Hogan Joins Local War on Opioids
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So if you're dog tired of rate increases, come on over to ERIE.
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We're ecstatic about ERIE
for auto insurance!
Ask us why.

ERIE Rate Lock® gives you an affordable premium that won't change unless you add or remove a vehicle
or driver, or change your primary residence.

ERIE Rate Lock® Not available in all states and does not guarantee continued insurance coverage. Insured must meet applicable underwriting guidelines.

Ask us why.
**Delegate Criticizes Move to Increase Minimum Wage**

By Dick Myers
Editor

A woman in Wildewood was alarmed and decided to do something about it. A man allegedly knocked on her door and said he was from Southern Maryland Electric Co-op (SMECO) and needed to come inside to inspect her house. Feeling something wasn't right, she didn't let him in.

As she quickly reported on Facebook, she looked outside and didn't see any SMECO truck. She also saw the man walking around her house as if inspecting it. Her concerns posted on Facebook went viral, with many people reporting similar incidents and also reporting that two men were involved. Social media became an instant Community Watch for the Wildewood neighborhood.

A SMECO employee then posted on Facebook that the men were probably from an alternate energy company trying to lure customers away from SMECO, which is a non-profit, member-owned cooperative.

The reports reached the St. Mary’s County Sheriff’s Office, which issued the following press release: “In response to calls received from concerned citizens and recent social media posts, the St. Mary’s County Sheriff’s Office investigated reports of suspicious persons in the Wildewood area claiming to be representatives of SMECO.

“The St. Mary’s County Sheriff’s Office confirmed the individuals are NOT affiliated with SMECO; they are alternate energy suppliers of the companies Maryland Gas and Electric and U.S. Gas and Electric. The companies may legitimately contact customers by phone, email or through door-to-door to offer their services. Customers should never feel obligated to provide their account information.”

SMECO added, “SMECO employees do not go door-to-door asking for access to customers’ homes to ‘look around.’ As part of our smart meter deployment, our technician will knock on your door to let you know there will be a short interruption of service while the meter on the outside of the home is switched. Under no circumstances would one of our employees or contractor employees need to be inspecting the inside of a customers’ home. SMECO has been made aware of the incident in Wildewood, and we are investigating.

“If customers have questions, they are encouraged to call SMECO at 1-888-440-3311. If customers believe they are in danger, please contact the St. Mary’s County Sheriff’s Office immediately by calling 9-1-1.”

dickmyers@countytimes.net

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**Woman Uses Social Media to Alert Wildewood**

By Dick Myers
Editor

In his weekly blog called “Tough Love Tuesday,” St. Mary’s County Del. Matt Morgan (R: 29-A) blasted the movement to raise the minimum wage to $15 an hour. Here’s his post:

“I believe that a healthy private business sector is essential to lifting people out of poverty. Businesses that have the freedom to thrive and make a profit will employ more people at better wages. If those who are pushing for a $15 per hour minimum wage really cared about helping people earn a living, they would make getting a job as easy as possible, not by pricing potential wage earners out of the market. After all, what is a wage but a price? It is a price paid by an employer for the labor of his employee.

“Just as we all take value in consideration as we spend our dollars, so do businesses. A recent study conducted by Montgomery County shows that the county will lose 47,000 jobs by 2022 if it mandates a $15 minimum wage. Seattle has already felt the effects of making it more costly for employers to offer jobs to job seekers. It isn’t hard to understand the economics behind this one, yet I suspect democrat candidates for Governor will be pushing for $15 minimum wage as a centerpiece to their platform.

“This is a job killer that will hurt the lowest skilled and lowest wage earners by making it impossible for anyone to hire them.”

dickmyers@countytimes.net

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**TEDx Coming to Leonardtown**

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

New faces and new ideas for change will be the focus of the county’s first ever TEDx event, set for Sept. 9 at Leonardtown High School.

TEDx, or Technology, Entertainment and Design independently organized events, are held all over the world as a forum for people with new, innovative ideas to bring local change to their communities.

“It’s a one-day conference,” said Alyssa Wilson, organizer of the event. “We’re going to showcase a ton of local businesses and local minds.”

TEDx wanted to bring a forum to St. Mary’s County because of the vibrancy of the local business and volunteer community.

“There’s so much of a base here for change,” Wilson said.

There are nine speakers set for the event, giving talks on a range of topics from science and technology to the rights of the disabled.

“Our passion is all about local businesses, local people,” Wilson said. “Those are the kinds of ideas that make a big difference in the world.”

About half of the speakers are local to St. Mary’s County, Wilson told The County Times.

“Others have some kind of roots in Maryland,” she said.

The speakers include Adrienne Somerville, a NAVAIR Community Management program manager; Alison Righter, president of Wings for Val Foundation that aids women in their dream of becoming aviators; Amy Looney, vice president of the Travis Manion Foundation, Brian Jordan a local inventor who, through an accident, became a digital amputee and used his disability to promulgate and manufacture prosthetics.

Others include Troy Townsend, a chemistry professor at St. Mary’s College of Maryland, Christine Bergmark of CLB Advising to talk about agriculture and food systems, Diego Mariscal of 2-Gether International to talk about technology and access for the disabled and Matt Hall, pastor of Southpoint Church.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

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**Summerseat Farm & Artisan Market**

September 3, October 1 & November 5
9am - 4pm

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Vendor Admission Form Available on Website

Summerseat Farm - a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving the estate’s historic splendor & natural resources. Run entirely by volunteers, the farm relies heavily on grants, memberships, donations & fundraisers to keep the farm running.

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All donations are fully tax deductible.
**Star on the Rise**

By William Stewart
Contributing Writer

Darius Barnhill, 21, started rapping in 2010. Residing in Lexington Park, Barnhill sat down with the County Times to talk about his journey. Barnhill said: “I saw a lot of my friends doing sports, and they had better talents than me, so I started freestyling (rapping).” Inclined by his uncles who told him to “dig deeper into it” the young artist began his journey into the art of music.

When he first began his journey Barnhill named himself “YS”. He said: “YS use to stand for Young Swag. I want to call it Young Soldier, because of all of the stuff I went through when I was sick. I went through a lot, and I call myself a soldier for it.”

At the age of 16 while attending Great Mills High School Barnhill was thrown into a tough battle when he was diagnosed with Crohn’s Disease. He said “I was on life support, I lost 40 pounds, and was in the hospital for three months.”

Through his trials he stayed positive. Barnhill told the County Times that unlike other artists he does not rap about females or weapons. “I describe my music as more closer to like a hip-hop, and poetry, because I always have spoken word in my music” said Barnhill.

Not only are his lyrics influenced by his battle with Crohn’s Disease, but also by his ambiance while doing daily activities. When asked what inspires the lyrics he writes Barnhill said “I have to be vibing off of something. Either at the beach with my friends, or outside looking at the sky. It all depends on my day, if I had a good day then I write to a hype song. Most of my lyrics are things that I haven’t said, and I’ve held in for years.”

Some performers have a routine, before stepping on stage, to guarantee a satisfying performance. A talk with God is how Barnhill ensures a successful performance. “I pray, I pray before every show, every song or anything that I do with music. When I pray I always ask God to forgive me, and give me a shield so that I won’t freeze up. I also call all of my friends for motivation, and to remind me of who I am” said Barnhill.

As a performer he has done shows in front of huge audiences, Darius said “It’s like being at the movie theaters, but you’re the actual big screen that everybody is watching. I keep my eyes on the smaller picture, I might perform in front of like two thousand people, but I only see like twenty in my eyes.”

Barnhill went from freestyling (rapping) to starting a music group with other local performers. Freedom Verse Music Group (FVMG), was an idea that Barnhill’s friend thought of. “If you think of freedom of speech, I switched that around to a music thing. Rappers get to talk about what they want. It’s different type of rappers with different styles” Darius explained.

With dreams of showcasing his talents at the well-known Verizon Center located in Washington D.C. and the BET Awards Barnhill said “I wake up and music is in my head. I sleep and music is in my head. It’s not something I play around with. Music is in my blood stream.”

In the past FVMG has hosted shows, at which the group members and other artists perform, in the Lexington Park area for local teens to attend. When asked what kind of messages he wants to send to his audience Darius said “To not give up, that’s my main thing. If you believe in yourself you can get to where you want to be.” Barnhill will continue working with his team to rise to the top of the music industry.

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**Upcoming Auctions & Events**

**Leonardtown Building Supply**

Complete Liquidation of all Remaining Inventory

To be held at Westfield Farm Arena

26689 Laurel Grove Road - Mechanicville, MD

Saturday, August 12, 2017 @ 8 am

**Mother Catherine Academy Annual Gala**

Old Breton Inn – Leonardtown, MD

August 25, 2017 @ 5:30 pm

For more information: 301-884-3165

**Hunter’s Bash**

St. Leonard VFD – St. Leonard, MD

Saturday, August 26, 2017 @ Noon

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THE MIL CORPORATION WINS PASS CONTRACT

The MIL Corporation (MIL), a mid-sized government contractor, is pleased to announce a contract award to provide Naval Air Systems Command’s (NAVAIR) (AIR 6.8) Corporate Business Office (CBO) with program and system support (PASS). MIL is one of 15 vendors awarded to perform work under this $495,737,308 Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contract.

ALONG WITH ITS TEAM OF NINE SUBCONTRACTORS, MIL WILL SUPPORT TOTAL LIFE CYCLE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES THAT ENABLE THE IMPROVEMENT OF PRODUCTS, PROCESSES, SERVICES, OUTCOMES, AND METRICS OF OPERATIONS, ULTIMATELY AIDING THE NEEDS OF OUR WARRIORS.

FROM THE MIL CORPORATION

COUNTY BUDGET BOOK AVAILABLE ONLINE

The St. Mary’s County fiscal year 2018 budget book has been released and is available for online viewing. The Commissioners of St. Mary’s County voted on May 16 to approve the General Fund budget at $221,324,105. The figure represents a 0.4 percent decrease over fiscal 2017. The balanced budget was adopted with a modest decrease in property tax rates. Funding for education, county departments and elected officials, along with public safety, accounts for nearly 87 percent of the General Fund budget. The adopted budget supports a fiscal year 2018 Capital budget of $50,581,291.

