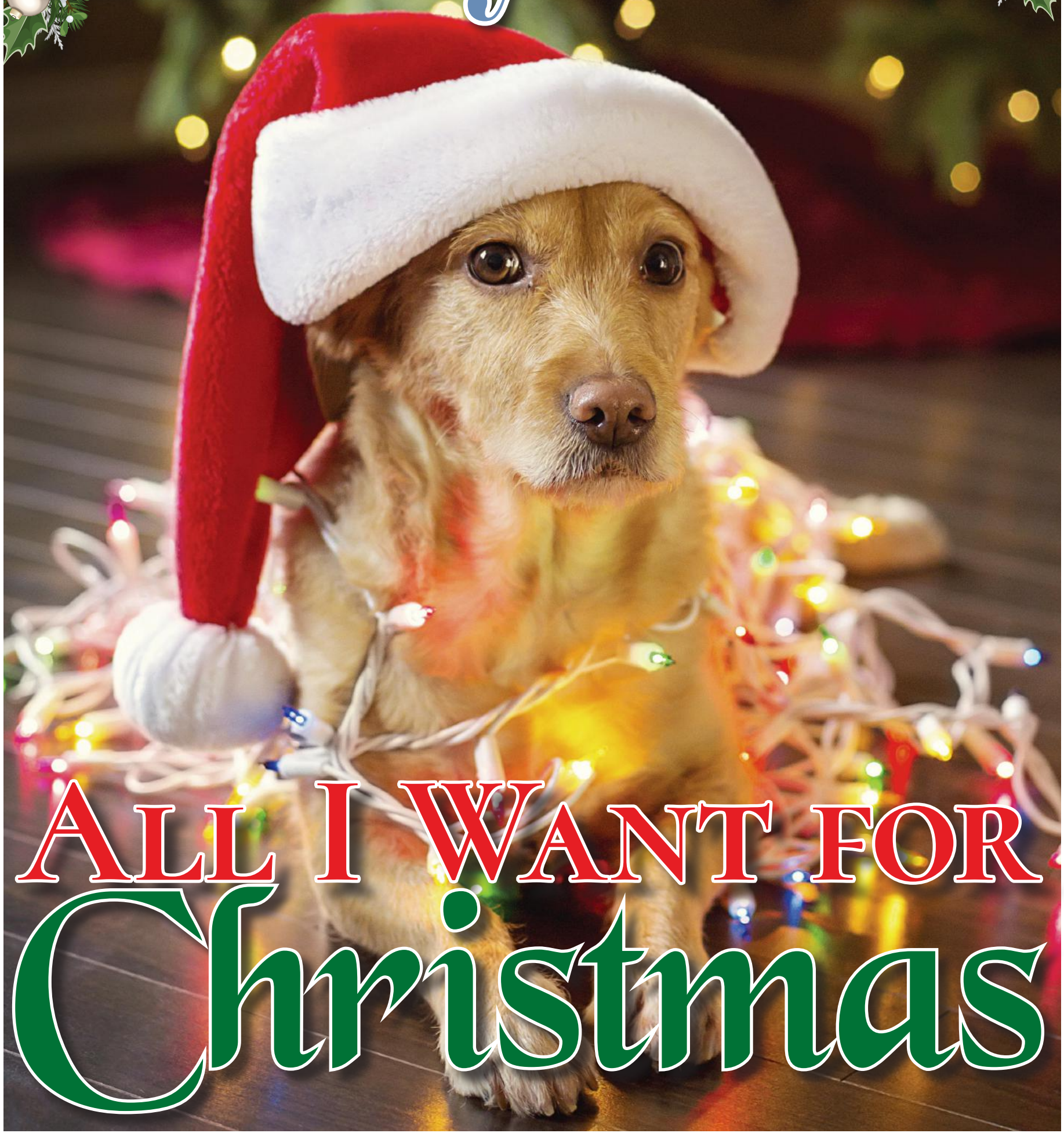


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ALL I WANT FOR  
Christmas

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**“IT LOOKS LIKE 2021 IS GOING TO BE A CHANCE TO COME TOGETHER, TAKE DEEP BREATHS AND RECOVER.”**

SUPERINTENDENT DR. J. SCOTT SMITH

## WEEKLY FORECAST

<b>Thu 12/24</b> 60°   30°F Showers	<b>Fri 12/25</b> 35°   21°F Partly Cloudy	<b>Sat 12/26</b> 34°   26°F Sunny	<b>Sun 12/27</b> 44°   34°F Mostly Sunny
<b>Mon 12/28</b> 47°   33°F Showers	<b>Tue 12/29</b> 37°   26°F AM Rain/Snow	<b>Wed 12/30</b> 40°   27°F Partly Cloudy	<b>Thu 12/31</b> 43°   35°F Showers

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# COVID-19

**Positive Cases**

**Deaths**

*As of December 22*

**St. Mary's 3,231 | 78**

Information provided by St. Mary's Health Department

# Hospital Gives Staff First COVID-19 Vaccines



Anna Kavetsky

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

Late last week the first staff members at MedStar St. Mary's Hospital in Leonardtown received the first vaccinations against COVID-19; the hospital reports that, so far, they have not had any side effects from the inoculation.

"Our staff members are doing fine," said Holly Meyer, hospital spokesperson. "And they're excited to be among the first to be vaccinated."

"We will continue to schedule first round vaccinations until we've completed the list."

Anna Kavetsky, an intensive care nurse, has been taking care of COVID-19 patients in the Intensive Care Center and three central units at MedStar St. Mary's since the earliest days of the pandemic.

"I have five kids at home; it was important to me to get the vaccine as soon as I could not just to protect myself, but to protect everyone in my household," Kavetsky said. "Plus, I have an elderly grandmother—I haven't been able to see her for more than a year."

"Talking on FaceTime is not the same as giving her a hug."

Gary Pearson, a registered nurse, was the first at MedStar St. Mary's to receive the vaccine. A U.S. Navy veteran and new nurse, Gary began his career in June working overnight in emergency care. Gary and his wife, Aimee, a fellow nurse in the hospital's operating room, both agreed they would receive the vaccine as soon as it was offered to them.

"It was important for me to sign up and get vaccinated so I can go back and share my experience with everyone else," Pearson said.

MedStar St. Mary's chief of medicine and chief operating officer, Dr. Stephen Michaels predicted that the hospital would get the vaccine sometime last week.

"Receiving these vaccines is a big moment for the team. It was very exciting to see the shipment arrive,"



Gary Pearson

said Michaels. "Though we still have a long road ahead of us, this is an important step in our journey out of the pandemic."

"We're grateful to have received these doses for our hardworking health care workers—folks who show up each day to care for the community, especially at such a vulnerable time."

The St. Mary's County Health Department also announced it would begin vaccinating critical workers such as first responders beginning next week.

"Beginning the week of December 28th, The St. Mary's County Health Department will coordinate with local partners to provide COVID-19 vaccine through mass vaccination clinics for first responders, including EMS, law enforcement, and fire rescue, as well as key community health personnel in urgent care and primary care settings," a health department statement reads. "These groups are part of phase 1A of the statewide COVID-19 vaccination plan."

"Vaccination of some individuals has already begun this week as part of training exercises and preparation for next week's mass vaccination events."

A small vaccination event was planned for today.

"In preparation for these mass vaccination clinics, SMCHD will host a small-scale vaccination event to administer COVID-19 vaccine to leaders in phase 1A that have volunteered to serve as local Vaccine Champions," the statement reads.

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



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# Hogan Orders Holiday Travel, Quarantine Restrictions

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

With the Christmas Holiday approaching Gov. Larry Hogan announced new restrictions on holiday travel in an effort to stem the surge of COVID-19, advising residents to stay at home.

Hogan said Marylanders had helped prevent a greater surge in the virus after the Thanksgiving Holiday than what the state was dealing with now.

But the virus continues to surge, Hogan said at a Dec. 17 press conference in Annapolis, and residents must continue to be cautious and avoid large gatherings while holding to wearing masks and frequent sanitizing.

He issued orders restricting return from travel to those who have been tested and found negative for COVID-19 or those returning must quarantine for 10 days.

He also announced a health advisory reducing the number of people allowed in a gathering from 25 to 10.

"We find ourselves in another pivotal moment in our battle against COVID-19," Hogan said. "A few weeks ago, just before Thanksgiving, after taking statewide actions and initiating a comprehensive response to prepare our hospitals for this



surge, we made a strong plea to Marylanders asking them to keep on doing the things that help to keep us safe and to slow the spread of COVID-19.

"As a result, the post-Thanksgiving surge has not materialized in Maryland to the extent that public health officials predicted and did not rise to the levels that it has in most of the other states."

Hogan said the state's number of COVID-19 cases increased by just 3 percent this week and hospitalizations remain stable but holiday travel and close contact with family members could only exacerbate the spread of the disease.

"So, our message today is simple: You are safer at home for the holidays this year," Hogan said. "Making difficult sacrifices during these next few weeks will absolutely help to keep your family, loved ones, and your fellow Marylanders safe."

"It will help our hospitals keep up with the demand, and it will save lives."

Hogan also announced additional state aid to businesses, particularly those in the hospitality industry.

"Today I am announcing an additional \$180 million in immediate emergency economic relief to help those families and small businesses that are being hardest hit," Hogan said. "This new economic relief includes \$50 million from our dedicated emergency rapid response fund to help hotels and hospitality businesses across the state."

"We are also providing another tranche of \$30 million to add to our successful relief program for restaurants, bringing that fund to \$80 million; we will be pressing the county governments to immediately distribute this money to those small businesses that are most in need."

Hogan also announced \$40 million to support continued cash assistance to about 66,000 struggling families and \$40 million to aid the developmentally disabled care providers be accelerating a pay increase.

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



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# THE UNSPOKEN HAND

## **Merry Christmas to everyone!**

I know that during this time of Christmas there are wonderful times of joy, family time, creating new memories, and sharing; however, for some, it comes with times of uncertainty, loneliness, and great need. I pray that this message is an encouragement to all.

### **1 Peter 5:7 – “Casting all your cares upon Him, for He cares for you”**

I would like to tell you my story. It was 1984, and I had just completed Marine Corps Administration School at Camp Johnson, NC. After two weeks of leave, I headed to my first duty station, Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro, CA. Since I did not have a car, I took the Greyhound bus from Merced, California to Santa Ana, California. My orders were to report by 12 midnight.

It was past 11:15 pm when I got off the bus, and it was pitch black with only a small telephone pole light at the corner. I was in full uniform, and I was carrying everything I owned within my green sea bag. I was shocked that the bus station was closed; however, there was a pay phone nearby so I called the duty officer thinking they were going to pick me up. Unfortunately, that was not the case. I called a cab and after about 20 minutes it arrived. The driver got out and opened the back of the cab to drop my sea bag in the trunk. As he was doing that, I asked,

“Hey, I have five dollars. How far will that get me?” I knew that at my former duty, Camp Johnson, five bucks would get me anywhere. The cab driver expressed, “not far!” I was only thinking that “I am going to get in trouble for not being on time.” The Marine Corps does not mess around when it comes to being irresponsible, even if the Greyhound bus driver drives like grandma. At that moment, before I could even worry about my lack of cash, I just saw this hand come from the other side of the cab across the roof and hand me five bucks. I could not believe it. No one was in the cab, and it was in the middle of the night in drug-infested Santa Ana! Who would be out this late? I just remember looking over the cab and expressing to a man who was fully dressed in a suit that until my dying day, I would tell everyone what he had done for me. He said not one word, and actually, I do not even remember his face.

All I knew is on one given day in the middle of the night, the Lord with his unspoken hand helped me with what most would say was just a small gesture. It turned out to be life changing. Friends, like Christmas, in the middle of the night, a child was born for one reason: to give the world a savior to rescue us from trouble. For **Isaiah 9:6** tells us, **“For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders and his name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”** Friends, it still is the most important thing that has happened to all of us. The question is: Do you believe?

By the way, I got to my duty station on time, with five minutes to spare. My promise: I would tell the story of when the hand of God came down and saved me in the middle of the night, in the middle of nowhere, and put me somewhere for his purpose. I do not know about you, but this sounds a lot like Christmas.

**Merry Christmas**  
**Robert Myers, Pastor,**  
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# Hotel Site Plan Hearing Continued

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

The county planning commission took up a concept site plan for a proposed new hotel in California to be built along Three Notch Road last week, but a majority voted to continue the hearing on the project to March of next year.

The Avid Hotel project would include 76,076 square feet of hotel space - to be divided into a 95-room and 84-room hotel - as well as an 11,175- square foot retail building with a 10-apartment space above the retail portion.

The property, located on 5.34 acres, would be situated between Oakcrest and By The Mill Road.

According to the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) the development would create another right-in, right-out access point on Route 235 and share an existing driveway with an insurance office and the VFW post adjacent to it.

Traffic engineers with SHA were concerned that, once the hotels were built and Route 235 expanded to three lanes that u-turning vehicles would have to cross three lanes of traffic going 55 miles an hour.

“There is a concern of insuffi-

cient merging distance,” SHA comments read as part of the hearing record at the Dec. 14 meeting in Leonardtown.

The SHA traffic study calls the By The Mill Road intersection a failing one and that the developer, Three Notch Hospitality LLC, owned by Ronak Soni, and represented by local engineering firm Mehaffey and Associates, would have to expand the through lane in front of the property as well as more widening for a sidewalk and bike lane.

Planning Commission Chair Howard Thompson also expressed concern that there might not be enough trees around the hotel property to act as a buffer against noise and other annoyances for adjoining homes.

“You’ve got a lot of traffic that goes along the backs of these hotels,” Thompson said. “I don’t think there’s enough forestation out there to block out annoyance in that direction.”

Billy Mehaffey, head of Mehaffey and Associates, said the property was “fully forested” and that buffer yards would be replanted to compensate for any trees removed.

Any additional stormwater run-

off, Mehaffey said, would continue to run over or under Route 235 “as it does today” though the development would necessitate much additional asphalt for parking spaces.

Thompson was concerned that the project would add five-acres worth

of rain to the roadway rather than be absorbed by the ground, trees and other vegetation; as he was worried the additional stormwater would run onto other properties.

