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# St. Mary's County Times

THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2022

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MEMORIAL DAY

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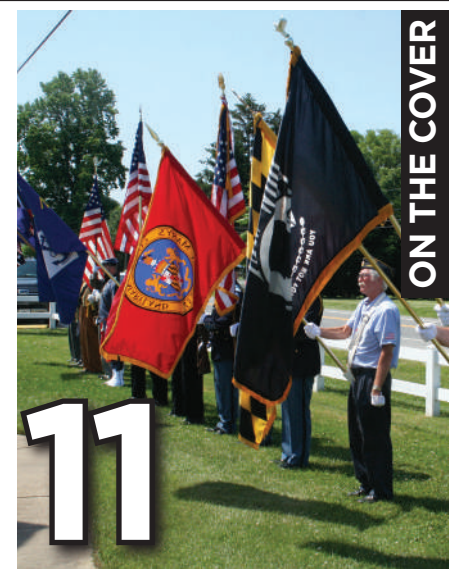
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## “EVERY DAY WAS A DAY OF SURVIVAL.”

RETIRED DEPUTY KENNETH YEKSTAT ABOUT HIS TIME IN VIETNAM WITH THE U.S. MARINE CORPS



**LOCAL** 7  
Hit and run suspect sought



ON THE COVER



**COMMUNITY** 23  
Quilts of Valor honor veterans

11 St. Mary's remembers the fallen

### WEEKLY FORECAST Provided by www.accuweather.com

<b>THU</b> 5/26		<b>77°</b> /69°	Mostly cloudy	<b>MON</b> 5/30		<b>84°</b> /65°	Mostly sunny
<b>FRI</b> 5/27		<b>82°</b> /66°	Showers and thunderstorms	<b>TUE</b> 5/31		<b>87°</b> /70°	Mostly sunny and very warm
<b>SAT</b> 5/28		<b>81°</b> /62°	Periods of sun with a t-storm	<b>WED</b> 6/1		<b>87°</b> /71°	Very warm with sunshine
<b>SUN</b> 5/29		<b>80°</b> /63°	A t-storm around in the p.m.	<b>THU</b> 6/2		<b>88°</b> /70°	Humid with plenty of sunshine




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# Elected Officials Press for Bridge Funding

## Cardin, Hoyer Visit Solomons

By Dick Myers  
Editor

The sign on the microphone stand said, “Modernizing Our Infrastructure.” Anyone looking at the speakers who came to the mic could see the Governor Thomas Johnson Bridge in the background.

The Solomons gazebo overlooking the bridge was the first of three stops in each Southern Maryland county on May 23 for a tour by U.S. Senator Ben Cardin and Rep. Steny Hoyer to highlight infrastructure commitments to the region.

U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen was unable to attend the tour. He was just released from the hospital and is recuperating after suffering a mild stroke.

The announcement of the event in Solomons said it was intended to “spotlight the urgent need to fix Maryland’s bridges. The members also will discuss their work to secure more than \$400 million in federal funding over the next five years towards this effort from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Maryland’s first round of bridge project funding from this law is more than \$80 million. Additionally, the lawmakers will highlight the \$1 million they secured in the fiscal year 2022 funding bill to support the project design for the widening of MD 4 and Thomas Johnson Bridge replacement.”

Price tag for the bridge replacement is estimated at three-quarters of a billion dollars.

Cardin said Van Hollen was “key in getting an earmark that will advance this project, the replacement of the Johnson bridge.”

A bipartisan group called “Team Maryland” gathered for the event, including state lawmakers and local officials from both sides of the river. Missing from the bipartisan team in attendance was Gov. Larry Hogan, whose administration has steadfastly refused to place the bridge

on a priority list that would make it eligible for the massive infusion of federal infrastructure dollars coming into Maryland (\$4.8 billion according to Cardin).

Cardin emphasized what speakers who followed repeated about the bridge’s key role in national security. “We’ve got key national federal installations that are located here that need to make sure that they have a reliable way of transport,” he said.

Cardin noted the region’s success in the Base Realignment and closure (BRAC) process. “But in order to make that a reality, we need to make sure that our infrastructure is up to the task and having the transportation infrastructure is a critical part of that,” he said.

Cardin said in addition to the overall federal infrastructure bill, and a separate pot for bridges, they also are now using the earmark process that has been reinstated in Congress. “We’re using every available means that we have in order to assist and be a strong federal partner in getting this done,” he said.

Hoyer said, “We may be of different parties. We may have different perspectives on certain issues, but there is a unity of purpose and of mind with respect to what needs to happen on this bridge.”

Calvert Commissioner President Buddy Hance thanked the congressional representatives for “keeping this issue alive at a federal level. Sometimes out in rural Maryland, we feel like our issues get lost in the shuffle, especially in Washington with everything that’s going on, but we really appreciate when they continue to push this project forward.”

Hance noted that 31,000 vehicles use the bridge every day.

St. Mary’s Commissioner President Randy Guy said, “There’s no more repairs to be done on the bridge. We need a replacement.” He said that replacement doesn’t need to



Posing before the Gov. Thomas Johnson Bridge are, l to r: Calvert Commissioner Mike Hart, St. Mary’s Commissioner President Randy Guy, Calvert Commissioner President Buddy Hance, Rep. Steny Hoyer, Sen. Ben Cardin, Calvert Commissioner Chris Gadoway, Del. Rachel Jones and Tri-County Council Chairman and St. Mary’s Commissioner Todd Morgan.

be as high as the current one.

Regarding the daily volume, Senator Jack Bailey (R:29) said, “When this bridge was constructed, it never was intended to have that many vehicles go over it. Representing constituents on both sides of the bridge, I know how critical this is to our residents.”

Delegate Rachel Jones (D: 27B) said of the proposal for a private toll bridge, “that’s not something that we as a region are really looking for.”

“We need a new bridge,” she said “And so this federal funding is a great step in the right direction. And now I’d ask that all of you who joined us today, join with us as

we continue to put pressure on the Maryland Department of Transportation to ensure that this bridge gets the adequate amount of funding that it needs so that we can replace it without having to seek other options like tolling.”

And Tri-County Council Chairman and St. Mary’s Commissioner Todd Morgan summed up the feelings of the attendees: “Everyone has talked about safety. We’ve talked about security. We’ve talked about jobs. We’ve talked about infrastructure. At this point in time, guys, it’s time to build the new bridge.”

*dickmyers@countytimes.net*

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## St. Mary's Man Arrested for Mass Violence Threats

Charles County Sheriff's Deputy Apprehends Suspect in Lexington Park

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

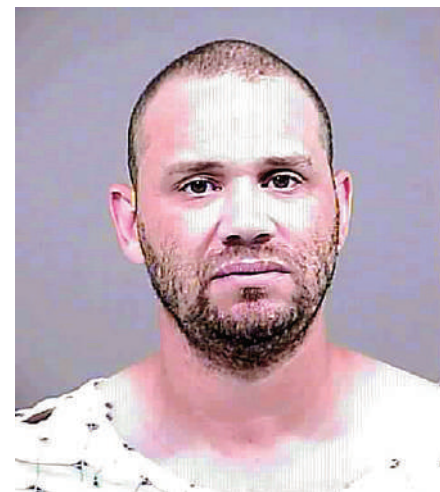
Charles County Sheriff's deputies have located and arrested Earl Benjamin Washington, Jr., 46, of Lexington Park, who is wanted in connection with making several threats of mass violence.

St. Mary's County deputies were on the way to the scene of the arrest, which happened May 25 in Lexington Park, when they found Charles deputies had already arrested the suspect, said Jason Babcock, spokesman for the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office.

Charles County investigators say that on May 24, Washington called a business in White Plains and Gale-Bailey Elementary School and made several threats of mass violence.

The calls to the specific locations are related to people he knows and is believed to be domestic-related.

Babcock said that St. Mary's deputies who are part of the local “adopt a school” program are being encouraged to visit their



Earl Benjamin Washington, Jr

elementary schools in St. Mary's as an extra layer of security in the wake of the mass slaughter of 19 elementary school students and two teachers at a school in Texas by an 18-year-old gunman.

“We're definitely beefing up visibility today,” Babcock said May 25, the day after the massacre in Uvalde, Texas.

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## Commissioners Oppose CSM Continuing Vaccine, Mask Mandates

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County sent a letter to Dr. Maureen Murphy, president of the College of Southern Maryland, this week asking her administration to revisit its policies that continue to mandate vaccinations and masking for students who want to attend one of its three campuses.

The Calvert County board of commissioners took a similar action May 24, the same day as the St. Mary's commissioners.

The College of Southern Maryland has campuses in Leonardtown, La Plata and Prince Frederick as well as other satellite sites in Hughesville.

“They're still requiring vaccinations of everybody for enrollment and masking and those who won't get vaccinated will have to get weekly tested,” said Commissioner President James “Randy” Guy “We're against this policy.”

Given that the commissioners here provide significant funding for the college's operations, Guy said he

wanted Murphy and her administration to revisit the policy “as soon as possible.”

“I fully support anyone who wants to mask... in order to feel safe,” said Commissioner Eric Colvin “There's nothing wrong with that.”

“This comes down to personal responsibility... educating people about what their choices are. Colvin said the COVID-19 pandemic taught the lesson of not bringing personal illnesses to work.