The FY2018 budget highlights include:

- Real Property Tax Rate is reduced to $.8478 per $100 of assessed value (Constant Yield Rate). The decrease amounts to about $12 per household.
- Certain elderly individuals and Veterans eligible for a 10% property tax credit for up to five years.
- Income Tax Rate remains at 3% of net taxable income.
- St. Mary’s County Board of Education receives a funding increase of $2,472,539 over fiscal 2017 to $102,189,940. The county’s investment supports salary increases for teachers and other school employees. 
- State mandated Maintenance of Effort is $100,851,291 and is based on an increased enrollment of 192.5 students.
- St. Mary’s County Sheriff’s Office will realize a $1.7 million increase over fiscal 2017 to $38,575,373.
- Various increases were approved for county employees for performance-based merit increases as well as funding for other one-time costs.
- “This year’s budget proved to be challenging in every aspect,” said Commissioner Randy Guy. “We were able to provide a small tax decrease while holding the line on spending. I thank our hard working finance staff for all of their work through this year’s process.”

The full budget can be viewed at: www.stmarysmd.com/docs/Final%20FY2018%20Approved%20Budget%20for%20Print.pdf

FROM ST. MARY’S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

ST. MARY’S REGIONAL AIRPORT RECEIVES GRANT

U.S. Senators Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen (both D-Md.) have announced a $1,323,906 Department of Transportation (DOT) grant for St. Mary’s County Regional Airport (2W6) in California. Authorities will use the funds to construct a 1,200-foot runway extension that will help the airport meet its operational needs.

“St. Mary’s County Regional Airport is a hub for regional economic activity, serving as a key link between the local community and business,” said Senator Cardin.

“This federal funding enables necessary enhancements to an important Southern Maryland resource. I will continue working to ensure that St. Mary’s Regional Airport has what it needs to continue safe, secure and efficient operations.”

From Sen. Ben Cardin

SERVICES

- Income Tax Rate remains at 3% of net taxable income.

TERMS OF SALE
- ALL ITEMS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY.
- NO REFUNDS OR EXCHANGES.
- CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED.
- DELIVERY AVAILABLE.

SAMPLE OF OUR FANTASTIC SAVINGS!

Shuttered Bookcase WAS $2,245 NOW $495.88
Portal Plaid Chair WAS $1,336 NOW $549.88
Asadel Cocktail Table WAS $1,137 NOW $299.88
Dogwood Dining Table WAS $1,785 NOW $650.88
Salvador Linen Ottoman WAS $1,454 NOW $649.88

SALE BEGINS SATURDAY AT 10 AM!

FROM THE MIL CORPORATION

SELLING OUT TO THE BARE WALLS!

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STORE CLOSED UNTIL SATURDAY AUGUST 12TH TO MARK DOWN PRICES!

THE GREAT $1,000,000 STORE CLOSING - RETIREMENT SALE!

- THE REASON FOR THIS GREAT SALE -

After 33 years as the area’s premier home furnishings, accessory and jewelry destination, we have decided to CLOSE OUR FINE QUALITY STORE, located at 28420 Point Lookout Road, and retire from business in order to pursue other interests. OUR STORE IS NOW CLOSED TO MARK DOWN PRICES on our entire stock of home furnishings, accessories and jewelry. More than $1 Million of fine quality merchandise from Craftmaster, Lee Industries, Universal, Uttermost, Motioncraft, Furniture Classics and Brighton Jewelry will be sold at LIQUIDATION SALE PRICES! Remember, these are floor samples, accessories and jewelry at the lowest prices of our entire career. Everything will be plainly marked on sale tags for immediate pick-up or delivery. During a limited time, we will be offering special discounts on custom orders. First come, first served. You will not be disappointed. We will open to the general public on Saturday, August 12th.

GREAT SALE DAYS!
Saturday 10-6
Sunday 12-5
Monday 10-6
Tuesday 10-6

CREDIT CARDS WELCOME.
DELIVERY AVAILABLE.

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Selling Out to the Bare Walls! Traditions of Loveville Live With What You Love 28420 Point Lookout Road • Loveville, MD 20656 Store Closed Until Saturday August 12th To Mark Down Prices! The Great $1,000,000 Store Closing - Retirement Sale! - The Reason For This Great Sale - After 33 years as the area’s premier home furnishings, accessory and jewelry destination, we have decided to Close Our Fine Quality Store, located at 28420 Point Lookout Road, and retire from business in order to pursue other interests. Our Store Is Now Closed To Mark Down Prices on our entire stock of home furnishings, accessories and jewelry. More than $1 Million of fine quality merchandise from Craftmaster, Lee Industries, Universal, Uttermost, Motioncraft, Furniture Classics and Brighton Jewelry will be sold at Liquidation Sale Prices! Remember, these are floor samples, accessories and jewelry at the lowest prices of our entire career. Everything will be plainly marked on sale tags for immediate pick-up or delivery. During a limited time, we will be offering special discounts on custom orders. First come, first served. You will not be disappointed. We will open to the general public on Saturday, August 12th. Great Sale Days! Saturday 10-6 Sunday 12-5 Monday 10-6 Tuesday 10-6 Credit Cards Welcome. Delivery Available. Sample of Our Fantastic Savings! Shuttered Bookcase Was $2,245 Now $495.88 Portal Plaid Chair Was $1,336 Now $549.88 Asadel Cocktail Table Was $1,137 Now $299.88 Dogwood Dining Table Was $1,785 Now $650.88 Salvador Linen Ottoman Was $1,454 Now $649.88 Sale Begins Saturday at 10 AM!
USA Triathlon Race Sweeps St. Mary’s

By Zach Hill
Contributing Writer

Marking the 10th anniversary of the Patuxent River Youth Triathlon, on Saturday August 5th, the races were off with some big changes made from past years.

“This year was a first for two things.” President of the Patuxent River Triathlon Club, Mark DeLuca said. “One, the Kids [Triathlon] is now officially sanctioned by USA Triathlon, the governing body of triathlons in the United States. The Race is part of the USA Triathlon Mid-Atlantic Region 2017 Youth Series.”

“Second, individual racer’s times were done by timing chip. Except for the 3-5 age group, each athlete wore a timing chip attached to their ankle by a strap. We hired [Charm City Run] to do the timing. They also took care of setting up and tearing down both the transition area and the race finish line.”

Over the years, the race has continued to grow into what is now near maximum capacity.

Starting back in 2008, the first practice triathlon was run in Wildewood with around 25 children in the race. That number steadily grew to 70 participants in 2010, 106 participants in 2011, 129 participants by 2013, 143 participants in 2016, and then this year they saw the biggest turnout to date with 159 participants.

“We were near maximum capacity this year, yet we hope to find ways to handle more racers in the future.” DeLuca said. “The key to growth is in inspiring these kids. If they are inspired to continue in triathlon, they will encourage their friends to get into the sport as well. We’re also developing relationships with our community. As our relationships get stronger, and we support each other more and more, the Kids’ [Triathlon] will get more exposure as well.”

Now, after becoming officially sanctioned by USA Triathlon this year, there are hopes that the race will be able to continue growing even larger than it was this year.

“As a USA Triathlon Youth Series event, we now have regional exposure.” DeLuca said. “That in turn should result in increased participation from youth outside our local area...[that] may inspire our local businesses and larger businesses to sponsor the race at corporate sponsorship levels and in turn gain regional exposure for themselves. All these things support the main goal inspiring youth to live the healthy, triathlete life.”

The race is only made possible because of the hard-working committee members; Haylee Coffey the Race Director, Brooke Fallon the Food Coordinator, Jessica Lynch the Volunteer Coordinator, and Penny Barnett the Swag Coordinators.

Sponsors for the race included: The Knights of Columbus, HTii, Lions Clubs International, Pro Flex Physical Therapy, The Pax River Adventure Center, and The Chris Hill Team from Century 21 New Millennium.

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PRICES EFFECTIVE FRIDAY, AUGUST 4 THRU THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 2017

Dave McKay Liquors
Burglary – Unknown suspect(s) left five-gallon buckets inside a residence in the 27000 block of Oxley Drive in Mechanicsville. It does not appear anything was stolen from the residence. Corporal Snyder is investigating the case. CASE# 41246-17

Vandalism – Unknown suspect(s) threw a rock through a driver’s side window in the 46000 block of Valley Court in Lexington Park. There was no entry gained. Deputy First Class Maguire is investigating the case. CASE# 41253-17

Burglary – Unknown suspect(s) attempted to enter a residence in the 39000 block of Middleton Lane in Clements. No entry was made and nothing appeared to be stolen. Deputy Shelko is investigating the case. CASE# 41115-17

Burglary – Unknown suspect(s) entered a shed in the 36000 block of Pratt Road in Bushwood. Nothing appeared to be stolen. Deputy First Class Schulttz is investigating the case. CASE# 41202-17

8-5-2017

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8-6-2017

Breaking and Entering to a Motor Vehicle – Unknown suspect(s) entered a motor vehicle in the 22000 block of Rose Hill Drive in Leonardtown. Deputy Ball is investigating the case. CASE# 41379-17

Vandalism – While conducting a neighborhood canvas, deputies located a broken window at a residence in the 41000 block of Miles Court in Leonardtown. No entry was made to the residence. Corporal Knot is investigating the case. CASE# 41379-17

Robbery – Unknown suspect(s) removed an envelope containing cash and a card from a victim’s shirt pocket in the 21000 block of South Essex Drive in Lexington Park. Corporal Reppel is continuing the investigation. CASE# 40833-17

Theft – Unknown suspect(s) removed a wallet from an unattended shopping cart at the Walmart in California. CASE# 40823-17

Theft of Motor Vehicle – Unknown suspect(s) removed a motor vehicle from the Maryland International Raceway in Mechanicsville. Deputy Molitor is investigating the case. CASE# 40897-17

Burglary – During the overnight hours, unknown suspect(s) entered a garage and stole property in the 21000 block of Great Mills Road in Lexington Park. Deputy Muschette is investigating the case. CASE# 40865-17

Animal Cruelty – Unknown suspect(s) fired one round towards feral animals in the 28000 block of Thompson Corner Road in Mechanicsville. Corporal J. Yingling is investigating the case. CASE# 40963-17

From St. Mary’s County Sheriff’s Office

State Police Conduct Death Investigation

Troopers from the Leonardtown Barrack of the Maryland State Police responded on Monday, August 7 at approximately 5:36 p.m. to a wooded area in the 22,000 block of Newtowne Neck Road, Leonardtown, St. Mary’s County, for a subject not breathing.

Investigation revealed Kristopher B. Gray, 30, had been operating an ATV (4 wheeler) on private property and for reasons unknown, he lost control and was thrown from the ATV.