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# School System Upbeat on Revenue News

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

News of better revenue collection by St. Mary's County government for this fiscal year gave encouragement to School Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith as he gave his report to the Board of Education at their Dec. 16 meeting.

After the county commissioners' first budget work session of Dec. 15, Smith said, the county had projected it would have enough tax revenue coming in to fulfill its approved fiscal 2021 operating budget, the spending plan under which it was operating now.

Moreover, the county was set to get \$6.3 million in tax revenue over what was required to fulfill its budget, according to budget work session documents, showing the pandemic might not have hit revenue streams as badly as predicted.

"That's the budget they built," Smith said. "We're already \$6.3 million to the good before we even talk about fiscal year

2022."

The school system for the coming fiscal year, 2022, is expected to seek an additional \$9 million, bringing the requested county allocation to \$118 million for a total operating budget of \$233 million.

School leaders have said about \$4 million of the \$9 million requested increase would be for the fulfillment of the negotiated agreement with school system employees, and the remainder would be for possible budget cuts by the state and federal government by \$2.5 million and \$88,000 respectively due to reduced student enrollment.

Smith did not speak about the school system's upcoming fiscal 2022 budget request at the latest Dec. 16 board of education meeting, but he seemed pleased that there might be more room to accommodate school requests than initially thought.

"It looks like 2021 is going to be a chance to come together, take deep breaths and recover," said Smith.

*guyleonard@countytimes.net*

# Monitors Will Keep Watch On Problem Waterway



By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

Recent heavy rains, such as the deluge in August from Tropical Storm Isaias, that resulted in extreme flooding caused major problems, especially for residents in Leonardtown who live in the McIntosh Run area and the county government is looking to give property owners there some early warning.

Last week the Commissioners of St. Mary's County approved the expenditure of a little more than \$17,000 to purchase weather monitoring equipment from the U.S. Geological Service that would monitor the condition of McIntosh Run including water discharge and flow, gather baseline data about the stream for future comparisons all in real time.

"The cost is more than worth it, with what we are dealing with," said Steve Walker, director of the Department of Emergency Services, who noted the device would forecast flooding events and the level of the overflow to "safeguard lives and property."

The data would be available to citizens on-line as well, Walker

said.

The unit costs \$6,000 but twice as much to maintain and operate; Commissioner Mike Hewitt questioned the expense though he noted he was in constant contact with residents who had plagued by the flooding and wanted answers.

Gerald Gardiner, senior emergency manager at the department, told county commissioners that expense was so high because it allowed the geological service to log into the system daily to check on it and calibrate it every few months; the geological service also repairs and maintains the apparatus.

Hewitt said people wanted an early warning system to evacuate.

"At first they think they can handle it, then you see them being taken out in boats," Hewitt said. "The key is they need to know."

Walker said a key part of the effort was early warning to citizens by using the county's Code Red warning system.

"That's the ticket," Hewitt said. "It's not mitigation, but it is notification."

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An Array of Crisp Vegetables Including Broccoli, Baby Carrots, Cauliflower, Celery Sticks, Mushrooms, Radishes, Cucumber, Grape Tomato & Green Pepper. Includes Onion or Ranch Dip

12" Tray	16" Tray	18" Tray
Serves 10-15	Serves 15-25	Serves 25-40

## FINGER SANDWICHES



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Serves 8-10	Serves 12-15	Serves 15-20

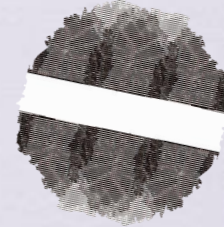
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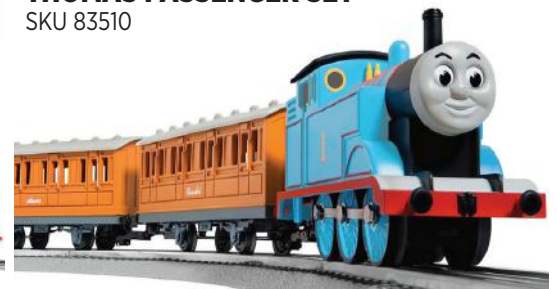
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# County To Hold Public Hearings

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County will conduct Public Hearings Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2021, to obtain citizens' views and input. These hearings will take place in the Chesapeake Building located at 41770 Baldrige Street in Leonardtown, MD.

**Hearing 1.** Disposition of Surplus County-Owned Real Property. To consider the disposition of county-owned surplus real property, with a street address of 22695 Old Rolling Road, California, MD, and further described as Lot 500-2, John Stanton Pierce Property & Feicht Subdivision, containing 2.06 acres, more or less, formerly known as Lot 2, John S. Pierce Property, and Lots 500-1A and 500-1B, Feicht Subdivision. The Public Hearing will begin at 9:10 a.m.

**Hearing 2.** To solicit and receive comments on the consideration of a resolution to transfer to The Bay District Volunteer Fire Department, Inc., a nonprofit corporation in St. Mary's County, real property no longer needed for a public purpose, containing 0.08967 acres of land located in Lexington Park, and described as an alleyway as part of the Commissioner's right-of-way's known as "South Coral Place" and "Tulagi Place," and having an appraised value of \$10,000. Issues to be considered at the public hearing include 1) compatibility of the proposed use with the neighborhood; 2) financial issues, including the ability of the proposed transferee to construct, renovate, maintain, and

operate a facility on the property; 3) the historical significance of the property; and 4) unique characteristics of any structure on the property. The Public Hearing will begin at 9:20 a.m.

**Hearing 3.** To consider the legislative proposal stating that the Commissioners of St. Mary's County are the Authority Having Jurisdiction for the purposes of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Billing. The Public Hearing will begin at 6 p.m.

Due to social distancing guidelines, these Public Hearings are not open to the public. However, it is possible to view them on SMCG Channel 95 or the St. Mary's County Government YouTube channel or to listen to the public hearing by calling 301-579-7236; access code: 963443#.

In lieu of appearance, comments may be submitted via:

- a) Written Comments via email: [csmc@stmarysmd.com](mailto:csmc@stmarysmd.com)
- b) Mail: P.O. Box 653 Leonardtown, MD 20650
- c) Call 301-475-4200 x 1234 to speak via telephone during the public hearing
- d) Submit a three-minute video clip to [publicmtgs@stmarysmd.com](mailto:publicmtgs@stmarysmd.com) no later than 5 p.m. Jan. 12, 2021.

The Commissioners will consider all submissions at the Public Hearings and/or seven days following the Public Hearing. For additional information, please contact, [Sharon.Ferris@stmarysmd.com](mailto:Sharon.Ferris@stmarysmd.com).

# Funding Utility for Nonprofit Entities Now Available

St. Mary's County Government has opened the funding utility for St. Mary's County Nonprofit entities for the FY2022 Budget year, as awarded by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County.

The Notice of Funding Availability can be found at [www.stmarysmd.com/finance/non-profit](http://www.stmarysmd.com/finance/non-profit). Please read the notice completely and follow the links. The application process is entirely electronic and must be submitted on-line.

The application is for those agencies with IRS 501(c)(3) status only. The deadline for submission is January 15, 2021. Final adoption of the FY2022 Budget is anticipated to be in May

2021.

The Finance Department will be holding a one-hour training class on how to navigate through the online application process. The class will be held on Monday, December 14, at 3 p.m. Please contact Michelle Rance at 301-475-4200, ext. 1203, or email [nonprofithelp@stmarysmd.com](mailto:nonprofithelp@stmarysmd.com) to sign-up for the class.

Agencies are urged to not delay beginning the application process as it is new for some. The system will allow you to save and go back and edit your submission until the January 15 deadline.

Questions should be emailed to [nonprofithelp@stmarysmd.com](mailto:nonprofithelp@stmarysmd.com)



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# ST. MARY'S SHERIFF'S OFFICE CRIME REPORT

## Fatal Collision in Charlotte Hall Under Investigation

On December 20, 2020, at approximately 12:24 a.m. deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office responded to the 29800 block of Three Notch Road, in the area of Golden Beach Road in Charlotte Hall, for the reported motor vehicle collision. Deputies arrived on scene and found both involved vehicles on fire. The fires were extinguished and one of the vehicle operators was pronounced deceased on scene. The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Collision Reconstruction Unit responded to the scene and continued the investigation.

Investigation determined a 2004 Cadillac CTS, operated by Joseph Marvin Swann, age 39 of Waldorf, was traveling northbound on Three Notch Road, at a high rate of speed. The Cadillac struck a 1996 Jeep Grand Cherokee, also traveling northbound, operated by Ian Raymond Tahtinen, age 23 of Waldorf. The impact caused both vehicles to catch fire and leave the roadway. Tahtinen succumbed to his injuries on scene. Swann was transported to an area hospital with incapacitating injuries.

At this time speed and alcohol/drugs are considered contributing factors in the collision. Anyone who witnessed the collision or any events leading to the collision is asked to contact Deputy First Class Jason Smith at (301) 475-4200 extension 72328 or by email at Jason.Smith@stmarysmd.com.

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

## Great Mills Collision Under Investigation

On Sunday, Dec. 20, 2020 at 1:45pm, St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to the area of Flat Iron Road and Ryan Lane in Great Mills for the reported motor vehicle collision. Upon arrival, deputies located a single vehicle off the roadway into a tree with the operator suffering from severe incapacitating injuries. Due to the operator's injuries a request for the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Collision

Reconstruction Unit was made.

Preliminary investigation determined a 2008 Nissan Frontier, operated by Francis Tu Pham, age 71 of Lexington Park, was traveling northbound on Flat Iron Road when the operator lost control while negotiating a curve in the roadway. The vehicle continued off the roadway striking a tree. The operator was transported to Baltimore Shock Trauma Center by Maryland State Police Helicopter and remains in critical condition.

At this time, speed and roadway conditions are considered to be contributing factors.

Anyone who may have witnessed the collision or events leading up to the collision and have not provided a statement are asked to contact Cpl. Brian Connelly at 301-475-4200 ext. 78031 or by email at brian.connelly@stmarysmd.com.

## Wanted Individual-Kese Eman Lyles

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office is seeking the whereabouts of Kese Eman Lyles, age 39 of Lexington Park. Lyles is wanted for the charge of escape for violating the conditions of his release on the original charge of possession of a controlled dangerous substance. Lyles is a black

male, 5'7" and weighs 150 pounds with brown eyes and brown hair.

Anyone with information on the whereabouts of Kese Eman Lyles, is asked to contact

Detective James Bare at (301) 475-4200 extension 78118 or by email at James.Bare@stmarysmd.com. For immediate assistance contact the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office at 301-475-8008.

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

For official news and information, follow the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office on Twitter @firstsheriff.



Kese Eman Lyles



**Philip H. Dorsey III**  
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## Editor's Note:

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

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# Leonardtwn Maryland State Police Partner with Southern Maryland Charities

The Maryland State Police Leonardtown Barrack partnered again with several southern Maryland charities to assist children and families in need this holiday season.

The Leonardtown Barrack set an original goal of providing gifts for six children through the Southern Maryland Center for Family Advocacy. However, the community was so generous with donated toys and food gift cards that the barrack also partnered with the St. Mary's County Child Advocacy Center and Hope of Southern Maryland.

Overall, the St. Mary's County Child Advocacy Center was able to get toys to 50 children and assist their parents with getting

food and supplies for Christmas. Through Hope of Southern Maryland, the barrack was able to help nine churches provide more than 300 children with Christmas gifts. Most children received up to three gifts each.

Additionally, the barrack received 10 book bags filled with items for children and hygiene kits. The barrack provided the book bags to the Hollywood United Methodist Church Outreach Program for Pajama Connection. The Pajama Connection was founded in 2008 and provides homeless and foster children with personalized totes. These kits will be used at a future date when there is a child in need.



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# 17th Annual MLK Prayer Breakfast to be Virtual

—Keynote Address by Crystal Marie Fleming—

(St. Mary's City, Md.) Monday, December 21, 2020 - Celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during the 17th Annual Southern Maryland Martin Luther King Jr. Prayer Celebration, with the theme What Matters to You, on Monday, Jan. 18, via Zoom. The program will begin at 8 a.m., featuring a keynote address by Crystal Marie Fleming, author and expert on global racism and white supremacy. Following the program, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.®, Nu Zeta Omega Chapter will host a Day of Service, offering drop-off points across St. Mary's County for donations of non-perishable foods, new or gently worn shoes and eyeglasses. For more information, contact [events@smcm.edu](mailto:events@smcm.edu) or call (240) 895-4310. Register for the event in advance on Zoom at: [www.smcm.edu/mlk](http://www.smcm.edu/mlk).

Crystal Marie Fleming is professor of sociology and Africana studies and associate faculty in the Department of Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies at SUNY Stony Brook.

Fleming has conducted research on racism and anti-racism in multiple national contexts and collaborated on empirical projects in the United States, France, Brazil and Israel. Her first book, "Resurrecting Slavery: Racial Legacies and White Supremacy in France" (Temple University Press, 2017), uses critical race theory to significantly advance scholarship on racism in France and Europe. Based on her award-winning dissertation, the book marshals ethnographic data, archival research and in-depth in-

terviews with French activists and descendants of slaves to examine how commemorations of enslavement and abolition both challenge and reproduce the racial order.

Her latest book, "How to Be Less Stupid About Race: On Racism, White Supremacy and the Racial Divide" (Beacon Press), is a critically acclaimed primer on systemic racism that combines memoir, critical race theory, social commentary and satire to debunk common misconceptions about race.

Known for her frank talk and humor, Fleming's provocative writing and speaking engage a broad range of scholarly and personal topics, from racism and white supremacy to politics, spirituality, feminism, (bi)sexuality and philosophy. Her essays and op-eds can be found in popular venues like Newsweek, The Root, Everyday Feminism, Black Agenda Report and Huffington Post. Additionally, her writing on race and politics has been cited in media outlets such as The Nation, The New Republic, Washington Post, Al Jazeera, Blavity News, USA Today, BET and BuzzFeed.

Fleming holds a PhD and a master's degree in sociology from Harvard University and graduated with honors in sociology and French from Wellesley College.

