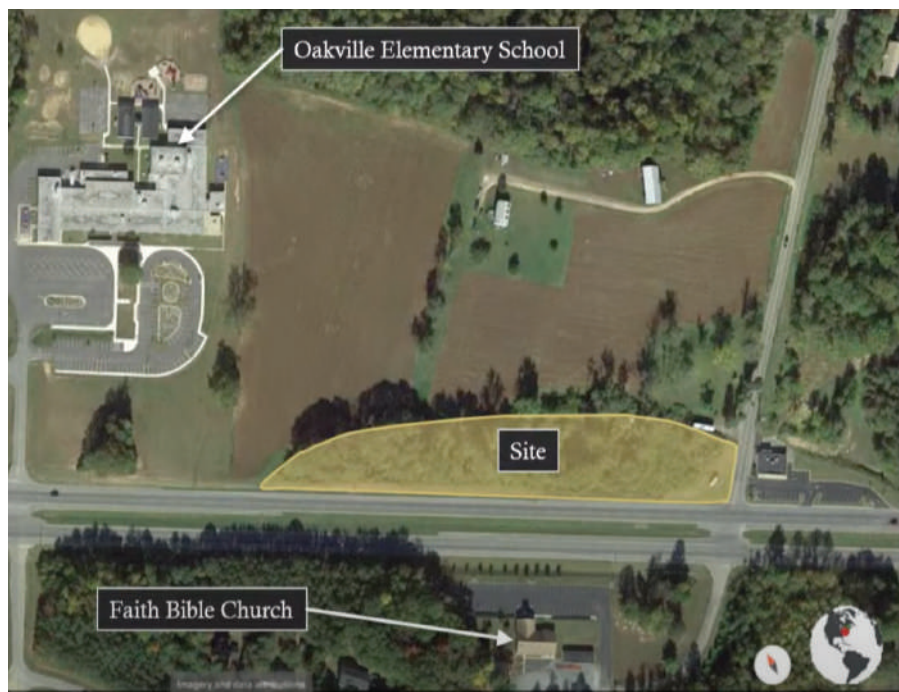
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Appeals Board Denies Mechanicsville Dollar General



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

In August the county planning commission denied a concept site plan to build a 9,100 square-foot, new Dollar General at the intersection of Route 235 and North Sandgates Road over traffic concerns by a unanimous vote.

The case met much the same fate at the Dec. 9 Board of Appeals hearing in Leonardtown, going down by a 3-to-2 vote.

The majority of the board, members Lynn Delahay, Guy Bradley and Wayne Miedzinski all brought up concerns over traffic safety at the intersection.

Chris Longmore, attorney for the applicant, PTV 1155, LLC and Penntex Ventures, LLC, argued that the development met all of the requirements of the zoning ordinance and that concerns over traffic safety were sincere but not realistic.

He said arguments against the proliferation of Dollar Generals were also specious.

“The ones that have come here are very successful,” Longmore said. “They [residents] use it because of that because they like that model; it’s local and people can come and pick up necessities.”

He even argued that local people who use it would not contribute to traffic congestion elsewhere to buy necessities.

The intersection of Route 235 and North Sandgates Road operated at a level of service “A,” Longmore said, relaying traffic data of average daily trips of 23,460 vehicles, down from 2015.

This is the highest level of service for an intersection.

Residents strongly disagreed.

“I don’t have any fancy surveys,” said Jeffrey Yount, who lives on North Sandgates Road. “But I do have 40 years of experience of living there.

“The traffic there is horrible.”

Delahay said she had to balance the community’s safety against the legalities of the process.

“This does meet site plan [requirements] exactly as it’s supposed to be,” she said. “Our job is also to listen to the community.”

Miedzinski was blunt in his objections to the project.

“It’s not going to promote the health, welfare and the safety of the general public,” Miedzinski said. “There’s going to be people seriously hurt because of this.

“I know all these people; there’s no way I’m going to vote for this.”

Appeals board chair Daniel Ichniowski said he believed the traffic data presented.

“From my experience these traffic studies are accurate and they do predict what’s going to happen,” said Ichniowski. “If anything goes there [on the proposed site] that will increase the risk of an accident.

“I have a hard time telling a man he can’t develop there because there may be a traffic accident.”

Bradley said the level of service at the intersection did not mean it was safe.

“I’ve lived across from ‘A’-level intersections that had horrible accidents,” said Bradley.

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Brewster: Omicron Variant A Concern

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The county's health officer warned elected leaders this week that the Omicron variant of COVID-19 appears to be more infectious than the recent Delta variant that has driven much of the increase in cases in Maryland and the nation.

Dr. Meena Brewster said that there were a large number of mutations of the virus that came with this variant which raised questions about whether it would be more resistant to vaccines or natural immunity.

There were also questions, she said, regarding how contagious the Omicron variant was and how severe its symptoms were.

Laboratory tests seemed to show that antibodies were not responding as effectively to Omicron as other variations of the virus, including Delta.

"That's concerning," Brewster said.

Current studies on the relatively new variant show that vaccines are only 30 to 40 percent effective against Omicron months after they have been administered.

That percentage rises to 70 to 80 percent if a booster is added, she said.

She said people who were infected with COVID-19 then vaccinated or vaccinated with a breakthrough case are showing strong immune response to Omicron.

Brewster said the latest data on the COVID-19 pandemic was about a week old.

"State-wide the health department has been dealing with an IT security issue that has compromised our ability to gather and report covid related data," she told The Commissioners of St. Mary's



Dr. Meena Brewster

County. "All the data we rely on for COVID metrics is tied into the state's data base."

The information technology departments of both the county school system and county government have worked to assist the health department during its technical problems.

"We're doing a lot of telephone [work]," Brewster said.

She said the increase in cases in the past week came after an encouraging time of reduction.

"We were enjoying a decline in cases for several weeks, it was very heartening," Brewster said.

There were 167 new cases in St. Mary's according to the latest data.

Hospitalizations on the rise too with more expected after the winter holidays, Brewster said.

So far 175 St. Mary's residents have died since the beginning of the pandemic; since late October there have been 30 or 40 fatalities in the county, Brewster said.

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Commissioners Accept New District Map



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

After months of debate — sometimes highly contentious — and critical citizen input, the Commissioners of St. Mary's County unanimously accepted a new local election district map.

The new map keeps communities such as Lexington Park and Great Mills together in District 4, the smallest and most populous district, but that move comes at the expense of District 1, which comprises the vast southern portion of the county.

Lexington Park and Great Mills comprise a large, bulbous salient that projects southward, cutting District 1 in two with only a small convergence at the head of the St. Mary's River.

In the new map, District 1 touches both District 4 and District 2.

Commissioner Eric Colvin commented that while his district may be as compact as possible — containing just over 28,000 people to roughly match the others — it did not appear to be contiguous.

Deputy County Attorney John Houser said Maryland law, influenced in part by its close proximity to water, gave allowance for such issues in redistricting.

"If it's separated by a body of water, it is legally contiguous," said Houser. "It does fit the legal definition of contiguous."

Commissioner John O'Connor said the new local map bore some resemblance to the congressional map state Democrats just passed on party line votes over the citizen-drawn maps of a bipartisan commission set up by Gov. Larry Hogan.

"I can't help but see the striking similarities with how the 5th Congressional District cuts through the 4th Congressional District," O'Connor said.

The chair of the redistricting commission, Rich Johnson, said the work of the board followed the population numbers of the 2020 Census and the requirement that each district be within 10 percent of the equal population target.

"All we looked at was population," Johnson said. "It was not intentional." Johnson said.

District 2 reduced in overall landmass as well, but that was due to an increase in its population, while District 3's landmass extended further south to take communities such as Helen and Morganza.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

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Rising Cost of Agricultural Facility Questioned

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Two years ago, the county received an award from the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Council (SMADC) for \$1 million to build a new regional agricultural center (RAC) on a 7.4-acre piece of county land next to a north county elementary school.

Construction has still not begun, while the county entered into a new agreement with SMADC this week to push that process forward.

But Commissioner Mike Hewitt questioned the return on investment the county would get from the facility as the price tag was now approaching more than \$4.7 million.

"This thing's almost up to \$5 million," Hewitt said. "The projection is \$569 per square foot.

"Some people might think that's high; I think it's really high."

Public works chief John Deatrick said that the building's expense was due in part to the requirement that many of its spaces had to be refrigerated, sometimes to the point of freezing, for meat preservation.

"Much work has been done," said Chris Kaselemis, director of the Department of Economic Development. "Most of it has been

on refining the cost estimate of the project, ensuring full project funding is identified."

In November the commissioners allocated an additional \$1.5 million to the project to close funding gaps from taxpayer funds.

The RAC is to be no less than 8,300 square feet in size and must be open to use by all farmers in the Southern Maryland region.

One of its key amenities is the addition of a meat processing activity there to support an Amish slaughter house that provides local meats.

According to county documents, the new agreement with SMADC could be terminated if the cost of the project exceeds the \$4.7 million; the county would then have to return \$900,000 of the \$1 million grant award to SMADC, which is a part of the Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland.

"We don't anticipate that happening, though," Kaselemis said, adding the RAC should be completed no later than late 2023.

SMADC would also provide another \$1.5 million in grants towards the construction of the project, Kaselemis said.

So far the county's actual expenditures on the project are less than \$50,000.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Sobriety Checkpoint on Friday, Dec. 17

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office, in cooperation with the Charles County Sheriff's Office, will be conducting a roadside sobriety checkpoint on Friday evening, Dec. 17, 2021.

The sobriety checkpoint will take place on Point Lookout Road/Route 5 near the Charles and St. Mary's county line where law enforcement officers will evaluate drivers for signs of alcohol or drug impairment.

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office recognizes that roadside sobriety checkpoints are highly visible and efficient tools used in

efforts to combat impaired driving. Advance notification of sobriety checkpoints gives motorists the opportunity to make informed decisions by preventing and deterring impaired driving. Advance notifications are also required by law for the validity of a sobriety checkpoint.

Sheriff Tim Cameron wishes the residents of St. Mary's County a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and reminds motorists to drive sober, no matter what the occasion, no matter what time of year.

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County Administrator to Take Leave of Absence

Commissioner President Randy Guy has announced that St. Mary's County Government County Administrator, Dr. Rebecca Bolton Bridgett, will be taking an immediate leave of absence for medical care.

In the interim, Catherine Pratson, Director, Human Resources, and David Weiskopf, County Attorney, will assume the full duties and responsibilities of the County Administrator position.

Commissioner President Randy Guy said. "The Commissioners and I want to express our best wishes for Dr. Bridgett, and we look forward to her return to health. In the interim, I know that Mrs. Pratson and Mr. Weiskopf will ensure that county government operations are unaffected, and our citizens continue to receive excellent service."

For more information, please contact the Public Information Office at 301-475-4200, ext. 1342.



Dr. Rebecca Bolton Bridgett

Workforce Development Grant Announced

Recovery Resources for Residents and Businesses

Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland (TCCSMD) announces the launch of a workforce development grant provided by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) in support of residents and businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Designed to mitigate the pandemic's economic impact on families and businesses, the grant will provide incentivized training, credentialing, and employment opportunities in Charles, Calvert, and St. Mary's counties.

The grant will also help defray the costs of common employment barriers, such as childcare, transportation, and uniforms, among other eligible expenses.

Ruthy Davis, Regional Workforce & Business Development Director for TCCSMD, emphasizes the grant's potential impact on the region's economic recovery. "COVID-19 led many industries to reduce capacity, leaving workers jobless or in need of retraining. This targeted funding will help residents gain new skills and remove some of the obstacles to achieving their goals. It's a win-win for our residents and the businesses that benefit from their talents."

The workforce development grant has the potential to immediately aid businesses seeking a qualified and dependable talent pool. As job seekers receive training and

credentialing, their employment and salary prospects improve substantially. These new skill sets, in turn, benefit businesses seeking talent for open positions.

The TCCSMD Workforce Division, which oversees the Southern Maryland JobSource, welcomes the federal funding boost. To support the anticipated increase in job seeker assistance, TCCSMD hired additional staff to deliver resources and manage program funding.

Ashley Raley, Workforce Operations Manager for TCCSMD, sees the funds as front-line relief. "Many people are hurting financially and are in need of assistance to get back on their feet. We hope that many residents will take advantage of new training opportunities to advance their employability."

Eligibility for grant resources will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Businesses and individuals interested in learning about the ARPA workforce development grant and its potential to shape Southern Maryland's recovery may visit www.somdworkforceboard.org or contact the following:

Businesses should contact BESTeam@tccsmd.org.

Job Seekers should contact ARPAteam@tccsmd.org.

Press Release from TCCSMD.



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Southern Maryland Loses a Legend: Bernie Fowler Passes Away

By Dick Myers
Editor

He was proud of being a World War II veteran, having served in the Navy and awarded the Asiatic-Pacific, American Theatre, and Victory medals.