Gray suffered life threatening injuries and was subsequently pronounced deceased on scene. Mr. Gray’s body was transported to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, pending an autopsy. The incident is under investigation, anyone with information is urged to contact TFC C. Ruth at 301-475-8955.

From Maryland State Police

Help Needed to ID Theft Suspect

The St. Mary’s County Sheriff’s Office is seeking the identity of the suspect pictured. On May 30, 2017, the suspect pictured, opened a credit card in the victim’s name and attempted to purchase over $800 in electronics at a Kohl’s Department Store in Alexandria, VA. The suspect attempted to use a fake driver license that included the suspect’s picture (above) with the victim’s personal information.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Deputy First Class James Maguire at 301-475-4200, ext. *8002 or by email, James.Maguire@stmarysmd.com.

From St. Mary’s County Sheriff’s Office
The cobia broke wide open in the bay from the Target Ship to Smith Point on Sunday as the low pressure and rain event approached. Chummers using cut bait and live eels had a great day as a couple of dozen were landed in the 30-to-60-pound range. There are lots of rays in the mix so there was lots of action.

Bluefish and Spanish mackerel are taking trolled surgical eels (six-inch Jarv-eels are the ticket in all colors). Most fishermen are using planers, although in-line sinkers will do. The ship’s channel from Point No Point to Point Lookout is best. There are no birds or jumping mackerel to give away the locations. Blind trolling and searching with the depth finder is key to finding them.

Rockfish showed up Sunday in the Potomac in big schools, breaking and attracting sea gulls in great number. The mouth of Herring Creek on the stones was very good. This will be the pattern for rockfish from now until the season ends in December with the fish working their way south in the Potomac to the mouth from Point Lookout to Smith Point.

Spot are everywhere in the rivers and in the bay. from the mouth of St. Jerome’s Creek merely turn north or south into 6 to 10 feet of water and drop over a double hook bottom rig baited with bits of bloodworm to catch them. There are some small croaker mixed in. The Potomac and Patuxent have plenty of spot; perch and croaker most everywhere.

Live-liners using live spot are catching rockfish daily in the vicinity of the Bay Bridge. Live-liners found rockfish this week around the boundaries of the Gas Docks. The stars are aligning for a fabulous fall rockfish season all over, and that does not figure in the sea-run fish coming in November to add really big fish into the mix.

Shore fishermen found spot and croaker at Piney Point in the public fishing area under the St. George Island Bridge. Point Lookout Pier has spot about halfway out onto the pier, and blue fish on the end. A rockfish of good size can be caught there too. All the fishing areas on the Naval Air Station around Cedar Point and Hog and Fisherman’s Point have rockfish, spot, blues, and perch.
Blackbirds and the Big Baller

The NBA and NHL are on hiatus. The NFL just resumed playing practice games. MLB is nearing its stretch run, but the playoffs and the World Series still seem far away. These are the summer drumls of sports, a time when not much of anything significant is happening.

But there’s still a lot going on.

With QB Joe Flacco having back issues, the Baltimore Ravens are, as of this writing, considering signing quarterback, and NFL enemy-of-the-state, Colin Kaepernick. Head coach John Harbaugh and General Manager Ozzie Newsome – gentlemen whose job security hinges on winning games - are reportedly on-board; owner Steve Bisciotti – a guy who’s tenured for life - is having reservations.

Kaepernick, of course, is being blackballed by the NFL for his anthem protests last season (this despite assurances that he wouldn’t continue the protests this year). Meanwhile, Bisciotti, the owner who has the Ray Rice debacle on his resume, whose team is among the league leaders in arrests in recent years and who saw fit to put a statue of Ray Lewis, a player who took a plea deal to avoid murder charges, outside of M&T Bank Stadium, has had a sudden blast of moral conscience. Despite that dubious track record, Bisciotti is concerned that Kaepernick, a player who peacefully protested during the national anthem to raise awareness of law enforcement’s treatment of minorities, will stain the Ravens’ brand.

Not to worry though. At a recent fan forum, Bisciotti invoked the Almighty and asked that folks “pray for us” while he mulled Decision Kaepernick. Super. I hope God takes a break from helping others through very real and complex issues – like law enforcement and minority relations - to help Bisciotti through his overwhelming football conundrum. In the meantime, maybe Kaepernick will observe this circus and conclude that Baltimore, with all its documented missteps, isn’t worth his services. In life, and in sports, sometimes the character of the judgers falls short of those being judged. Enough of that. On to LaVar Ball, master of the crazy.

I loved this guy – past tense. He was so refreshing, outrageous and, most importantly, fun. His sanity was debatable, but he gave you enough winks and smiles to indicate that his behavior was mostly tongue-in-cheek, an act by a father hopped up on caffeine and serotonin. I questioned his parenting skills, given his unabashed marketing of his children and created his own Big Baller Brand (and $495 shoes)? He was an American hero!

Was.

Ball’s first hiccup occurred after his son Lonzo’s UCLA team lost to Kentucky in the March Madness tournament. When asked about the defeat, Ball remarked, “Realistically, you can’t win no championship with three white guys because the foot speed is too slow.” Still, Ball’s quip felt less malicious and more a tired stereotype expressed in poor taste. Benefit of the doubt hereby extended…

But Ball wasn’t done throwing shade. While coaching his son LaMelo’s AAU team last week, Ball received a technical foul…from a female official. Ball’s post-game reaction, a rant in which he accused the official of being out of shape, unqualified and trying to over-compensate for her gender by being hard on big bad LaVar Ball, was disturbing – far beyond Ball’s typical shtick. It wasn’t funny and there could be no misinterpretation. It was sexist, plain and simple.

It’s fair now to question the entirety of Ball’s flamboyant act. Is it actually something sinister masked by humor? Is he a solid father or exploitive of talented sons? Is there more to his one-off comment about white players? Is the outrageous jokester a bully in disguise? A misogynist? An egomaniac at heart? It’s still too early to say, but until Ball proves to be none of those things, I’m departing his bizarre thrill ride. Ah, but maybe Ball’s sly like a fox; these times seem strangely tilted toward egomaniacal, insensitive, polarizing bullies and worlds of make believe.
Guffrie Smith:
St. Mary’s County Native Changed Many Lives

By Zach Hill
Contributing Writer

Kids have always been at the center of the life of one of Southern Maryland’s most well-known educators – Guffrie M. Smith Jr.

Born and raised in Scotland, Maryland (St. Mary’s County) in a family with four brothers and 12 sisters, Guffrie was the oldest of his siblings.

From a rather young age, Smith had already known that teaching and helping other people would be what he wanted to do in his future.

“The only role models we had at the time were ministers and teachers... In my one-room school down in Scotland, Maryland, I had strong teachers with high expectations and they encouraged and saw this in me,” Smith said. “At first I didn’t necessarily see that in myself, but they said that I needed to go on to college.”

Smith would do exactly that, going on to be the first person in his family to graduate from high school and college, achieving his B.S. and M.A. from Bowie State University.

“At that time, the only place you could afford was a school like Bowie (State) because you didn’t have a lot of scholarships offered around,” Smith said.

Smith has also completed some post-graduate studies at Nova University and the University of Maryland.

Following his college graduation, Smith began what would eventually become a 33-and-a-half-year career as an educator in the Calvert County Public Schools.

Beginning as a teacher at Appeal Elementary School in Lusby in 1965, Smith would go on to climb the ranks to vice principal and eventually principal of the school.

Smith even got to see Appeal Elementary go from being an all African-American school, to becoming fully integrated back in 1967 around the time when it merged with Solomon’s Elementary.

He would take a slight break from his career of working as an educator in 1975 to work with the Maryland State Department of Education for the next six and a half years.

“When I first started working with the state, I was specializing in migrant education all over the state,” Smith said.

Smith was the “Migrant Branch Chief,” a specialist in Title I, and would serve on multiple boards and committees including the State’s Professional Standards, Teacher Education Board, and the Multicultural Education Task Force.

Upon completion of this time with the state, Smith would return in 1981 to work in the Calvert County Public School for 22 more years, first as principal at Appeal Elementary (until 1988).

Smith would then go on to become a supervisor, coordinator of Healthy Families, and director of curriculum and instruction until he would officially retire in 2002.

Following that, he would take on the role as the main coordinator of a resource center in southern Calvert County.

“In 2003 and 2004 I worked in the southern part of the county to bring resources to the community” Smith said. “With them being so far down, they didn’t have a whole lot of resources to work with.”

Smith recently finished his second four-year term on the Maryland State Board of Education to which he was appointed by past governor, Martin O’Malley, he was elected to be president of the board from 2015 to 2016.

However, nothing can top the enthusiastic attitude that Smith has had throughout his entire life towards community involvement.

“I have always been very involved in the community,” Smith emphatically discussed.

He showed such excitement and pleasure after discovering that this writer was a past member of the Kiwanis Club's high school affiliate group, Key Club, as he went into greater detail as to what exactly his role is in the Kiwanis Club of Calvert.

“T’m their adviser to the schools,” Smith said. “One of the big things that we do is we give out scholarships and we didn’t give out but one this year but I sort of coordinate that working with the schools and giving scholarships to the Key Clubs.”

On top of working with the Kiwanis Club of Calvert, Smith is also active in working with Christmas in April, Calvert County Historical Society, and the Property Tax Assessment Appeals Board.

However, what Smith is most involved with nowadays is doing work with the non-profit organization, the Calvert Collaborative for Children and Youth, of which he is the president of the Board of Directors.

“As I was about to get into retiring, something came out about ‘What Makes a Kid Successful’ from the Search Institute,” Smith said. “They researched 40 major assets and they were in eight different categories and they are either external or internal assets. Then they asked the kids how many of them had these assets.”

The Search Institute reported in 2006 that out of the 89,000 students surveyed ages 11-18, only 20 percent engaged in creative activities or the arts, 23 percent enjoyed reading for pleasure for three or more hours a week, 25 percent felt that adults in their community valued the youth, and only 28 percent had positive adult role models with the list going on.

“The research (on the 40 assets) shows that the more of these (assets) you have, the more successful you are going to be and the less likely to get into at-risk behaviors,” Smith said.

“This is one of the major pieces that our non-profit does and that is the Calvert Collaborative for Children and Youth,” Smith said. “We advocate for children.”

The main focus for Calvert Collaborative for Children and Youth is improving student’s support systems, empowerment, boundaries and expectations, constructive use of time, committing to learning, positive values and identity, and social competencies.