The Annual Southern Maryland Martin Luther King Jr., Prayer Celebration is sponsored by St. Mary's College of Maryland, St. Mary's County Branch NAACP The 7025, St. Mary's County Human Relations Commission, St. Mary's County Public Schools, the College of Southern Maryland, and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.®, Nu Zeta Omega Chapter.

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# COVID-19 Testing Site Closures

The St. Mary's County Health Department (SMCHD) COVID-19 testing sites located at the SMCHD Main Office in Leonardtown and at the Bay District Volunteer Fire Department in Lexington Park will be closed on:

- Thursday, December 24, 2020
- Friday December 25, 2020
- Thursday, December 31, 2020
- Friday, January 1, 2021

COVID-19 testing continues to be available in the community at local urgent care centers and some primary care provider practices in the

community.

If you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and need medical evaluation, contact your personal healthcare provider or a local urgent care. In a medical emergency please call 9-1-1 or seek care at the emergency department.

For more information on local COVID-19 testing, visit: [www.smchd.org/covid-19-testing](http://www.smchd.org/covid-19-testing).

For more information regarding COVID-19 prevention, local data, symptoms and testing, please visit [www.smchd.org/coronavirus](http://www.smchd.org/coronavirus).



**ST. MARY'S COUNTY**  
**HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

# Deer Harvest Up 16 Percent During Maryland Firearms Season

*Hunters Harvest Over 31,000 Deer during the Two-Week Season*

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources announced that hunters harvested 31,571 deer during the two-week firearms season from Nov. 28 – Dec. 12. The harvest was 16% higher than last year's official count of 27,121. Hunters enjoyed good weather compared to the 2019 season, which was hampered by rain, wind, and fog on key days.

"The two week firearm season remains one of our most popular deer seasons, and fortunately hunters enjoyed great hunting weather for most of it this year," Wildlife and Heritage Service Director Paul Peditto said.

Hunters reported taking 11,623 antlered deer during the two-week season, up 13% from last year's official total of 10,258. The antlerless harvest

increased 18% from 16,863 last year to 19,948 this year. Sika deer represented 460 of the total antlered harvest and 556 of the total antlerless harvest.

More than 4,000 deer were taken on the two Sundays during the season, representing 13% of the total harvest. Deer hunting on Sunday is currently permitted on select Sundays in 20 of 23 counties.

Hunters in Region A — Allegany, Garrett, and western Washington counties — reported taking 2,530 antlered and 1,547 antlerless deer (up 16% and 40%, respectively). In the remainder of the state, hunters reported taking 9,093 antlered and 18,401 antlerless deer (up 13% and 17%, respectively)

## Keep your family safe this holiday season

SMECO wants you to have a safe and happy time throughout the holiday season. From Thanksgiving to New Year's Day, please keep safety in mind. Here are a few simple tips to remember.

- For a live tree, make sure it always has an adequate amount of water, and keep it away from any source of heat.
- For an artificial tree, choose one that is tested and labeled as fire resistant. Artificial trees with built-in electrical systems should have the Underwriters Laboratory (UL) label.
- Use only non-combustible or flame-resistant materials to trim a tree.
- In homes with small children and pets, take care to avoid sharp or breakable decorations.
- Don't use frayed or damaged electric cords, and never use electric lights on a metallic tree.
- Use no more than three light sets on any one extension cord. Extension cords should be placed against the wall to avoid tripping hazards.
- Turn off all holiday lights when you go to bed or leave the house.
- Avoid using candles, they are a primary cause of house fires during the holidays.

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# Rescue Groups Make Sure Animals Are Not Forgotten

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

The COVID-19 pandemic has made operating difficult for non-profits, especially when it comes to fundraising. Some of the most important organizations that provide critical services for people in need have seen their donations plummet this year as donors have seen their own incomes shrink.

It's the same conundrum for non-profits who help the other population of the most needy and vulnerable; animals.

The St. Mary's Animal Welfare League (SMAWL) continues to put rescue animals first, providing foster homes and other shelter for cats, kittens, dogs, puppies and other furry friends who need help and a forever home.

Kathleen Werner, president of the SMAWL board of directors, said the pandemic has cut deeply into their funding margins.

"We haven't been able to do a lot of our fundraising," Werner told The County Times. "The in-person events we weren't able to do either."

Last year SMAWL was able to collect \$16,218 in donations after making their year-end appeal, that has been cut nearly in half to \$9,015 collected so far this year.

SMAWL also provides vouchers for spaying and neutering of rescue animals, those efforts were also curtailed since those clinics were shutdown as well. "It was tough," Werner said. "Without that service available, they're just reproducing and that exacerbates the population in the community."

"It's still an issue to get animals in for that."

Even now that the spaying and neutering clinics have reopened – SMAWL partners with the Well Pet veterinary clinics in the region to provide the service – people are still reluctant to bring their pets in, she said.

The other major service SMAWL provides is pet adoption, which they were only now able to resume at large stores like PETCO for cats and at the Wag and Wash for dogs.

SMAWL has its own Cat Castle in Callaway that provides a temporary home for cats – about 29 currently – while the volunteers are constantly seeking people willing to foster dogs, who cannot be kept in the same kind of confines as cats.

Kittens are also kept in foster homes; SMAWL cares for 125 kittens in foster homes on average for any given time, Werner said.



In 2019 SMAWL was able to provide 673 rabies vaccination shots, find homes for 314 cats and 34 dogs.

SMAWL also provided 418 vouchers for spaying and neutering of animals, Werner said.

The amount of money SMAWL expends in a year to help animals is significant.

Last year the volunteers spent \$69,778 for all veterinary care they provided and \$30,957 for spaying and neutering services, according to Werner.

They go through 27 bags of food a week for foster kittens, 80 percent of which they care for are born to stray cats, and 40 pounds of litter a week at the Cat Castle sanctuary.

SMAWL is always in need of supplies, Werner said but the most valuable item they can get is people's time.

"We're 100 percent volunteer," Werner said. "We could always use more volunteers."

Second Hope Rescue is also operated by a core group of volunteers, perhaps 10 to 15, said one of its members Cathy Lazor-Knott and they have had many of the same problems as SMAWL.

Lazor-Knott's group specializes in finding homes for dogs that are old, ill or are usually ignored in the adoption process due to a bias against

their breed, she said.

Still, they press on with some help from their friends, including left over stock owned by Mary Beth Gates, former owner of Pepper's Pet Pantry in Solomons which recently went out of business.

Lazor-Knott credits Gates as one of the major sources of donations that has kept Second Hope going this year.

Whatever funds they have not been able to raise this year, the volunteers at Second Hope Rescue find ways to come up with it.

"A lot of us just pull from our own pockets," Lazor-Knott said adding that the fundraising they do can also be just for specific dogs facing serious medical conditions.

The veterinarian care the SMAWL volunteers provide goes beyond medication and checkups but to full surgical care; one adult rescue dog that only walked using three legs was found to have a hip joint that was three times normal size and it had to be shaved down to fit the joint socket.

SMAWL made it happen, Werner said.

As the holidays approach and families grapple with whether to spend time together during the time of the COVID-19 pandemic, to risk more infection and the potential spread to those they love, Werner said pets were waiting for new families as well.

Nationwide, the trend in pet adoption has increased as people seek emotional support from isolation and despair.

"Anytime is a good time to adopt a pet," Werner said. "But you have to realize what your responsibilities are."

"You have to be willing to care for your pet and look after their health and well-being."

Lazor-Knott said as the pandemic hit and more and more people became isolated, interest grew in fostering animals and even giving them forever homes.

At first, Lazor-Knott and the other volunteers were concerned, since fostering animals took a greater commitment that they believed might have been too much for the new members to handle.

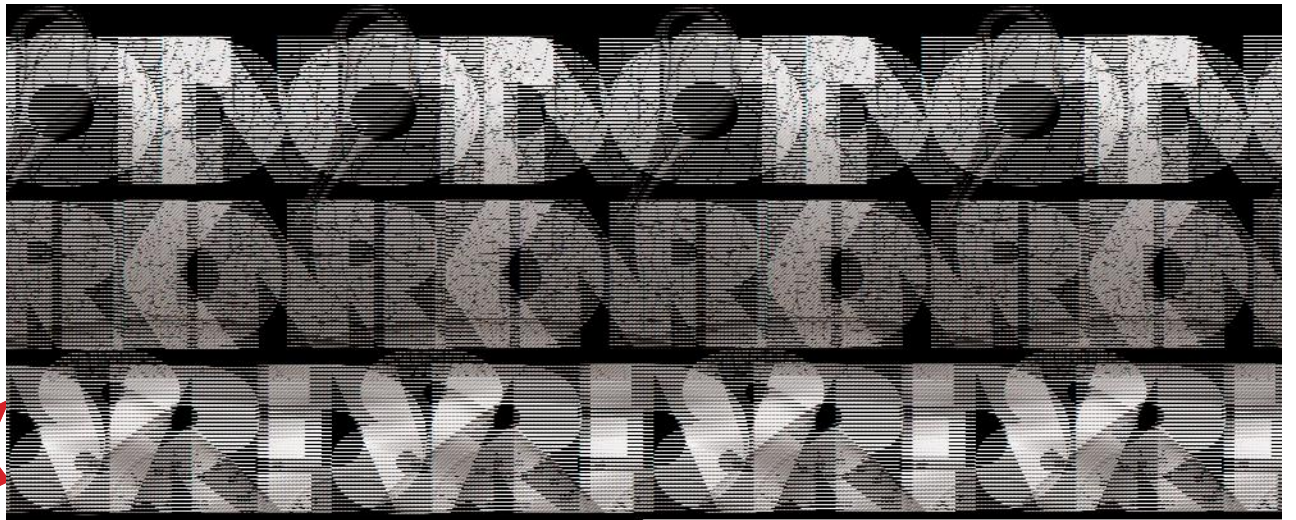
They were pleasantly surprised, and the new volunteers were one of the few good things to come out of the pandemic.

"We got some tremendous fosters out of it," Lazor-Knott said.

Werner said the animals in the care of county rescue organizations were just waiting for a loving, forever home.

"It's been a hard year for everyone and the love of an animal and what they can bring to your life, it just makes everything better."

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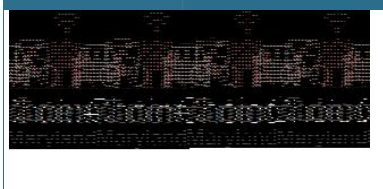


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# Professors Write Chapters for Professional Skills Book

To address the national need of professional skills training for chemists and biochemists, seven faculty members of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry authored seven chapters for a recently released American Chemical Society (ACS) Symposium Series book, "Integrating Professional Skills into Undergraduate Chemistry Curricula."

Contributors from St. Mary's College of Maryland included Assistant Professor Geoffrey Bowers, Adjunct Professor Ruth Bowers, Assistant Professor Daniel Chase, Professor Andrew Koch, Professor Pamela Mertz, Associate Professor Kelly Neiles, and Assistant Professor Shanen Sherrer.

The department's complete professional skills curriculum—which spans the first year, first semester course all the way through upper level courses—is described in five chapters of the book, for which Neiles and Mertz—along with Justin Fair of Indiana University of Pennsylvania—served as editors. Authors from nine institutions besides St. Mary's College contributed chapters.

The book defines professional skills as "non-technical skills needed to be an effective chemist/biochemist including, but not limited to, career skills (job searching, resume writing, networking, and having a professional mindset), scientific thinking (critical thinking, problem solving, and big picture thinking), scientific identity development, learning skills (self-regulated learning, initiative, study strategies, etc.), communication skills, and interpersonal skills such as teamwork, collaboration, and leadership development."

The professional skills curriculum written by the St. Mary's College co-authors was developed by all chemistry and biochemistry department members as part of the Council of Undergraduate Research (CUR) Transformations Project funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF-DUE 1625354). Programs involved in the CUR Transformations Project are revising four-year undergraduate curricula in biology, chemistry, physics, and psychology to integrate high-quality undergraduate research experiences.

St. Mary's College of Maryland is one of only 12 institutions selected by CUR for its Transformations Project, a four-year project now in its final year. A team of several faculty and staff members at St. Mary's College is participating. Mertz and Neiles lead the chemistry and biochemistry team, while Aileen Bailey, professor of psychology, leads the psychology team.

Neiles and Mertz said that while the CUR project is focused mainly on undergraduate research, the College's move toward its Learning through Experiential and Applied Discovery (LEAD) initiative laid the foundation for the chemistry and biochemistry department to take a closer look at using methods from the CUR project to incorporate program specific professional skills into its curriculum.

"I think those two coupled together, the CUR Transformations Project and what was happening on the campus, is how we ended up here, to be honest," Mertz said.

Neiles said she and colleagues began presenting what their department was doing to incorporate these skills into their programs and noticed colleagues and students from other institutions taking an interest. "That's when I knew we had something," she said.

The recently published book was developed from a symposium planned for the 2020 National Meeting of the American Chemical Society in Philadelphia that would address each of the chapters as a talk; however, it was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The value of the content was such that the ACS continued with the book project. Neiles said the symposium will run virtually at the upcoming spring ACS meeting.

The book is timely as the ACS Committee on Professional Training is working on new guidelines for professional skills and competencies and the book could help guide programs at other institutions on how to incorporate this training into their curricula.

Neiles and Mertz explained that it is notable that the vast majority of the writing, review process, and editing happened during the pandemic.

"To say we are all proud is an un-

derstatement," Neiles said.

Challenges brought on by the pandemic served to test the contributors' own professional skills as they worked to meet deadlines while adjusting to professional and personal changes brought on by COVID-19.

Neiles and Mertz said the co-authors and editors were very supportive of each other during the entire process and were determined to have the project completed by year's end.

"I found that being able to support each other by accepting where the other person was on any given day ended up being incredibly important. There were days where co-authors just couldn't do any writing due to

family, COVID, and just life complications. Nobody got frustrated with each other. We just picked up the baton on days we could and let others pick it up on the days we couldn't," Neiles said.

Reflecting on her own experiences with a challenging spring semester and personal life, Mertz said she was extremely happy to see this book being published in 2020, as the accomplishment was a much needed "shining light" on a very difficult year.

For more information on ACS or the ACS Symposium Series book, "Integrating Professional Skills into Undergraduate Chemistry Curricula," go to [acs.org](https://acs.org).