He came home to Calvert County and became a businessman.

Soon he entered a long career as a public servant.

His list of volunteer activities would go on for pages.

He was a deeply religious man.

He was a family man, completely devoted to his wife of 69 years.

Bernie Fowler, a Calvert County legend who died Dec. 12 at the age of 97 at his home at Asbury-Solomons, will probably have his lasting legacy firmly embodied in his love of the Patuxent River.

Enter the name Bernie Fowler in your computer search engine and a long Wikipedia entry will pop up, "He was a Calvert County Commissioner from 1970 to 1982, and served in the Maryland Senate between 1983 and 1994. Fowler is best known for his advocacy for the cleanup of the Patuxent River, the largest river to be found entirely within the State of Maryland.

"Prior to being elected to public office, Fowler was an avid fisherman who would wade into the Patuxent River and make note of the clarity of the water. After noticing the clarity of the water slowly diminishing, Fowler chose to run for Calvert County Commissioner in 1970 and make the health of the Patuxent River a key issue. After serving over a decade as county commissioner, Fowler was elected to the Maryland Senate, where he remained until his retirement from public office in the mid-1990s.

"Fowler, as an early-1970s Calvert County Commissioner, led the way in a lawsuit filed by down-river Charles, Calvert and St. Mary's counties against upriver counties. The lawsuit forced the state, the upriver counties, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to enact pollution control measures. The 1985 total of 200,000 tons of sediment reaching the Chesapeake Bay annually was reduced to 130,000 by 2004. The Patuxent River is a rarity among Chesapeake watersheds in that most of its harmful phosphorus and nitrogen nutrient overloads come from its ever-increasing areas of urban runoff, and less from its other two largest contributors, point sources (industrial,



Berine Fowler and his wife Betty

sewage, etc.) and the declining agricultural areas.

"Each June at Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum, Fowler held a 'wade-in' into the Patuxent River, where he and others would walk into the waters of the Patuxent River until their feet were no longer visible. The event was previously held at Broomes Island but was institutionalized at JPPM in 2010. Fowler did the annual tradition in order to bring awareness to the water clarity levels of the Patuxent River. In recent years, the 'wade-in' has become a noteworthy public event, with numerous public officials joining Fowler in the walk, including Maryland Governors Martin O'Malley and Robert Ehrlich, Democratic Party congressional majority leader Steny Hoyer and U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski. The 'wade-in' has been an annual tradition since 1988.

Rep. Steny Hoyer (D: 5th District) regularly attended the wade-in and considered Fowler to be a friend. He said of Bernie's passing: "Bernie Fowler exemplified public service at its best and lived a life of extraordinary contribution. His unflinching dedication to the people of Calvert County and to the health and sustainability of the Patuxent River and Chesapeake Bay were legendary.



Berine Fowler at the Patuxent River Wade-In

The Patuxent and Chesapeake are cleaner and clearer because he had the courage to stand up to polluters and organized Marylanders to take action for conservation. Bernie was a man I greatly admired, a mentor to me and so many others, and I was proud to call a dear, dear friend for decades.

"I was honored to wade into the Patuxent with him every year and to help him measure our progress in ensuring that future generations could truly treasure the Chesapeake and its watershed.

"I will miss Bernie's wisdom and wit, his kind nature, and his warm and engaging spirit; he exemplified Lincoln's admonition of 'malice toward none and charity for all.' Bernie was a man of great faith and a fervent American patriot.

Leonardtown attorney J. Ernest

"Ernie" Bell, II, served alongside him for those three terms. "He was a good, decent person, even handed, very fair minded and a very principled person. I never, in the 12 years that we were together, ever questioned his integrity or his judgment. He was a very decent person. And one willing to always listen to the other person's side of the story. He wasn't one to be quick to judgment."

Bell said Fowler cared as much about St. Mary's as he did his own Calvert County.

"He was very much part of the community," Bell said. "I was really involved sports. I had a softball team, and he was one of the players on our team. He was there for every game."

"He was just such a down-to-earth guy."

dickmyers@countytimes.net



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Mike's Bike's Turkey Dinner Drive Feeds Hundreds

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The annual holiday turkey dinner drive originated by Mike Schwartz, owner of Mike's Bikes on Great Mills Road, gave away about 1,000 turkeys plus potatoes and vegetables to needy local families Dec. 13 and Dec. 14, and he says he wants to do more.

"I'm trying to get 100 more so we can hand out a total of 1,100," Schwartz told The County Times.

This is the second year that Schwartz, and a small army of volunteers, partnered with Tommy McKay, President of McKay's

Food Stores, to make the drive a success.

"He's done great," Schwartz said. "He delivers it, and he gives it to us at cost."

Before his partnership with the locally-owned McKay's Food Stores, Schwartz had worked with Wal-Mart to fulfill turkey orders but they stopped the relationship.

They offered Schwartz gift cards but that didn't fit his mission.

Commissioner Todd Morgan also helped raise money for the drive, much of it coming from individual residents and larger donors such as Bubby Knott owner

of Great Mills Trading Post.

He also helped dole out the food at Great Mills High School this week.

"I really enjoy doing this," Morgan said. "He [Schwartz] started out with 11 turkeys [in 1983] and now he's up to 1,000."

"This is a great thing for the community and it brings people together."

As for the lack of corporate help, Morgan said: "Gift cards don't fill people's bellies."

"I would deliver turkeys to families who work at Wal-Mart who needed this," Schwartz said.

He said he would continue with the food drive, which he said truly depended on volunteers, like the congregation of Zion United Methodist Church in the South Hampton community of Lexington Park.

"The people in St. Mary's County, when they are asked they will step up and they stepped up really well," Schwartz said. "The volunteers... they do the whole thing, I just run around and beg for money."

guyleonard@countytimes.net



Greenwell Foundation Hosts Holiday Horse Open House

They came for Pony Rides, they came to kiss a pony in a Santa hat, they came to frolic with the goats and to tie-die a Greenwell T-shirt. They came to eat great food, to take their family's Holiday photo with Onyx in front of the tree. They came to laugh and celebrate being together once again -- carefully and safely.

They came because -- happily -- they could!

Over 600 of our favorite friends and neighbors came to the Greenwell Foundation Barn at Greenwell State Park for our 4th annual Holiday Horse Open House last Saturday. Now the biggest fundraiser on the Greenwell Foundation calendar, "...proceeds from the event, and from gifts given by our generous Friends of the Holiday Horse, are used for the care and feeding of our Hero Herd of Horses and Ponies", Explained Jolanda Campbell, Greenwell's Executive Director. "It costs over \$40,000 to support our animals each year, so this is a big help!"

The Holiday Horse Open House comes on the heels of Greenwell's Drive Thru Holiday Horse Event, where we hosted our friends with disabilities, and those medically at-risk. Guests arrived last Thursday by car, and by bus, and spent a wonderful afternoon with Greenwell's staff, horses and ponies dressed for the season.

"We started this event last year when we couldn't host the Holiday



Greenwell Foundation Board member Usha Iawara with Onyx at the Holiday Horse Open House on December 4th.

Horse Open House at the Barn," said Board Member Frannie Bostich, "and it was so successful, we realized that we needed to continue it for our many neighbors and friends who weren't able to attend the larger event Saturday."

Greenwell Foundation designs and implements outdoor, nature connection, therapeutic programming for children and adults with and without disabilities at Greenwell State Park in Hollywood, MD. Learn more about our programs and register for activities at www.greenwellfoundation.org

Press Release from Greenwell Foundation.



Participants at Greenwell Foundation's Drive Thru Holiday Horse Event held December 2nd.

Local REALTORS® Donate Gifts to Seniors



SMAR Community Relations members meet with some of the senior center representatives to distribute gifts. PICTURED FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Kait Brown, Cassidy Johnson, Allyson Krenke, Dawn Orbits, David Morgan, Linda Gregory, Esmerelda Cline, Courtney Curtis, Patrick Hilwig, Mindy Sowell, David Reifsnnyder, Kelly Raley, Annette Matthews, Danielle LeDoux, Connie Gunn, Taylor Hines, Tanya Redding

After months of preparation, the Southern Maryland Association of REALTORS® (SMAR) packed up hundreds of gifts that were collected as part of their "Senior Santa" program and went off to spread some holiday cheer to local seniors.

Now entering its 7th year, the SMAR Senior Santa program was designed to collect Christmas presents for people living locally in nursing homes and assisted living facilities who may not see their family members over the holiday season. The gifts were all collected by the SMAR Cares Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that serves as the charitable giving arm of SMAR.

This year, SMAR Cares was tasked with collecting gifts for 487 seniors, over 2.5 times more than they collected in 2020. The gift requests ranged from fuzzy socks and candy to printers and even computers. But that was still no problem for our community.

Within three weeks, SMAR Cares had gotten all 487 seniors adopted. The Foundation is estimating that roughly 40 percent of adoptions that were made this year were made by community members not affiliated with SMAR.

"We were in awe of the community support for this year's program," SMAR Cares Director Connie Gunn explained. "Many local businesses helped make this happen with monetary donations, with some adopting over 10 seniors themselves and having employees go out and shop for them. We even had one active-duty military member up at Andrews Air Force Base who heard about our program on Facebook and got her whole unit to participate with donations. It really has been amazing to see."

In addition to the gifts, several other people made monetary dona-

tions which allowed SMAR to increase the number of gifts distributed. Well over 550 gift bags were collected, at an estimated value of \$24,910.

"This was a massive success for our organization, but an even greater success for Southern Maryland," SMAR Past President and the chairwoman of SMAR Cares Tanya Redding said. "Our members, affiliates, and even community members with no ties to our organization stepped up to help make this a great Christmas for all these seniors. We exceeded our goals and set another record for us to break next year."

The facilities that gifts were collected for included: The Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, St. Mary's Nursing Center, Chesapeake Shores, Solomons Nursing Home, Calvert County Nursing Home, Sage Point, Fenwick Landing, Genesis Waldorf, Complete Care at La Plata, Assisted Living at Hawkins Gate, The Hermitage at Solomons, and The Charleston Senior Community.

Simultaneously to the Senior Santa program, SMAR Cares collected over 150 coats and roughly 1,200 pounds of nonperishable food items for food banks and other various organizations around southern Maryland. Next on the schedule, The Foundation will be hosting a casino night fundraiser in March of 2022 that will benefit SMAR Cares.

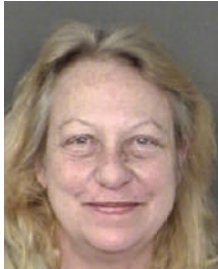
"SMAR members give back to the communities they serve professionally and in which they live," SMAR President Gregg G. Kantak said. "From annual food drives to coat drives to the immensely successful Senior Santa, SMAR members serve as a shining example of the power of giving and sharing."

Press Release from SMAR

ST. MARY'S COUNTY SHERIFF'S CRIME REPORT

Drug Arrest

On November 24, 2021, members of the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Vice Narcotics Unit, served a search and seizure warrant in the 21000 block of Great Mills Road in Great Mills. **Cassandra NMN Bechas**, age 59 of Great Mills was located and found in possession of suspected alprazolam, clonazepam, buprenorphine, oxycodone, and marijuana.



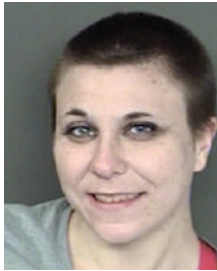
Cassandra Bechas

Located in Bechas' residence was a digital scale containing suspected cocaine residue and packaged marijuana. Bechas was charged with CDS: Possession-With Intent to Distribute, CDS: Production Equipment, CDS: Possession-Not Marijuana and CDS: Possession-Marijuana.

Drug Arrest

On December 3, 2021, Dep. Kirscht was in the 22800 block of Three Notch Road in California, assisting with a warrant service. Contact was made with **Hannah Rose Whitman**, age 23 of Leonardtown. Whitman was a passenger in a vehicle, and located on the

passenger seat was a suspected CDS smoking device containing suspected cocaine residue. A search of the vehicle yielded a plastic baggie containing suspected cocaine as well as two additional suspected CDS smoking devices containing residue. Whitman was arrested and charged with CDS: Possession-Not Marijuana and Possession of Paraphernalia.



Hannah Whitman

Peace Order Violation
On December 9, 2021, Dep. Gardiner responded to the 23700 block of Ruth's Way in Hollywood, for the reported peace order violation. Investigation determined **James Russell MacDonald**, age 52 of Hollywood, violated a valid court order by contacting and yelling at the victim. MacDonald was arrested and charged with Peace Order/Fail to Comply.



James MacDonald

Editor's Note:

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

Home Antigen COVID-19 Test Kits Now Available

The St. Mary's County Health Department (SMCHD) has partnered with the St. Mary's County Library to distribute free BinaxNOW Home Antigen COVID-19 test kits to community members, while supplies last. Each kit includes two tests and instructions for managing results. The three county libraries will be a distribution point in order to improve access to rapid testing in the community.

