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St. Mary's County Times

THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 2021

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Next Year It's Back to
NORMAL

CONTENTS

LOCAL 3

COPS & COURTS 12

COMMUNITY 13

FEATURE 15

EDUCATION 19

SPORTS 20

PAX RIVER 21

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS 23

CALENDAR 24

OBITS 26

BUSINESS DIRECTORY 30

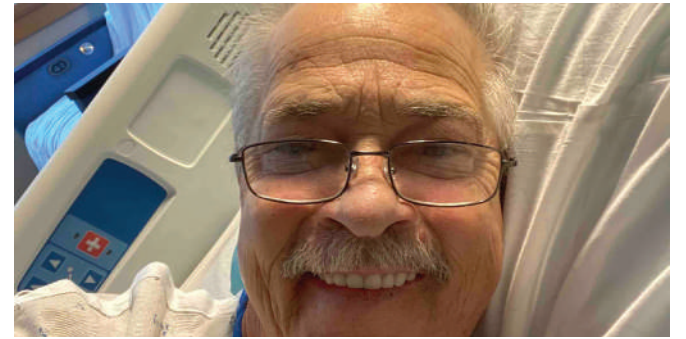
FUN & GAMES 31



COVER 15
The St. Mary's County Public School System is planning on a full return to classes next school year.



LOCAL 4
St. Mary's County boasts a healthy population of Bald Eagles.



COMMUNITY 13
County man seeks community's help.

“WITH TREES NOT HAVING ALL THEIR LEAVES IT’S A GOOD TIME TO TRY AND SPOT THEM BECAUSE THEY’RE NESTS ARE MASSIVE.”
DNR MANAGER GWEN BREWER ON OPPORTUNITIES TO SEARCH FOR BALD EAGLES AND THEIR NESTS THIS SPRING.

WEEKLY FORECAST

Thu 4/1	Fri 4/2	Sat 4/3	Sun 4/4
53° 30°F	48° 33°F	59° 44°F	70° 47°F
AM Light Rain/Wind	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Sunny
Mon 4/5	Tue 4/6	Wed 4/7	Thu 4/8
68° 49°F	70° 53°F	70° 52°F	69° 52°F
Sunny	Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy

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COVID-19

Positive Cases

Deaths

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St. Mary's **6,373** | **122**

Information provided by St. Mary's Health Department

Brewster Warns of New COVID-19 Surge

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The rate of new COVID-19 cases continues to rise here in St. Mary's, Dr. Meena Brewster, the county health officer said this week.

New, weekly COVID-19 cases dropped from a pandemic high of 433 in late December precipitously to a weekly low of 74 by the first week of March.

However, those new, weekly cases have begun to rise significantly with 110 new cases the week of March 14 and 135 new cases by the week beginning March 21.

"These... are the troubling signs of us entering another surge," Brewster told the Commissioners of St. Mary's County as they met March 30 as the county Board of Health.

"We really need our public to continue to mask, practice social distancing and get vaccinated."

Hospitalizations are declining, though, Brewster said, and this is likely largely due to high vaccination rates of the population aged 65 and older.

"This is good news," she said.

According to the latest county health department data, roughly 78 percent of residents between the

ages of 65 and 74 have been vaccinated; about 72 percent of residents over the age of 75 have been vaccinated.

There is also evidence that the current vaccines can be more effective against some of the new variants of the COVID-19 virus that have been shown to be more infectious, Brewster said.

Also, those who have already had COVID-19 and been vaccinated seem to have "pretty strong" resistance to the disease, Brewster said.

Once someone receives their first shot of either the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine, evidence suggests that it begins to provide much greater immunity against the virus – up to 80 percent.