## Pet OF THE WEEK MEET OTTO



I believe cats to be spirits come to earth  
A cat I am sure could walk on a cloud  
Without coming through  
-Jules Verne, author

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Southern Maryland.



## C2C Cancels Fall, Winter Competitions



The Coast-To-Coast Athletic Conference (C2C) has announced the cancellation of all conference-scheduled competitions, including conference championships for the fall 2020 and winter 2020-21 seasons as a result of the continued impact of COVID-19.

The decision, finalized by the C2C Board of Directors, affects all fall and winter sports including men's and women's basketball, men's and women's cross country, field hockey, men's and women's indoor track and field, men's and women's soccer, and women's volleyball.

The action, also endorsed by league athletic administrators, was made with

consideration for the well-being of each campus community.

The C2C continues to support individual institutions if they are able to safely schedule competition within their own regional areas, while relying on local and state guidance.

The C2C remains committed to conducting quality championship experiences for our student-athletes and institutions in a safe and healthy environment.

St. Mary's College of Maryland still hopes to provide meaningful competition for our varsity athletic programs in the spring semester.

*Press Release from SMCM.*

## Capital Athletic Conference Rebrands Itself



The Capital Athletic Conference now has a new name: The Coast-To-Coast Athletic Conference (C2C).

The C2C is thrilled to reveal its new name, visual identity and brand, concluding a collaboration between the conference office and the team at Skye Design Studios (SDS).

"I am excited with the new C2C identity and offer a sincere thank you to Skye Dillon for his leadership, creativity and professionalism throughout the process," said C2C Commissioner Chris Roekle. "I would also like to thank the rebranding committee, whose insight helped us in reaching our modern design which will serve our nationwide membership well for years to come."

The C2C model provides a coast-to-coast, destination-based conference championship experience for its student-athletes, culminating with access to NCAA Championships. Those who raise the C2C trophy will display the excellence to compete on the national stage.

The C2C is diverse and welcomes all newcomers, representing a league without boundaries and full of opportunity. These stories and more can be told through the new brand.

The identity is built upon three key brand positioning strategies:

**Coast-To-Coast** - The C2C is the only collegiate conference to feature a 'sea-to-sea' geographic footprint, with membership spanning from the Atlantic to Pacific coasts. This distinguishing trait is clearly communicated through the league name, with the moniker 'C2C' providing an abbreviated expression of this same concept. The logos themselves further leverage this trait by framing each title within a stylized depiction of the continental United States.

**Daring** - With aspirations to redefine the traditional collegiate conference construct, this descriptor sets the tone of the entire identity, expressing the ethos of the league

and inspiring the futuristic look and feel of the logos themselves. The slogan 'Dare To Prepare' was created to function as a call to action for those within the league as well as an invitation to prospective members.

**Championship Experience** - Nationwide membership provides the opportunity for destination-based championships each season, following the same model as that of the NCAA. Likewise, the C2C championship logos and support graphics highlight the host sites for each event and celebrate the chance for student-athletes to travel abroad.

"What Chris and his colleagues are embarking on with this conference is unprecedented," said Skye Dillon, Founder of SDS. "The C2C story is all about fearlessly looking toward the future and doing so with a national perspective. The imagination, excitement, and sheer boldness of this vision served as our benchmark when creating the identity."

Although membership resides in seven states across the country, each C2C institution possesses the commonalities of both a sunrise and sunset as well as bodies of water, uniting the conference as one. Likewise, bright orange and aqua were selected as the conference colors.

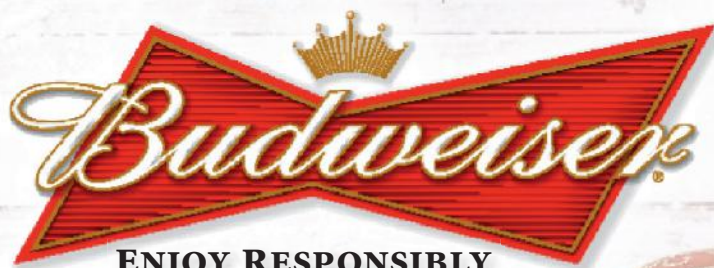
In addition to its primary and secondary marks, the updated visual identity also includes a suite of sport-specific logos, complete with corresponding championship marks for each sport.

*The C2C consists of 11 full-time members for the 2020-21 academic year: University of California-Santa Cruz, Christopher Newport University (Va.), Finlandia University (Mich.), University of Mary Washington (Va.), Mills College (Calif.), Mount Mary University (Wisc.), Pine Manor College (Mass.), Pratt Institute (N.Y.), St. Mary's College of Maryland, Salisbury University (Md.) and Southern Virginia University.*

*Press Release from C2C.*

# HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

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# Opening Firearms Deer Weekend Deemed Successful

*Weather Contributed to Strong Harvest*



Photo by Ranger Elena Gilroy

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources announced that hunters reported 11,054 deer taken on the opening weekend of the 2020 Maryland firearm season, Nov. 28-29. The harvest was 19 percent higher than last year's official first weekend harvest of 9,272 deer.

The total harvest in Calvert for the weekend was 156 and for St. Mary's, 203.

The harvest total included 4,932 antlered and 5,799 antlerless white-tailed deer, and 163 antlered and 160 antlerless sika deer. The two-week deer firearm season runs through Dec. 12.

"Hunters took advantage of excellent weather for the opening weekend of firearm season to get outside and enjoy one of their favorite pastimes," Wildlife and Heritage Ser-

vice Director Paul Peditto said. "By all measures, we had great weather and participation this weekend. Maryland deer hunters enjoyed a safe and successful opening weekend."

Hunters in Region A, which includes Allegany, Garrett, and western Washington counties, harvested 1,107 antlered deer (up 26 percent). Hunters in Region B, comprising the rest of the state, harvested 3,988 antlered and 5,959 antlerless deer (up 18 percent and 19 percent, respectively).

Junior hunters experienced windy weather for their Junior Deer Hunt Days Nov. 14-15, but still harvested 2,170 deer. The harvest was 11% lower than the official harvest of 2,428 last year. Juniors registered 1,370 antlered and 800 antlerless deer.

*Press Release from MD DNR.*

## A View From The BLEACHERS



### BLIND DATE

By Ronald N. Guy Jr.  
Contributing Writer

My cousin, a dashing younger chap, is, like me, a sports junkie rooted in the 1980s and 1990s. As NBA fans – a bug easily caught growing up in the Magic Johnson, Larry Bird, Michael Jordan and Dream Team era – we absorbed and regularly recount artifacts of that golden age. One personality that is permanently filed in our RAM for quick and frequent access is Marv Albert, a great voice of that period.

If upon hearing that name, spectacular toupees and sexual deviancy come to mind, I understand. But this reference has nothing to do with bad hair or moral failings. No, this is about Marv's late-game catch phrase. If Magic's Lakers or Jordan's Bulls were in a tight affair late in the fourth quarter, Marv would often introduce the decisive possession with a haunting, "And it comes down...TO THIS." The pacing and pause before the emphatic, "TO THIS," were classic. It is part of late twentieth century NBA basketball's soundtrack and signaled that an epic ending to a battle among titans had arrived.

You are likely reading this just before New Year's. As for the final days of 2020, Marv's dramatic phrase is in my ear - and I am so thankful. I don't care if Bird hits a buzzer beater, prompting a Marv "YES!", or if Jordan delivers a Marv "FACIAL" dunk, two more of Albert's classics, in 2021 – figuratively speaking, of course. I just want this year to end...like no other year in my life. Be gone 2020. Don't bother saying goodbye. Pack your things and go. Normally I am a faithful recycler, but everyone has my blessing to burn their 2020 calendars. To my optometrist, I don't even want 20/20 vision again. Ever. I'll deal with a little blur in my life.

Of course, a descending ball, an expired year and a new calendar can't cleanse all troubles. Problems aren't just magically wished away (see the White House's national COVID "plan"). Only real, concrete solutions will provide deliverance. Fine. But don't spoil my punch with all that responsible nonsense, okay? I'm going on pure hope,

here – a new year, big changes. Period. Don't debate me. Don't fog the message with the reality. I am pouring a drink. Then another. Maybe...probably...even more. The 2020 bird in the hand keeps pecking me in the face; I will gladly gamble on the contents of the bush. So give me 2021 - a blind date with a year I've never met.

I can't continue to be desensitized to 3,000 Americans dying every day. Enough of the floods, fires and violent tropical weather. Maybe we can get over the disturbing national compulsion to find or manufacture destructive discord, to take the bait of intentional divisiveness and use it as faux fuel to hate, fear and threaten our bedrock – a common humanity and American cause. We deserve better than a deranged president, his stream of Twitter madness and his abandonment of job responsibilities for preposterous self-interests. And I'm tired of anxiously viewing Doppler radar as another deluge of rain bears down on Southern Maryland.

Here's what I'll be wishing for when 2021 champagne showers rain. I want full sports seasons, no COVID-ravaged rosters and a football team with a name...or at least a new owner. Death to bubble cities. I am dreaming of packed stadiums and authentic crowd noise, not the fake stuff, pumped through television speakers. Live marching bands should be ripping through fight songs and cheerleaders should be tossed in the air after big plays. Most of all, I want youth sports back. The experiences lost at the rec league, high school and college levels – impactful, precious, brief and irreplaceable moments for athletes and families – is painful for this middle-aged sportswriter to ponder.

Sports, of course, is small by comparison to gentler weather, stable leadership and public health, but if our stadiums, fields and courts return to normal, it is a good indication that the more significant aspects of life are in a better place too.

Ah yes, 2020, it indeed does come down to this. I bid you adieu with a relieved smile and a hearty good riddance.

Send comments to [RonaldGuyJr@gmail.com](mailto:RonaldGuyJr@gmail.com)



# St. Mary's Community Calendar

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

## Friday, December 25

### Merry Christmas!

#### Beth Israel Synagogue Shabbat Services Online

7 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Shabbat evening services are being held online due to COVID19. Beth Israel Synagogue will hold online services EVERY FRIDAY at 7 PM. Check our website calendar ([bethisraelmd.weebly.com/calendar.html](http://bethisraelmd.weebly.com/calendar.html)) for event details.

## Tuesday, December 29

### Grief Support Group

Calvary Chapel; 7 p.m.

Help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member, or friend. The support group meets weekly. You are welcome to begin attending at any point. You'll find it to be a warm, caring environment and will come to see your group as an "oasis" on your long journey through grief. For more information call the church office and leave a message 301-645-0660 or email us at [admin@cc-somd.com](mailto:admin@cc-somd.com).

## Wednesday, December 30

### Wayback Wednesdays

We hope you're loving our weekly video series showing some of the sto-

ries that make St. Mary's County's history so unique and interesting. We thought this would be a fun way to bring our closed museums to you while we all keep our social distance. Join us every week for short videos featuring everything from the quirky to the fascinating - tune in! We have several episodes in the playlist! [Facebook.com/SCIMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/SCIMuseum)

### DAV Assistance Program

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

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

## Thursday, December 31

### New Years Eve

## Letters to the Editor

Every year, people in our community who have dedicated their life to service retire without the recognition that they deserve. That is why I am proud to express my gratitude for Libby Blair, RN, MS, who served St. Mary's County in her position as the Director of Health and Community Services at the St. Mary's County Health Department for 21 years. In her position, Libby was responsible for health services staff, delivery of public health services to the community, program planning, and collaborating with partners to coordinate health services in St. Mary's County. As a dentist, I saw firsthand the huge impact she made in the dental community. Libby coordinated with private dental offices in St. Mary's County to provide dental treatment to underserved and underinsured county residents and made it her mission to ensure their dental needs were met. In addition, since its inception in 2012, Libby worked to connect

community members with much-needed dental care during Southern Maryland Mission of Mercy (SMMOM), a free two-day dental clinic. With Libby's connection to the St. Mary's County Health System, we could always rely on her to staff our SMMOM with a qualified team of nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and physicians. Libby has served on the board of directors of SMMOM since 2012. She has dedicated her life to the health and well-being of those in need of health and dental care. She treated those patients with the respect and dignity they deserve. As a dentist involved with the planning of the SMMOM free dental clinic, I can attest to the fact that our mission to serve the community would not have been the same without her dedication. Thank you, Libby!

Joan Emberland, DDS Dental Director of SMMOM



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# PATUXENT RIVER NAVAL AIR STATION

# News

## Navy's Blue Angels Help Santa, Marines Deliver Toys

The U.S. Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron, the Blue Angels, supported the Marine Toys for Tots program Dec. 8 by delivering toys and games to families impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and recovering from multiple hurricanes in Lake Charles, Louisiana.

The team conducted the event in collaboration with Hasbro, Inc., product philanthropy nonprofit organization Good360, and, of course, Santa Claus.

The Blue Angels' C-130J logistics and support aircraft, affectionately known as "Fat Albert," flew toys into Lake Charles Regional Airport where Marines from Marine Forces Reserve units along with a host of volunteers unloaded the toys and delivered them to the local Toys for Tots coordinators in the surrounding parishes who will then distribute the toys and games to families

in need for the 2020 holiday season.

"When we received the call from Santa asking for a helping hand with an early toy delivery, we knew we were the right team for the job," said Capt. Rick Rose, lead U.S. Marine Corps pilot of the C-130 demonstration. "We are so grateful to help in any way we can and support families around the Lake Charles area. Spreading the holiday spirit of giving and joy is what it's all about."

Throughout 2020, Hasbro has partnered with Toys for Tots to distribute toys and games to children who were most impacted by the pandemic. The Lake Charles community endured major hurricanes on top of a year that brought extraordinary challenges to so many.

"At Hasbro, we are proud to continue our longtime partnership with Toys for Tots, donating one million toys and games to support children

across the nation in 2020," said Hasbro's Director of Global Philanthropy and Social Impact Kevin Colman. "Play can help children gain a sense of normalcy during times of upheaval so we hope this donation of Hasbro toys and games will bring some joy to the children of Lake Charles this holiday season."