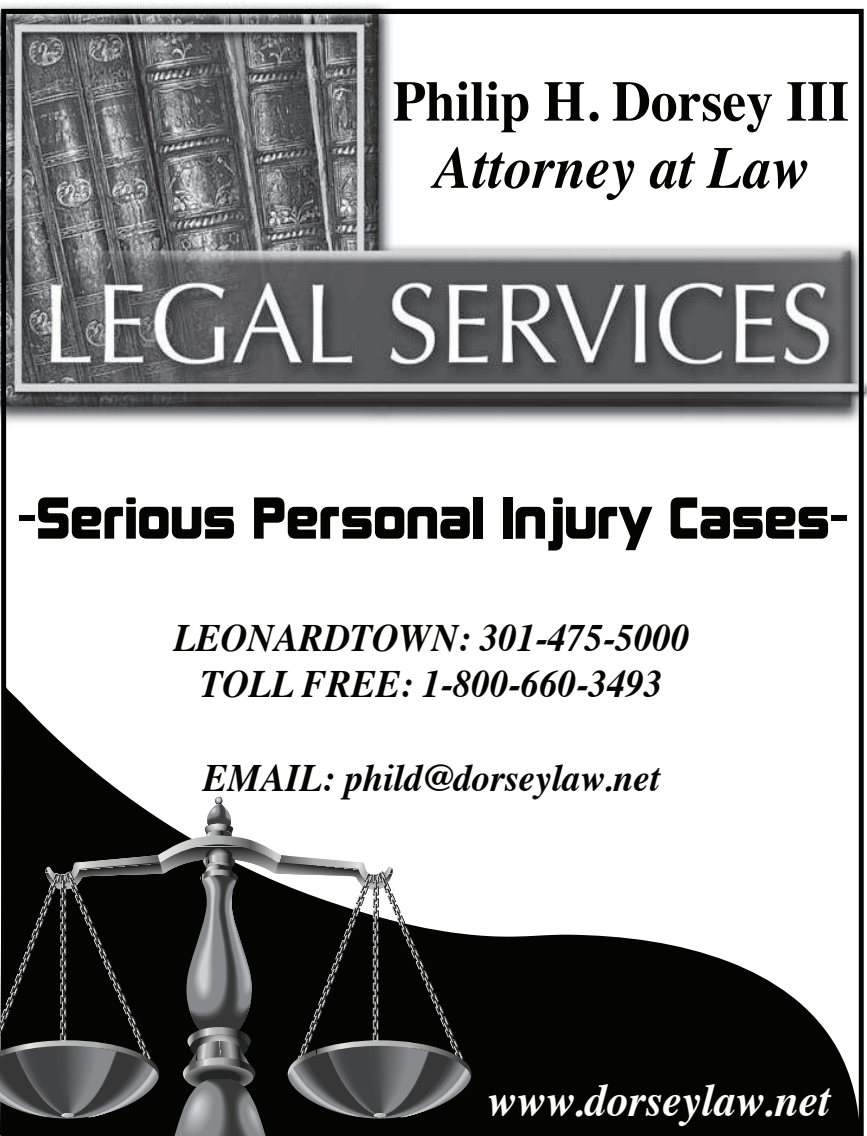
Community members may call to request BinaxNOW Home Antigen test kits via curbside or drive-thru pick up at these St. Mary's County Library locations:

- Leonardtown Library
23630 Hayden Farm Lane
Drive-thru pick-up available
(301) 475-2846
- Charlotte Hall Library
37600 New Market Road
Curbside pick-up available
(301) 884-2211
- Lexington Park Library
21677 FDR Blvd.
Curbside pick-up available
(301) 863-8188

"With the continuing delta variant surge, emergence of the new omicron variant, and the indoor gatherings of the holiday season we expect COVID-19 spread will increase here locally in the weeks ahead," said Dr. Meena Brewster, St. Mary's County Health Officer. "Vaccination and easy access to testing are critical to mitigating this spread and protecting our community. Our health department team is grateful for the partnership with St. Mary's County Library to get test kits into the hands of our community members - quickly and for free."

"Thank you to the State of Maryland, our Health Department, and Dr. Brewster and her great team for the opportunity to serve county residents," said Michael Blackwell, St. Mary's County Library Director. "We hope the kits will help mitigate the virus spread and ensure a safer holiday and 2022 for all."

For more information on local COVID-19 testing, please visit smchd.org/covid-19-testing.



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State Redistricting Coming to Next General Assembly

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

State Democrats have pushed through their congressional redistricting maps on party line votes — drawn by their own party — in a legislative special session which Gov. Larry Hogan quickly vetoed, calling them an embarrassment and a prime example of gerrymandering.

The Democrats just has quickly overrode Hogan's veto, but lawmakers on the other side of the aisle say the fight is not over.

Del. Matt Morgan (R-Dist. 29A) believed the latest redistricting move by Democrats would bring down a court challenge and he predicted that when it came to redistricting state senate and delegate districts the outcome would be much the same.

He believed the Democrats would draw a map that benefited them — kept their supermajority in the state legislature — despite whatever maps Hogan's bipartisan citizens redistricting committee would come up with.

"I'd look for it to pass mid-February," Morgan said. "They're slow walking this because of fear of court challenges."

"Absolutely I think there's going to be a lawsuit over the congressional maps."

Those maps take MD District 1, currently represented by Republican Andy Harris, and expands it to draw in many more Democrats.

Harris is currently the only Republican in the Maryland delegation to congress.

Morgan said the map was designed to eventually eliminate him in favor of a Democrat as well.

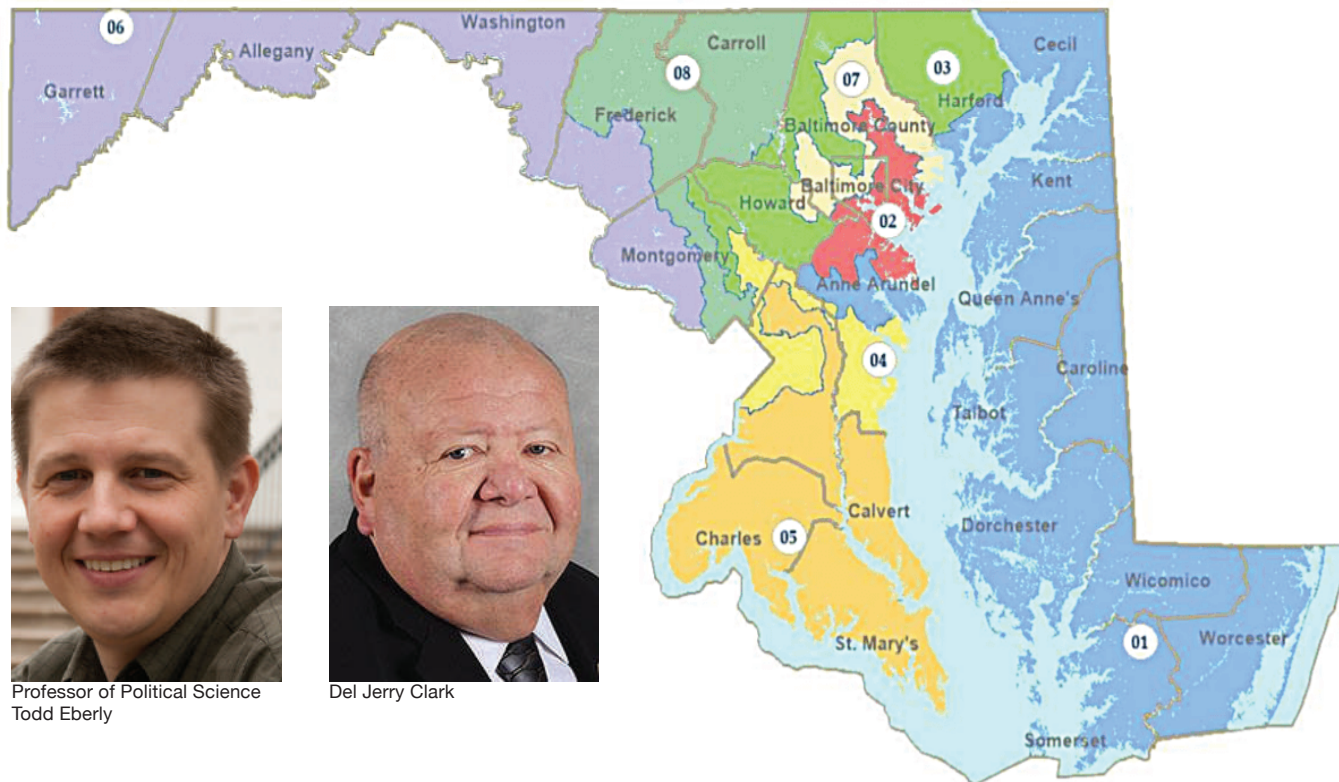
"In a lean year [for GOP votes] that could mean eight to zero in favor of Democrats [in the congressional delegation]," Morgan said. "But it's not reflective of the state."

While it would bolster Democrats' power in Congress, Morgan said it could harm Maryland, and Southern Maryland, if the state suddenly found itself in the minority party if Republicans took control in 2022.

"It could lead to cutting our political influence off," Morgan said.

Todd Eberly, professor of political science at St. Mary's College of Maryland, disagreed.

He believed the presence of Patuxent River Naval Air Station effectively insulated the region from federal funding cuts.



Professor of Political Science
Todd Eberly



Del. Jerry Clark

"I've never seen where it made a difference of federal funds flowing to Southern Maryland in a Democrat or Republican congress," Eberly said, adding that the position of St. Mary's and Calvert counties as peninsulas, as well as their strong GOP majorities, also helped insulate them from Democrat schemes for redistricting.

"Maryland's state level districts are every bit as gerrymandered as the congressional ones," Eberly said. "But it would take some creative and likely impossible lines being drawn to change the political landscape in Southern Maryland."

"It's difficult to draw lines to dilute GOP majority here."

The maps presented by Hogan's redistricting commission, eventually, left St. Mary's County whole, while expanding Morgan's district up into a significant portion of southern Charles County.

It also severed the link between St. Mary's and Calvert by effectively doing away with District 29C's small portion across the Patuxent River.

If this kind of map were passed by the General Assembly, or a tactic such as this used by Democrats in their own map drawing, it would make things more complicated for delegates in Morgan's position.

"Not only do they draw the maps, they also pick the election type," Morgan said, noting that he runs in a single-candidate district

in St. Mary's, but the top three vote getters in Charles County divide up that district as delegates.

This could have the effect of diluting certain delegates influence as well.

But in reality, Morgan said the Democrats will be in complete control at the state-level redistricting as they were in the congressional.

"The truth is Hogan's maps are DOA," Morgan said. "We'll be taking up Democrat drawn maps."

"And I guess we'll be in court." "And there will be a lawsuit," Morgan continued. "I can almost guarantee it."

Eberly said it was difficult to speculate about the nature of state-level redistricting but the congressional-level tactics used by Democrats here mirrored those of Republicans in states such as Texas, which have also been accused of gerrymandering.

"They [Democrats] weren't going to do anything to endanger losing so much as one seat," Eberly said. "We all knew where this was going."

Del. Jerry Clark (R: 29-C, Calvert and St. Mary's) called the Democratic mapmaking a "power grab."

Clark said when the legislators convened for the special session last week the outcome was a foregone conclusion with his party having little say in the matter.

Clark said the only hope is for a court challenge "to stop this

gerrymandering."

The congressional map drawn by the legislature doesn't change the status quo in Southern Maryland, with all three counties remaining intact in the 5th Congressional District along with parts of Prince George's, now represented by House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, who this week filed for re-election.

The committee formed by Gov. Hogan has issued advisory redistricting maps that created a new senatorial district which includes all of Calvert and lower Anne Arundel. The House districts draw includes one that has both Clark and Del. Mark Fisher in it. That could open the way for Fisher to run for that new Senate district.

However, the Democrats may want to block another Republican Senate seat. Current District 27 Senator Michael Jackson, a Democrat, has said he would like to retain a district that includes parts of Calvert along with his home county of Prince George's.

Jackson told The County Times that he does not believe the governor's committee's plan with survive legislative muster.

Eberly said gerrymandering, though technically illegal, was a continual blight on the political system.

"It's wrong," Eberly said. "It's damaging to democracy."

guyleonard@countytimes.net
Editor Dick Myers contributed to this story.

FINANCIAL FOCUS

Don't Avoid 'Taboo' Topics With Older Parents

If your parents are getting close to retirement age, or are already retired, it may be time to talk with them about financial and aging issues, some of which may involve difficult conversations. For the sake of everyone in your family, don't avoid these "taboo" topics.