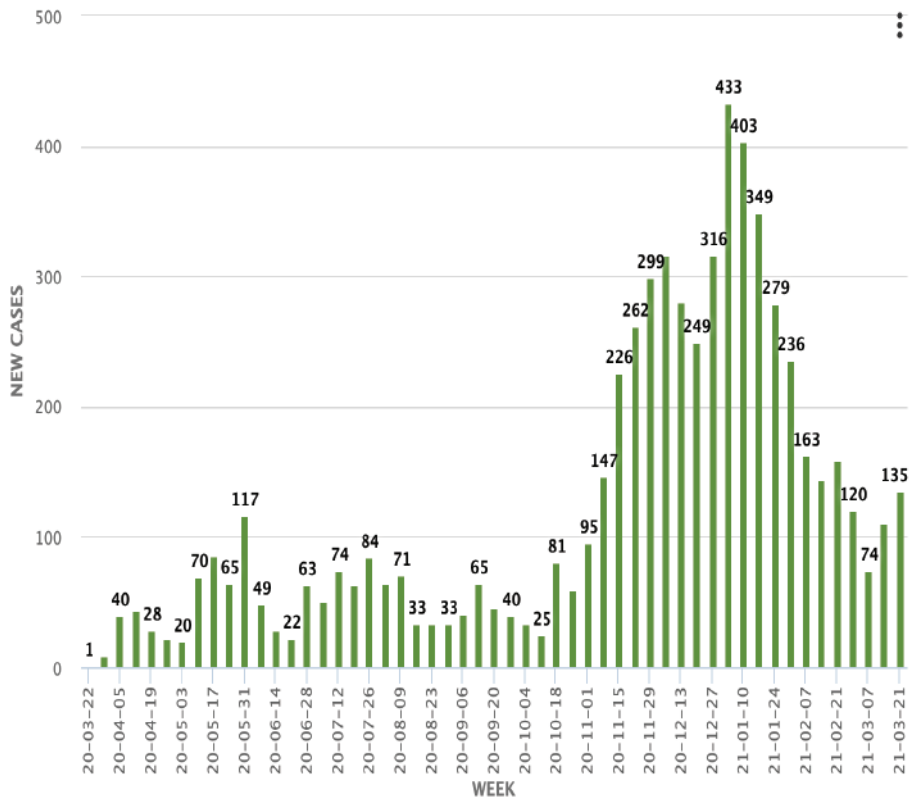
By the second dosage, Brewster said, resistance to the virus usually attains a rate of over 90 percent.

St. Mary's County is also one step ahead of the state, Brewster said, and is already in Phase 2C of vaccinations; this means that any resident above 55 years old can get a vaccine as well as anyone 16 and older with a disability and anyone aged 16 to 54 with eligible medical conditions is also eligible.

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New Cases by Week



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Eagles Soar In St. Mary's



Bald eagle photographed in southern St. Mary's County

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Once on the endangered species list, the American Bald Eagle has made a stunning comeback and is most abundant in the Chesapeake Bay area in the continental United States, according to the conservationists who have watched their progress.

And St. Mary's County plays no small part in providing habitat for the national bird to not just survive but thrive.

Chris Eberly, with the Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership (MBCP), said the Bald Eagle is abundant in Southern Maryland and in St. Mary's.

"Eagles tend to nest close to the water, that's where their [preferred] food is," Eberly said. "The Potomac and Patuxent rivers and Chesapeake Bay, those are key areas where you'll find the highest density of eagles' nests."

According to the MBCP, there are about 40 to 50 nesting pairs of Bald Eagles in Southern Maryland with 16 known nesting pairs in St. Mary's.

All but four of those are monitored by volunteers working with MBCP.

Eberly said there are almost certainly more.

"I would guess there are five to 10 more we haven't documented," said Eberly.

Most of the nests in St. Mary's that have been identified were found near roads or highways; many places in the county where Bald Eagles might choose to nest are in areas close to water where they are far more difficult to access.

In the mid-1970s their population was critical, with only about 44 nesting pairs known in Maryland, Eberly said.

This was the result of the proliferation of the pesticide DDT, which entered into the food supply of the eagles and when ingested affected the ability of their eggs to withstand the pressure of the birds as

they sat on the eggs to incubate them.

The shells were weakened by a portion of DDT's chemical composition, Eberly said, and the adults would inadvertently crush them.

This led to virtually no reproduction of the species regionally.

But their recovery is a major success story, he said, with at least 1,400 nesting pairs in Maryland.

"They are really expanding and doing well," Eberly said. "They're experiencing a pretty huge growth curve."

Gwen Brewer, science program manager for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Wildlife and Heritage Service, said other improvements to the local habitat have also helped the eagles flourish.