The organization is always looking for support to continue what they do and have many fundraisers throughout the year including the upcoming night at the Bluenos Blue Crabs Game on August 12th, Rita’s in Prince Frederick on August 15th, and Mama Lucia’s in Dunkirk on August 21st.

Guffrie Smith Jr. has been honored with various awards through his life with the highlights being back in 2009 receiving the Louis L. Goldstein Award by the Democratic Central Committee of Calvert County, and being presented the William Donald Schaefer Helping People Award from the Maryland Commissioner in 2015.

Guffrie has been married to Catherine Smith for 53 years to which he shares two daughters named Shelly and Jewel. He now has three grandchildren and twin great grandchildren and he resides in St. Leonard.

On a personal note, this writer is still pursuing his education at the College of Southern Maryland (and as an intern at the County Times) and understands the impact that educators can have on the lives of their students. Guffrie M. Smith Jr. has clearly fit into that mold and has left a dramatic legacy throughout his life to the many young people he has touched.

zach@countytimes.net
Good pay. Important work. Physically challenging. These are just a few of the reasons that many young people are attracted to a career as a lineman for a utility.

“It’s a brotherhood,” said Jason Atherton, technical training manager at SMECO. “People require electricity. Linemen are the people who go out there and make sure you have it.”

Utilities like SMECO are aware that there is a great deal of interest in linemen positions, which, in Maryland, earn an average of $35.96 an hour, according to Indeed, an online job site that tracks salary data in certain industries. SMECO, for instance, reports receiving hundreds of applications whenever they announce a new training class for apprenticeship linemen.

The problem is that though hundreds apply for the training class, too few applicants have the skills necessary to start to learn the job, according to SMECO representatives. “Some have no idea how to properly climb a ladder or use a shovel,” Atherton said. “All utilities are having a hard time finding qualified applicants.”

In response, the College of Southern Maryland (CSM) has worked with SMECO to create the Pre-Apprenticeship Program to provide practical electrical utility worker training. The 12-week program of courses, which will be offered at CSM’s newly opened Regional Hughesville Campus, focuses on skills needed for candidates for utility training programs but also skills that are desirable in any of the trades. Completers of the program will earn a continuing education certificate from CSM and receive hiring preferences from SMECO. SMECO reached out to all regional electrical utilities and contractors to alert them to this new resource and encouraged them to support the program.

“SMECO has been collaborating with CSM on a program of study to meet a very important need … What they have come up with is truly exciting,” said SMECO President and CEO Joe Slater, announcing the Pre-Apprenticeship Program at the April 25 dedication and ribbon-cutting for CSM’s new Center for Trades and Energy Training (CTET) at the Regional Hughesville Campus.

“Students will spend 12 weeks learning core construction skills and safety practices here in the CTET,” Slater said. “And then they will go across the road to SMECO’s lineman training yard for basics in electrical utility work, including pole climbing, which is the great leveller. SMECO will be providing the electrical utility practicum as a community service as a good partner with CSM.” Atherton will serve as the SMECO instructor for the 40-hour field practicum portion of the course.

“It involves a lot of safety training,” said CTET Director Bruce Posey about the certificate requirements. The courses required for the certificate will cover topics such as excavation safety, working in confined space, first aid and CPR and core construction skills.

SMECO has demonstrated additional support for the Pre-Apprenticeship Program by funding two scholarships to assist promising students who demonstrate financial need and are from an underserved population for the fall 2017 semester. In addition, scholarships are available through the CSM Foundation.

Employers who hire students from this pool are getting a new employee with the training necessary to be placed on the job site almost immediately.

“If you don’t have any skills, it’s tough to find a job,” Posey said. “We can help you get the skills needed to be considered for employment.”

The Pre-Apprenticeship Program will be offered at the Regional Hughesville Campus beginning late summer/early fall, and students may register now. To learn more about the scholarships, contact the CSM Foundation at 301-934-7649. For information on CSM’s Pre-Apprenticeship Program, visit http://bit.ly/2sGBrEp.

From CSM
Re-Creating Yourself, One Beat at a Time

First, there is a steady beat coming from a single drum. Boom — boom, boom, boom. Other drummers gradually join in, each on differently sized and toned drums, as they match the beat created by the leader.

Participants in the drum circle focus their eyes on the floor or the ceiling to concentrate on the rhythm. Others grin at their neighbors as the beats match up in a satisfying pulse. Some of the drummers introduce variations, which the instructor of the class, Sheila Klotz, calls “layers.”

The group speeds up a little and then dissolves into laughter when Klotz stops the class to point out the unwanted speed change.

This is a Drum Circle class, a non-credit personal enrichment class at the College of Southern Maryland (CSM) on the Leonardtown Campus. It is one of approximately 400 personal enrichment class options offered every year at CSM’s campuses.

Latin Dancing, Basic Dog Obedience, Backyard Chicken Keeping, numerous cooking classes, Fit Over 40, Build Your Own Drone, The Art of Songwriting, Aqua Zumba, Pottery — the options are wide-ranging, accessible and designed to help area residents find a new skill or hobby or polish old ones, including drum circle skills.

Instructors for these courses come with excellent credentials and wealth of knowledge and experience. CSM Program Coordinator Shaunda Holt, who helps develop the programs offered by the college’s personal enrichment department, said she sees learning as a way for people to re-create themselves. “Personal enrichment is just that — living an enriched life creating knowledge, inspiration and passion, no matter what stage of life you are in. Anyone can re-create themselves and CSM’s personal enrichment program helps people to do just that.”

This summer is the first time CSM has offered a class on drum circles — an activity growing in popularity where a group of people play hand drums and percussion together as an activity as opposed to preparing for a performance. Students in CSM’s Drum Circle class take an hour, one evening each week, to focus on the activity for a variety of reasons.

Shirley Steffee of Lusby is a member of Daughters of Veda Sereem belly dancers, as are several other members of the Drum Circle class. The belly dancers use a doumbek, a drum from the Middle East, in their performance. “We wanted to refine our skills,” Steffee said. “Try new things.”

Emily Harris, left, and Shirley Steffee work to match rhythms in CSM’s Drum Circle class at the Leonardtown Campus.

Andrew Mauro of Great Mills, an aspiring writer who cares for his parents during the day, says the class is a break for him. “It’s fun,” he said. “It definitely has a good energy. Makes you want to keep going. Positive vibes.”

Grace Calo of California, who kicks off her sardans and participates in the drum circle barefoot, said she was so excited to see that Drum Circle was one of the classes offered by CSM this summer. “For 57 years I’ve had rhythm in me,” Calo said, adding that when she saw the schedule of classes, she knew this was her chance. “I get lost in it.”

“We love it. We all love it,” Steffee said of the Drum Circle class. “Our teacher is amazing. Patient.”

Klotz teaches from a wealth of experience. She has been playing drums and percussion instruments since she was 10. She majored in percussion at West Virginia University and then served in the military, performing as a percussionist in The United States Air Force Band, Washington, D.C. She later played as a percussionist in the National Guard Band, also in Washington, and after one year became commander and conductor of the Army Guard Band in Washington. Now retired, the CSM class is a way to share her expertise with the community.

Klotz supplies the drums and other percussion instruments used by the class, including the conga, djembe, djun djun and kenkeni, while students like the belly dancers may bring their own drums if they prefer. Klotz teaches about the history of drumming and emphasizes that, done correctly, drumming is a way to communicate.

Participating in a drum circle has also been shown to have health benefits. “It slows the heartbeat,” Klotz said. “It’s a release of tensions.”

She has a goal for her students beyond these benefits — the skills and knowledge that will allow them to participate in this activity. “They will be able to go to any city in the United States and sit in on a drum circle and be able to play,” she said.

The Drum Circle class will be offered again in the fall as CSM strives to meet the diverse needs of students and the community by providing accessible, accredited, affordable and quality learning opportunities for intellectual development, career enhancement, and personal growth.

Students can register for personal enrichment classes up until the day of the class, although earlier registration is encouraged because some classes have minimum registrations required to run. For information on non-credit, personal enrichment offerings at CSM, visit www.csmd.edu/programs-courses/non-credit/personal-enrichment.

From CSM
Lt. Gov. Rutherford Announces CSM Funding

From right, CSM Assistant Professor Byron Brezina leads a tour of the Leonardtown Campus’ newly updated robotics and electrical labs for Maryland Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford, with recent graduate Wen Xing (Kevin) Lin of St. Leonard answering questions with CSM President Dr. Maureen Murphy standing by. Lin, who will continue his bachelor degree studies at University of Maryland this fall, recently designed an invention with fellow robotics team members Dillon Mandleh and George Jenkins that not only won the inaugural CSM F3 Challenge this spring but created a lot of buzz with the oyster people clamoring for this counting machine.

The College of Southern Maryland (CSM) has the opportunity to take a significant step forward in its role as a regional leader in innovation and technology workforce development.

Maryland Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford visited CSM’s Leonardtown Campus Aug. 2 to announce that CSM, along with Johns Hopkins University and the University of Maryland, College Park, in partnership with the Maryland Department of Commerce, have endowed a total of $8.6 million in three new research professorships.

The endowments were made through the state’s Maryland E-Nnovation Initiative (MEI), a state program created to spur basic and applied research in scientific and technical fields at the state’s colleges and universities. CSM is the first community college to receive this prestigious award.

“The College of Southern Maryland is honored to be among the three institutions in Maryland to be awarded this endowed matching fund,” said CSM President Dr. Maureen Murphy. “These funds will allow the college to create a more sustainable and vibrant innovation ecosystem through public-private partnerships that support and impact the critical and innovative research being conducted at the Navy research labs in Southern Maryland. The Entrepreneur and Innovation Institute will not only support technology transfer initiatives, but will also enhance the regional and state economic and workforce development expansion.”

Through the MEI, CSM received $500,000 to support the college’s Entrepreneur and Innovation Institute (EI) and the expertise required to expand CSM’s technology transfer curriculum; research and identify regional technology transfer opportunities; instill entrepreneurial skills among students, government scientists and businesses; and expand the local entrepreneurial ecosystem and workforce.

The funding will be used by CSM to attract and retain world-class instructors to grow the current innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystem at a newly envisioned Velocity Center. CSM’s Velocity Center will provide resources for a variety of activities related to entrepreneurship, innovation and workforce development and retention. The initial facility will grow to be 20,000-plus square feet, with space suitable for a prototyping facility, classrooms, open space, offices, conference rooms, room for co-working space and other amenities.