“If you're sick with any kind of sickness be it flu, cold, strep throat, anything, please stay home,” Colvin said. “CSM is taking steps to address their policy and I hope the board of trustees will move forward with that.”

“This is standing in the way of people getting an education,” said Commissioner John O'Connor. “Whether they're talking about the next semester or something else they do have the flexibility to act quicker... so the students who are in attendance don't have to comply with this.”

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*— Jaymi Sterling*

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# Identity Sought in Hit-and-Run Collision with Pedestrians

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office is seeking the identity of the driver pictured in a hit-and-run investigation.

On Thursday, May 19, 2022, at 3:56 pm, a 19-year-old male and a 14-year-old male were walking on Thomas Drive at Piney Point Road at St. George Island when they were struck from behind by a silver passenger vehicle with suspected Texas tags, likely a 1999 or 2000 Honda Civic LX. The 19-year-old suffered a leg injury and was flown to an area trauma center for treatment. The 14-year-old was grazed by the vehicle, but reported no injury. The driver of the vehicle did not remain on the scene of the collision.

Anyone with information about the identity of the driver or this incident is asked to contact Deputy Joseph Bowling at 301-475-4200, ext. 8085 or by email at joseph.bowling@stmarysmd.com. Case # 25141-22

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



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# Crab Population Down To Historic Lows



By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

The population density of harvestable male hard crabs has cratered in 2022, according to the latest winter dredge survey conducted by the state's Department of Natural Resources, which reports that there are now only an estimated 227 million living in the region.

The results of the dredge are similar for juvenile and female crabs as well.

Overall, the total population of Maryland hard crab has dwindled to what scientists believe is a 33-year low.

For comparison in 1993 scientists believe that some 850 million crabs lived in the Chesapeake Bay and its surrounding watershed, in 2021 scientists believe that just 282 million crabs lived there.

In 2020, the state believed there were 405 million crabs in the bay, 30 percent greater than the amount found in 2021.

The number of juvenile crabs in 2022 was 101 million crabs, a slight increase from 86 million juvenile crabs in 2021, but the third consecutive year of below average recruitment, according to the state's dredging report.

Blue crab reproduction is naturally variable and it is difficult to identify a singular reason for the recent period of low juvenile abundance, according to the natural resources department.

Larval blue crabs develop in ocean waters over the continental shelf and

many factors can influence recruitment success such as oceanic conditions, available nursery habitat, predation, and other environmental conditions.

Natural resources officials still hold out hope that the crab population can recover based on the level of female crabs.

The number of spawning age female crabs has been above the management threshold of 72.5 million crabs for eight consecutive years and at a level capable of producing a strong population, natural resources officials report.

The spawning age female abundance decreased from 158 million crabs in 2021 to 97 million crabs in 2022, however. Additionally, the results showed there were 28 million adult male crabs, which is the lowest adult male abundance on record.

The low numbers of crabs likely means more restrictions on their harvesting, which peaks in the summer months.

"The Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee will review the survey results and provide their scientific advice for management during their May meeting," according to a natural resource press release.

"Following their advice, DNR will begin discussions with the Blue Crab Industry Advisory Committee to provide guidance concerning the course of action for 2022 that promotes the health and sustainability of the Chesapeake Bay blue crab population and its fisheries."

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# Mechanicsville Man's Death Under Investigation

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

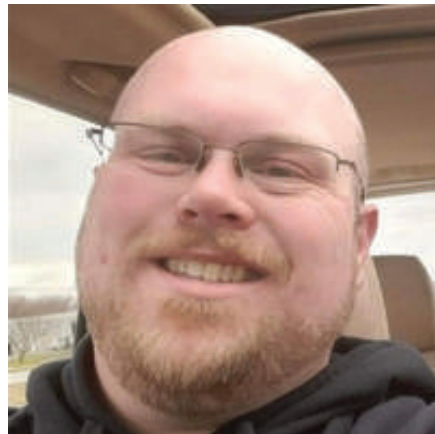
Maryland State Police are continuing to investigate the death of Robert Mark Heffron, Jr., who was found dead in a Mechanicsville shed April 29.

Det. Sgt. Jeffrey Linger, of the Leonardtown barrack, said the case is now being handled by the Criminal Enforcement Division but Heffron's death is believed to be the result of a drug overdose.

Linger said investigators have yet to determine which drugs were responsible for Heffron's death.

The owner of the property where Heffron was found deceased knew of Heffron's presence there, Linger said; Heffron was not trespassing upon the property.

Heffron was 35 when he died. Linger said an arrest has been



Robert Heffron

made in connection with Heffron's death.

Demetrius Deandre Young, also of Mechanicsville, has been indicted on two counts of drug distribution, according to on-line Circuit Court records.

[guyleonard@countytimes.net](mailto:guyleonard@countytimes.net)

# Hoyer, Cardin Visit University Systems of Maryland Autonomy Lab

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

Sen. Ben Cardin and U.S. Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-MD-5<sup>th</sup>), praised students at the University System of Maryland's Southern Maryland (USMSM) satellite campus for their work on advancing autonomous technology.

The new facility, long known as the "third building" in local parlance, promises to be a new regional hub for the research and development of new unmanned and autonomous technologies that traditionally have been the province of the military but now can be turned to the civilian economy.

But much of what the students will be working on will still be used in national security applications for the foreseeable future

"Your country needs you at your best," Hoyer told students who welcomed him at the entrance to the recently opened, state-of-the-art facility. "We've got challenges all over the world; what you're doing will make difference."

Cardin said that the state's congressional delegation has always focused on improving economic opportunities in

high technology fields.

"But it doesn't work without the academic centers," Cardin said, noting the importance of the new facility and that the delegation continues to support it.

The kind of work the students were engaging in at USMSM could be put to immediate use around the globe, including in the war between Russia and Ukraine.

The U.S. has sent at least \$60 billion in aid to the Ukrainians since the invasion by Russia and one of the most effective ways the Ukrainians have fought back is through militarized drones, Cardin said.

"The work you're doing here is helping in the defense of Ukraine," Cardin said.

The new economic opportunities that could be fostered by work at the new facility were especially important regionally, said Dr. Eileen Abel, executive director at USMSM, because the completion rate for bachelors degrees lags behind the nation "by double digits" and that 35 percent of residents in the region live at or below the poverty line.

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# Retired Deputy Remembers Vietnam

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

Jack Curtis, 72, a retired St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office deputy remembers joining the U.S. Marine Corps just after graduating high school in June of 1968.

He went to Parris Island, S.C. for bootcamp and then advanced infantry training; by January of 1969 he was in Vietnam at the age of 19.

He had been trained to serve in an anti-tank roll and wondered what he was doing there for a while.

"I didn't think the Viet Cong had any tanks," Curtis told The County Times. "But then they made me an MP (Military Police) at Headquarters Battalion."

Like other Marines, Curtis found himself "out in the bush and sometimes in the rear," he said.

Much of his time was spent securing a bridge over the Nam Mo River on Route 1, which saw a great deal of troop and commercial north and south traffic near the Ho Chi Minh trail.

The Ho Chi Minh Trail was a network of trails that went south from North Vietnam through neighboring Laos, Cambodia and then into South Vietnam, delivering troops and supplies for the Communist war effort.

The bridge was a strategic target for the enemy and Curtis often teamed with a full platoon of Marines who formed a defensive perimeter around the bridge to keep it safe from attack.

"We used to go swimming in the river to cool off," Curtis said. "Marines would put C-4 [a plastic explosive] in the river at night and detonate it to keep the VC and NVA [North Vietnamese Army] from attacking."

Curtis can remember taking part in the defense of the forward base near the bridge as it was attacked by the Viet Cong.

He credits U.S. airpower with



Curtis with flak jacket and M-16

saving their lives and the base.

"I could see Puff the Magic Dragon [a converted AC-47 propeller driven gunship] overhead giving us fire support," Curtis said. "It was a stream of orange coming down."

After the defense of the base, he received notice that he had been promoted to Lance Corporal.

He remembers other duties like taking up a listening post outside the wire of the base in broad daylight — likely in full view of the enemy — in a small out building.

He questioned why they were posted in such an obvious position, he said, but was told they would move as soon as it became dark to a better position.

"We moved and just laid down in the mud the whole night in a rice paddy," Curtis said.

Listening post duty was especially hazardous as a small group of men would act as the early warning for a night-time attack by the enemy seeking to overrun the camp.

It put them in eminent danger of being the first to be overrun and killed.

When the shooting started, Curtis said, he relied on his training and simply reacted to

the situation.

"I don't remember being scared because there wasn't any time for that," Curtis said. "The mind remembers the good times; when you weren't wet you were hot."

His next assignment would have been to the base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, but he was given an early release from the Marine Corp, Curtis said and became a civilian again in February of 1970.

Veterans of the Vietnam War



sometimes have mixed feelings about their service there, whether it was worth sacrifice made by so many soldiers, sailors, Marines, and airmen.

Curtis said the troops in Vietnam may not have left on a "highpoint" but he still believed in the service he and others provided.

Memorial Day is a time to remember those who gave their lives in service of their country, Curtis said.