"With taller trees and doing a better job of cleaning up our waterways, that gives them more places to nest and it's a nicer food base," Brewer told The County Times.

Also, the eagles do not seem to be bothered by being in close proximity to humans.

"They seem to adapt well to that," Brewer said. "Many don't have a problem being close to people."

"They're quite tolerant."

DNR scientists have stopped monitoring the progress of the eagle population since they made a strong recovery in about 2005, Brewer said, and have since come to rely on citizen volunteers, such as those with the MBCP, to help track the health and progress of the birds.

More volunteers to do the sometimes-arduous work are always needed.

"They're a valuable source of information for us," Brewer said. "People get excited about seeing eagles."

"With trees not having all their leaves it's a good time to try and spot them because their nests are massive."

gyleonard@countytimes.net

Commissioner Election Bill Gets Senate Hearing

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Del. Brian Crosby (D-Dist. 29B) continued to defend his bill that would compel counties which elect their commissioners at-large to change to selecting them on the basis of districts only, this time in the Senate's Health, Education and Environmental Affairs Committee hearing of March 23.

The bill remains in that committee as of March 30 and no votes have been taken, according to the Maryland General Assembly's records.

Crosby continued to argue that electing commissioners at large, as they are in St. Mary's, Calvert and several counties on the Eastern Shore, dilutes the votes of people living in a certain district who have a vested interest in electing someone to focus on those particular interests.

The bill would also change the way boards of education are elected in those at-large counties.

"This bill is about fairness, equality and diversity," Crosby said in the virtual hearing. "It simply improves democracy at the local level by instituting in-district voting and ends a discriminatory and anti-democratic policy that has historically prevented minority political factions from engaging in the political process."

At-large voting, Crosby said, had its roots in Jim Crow laws that were used to disadvantage and discourage African-American, minority or minority ideologies from being represented; this did not mean those elected under this system were racist, however.

Ellen Kohl, a professor of environmental studies, specializing in human geography, at St. Mary's College of Maryland, testified in support of Crosby's bill.

She said at-large voting methods "are a second-generation barrier to voting, what some have called Jim Crow 2.0."

"These direct structural barriers rose when direct forms of voter disenfranchisement such as all-white primaries, poll taxes and [literacy tests] ... were ruled unconstitutional," Kohl said.

Opponents of the bill doubted that it would achieve the ends described by Crosby and the other

supporters; they also said the intrusion into the affairs of other counties was unwelcome.

"I struggle to understand how someone in another county can tell Queen Anne's County, with a population of just 50,000 people, that voting at large is bad for Queen Anne's County," said Jim Moran, at large delegate for Queen Anne's County.

Moran said an African American has been elected to the county commissioner board there and the current president of the school board in Queen Anne's is black.

"We have a population of less than 10 percent African Americans; does that mean were not including them?" Moran asked.

"What happens if you vote by district and you don't get the outcome that you're looking for?" Moran said. "What if you don't get African Americans elected or you don't switch the seat from Republican to Democrat? Do we redraw the districting lines?"

Calvert commissioner board president Buddy Hance opposed the bill.

"We've had minority commissioners in the past and we currently have minority members of the board of education.

"We have minorities dispersed all over the county," Hance said. "I could argue that going to district voting could harm minority [candidates] so that all minorities could not join together to support that individual."

St. Mary's commissioner president James "Randy" Guy testified that at least one commissioner had run unopposed and that changing the voting method in the could not result in electing a candidate who did not run.

"Our system is not broken, and we do not intend to be told how to restructure it," Guy testified.

"There have been no competing candidates to support the allegations of disenfranchisement."

During the hearing, Crosby said that he had not counted on the bill being controversial.

"To be honest, when I put this bill in, I didn't expect it to get the political attention that it got," Crosby said.