“This is truly transformational,” Murphy said. “It says something. This is our time in Southern Maryland.”

The idea of the Velocity Center aligns with the strategic plans of the region’s naval bases — Naval Surface Warfare Center, Indian Head Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technology Division (NSWC/IHEODTD), the Naval Air Warfare Center, Aircraft Division (NAWCAD), the Chesapeake Bay Detachment of the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory — and the State of Maryland Economic Development Commission and Southern Maryland Economic Development Plan.

“The MEI program leverages private funds raised by our very active foundation board,” explained Vice President and Executive Director of the CSM Foundation Michelle Goodwin. “In this case our largest contributor being Michael Ciaramante, president and chairman of ProFlex Physical Therapy among other business ventures. The money will be endorsed by the CSM Foundation and the interest earned will support the EI and its Velocity Center initiative.”

“The Velocity Center will serve a purpose for attracting students but also world-class professors. The goal is to bring in more scholars to the school and the surrounding area,” EI Director Tommy Lugibih said.

The vision for the center is to give CSM students the opportunity to take courses in a world-class facility surrounded by some of the brightest research scientists in the country. “This will give students a chance to see how their skills can be applied outside the classroom and open their eyes to opportunities that exist here in Southern Maryland,” Lugibih said. “We plan on building a robotics practice course where the CSM Talons [the college’s competitive robotics team] can hold showcases for teams all around the country.”

“Maryland boasts some of the top academic institutions in the world,” Rutherford said in his announcement about the MEI funding. “We are proud to support the groundbreaking work these schools are doing, from drug discovery research to cybersecurity, to ensure both our local businesses and our residents are the first to benefit from these inspiring academic achievements.”

“The College of Southern Maryland, Johns Hopkins and the University of Maryland, College Park are significant economic drivers for the entire state of Maryland,” said Commerce Secretary Mike Gill in a press announcement. “The research they conduct and the bright young minds they nurture fuel Maryland’s economy and keep our state on the cutting edge of technology and discovery. We are proud to partner with these institutions and look forward to seeing the fruits of the professorships for years to come.”

Johns Hopkins University received $1 million from the MEI, which will be used for the Charles Glenn Grover Estate for Advanced Muscular Degeneration to further explore drug therapies for advanced muscular degeneration. The University of Maryland, College Park received $2.1 million for the Capital One Chair in Machine Learning and Computer Science, which will support cybersecurity, machine learning and data analytics research.

Earlier in the afternoon, before the MEI announcement, Rutherford toured CSM’s new robotics and electrical labs that have been updated through funding received by Dominion Energy. Assistant Professor Byron Brezina with CSM’s Math, Physics and Engineering Division led the tour.

interships and hiring opportunities there, as well as other CSM partnerships with the region’s Navy research labs, connections that will be strengthened through the development of the Velocity Center in Indian Head.

The CSM labs that Rutherford toured supported the college’s redesigned Engineering Technology AAS program. The program prepares CSM students for technician careers in a broad range of fields. Many CSM students are being hired for drafting positions by contractors for Patuxent River Naval Air Station and area construction firms, with these employers expressing high satisfaction with their CSM hires, Brezina said.

The Maryland E-Nnovation Initiative was created by the General Assembly during the 2014 legislative session and has provided $20.1 million in funding to leverage $23 million in private donations. The funding can be used to pay salaries of newly endowed department chairs, staff, and support personnel in designated scientific and technical fields of study; fund related research fellowships for graduate and undergraduate students; and purchase lab equipment and other basic infrastructure and equipment.

For information about CSM’s Entrepreneur and Innovation Institute, visit www.csmd.edu/community/institutes/eii/.
Governor Helps Underscore St. Mary’s Opioid Problem

Hogan Joins Announcement of Eight Murder Charges

By Dick Myers
Editor

With the cameras from the Baltimore and Washington TV stations rolling in the basement of the St. Mary’s County Courthouse, Gov. Larry Hogan was asked by a reporter why he was there. Wasn’t it unusual for a governor to attend a press conference in a county to announce indictments?

Hogan admitted it was unusual, but also said he was there for a purpose. He and his administration have been in a war against the state’s major opioid overdose problem and millions have been allocated to attack it. He said he wanted the rest of the state to know that what is being done here in St. Mary’s County should be done everywhere.

The governor was joined by St. Mary’s County Sheriff Tim Cameron, State’s Attorney Rick Fritz and Maryland State Police Colonel William Palozzi to announce the indictment of eight individuals for murder in connection with the overdose deaths of eight people in the county.

The eight indicted allegedly supplied the drugs to those who died.

Fritz said: “The drug dealers have to pay the consequences. For $50 (the cost of the drugs) they don’t mind killing our brothers and sisters, or sons and daughters.” He added. “The drugs that we are seeing on our streets are horrifying.”

Cameron said, “I never thought that heroin would be the greatest threat to our community.”

Palozzi praised the governor for his war on drugs and he touted the cooperative effort of all law enforcement agencies in battling the plague. He said of the drug investigators, “They work without recognition and often without sleep.”

Hogan declared a state of emergency in Maryland in March on the opioid problem, the first state to do so. There have been calls for President Trump to declare a national state of emergency. As part of the declaration, Hogan assembled a task force, on which Cameron is the only police officer member.

“This crisis is destroying lives and tearing apart families and communities,” he said, noting that there have been 550 deaths in Maryland in the first quarter of this year, of which 372 have been for the much-more-potent-than-heroin fentanyl and the lethal carfentanyl. Hogan said more people are killed in Maryland by drug overdoses than by gunfire and in fatal accidents combined.

Fritz pointed out that Hogan and the members of the county’s legislative delegation supported a bill that would have stiffened penalties for the distributors in a lethal overdose. The bill would have mirrored federal penalties with sentences of 30 years to life. Hogan said the bill was watered down to only add 10 years onto the potential sentence. Fritz said the eight who were indicted face up to 50 years in jail.

During a question and answer session after the August 9 press conference at the Leonardtown courthouse, a man rose to say his son had died of an overdose just two months previously. He wanted to know if there would be plea bargains for those charged and if victims would be allowed to testify at sentencing. Fritz said it was his intention to pursue the murder charges to the fullest, although circumstances, such as the death of a witness, may force him to offer a plea. He said the victims surely would be allowed to testify.

The heroin, fentanyl and carfentanyl crisis is only several years old according to Hogan. He said everywhere he went during his successful campaign, people told him it was their community’s number one problem. He said the first person who raised the issue with him was Sheriff Cameron.

Hogan said the state’s efforts have three prongs – prevention, treatment and law enforcement. Both Cameron and Fritz emphasized that treatment was the preferred way to go. Cameron said, “If you have a heroin or opioid addiction we want you to get help.” But they said there comes a time when locking someone up is the only option to protect the community.

Hogan insisted, “We must root out those who are providing this poison to our neighbors, friends and loved ones.”

The governor said the eight indictments announced at the Aug. 9 press conference should be a model to other communities and he was particularly critical of Baltimore city, which he said releases 50 percent of those charged.

Earlier Fritz pointed out, “St. Mary’s County is a small community. Death from an overdose ripples through this community.” adding that everyone knows someone affected by the tragedies.

St. Mary’s County may indeed be a small community, but Hogan feels it is taking a big lead in the battle which has become so important to him personally and to his administration.

(Editor’s note: see separate story on the indictments handed down that were the subject of the Aug. 9 press conference).

dickmyers@countytimes.net
Eight Suspects Indicted on Murder Charges in Connection to Drug Overdose Deaths in St. Mary’s County Pursuant to a long term investigation conducted by the St. Mary’s County Sheriff’s Office, the St. Mary’s County State’s Attorney’s Office and the Maryland State Police Identified certain drug dealers who caused the death of six citizens throughout the distribution of illicit drugs in St. Mary’s County. As a result, State’s Attorney Richard Fritz has secured eight separate indictments on individuals for second degree murder, manslaughter, reckless endangerment, and additional distribution and possession charges. The eight individuals charged include:

Latece Cantelle Greer

Latece Greer is currently incarcerated with the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services - Division of Corrections (DOC), where she is serving a sentence related to drug trafficking crimes in St. Mary’s County. The criminal indictment for Latece Greer has been provided to the DOC and her appearance in the Circuit Court for St. Mary’s County is anticipated in the near future at which time a bond hearing will be held.

Latece Cantelle Greer

Geoffrey Walter Uhall

On August 2, 2017, Geoffrey Uhall was apprehended by members of the St. Mary’s County Sheriff’s Office Vice/Narcotics Division and Special Operations Division’s COPs Unit. Uhall was located and arrested at his residence in Leonardtown, MD. He was transported to the St. Mary’s County Detention. At his bond hearing in the Circuit Court, he was held on a “no bond” status pending trial.

Geoffrey Walter Uhall

Marcell Davon Blackiston

Marcel Blackiston is currently incarcerated at the Calvert County Detention Center, where he is serving a sentence for failing to pay child support. The criminal indictment for Marcell Blackiston has been provided to the Calvert County Sheriff’s Office and his appearance in the Circuit Court for St. Mary’s County is anticipated in the near future at which time a bond hearing will be held.

Marcell Davon Blackiston

Tyreise Divron Nelson

On August 3, 2017, Tyreise Nelson was apprehended by members of the St. Mary’s County Sheriff’s Office Vice/Narcotics Division. He was transported to the St. Mary’s County Detention Center. At his bond hearing in the Circuit Court, he was held on a “no bond” status.

Tyreise Divron Nelson

Christina McCauley Granados

On August 2, 2017, Christina McCauley was apprehended by members of the St. Mary’s County Sheriff’s Office Vice/Narcotics Division and Special Operations Division’s COPs Unit. McCauley was located and arrested at her residence in Leonardtown, MD. She was transported to the St. Mary’s County Detention. At her bond hearing in the Circuit Court, she was held on a “no bond” status pending trial.

Christina McCauley Granados

Regina Malvalee Claggett-Brown

On May 10, 2017, Claggett-Brown was located and arrested by the Talbot County Sheriff’s Office. Claggett-Brown was transported back to St. Mary’s County and incarcerated in the St. Mary’s County Detention Center pending a bond hearing.

Regina Malvalee Claggett-Brown

Mark Steven Garner II

On September 30th, 2016, detectives from the St. Mary’s County Sheriff’s Office Vice/Narcotics Division accompanied Calvert County detectives during the execution of a search and seizure warrant in Dowell, Maryland. Suspect, Garner II, was on the scene and in possession of heroin which was uniquely packaged. Detectives recognized this specific packaging material and technique used by the dealer of the heroin which caused the death of Victim Barbara Ann Sneden. State’s Attorney Fritz authorized charges against Mark Steven Garner II for “Murder in the Second Degree, Depraved Heart” and “Conspiracy to Distribute Heroin”.