You'll need to be careful about approaching these subjects with your parents. Mention ahead of time that you'd like to talk to them about their future plans and reassure them that you want to understand their wishes, so their affairs will be taken care of as they would like.

If your parents are agreeable, choose a location comfortable for them and ask whom they might like to invite (or not invite). Then, think about how to open the conversation, preferably not with what they want to do with their money – this could be interpreted as your seeking information about your inheritance or being skeptical about their financial decisions. Instead, build a broad-based discussion about their vision for their aging years. A series of shorter conversations may allow you to cover topics more comfortably, one by one, rather than trying to solve everything at once.

Try to address these areas:

• Health care

You'll want to learn if your parents have established the appropriate health-related legal documents – a health care power of attorney, which gives someone the authority to make important decisions about their medical care if they become unable to do so themselves, and a living will, which spells out the extraordinary medical treatments they may or may not want.

• Independence

As people age, they may begin to lose their independence. Have your parents considered any op-

tions for long-term care, such as a nursing home stay, or the services of a home health aide? And do they have plans in place? If they plan to receive support from family members, do their expectations match yours?

• Financial goals

Focusing on the personal and financial aspects of the legacy your parents want to leave can be a valuable conversation. Have your parents updated their will or other arrangements, such as a living trust? Have they named a financial power of attorney to make decisions on their behalf if they become incapacitated? Do they have the proper beneficiary designations on their insurance policies and retirement plan accounts? If you can position these issues as being more about your parents' control over their financial destiny, rather than "who will get what," you'll more likely have a productive conversation.

• Last wishes

You'll want to find out if your parents have left instructions in their will about their funerals and last wishes. Express to them that you, or another close family member, should know who is responsible for making sure their wishes are met.

Money, independence and aging can be sensitive topics. Don't think you have to go it alone – you can enlist help from another close family member. Or, if you know your parents are working with a trusted advisor, such as an attorney or financial professional, you could see if they'd be willing to have this person participate in your talks. You might even be able to introduce them to one of your advisors.

In any case, keep talking. These conversations can be challenging, but, if handled correctly, can be of great benefit to your parents and your entire family.

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

Santa's 17th Annual Tour of Hollywood

The Hollywood Vol. Fire Department Santa will be touring our community spreading his Christmas cheer! Santa's Elves have sent Santa's itinerary to the fire house so that we can spread the word to all the fine folks of Hollywood, MD!!

- Friday, December 17th - North and South Sandgates Road.
- Saturday, December 18th - Hollywood Road, Sotterley Road, and Vista Road.

The roads listed above are the main travel roads in the area. We will be visiting most of the larger roads, off the roads listed above. Santa's Tours will begin around 5:00 each evening and will last until approximately 8:00. Listen for our sirens for a heads up! If it rains or snows we will make that night up before Christmas. Please check www.hvfd7.com and Facebook for information if that were to happen. Just a note to parents:



The crews will remain in service each night. This means that if we get a call for service, we will have to respond. But don't worry! We will be back to your area. If you have any questions about please email us at info@hvfd7.com. On behalf of the Hollywood Volunteers, and Santa, we would like to wish you and yours a happy and safe Holiday season!!

Santa Claus is Coming to Town



Santa Claus will be coming to town in your neighborhood soon, complete with fire trucks and ambulances.

Won't the kids be so excited and happy!

- Monday, December 20 Piney Point, Tall Timbers, Landings, St. George's Avenue
- Tuesday, December 21 Portobello, Cherryfield, Boothe Rd

For any questions, please contact pio@sdfvdrs.org

*By Public Information
Officer Michael (Mike) Roberts*

St. Mary's Named a Top Green College

St. Mary's College of Maryland, the National Public Honors College, is one of the nation's most environmentally responsible colleges, according to The Princeton Review®. The education services company features St. Mary's College in its recently-published free resource, The Princeton Review's Guide to Green Colleges: 2022 Edition. The guide can be accessed at www.princetonreview.com/green-guide. The College is also included in The Princeton Review's "Best 387 Colleges" Guide for 2022.

The Guide to Green Colleges is a unique resource debuted in 2010 for students interested in attending colleges with strong commitments to the environment and sustainability. The Princeton Review chose the 420 colleges based on its 2020-21 survey of administrators at 835 colleges concerning their institutions' sustainability-related policies, practices and programs.

According to the guide, "When it comes to going green, St. Mary's College of Maryland is all

about practicing what they preach. Case in point: SMCM derives an impressive 63 percent of its energy consumption from renewable sources. Even better, the college offsets approximately 115 percent of total electricity consumption through Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs)."

St. Mary's College was also recently ranked 6th Best Public Liberal Arts College in U.S. News & World Report, ranked 30 among the top Liberal Arts Colleges in the U.S. by the Washington Monthly College Guide, named a 2022 Hidden Gem by CollegeRaptor.com, and recognized by Niche.com as one of the Best Small Colleges in Maryland.

St. Mary's College of Maryland is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education through 2024-2025. St. Mary's College, designated the Maryland state honors college in 1992, is ranked one of the best public liberal arts schools in the nation by U.S. News & World Report.

Press Release from SMCM.

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Keep your family safe this holiday season



Use no more than three light sets on any one extension cord. Extension cords should be placed against the wall to **avoid tripping hazards**.

Never nail, tack, or stress wiring when hanging lights; keep plugs off the ground away from puddles and snow.

Don't use frayed or damaged electric cords, and never use electric lights on a metallic tree.

Turn off all holiday lights when you go to bed or leave the house.

Use only non-combustible or flame-resistant materials to trim a tree.

In homes with small children and pets, take special care to **avoid sharp or breakable decorations**.

Here are a few simple tips to remember to keep safety in mind.

LIVE TREE: Make sure it always has an **adequate amount of water**, and keep it away from any **heat source**.

ARTIFICIAL TREE: Choose one that is tested and labeled as **fire resistant**. Artificial trees with built-in electrical systems should have the **Underwriters Laboratory (UL) label**.

Make sure the Christmas tree **does not block foot traffic on doorways**.



Avoid using candles; they are a primary cause of house fires during the holidays.

SMECO cares about your safety. Have a safe and fun-filled holiday.



Pet

OF THE WEEK



MEET LUFFY

Greetings, my name is Luffy. Want to have a FURRY PURRY CHRISTMAS this year? I'm a very PLAYFUL KITTEN who's a pawful! My TCAS angels say that I love to play with anything, I'm very OUTGOING and LOVE everyone I meet. I'm also ADVENTUROUS and love to explore. I currently live with other foster kittens and a small dog and it can take me some time to open up to new animals but once I do I'm very playful with them. If you think you might be the right family for me, email animalshelter@charlescountymd.gov to schedule an appointment to meet me ASAP! BE MY MIRACLE AND PLEASE CHOOSE ME! When you choose to adopt from TCAS, you are literally saving a life.

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

**TRI-COUNTY
ANIMAL
SHELTER**

Leadership Program Scholarships Promote Diversity



Left: Patty Stine, Executive Director, Pure Play Every Day
Right: Yonelle Moore Lee, Managing Partner & Owner, Lee Law, LLC

One of the things that makes Leadership Southern Maryland (LSM) special is the way that it brings a diverse group of people together to learn from one another and bring positive change to the community. At LSM, diversity encompasses many things. From ethnicity and gender to where participants live and work, each LSM class is built to represent a wide range of people and their experiences. Class members in both the Executive and Emerging Leaders programs come from all three Southern Maryland counties and represent fields like healthcare, defense, law, and the nonprofit sector.

Recognizing that not all applicants have the backing of a large organization or training budget, LSM offers scholarships to open the door to class members who add value to the cohort and want to make a difference in their community. This year, LSM awarded scholarships to two deserving recipients: Patty Stine and Yonelle Moore Lee.

Patty Stine is the executive director of a Charles County-based nonprofit, Pure Play Every Day. The organization is devoted to encouraging "self-initiated, unstructured, undirected free play" opportunities for children to promote their problem-solving skills and emotional health. Stine hopes that through enhanced knowledge of the region and relationships established with her LSM classmates, she can accelerate the growth of her nonprofit organization. "I wanted to participate in LSM because I have been a lifelong resident of Southern Maryland and wanted to learn more about my community," she said. "I hope to take away a new understanding of the needs of our community as well as its untapped potential," she added.

Stine explained that being awarded a scholarship was critical in allowing her to participate in the program this year. "As a young entrepreneurial nonprofit, the tuition required to participate would not have been available in our budget for several more years," she said. After only a few sessions, Stine already knows that the LSM experience will help her to grow personally and professionally.

"The 'behind the scenes' tours and candid conversations have been eye-opening," Stine said.

Yonelle Moore Lee is a managing partner and owner of Lee Law, LLC in Waldorf, Maryland. In addition to practicing law, she belongs to several organizations that serve the tri-county area. "I wanted to participate in LSM in order to become better connected in my community," Lee explained. "We have a unique and incredible opportunity in Southern Maryland, and I want to be aware of the resources and community leaders in each of the three counties. I hope to take away a stronger and broader sense of community beyond my own county," she said. Lee was also drawn to the opportunity to collaborate with and learn from other community leaders.

Like Stine, Lee feels the scholarship she received played a key role in allowing her to participate in the Executive Program. "As a small business owner, we typically do not have the same access to training and networking as large businesses and government agencies. Receiving an LSM scholarship helped level the playing field and make the class more affordable," she said. "I appreciate that LSM provides scholarships and makes an effort to include as many people as possible."

LSM's Executive Director Denise Foster explained that the support of LSM graduates and community partners make scholarships like these possible. The end-of-year giving campaign and additional donations that come in with alumni memberships are the primary funding sources for the scholarship fund. "It is essential to offer scholarships to give opportunities to small businesses and nonprofits who may not have the capacity to pay full tuition," Foster explained. "Their representation in the class (and the region) is critical."

Do you want to be a part of the LSM experience? Applications for the Class of 2023 Executive Program open in January. Find out more and learn how you can become an LSM supporter at www.leadershipsomd.org.

Press Release from LSM.

HOME GROWN LOCALLY OWNED
THE COUNTY TIMES

St. Mary's County Times
New Life for an Old House

ALWAYS FREE IN PRINT AND ONLINE



Letters to the Editor

Giving Thanks

To the Editor

On behalf of the Church of the Ascension Food Pantry in Lexington Park, we would like to extend our sincere thanks and gratitude to the numerous individuals and organizations who contributed so much in the months of October, November and December. Whether food donations (canned, dry good, or perishables) or financial contributions, you are making a difference in the lives of so many during these Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons. The thousands of families and individuals who were on the receiving end felt they were not forgotten, and were

most thankful that the community cared about their safety and happiness.

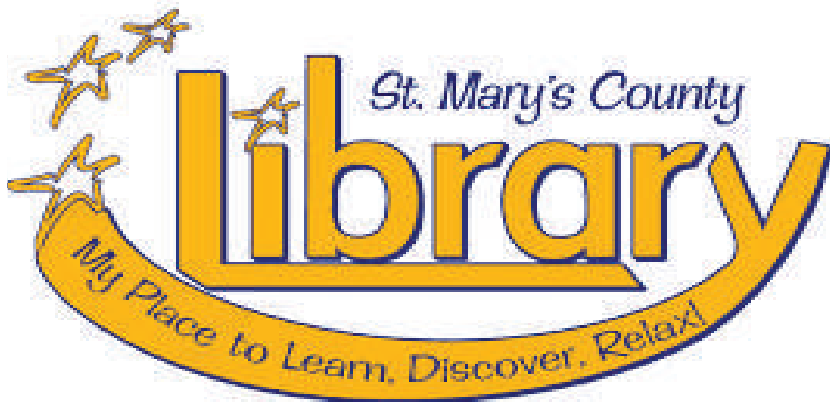
Specifically, the following groups, organizations and families contributed so much to the celebratory symbol of bounty:

- Patuxent Presbyterian Church
- Club Pilates and Row House (Gary and Kathy McKay)
- Lexington Park Sheriff's Department
- Christ Church, Chaptico
- King's Christian Academy
- Boothe's Heating and Air
- Lexington Park United Methodist Church
- Great Mills High School Na-

- tional Honor Society
- Luther Lore
- Scouting for Food Event
- Pack 1203 and Troop 1203 Chartered by VFM Post 2632
- Beta Alpha Beta Zeta Chapter
- Weis Shoppers
- JL Construction
- Machinist Union 354
- Wal Mart
- Giant Food Store
- Chick Fil A

- Wawa
 - Knights of Columbus
 - Chaplains Office, Naval Air Station, Patuxent River
 - Julie Snight
 - Linda Drury
 - Russell's Bar
- Gratefully,
Phyllis Greer, director of the Ascension Food Pantry
The Rev'd Greg Syler, rector of Church of the Ascension

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



St. Mary's County Library Holiday Hours

All three locations of the St. Mary's County Library will be closed on the following dates: Friday, December 24 through Sunday, December 26 in observance of Christmas, and Friday, December 31 through Sunday, January 2, 2022 in observance of New Year. The Libraries will be open normal business hours Monday, December 27 through Thursday, December 30 and again starting on Monday, January 3, 2022.