"It's not meaningless because we were trying to carry out the mission assigned to us by the United States," Curtis said. "It sounds like a cliché, but it's true."

guyleonard@countytimes.net



Curtis in Vietnam

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# Veteran Lawman Served In Heavy Vietnam Combat

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

Kenneth "Kenny" Yekstat, a retired St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office deputy who also served for years in the Maryland State Police, flunked out of college as a young man and knew that he would be drafted into the U.S. Army to serve in Vietnam.

Coming from a family with a U.S. Marine Corps tradition, he signed up with them instead.

He served in Vietnam for 13 months from April of 1967 to May of 1968 in some of the most intense combat of the war.

He was a mortar man in the 1st Battalion, 9th Regiment of the 3rd Marine Division, supporting the 26th Marine Regiment at the Battle of Khe Sanh, he said.

Khe Sanh was a hilltop Marine outpost near the border of Laos and close to the Ho Chi Minh trail the North Vietnamese used to unrepeatedly bring troops and supplies south for the war effort.

The Marines tried to interdict those supplies and troops while the enemy tried to annihilate the Marines at Khe Sanh in a siege that lasted for 77 days starting in January of 1968.

He also saw combat at Con Thien, close to the demilitarized zone, the year before his time at Khe Sanh. Both experiences gave him an intense appreciation for the dangers of incoming, mortar, artillery and rocket

fire.

"Every day was a day of survival," Yekstat told The County Times. "We had incoming fire all the time."

The artillery fire from the enemy at Khe Sanh caused severe damage, including destroying the runway there.

That meant that food, supplies and ammunition had to be dropped in via parachute during the siege.

On one occasion, the Marines there ran out of food for three days because fog kept the resupply flights away.

"I was never a fan of fruitcake but I was so hungry I went through the trash dump there looking for cans of fruitcake we'd thrown out," Yekstat, 75, said.

He enjoys fruitcake now.

Massive B-52 airstrikes, code named Arclight, tried to suppress the fire coming from around the base but those attacks also posed danger for the Marines as the shrapnel they threw traveled a mile and the concussion waves forced them into their bunkers for protection, Yekstat said.

"It was unbelievable to see that," he said.

The siege was eventually lifted at Khe Sanh, Yekstat said, finally relieving the 6,000 Marines and Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) troops who had been there.

"We were surrounded by



Yekstat in Vietnam with an M-16



Yekstat upon retirement in 2021

victory for the Communists.

Despite the horrors of Khe Sanh, Yekstat said he was more scared by the three separate times he spent at Con Thien, which was close to North Vietnam, just two miles from the demilitarized zone.

He served in an 81 mm mortar pit, and he had more than one close call.

"We got a direct hit on our position but none of the [mortar rounds] we had went off," Yekstat said. "I just got a little shrapnel and put a band aid on

20,000 NVA (North Vietnamese Army) regulars," Yekstat said. "If it weren't for our airpower we probably would've been overrun."

Had the North Vietnamese won that battle, it would have been a major strategic and propaganda

...continued on pg.7





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...continued from pg.5

it.”  
He and his fellow Marines were in a constant battle with enemy mortar crews, trying to kill the other first before they themselves were killed.

“We would counter mortar,” he said. “I could hear the shrapnel going past my helmet.

“I would get out of the pit and see all the holes in the sandbags around us.”

He never fired his rifle at the enemy, Yekstat said, only his mortars directed by forward observers.

“We had a lot of confirmed kills from our [mortars],” he said. “I never felt guilty about that because I had never aimed purposely at any individual.”

Much like his colleague in the sheriff’s office and fellow Vietnam War veteran, Jack Curtis, Yekstat also drew duty on listening posts at night with little more than a field telephone and personal weapons to defend themselves from a potential enemy who wanted to overrun their position.

“You were a sacrifice really,” Yekstat said. “If they were about to overrun your main position you were a warning system.”

If the enemy wasn’t trying to kill him, the weather was.

“It was up to 100 degrees or more some days,” he said. “But during the monsoon season it was wet all the time and cold.

“It got down to 40 degrees then.”

A scorpion bit him once as he was filling sandbags, he said, and Marines had to cover their faces at night for fear of rats that came out as they slept.

He heard of one man who was bitten by a rat on his lip because

he had applied lip balm and not covered his face.

One of the saddest experiences was receiving care packages from home for other Marines who had been killed in action.

“You’re sharing their food but they’re no longer there,” Yekstat said.

When he got home he tried to find a job but no one, at least at first, would hire him.

“Once they knew I had been in the military, they didn’t want to hire me,” Yekstat said.

He eventually was able to return to his job at a grocery store but the memories didn’t fade.

When he watched the movie *The Deerhunter*, which chronicles the effects of the war on three men who go to fight from a close-knit Pennsylvania town, and the trauma they bring home, Yekstat identified immediately.

“It just brought back so many memories,” Yekstat said. “I just broke down crying, the usher came down — I was only one left in the theatre — and he asked if I was alright.

“I finally got myself together.”

Yekstat believes America never should have been involved in Vietnam and that the some 58,000 killed there should still be alive.

“We never had any business getting involved,” he said. “My heart goes out to every one of those families that lost someone in Vietnam.”

But if he had it all to do over again, he would not change it, said Yekstat.

“I’d do it all over again because my country asked me to,” he said.

*guyleonard@countytimes.net*



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*A SONG FOR DECORATION DAY*

*SONG LYRICS BY L. L. ROSS*

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*(before it was formally declared Memorial Day, Decoration Day was to honor those who had died in battle by strewing flowers on their graves)*

Today a nation's tears are shed over many a noble  
hero's grave;

New honors pay our hallowed dead who died our  
country's flag to save.

Today a nation's gratitude is paid to noble heroes  
slain.

Their deeds immortal shall ever live - they fought  
and died, but not in vain.

Today the living heroes stand around their fallen  
comrade's grave

All honor to the heroic band who fought our na-  
tion's life to save!

We'll cherish long the memories dear of our de-  
parted heroes brave;

We'll bring fresh flowers year by year and strew  
them on each grave.

Sleep on brave hearts - the flag you bore through  
all the land now proudly waves;

Your comrades dear and friends each year will  
strew fresh flowers on your graves.



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The American Legion, with the the help of Ridge residents Donnie Tennyson, Jimmy Cullison and David Lowe, have placed U.S. flags on utility poles in the community to honor veterans who gave their lives in service to the nation.

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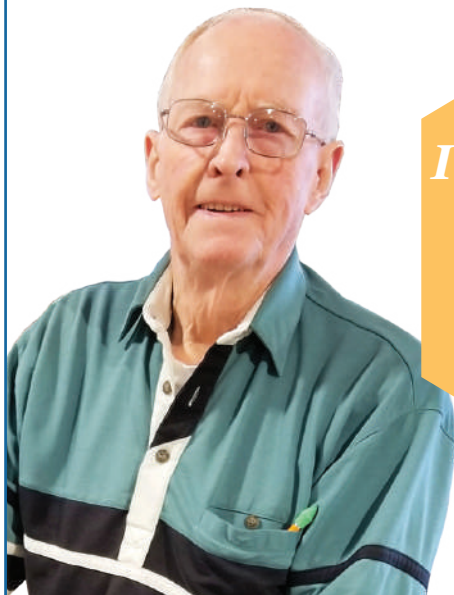
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# Interesting Facts About Memorial Day

Each year on the last Monday of May, Americans celebrate Memorial Day. Memorial Day is a federal holiday that honors and mourns American military personnel who died while performing their duties in service to the United States Armed Forces.

Memorial Day has a rich history and one that's worth revisiting as the nation prepares to honor the sacrifices made by its military personnel over the centuries.

- Freed slaves played a role in the establishment of Memorial Day. The American Civil War is the deadliest military conflict in American history, as the Union and the Confederacy each suffered more than 800,000 casualties by the time the war ended in 1865. According to History.com, as the war drew to a close, hundreds of Union soldiers who were being held as prisoners of war died and were buried in a mass grave in a Confederate prison camp in South Carolina. After the Confederate surrender, more than 1,000 now-freed slaves honored those recently deceased Union soldiers during a ceremony in which they sang hymns and distributed flowers. The ceremony was dedicated to the fallen soldiers and served as a precursor to what is now celebrated as Memorial Day.



- Confederate soldiers were honored, too. Confederate losses during the Civil War outnumbered Union losses, and those losses were not forgotten by southerners who survived the war. History.com notes that, in 1866, the Georgia-based Ladies Memorial Association, one of many similar organizations to arise in the aftermath of the war, pushed for a day to honor fallen Confederate soldiers. In fact, these efforts are

believed to have influenced General John A. Logan. In 1868, General Logan, a Civil War veteran who was then serving as commander-in-chief of a group of Union veterans, ordered the decoration of Union graves with flowers on May 30. The day would ultimately be known as "Memorial Day."

- It took a long time for Memorial Day to become a federal holiday. Despite tracing its origins to the

immediate aftermath of the Civil War, Memorial Day did not become an official federal holiday until 1971, more than a century after the war ended. This is the same year the holiday was officially designated as taking place on the last Monday in May. The designation has periodically drawn the ire of veterans and military supporters who suggest it is now more widely seen as the unofficial beginning to summer and not a day in which the sacrifices of fallen U.S. soldiers are honored to the extent that they should be.