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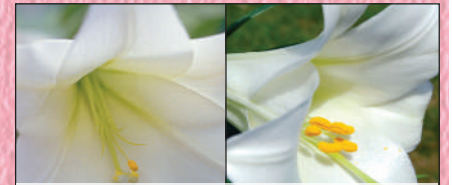


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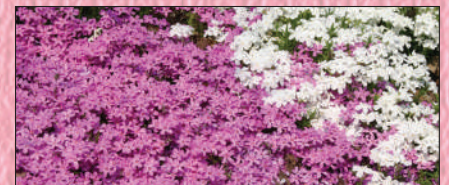
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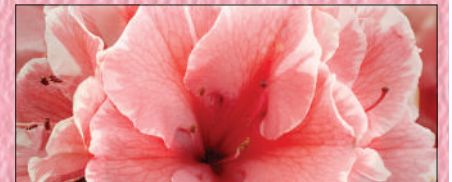
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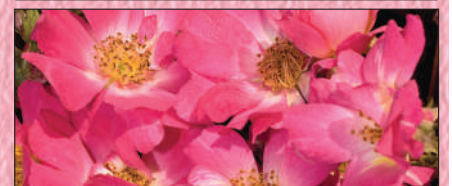
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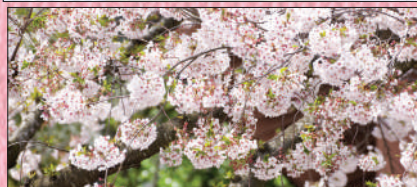
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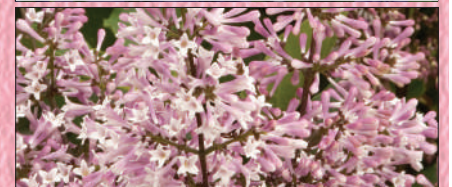
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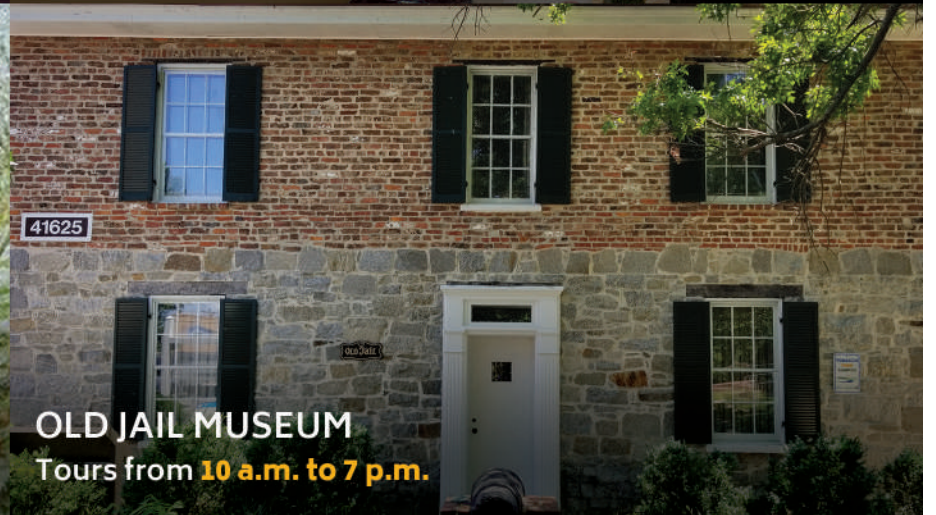
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Funding Transfer From Charlotte Hall Veterans Home Passes House

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Del. Matt Morgan (R-Dist. 29) led an unsuccessful effort on the floor of the House of Delegates this week to stop the transfer of \$1 million from the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, the only such facility in the state.

Morgan quoted the finance director working for Maryland Secretary of Veterans Affairs George Owings, who opposed the transfer, during floor debate.

“One million dollars is a full third of the money in this... fund that the money is being transferred from,” Morgan said. “It’s \$1 million that we will not be able to invest in COVID mitigation, parking lot improvements and upgrading equipment at the end of life.”

The statement noted that Owings had previously opposed this transfer in other hearings in his testimony.

“They’re really doing God’s work, these people have done so much for our country,” Morgan said of the importance of the care given to veterans at the facility, which has suffered heavily from the COVID-19

pandemic.

Del. Keith Haynes (D-Baltimore City) argued that the transfer of the \$1 million would not hamper the operations of the facility.

“This is what we call in the budget committees a fund swap,” Haynes said. “It is not a cut.”

Haynes said one contractor company provides the patient care at Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, which bills the state about \$3 million each year for their services.

This year, the veterans home received an additional \$4.2 million in CARES Act money from the federal government as well as \$2 million more in funding from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Haynes said.