Thinking Money Exhibit at St. Mary's County Library

The Lexington Park Library is currently hosting a traveling exhibition designed to teach kids and their families about money, thanks to a competitive national grant from the American Library Association (ALA) and the FINRA Investor Education Foundation. "Think-

ing Money for Kids" is a new multimedia experience for children ages 7 to 11, as well as their parents, caregivers and educators. The interactive exhibit uses games, activities and a fun storyline to help children understand what money is, its function in society, money choices, and money values, such as fairness, responsibility and charitableness. Stop by the Lexington Park Library through January 21, 2022 to see this fun and interactive exhibit.

Noon Year's Eve Dance Party with Mr. Jon & Friends: Countdown to the "Noon" Year!

Let's ring in the New Year at Noon with a rocking virtual dance party and countdown celebration on Friday, December 31 from 11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.! Kids' rock band Mr. Jon & Friends will perform live on Zoom. Get out your dancing shoes and most fabulous party outfit, and join us to dance the



old year away! Please register with an email address on www.stmalib.org to receive the Zoom link to join. Optional: pick up a Noon Year's Party craft kit at the Library in advance to make fun party accessories. Kits are available beginning December 27 at all three St. Mary's County Library branches, while supplies last.

Family Sing-Along

Join Ms. Tess and her ukulele on Zoom for a sing-along (and dance-along) of our favorite storytime and classic children's songs (and maybe a few seasonal ditties)! Thursday, December 23 from 10:30 - 11 a.m. Feel free to bring an instrument if you've got one! Please register with an email address on www.stmalib.org to receive the Zoom link and password to join this event.

Childcare Providers' Workshop: Rock & Rhyme with Mr. Jon!

Join musician, puppeteer, and educator Jon Lewis to learn how music and puppets support early literacy, social-emotional skills, and FUN! Saturday, December 18 from 1 - 4:45 p.m. FREE Professional Development Institute for licensed child care providers. Earn 3 Core of Knowledge Hours (1.5 in Child Development, 1.5 in Curriculum). Receive a free CD of learning songs to keep! Offered by St. Mary's County Library. Sponsored by the Early Childhood Advisory Council of St. Mary's County, with grant support from the Maryland State Department of Education. Registration is required on www.stmalib.org. Masks and maintaining physical distancing are required.



PATUXENT RIVER NAVAL AIR STATION

News

Navy's Latest Flight Control Technology Sustains Safety in the Skies

By Elizabeth Fahrner
PMA-265 Communications

Imagine landing a fighter jet at 150 miles per hour on a small runway bobbing in the middle of the ocean – with only one engine. Thanks to the Navy's latest version of the Precision Landing Mode (PLM), landing in this extremely challenging scenario is now much safer and easier.

Latest PLM upgrade allows pilots to land safely in failure conditions

PLM – a capability managed by the F/A-18 & EA-18G Program Office (PMA-265) – brings a revolutionary improvement to aircraft carrier landings. This new flight control technology drastically reduces the number of inputs a pilot must make on final approach to the carrier. With its optimized control laws and tailored displays, PLM eases pilot workload and makes landing much safer and simpler. Additionally, it improves overall recovery time, reduces tanker requirements and streamlines training requirements.

Delivered to the fleet last October, the latest upgrade of PLM

allows pilots to use the technology even under failure conditions. This was not possible with the earlier version released in 2016. FA-18E/F and EA-18G Military Class Desk Cmdr. Luke Davis describes how the newest iteration could be helpful in an emergency like an engine fire.

“During a single-engine approach, PLM helps to provide the pilot with a platform that feels very similar to a dual-engine approach, maximizing climb performance and helping the jet stay in balanced flight,” said Davis. “PLM provides the pilot with a reliable, stable platform to safely recover at the ship or airfield.”

Aside from its enhancements to aircraft landings, PLM has also changed the way the fleet trains. New pilots for the F/A-18 E and F Super Hornet and EA-18G Growler now train with PLM from day one. Additionally, air wings take this capability on carrier qualification deployments, reducing training requirements by up to 50%. PLM enables aircrew to maximize flight time to train for

a diverse and ever-expanding assortment of tactical and strategic missions.

From fiction to the flight line So, how did this game-changing capability go from fiction to the flight line?

Formally called the Maritime Augmented Guidance with Integrated Controls for Carrier Approach and Recovery Precision Enabling Technologies (MAGIC CARPET), engineers at the Naval Air Warfare Center, Aircraft Division developed the business case and concept of the new tool. They worked with the Office of Naval Research to bring this concept to life and prove its feasibility. According to F/A-18 A-D Deputy Program Manager Dave Howe, intense collaboration between stakeholders served as the linchpin for this effort.

“PMA-265, after discussions with the fleet and Air Boss, embraced the development and received funding for the PLM project in 2016. We formed a team of flight control experts and fostered relationships across NAVAIR

[Naval Air Systems Command] and industry enabling the success of the PLM contract,” said Howe.

“Within NAVAIR, [Air Test and Evaluation Squadron] VX-23 pilots along with flight controls engineers were the Navy's bread and butter. We also worked hand-in-hand with our industry partners to tackle acquisition challenges. The ability to reduce training and increase readiness by decreasing aircraft landings took precedence. Together, we remained fleet focused,” he continued.

NAVAIR began fielding the upgraded PLM to the F/A-18E/F and EA-18G fleet in fall of 2020. Howe said hearing how the Navy pilot used the newest PLM to safely land his aircraft motivates him in his daily tasks.

“The warfighters are why we come to work every day. Our teams want the ability to provide more products and solutions that assist in both training and mission execution,” said Howe. “Thinking innovatively and incorporating new technologies are part of our daily work.”



Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Equipment) Airman Recruit David Caruso, left, and Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Equipment) Airman Apprentice Darion Thornton, bow safety's from USS Gerald R. Ford's (CVN 78) air department observe an F/A-18E Super Hornet attached to the "Gladiators" of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 106 launch off Ford's flight deck. VFA-106 is using precision landing mode for the first time for carrier qualifications (CQ). Ford is underway in the Atlantic Ocean conducting CQ. (U.S. Navy photo by Chief Mass Communication Specialist RJ Stratchko)

Tackle Box Fishing Report Let the Sports Betting Begin



By Ken Lamb
Contributing Writer

2021 has been an excellent fishing year for stripers, cobia, spot, perch, spanish mackerel, and speckled trout. Bluefishing was fair, but croaker did not make their usual summer visit to the bay. We are looking forward to 2022 and hope that the blossom of bait fish in late 2021 will entice our summer visitors eager to make their trip into the bay.

The striper season continues in the Potomac river until December 31. Trollers using smaller and mid-sized baits are putting on the heavy weights and doing very well on 20- to 30- inch fish. Smaller umbrellas and tandem rigs are golden for this size striper class. The bite seems to be best on an every-other-day pattern. One day is excellent, the next good. There has not been much bird activity to indicate where the schools of stripers are feeding.

There was a 48 inch striper

caught in the Choptank last week and had its photo posted on the internet. At that time it was the only big fish reported; since then there have been four or five reported in the lower Potomac. We have not seen photo evidence of any of these. There could be a surge of big fish as the season runs out. We will forward the news as it arrives.

Jiggers searching for birds indicating feeding fish in the bay are getting some fun. The striper season is now closed in Maryland waters, but catch and release is allowed.

Crappie are still active in St. Mary's Lake and local ponds. The weather forecast has no freezing temperatures for the ten days, and the high temperatures will be near 60. These are prime conditions for crappie, bass and pickerel. Live minnows will entice all fresh water fish. Fried crappie makes a fine Christmas dinner!



Governor Larry Hogan Dec. 10 visited Live! Casino & Hotel and Horseshoe Casino Baltimore to celebrate the official launch of sports betting in Maryland after placing the first sports bet in state history Dec. 9 at MGM National Harbor. The governor was joined by lottery and gaming officials, elected leaders, and sports legends to mark the occasion.

Canada Goose Season Begins Dec. 17

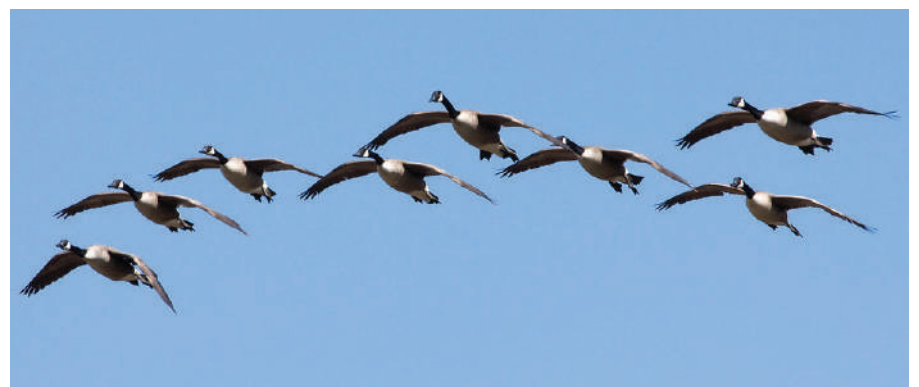


Photo by Larry Hindman, Maryland Department of Natural Resources

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) announced that Maryland's Atlantic Population Canada goose hunting season opens Friday, Dec. 17. The season contains two segments, Dec. 17 through Jan. 1, 2022, and again from Jan. 13 through Jan. 31, 2022.

The daily bag limit is one goose per day in Maryland's AP Canada Goose Hunting Zone. The possession limit for all migratory game birds is three times the daily bag limit. More information on waterfowl seasons, regulations and license requirements, is available on the DNR website.

"Canada geese are one of Maryland's most iconic gamebirds," said Wildlife & Heritage Ser-

vice Director Paul Peditto. "With the decoys out, retrievers at the ready, and birds calling overhead, a Maryland Canada goose hunt is a great way for an experienced hunter to introduce a novice to the excitement and tradition of waterfowl hunting."

Licenses, stamps, and permits may be purchased online by phone at 855-855-3906, at a Department of Natural Resources Service Center or at any one of the more than statewide.

Hunters with questions may contact the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Wildlife and Heritage Service at 410-260-8540.

Press Release from MD DNR.

LOCAL COMMUNITY NEWS
SERVING CALVERT COUNTY

ON NEWSSTANDS EVERY
THURSDAY & ONLINE AT
COUNTYTIMES.NET



The Way We Were...

History and Stories of St Mary's County from long-ago to just yesterday

Stories Within Stories: History as Memory

At this time of year, many of us, myself included, prepare letters to those friends and family members whom we encountered less frequently during the past year. Our letters are about our lives as individuals and families – births, illness, birthdays, marriages, what little Susie or Billy did. All the little events that took us from last Christmas to this.



As I wrote this year's missive, I happened to re-read the Christmas letters we penned each year from 1998. As I read them, I was struck not by the smallness of the events but by their connectedness. Here was the ordering of our life – and that of our children – for twenty-three years. While sadness and struggles that didn't end well were absent from the pages, they nevertheless existed in the shadows as unexplained breaks in the narrative or threads left hanging from one year to the next.

Reading old letters, Christmas or otherwise, produces nostalgia: times and people recalled, forgotten faces and feelings once again made alive. But there is something greater at work than simple nostalgia for bygone days. There is reverence. There is recognition that the past is still alive within us.

There are few honors so noble as to be remembered well. To have our pleasantries recalled, our sins overlooked and ultimately forgiven. Here in St Mary's County with many long-established, extended families, stories collectively perpetuate the sense of this place; they preserve the traditions and character of the County and its dozens

of hamlets carved along its hills, by-ways, and fields.

It struck me that eventually, each story gets enfolded with others. Taken together, they form the story that we call History; History, that is, with a big "H". Those who landed here in 1634 to found Maryland, were, like you and me, individuals each of whose story happened to be woven into the bigger story that is History.

As the motto of the Historical Society suggests, these were ordinary people whose lives we see as extraordinary in that time in this place. Their individual stories – the tales they may have told in their Christmas letters – were probably little different than our own. We treat these people with honor, of course, for we recognize that because of them, we stand here together today.

As I closed this year's letter to distant relatives and friends, a sense of piety overcame me. Not piety in a religious sense but a respect for family; for our lives, the fun and the foibles, and for our legacy, however small, to a larger, permanent story. History.

Stories don't die when we do. They continue. Stories are the flesh of History. Write them down. Share them. Let them last.

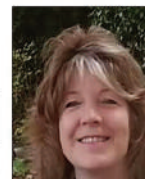
A very Merry Christmas from the St Mary's County Historical Society!