- Debate exists about which town has the longest history of celebrating Memorial Day. A handful of towns claim to be the first celebrants of Memorial Day. That debate figures to continue in perpetuity, but History.com notes that Waterloo, New York, was officially recognized by U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson as the birthplace of Memorial Day in 1966. Doylestown, Pennsylvania, and Rochester, Wisconsin are some other towns that claim to have celebrated Memorial Day since the mid-1860s.

Memorial Day has a rich history that highlights the importance of honoring the men and women who have given their lives while in service of the United States military.



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# Tackle Box Fishing Report



By Ken Lamb  
Contributing Writer

Tricky weather is our main enemy this season. Even though we had a taste of summer with scorching 90-degree temperatures over the weekend, the water is still cold. The frequent rains have kept the water fresh and grass growth continues choking many shallow creeks. Crabs and perch have been almost non-existent. The catfish and snakehead are everywhere, eating up everything. Some consistent warm, dry days will get the winter grass out and force the predators up the rivers to escape the salt.

There was good news as many keeper rockfish were caught by trollers and casters in the deep and shallow waters. Eric Packard and friend Julian landed 31 rockfish last Friday morning in calm day-break of Mill Creek off the Patuxent. About a third of the catch were 19 inches or better, but all released for future catches. There were rockfish off Hog Point and Goose Creek on the Naval Air Station for shore fishermen throwing

lures as the sun came up.

Trollers are doing well with good sized rockfish in the Potomac and bay. There are still some late spawning fish, and a 40 inch fish can take your trolled lure at any time. Make sure you don't have those drags set too tight.

Pound netters reported an handful of small bluefish this week. Spot have appeared in the gullet of rockfish this week. Live-lining spot on light tackle, perhaps the most enjoyable technique to catch rockfish, will begin as soon as spot become plentiful.

Catfish and snakehead fishermen are having a great time. These fish love the cooler, fresher water and those dedicated to catching them are having a banner year.

Bass, crappie, bluegil, and pickereel are plentiful at St. Mary's Lake, and the ponds and river heads.

We have the Memorial Day weekend coming up, and it is a great time to get outdoors and catch dinner!

## A View From The BLEACHERS



### BECOMING YOUR FATHER

By Ronald N. Guy Jr.  
Contributing Writer

As I sat down to hammer out this latest "View", news broke of a potential NFL coup to oust Washington Commanders owner Dan Snyder. Please let this not be a cruel tease. Having lost my two front teeth many, many years ago, the removal of Snyder is all I want for Christmas. And I'll take the present early without an ounce of shame – I, you...all Commanders fans...deserve this.

Talk about a great unifier, a dream shared by all D.C. football fans, regardless of political persuasion or demographic profile: Snyder getting the boot would cause Burgundy and Gold nation members to come out, come out wherever they are to celebrate like boisterous Munchkins after Dorothy Gale of Kansas dropped her house on the Wicked Witch of the East. But we'll see. Snyder's is the COVID-19 of owners; he gets beaten back, mutates and returns in similar sinister form.

Until then, there is this story: a fab four of old friends talking sports and the confusing passage of time. We'll call them John, Paul, George and Ringo, just for the sake of familiarity. So, John pokes George about turning 50 this year. George's first thought is his pal has it wrong - he's only 48 and will be 49 after a few monthly flips of the calendar. Then it hits George – it's 2022, he was born in 1972. He is turning 50. It's just math. George has always hated math. Perhaps never more so than now.

The reality stuns George. His mind drifts to things of identical vintage. If he is turning 50, that means his favorite Rolling Stones album, Exile on Main Street, and his favorite muscle car, the 1972 Chevrolet Chevelle (Have one for sale? Email me...I'll send to George) are turning 50 too. Both are classics; George...doesn't feel like a classic.

Paul, the oldest of the group and a few years into his sixties, offered George no sympathy. Ringo, the youngest, sat with a quiet smirk, knowing any smart remark about age from the band's baby would draw the ire of all others.

Mercifully the conversation moved from personal odometers to sports and the confounding passage of time. The group consisted of Pittsburgh (John and Paul), San

Francisco (Ringo) and Washington (George) fans. With that backdrop, they jumped across the obvious topics. From John and Paul: How can Ben Roethlisberger's career be over? Ringo, bad comedian that he is, remarked that it "hurts" to see Jerry Rice in Copper Fit commercials. And George, tying into the lede, went on a five-minute monologue/screed about Snyder's 20-plus-year reign of terror that ended with him ordering a round of shots. Sheesh.

The conversation meandered to NBA basketball, where each of the foursome registered gripes about this generation's players. The condescending thoughts included lackadaisical, soft, three-point-shot-obsessed, matador defenders, selfish and competitive deficiency.

George, the group's biggest basketball fan, spoke up after this healthy round of criticism. He suggested that they all had become their fathers – crusty gray-beards barking from the porch that in all things, "back in the day" - where tough times built tougher character - was better than today. It prompted a guilty laugh from all.

George continued with a passionate defense of today's NBA. The shot-making has never been better. The playoffs are exceptional. Young players in the league, guys like Ja Morant, Jordan Poole, Jayson Tatum and Luka Doncic, are must-watch. Bigs like Joel Embiid and Nikola Jokic have reinvented the center position. The amazing return of Klay Thompson, after gridding through two major injuries, and the reboot of the Stephen Curry-Draymond Green-Thompson-et al. Golden State Warriors, a transcendent team that will be talked about for decades, should be consumed, enjoyed and appreciated. Sure, Michael Jordan and Larry Bird were phenomenal, but maybe time has over-inflated their greatness, and maybe, just maybe, "these kids today" are doing comparatively special things.

It's food for thought, for sports and otherwise.

As George rose slowly and stiffly from the table, he pondered his genuine affection for this modern NBA. Perhaps he wasn't as old as the impending arrival of age 50 sounded – at least in mind, if not in body.

Send comments to Ronald-GuyJr@gmail.com

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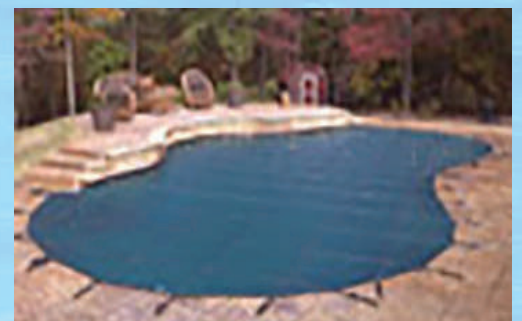


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# Letters to the Editor

## At-fault Grounds for Divorce Should Always Affect Custody

### To the Editor

Wow! What an interesting time in history we are living in. Just last week, Maryland state legislators signed into law bill HB0561. In short, this new law makes it a requirement for Family Court Judges to take domestic violence training before presiding over family cases that involves domestic violence. The mere sound of making a judge do such a thing could either make a domestic violence victim extremely happy, or more fearful. Are judges happy about this new law?

Let's examine the history of domestic violence together and how it could potentially affect divorce and custody cases.

For the purpose of this letter, victims of domestic violence (gender wise) will be defined based off of current and historical statistics.

According to National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 1 in 7 women have "reported" being injured by an intimate partner. According to the U.S. Department of Justice: Office of Justice Programs, in 1882, the great state of Maryland set the precedent for greatness by being the first state to deem "wife beating" as an actual crime.

According to The Journal of Law and Order (April, 2002), "During the 1900's domestic violence was acknowledged, but treated as a private family matter. . . Today, domestic violence is acknowledged as a serious, violent crime and part of society that harms women, increases child abuse, reduces medical resources, and etc."

So why does domestic violence take a backseat to divorce and custody cases? Domestic violence, especially during a marriage, should be viewed as a form of terrorism on one's own family.

According to The Maryland's People's Law Library, domestic violence is defined as "the mistreatment of a family member or intimate partner by another. The abuse can be physical, sexual, verbal, emotional and psychological. . . Most of the victims of abuse are women and children."

An abuser who abuses their own "family member" or "intimate partner" is a person with a serious and violent character flaw and this must be taken seriously in divorce and custody cases.

It seems as though immigrants are held at a higher standard than born and bred American citizens. According to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Policy Manual (Chapter 9- Good Moral Character), "One of the requirements of naturalization is good moral character (GMC). All applicants for naturalization must show that he or she has been and continues to be a person of GMC. . . the applicant must show GMC during the five-year period immediately preceding his or her application for naturalization. The policy manual further states, "conduct prior to the five-year period may also impact whether the applicant meets the requirement."

So, a non-citizen has to go through a legal process for at least five years to acquire citizenship, but an American citizen can commit serious and violent crimes against their family and/or against the person he/she took a sacred vow to and still be viewed as having a good enough moral character to have unsupervised access to a vulnerable and innocent child? Lord have mercy!

Children are precious gifts who deserve the highest level of protection. Whether Lady Justice is blindfolded or not, it's clear to see that abuse, adultery and any other "at-fault" grounds for divorce affects the entire family and should always have an affect on divorce and custody proceedings between married people.

The law states, if a person stays in an abusive marriage then the victim of domestic violence can be charged with child neglect. Sad to say, but most victims usually stay, because they can at least monitor the abuser closely around their minor children. Once a domestic violence survivor is strong enough to leave their abuser to avoid being further abused and to avoid potential child neglect charges, they are then placed at the mercy of the family court to further protect their children. Although Lady Justice is taller than every man and woman, with snakes at her feet and a sword in her hand, the Maryland's People's Law Library states "At fault ground does not usually affect custody."