Mark Steven Garner II

Desmond Lamar Sloan

On August 8, 2017, Sloan was apprehended by the United States Marshals Service in Norfolk, Virginia. He remains in Norfolk where he awaits extradition to St. Mary’s County.

Desmond Lamar Sloan
Christin Marie Gaston
Christin Marie Gaston, 52 of California, MD passed away suddenly on August 2, 2017.
Christin was born on November 16, 1964 in Louisville, Kentucky to the late Gerald Thurston Campbell and Juanis Campbell.
Christin moved to Chillicothe, OH in the 1st grade and attended St. Peter’s Elementary School. In the fourth grade she moved across the street from her future husband and became best friends with that point forward. Christin graduated from Bishop Flaget High School in Chillicothe. She then continued her education at The Ohio State University; graduating in 1986 with a degree in Education. She married the love of her life, James (Jim) Gaston on June 14th, 1986.

A devoted Catholic, she was passionate to spread God’s word to her First Graders.

She often said “The First Grade World is an awesome place to be!”

Christin is survived by her husband, James Daniel Gaston, daughter, Elizabeth Hayden and her husband Corey of Hollywood, MD, son, Maxwell Gaston and his girlfriend, Julie Verbos of California, MD, sister, Kimberly Johnson of Chillicothe, OH, and her grandson, Paxton. She is also survived by her New Jersey and Kentucky cousins which she enjoyed a special bond with. Whenever they were around a room of laughter was always present.

Family will receive friends for Christin’s Life Celebration on Monday, August 7, 2017 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. with prayers recited at 7:00 p.m. at Brinsfield Funeral Home, 22955 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Tuesday, August 8, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Aloysius Catholic Church, 22800 Washington Street, Leonardtown, MD 20650. A Wake to follow immediately after the Mass at the Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department. Interment will be held in Ohio at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be made to the “Adopt a Student Fund”, in memory of Christin Gaston, c/o Father Andrew White Parish School, P.O. Box 1756, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Margaret Louise Joy, “Grace”
Margaret Louise Joy, “Grace”, 88, of Hollywood, MD passed away surrounded by her loving family on July 30, 2017 in Washington, DC. Born on June 21, 1929 in Waldorf, MD, she was the daughter of the late Margaret Gertrude Alvey and Carroll George Alvey.
Grace was the loving wife of the late Philip Benedict Joy, Sr. who she married in St. Aloysius Catholic Church Leonardtown, MD in February, 1951 and whom preceded her in death on February 17, 1999.
Grace is survived by her children: James Alvin Joy (Marry) of Clements, MD, Joseph Leroy Joy (Sandy) of Baltimore, MD, Phyllis Ann Tippett of Hollywood, MD, Steven Wayne Joy of Hollywood, MD, 10 grandchildren, and 17 great grandchildren. Siblings: Betty Ann Liscomb, Roy Hoffman Alvey and Lawrence David Alvey, she was preceded in death by her son Philip B. Joy, Jr. and siblings: Carroll Louis Alvey, Grahame Kenneth Alvey, James Edward Alvey, Elmer Norwood Alvey, Joseph Sylvester Alvey, Frederick Allen Alvey, Irene Alvey, Clarence Alvey, and Lucille Alvey. She was a lifelong St. Mary's County, MD resident and graduated from Margaret Brent School. She was a homemaker. Grace enjoyed bingo, gardening playing with grandchildren and great grandchildren.

The family will receive friends on Sunday, August 6, 2017 from 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM with prayers recited at 3:00 PM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Monday, August 7, 2017 at 10:00 AM in St. Aloysius Catholic Church Leonardtown, MD with Father David Beaubien officiating and Father John Dakes concelebrating.

Interment will follow in Charles Memorial Gardens Leonardtown, MD. Pallbearers will be: PJ Joy, Jesse Tippett, Mike Joy, Tommy Tippett, Brandon Tippett, Roy Alvey and David Alvey. Honorary Pallbearers will be: Billy Alvey, Johnny Alvey, Kenny Alvey, Jason Alvey, Scott Harmon and Martin Alvey.

Contributions may be made to the American Heart Association 415 N. Charles Street Baltimore, MD 21201 and American Diabetes Association P.O. Box 11454 Alexandria, VA 22312.

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

Edna Mae Long
Edna Mae Long, 97, of Damerton, MD (formerly of College Park, MD), teacher and counselor, passed away on August 3, 2017 at her home.

She was born on June 7, 1920 inNumidia, PA to the late Pierce M. Zehner and Jennie Wolfgang Zehner.

In 1925, she and her family moved to a farm in Nescopena, PA. After graduating from High School in 1938 she attended Teachers College and earned her Bachelor of Science in Education in 1942. She began her teaching career in the fall of 1942 at Nescopena High School. In 1944, she married Lt. William Pietruszak, USAF. While joining him in his assignments she taught in the dependent schools in Germany, Japan, Texas and Illinois. After his death in 1962, she returned to teaching in Prince Georges County, MD. In 1967, she earned her Master of Arts in Education from George Washington University and began her career as a dedicated counselor with Prince George’s County Schools until her retirement in 1982.

In 1969, she married Joseph C. Long. Together they celebrated over 40 wonderful years of marriage before his passing in 2009. They made their retirement home in St. Jerome’s Creek. For many years they spent the winters in Orange Beach or the Gulf Shores, AL.

In early retirement she enjoyed gardening and had many roses. She was an avid quilter and earned several quilting awards, and also enjoyed crewel and knitting. She and her husband enjoyed fishing together and she was fond of all animals.

Edna was a member of St. Michael’s Catholic Church, St. Michael’s Ladies of Charity, Knights of Columbus Belles, Mistress Brent Garden Club, and was active with Interfaith Volunteers until it disbanded.

Family will receive friends for Edna’s Life Celebration on Tuesday, August 8, 2017 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m., with prayers recited at 7:00 p.m., at St. Michael’s Catholic Church, 16566 Three Notch Road, Ridge, MD 20680. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated by Rev. Peter Giovanni on Wednesday, August 9, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. Interment will follow in the church cemetery.

Edna is survived by her daughter, Carol Jane Pietruszak of Fredericksburg, VA; her sister, Norma J. DeCillis (Bob) and nephew, Robby (Lesa ) of Fort Mill, SC; her step-daughters: Carol Ann Baum of Baltimore, MD and Jean Long Yendall (Keith) of Logantowne, GA; her step-sons: Alan J. Long (Kathy) of Doyner, DE and Rick Long (Leslie) of Croom, MD; her grandson, Logan M. Long and many extended family and friends. In addition to her parents and two husbands, she is also preceded in death by her siblings, Ruth Dale, Maebelle Reader, Stanley Zehner, Eugene Zehner and Vincent Zehner.

Memorial contributions may be made to Ridge Volunteer Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 259, Ridge, MD 20680, St. Michael’s Catholic Church, P.O. Box 429, Ridge, MD 20680 and St. Michael’s Catholic School, P.O. Box 259, Ridge, MD 20680.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home.
Legal Notice

IN THE MATTER OF TAMARA MARIE BELL
FOR CHANGE OF NAME TAMERA MARIE BELL

In the Circuit Court for St. Mary’s County, Maryland

Case No.: 18-C-FM-17-38
Notice (Adult) (DOM REL 61)

The above Petitioner has filed a Petition for Change of Name in which she seeks to change her name from Tamara Marie Bell to Tamera Marie Bell. The petitioner is seeking a name change because:
Desired spelling of first name is TAMERA.

Any person may file an objection to the Petition on or before the 11th day of September, 2017. The objection must be supported by an affidavit and served upon the Petitioner in accordance with Maryland Rule 1-321. Failure to file an objection or affidavit within the time allowed may result in a judgment by default or the granting of the relief sought.

JOAN W. WILLIAMS,
Clerk of the Circuit Court for
St. Mary’s County Maryland
August 10, 2017

Advertising Representative Wanted

APPLY TODAY

Requirements:
Advertising sales or comparable experience | Professional creative problem solving attitude
Strong presentation skills | Exceptional written/verbal communication skills
Ability to work independently | Entrepreneurial spirit

Send resume to aldailey@countytimes.net
It was a Fine Day at the Beach

By Dick Myers
Editor

It was perfect weather for a day at the beach. And, the beach was right in the middle of downtown Leonardtown. The 15th Annual Beach Party on the Square was held Saturday, Aug. 5 and the weather brought out a crowd that at times seemed to consume every available space around the square and down at the wharf.

Some of the popular features returned including the Leonardtown VFD fire truck hose down, volleyball and tug of wars in the sand, an area for the younger kids to play in the sand and multiple vendors displaying their wares and selling food and drink. Non-profit organizations gave out information and handed out freebies.

For the past seven years the Beach Party has also featured the Running of the Balls, sponsored by the Rotary Clubs of Lexington Park, Leonardtown and Charlotte Hall. Three thousand numbered balls were released from behind a chute to go bounding down Fenwick Street, with the first to arrive getting a grand prize of $1,500.

Beach Party on the Square is put on by the Commissioners of Leonardtown and the Leonardtown Business Association in cooperation with many sponsors.

dickmyers@countytimes.net
“ELECTRICITY? YOU’RE BARKING UP THE WRONG TREE.”

Making the rounds with my owner filling propane tanks, I’ve learned that clean, reliable propane gives people the freedom to live where they want and how they want—whether that means a hot bath, a cozy living room, or a perfectly cooked meal.

To learn more, talk to my friends at Taylor Gas Company, proudly serving Southern Maryland propane customers for over 65 years. Switch today and save!

Call Taylor Gas at (301)-862-1000 or learn more at proudlypropane.com
by credit card, go to: lilmargaretbluegrass.bpt.me/. Camping: Electric & Water: $30.00 per day. For camping: $20.00 weekend. Paid at the gate, but to reserve a specific site, call 301-875-8191. Dump Station available at $5.00. Vendor spaces are available. For more information: 301-757-3004, www.lilmargaretbluegrass.com.