Good360, the global leader in product philanthropy and purposeful giving and Toys for Tots' newest partner, has opened the door for relationships with thousands of local nonprofits through their vast network allowing Toys for Tots to distribute toys in previously unsupported areas. Good360 works closely with partners on the ground to provide critically needed goods throughout all giving phases of disaster recovery.

"This year Lake Charles has not only been dealing with the dev-

astating effects of the pandemic, but also with multiple destructive weather events that have left thousands of residents without homes and basic necessities," said Matt Connelly, CEO of Good360. "Our partnership with Toys for Tots allows us to bring joy to children and families undergoing the most challenging of circumstances, and it is our honor to take part in this distribution event with the Blue Angels."

Santa, through his U.S. Marine Corps connections, originally reached out to the Blue Angels to seek alternative transportation early this year, and the Blue Angels offered their Marine C-130 aircraft and crew in support to fly these much-needed toys this holiday season.



Santa gets a hand for The Blue Angels

The County Times runs complimentary obituaries as submitted by funeral homes and readers. We run them in the order we receive them. Any submissions that come to [guyleonard@countytimes.net](mailto:guyleonard@countytimes.net) after noon on Mondays may run in the following week's edition.

## In Remembrance

### William Edward "Eddie" Bailey



William Edward "Eddie" Bailey, 84, of Bushwood, MD passed away in his home on December 15, 2020. Eddie was the son of the late Mignette Cullins Bailey and Samuel M. Bailey,

Sr. Eddie was the loving husband of the late Patricia Ann Bailey "Patsy" whom he married on July 26, 1958 in Holy Angels Catholic Church Avenue, MD and who preceded him in death on May 26, 2016. Eddie is survived by his children Donna L. Mattingly (Richard), William E. Bailey, Jr. (Kim) and Jacqueline Buckler (Kevin) all of Bushwood, MD. Along with eight grandchildren Rick Mattingly, Grant Mattingly, Sarah La Duca, Bailey Buckler, Blair Buckler, Ryleigh Buckler, Maddie Bailey, and Will Bailey. Eight great grandchildren; Madison Mattingly, Jackson Mattingly, Reagan La Duca, Bella Mattingly, Corby La Duca, Leighton La Duca, Aly Iqbal, and Jordan Gant. Siblings Lucille Doepkins of Chaptico, MD, Catherine Swann of Bushwood, MD, Samuel M. Bailey, Jr. of Colton's Point, MD, Bernard Bailey of

Leonardtown, MD and good friend James Banagan. Eddie also leaves behind his dog "Charlie Brown". He was preceded in death by his sister Beatrice Tippet.

Eddie was a lifelong St. Mary's County, MD resident and graduated from St. Mary's Academy in 1954.

Eddie was the owner of Bailey's Catering, Olde Breton Inn for 60 plus years. Contributions can be made to ACTS (A Community That Shares) P.O. Box 54 Bushwood, MD 20618, and Seventh Dist. Vol. Rescue Squad P.O. Box 7 Avenue, MD 20609.

### Theresa Fanny Knight



Theresa Fanny Knight, 97, of Loveville, MD formerly from the Seventh District, passed away on December 12, 2020 at her home. She was born on February 4, 1923 in Hollywood,

MD and was the loving daughter of the late Violet Lathroum and Leo Lathroum. Teresa was the loving wife of George Knight, whom she married on November 5, 1966 in Lanham, MD. Teresa is sur-

vived by 2 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren and 5 great great grandchildren. Along with her siblings Mary Kelly of St. Clements Shores, and Jimmy Lathroum of Seventh Dist. She is preceded in death by her son Archie Higgs. Siblings Estelle Farrell, Agnes Dillcard, Margaret Quade, Helen Eckerd, Catherine Burke, Lillian Anderson, Beanie Lathroum, and Wallace Lathroum.

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

The family will receive friends on Wednesday, December 16, 2020 from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home Leonardtown, MD where a Funeral Service will be held at 10:00 AM in the Funeral Home Chapel with Father Drew Royals officiating. Interment will follow in Charles Memorial Gardens Leonardtown, MD. Serving as pallbearers will be David Farrell, Paul Knight, Mike Knight, Ralph Heard and her grandsons Bobby Higgs, and Bert Higgs.

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

### Joseph Blaine Somerville Jr.,



Joseph Blaine Somerville Jr., a native of Loveville, MD passed away in his home on Friday, November 27, 2020. Born October 7, 1949 in Hollywood, MD to

the late Joseph Blain Somerville, Sr. and Catherine C. Somerville—Blaine was the second of their seven children.

Blaine attended St. Joseph Colored School during his youth and Banneker High School; graduating from Chopticon High School in 1967—one of the first integrated graduations in St. Mary's County. Upon graduation from Chopticon, Blaine attended Morgan State College for two years. He left before attaining his degree and married Charlotte Cradle

on April 4, 1970. They raised a family of four children: J. Blaine III (Toyja) of Loveville, MD; Karla Swales (Ryan) of Great Mills, MD; Shahza Somerville of Bowie, MD; and Evander Somerville, of Loveville, MD and celebrated 50 years of marriage.

Blaine loved his children and spent endless hours encouraging them to eagerly seek knowledge; always fight for what is correct and true; and share with others less fortunate. He loved learning and continually took classes and did research on a variety of subjects throughout his life.

Blaine did not only invest in his children, he also assisted several family members' children with their educational pursuits; taking them into his home and instructing them on how to focus on their studies, improve their grades, and achieve more academic success.

He loved supporting his extended family and friends. He could often be found helping with home improvement projects; volunteering his services at events; giving recommendations, opinions, and advice; attending graduations; hosting family reunions; and celebrating birthdays and anniversaries—he enjoyed a good party and a two-step.

Blaine's hobbies included photography—documenting many moments in his family's life; building mirrors, sheds, and decks as housewarming gifts; and cooking. The walls in his home are completely covered in pictures, many taken by him. He made the best "kitchen sink" cookies, meatballs, and three bean salad; and was adventurous enough to try new dishes after tasting them at other venues.

Music, especially Motown music was a staple in the Somerville home! When Blaine built his house, he included speakers in almost every room. He enjoyed all genres of music and attended several concerts.

Blaine was an avid Washington Redskins fan who painted the Redskins' likeness on his parking lot outside his home. During football season, he could often be heard calling out plays and arguing with the officials while watching the game on television.

Brutally honest, Blaine believed speak-



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In Memory of Mary Catherine Kane  
Sept. 18, 1924 - Nov. 22, 2019

Mama this is the second Christmas without you here with me.

I know that you liked the Christmas lights up and around the yard, but they don't shine bright no more with you gone.

The joy of you smiling is too.

Miss you Mama.

Love, Larry







ing the truth was the only way to communicate. He would support and “go to bat” for anyone, armed with the truth. He was a “man’s man” and made no excuses; teaching his children to always do the correct thing, regardless of the cost; while emphasizing that your word and good name are what truly matter.

He spoke with knowledge, force, and volume—people listened and often learned a lesson during the process. He lived through actions and anyone around learned by observing. Sometimes the lessons learned were hard but all observers were stronger having learned from him. He seldom said, “I love you in words,” but he showed you his love through actions. If it was within his power, he would do anything for you.

Blaine spent his entire federal career of 38 years working for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service; ending his career as a Printing Specialist in the Administration for Children, and Families Office of Public Affairs. Over the years, he received several agency awards to include: Outstanding Employee, Special Achievement, and Merit; however, his proudest achievements were made during his tenure as Chairman of the Combined Federal Campaign.

A devout Catholic, Blaine was a lifelong member of St. Joseph Catholic Church and was extremely proud when Charlotte converted to Catholicism. He understood the importance of a relationship with the Lord and exposed his children to the Bible and a catholic education.

Blaine was looked upon as the protector of the Somerville family. His opinion mattered and many would eagerly seek his approval; showing him their new cars, houses, diplomas, degrees, and discussing their life choices. We wanted him to be as proud of us as we were blessed and thankful for him. His love and support made us feel like we could move mountains. We experienced, saw, learned, traveled, volunteered, shared, and participated in this life under his guidance. We will forever miss him because every success was shared with him. When he was proud of us, we knew it and it made us want to do even more to be better.

In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by: brother, Leonidas Somerville; and sisters: Andrea and Lorraine Somerville and Bertina Wilson.

In addition to his immediate family, he is survived by sisters: Ugertha Whatley and Elaine Yates (Stephen); brother, Douglas Somerville (Gale); brothers-in-law: Marvin (Angel), Dorain (Agnes), and Ronald Cradle; sister-in-law, Martha Bradley; uncle, Deacon James A. Somerville (Helen); aunt, Susie L. Collins; grandson Deividis (Deivis) Zemgulis and a host of nieces and nephews.

**Eleanor Duke Fearn**

Eleanor was born in Leonardtown, Maryland and was preceded in death by her husband Frank W. Fearn Sr., her son Richard S. Fearn, her parents Lillian



Drury Duke and Roland B. Duke. Her siblings Roland B. Duke Jr., Benedict Duke, Margaret Mary Duke Frazier, Walter Francis Duke, Betty Wise Mattingly Duke, George Councill

Duke, and James Saunders Duke.

She is survived by her sister Mary Angela Duke Hicks, S.C.N., KY. Her children Frank (Susan) Fearn Jr., Linda Manekas, Sandra (Jay) Battle, Joseph (Cherrie) Fearn, and Mary Fearn.

Her grandchildren Kevin Fearn and Sarah Fearn of Baltimore, Maryland, Jennifer Schuler, Pittsburg, PA, Kay Manekas Cassidy of Astoria, New York, Demetrios Manekas of Howell, New Jersey, Jodi Campo of Hollywood, Maryland, and Valerie Hartman of Mt. Airy, Maryland, and her Great Grandchildren Drew, Brynn, and Alexandra Fearn of Baltimore, Maryland, Paulina Rae and Michael Manekas of New Jersey, Ava and Sabrina Campo of Hollywood, Maryland, and Nathan and Lucas Hartman of Mt. Airy, Maryland.

Eleanor was a teacher at Father Andrew White and St. John’s School for many years.

She very much enjoyed music, playing piano and clarinet, painting and her travels to the West Coast, Blue Ridge Mountains, New York, and Ireland. Eleanor white water rafted at 70, and flew an airplane for the first time at 86. She loved her family and her hometown deeply. She will be most remembered for her wit, humor and creative/artistic abilities.

In lieu of flowers please help save lives by wearing a mask.

**Larry “Price” Franklin Price**



Larry “Price” Franklin Price, 72, of Mechanicsville, MD, passed away peacefully on Thursday, December 17, 2020 at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital, Washington, DC.

He was born on October 5, 1948, in Covington, KY, to Richard Price and Audrey (Richardson) Price. He was one of three (3) boys in his loving family.

Larry married his beautiful bride, Linda Christine (Teresi) Price on February 23, 1984. Together they celebrated over thirty-six (36) years of marriage. Their love combined two families making life a little crazy but fun.

He proudly joined the United States Air Force in 1971 serving his country honorably. He was a proud American and took great pride in his country. Upon his release he worked as a Plumbing and

Housing Inspector for the Federal Government. He was a dedicated employee and enjoyed his position up until his retirement in 2010.

An avid outdoorsman, Larry found great peace in God’s glorious canopy of blue skies and nature. He spent many mornings sitting in a blind or stand listening to the animals wake from their slumber in the hopes of bringing home a trophy. When the seasons changed and the weather warmed, Larry enjoyed a day on the water either crabbing or sitting with a fishing pole waiting for the fish to bite. He instilled his love for being outdoors with his children and then grandchildren. He took pride in being able to teach his grandchildren how to shoot a gun. He loved camping and sitting beside a campfire reminiscing and making memories.

Larry and Linda traveled together and made lasting memories with their adventures. Family meant everything to him and his greatest moments in life were spent surrounded by his loved ones. He was a grill master and enjoyed summer cookouts with the kids running around and driving him crazy.

Whether you knew him as Larry, Price, Dad, or Pop you knew a wonderful man with a heart of gold. He was greatly loved and will be missed by many family and friends.

Larry is survived by his wife, Linda Christine Price of Mechanicsville, MD; children, Joshua Franklin Price of Leonardtown, MD, Heather Jane Lambert, of Belmont, NC, Amy Elizabeth Maier of Gastonia, NC, Rebecca Marie Price of Gastonia, NC, Regina Lynn Buckler and Kristine Renee Ferrall of Mechanicsville, MD; seventeen (17) grandchildren and five (5) great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his brother, Michael Price of Columbus, OH. He was preceded in death by his parents, Richard Price and Audrey Price, brother, Stephen Earl Price and son, John Michael Reinburg.

At this time the interment will be private.

In lieu of flowers, the family would request donations be made in Larry’s name to the American Cancer Society, <https://www.cancer.org/involved/donate/memorial-giving.html>.

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

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

**Russell Andrew Garner, Sr.**



Russell Andrew Garner, Sr., 77, of Dunkirk, MD passed away surrounded by loving family at Calvert Memorial Hospital in Prince Frederick, MD on December 12th,

2020.

Russell was born November 7th, 1943

in Upper Marlboro, MD to the late James and Florence Tayman Garner.

He graduated in 1962 from Sasscer High School in Upper Marlboro. After graduation Russell proudly served in the United States Army during the Vietnam Era advancing to the rank of Sergeant before being honorably discharged.

Russell supported his family as Route Sales for Wonder Bread – Hostess delivering bread and cake to stores and schools in Southern Maryland retiring after 30 years. After retirement he drove for St. Mary’s County Public Transit Bus System for numerous years.

To know Russell was to know a hard-working, passionate man with a heart of gold. A devote Catholic, Russell was a member of St. Anthony’s Catholic Church in North Beach, MD.

He was loved by many and his spirit will be missed for years to come. He was a member of American Legion Post 206 in Chesapeake Beach. His hobbies included watching a University of MD basketball game, cheering for the Orioles or rooting on the Ravens and working on crossword puzzles.

Russell is survived by his wife Cheryl Crissman Garner, of Dunkirk, MD and his children, Russell Garner, Jr. of Tallahassee, FL, Rebecca Ritchie (Randy) of Redding, CA, Christina Bellinger (Jeremy) of Charlotte, NC, and Stepson Brian Crissman of Prince Frederick, MD; and his sister Florence Hugel of Stevensonville, MD. He is also survived by his nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, which were his pride and joy, as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Russell is preceded in death by his parents, James Roy Garner and Florence Tayman Garner; his first wife Janice Ashberger Garner; his sisters Adeline Sasscer, Margaret Walsh and Jane Saunders; and brothers James Garner Jr. and Henry Garner.