If you would like to learn more about the people, places, and events that shaped St Mary's County, please visit our website – www.stmaryshistory.org

Wanderings of an Aimless Mind

by Shelby Oppermann



THE START OF A LOOOONG WINTER

Oh my, it is going to be a long, fun winter. We will have to get through my husband being home until next April when pool season starts up again for our yearly "togetherness time" and then get through his shoulder surgery and recovery time. Robert is like many men; in that he'll keep thinking that he can do more than he is supposed to do. He does all kinds of crazy things now, like Tuesday, when he said, "Were you looking out the window a few minutes ago?" I replied, "No, I was in the office...and whyyyy?? I did hear a lot of beating and banging though." He says, "Good, I was up on the roof of the shed fixing shingles and clearing it off." After I glared at him, we both agreed that at least if he fell on his shoulder it was getting fixed anyway.

Depending on what time you are reading this on Thursday, he is either starving because of the "do not eat after midnight rule", which is especially bad when your surgery isn't until 5 p.m., or he is getting prepped, or in surgery or recovery. I am hoping everything goes well, which it surely will, and he will be back home snacking and munching like usual leaving his trail of crumbs through the house – thank you April and Kate. And thanks for more indulgent goodies to my old college friend Bethany, who sent us our yearly heavy tin of the most amazing fudge with walnuts and cranberries you will ever eat.

Robert is planning on camping out in the living room quite a bit. We ordered one of those "husband" back rests where he can set his arm on the side rests. This one even has a neck bolster which can be attached. I really (was really hoping) that he was going to be camping out in our bedroom. He also plans to rearrange the coffee table so he can use the pull the leg riser feature up on the couch, which we usually forget about. Normally, the living room is my domain so I can watch what I want on TV, and he watches the TV in the bedroom. This will be an adjustment. But as long as I have my morning TV time while I have my tea and meds for the day then all should be good, because I don't know how many westerns I can take each day. Luckily, I have the workshop and outside time with Mindy. There are 5 TVs in this house for two people, so I can have it on anywhere I am. I can't tell you what any show is about, I just like the background noise. That's a



holdover from childhood when the TV stayed on 24 hours a day, even if it was just the test pattern after all the shows were off for the night.

My husband will work hard, I'm sure, to get his shoulder back to working order quickly like he did with the last shoulder surgery in '04 and his broken ankle in '08 and believe you me I will be helping him along as fast as I can...because the patient always comes first of course, right? He has been like a madman the last two weeks trying to get as much done around the house as possible before the surgery, hopefully he will make it through today without getting hurt before tomorrow. We'll see. He can't stand to stay still.

Robert is a bit antsy right now which makes him prone to teasing and picking at me. Most of the time I just ignore his snarky comments or try to laugh with him. But a few days back we were driving around running our errands with our last stop being McKay's in Charlotte Hall. I said, "When we go to McKay's, don't let forget that I need to get cream and Fig Newtons" (you all know I love my Fig Newtons). I told him, "I have to have my Fig Newtons, so I don't panic and have Fig Newton anxiety." Robert didn't say a word, but suddenly reached across me, put his finger on my right hip and said "Fig", then he pushed his finger into my left hip and said "Newton". Let's just say it's a good thing Robert is having surgery on that right arm now.

To each new day's adventure, Shelby

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

St. Mary's 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 17

Online Gift Basket Raffle for Tiny Toes Kitten Rescue

California, MD
Virtual on social media
7p.m. to 8p.m.

Tiny Toes Kitten Rescue would like to announce our much anticipated 12 Days of Christmas Raffle. The drawing for the raffle will be held live on our Facebook page at 7pm on Friday, December 17th. Every \$5 donation qualifies you for one entry into the raffle to win some awesome prizes. You can view the prizes here on our events page: www.facebook.com/events/956218525245996/?active_tab=discussion

Proceeds from this fundraiser will help us payoff vet bills accumulated during kitten season and support our resident hospice cats.

Tickets available here (a Paypal account is not required)

www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=D7ZJWV9CMPA5S&fbclid=IwAR0tXAIZ1ClIsDKdAm2f7CmMXIfwXXk-GEtQXWT3DBo9h8cgPAC_VP0pXD5

Saturday, Dec 18

Texas Hold'Em @ HVRS Hollywood Vol. Rescue Squad Rescue Lane, Hollywood 7p.m. to 1a.m.

Texas Hold'Em at Hollywood Vol Rescue Squad. \$85.00 buy-in for \$20k in chips. Rounds are 20 minutes each. Doors open at 6 pm, tournament starts at 7pm. BYOB, food and sodas will be available for purchase.

See www.hvrs.org for more info. Chance for 50/50 included in your buy-in. Tables deal their own cards, dealers are not provided.

****PLEASE NOTE THIS EVENT IS AT THE RESCUE SQUAD, NOT THE FIRE HOUSE****

Sunday, Dec 19

Christmas Cantata: "I Hear the Prophet Callin'"

Patuxent Presbyterian Church
23421 Kingston Creek Road
California
9:30a.m. to 10:30a.m.

Every year, the talented Pax Pres Choir presents a Christmas Cantata and this year they will perform "I Hear the Prophet Callin'." All are invited to attend, as we worship God in this deeply moving way through music.

Pepper Choplin calls upon numerous folk styles to celebrate the Christmas story in I Hear the Prophet Callin'; you will hear the distinctive musical flavors of Appalachia, Ireland, Louisiana Cajun, and Early American music. Your soul will be stirred as you hear their timeless rhythms, harmonies, and melodies telling the true story of the Gospel.

Monday, Dec 20

The Liturgy of the Longest Night 22598 Oakley Rd. Avenue 5:30p.m. to 7:30p.m.

For some, Christmas can be a painful, difficult, and lonely time of year. The Liturgy of the Longest Night, also known as "Blue Christmas," is symbolically held on or near the Winter Solstice, coinciding with the Feast Day for St. Thomas the Apostle ("Doubting Thomas"). If you are struggling this season with loss and grief, join us as we together wait in hope and longing for the Eternal Word Made Flesh to be born anew in our weary hearts and world. Please join us at All Saints' Episcopal Church for this special worship service.

Tuesday, Dec 21

Virtual Holiday Bake Sale

Hollywood Volunteer Fire Dept.
24801 Three Notch Rd.
Hollywood
2p.m.

Ladies Auxiliary of the Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department presents our VIRTUAL HOLIDAY BAKE SALE.

Bids on these delicious dessert items begins at 2 PM on December 21 and close on December 22 at 2 PM. All items to start with a minimum bid of \$25.00

Contact Lynn Brady 240-538-2503 with questions or to contribute baked items.

ute baked items.

All proceeds go to the Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department. www.hvfd7.com

Friday Dec 24

AA Alkathon Church of Ascension Great Mills Rd Lexington Park 6p.m. onward

An AA meeting continuous every hour from 6:00pm—6:00pm Christmas Eve thru Christmas Day.

100%
St. Mary's News
In Print & Online

www.countytimes.net

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

Department of Aging & Human Services Closures

The Department of Aging & Human Services, including all three Senior Activity Centers, will be closed on the following dates:

Dec. 21 – DAHS offices closed for Full Staff Meeting

Dec. 23-24 – All county offices closed for Christmas Holiday observation

Dec. 30-31 – All county offices closed for New Years Holiday observation

Video About Ruth Ginsberg

Loffler Senior Activity Center will be showing Ruth: Justice Ginsburg in her Own Words on Thursday, January 13 at 10 a.m. This video tells the improbable story of how Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who couldn't get a job despite graduating first in her law school class in a tie and making Law Review at Harvard and Columbia Law Schools, became an

Associate Justice of the Supreme Court. It also reveals both the public and private sides of a resilient, resourceful woman who has survived the hostility of the profoundly male universe of government and law to become a revered Justice and icon for gender equality and women's rights. Register to see this video by leaving a message on our reservation line: 301-475-4200, ext. 1660 beginning Dec.20 at 8 a.m. Seating is limited to 16. (89 min.) Free

New Bible Study Forming

Loffler Senior Activity Center will begin hosting a new bible study class on Fridays at 10:30 a.m. beginning Jan. 14. This non-denominational, Christian-based scripture group will be led by Phil Benedict. Mr. Benedict is a graduate of Moody Bible Institute in Chicago and Boise State University. He has spent most of his life teaching the Bible in churches as

well as two rehabilitation organizations. The first sessions will focus on the gospel of John. A portion of each meeting will be dedicated to prayer. All are welcome. Reservations are not required. For more information call 301-475-4200, ext. 1658.

Brain.e.ology

Garvey Senior Activity Center will be hosting a FREE seven week program on Tuesdays, Jan. 4-Feb. 15, 2022, at 2 p.m. Losing memory or cognitive ability is a tremendous fear but there is growing evidence that cognitive ability can be maintained or even improved to the end of life! In this workshop you will gain a better understanding of how your brain works and learn tools to incorporate daily brain fitness activities. More than 90% of participants report that they feel like they have more control over future memory loss after taking this program!

Class size is limited so register early. Call 301-475-4200, ext. 1075, to register beginning December 20 at 8 a.m.

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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Vehicle Wraps • Vehicle Lettering • Graphic/Logo Design • Pop Up Tents • Much Much More

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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

Lana Delores Cameron



Lana Delores Cameron, "Tweety Bird", 73, of Leonardtown, MD, passed away on December 4, 2021 in Washington, DC. She was born on June 16, 1948 in Leonardtown, MD, and was the daughter of the late Ruth Elizabeth Montgomery Norris and Joseph Leonard Norris. She is survived by her significant other Herman Covington and his family, her son C.P. Cameron, Jr. (Louise Pritchard) of Leonardtown, MD, two grandchildren Carmen Cameron of North Port, FL and Samantha Pritchard of Leonardtown, MD, along with her siblings Jane Morgan (Donald) of Colton's Point, MD, Hattie Norris (George Bussler) of Colton's Point, MD, Heidi Norris (Partner Tony Farrell) of Colton's Point, MD, Kathy Norris of Drayden, MD, cousins Gwen Taratola, Mac Lawrence, Ida Abell, Tina Graves, and Gail Lawrence, as well as many nieces, nephews, and close friends. She was preceded in death by her siblings Fuzzy Norris of Drayden, MD and Port Organe, FL, Rebecca Norris of Colton's Point, MD, cousins Stevie Lawrence and Brenda Wathen. She was a lifelong St. Mary's County, MD resident and a 1967 graduate of Chopticon High School.

Lana was employed by the U.S. Government for 35 years as an accounting technician, and she also worked part time at Lenny's Restaurant as a waitress/hostess for many years, and most recently was a cook at the Early Bird until the kitchen closed down. Lana was involved with many sports activities, and she played softball many years and was on several bowling leagues. She coached girls softball and boys little league for recreation and parks.

Lana's favorite color was red as were most of her automobiles that she owned and she was known as Tweety Bird by many family members, friends, and coworkers. She enjoyed listening to music of all genres; Elvis was one of her favorite musicians. She also enjoyed watching the game show Wheel of Fortune and was a big Dallas Cowboys fan. Lana loved spending time with her grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and friends. She loved and had many pets over her years of life. Lana spent a lot of her time helping those in need; whether it was family, friends, or strangers, she was always there for them. Lana was known for and enjoyed decorating her yard on St. Andrews Church Road for Christmas and Halloween. Lana enjoyed going on many cruise ship vacations with

her partner of over 20 years Herman Covington. She liked playing bingo at all of the local Fire Departments' Carnivals, putting together puzzles, word finds, crossword puzzles, playing keno, MD lottery scratch offs, and meeting with her close friends for card games.

Lana will be loved and deeply missed by all who knew her. Thank you to everyone for being there for her in her time of need.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Hospice House of St. Mary's County, P.O. Box 625, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

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

Mercedes Caday Aguinaldo



Mercedes Caday Aguinaldo, 77, of Leonardtown, MD passed away on December 2, 2021 at her home with her loving family at her side. She was

born in Laoag, Ilocos Norte, Philippines on January 16, 1944 to the late Liberato P. Caday and Cristeta Ragus. In addition to her parents, she is also preceded in death by her siblings: Eduardo R. Caday, Nieves R. Caday Salvador, and Manuel R. Caday.

On April 9, 1969, Mercedes married the love of her life, Jose Ancheta Aguinaldo in Manila, Philippines. In 1970, Mercedes moved to Chicago, IL awaiting her husband's return from Vietnam. In 1971, Mercedes moved to St. Mary's County, Maryland when her husband was stationed at NAS Patuxent River, MD. In 1980, Mercedes and Joe moved to Leonardtown, MD where they settled and raised their three daughters, Joanna, Merle, and Cholyne. Together they celebrated over 52 wonderful years of marriage. As her husband traveled with the Navy, Mercedes stayed in St. Mary's County with the girls, pursuing her career and passion as a dedicated and caring teacher for the St. Mary's County Board of Education. Her dedication took Mercedes to schools all over St. Mary's. Her outreach brought her into the homes of students, giving away books and other learning tools. Mercedes' career also included real estate agent in the mid-1980s, bringing families to their homes. Mercedes obtained her Masters of Education from McDaniel College in 1993. She retired from the Board of Education in 2007.