LulaRoe Pop-Up Boutique Fundraiser/ Care Net Pregnancy Center 21562 Thames Avenue, Lexington Park, MD 20653 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM The Tri-County Area is invited to attend a LulaRoe Pop-Up Boutique Fundraiser to support the Care Net Pregnancy Center of Southern Maryland Co-hosted by the Friends of Care Net SOMD and LulaRoe JoAnne Mankowski! LulaRoe is a modern line of girls’ and women’s clothing, ranging in size from Kids 2T-14 and Women’s XS-3XL. Our clothing comes in a variety of different prints and styles so you are sure to find something you love! A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Friends of Care Net SOMD! If you are unable to attend this event and would like to make a purchase in support of the Care Net Pregnancy Center of Southern Maryland, please contact Joanne Mankowski at 301-997-5936 or email: purplepricegrace@aol.com. You can also find my business page on Facebook at www.facebook.com/LulaRoeJoAnneMankowski.

PRC’s Drive-In Movie Event St. Mary’s County Fairgrounds 5:30 PM - 11:30 PM We are excited to announce our 2nd Annual Drive-In Movie Event at the St. Mary’s County Fairgrounds! In addition to the showing of the movie Trolls on a 40’ theater-sized movie screen and drive-in style parking, our Drive-In Movie Event will also feature live music, concessions, arts and crafts, entertainment by other local nonprofit agencies, and many other pre-movie activities to create a truly memorable experience for our local families. Funds raised above expenses for this event will be donated to the Promise Resource Center, a southern Maryland nonprofit dedicated to educating, guiding, and supporting local families. Online tickets are $5 per person and are on sale now at therionsnew.org/drivein. Tickets will be $12 per person at the door. Children 4 and under are free. Tickets can be purchased at www.therionsnew.org/drivein.

Elks TEXAS HOLD’EM TOURNAMENT St Mary’s County Elks Lodge 45779 Fire Department Lane, Lexington Park, MD 20653 7:00 PM NO LIMIT TEXAS HOLD’EM TOURNAMENT, $60 Buy In = 6500 chips. Sign up by 6:45 and receive an additional 500 chips. Optional $5 add-on and receive 1000 chips. Total Starting Stack could be 8000 chips. Top ten percent placed. Food and Beverage are available for purchase. Cash games will start as soon as there are enough players that are interested. Holdem: $1-$2 no limit, Omaha Hi/Lo: $5-$10 no limit (starts at 4pm). Please enter through the side of the building. Questions: James Dean 240-577-0828, Email: jdeanjunior@yahoo.com.

Shakespeare in the City: Love’s Labour’s Lost Historic St. Mary’s City, State House Lawn 47414 Old State House Rd, St. Mary’s City, MD 20656 7:30 PM - 10:00 PM Love’s Labour’s Lost is presented in partnership with the Newtowne Players. Ticket prices vary, according to age. Military discount available. Reservations recommended: www.hsmedigishistory.org/event/shakespeare-city?instance_id=21708.

LVRSA Annual Everything Sale Leonardtown Volunteer Rescue Squad Building in Leonardtown, MD 7:00 AM - 2:00 PM Please join us for our annual everything sale where you can find yard sale items, plants, baked goods, our Secret Crush and other white elephant items. If you would like to donate items for the sale please call 240-298-5310. If you would like to rent a table for $10 to sell your own items please call 240-298-5444.

Women’s Conference First Missionary Baptist Church 46370 Pegg Lane, Lexington Park, MD 20653 8:00 AM The Women’s Ministry of First Missionary Baptist Church cordially invites you to attend its annual Women’s Conference on August 26, 2017, where we will be “Proceeding to the Open Door”. The Women’s Conference commences at 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., with a Continental Breakfast being served at 8:00 a.m. and with lunch being served at 11:30 a.m. Our facilitators for the occasion are Reverend Emma Curry, Associate Minister, Zion Baptist Church, Welcome, MD and Reverend Michelle Dockett, First Lady of One Church, DMV and the Conference Preacher is Minister Bruce Palmer, First Lady of Israel Total Life Ministries, Waldorf, MD. Tickets are $25.00 and can be purchased by contacting First Missionary Baptist Church at 301-863-8388. Tickets will be available at the door.

Seasonal Farmer’s Market Historic Sotterley 44300 Sotterley Lane, Hollywood, MD 20636 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM Check sotterley.org for details.

CSM Super Saturday CSM 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM College of Southern Maryland; La Plata, Prince Frederick and Leonardtown campus. Ready to start at CSM? Those who have already applied for admission are invited to Super Saturday, when CSM students can complete in one day everything needed before class starts. Tour campus, complete placement tests (students who need to take placement tests must arrive by 9 a.m.), meet with an advisor, register and pay for classes. 301-934-7765, www.csm.edu/apply-register/credit/super-saturdays.

Southern MD Decorative Painters Paint-In Immaculate Conception Church 28297 Old Village Rd., Mechanicsville, MD 20659 (This will be in the hall behind the church) 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM We will be painting a design. Guests are always welcome and should contact us for supply info if you’d like to paint on the date of your visit. You can visit our website at www.smdpaint.org. Any questions contact Garrett Joy at 301-884-2835 or email LearnToPaint2016@gmail.com. Thank you.
**Shakespeare in the City: Love’s La-
- 3:00 p.m., with a Continental Breakfast
- being served at 8:00 a.m. and with lunch
- being served at 11:50 a.m. Our facilita-
- will take place from 10:00am to 1:00pm. Trophies for top 25
- and 2 people’s choice awards. Car Show
- fee is $25 includes one brunch. Donations
- $20 in advance and $25 at the door includes
- one brunch. RSVP to SUSAN at 234 298
- 3122 or ALZBRUNCH@GMAIL.COM.

**Fried Chicken Dinner**
Saint Michael’s Council Knights of Co-
- 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

- 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM

**Women’s Conference**
First Missionary Baptist Church
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20653
8:00 AM
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- tors for the occasion are Reverend Emma
- Curry, Associate Minister, Zion Baptist
- Church, Welcome, MD and Reverend Mi-
- ssionary Baptist Church
6441 Three Notch Road, Ridge, MD
20677
12:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Bingo with a twist... Win gift cards for local
- vendors including: PartyLite, Perfectly
- planners, Party Source, Calvert Kettle Popcorn, Damsel in De-
- tailed cakes and pastries are available for purchase. Cash games
- will start as soon as there are enough play-
- ers that are interested. Holdem: $1- $2 no
- limit, Omaha Hi/Lo: $.50—$1 no limit
- (starts at 4pm). Please enter through the
- side of the building. Questions: James
- Dean 240-577-0828 Email: jdeanjunior@
- yahoo.com.

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- (starts at 4pm). Please enter through the
- side of the building. Questions: James
- Dean 240-577-0828 Email: jdeanjunior@
- yahoo.com.
Our names are Lightning and Oscar. No Oscar is not a grouch. He is very sweet. We both are. We were born around April 23, 2017. A volunteer from Feral Cat Rescue trapped our mom and she was spayed and vaccinated and put back outside where we were born. A lady feeds our mom every day. We were so small that it was easy to domesticate us.

There have been so many kittens to compete with to find homes so we have not found a home yet. Will you adopt us or one of us? We are fully vetted. We even have microchips. We only cost $125 each. If you picked up a stray cat and did all the vetting we have had, it would cost a lot more. You can meet us at the Petco in California every Saturday and Sunday from 10:30 to 3. You can fill out an application at www.feralcatrescue.md.org

Hello, my name is Homer and I’m a brown and white male neutered Beagle mix. I’m approximately 4 years old. I’m a VERY SWEET boy and I love to explore. I think YOU would be the perfect best friend to join me on my adventures!

Please Choose Me!

And remember, if there is room in the heart, there is room in the house!

Come by and meet me today! Visit the wonderful folks at Tri-County Animal Shelter (6707 Animal Shelter Road, Hughesville) or call 301-932-1713 for more information. To see more of my amazing friends available for adoption, “like” us on Facebook @ Tri-County Animal Shelter Southern MD.
**St. Mary's Department of Aging Programs and Activities**

Brought to you by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County: James R. Guy, President; Michael L. Hewitt; Tom Jarboe; Todd B. Morgan; John E. O'Connor; and the Department of Aging & Human Services

**Individual Nutrition Counseling Now Available**

The Department of Aging & Human Services is pleased to offer individual nutrition counseling on a limited basis at the county’s three senior activity centers. Donna Taggart, a registered and licensed dietician as well as a Certified Diabetes Educator will be available to talk to you about your nutrition needs and questions on Monday, Sept. 11, and Fall, Sept. 29. Call or text to 240-538-6539 to make your private appointment. Limited spaces are available.

**“Pop-Up” LIFE trip: Solar Eclipse Viewing Party**

Join us on Monday, Aug. 21 for a “Pop-Up” LITE trip to view the total solar eclipse. The bus will depart the Norther Senior Activity Center at 10 a.m. and return by 5 p.m. TST’s bus transportation is provided, but you must provide your own lunch and beverages. Solar eclipse viewing glasses, movie in the science center dome before the eclipse and outside viewing area of the eclipse. Tour is limited to 15 participants 50 years of age and older. To register, call Alice Allen at 301-475-4200, ext. *1063 or email alice.allen@stmarysmd.com

**Maryland Renaissance Festival Trip**

Hear ye, hear ye! His Royal Highness King Henry VIII would like to cordially invite you to join us on trip to the Maryland Renaissance Festival in Crownsville, MD on Saturday, Sept. 9; deadline to sign up is Aug. 17. Be transported back to the 16th century as you roam the 27-acre village of Revel Grove and explore its many artisans and shops. Enjoy the merriment of dancing, singing, comedy, armored combat, and so much more. The trip cost is $45 and includes transportation and admission to the festival. Food is purchased separately from one of the 42 different vendors offering a variety of cuisine. Payment is due at sign up to secure your spot for the trip. For more information call 301-475-4200, ext. *3103.

**Crafts with Deb**

On Wednesday, Aug. 16, at 1 p.m., Deb Johnstone will be showcasing the class at the Garvey Senior Activity Center how to create a recycled t-shirt scarf. Before class go through your old t-shirts piece by piece to bring to class. There is no charge for the class as you will be providing the materials. Call the Garvey Senior Activity Center at 301-475-4200, ext. *1500, for more information or to register for the class.

**Lunchen with Bruce Thomas**

On Thursday, Aug. 17, at 12 p.m., guest vocalist Bruce Thomas will be here at the Garvey Senior Activity Center. Bruce is a diverse performer who can effortlessly move through the musical categories of inspirational, swing, jazz, pop, and R&B. Please join us for an energetic and interactive performance while dining. Lunch will be pork roast, mashed potatoes with gravy, seasoned spinach, dinner roll, strawberries and apple juice. A donation toward the cost of your meal is appreciated if you are 60 years of age or older. For those under 60 the cost of your meal will be $6. To make reservations call 301-475-4200, ext. *1500.