Granting unsupervised access of minor children to an abuser is absolutely not safe for children and re-traumatizes victims of domestic violence. Survivors, who finally muster up the courage to leave an abuser, deserve to be heard and have their concerns taken seriously, because they know their abuser better than anyone.

Food for Thought: Imagine a society where the judicial system, specifically family court, took on the same proactive mindset when it comes to protecting children from abusers, as the federal government does when it comes to immigration and citizenship.

If a person is found to be at-fault for dismantling his/her marriage, then there should be strict consequences for the offender. Hearing about strict consequences could make the next person (husband or wife) reconsider being the "at-fault" party in their divorce. This not only may drastically bring down the number of domestic violence cases, but could also completely change the state's statistical rising divorce rate.

Janet C. Bello  
St. Mary's County, Maryland

## The Value of Freedom of Speech

### To the Editor:

Freedom of speech has influenced the current Ukraine situation. It is guaranteed by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. It allows for competing ideas that upon examination lead to the truth. Suppression of ideas such as in Russia lead to erroneous conclusions. Let's take a look at a current example. The United States has been training the Ukrainians for several years to repel an attack by the Russian Federation.

The Ukrainians have "skin in the game." They are defending their families, their country and democratic way of life. The world is on their side. In contrast, the Russians who touted they would take the Ukraine in three days have been there months! The Russians have a far larger army and lots of equipment.

The Russians have a good Air Force. What does all this have to do with Freedom of Speech?

All factors were not considered in the attempt to defeat and annex the Ukraine. Russia is a dictatorship.

There is no Freedom of Speech. They were not motivated. They were told they were going on a training exercise. The dead bodies told otherwise. They were told they were fighting the Nazis.

That was in 1945, not 2022. The leadership was top down. They had no mid-level leadership. President Putin was isolated, he was told what he wanted to hear. Top generals were afraid to tell him the truth.

What did all of this yield? A leveled country, thousands of dead military and civilians, BUT, not a Russian Ukraine. Would things have been otherwise if the Russians had considered the facts that would have been brought to light with freedom of speech. In my opinion yes. Perhaps the Russians would not have attacked. In my judgment, the Chinese may be reconsidering invading Taiwan after they take a look at this. I would advise them to study all angles, but they don't exercise Freedom of Speech.

Marilyn Crosby  
Lexington Park

## Insult to Amish Community?

### To the Editor:

Having well-served for four years as the Chairman of the 7<sup>th</sup> District Optimist Club/St. Clements Hundred, Blessing of the Fleet, presenting this as a quality event in good taste, I again find it outlandish that this year's event as last year shall contemptuously feature the Pennsylvania band the "Amish Outlaws" as its fireworks band. Lacking sensitivity and sensibility, these tax-exempt community-based organizations are bringing back the Amish Outlaws as the 2022 Blessing of the Fleet fireworks band. Never mind these organizations disrespected all the St. Mary's County outstanding bands more than the equal of the Amish Outlaws in terms of musicianship and public draw to the economic detriment of these local bands as well as County tax base; in so doing they also affront our Amish friends and neighbors upon whom we depend who give us so much.

This insensitivity towards religious and cultural members of our community is disconcerting if not appalling.

Who next shall they hire as the fireworks band? Shall they disrespect our predominately Catholic community hiring the "Catholic Outlaws" band with its band members parading on stage in priest clothing and sacramental robes and in Nun's Habits with Rosary Beads draped around their necks and as headbands? Next up the Jewish band the "Yiddish Outlaws" prancing around in kippah or yarmulke and the taiiith, telfilin, and kippak? After this band comes the "Mormon Outlaws" strutting around dressed as Brigham Young and in Mormon Temple clothing with their many sultry wives as a chorus? After them would perform the "Evangelical Outlaws" or "Holy Roller Outlaws" dancing around the stage as backwater country hicks from the sticks dressed in overalls and straw hats with fake (or real) snakes draped all over their bodies?

There is nothing cute or redeeming about the Amish Outlaw schtick of this second-rate musical band from Pennsylvania. That a government or tax-free charitable organizations would hire the Amish Outlaws does not speak well of their propriety, integrity, and sense of community. The 7<sup>th</sup> District, the birthplace of our founders based on religious tolerance, should only extend good-will towards all faiths, and not disrespect and disparage our Amish community.

Far better to hire one of our local community bands, the only ones I would hire, that far exceed the Outlaws in musicianship and attendance "Keeping it Local" for local bands financial benefit as well as the County tax base rather than for Pennsylvania. If you attend the 2022 Blessing of the Fleet, which I do not recommend due to the lack of music and quality events, do not support the Amish Outlaws with your attendance, but come later only for the fireworks. One would hope better of such organizations but what can one expect of organizations where neither has any members of color and the Optimists do not allow women to be members.

Richard Lord, MPA  
Bushwood, Maryland



# TIPS TO AVOID PROBATE

Contributing Writer:  
Lynda J. Striegel

When you die, if you are holding property in your sole name, the only way that property can get to your loved ones is through the probate process. The only way to avoid probate is to create a Revocable Living Trust. By placing your assets into the name of your trust, when you die you will not have assets held in sole name and therefore, no probate.

Many people want to avoid putting their beneficiaries through the probate process. They don't like the fact that the filings in probate are publicly available or that it takes 8-12 months to close a probate. Or, that legal fees in a probate proceeding can be expensive. Additionally, they don't want their loved ones to have to sort through their assets in order to make the probate filings. They seek to make it simple. But, they don't want to spend the money to create a Revocable Living Trust.

What can be done? It is possible to minimize the number of assets that have to go through the probate process.

Since probate applies only to property held in your sole name when you die, you can transfer title of the property to someone else during your lifetime. Or, if you want to continue to maintain some control over your property, you can transfer title to yourself and someone else. If you re-title the asset with someone else so that each of you are holding the asset jointly with "right of survivorship", then when one of you dies, the other will inherit ownership of all the asset and there will be no probate.

Keep in mind that if your property is the subject of a mortgage, the mortgage company may restrict your rights to transfer your ownership.

Most commonly, a husband and wife will hold an asset like their primary residence in joint name with right of survivorship (also termed "tenants by the entirety"). This means that when one spouse dies, the other takes ownership of the entire property and there is no probate of the asset since it was held in joint name. Of course, when the survivor dies, there is probate of the asset.

Suppose you own a house and your spouse is deceased, meaning you own 100% of the property in your sole name. You have one child and want to add that child to your title to the property. Can you add another person, like a child, to your title to the property? Yes, that can be done with a deed. But,

there are consequences you must think about before you re-title any property.

The first issue is a tax issue. When you buy a house, your cost is your tax "basis" in the house. Suppose you buy a house with your husband forty years ago for a price of \$20,000 and the house is paid off. Today that house is worth \$200,000. If your husband is deceased and you own the house and add a child to your title, that child receives the property at your tax basis or \$20,000. When you die, if the child wants to sell the property, the child is going to have to pay capital gains tax on \$180,000, being the difference between your tax basis of \$20,000 and the market value of the property, \$200,000.

That tax can be avoided by passing the property to your child through your Will or Trust. A Will or Trust provides a "step up" in basis so the child or beneficiary takes the property at the market value. If the child then decides to sell the property, there is no tax since the child inherits the property at a value of \$200,000 and sells it for the same amount.

The other issue to be faced with putting a child on your title is whether the child has or will have creditors. Once you place property in the name of the child, their creditors become your creditors.

Another option to avoid probate is to use what is called "payable on death" forms at your bank. Every bank will have a "payable on death" form you can fill out indicating who will take the money in your accounts when you die. By filling out this form and designating a beneficiary to take your accounts, the accounts are not held in sole name and there is no probate on those accounts when you die. For investment accounts, you can designate beneficiaries to take the accounts when you die and avoid probate. These forms are called the "Transfer on Death" forms.

The best approach to probate is to focus on organizing your assets now so that your loved ones will not have to search through years of paperwork to try to find out what you own, where your accounts are, what insurance policies you have, etc. Believe me, your loved ones will love you even more if you leave them with very little to do in a probate proceeding.

Join me for a free seminar on the third Wednesday of each month at 11am at 8906 Bay Avenue in North Beach. Call 301-855-2246 to reserve your spot.

## St. Mary's Community Calendar

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

### Friday, May 27

#### Open Mic

Christ Church Parish Hall  
37497 Zach Fowler Road  
Chaptico  
7p.m. to 10p.m.

Acoustic musicians of all skill levels are warmly welcomed to perform their favorite tunes, beginning promptly at 7:30pm. Sign up to perform by contacting Michael Smith [smtmdmike@gmail.com](mailto:smtmdmike@gmail.com). The admission is \$7; performers are admitted free of charge. Visit [www.smtmd.org](http://www.smtmd.org) for directions and more information.

#### Food Truck Friday w/Doc Stevens Band

Take It Easy Campground  
45285 Take It Easy Ranch Rd  
Callaway  
5p.m. to 7p.m.

Join us at Take It Easy Campground for a free family event. It is held in the playground so kids can play. Chaptico Market food truck will be there with food available for purchase, but purchase is not necessary. Doc Stevens will be playing soulful country music with his band. Bring a chair or blanket and plan for a fun evening.