Mercedes was an original member of the Filipino American Association of St. Mary's since 1979. Mercedes was a dance instructor and a member

of the Fil-Am dance troupe, which danced all over the Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia in festivals celebrating Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage. Mercedes was a passionate pianist, playing her favorite pieces "Love and Devotion" and "Remember Me".

Mercedes traveled all over the world with her beloved husband, children, and friends. Mercedes made annual trips to the Philippines, and made side trips exploring the Asian countries such as Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, India, Hong Kong, and Japan. She loved her tours that cruised the Mediterranean, Scandinavia, and all the way to Russia. Mercedes' travels led her all over Europe three times. Mercedes explored the United States, touring Hawaii, Alaska and the Northwestern states, up and down the West coast and the Atlantic states. She adored nature's beauty of national parks and canyons, especially the Grand Canyon. But her favorite trips were her religious pilgrimages to Lourdes, France, Fatima, Portugal, and the Holy Land.

Family was of utmost importance and she enjoyed spending as much time as possible with them, especially

her grandchildren. Mercedes would keep her grandchildren during summer breaks for weeks at a time, making memories. Mercedes attended the grandchildren's piano recitals, soccer games, lacrosse games, hockey games, basketball games, and school concerts and events. Mercedes' affection extended to her nieces and nephews as well, always providing a mother's love. Mercedes loved her friends as her family, a bond brought together by a Navy life.

In addition to her beloved husband, Joe, Mercedes is also survived by her daughters: Joanna Hosea (Doug) of Hollywood, MD, Merle Barnett (John) of Annapolis, MD, and Cholyne "Ollie" Hayes (Richard) of Fairfax Station, VA; her grandchildren: Sydney Barnett, Jaeden Hosea, Tyler Barnett, Bryce Barnett, and Natalie Hayes; and extended family and friends.

Family will receive friends on Friday, December 17, 2021 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., with a prayer service by Rev. Ryan Pineda, at Brinsfield Funeral Home, 22955 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, MD. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated by Reverend David Beaubien on Saturday, December 18, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.



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In Remembrance

at St. Aloysius Catholic Church, 22800 Washington Street, Leonardtown, MD 20650. Interment will be held at a later date at Arlington National Cemetery.

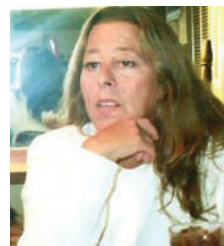
Serving as pallbearers will be her sons-in-law, Larry Douglas Hosea, Jr., John Barnett, and Richard Hayes II, and her grandsons, Jaeden Hosea, Tyler Barnett and Bryce Barnett.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to: Leonardtown Volunteer Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 299, Leonardtown, MD 20650; St. Aloysius Catholic Church, P.O. Box 310, Leonardtown, MD 20650; and Hospice of St. Mary's, P.O. Box 625, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Helena Marie Windsor



Helena Marie Windsor, 66, of Mechanicsville, MD passed away peacefully on December 9, 2021 surrounded by her family. Helena was born August 21, 1955

to the late Bruno J. Salvetti and Mary Jane Sepella in Washington, D.C. She was one of four children.

Helena was employed by the American Correctional Association for thirty years. She was highly regarded by her co-workers and was one of the longest serving employees of the ACA.

Helena and James "Butch" Windsor were married for forty wonderful years until Butch's passing in 2013. They had one amazing son, James "Spanky" Windsor. Her family expanded to include Spanky's wife, Marie, three grandchildren, Nichole Dickerson, Hannah Windsor and Danielle Windsor, and one great grandson, Nolan Ryan Dickerson. Nikki is mar-

ried to Joshua Dickerson and Hannah is set to marry Kyle Conley next year.

Helena was one of the strongest, most courageous and kindest women we've ever known and we were blessed to have her as the head of our family. Her smile would light up a room and immediately brighten your day. It was her kind heart and supporting nature that would make her friends everywhere she went. She was honest, opinionated and had no problem telling anyone like it was.

Helena's family was everything to her. Her son Spanky was her pride and joy and she loved his wife, Marie, as her own. Her granddaughters meant the world to her. She was proud of her granddaughter, Nikki and the things she has accomplished. She fulfilled her wish to take her great grandson on his first trip to Disney World. She was looking forward to her granddaughter Hannah's wedding in October. She could only guess what her granddaughter Danielle's future would hold.

We will never be able to fill the void left behind by Helena, Mom, Nanny. We have peace knowing she is now together forever with the love of her life, Butch, Dad, PawPaw, and they will be watching over us.

Helena is survived by her son James "Spanky" Windsor; daughter-in-law Marie Windsor; sister Angel Salvetti; sister-in-law Jeanie Windsor; brother-in-laws- Dennis Windsor and Larry Windsor; beloved granddaughters Nichole Dickerson (Joshua); Hannah Windsor (fiancé Kyle Conley); granddaughter Danielle Windsor; and great grandson Nolan Ryan Dickerson. She is preceded in death by her husband James "Butch" Windsor; parents Bruno Salvetti and Mary Jane Sepella; brothers Mike Salvetti and Mark Salvetti.

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

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

John James Kilroy, Jr



John James Kilroy, Jr, 65, of Mechanicsville, MD passed away on Monday, December 6, 2021, at UM Charles Regional Medical Center in LaPlata, MD. He

was born on March 18, 1956 in Flintstone, MD to Norma Jean Moyer and the late John James Kilroy, Sr.

Growing up in Flintstone, John helped with the local towing business. There, his grandfather nicknamed him Bam Bam, and he busted his way to make life great for all those he cared for. He was an adventurous, fun-loving, charismatic man who cherished his family above all. He worked hard to support his family, first as a dry-wall finisher and then as a mechanic. He worked mostly on Harley Davidson motorcycles but could fix any engine and was in high demand whenever someone heard a weird sound. He would say confidently "I have a plan," and he always did; they just might not always have gone the way he'd thought they would.

John met the love of his life and best friend, Susan, when Amber and Scarlett were in middle school. They first got together as friends and dancing partners, enjoying country line dancing and two-stepping together, and quickly fell in love. They married on October 20, 2001. They have been married for over 20 years and raised their five crazy and wonderful children together.

John loved fast cars and speed, saying "life begins at 200 mph." He was a fan of the racetrack, and never missed a chance to jump on his Harley to enjoy the scenery as it raced past. He was an active member of the DC Ramblers. He was also a regular volunteer for Southern Maryland Vacations 4 Vets and was a strong believer in giving back to veterans. John was the kind of man who would give you the shirt off his back and spend his last dollar to help you get back on your feet. Whether you knew him as John, Dad, Paw Paw, or Bam Bam, you knew a great man.

John is survived by his wife, Susan F. Kilroy of Mechanicsville, MD; children Amber L. Dent (Kevin) of Mechanicsville, MD, Scarlett F. Gagan of Mechanicsville, MD, Heather M. Kilroy Hall (Mike) of Great Mills, MD, and Joshua A. Gagan of Bel Alton, MD; grandchildren Danielle S. Wenk, Gavin D. Gray, Dorian M. Kilroy, Daisy E. Kilroy, Kyra B. Dent, Ashlynn R. Dent, John J. Kilroy, IV, Walker A. Bland, and Oliver J. Hall; and his mother, Norma Kilroy. He is also survived by his brother, Joseph

Kilroy (Heather) of Mechanicsville, MD and nephew Logan, as well as countless other loving friends and family. John was preceded in death by his father, John James Kilroy, Sr., son, John J. Kilroy III (Wendi), and Karen B. Kilroy.

In lieu of flowers, the family would request you make a donation to Southern Maryland Vacations for Vets, 22673 Pops Way, California, MD 20619 ATTN: Connie Pennington.

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

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

Mildred "Lucy" Hofmann



Mildred "Lucy" Hofmann, 91 years old of Mechanicsville, Maryland, passed away on December 5, 2021 in the St. Mary's Nursing Home.

Lucy was born on October 20, 1930 to Louise K. Bungard and Anna M. Jackson in Harrisburg Pennsylvania.

Lucy is preceded in death by her deceased husband William Hofmann and her two deceased children John F. McBride and Connie S. Johnson. She is survived by her 4 children, Linda, Brenda, Helen, and Michael; daughter-in-law and son-in-law's; nieces and nephews; her beloved 12 Grandchildren, 14 Great Grandchildren, and her 2 Great Great Grandchildren.

Lucy was very compassionate to all her family and friends, always willing to listen and be an ear to hear everyone's problems. She was a very hard worker and loved helping in the church. She cherished praising the Lord. One of her passions was to feed the neighborhood, she loved being in the kitchen and cooking for everyone. She enjoyed watching her Hallmark shows, spending time with family and friends. She was a loving and caring person, devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and friend, always thinking of others first. "To know her was to love her". She will be missed greatly by many family and friends.

Condolences to the family may be made at www.brinsfieldfuneral.com All arrangements have been made by Brinsfield Funeral Home and Crematory, P.A.

Imelda (Mel) Thompson Hardy

Imelda (Mel) Thompson Hardy entered into eternal rest on Saturday, December 11, 2021 at her home in Valley Lee, Maryland surrounded by her



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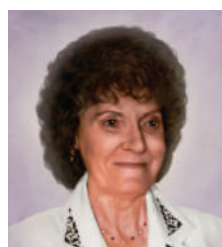


family. She was born on May 4, 1949 in Valley Lee, Maryland to Turner Thomas Thompson and Roberta (Campbell) Thompson - the youngest of eight children. Due to the death of her mother when she was 15 months old, Elizabeth Mary Jane Thompson became her "mom". She completed her primary education at St. Peter Claver Elementary School and Cardinal Gibbons High School in Ridge, Maryland. She attended Bowie State College where she pledged Zeta Phi Beta, Sorority Incorporated and obtained her Bachelor's degree in Education. While at Bowie State College, she met Herbert Langston Hardy Jr. and they married on December 12, 1970. During their 51 years of marriage, they lived in three different states and were blessed with three children, Carla, Kevin, and Brian. Mel's 30 year teaching career spanned three states, Maryland, Illinois and Indiana, starting in Maryland at District Heights Elementary School. While teaching in Evansville, IN, she obtained her Master's Degree in Education from Indiana State University and in 2005, she retired from the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation. In 2006, she and her husband built their retirement home on the family farm in Valley Lee, Maryland. She spent her retirement days continuing to serve as a substitute teacher at Piney Point Elementary School and volunteering for Meals on Wheels. She was also active with St. George's church activities, teaching CCD and supporting fundraising dinners. She was preceded in death by her father, her mother and her mom; three brothers, (James) Frank Thompson, Charles Thompson, and Turner Thompson, Jr.; two sisters, Marguerite Hagins and Elizabeth (Betty) Morgan; two sister-in-laws Thomsasine Thompson and Lois Thompson; and one Godson Andre Morgan. Mel leaves to cherish her memory her husband Herbert Langston Hardy, Jr.; her brother Bernard Thompson and her sister Ellen Andrews (Charles); her children, Carla Hardy Milton (Chris) of Clovis, CA, Kevin Lamont Hardy of Jacksonville, FL, and Brian Irving Hardy of Newburgh, IN; her brother in laws Raynor Hardy (Ilma) and David Hardy. Affectionately known as Mimi, she also leaves eight grandchildren, Peyton Wallis (Anthony), Ka'Lonn Milton, Kendall Milton, J Langston Hardy, Dominic Hardy, Camden Hardy, Cambree Hardy and Kinsley Hardy; three great grandchildren, Noelle Wallis, Ariyanna Wallis and Preston James Wallis; two Godsons, Paul Thompson and Tyree Harris; and a host of

nieces, nephews, family and friends. What Mel most enjoyed was attending her children's and grandchildren's activities and events - always cheering them on to do their very best and ensuring that they understand that their education comes first. Visitation will be held on Wednesday December 22, 2021 from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at the Adams Funeral Home Chapel 20605 Aquasco Road Aquasco, Maryland 20608. Visitation will continue on Thursday December 23, 2021 at St. George Catholic Church 19199 Saint Georges Church Rd, Valley Lee, MD 20692 from 10:30 a.m. until Mass of Christian Burial 12:00 p.m. Interment St. George Church Cemetery. Arrangements Entrusted to Adams Funeral Home, P.A. 20605 Aquasco Rd. Aquasco, Maryland 20608 www.adamsfuneralhomemd.com

Please Leave Your Condolences at: <https://www.forevermissed.com/imelda-thompsonhardy/>

Mary Jeanette Cooper



Mary Jeanette Cooper, 83, of California, MD, passed away on October 29, 2021 at her home. Known as Jean to her friends and Mary Jean to her family, she was born on January 10, 1938 in Leonardtown, MD, and was the daughter of the late Elizabeth Claire Spalding and the late Francis Xavier Spalding. Jean was the loving wife of the late Joseph Arthur Cooper, whom she married on September 8, 1956 in St. John's Church, Hollywood, MD, and who preceded her in death on December 22, 2018.