“They have a fund balance way beyond what they normally have,” the Baltimore delegate said of the veterans’ home’s finances.

Recapturing the state’s \$1 million and putting it back into the general fund would relieve budgetary pressure, Haynes said, because federal dollars were there to replace it.

Del. Rick Impallaria (R-Baltimore



County) said the state’s only veterans’ home shone above others because it did not have the same loss of life as similar facilities.

Impallaria said he has a loved one residing there.

“They’ve done a stellar job of treating our veterans in the best way they can be treated,” Impallaria said.

He said the money was being taken away because the Charlotte Hall facility was successful in dealing with COVID and got the federal money

because of that success.

“We say we want to give our veterans something, but now... we’re going to take this money away from them,” Impallaria said.

“That place needs to be bigger; we need more places like that. We don’t need to be cutting their funding.”

Though there was opposition to the funding removal, the motion passed.

The funding may still be restored when it goes to debate in the Senate.

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County Budget Moves to Public Hearing on Split Vote

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The county's fiscal 2022 operating budget will go to public hearing on April 27 with substantial increases in revenue from both property and income taxes despite economic declines due to COVID-19, leaving some commissioners concerned that those impacts may be felt in later budgets.

The proposed budget, which was approved on a 3-to-2 vote, had a total of \$293 million in revenue, representing a 15.7 percent increase in revenues collected from the current fiscal 2021 budget, or an extra \$39.8 million.

But a full \$21 million of total revenues was from federal funds in the American Rescue Grant awarded to the county.

The two largest portions of the budget, public schools and the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office both received substantial increases; the sheriff's budget received an additional \$5.9 million for a total allocation of \$54.2 million.

The St. Mary's County Board of Education received an additional \$2.7 million for a total of \$112 million for their county allocation over their base allocation in this year's



St. Mary's County's Department of Finance Chief Financial Officer Jeannett Cudmore

budget of \$109 million.

The total school system budget, including federal and state funding, totaled \$233.5 million in the fiscal 2022 proposed budget.

The proposed budget represents a vast increase in hiring at the county government level of about 90 new positions; the most increases were for the planned, new county animal shelter and the hiring of paid emer-

gency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics.

The county's information technology, public works and transportation departments also received new employees as did the sheriff's office with 36 new positions to include eight new deputies and 20 new corrections officers.

"Right now I can't support the recommended budget with \$2.6 mil-

lion going into commissioners' reserves with so many other needs," said Commissioner Eric Colvin, who voted against the budget.

Commissioner Mike Hewitt voted to take the budget to public hearing but said he did not support the budget as written.

"I don't support hiring 90 new people," Hewitt said. "The good news is we have a lot of money but there are still so many unknowns going on."

"I still believe small business is hurting... this flood of federal and now state money coming in is a good thing but the tide's going to go down on that."

Jeanett Cudmore, chief financial officer, said her budget projections showed an increase in revenue each year by 7 percent, but Hewitt remained concerned with so many new expenses with additional employees.

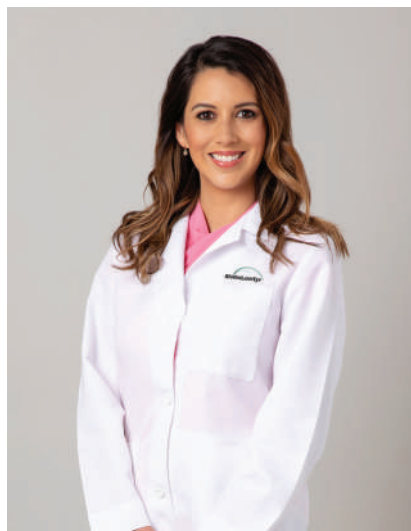
"I'm hoping I'm wrong and you're right," Hewitt told Cudmore.

Commissioner John O'Connor also voted against the budget, noting he agreed with Colvin's assessment that "expenses were not guaranteed" and that there had been money allocated in budgets passed that had not been spent.

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Man Sentenced for Fatal Park Hall Shooting

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

A Park Hall man who shot and killed his friend last year was sentenced to 10 years in state prison on March 29 in St. Mary's County Circuit Court.