### Saturday, May 28

#### Public Document Shredding Event

St. Andrews Landfill  
44837 St. Andrews  
Church Road, California MD  
8a.m. to Noon

You Got It—You Bring It—We Shred It! It is time to clean out your file cabinets, closets and desks and get rid of confidential, private, and important personal documents that you no longer need to keep.

This community event will allow residents to have their confidential, private, and important documents destroyed by a professional shredding service at no cost, turning sensitive documents into confetti-sized pieces. This type of shredding ensures that confidential material cannot be copied. All paper material shredded during the event will be recycled.

Please refrain from bringing materials that are not confidential, such as newspapers and magazines (acceptable at the six Convenience Centers) as they will cause the truck to fill up more quickly. The shredder can handle simple staples, paper clips, spiral notebooks and thin metal prongs. However, it cannot accept 3-ring binders. Please limit the number of boxes you bring to 3 standard bankers' boxes (10"H x 12"W x 15"D) per person so we can serve as many residents as possible. A total of 12,650 pounds (6.32 tons) of paper was collected from over 239 vehicles at the last event held Nov. 7, 2020.

For more information, please call 301-475-4200, ext. 3550.

## Pet OF THE WEEK MEET JAKE

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Hi there, my name is Jake. Jake from State Farm?

No, this Jake is from St. Mary's County but I'm willing to relocate to another county if I can find a family that loves me! My wonderful TCAS pals say I'm a HANDSOME BOY with an ADVENTUROUS SPIRIT, enjoy time both inside the house and outside chasing the squirrels. I have EXCELLENT LITTER BOX HABITS and I've lived respectively with both cats and dogs. Kids don't faze me and toys that chirp are my all time favorite! So email [animalshelter@charlescountymd.gov](mailto: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>

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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

## Louise Edith (Farrell) Payne



Louise Edith (Farrell) Payne, 98, of Compton, MD, passed away on May 22, 2022, in Leonardtown, MD. Born on March 1, 1924, she was the daughter of the late Edith Mabel (Bussler) Farrell and the late William Joseph Farrell, Sr. Louise was the loving wife of the late Joseph J. Payne, Jr., whom she married on May 2, 1948, in St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, Compton, MD, and who preceded her in death on January 23, 2014. She is survived by her siblings Mary Helen Farrell and Arthur Farrell, as well as many nieces and nephews. Louise was preceded in death by her siblings Bernard Farrell, Leonard "Tink" Farrell, William "Bill" Farrell, Jr., Hattie Farrell Ryce, and her twin sister, Alice (Farrell) Rice.

Louise was a lifelong St. Mary's County, MD resident, and graduated from Margaret Brent High School on May 30, 1942. She worked on the family farm growing up. The family moved from Morganza, MD to their farm in Compton, MD in 1941. In high school, she and Alice (her twin sister) were very active in sports and were part of the 1941 Margaret Brent High School Softball Team that won the Maryland State Championship. After high school, Louise worked at the Ben Franklin Store in Leonardtown, MD for over 35 years, retiring in 1981.

Louise was a lifelong and active parishioner of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church. She provided support for many parish activities, including making the seasonings and stuffing hams for the bazaars, cleaning the church, rectory, and hall, and supported the church, priests, and staff in many ways. Her stuffed ham won awards at the County Fair. Louise and her husband were also avid gardeners and were known for their quality vegetables they grew, canned, and shared with family and friends each year.

The family will receive friends on Friday, May 27, 2022 from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM in St. Francis Xavier

Catholic Church, Leonardtown, MD, where a Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30 AM with Father Ryan Pineda officiating. Interment will follow in the church cemetery. Serving as pallbearers will be Jay Farrell, Gary Farrell, Ronnie Farrell, Dale Farrell, Steve Raley, and Billy Rice. Honorary pallbearers will be George Payne and Robert Burch.

Contributions may be made to St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church (Newtowne Manor House Restoration), 21370 Newtowne Neck Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

Condolences may be made to the family at [www.mgfh.com](http://www.mgfh.com).

Arrangements provided by the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home and Cremation Services, P.A., Leonardtown, MD.

## Liliane Louise Jarboe



Liliane Louise Jarboe, 88, of Leonardtown, Maryland, passed away peacefully with her family at her home on Pear Hill Farm on May 12, 2022. Liliane was born on August 12, 1933 in Herentals, Belgium to the late Gustav Lambrechts and Maria Smolders.

Liliane grew up in Herentals and as child endured the Nazi occupation of Belgium during World War II. She worked as an administrative assistant in Belgium for several years and met her husband Robert Jarboe of Leonardtown, Maryland while he was stationed with the United States Air Force in Germany. They married in Herentals on April 12, 1958. Liliane moved to the United States with her husband and soon became a US citizen. Liliane and Robert enjoyed 55 years of marriage before his passing in 2013. Liliane worked in partnership with Robert keeping up the administrative side of the family's farm and taking care of the home chores. She raised chickens and sold eggs to many neighbors and the local grocery store. She managed the household, canned vegetables, made wonderful jellies, while at the same time raising two sons and keeping them out of trouble as best she could. She was an accomplished seamstress re-

pairing damaged clothes and making countless outfits and the occasional Halloween costume.

Liliane enjoyed crafting in her spare time. On one of her many trips back to Belgium, she learned how to weave Belgian lace and traveled to many shows to demonstrate her craft. She was a spinner and a weaver and enjoyed knitting and quilting. Liliane loved travelling. In addition to travelling around the US, Liliane was a world traveler. She went on safari in Africa, visited China, Australia, the Middle East, and sailed through the Panama Canal just to name of few of the places she visited. In between her travels, she volunteered with the local Humane Society and fostered hard-to-place dogs; she adopted many herself and cared for them like her children.

Liliane is survived by her two sons Steven (Carrol) of Silver Spring, Maryland and Christopher (Kelly) of Leonardtown, Maryland, her sister Andre Lambrechts of Geel, Belgium, as well as her grandchildren Andrea, Alex, Aaron, Austin, Brigid and Will, and the many members of her loving family in Belgium.

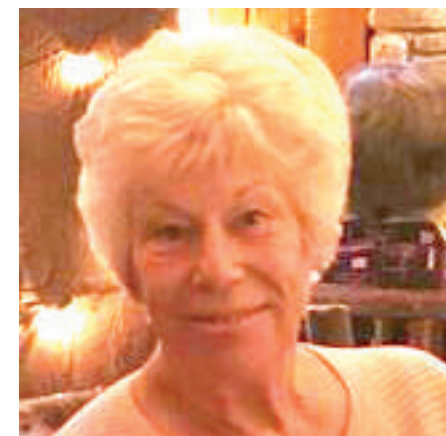
In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Liliane's name to Hospice of St. Mary's, P.O.

Box 625, Leonardtown, MD 20650 and the St. Mary's Animal Welfare League, P.O. Box 1232, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

Condolences may be made to the family at [www.mgfh.com](http://www.mgfh.com).

Arrangements provided by the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home and Cremation Services, P.A., Leonardtown, MD.

## Kathleen "Kathy" Ann Roach



Kathleen "Kathy" Ann Roach, 75, of Mechanicsville, MD, peace-



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## In Remembrance

fully passed away on May 16, 2022, surrounded by loved ones. Kathy was born on October 31, 1946, to the late Robert and Anna Callis in the bustling city of Washington, D.C. Kathleen graduated from Surrattsville High School in 1964.

After graduation, she worked many different jobs before finding her career in Banking. She became Branch Manager in just a few years. Her family was proud of her and her career, along with her admirable work ethic.

Kathy went on to have two (2) children Charles and Brian. After she retired, she enjoyed spending time at home. She loved to be with her grandchildren, watching a good Redskins game and occasionally yelling her support to the tv screen. She was very kind mother, grandmother, and friend, with a heart of gold. She was loved by many and will be greatly missed.

Kathleen was predeceased by her parents; Robert and Anna Callis, and siblings Warren Callis and Joan Ward. She is survived by her children Charles and Brian Roach; her siblings; Thomas Callis, Jeanette Austin, and Jack Callis; her five (5) grandchildren; Ryan Roach, Kevin Roach, Megan Linkous, Brady Snyder, and Nicholas Snyder, and her three (3) great-grandchildren, Lorenza Roach, Vince Roach, and Sophia Snyder.

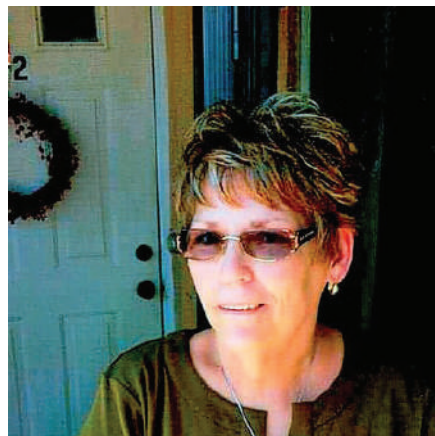
Services will be held at Brinsfield Funeral Home & Crematory, P.A. at 30195 Three Notch Road, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622 on Thursday, May 26, 2022, with Visitation from

10:00 am to 12:00 pm, and the Funeral Service beginning at 12:00 pm. Interment will follow the service at Resurrection Cemetery at 2:00 pm.