Mary is survived by her children Kathy (Don) Sheehan of Leonardtown, MD, Barbara (Dennis) Hengemihle of Cobb Island, MD, Patrick Cooper of Stuart, FL, and Joseph (Joyce) Cooper of Silver Spring, MD, her sisters Katherine (Kit) Spalding of Leonardtown, MD, Susan Miedzinski of Leonardtown, MD, and Elizabeth (Betty Jo) Abell of Huntingtown, MD, 13 grandchildren, and 16 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her siblings Francis, Jr. (Bunny), Samuel, Helen, Joseph O. (Sonny), George, Jean's twin Joseph M. and John M.

Jean was a lifelong St. Mary's County resident, and graduated from St. Mary's Academy in 1956. She was a wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. Jean supported her husband, Joe, in his career as a civil servant, and his long commitment to the Bay District Fire Department, traveling with him throughout the state as he represented St. Mary's County and Southern Maryland. Jean and Joe were adventuresome travelers,

exploring sites on motorcycles and in their RV. She was a loving mother who encouraged her four children in their careers and family life. She was beloved as DeeDee to her grandchildren and great-grandchildren in Maryland, New York, New Jersey, North Carolina, Florida, and England. Jean and Joe were lifelong lovers of huskies, providing a happy home for Mikki, Nikko, and Nikki. Jean Cooper will be remembered for her kindness, her chocolate chip cookies, and her unending devotion to family and friends.

Contributions may be made to the Bay District Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 1440, California, MD 20619.

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

David Michael "Archie" Bell



David Michael "Archie" Bell, 60, of Medleys Neck, Leonardtown, MD, was called home to be the Lord on Wednesday, December 8, 2021. He was born on

September 3, 1961 to the late John Paul Bell, Sr. "Jackie" and Margaret Loker Bell "Peggy", of Leonardtown, MD. David "Archie" was the third born of five siblings that grew up on the family farm in Medleys Neck. David "Archie" is survived by his wife, Kim Bell, of Leonardtown, MD, siblings; Johnny Bell (Kathy), Billy Bell (Cathy, deceased), Susie Bell Vacek (Glen), Danny Bell (Dawn) and numerous nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, and cousins. In his younger years David worked hard alongside his siblings on the family farm cutting tobacco and delivering the Washington Post newspaper. David graduated from Chopticon High School in 1979. David married Kimberly Rose Floyd on September 3, 1988. David and Kim welcomed their only child Davey on June 12, 1989. Davey was the apple of his parents' eyes, he was his father's constant companion and best friend. Unfortunately, "Little Davey" succumbed to death due to injuries from an automobile accident at the tender age of 22. Davey's loss weighed heavy on his parents' heart.

David "Archie" worked as a career welder/maintenance worker for several contractors for NAS Patuxent River, and was a member of the Local 602 Steamfitters Union. He was a master at many trades to include welding, fabricating, carpentry, and crafting amazing furniture. He was an avid gardener whose abundant harvest would feed

the community. David's garden was one of his prized possessions; he planted vegetables that he didn't even care for, but he knew everyone else would enjoy his labor. David "Archie" was a creative thinker and was always working on his next project or creation to make his own. David was a character that enjoyed the simple pleasures of life and helping family and friends whenever they called on him no matter what. He loved when his family got tighter and stuffed hams in his garage, picking kale and cabbage from his garden, using Mom's stuffed ham recipe, and grinding the greens and drinking some beer. David can be remembered in the summertime out on his boat trot lining for crabs down at Abell's Wharf and welcoming friends to his home to visit and talk about the past and present.

David was very well loved and respected by all who knew him, especially his co-workers.

David was a private and tender soul and one who would take the shirt off his back to help his fellow man. To summarize David's legacy would be that of a man who truly valued his family and close friends, loved the land, water, gardening, playing his daily lottery numbers, taking care of his wife, Kim, enjoying a cold beer and sip of whiskey or moonshine, joking, and playing around with his nieces and nephews as well as his family. His quick wit and laugh were large and infectious and, like him, will truly be missed. One of David's last words was a "Stroke Is No Joke" and that was so true for him. David "Archie" Bell was preceded in death by his only child David Michael Bell, III "Davey", sister-in-law Cathy Bell, and parents Jackie and Peggy Bell.

The family will receive friends on Monday, December 20, 2021 from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM with prayers recited at 7:00 PM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home Leonardtown, MD where a Funeral Service will be held on Tuesday, December 21, 2021 at 10:00 AM in the funeral home chapel with Deacon Ammon Ripple officiating. Interment will follow in Charles Memorial Gardens, Leonardtown, MD. Serving as pallbearers will be Johnny Bell, Billy Bell, Danny Bell, Daniel Bell, Jr., Jake Bell, and Scott Cousineau. Honorary pallbearers will be Scotty Bean, Paul Scott Beall, Ricky Lathroum, Jay Cousineau, Johnny Bowles, and James "Pie" Knott.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of St. Mary's County, P.O. Box 625, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

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



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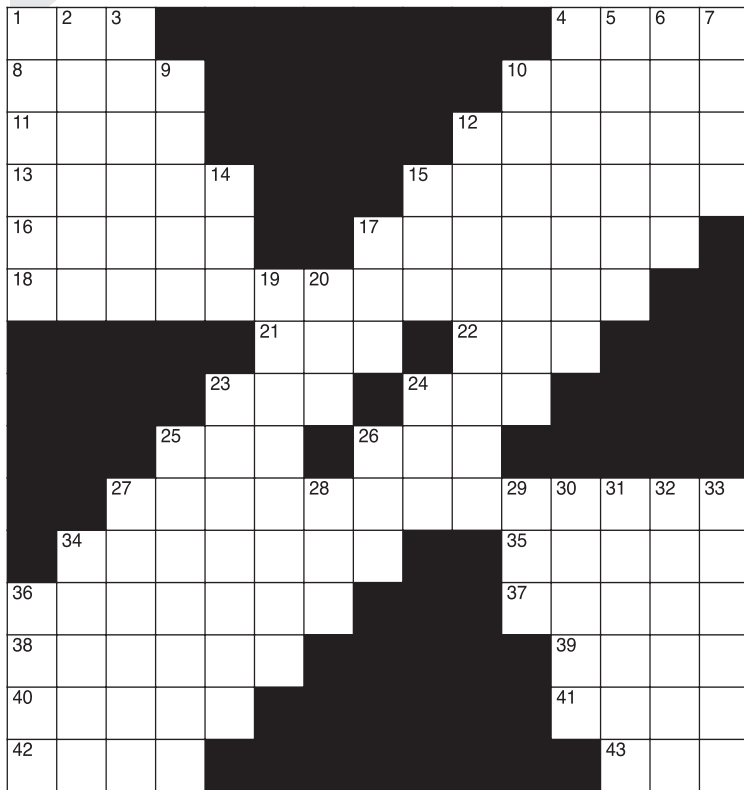
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GAMES & PUZZLES



CLUES ACROSS

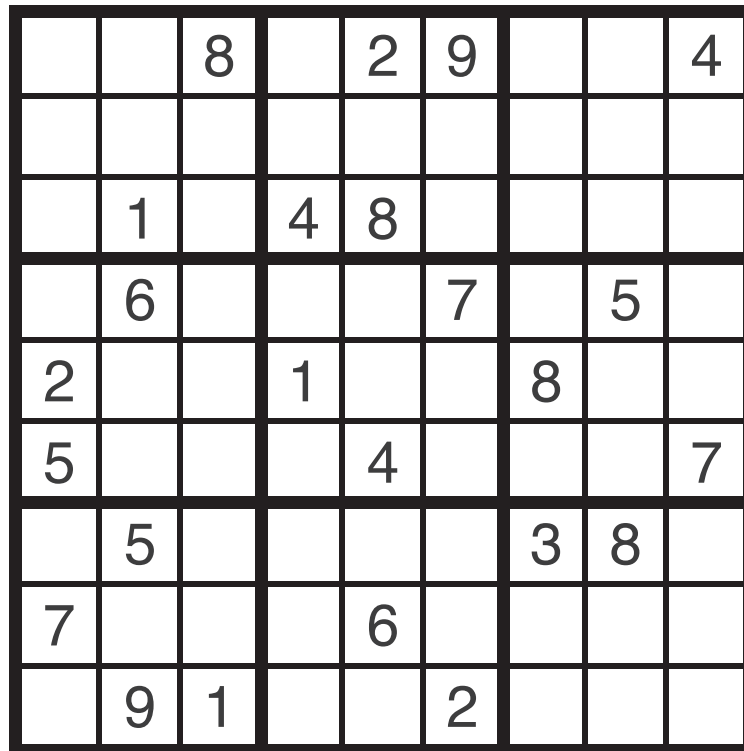
- 1. You fry food in it
- 4. Pesky insect
- 8. Gets older
- 10. __ Dorn, actress
- 11. Uncouth man
- 12. One who sulks
- 13. Napoleon's king of Naples
- 15. One who swims underwater
- 16. Make amends
- 17. Expressions
- 18. Document format
- 21. What a beaver makes
- 22. Limb
- 23. Photograph
- 24. Golf score
- 25. Moroccan mountain range
- 26. Wrinkled dog breed: Shar __
- 27. 20th century sex symbol
- 34. Remedy for all diseases

- 35. Bluish greens
- 36. Moved swiftly
- 37. Type of units
- 38. Madames
- 39. Indian religious god
- 40. Potentially hazardous asteroids
- 41. Leak slowly through
- 42. An association of criminals
- 43. A way to push content (abbr.)

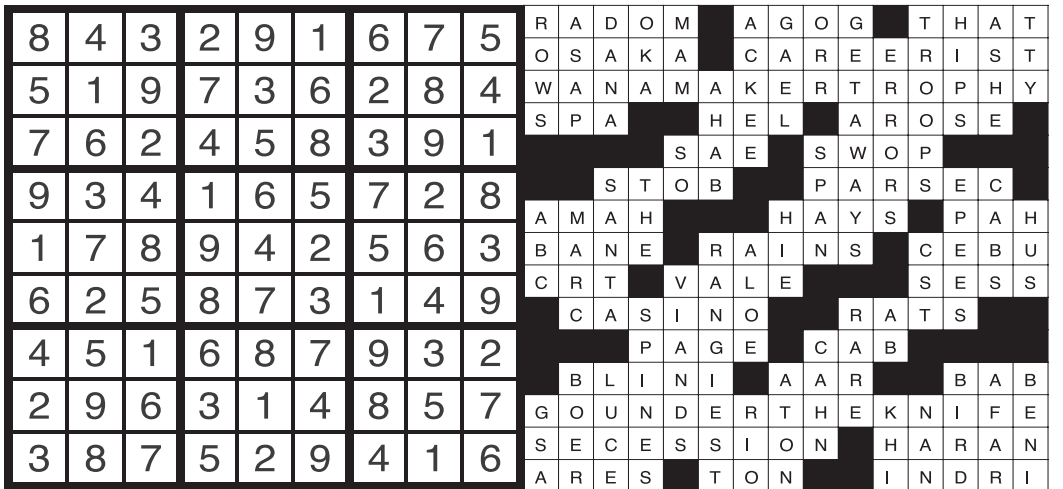
- 14. Israeli city __ Aviv
- 15. Title given to friar
- 17. Inches per minute (abbr.)
- 19. Buildings
- 20. Pouch
- 23. They steal on the high seas
- 24. It's mightier than the sword
- 25. Going off on a tangent
- 26. Monetary unit
- 27. Young woman
- 28. Type of bulb
- 29. Type of drug (abbr.)
- 30. City opposite Dusseldorf
- 31. Animal disease
- 32. Martini necessities
- 33. Elude
- 34. La __: Buenos Aires capital
- 36. An oft-enduring symbol

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Town in central Brazil
- 2. Large burrowing rodent
- 3. Nerve cell
- 4. Estimating
- 5. Bakers use it
- 6. Regions
- 7. Small lake
- 9. Environmentalist nun
- 10. More kookie
- 12. Announce officially



LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE SOLUTIONS



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



County Times

P. O. Box 250 • Hollywood, MD 20636

Lexington Park Baptist Church

presents a

Christmas Spectacular 2021



46855 S. Shangri-La Drive, Lexington Park

Sunday, December 19

from 5pm - 7pm



Come celebrate Christmas Eve
with us!



December 24, 2021

6:00 pm

LUKE 2:11

TODAY IN THE CITY OF DAVID A SAVIOR IS BORN FOR YOU, WHO
IS THE MESSIAH, THE LORD.

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