In lieu of flowers the family is asking for all donations to be sent to St. Joseph’s Indian School, P.O. Box 326 Chamberlain, SD 57326 a charity that Russell loved supporting.

Family will receive friends on Wednesday, December 30, 2020 at Brinsfield Funeral Home in Charlotte Hall from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. with a Funeral Service at 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Interment is at the Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery at, 11301 Crain Hwy, Cheltenham, MD 20623 at 1:00 p.m.

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

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

**Margaret Maske Pinkerton Winters**

Margaret Brown (Pinkerton) Winters, of Leonardtown, Maryland, died December 15, 2020. Mrs. Winters, born August 7, 1924 in Polkton, NC, was predeceased by: her parents, Roland and Ona Maske;

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## In Remembrance



her siblings Douglas Maske and Willie Blake Tarlton; husband's, Harry Thomas, Hebert Pinkerton, and Bill Winters; and her beloved daughter, Beverly McGrath Kopp,

and Connie Yeaton. She is survived by her sister and brother, Joneal Ferree, and Frank Maske (Jane); and her daughters, Cynthia Albertsen (Michael) and Sheila Thomas (Connie). Mrs. Winters was blessed with eight grandchildren: Tommy Jenkins, Ann Thompson (George), Emily Theesen (Brant), Colleen Robinson (Thomas), Meghan McGrath (Megan), Sean McGrath, Ryan Albertsen, and Robert Albertsen. She also leaves twelve great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

As well as her devotion to her family, Margaret was an avid volunteer for the American Red Cross for numerous years. She also worked as a supervisor for J.C. Penney. She was a devoted wife for 49 years to Pinky (Hebert) and traveled at his side during his career in the United States Navy. Later they retired in Patuxent River, MD. Margaret took pleasure in her travels, bird watching, and attending dinners with loved ones.

The Family of Mrs. Margaret Winters wishes to extend our sincerest thanks to St. Mary's Nursing Home of Leonardtown, MD.

A Graveside Service will be held on December 28, 2020 at 11:00 a.m., at Charles Memorial Gardens, 26325 Point Lookout Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to Saint Mary's Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, 21585 Peabody Street, Leonardtown, MD 20650, or The American Red Cross, Southern Maryland Chapter, 80 West Street, Suite A, Annapolis, MD 21401.

### Victoria Ashely Curtis



Victoria Ashely Curtis, 32, of Mechanicsville, MD entered into eternal life on Saturday, December 5, 2020. She was born on February 4, 1988, in Fairfax, VA, to her loving par-

ents, Jack Allan Curtis and Deborah Jean (Potts) Curtis. Born into a "yours, mine and ours family" and the youngest of five, Victoria's arrival brought great joy to the family.

She was raised in Mechanicsville, MD and educated in the St. Mary's County School system. Victoria was an accomplished figure skater receiving many trophies and medals. After high school Victoria, enjoyed working her dream job, as a veterinarian technician.

Victoria was a strong, caring woman who loved and cherished her children, her family, and friends. With her sense of humor, her laugh, and her heart of gold, she embraced the simplest moments, a hug from her son or a smile from her daughter. She was a caring woman, affectionate mother, great daughter, loving sister, wonderful aunt and loyal friend who will be missed by many, especially her family. Take comfort knowing that Victoria is now healthy, entering the heavenly gates with grace and leaving her worldly struggles behind.

Victoria is survived by her children, Elijah James and Emery Jean Curtis; her parents, Jack and Deborah Curtis, of Mechanicsville, MD; her fiancé Richard W. Kratz, of Glen Burnie, MD; her uncles Charles "Chip" A. Potts, Jr. of Los Angeles, CA, Eddie T. Robinson, IV of Los Angeles, CA; her aunt Marsha Herndon (Richard) of Alexandria, VA; her siblings, Patricia Jean Walters (Robert) of Albuquerque, NM; Cheryl L. Honeycutt of Chesterfield County, VA, Brian A. Curtis (Catherine) of Nokesville, VA and Jennifer L. Upton (Ryan) of Stafford County, VA; her nieces and nephews, Sarah, Molly, Tom, Amy, Brianna, Brett, Brooke and Madison; her cousins Becci and Tim; along with a host of great-nieces and nephews, cousins and extended family and friends.

As a woman of faith who loved the Episcopal Church, Victoria's remains will be interred at Christ Episcopal Church, Chaptico, Maryland. The service will be private.

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

### Alice Virginia Dozier



Alice Virginia Dozier, 80, of Mechanicsville, MD passed away on Monday, December 14th, 2020 at her home surrounded by her loving family.

Born May 9, 1940 in Leonardtown, MD, Alice was a devoted daughter of the late Richard Henry and late Helen Madeline (Buckler) Quade.

Alice was a beautiful woman with a zest for life. She enjoyed visiting the VFW and American Legion. She spent a great deal of time with her family, attending many of her great-grandchildren's sport games and dance shows. She spent many summers gardening and liked playing bingo and slot machines. Alice worked as a bank teller and retired as a resident manager in 2009.

Alice is survived by her loving husband of 25 years, Bill Dozier of Mechanicsville, MD; children, Francis Wheatley (Janet), and John Shea (Tammy); grandchildren, Catherine Wheatley (Wesley Hancock), Danielle Johnson (Chad), Heather Miller (Jacob), Justin Shea (Katie), Autumn

Shrader (Mark), and Jessica Wheatley; and twelve loving great-grandchildren.

She is also survived by her siblings, Richard "Junior" Quade, Ruby Fuller, John Quade, Susan Gray, Barbara Jean Bailey, Henrietta Erskine, Thomas Quade, Christine Roberts, Irene Diehl, Diane Hiller, and Timothy Quade. Alice is preceded in death by her siblings Herbert Quade, James Quade, and Carroll Quade.

Interment will be held at Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery on December 31, 2020 at 10:30 a.m.

All flowers can be sent to Brinsfield Funeral Home, 30195 Three Notch Road, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622.

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

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

### Danny Joe Hartwell



Danny Joe Hartwell was born on April 27, 1951 in Hinton, West Virginia to the late Silas Kenton and Dora Irene (Hodge) Hartwell. His heritage was Cherokee Nation

and English, but his mother often requested his presence by shouting, "Daniel Boone!!!!". He was the eleventh of fifteen siblings. Danny is preceded in death by eight of his siblings: Barbara Hartwell, Bill Hartwell, David Hartwell, Hilda Creasy, Jim Hartwell, Lois Cook, Ruth Angell, and Tom Hartwell.

As a child, he attended a one room schoolhouse on Hartwell Road called The Hartwell School and his sense of humor attended right along with him. Upon deciding he didn't much care for the year's teacher, he caught a black snake during recess and put it in the teacher's desk. When that drawer was opened, the snake came flying out and the teacher asked, "Who did this?!" Without hesitation, all of Danny's classmates ratted him out with pointed fingers (even then, can't get no respect!). A whooping followed, but it did little to snuff out the lifelong twinkle in his eye.

Throughout his late teens, Danny worked for a local dentist. Seeing his dedication and meticulous work, the dentist suggested to Danny he get an education to further his foray into the field. They reckoned the military was the best way to obtain the necessary training. At 17, Danny graduated from Hinton High School. When he went to the recruiter's office to start talking dentistry, the recruiter, ever mindful of the Navy's needs, showed Danny a photo of the Blue Angels crew and their crafts asking, "Don't you want to do this?" Danny, of course, said, "Yeah, man!" After signing on the dotted line, the recruiter remarked, "Got you, sucker!" just as conflict between the US

and Asia began to heat up. Head 'em up, move 'em out.

Turns out, the joke was on the recruiter. God had other plans for Danny, plans to prosper him and not to harm him, plans to give him hope and a future. After graduating bootcamp, Danny's entire company was bound for Vietnam. As he waited for the bus with his buddies, the drill instructor urged them all to ensure their typed orders were totally correct. Danny discovered his orders read, "Hartnell" and headed back to the typist pool for correction. The bus driver refused to wait on him and the Navy found no good way of reuniting him with his company. He was told to head back to the barracks to see what could be done in the morning. The needs of the Navy sent Danny to fill a billet in Lakehurst, New Jersey. One little letter changed everything, but this was only the start.

On September 30, 1972, Danny married his Jersey girl, Valerie. They were wet behind the ears know nothings, but they loved each other fiercely. Three months after they were married, Danny was temporarily stationed in California. Not realizing he could have taken Valerie with him, he spent quite a bit of time with a group called The Navigators who lead Danny to his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He took his role as a spiritual leader seriously and Valerie got on board quickly!

During his time in the military, he was working on his private pilot's license. During flight school, his instructor urged Danny to hurry up as they needed to get going as they were late to meet her nephew for lunch. As Danny walked to the table, he recognized the nephew and spent the lunch stuttering. Understandable, he was feeling lucky and his day was made as he shared a table with Clint Eastwood!

Danny was a true patriot racking up an impressive array of decorations: Two National Defense Service Medal, multiple Navy Achievement Medals, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Navy Battle "E", Sharpshooter .45 caliber pistol, Meritorious Unit Commendation, Fifth Good Conduct Award, Coast Guard Meritorious Unit Commendation, Expert Rifle and Pistol Ribbon, Reserve Meritorious Service Medal, and Sea Service Deployment Ribbon. Danny retired from the United States Navy in 1991 having achieved the rank of Command Master Chief (he's a person!). He was easy to spot in any gathering thanks to the ever-present ball cap letting you know he was the top one percent of the Navy through perseverance, hard work, and a little luck. He was regularly approached with a sincere, "Thank you for your service!" Having her patriot receive continued recognition was a source of pride for his Jersey girl.

Among his proudest accomplishments was his doctorate degree in Prophetic Ministry from Christian Leadership University in November 2015. But he was also quick to share his prized, heirloom roses. Every woman in his life had a rose-bush in his garden. Neighbors and friends



were often greeted with a new bud and a hearty, "Here! Smell this!" Nepotism rules.

Danny was a lifelong learner, a jack of all trades, there was truly nothing he couldn't do. Having never met a stranger, Danny loved people and it was typical to overhear him on the phone saying, "What do you need?" and "OK, I'll be there." For Danny, family was second only to God. He loved people especially new ones because they made for a fresh audience for his jokes. He wanted so much to laugh with you, but was careful to not laugh at you. If you asked him out for a beer, you better be prepared to hear how much better Pennsylvania's Yuengling Premium is than whatever swill you were serving! Danny sang (mostly oldies especially The Righteous Brothers whose cassette took a full year to wear out despite him hitting play, flipping it over, hitting play, flipping it over...), played the guitar (don't forget the YEE HAW at the end of I'll Fly Away), and loved a good run, but above even those pleasures, he adored his Keurig coffee machine the most.

Danny's ideal day was spent with his beloved Valerie rummaging through antique shops for a deal, indulging in his current restaurant of choice (Cracker Barrel or Ruddy Duck anyone?), and witnessing the majesty of his Creator's sunset while wearing jeans and sneakers. At home, he often requested shepherd's pie and could be caught sneaking into the pantry for one more cookie.

While he was a fan of military history books, Danny was an even more avid consumer of the Holy Bible. Throughout this year, he had been listening to the scriptures on audio book making it all the way from Genesis to Joshua. Danny was an active and dedicated member of Our Father's House in California, Maryland where he served on the prophetic team. Before he ever had the vocabulary to describe how he and God talked, his mother would remark, "If Danny says it's going to happen, hide and watch." Over the years, Danny has shared numerous prophetic dreams and many have come to fruition. His prophetic team members are heeding his mother's wisdom to hide and watch.

Danny is survived by his wife, Valerie Hartwell of Leonardtown, Maryland, and their daughters, Angela Kirsch (Brooks) of Birdsboro, Pennsylvania, Dawn Hartwell of York, Pennsylvania, and Danielle (Steve) Paustian of California, Maryland, and by his grandchildren: Jeremy Hartwell, Taran Hartwell, Hannah Kirsch, Nate Kirsch, Ben Kirsch, Elsie Paustian, Seth Paustian, and Craig Paustian. Danny is also survived by his brothers S.K. (Bud) Hartwell, Beallsville, Ohio, Roger Hartwell, Hinton, West Virginia, Ralph Hartwell, Hinton, West Virginia, Gary (Buck) Hartwell, Wayside, West Virginia, and Ronnie Hartwell, Charlotte, North Carolina, and his sister, Betty Lamb, Princeton, West Virginia. Danny will be forever missed and never forgotten. Rest well, good and faithful servant of the

most high God. No matter where you go, there you are...even in heaven.

Danny believed in life and the protection of it. In lieu of flowers, his family requests donations be made in his name to CareNet of Southern Maryland: <https://friendsofcarenetsomd.org/donate/>.

Services will be private.

### John Lewis Miles



John Lewis Miles, 78, of Mechanicsville, MD passed away on December 5, 2020 at MedStar St. Mary's Hospital in Leonardtown, MD with his family at his side.

He was born on February 17, 1942 to the late James Lewis Miles, Sr. and Nellie Ellen Curtis Miles.

On October 17, 1976, John married his beloved wife, Thyris Marie Miles, who preceded him in death in July 2018 after 41 wonderful years of marriage. After his honorable discharge from the United States Army, he was employed by the Dept. of Public Works at Andrews Air Force Base for many dedicated years until his retirement 2001. He was a skilled carpenter and built his own house and his wife's hair salon. He also made candle holders and birdhouses. He kept a meticulous yard and the road to his home was well maintained. His hobbies included going out on the boat with his brother Harry Mason, fishing, hosting cookouts for family and friends, and cheering on the Philadelphia Eagles. He was dedicated to his family, and enjoyed spending time with them.