Condolences to the family may be made at [www.brinsfieldfuneral.com](http://www.brinsfieldfuneral.com).

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

### Margaret Louise Stickell



Margaret Louise Stickell, 71 of Loveville, MD passed away at her home with her loving family at her side.

She was born in Leonardtown, MD to the late Joseph Clyde Guy and Dorothy Dillard Jones. Margaret is a lifelong resident of St. Mary's County and a 1969 graduate of Chopticon High School.

She spent over 30 dedicated years with the St. Mary's County Public Schools as a Registrar and was later employed by Advance Construction for 10 years, until her final retirement.

In 1985 she married Carrol Edward "Chuck" Stickell in Avenue, MD. Together they celebrated over 28 wonderful years of marriage, before his passing in 2014.

She was an avid traveler and really enjoyed meeting new people. During the past six years, she and her companion Nick Govorukh, continued creating travel memories.

She made many beautiful crocheted blankets for her grandchildren, family friends, and many others, as she was extremely generous and giving. Her most recent hobby included shooting at the gun range. She was very proud of how well she did and often hung her target on the icebox for all to see. She loved her family, especially her grandchildren and

great grandchildren, making it a priority to stay connected with them.

She is survived by her children, Carrie Willett (Willie) and Wm. Thompson (Amy); her step-children, Sheri Knott (Troy), Teri Topolski (Steve), Dawn Wilson (Chris) and Sean Stickell (Dawn); her siblings: Charles Guy (Cindy), Jeanette Austin, Thomas Guy (Esther), Mary Bruno (Charlie), and Elizabeth Walker (Danny); along with 23 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren, extended family and friends. In addition to her parents and husband, she is also preceded in death by her siblings: Calvin Guy (Eleanor), Lucy Irwin, Walter Guy (Glenda), Kenneth Guy (June) and two beautiful great-grandchildren.

Contributions may be made to Hospice of St. Mary's, P.O. Box 625, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A

### Sheron Marie Hines



Sheron Marie Hines, 74, of Mechanicsville, MD, passed away on May 21, 2022, with her family by her side. She was born on July 9, 1947, in Minneapolis, MN to James Madison and Betty Hlavacek. She was one (1) of six (6) children.

Sheron was one of the strongest, courageous, and kindest women to ever walk this earth and her family felt blessed to have her as the head of the family. She graduated from Cooper High School in 1965 and continued her education at Minneapolis Vocational Technical Institute and received her Certificate in Junior Accounting. After graduating, she went to work a few different jobs before finding her true calling, a full-time mother.

In 1961, she met John Edward Hines, and the rest was history. The two fell in love and were a match made in heaven. Together they shared 55 years of blissful marriage and raised four (4) wonderful children, Sheila, John, Susan, and Samantha. Sheron was a loving, courageous, and fiercely dedicated mother to all her children, raising all of them to go on to accomplish great things. The family came first and was above

all else, a value she instilled in all her children. She was their biggest cheerleader and their constant support whether that was an ear to listen or to help guide them into becoming parents themselves.

Sheron was a passionate reader and when she wasn't filling her home with warmth and kindness, she was spending her time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, spoiling them every chance she got.

She is survived by her beloved husband John Edward Hines, Sr. of Mechanicsville, MD; her children Sheila Marie Hines of Waldorf, MD, John Edward Hines, Jr. of Kunkletown, PA, Susan Anne Hines of Mechanicsville, MD, and Samantha Kaye Proksch and her husband Herbert, of Waldorf, MD; her brothers David Madison or Maple Grove, MN, Thomas Madison of Mesa, AZ, Ronald Madison, of St. Pete, FL, and Mark Hlavacek, Wimauma, FL; her eight (8) grandchildren and three (3) great-grandchildren.

Sheron is preceded in death by both of her parents James Madison and Betty Hlavacek and her brother Gary Madison.

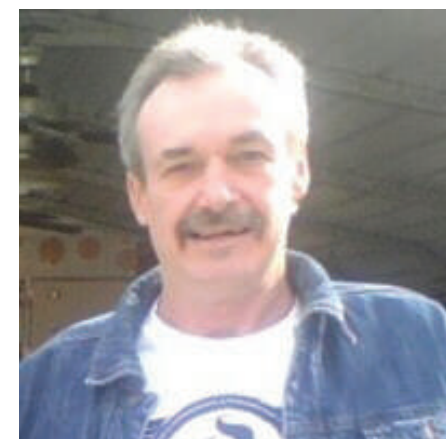
The family will be accepting friends for Sheron's Life Celebration Visitation on Friday, May 27, 2022, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Brinsfield Funeral Home & Crematory, P.A. at 30195 Three Notch Road, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622. Interment will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family requested a donation be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Sheron's name.

Condolences to the family may be made at [www.brinsfieldfuneral.com](http://www.brinsfieldfuneral.com)

All arrangements made by Brinsfield Funeral Home & Crematory, P.A. in Charlotte Hall, MD.

### Michael Wayne Dement



Michael Wayne Dement born March 8, 1957 in Leonardtown, Md passed away peacefully on May 18, 2022 at Riverside Hospital, California. Michael had suffered 3 strokes in 24 hours and was put in an induced coma. He had polio as a baby and as an adult he had colon cancer,

Thank you Lord for  
Doug Delahay Woodburn  
5/12/2000 - 8/3/2019

"love you pumpkin"



Words cannot say  
We miss you everyday  
Through the month of May  
We remember your Birthday



but still managed. Michael was predeceased by his parents Kenneth and Shirley Dement, and his brothers Kenny Jr. and Jody Dement of Callaway. He is survived by his brothers Ronnie and Jeff of Hemet, CA; his sister-in-law's Debbie and Lisa and nieces and nephews. Mike was a painter by trade and a very good one. He also loved the water and used to be an oysterman. He had many good friends, aunts and cousins here in St. Mary's and in Hemet, CA. Funeral services will be held in California.

### David Michael "Dave" O'Brien



David Michael "Dave" O'Brien, 75, of Mechanicsville, MD, formerly of S.E. Washington, DC, passed away on May 11, 2022 in Callaway, MD. Born on November 22, 1946 in Washington, DC, he was the son of the late Helen O'Brien and Edward O'Brien. Dave was the loving husband of the late Shirlynn O'Brien, whom he married on October 21, 1967 in Washington, DC, and who preceded him in death on November 6, 2019. He is survived by his children Heather O'Brien of Hollywood, MD, Michael O'Brien (Melissa) of Hollywood, MD, Shannon O'Brien of Mechanicsville, MD, Kyle O'Brien of Youngstown, OH, four grandchildren, and five great grandchildren.

Dave graduated from Anacostia High School in 1966, and was a switchboard operator for Bell Atlantic for 30 years, retiring in 1996. He served in the United States Army from June 30, 1966 to July 29, 1969. He served in the Vietnam War and the Tet Offensive, and earned the Bronze Star Medal. Dave was also in the 101st Airborne Green Beret Special Forces. He was a 32nd degree Mason, and loved golf, fishing, and the Washington National Baseball Team.

The family will receive friends on Friday, June 3, 2022 from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD, where a funeral service will be held at 11:00 AM with Pastor Dan Moore officiating. Interment will fol-

low in the Maryland Veterans Cemetery, Cheltenham, MD. Pallbearers will be Brian Dodson, Ronnie Jones, Jerry Johnson, Griffen O'Brien, Eric Hanson, and Tommy Morgan.

Condolences may be made to the family at [www.mgfh.com](http://www.mgfh.com).

Arrangements provided by the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home and Cremation Services, P.A., Leonardtown, MD.

### David Ernest Adams Sr.



David Ernest Adams Sr., born on November 16, 1955 in Leonardtown, MD, passed away peacefully on Friday, May 13, 2022 at the age of 66. He is preceded in death by his father Ernest Thomas Adams Jr., mother Louise Goddard Adams, and two sons; Thomas Edward and Steven Wayne. He is survived by his loving wife Frances (Frankie), son David Jr. (Little David), granddaughter Haley Nicole (Haley Bug), adopted grandson Aiden (Little Man), and two sisters.

David attended Little Flower School throughout his primary years and graduated from Great Mills High School in 1973. He met his wife-to-be, Frankie, at the Valley Lee Carnival. They were married on May 13, 1975, and spent 47 years building a life and family together. His career spanned many years, working as a Foreman at NAS Pax River Transportation Department, followed by a Foreman Position at Great Mills Trading Post, ending his career as an owner and operator of D.E. Adams Excavating before retiring.

David was a jokester, a fiercely loyal friend, and an amazing storyteller. He enjoyed hunting trips with the boys, farming at Adams Retreat, woodworking, and driving around in his historic car. He was blessed with a large family, both related and chosen. Anyone welcomed into his family circle knew he had a huge heart and never hesitated to help someone out. David really enjoyed spending time with his extended family from Coeburn, VA creating memories that he shared with all who would listen. He was a jack of all trades, there wasn't anything he couldn't do.

There was always a project or job to do at Adams Retreat Farm that he worked with his right-hand man, Shawn Thompson. He loved his little family members as much as the big ones and could always be counted on to make sure that Haley, Aiden, Jessica, and Erica learned valuable life lessons, like how to operate farm equipment as soon as they could walk, crucial negotiation skills, and how important it is to work hard, be strong, and show respect. He loved deeply and we will all be permanently touched by his presence in our lives.