**Water Bottle Challenge**

Charlotte Hall Library will hold a Water Bottle Challenge on Monday, August 14. Two sessions will be held: 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Please only register for one of the classes. Can you think on your feet, team up, use creativity, and complete the challenge? Come play Minecraft with us and find out! Must be able to use a mouse and keyboard commands, and be familiar with Minecraft to play Minecraft (we will not use the tutorial). Ages 8-11. Registration opens 2 weeks before the program on www.stmalib.org.

**Introduction to Genealogy**

Leonardtown Library will hold an Introduction to Genealogy on Monday, August 14 from 10 – 11 a.m. at the salon and in the Break Room. Come find out about the internet resources to help you investigate your family’s history! Free and open to the public. For ages 18 years and older. Call 301-475-4200 ext. *1658 for information or to register.

**Introduction to Google Drive**

Leonardtown Library will hold an Introduction to Google Drive class on Monday, August 14 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Take your basic skills to the next level with Google Drive. You will learn how to save files using your Gmail login and see how to access Google’s word processor so you can create documents on any computer that has an internet connection. Adult computer classes are limited to ages 16 and up. Registration required on www.stmalib.org.

**Mini Monet**

Leonardtown Library will hold Mini Monet on Friday, August 18 from 9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. Come join us on a messy adventure as we explore the world of art in its various forms. A new experience at your library for our youngest customers and their caregivers. Please expect and prepare for a messy good time! Ages 6 months - 4 years old. Registration required on www.stmalib.org.

**Water Bottle Challenge**

Leonardtown Library will hold a Water Bottle Challenge activity for ages 12 – 18 on Tuesday, August 15 from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Flipping a water bottle to fall perfectly upright sounds easy enough, right? It may not be as easy as you think. Challenge your friends to see who can land their bottle upright, who can make the most successful flips in 30 seconds, and who has the most artistic flip. Learn techniques for proper flipping and the science behind a successful flip. Registration is recommended.

**Pickleball for Beginners**

New session for those new to Pickleball will run through Tuesday, October 10 at 10 a.m. The sessions will be held at the Leonard Hall Recreation Center. If you are new to the sport of Pickleball, it is highly suggested that you begin with this course. You will learn basic shot techniques, rules, scoring, court positioning and basic strategy. Over the 8-week period you will get plenty of court time to develop the skills and confidence needed to compete against intermediate and advanced players. Your love for the game begins now! The cost for these sessions is $32. Payment is due at the time of reservation. Slots are still open to join this activity! To learn more, call 301-475-4200, ext. *1050.

**Bling Flamingos**

Back by popular demand! The Northern Senior Activity Center is hosting a Bling Flamingos class on Monday, August 28 at 1:30 p.m. Come customize your own plastic flamingo with paint, jewels, beads, buttons, flowers, and more. The cost of the session is a $5 contribution. You can also purchase a flamingo from the group for an additional $3 if you don’t have your own. To sign up in advance, visit the front desk. For more information call 301-475-4200, ext. *3103.

**Bowling Season Starts Sept. 14**

The 2017-18 season of the senior mixed league, sponsored by the St. Mary’s County Department of Aging & Human Services, will begin Sept. 14. If you are planning to bowl in the 2017-18 season of the senior mixed league, sponsored by the St. Mary’s County Department of Aging & Human Services, please come to the Kick-Off Meeting on Thursday, Sept. 7 at 12:30 p.m. at the Northern Senior Activity Center. We will use this time to determine costs and make necessary adjustments and corrections to team rules, roster, schedule, team list, team and sub contact info, etc. Changes will be made and final copies will be printed and brought to the first game of the season (Sept. 14). If you have any questions or interest, call Shellie Graziano at 301-475-4200, ext. *1655.

**Bowling League Kick-Off Meeting**

If you are planning to bowl in the 2017-18 season of the senior mixed league, sponsored by the St. Mary’s County Department of Aging & Human Services, please come to the Kick-Off Meeting on Thursday, Sept. 7 at 12:30 p.m. at the Northern Senior Activity Center. We will use this time to determine costs and make necessary adjustments and corrections to team rules, roster, schedule, team list, team and sub contact info, etc. Changes will be made and final copies will be printed and brought to the first game of the season (Sept. 14). If you have any questions or interest, call Shellie Graziano at 301-475-4200, ext. *1655.

**Kindergarten Here We Come**

Leonardtown Library will hold Kindergarten Here We Come! on Saturday, August 19 from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Let’s get ready to tuck into Kindergarten or PreK (Kindergarten or PreK)? We’ll read stories about school, make crafts, learn how to stay healthy and safe at school, and take a practice ride on a real school bus to get to know the bus driver, Kindergarten or PreK and their adult caregivers. Registration required on www.stmalib.org.
Four turrets and a drawbridge.
Oh, and a moat. Your home absolutely must have a moat, plus a dining hall, red carpet to the throne, and servants’ quarters. You’re already Queen of All You See, so why not have a castle to match? If you lived six hundred years ago, as in “The Hidden Lives of Tudor Women” by Elizabeth Norton, you’d be lucky to have it.

In Shakespeare’s time, it was believed that human life could be sectioned into Seven Ages of Man. The word “man” was taken literally, in that case – but in Tudor times (roughly 1485-1603), women left their marks, too…

Queen Elizabeth of York might’ve thought she was expecting, but she couldn’t know for sure until she felt a quickening. It was 1492, and knowledge of pregnancy was scant; still, Her Highness’s suspicions were correct. That fall, after weeks of tedious confinement and labor on a wooden pallet, she would deliver a princess that she would immediately turn over to a wet-nurse and two “rockers.” They would basically raise the child through her infancy, which would end in her seventh year.

Alas, the little girl died at age three and the family mourned but “life went on”: her mother was pregnant again.

For Tudor children, adolescence began at age seven and, while boys were usually sent away to be educated, girls often received schooling at home. Most Tudor parents believed that “a little learning could not hurt” a girl before she’d be put to work at service jobs, often on farms. Considered a sort of on-the-job training, it was a rough life for a child – especially when rape was common and rapists were rarely prosecuted.

Fourteen years old was a time for romance and early adulthood, and twenty-eight was a “time for action.” Marriages then were sometimes arranged (or strongly encouraged), with both men and women expecting to have some say in the choice. Women might own or run businesses. They were not able to serve, politically, but had ways of being heard by municipalities. They took control of family-planning and could divorce.

And then Henry VIII ascended to the throne…

That’s the point where author Elizabeth Norton’s narrative seems to take an ugly turn. It’s where common notions of life in the Middle Ages are no longer happily thrown out a turret window. Instead, “The Hidden Lives of Tudor Women” explains how and why things changed, beginning with the mother of the first Tudor princess, ending with the death of Elizabeth I, and with plenty of commoners between.

This lively, fun-to-read account recalls how a teenage Lady became a servant, and how women became marginalized as they aged. Among other tales, you’ll read about the bravery of a heretic who lost her life over her beliefs.

Though the first part of this book is mostly positively eye-opening and even somewhat empowering, beware that latter parts can be gruesome at times. Don’t let that deter you, though; for an Anglophile, reading “The Hidden Lives of Tudor Women” is like getting the red-carpet treatment.

c.2017, Pegasus Books
$28.95 / higher in Canada
416 pages
Loving this weather. It’s really putting me in the mood for fall, but I know it’s just a tease, since we are in St. Mary’s County, in the middle of the mid-Atlantic hazy, hot, and humid zone. You know summer’s wrath is not done with us yet. This kind of day makes me want to go sit under a tree and write in a diary or watch the ants up close on their madly frantic missions. If you get a chance to watch them it is fascinating – as long as they aren’t in your house. The ants have super highways, no, actually it’s more like the ant autobahn. They are racing by each other on two-lane highways, bobbing and weaving the whole way. Some of the ants have huge pieces of food in their mouths and they do occasionally side-swipe a fellow ant. Is this what lazy summer days are all about? I don’t usually ever have a completely aimless day, though that many that would think I live that way every day. I always loved my friend Bethany’s comment years ago when she said to me, “You always seem to float through life, but you always come out okay.” Yup, that’s me; not much of a planner, more like a happy dog with a wagging tail and panting mouth, “Okay, okay, what are we gonna do now, what’s next?” That may have not been the best analogy.

It’s a typical morning here. My husband is belting out the chorus of a song that is in his head. This morning the chorus line happens to be “Life’s been good to me so far...” by Joe Walsh. Though he changed the lyrics to add in, “if I win the mega-millions soon”. I am sure that for the rest of the day, me, his customers, and the inside of his pool van will hear this snippet of the lyrics over and over. Well, he probably won’t sing them where anyone else can hear but me. Lucky me. On the other hand, all I can hear in my head, and what I have been singing for the morning is, “I am a lineman for the county, and I drive the main road, searching in the sun for another overload”. Of course while I am singing Glen Campbell’s cover of Jimmy Webb’s beautiful, mournful words of *Wichita Lineman* I have tear drops falling in my tea cup over his passing this week. I can’t believe I was only 7 when that song came out in 1968, but I remember exactly where I was standing when I first heard it on my little transistor radio which rarely left my ear (the first Ear Pods I suppose). Music was such an important and constant part of my life, and still is. So much so, that when my future step-daughter was telling her Dad about me early on, she said, “Dad, you two have to meet, you both know the words to every song ever made”. We are a match made in music Heaven. We could revise Al Green’s title of a much loved song of ours to: Music, Love and Happiness, instead of just Love and Happiness.

Now if I could just get my husband up to dance this Saturday night at Back Road Inn after The Clement’s Cuties fundraiser for Shelbie Gardiner. I wonder if Little Donald Quade of Drivin’ Muddy could add in an Al Green song for fun. Though all of his songs and sets are great anyway. I bet if he played Life’s Been Good by Joe Walsh that Robert would get up to dance. Wow, that is a possibility, so I better get this hip of mine straight before Saturday... Epsom salt baths are on the agenda. I do hope you can come out and watch the game at 4 p.m. and see all the craziness and love...and sweat that will come out of all these good people and ballplayers. Come visit me at the auction tent where I will also be auctioning off my original painting of Crab’s Revenge. I’d love to meet you!

To each new day’s adventure, Shelby

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