He is preceded in death by his children: Lisa S. Holt of Morganza, MD and Dennis W. June (Lisa Marie) of Crofton, MD; his grandchildren: Rashaud Dent, Devonte Dent, Avery June, Denisha June, Brandon June, Ashanti June, Dejah June, Alexis June; his great-grandson, Lyndel Clarke; his siblings, Charles Miles of Clayton, NC, Laura E. Frederick of Great Mills, MD, and Mary Arlene Evans of Leonardtown, MD; and many extended family and friends. In addition to his parents and wife, he is also preceded by his siblings, Paul Randolph Curtis, Eliza Catherine Mason, James L. Miles, Jr. Nellie Cecelia Warren, Nancy Ann Theresa Fantroy.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Seventh District Rescue Squad, Post Office Box 7, Avenue, MD 20609.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

### Booker T. Bullock, Jr.

Booker T. Bullock, Jr. was born on November 6, 1952 in Virginia Beach, VA to the late Booker T. Bullock, Sr.



and Catherine L. Moore (Bullock) (Ward). Booker T spent most of his early years in Virginia Beach where he attended Kellam High and was known as a great Boxer then.

Throughout his years he lived in Virginia Beach, Norfolk, Washington DC and Southern Maryland where he met his wife Veronica Bullock.

He was affectionately known by many as "T", "June", or "Pops" and was employed for a many of years by Norfolk State University as the Maintenance Supervisor until his retirement. He was known to be a beautiful dancer who loved to Swing dance to "old music" from the 70's especially Marvin Gay and Bob Marley. He enjoyed fishing, driving, playing chess, horseshoes and Dominos, frying fish or chicken served with his favorite beans, cheering on the Dallas Cowboys and just being an all-around good person. His presence would light up any room and he was always the person that everyone wanted around. He also took a strong pride in his appearance by being well-dressed and very neat. Another one of his pride and joys was his red Dodge Ram, which was his baby. Family was always a priority and he enjoyed spending time with them, especially his grandchildren.

On December 10, 2020 Booker T., 68, entered eternal rest peaceful at home in Lexington Park, MD. He is preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by wife Veronica Bullock; his children, Carl Ward of Virginia Beach, VA, Booker T. Whitaker (Edena Stewart) of Washington, DC, Te'Arna Bullock (Sheryl Bethea) of Capitol Heights, MD, and Booker Terrance Bullock (Euniqua) of Durham, NC; his brother James Risper (Terry Brinson-Risper) of Virginia Beach, VA; 17 grandchildren; three great grandchildren; and many extended family and friends.

Memorial Contributions may be made to the American Cancer Association, 405 Williams Court, Suite 120, Baltimore, MD 21220.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

### ETCM (SW) Roger Ramon King, USN (Ret.)

ETCM (SW) Roger Ramon King, USN (Ret.), 75, of Leonardtown, MD passed away on December 10, 2020 at MedStar St. Mary's Hospital in Leonardtown, MD.

He was born on June 23, 1945 in Cleveland, OH to Stanley King and Claire Rollins King.

Roger entered into the U.S. Navy on August 2, 1965. He proudly served until retirement as Master Chief on November 30, 1988. He earned various awards such as the National Defense Service Medal

and the Fifth Good Conduct Award. He married Jane King on March 21, 1970 in NY. They were blessed with three children, Roger, Christopher, and Jennifer. He was a skilled woodworker and made many handcrafted pieces. Roger enjoyed fishing, was an avid bowler and enjoyed collecting and admiring model trains but most of all he cherished spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren.

He is survived by his wife Jane King; his children: Roger King (Susan), Christopher King and Jennifer Crum (Fred); and 4 grandchildren.

All services will be private.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

### Barbara Virginia "Bobbi" Gray



Barbara Virginia "Bobbi" Gray of Mechanicsville, Maryland, peacefully passed away on December 12, 2020, surrounded by her loving family.

She was born in Washington, D.C., on May 23, 1938, and is preceded in death by her father, Clarence Lyle Muire, beloved stepfather Edward Madison "Happy" Nace, beloved mother, Genevieve Posey, and her late husband, Everett "Eddie" Charles Gray.

Bobbi was the kindest person you could ever meet. She was gentle and sentimental. She saved every card anyone gave her. She helped others in need, without interest in glory. She was thoughtful with her words, and she had a way of encouraging you and teaching you with the most loving touch.

Bobbi spoke with reverence about growing up during the great depression when she and her sisters received an apple and one doll for Christmas—an experience that made her cherish the little things. She spoke fondly of her time with her mother and stepfather nicknamed "Happy," when her husband Eddie carried her over the 14th street bridge in DC on one of their dates, and her time as a dedicated and celebrated pharmacy technician at Doctor's Hospital in Lanham, MD.

After going without during the great depression, Bobbi loved giving little gifts to her loved ones that she picked out just for you. She added touches of tinsel or glitter to make everyday things sparkle. She woke up early to have "coffee with the birds," loved flowers, and was an avid gardener. She liked to bake, craft, sew, and in her younger years, she loved decorating for Christmas. She also liked licorice, dancing around the house to good music, and to collect seashells on the beach.

She was a loving "Nana" and an inspiration to everyone that she met. She

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# In Remembrance

inspired friends to start a family, cared for her mother when her health declined, loved and supported her husband and children unconditionally, and spent time teaching her grandchildren lessons that shaped their lives.

Bobbi loved birds and watching the Wizard of Oz with her grandchildren. When you are having a tough day and you see a bird, it might just be Nana letting you know she is looking over you and sending you some comfort from over the rainbow.

Bobbi was a beloved mother. She leaves behind three children: Michael Gray of Hollywood, MD, Kimberly DeFilippo, of Mechanicsville, MD, and Susan Hunt of Mechanicsville, MD, and two sons-in-law: Nick DeFilippo and Warren "Bobby" Hunt. She was the blessed "Nana" of four grandchildren: Christina Peterson of Washington, DC, Nicholas DeFilippo (Maegan), of Mechanicsville, MD, Jennifer Stone (Jonathan) of Mechanicsville, MD, and Joseph DeFilippo, of Mechanicsville, MD; and three great-grandchildren: Miley Stone, Mason Stone, and Deaken DeFilippo. She is also survived by her siblings survived by her siblings, Edward Nace (Jolyn) of Wake Forest, NC, Betty Powell (Buddy) of Virginia Beach, VA, and Juanita Sylvis (Roderick "Butch") of Wake Forest, NC, and many other loving family members and friends. Bobbi is preceded in death

by her sister, Lois (Norman) Grey and grandson, Robert Warren Ellis Hunt, Jr ("Baby Robert").

Family will receive friends on Saturday, January 2 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., for Bobbi's Life Celebration, a Funeral Service will be held at 11:30 a.m. at Brinsfield Funeral Home, 30195 Three Notch Road, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622. Interment will follow immediately at Trinity Memorial Gardens in 3221 Mattawoman Beantown Road, Waldorf, Maryland 20601.

Somewhere over the rainbow, way up high

There's a land that I heard of once in a lullaby

Somewhere over the rainbow, skies are blue

And the dreams that you date to dream really do come true

Someday I'll wish upon a star

And wake up where the clouds are far behind me

Where troubles melt like lemon drops

Away above the chimney tops

That's where you'll find me

Somewhere over the rainbow, bluebirds fly

Birds fly over the rainbow

Why, then, oh, why can't I?

If happy little bluebird fly

Beyond the rainbow

Why, oh, why can't I?

## Kenneth Clyde Guy Sr.

Swan Point Resident Kenneth (Kenny) Guy age 71, died December 17th, 2020 at Charles Regional Medical Center. Kenny graduated from Chopticon and entered the Army in 1968. Kenny worked in the Utilities Industry for most of his career. He worked for Pepco from 1973 – 2007. After retiring for an entire two weeks he joined Mirant/GenON from 2007 – 2015. His second retirement lasted six months when he decided staying at home was not his cup of tea, he joined Ulman & Assoc. from 2015 – 2018. Finally, retirement took when Kenny settled for the warmer winter sunshine in Florida.

Mr. Guy is survived by his wife Barbara June Goodwin-Guy of Swan Point /Naples, FL, his former wife Mary Elizabeth Guy of Leonardtown, 4 children Kendra Faye Royston of Naples, FL, Tabitha Shelly Gass (Mike St. Clair) of Compton, Steven Frederick Goodwin of Timonium and Kenneth Clyde Guy Jr. (Heather) of Mechanicsville, 6 grandchildren Jessica Lea Smith (Justin) of (Waxahachie, TX), Hope Alexandra Koch of Naples, FL, Taylor Marie Gass of Hollywood, Ronald Edward Gass Jr, of Medley's Neck, Hunter James Guy and Hannah Nicole Guy of Mechanicsville, 5 great grandchildren Patrick Ryan Cahill of Naples, FL, Carson Riley Tomlinson of Hollywood, Lilly Rae Gaines of Hollywood, Jocelyn Rose Smith and Jolene Lily Smith of Waxahachie, TX, 6 siblings Charles Jerome Guy (Cindy) of Avenue, Margaret Louise Stickell of Leonardtown, M. Jeanette Austin of Leonardtown, Thomas Ponton Guy (Esther) of Henderson, NC, Mary Susan Buono (Charlie) of Leonardtown, and Elizabeth Ann Walker (Danny) of Leonardtown and numerous nieces and nephews.

Mr. Guy is preceded in death by his parents Joseph Clyde Guy and Dorothy Dillard Guy, nee Jones and 3 siblings Joseph Calvin Guy (Eleanor), Dorothy Marie Irwin (William), and Walter Lawrence Guy (Glenda).

Mr. Guy was born August 5th 1949, in Leonardtown to Joseph Clyde Guy and Dorothy Dillard Guy, nee Jones. Kenny had many talents and could do anything he set his mind to. He enjoyed sharing his talents with others. Most people who knew Kenny had an immediate connection, what you saw is what you got. One of his passions was riding motorcycles and road trips with his brother Charlie and his brother in law Charles to places like Sturgis and across country. He was also proud of the fact that while working he was able to earn a degree from Bismarck State College in Electric Power Technology. Kenny was an avid storyteller and enjoyed speaking. One of his favorite childhood stories was pretending to be Davy Crockett in the corn fields with his coonskin hat and his gun where he chased imaginary rabbits, squirrels and bears. He recalled his brother Charlie being Jim Bowie, equipped with his bowie knife, and their many feats of bravery. He

never tired of reminding his sister Louise of putting ants in her pants when she was young. Kenny served in the United States Army from September 4th 1968 - September 9th 1971. He served a tour in the Republic of Vietnam from March 8th 1969 – March 6th 1970 in An Loc Province. There he served primarily at Quan Loi, also known as LZ Andy. He recounted the most difficult part of his tour in Vietnam was the many that could never return home but he did. His greatest pride and joy in life was family especially his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Kenny will be waiting patiently for us to join him in the clouds.

Due to Covid-19 a service will be held at a later date.

Contributions may be made to the Disabled American Veterans Chapter 26 St. Mary's County, Maryland P.O. Box 496 Patuxent River, MD 20670.

Condolences may be made to the family at [www.mgfh.com](http://www.mgfh.com). Arrangements provided by the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, P.A. & Crematory Leonardtown, MD.

## Dorothy Elizabeth Duckett



Dorothy Elizabeth Duckett, 77, of Leonardtown, MD passed away on December 19, 2020 in Washington, DC. Born on August 5, 1943 she was the loving daughter of

the late Catherine Elizabeth Crim and Calvin Samuel Crim and John Derkis Gatton. Dorothy was the loving wife of James David Duckett, whom she married on June 8, 1963 in Lexington Park Baptist Church Lexington Park, MD. Dorothy is survived by her daughter Michelle Lynn Bell (Jeff), three grandchildren; Michaela Bell, Shannon Duckett, and Savannah Bell-Bussler. Along with her brothers John Gatton (Peewee) of Glen burnie, MD, and James "Jimmy" Gatton of Florida. She was preceded in death by her son James Michael Duckett, and brother Richard (Calvert) Crim.

Dorothy enjoyed spending time with family, playing cards, and watching the Baltimore Orioles.

The family will receive friends on Monday, December 28, 2020 from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home Leonardtown, MD; where a Funeral Service will be held at 11:00 AM in the Funeral Home Chapel with Bishop William McClean officiating. Interment will follow in Charles Memorial Gardens Leonardtown, MD. Serving as pallbearers will be Jeff Bell, Robert (Bobby) Fross, James (Jimmy) Gatton, Mark Dill, Jackie Crim and Austin Ubalde.

Condolences may be made to the family at [www.mgfh.com](http://www.mgfh.com). Arrangements provided by the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, P.A. & Crematory Leonard-

## Remembering our loved ones this Christmas

### Caring for the Past Planning for the Future

#### Traditional Funerals, Cremation Services, Memorial Services, Direct Burials, Pre-Need Services and Commitment Through After Care.

The Brinsfield Funeral Homes is owned and operated by the Brinsfield family. And like any good friend, we understand the importance of providing a comforting hand in a time of grief. We recognize that every individual and family we serve has lived a life that is uniquely their own. We take the time to learn about their lives and help them plan a funeral or memorial service that reflects the lifestyle and final wishes of their loved one.

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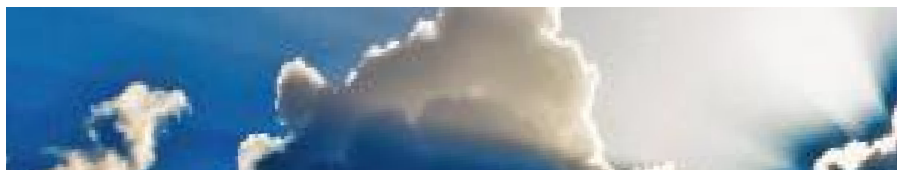


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(301) 472-4400

Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.  
22955 Hollywood Road  
Leonardtown, Maryland 20650  
(301) 475-5588



town, MD.

**Donnie Lee "Don" Powers**



Donnie Lee "Don" Powers, 78, of Mechanicsville, MD passed away on December 12, 2020 at his home with his loving family at his side.

He was born on October 11, 1942 in Forth Worth, TX

to the late Lee Powers and Viola Katherine Stewart Powers.

(BIO goes here) In January 1978, Don married his beloved wife, Sharon Eileen Powers in Leonardtown, MD. Together, they celebrated over 47 wonderful years of marriage. In (year) he enlisted in the United States Air Force and proudly served his country for 6 years until his Honorable Discharge in (year). He was employed for many dedicated years as a Manager at Giant Food, Inc. until his retirement.