The family will receive friends for David's Celebration of Life on Friday, May 20, 2022 at the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD, from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM, where a funeral service will be held at 10:00 AM in the funeral home chapel with Billy Sanners officiating. Interment will follow at Charles Memorial Gardens, Leonardtown, MD. Serving as pallbearers will be Terry Bagwell, Stanley Boothe, TJ Boothe, Michael Bowles, Donald Goddard Jr., and Ricky Graves. Honorary pallbearers will be Bobby Dean, Denny Ray Hobbs, Billy Ketrion, Bubby Knott, Roy Norris, and Robbie Tippett.

In lieu of flowers, the family would welcome memorial contributions to Hospice of St. Mary's, P.O. Box 625, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

Condolences may be made to the family at [www.mgfh.com](http://www.mgfh.com).

Arrangements provided by the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home and Cremation Services, P.A., Leonardtown, MD.

### Dr. James Esten Abell



Dr. James Esten Abell, Esten to most, died peacefully on Saturday May 21st at age 97 at the Larkin Chase Rehabilitation Center in Bowie, Maryland.

Esten was born son of Charles Ethelbert and Marie Hungerford Abell in Leonardtown, MD on June

13 1924.

Esten served the United States of America during World War II as an Aerial Navigator for the US Air Force as a 1st Lieutenant, flying top secret missions over Europe earning him the Air Medal. Returning from the war on a Friday and attending college that following Monday, Esten graduated from Mount St. Mary's College in 1946, and graduated Georgetown School of Medicine in 1950.

Esten started his private medical practice as a general Family Practitioner in 1951 before founding one of the largest OB-GYN practices in the Washington DC metro area: Abell, Grigorian, Murgalo & Scartascini. His illustrious medical career saw Esten serving as the Chief of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Prince George's General Hospital while also delivering thousands of babies in the National Capital metro area.

While Esten loved his hobbies of real estate, daily workouts, education and philanthropy, they were far surpassed by his never ending commitment to his Catholic faith and his family.

Esten is survived by his wife Eda Ann Abell, sister Lucille Nunn, and 10 children: James Abell, Jaqueline Maloney, Vincent Abell, Timothy Abell, Sharon DeRosa, Scott Fields, Jeanette Abell, Tina Jarvis, Douglas Fields, and Jason Abell. In addition, he was blessed with 39 grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife Jaqueline Marie Abell and brothers Dent Abell, Ethelbert Abell, and Whitney Abell.

A viewing for Esten will be held Friday May 27 from 6-8 pm at Gasch's Funeral Home located at 4739 Baltimore Ave. Hyattsville, MD 20781. A funeral will be held on Saturday May 28 at 10 am at St. Mark's Catholic Church located at 7501 Adelphi Rd. Hyattsville, MD 20782 followed by burial services at Fort Lincoln Cemetery located at 3401 Bladensburg Rd. Brentwood, MD 20722.

The family has requested donations be made to the St. Marks food pantry (where Esten regularly volunteered) at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/stmarksfoodpantry> or checks made out to St. Mark the Evangelist Church with the memo "Food Pantry" sent to the above address for St. Mark's.

To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of James Esten Abell, M.D., please visit our floral store.



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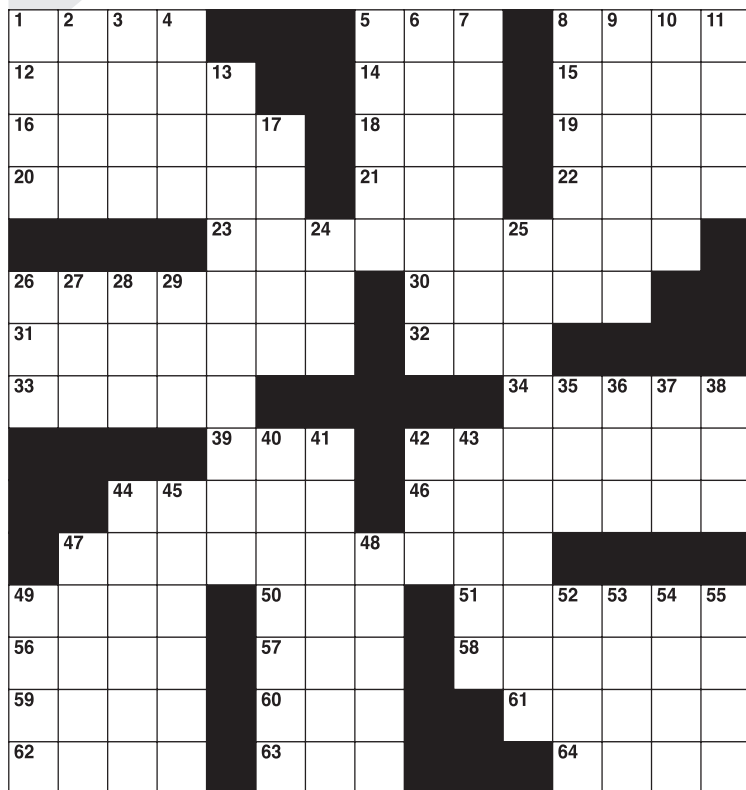
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# GAMES & PUZZLES



**CLUES ACROSS**

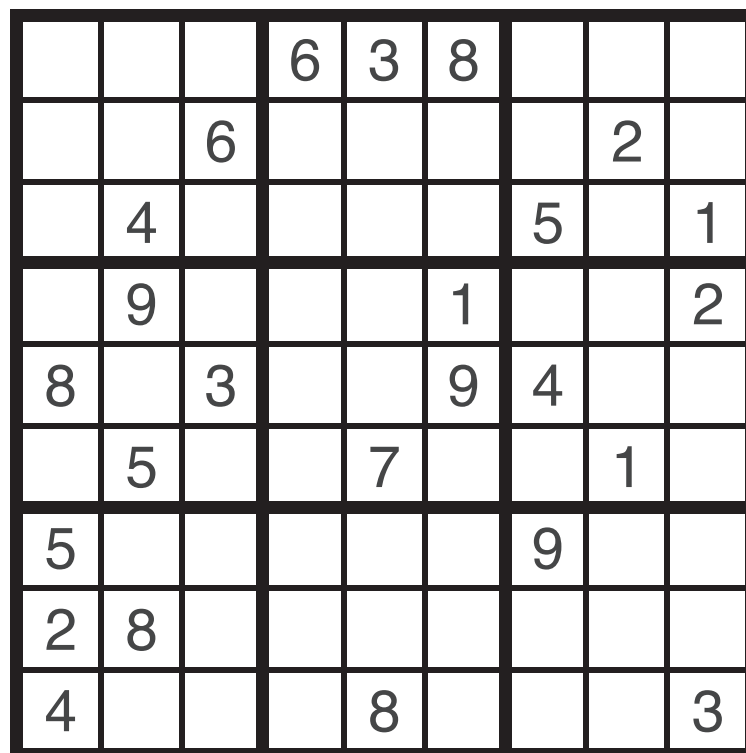
- 1. Orator's podium
- 5. UK-Netherlands gas pipeline
- 8. Partner to "oohs"
- 12. African antelope
- 14. Indigenous Thai person
- 15. Monetary unit of Angola
- 16. Becomes less intense
- 18. Insurance mascot
- 19. Tech hub \_\_ Alto
- 20. Actress Tomei
- 21. Airborne (abbr.)
- 22. Type of smart watch
- 23. Natives
- 26. Incompetent person
- 30. Rare Hawaiian geese
- 31. Unspoken relationships
- 32. Passports and licenses are two
- 33. Claw
- 34. Status quo
- 39. Mimic
- 42. Fur-lined cloak
- 44. Ancient foreigner

- 46. In an angry way
- 47. Ill-intentioned
- 49. Monetary unit of Serbia
- 50. S. American plant
- 51. One or the other
- 56. An alias for Thor
- 57. Gratuity
- 58. In a painful way
- 59. French commune
- 60. Promotional materials
- 61. Greek city
- 62. Assistant
- 63. Confederate general
- 64. Former NJ governor

- (abbr.)
- 25. Keeps a house cozy
- 26. Ballplayer's accessory
- 27. Southwestern Russian city
- 28. Pro sports league
- 29. Congress investigative body (abbr.)
- 35. Stop standing
- 36. Utilize
- 37. Sign language
- 38. Famed ESPN broadcaster Bob
- 40. Being of central importance
- 41. Ruin environment
- 42. Dessert dish
- 43. Sea eagles
- 44. Fertilized
- 45. Jerry's friend Benes
- 47. Indian river
- 48. Pass into a specified state or condition
- 49. Nocturnal rodent
- 52. A way to travel
- 53. Iron-containing compound
- 54. Ancient Greek City
- 55. NFL signal caller Matt

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Used by gymnasts
- 2. "Luther" actor Idris
- 3. Broad volcanic crater
- 4. Not for
- 5. Blur
- 6. Tots
- 7. Acted leisurely
- 8. About the Alps
- 9. Gets out of bed
- 10. Town in "The Iliad"
- 11. Welsh given name
- 13. Remove salt
- 17. Calvary sword
- 24. Mental disorder concerning body odor



**LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE SOLUTIONS**

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

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