Brian Lee Chaney, now 19, pleaded guilty to one county of first-degree assault in December; prosecutors did not prosecute him on the most serious charges of second-degree murder, involuntary man slaughter or on two other counts of second-degree assault or the use of a firearm in a violent crime.

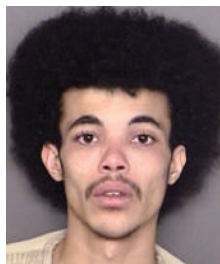
The victim was Jordan Sullivan, 24.

According to court papers after the shooting, Chaney told deputies that Sullivan had come over to his house to "hang out" and while the victim was there Chaney began to play with a handgun while both were in the kitchen of Chaney's apartment.

Chaney told police that he had unloaded the handgun, a revolver that had a six-shot capacity, before he started playing with it, charging documents stated, though he told police that he had a total of seven rounds for the revolver.

Chaney was sitting down while he was playing with the revolver, charging documents stated, and Sullivan was standing in front of him.

"[Chaney] counted six bullets on the table



Brian Lee Chaney

and he believed the gun to be empty," charging documents read. "He began to pull the trigger.

"He pulled the trigger three times, the first two times nothing happened; the third time the

gun went off."

After the gun fired, Sullivan told Chaney that he had just shot him, court papers stated, and the victim lifted his shirt to reveal the gunshot wound he had sustained in his chest.

"The victim walked into the living room and collapsed on the floor," charging documents stated.

Chaney, court papers stated, attempted to help his friend and called 911 to report the shooting; during the emergency call deputies said they heard Chaney tell someone else inside the home that he had just shot the victim.

The weapon was a .22 caliber revolver, according to police.

Police said that, according to witnesses, the victim and shooter "were very good friends."

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Unemployment Insurance Scams On the Rise

The Maryland Department of State Police and the Maryland Department of Labor are warning the public of an increase in unemployment insurance related fraud cases and other scams being reported in the region.

In recent months, investigators have been contacted regarding a wide variety of schemes targeting individuals, vulnerable populations, charities and local, state and national government agencies. Most recently, this included a scheme where random citizens received multiple unemployment insurance debit cards that they never applied for from the state and even from other states.

Another recent fraud involved gift cards, which primarily targeted the elderly population. Most often, consumers were told that they needed to purchase gift cards to use as payments for a government agency bill, a ransom, a utility bill, tech support, or to avoid an arrest. The reasons they presented varied, but they always came back to the idea that a consumer must go to a retail outlet, purchase physical gift cards, and then provide the PIN numbers on the cards to the scammer. Reports suggest scammers favored certain brands of gift cards and those changed over time.

Additional trending frauds include ones that target Medicare recipients, lotteries, banks, charities, those seeking COVID-19 vaccinations and ones that claimed were connected to the Census. Despite the variety of frauds out there, there are simple steps everyone can take to minimize their chances of becoming a victim.

Avoid unemployment insurance scams

The Maryland State Police and the Maryland Department of Labor have been alerted to a number of potential scam operations that are attempting to prey on unemployment insurance claimants. To help you distinguish between legitimate assistance from Maryland Division of Unemployment Insurance (MDUI) staff and fraudulent assistance from a potential scammer, please remember the following:

MDUI will never request or require payment for assistance with unemployment insurance, especially not through apps like Venmo or Cashapp.

MDUI staff will not provide assistance to claimants through direct message on social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, or LinkedIn.

MDUI will never arrange for an adjudication or fact-finding interview over any teleconferencing platform, such as Zoom, BlueJeans, Google Hangout Meets, or Skype.

MDUI does not provide assistance through text message and will not send any links asking a claimant to verify their account through text.

MDUI will never ask for your bank account number or credit card number over e-mail.

MDUI will never request your BEA-

CON password over e-mail.

All e-mails from legitimate MDUI staff will come from a @maryland.gov e-mail address.

Do not provide any sensitive information related to your Maryland unemployment insurance claim by e-mail unless it is to a @maryland.gov e-mail address.

Avoid scams on social media

Please be aware of pages and scammers on social media pretending to be the Maryland Department of Labor. Scammers are replicating the Maryland Department of Labor's social media pages, directly messaging claimants, and attempting to steal their identity by asking for their personal information. These pages are particularly targeting members of unemployment groups on Facebook.