In addition to his beloved wife, he is also survived by his children: Donald Joseph Powers of LaPlata, MD, Timothy Lee Powers, Cheryl Lynn Powers of Mechanicsville, MD and Eric Alan Powers of Pilot, VA; his grandsons: Michael Brian Powers, Shawn Lakota Powers, Gage Powers and Taylor Powers; his siblings: Katherine Weiss (William) of St. Cloud, MN, Sandra Darlene Powers of Phoenix, AZ, Maxine Powers of Phoenix, AZ; and extended family and friends. In addition to his parents, he is also preceded in death by his son, Michael Powers and a sister, Virginia Pearl Evans.

All services are private.

Memorial Contributions may be made to St. Joseph's Indian School, Post Office Box 100, Chamberlain, SD 57325-0100 or St. Jude's Children's Hospital, Post Office Box 1000, Dept. 142, Memphis, TN 38148

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

**William Alexander Bond, Sr**



William Alexander Bond, Sr., affectionately known as "Willie," was born on February 20, 1957 in Washington, DC to Frances V. Bond and the late John Henry Bond,

Jr. Willie was the oldest, and loved the designation of being the "first of nine." Willie entered into eternal rest on December 11, 2020 in Leonardtown, MD.

Willie attended St. Mary's County Public Schools, graduating from Chopticon High School, Morganza, MD, in 1975. Willie enlisted in the U.S. Army in

June 1975. After he separated from active duty, Willie became employed with Blue Cross Blue Shield in Washington, DC; he retired after 35 years of employment in Computer Operations.

Willie enjoyed reading, doing crossword puzzles, cooking, fishing, sports and relating to people of all walks of life. Willie was recognized within the Southern Maryland Communities for his days on the baseball and softball fields. Willie never met a stranger because many became his friends, and he was able to relate to anyone. Willie sincerely loved his family, and especially the family trips and gatherings. He willingly participated wherever needed. One of Willie's biggest joys was when he became a grandfather, first to his prince, Cortez in 2008, and then to his princess, Alyani in 2019. Willie touched many lives. He will be missed forever.

Prior to relocating to St. Mary's County, Willie was a faithful member of the St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, Clinton, MD. Willie volunteered many hours at the Catholic schools his sons attended, and within the athletic programs Will and Jeremy participated in. Willie was a member of the St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church Knights of Columbus Council #11171.

Those who remain to cherish his memory include his wife, Sharon; mother Frances V. Bond; children: Tierra N. Bond, Temple Hills, MD; William A. Bond, Clinton, MD; and, Jeremy M. Bond, Clinton, MD; siblings: Marie McCoy (Alton), Lexington Park, MD; Wanda Myers (Tony), Leonardtown, MD; Philip Bond, Sr. (Michele), Bowie, MD; Ruby Bond, Upper Marlboro, MD; Frances Hodge (Billy), Waldorf, MD; and, Louis Bond (Tiffani), LaPlata, MD; Godmother, Mary Arthurlee Burroughs; Godson Ryan Countiss; Mother-in-law, Mamie Mason; In-laws: Shelia (Roland) Barnes, M. Jerome Mason, Jennifer (Terry) Thompson and Cindy Bond; former wife Gwendolyn Bond; beloved grandchildren, Cortez Cheatham and Alyani Bond; and, special friend Jeremiah Cutchember. He also leaves many nieces, nephews, friends and family members.

In addition to his father, Willie was preceded in death by his sister Victoria Bond and his brother John H. Bond III.

Funeral services will be held at Brinsfield Funeral Home, 22955 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, MD 2020 on Monday, December 21, 2020. Viewing will begin promptly at 9:30 am with funeral services immediately starting at 11:00am. Interment to follow at Charles Memorial Gardens, Leonardtown, MD, 26325 Point Lookout Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

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

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to St. Francis Xavier Church, 21370 Newtowne Neck Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

Arrangements by Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

# FIVE TIPS ON HOW NOT TO GET SUED IN BUSINESS

Contributing Writer:  
Lynda J. Striegel

First, the title of this article is a misnomer. Everyone can get sued. Anyone can sue you. The issue is not whether someone can sue you, it's whether you will prevail because the procedures you have put into place protect you. Common sense is your best guide to not getting sued. This article will focus on FIVE tips to protect yourself against the most problematic areas business owners face.

**Tip #1: If Its A Business And Not A Hobby, Treat It Like One**

Stay away from being a sole proprietorship if you are thinking about creating a business. A sole proprietorship is fine if you have a hobby. A business structure like a limited liability company or a corporation is relatively easy to create and, once in place, that structure will protect your personal assets from a business lawsuit. What does that mean? If someone want to sue your business, that person can only reach the assets of the business, not your personal assets. To protect yourself and your family, make sure you have correctly created the business structure. This requires, by the way, that you use a professional to help you set up your business.

Business structures are not one size fits all. If you have a spouse or a partner you want to work with as a business owner, your basic corporate documents must address what happens if one of you dies or is disabled. The basic corporate LegalZoom documents will not help you. Go to a professional for the creation of the business and get it done the right way.

Does just creating the correct business structure protect you from suit? No. Especially not if you have not followed customary business procedures. The way for an adversary to get to your personal assets is to prove that you have not run the business like a business. This is called "piercing the corporate veil". Basically, if you have all your business financial statements on the backs of envelopes, your contracts are oral, your "business" bank account is actually your personal bank account, and you do not refer to your formal business name when conducting business, there is a good chance in a lawsuit you would not be able to protect yourself against piercing.

**Tip #2: Don't Even Think About Using Oral Contracts**

Contracts, agreements, financial transactions must all be written and made easy to understand. The major problem all small service businesses face is not using a written contract with standard terms and conditions that relate to your business. It takes a professional to help you figure out what your standard contract should address. For example, if you are a wedding planner and your customer cancels the wedding, who pays you if your services have already been rendered. Unless you have a contract that is very specific about what happens if the wedding is cancelled, you are likely to be on your way to litigation. How easy it is to protect yourself with a visit to an attorney to create a contract for your business. The basic saying is don't be "penny wise and pound foolish." Pay money up front to get your business and contracts organized.

**Tip #3: If You Can't Understand It, Your Customer Can't Either**

This relates to the prior point about written contracts. Once you do obtain a standard contract, make sure it is written in standard language. If you cannot understand the language, neither can your

customer and misunderstanding the terms of your service is a clear path to litigation. This is true about more than just contracts. Be very clear with your customers about expectations. What are you saying you will do in terms of tasks. To what extent will your performance of your services depend on what the client does? What if the client doesn't do what they say they will? You can and should address these issues in your written contracts, but just in oral conversation, you need to make clear what you expect out of the relationship and the customer needs to know the ground rules of the engagement.

By the way, do not vary from your standard terms unless you specifically put that in writing. If your standard contract calls for a payment of a certain percentage of the bill upon certain events and you want to do something different with a customer, make sure you write it down and both of you sign it.

**Tip #4: Employees Or Independent Contractors?**

One of the major issues to be determined by the new business owner is whether your employees are full-time employees who work only for you or whether they are independent contractors who also work for others. The Internal Revenue Service is focused on this issue because so many business owners have mistakenly classified their employees as independent contractors that catching and punishing employers for this is easy. This subject, alone, deserves an article. However, to summarize, if someone works for you full-time at your direction, they are employees and you must withhold taxes from their paychecks and pay over the taxes to the government. If they do not work for you full-time and collect salaries from other employers and meet other criteria, they can be classified as independent contractors. In that case, when you pay them, you do not withhold taxes. They are responsible for paying their own taxes. The IRS loves to challenge the classification of employees as independent contractors since most business owners do not back up their classifications with evidence and the IRS can easily re-classify employees, requiring the employer to pay back taxes on amounts not withheld that should have been, along with penalties and interest.

To protect yourself and your business, any employer who deals with independent contractors must have an independent contractor agreement signed by the contractor and employer that recites all the IRS guidelines and represents that the contractor and employer are following such guidelines.

**Tip #5: Payment For Services**

You are in business to make money. Not focusing on your form of invoices or requests for payment almost invites disputes with customers. How will you be paid for your services? What if the customer is not satisfied with your services and refuses to pay you. What will you do? You need to focus on a policy to use under all circumstances. Imagine all of the "horribles" that could occur with your customers and address how you will handle those up front directly to the customer. The rule to follow is no surprises for your customers or for you.

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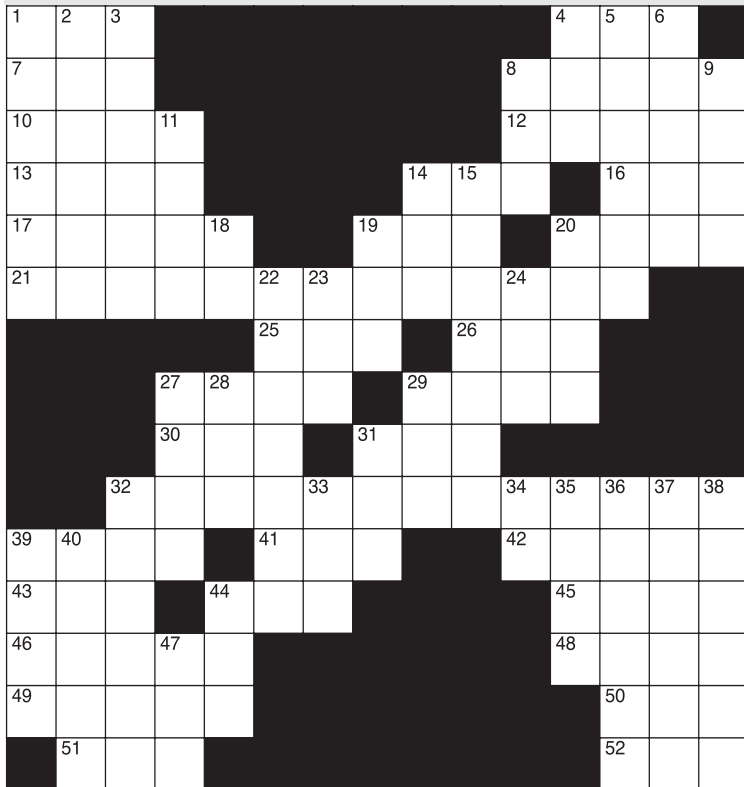
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# GAMES & PUZZLES



**CLUES ACROSS**

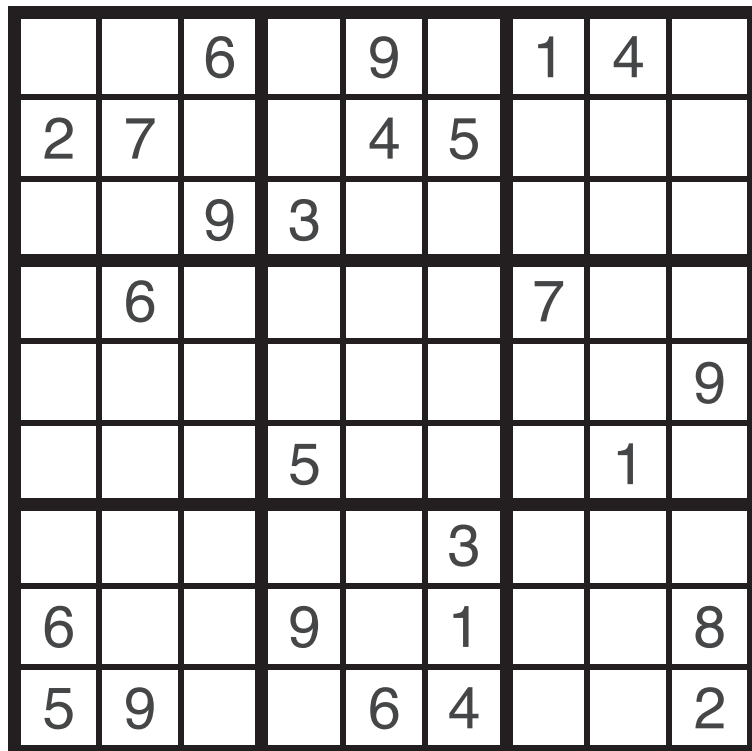
- 1. Crow species
- 4. Partner to flow
- 7. Male offspring
- 8. Sedate
- 10. Orange beverage
- 12. Pair of small hand drums
- 13. 12th month of Jewish civil year
- 14. Former Pirates star Jason
- 16. Computer company
- 17. Made angry
- 19. Beverage container
- 20. Charlize Theron film “\_\_ Flux”
- 21. Localities
- 25. Consume
- 26. Don't know when yet
- 27. Bed style
- 29. Make a low, continuous sound
- 30. Wrath
- 31. Pollinates flowers
- 32. Association
- 39. Prejudice
- 41. Unhealthy

- 42. Hasidic religious leader
- 43. Distinctive philosophy
- 44. Short-term memory
- 45. In a good way
- 46. Emperors of Ethiopia
- 48. Imaginary line
- 49. Of barium
- 50. One's sense of self-esteem
- 51. Man who behaves dishonorably
- 52. Monetary unit

- phrase “\_\_ Humbug”
- 15. One more
- 18. A ballplayer who only hits
- 19. Once vital TV part
- 20. Sixth month of Jewish civil year
- 22. Advantage
- 23. Type of tree
- 24. Luke's mentor \_\_-Wan
- 27. Life stories
- 28. Vase
- 29. Tiny
- 31. Package (abbr.)
- 32. A photog's tool
- 33. Wood
- 34. One of the six noble gases (abbr.)
- 35. Pueblo people of New Mexico
- 36. Wild goats
- 37. A way to comply
- 38. Horatio \_\_, British admiral
- 39. Actress Leslie
- 40. Sir \_\_ Newton
- 44. Pouch
- 47. Have already done

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Rear of (nautical)
- 2. He minds the net
- 3. Ring-shaped objects
- 4. When you hope to get there
- 5. Young children
- 6. Beloved hobbit
- 8. Pigpen
- 9. Wish harm upon
- 11. Quick-eyed (Scottish)
- 14. Scrooge's



**LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE SOLUTIONS**

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

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