Fraudulent pages may look similar, but are newly created, do not have a lengthy history of posts, spelled differently (often with typos), and not verified with a blue check mark. "Maryland department of labour" is an example of a fraudulent page that looks similar, but is spelled differently. If you find a fraudulent page, please report it to the social media platform immediately and DO NOT respond to their messages.

Links to the Maryland Department of Labor's official government agency social media pages can be found below:

Facebook – Maryland Department of Labor

Twitter – @MD_Labor

LinkedIn – Maryland Department of Labor

When should you report identity theft to the police?

When your bank or other business requires you to make a report.

You know the person who stole your identity.

Make the report to your local police department or state police barrack.

Tips to protect yourself from scams in general:

- Do not give out your personal information to someone you do not know.

- Store personal information in a safe place.

- Do not carry your social security card in your wallet.

- Collect mail every day and put a hold on it during extended travel.

- Use security features on your smartphone and computer.

- Use complex passwords.

- Do not use gift cards to pay the IRS or Social Security, tech support, a family member in trouble, ransom or to avoid arrest or deportation or to prevent your utilities from being turned off.

Use this link to help report fraud that is not reported to the police:

<https://www.dllr.state.md.us/employment/uistopfraud.shtml>

<https://reportfraud.ftc.gov/#/>

If you suspect a fraud, contact your local police department. You may also report unemployment fraud by visiting MDunemployment.com.

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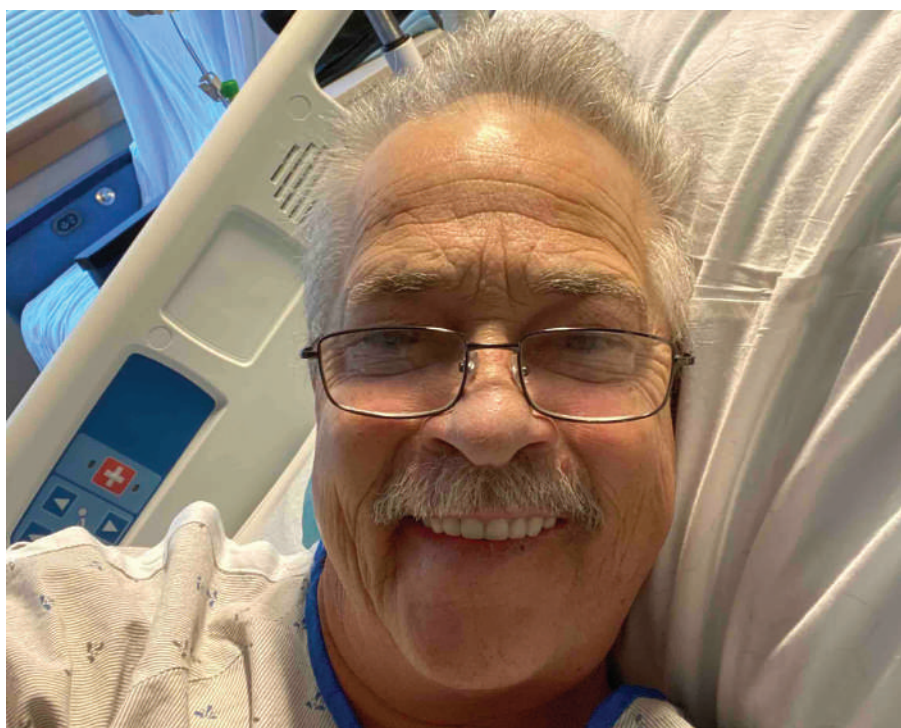
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My Dad is a Humble Man SMECO Nominating Committee to Meet



By Lauren Norris

I threw on a pair of jeans, grabbed my keys, and ran out the door.

On the drive to MedStar St. Mary's Hospital from my apartment in Baltimore, the last words I heard on the phone with my dad were playing in my head on repeat. He called me because he was disoriented, confused, and waiting in the Emergency Department after having a CT scan at the recommendation of his doctor. I urged him to stop someone in the hallway and ask them what was going on. When he did, the frantic radiology tech reported, "We think you're having a stroke." That's all I could hear on my 90-minute drive. "We think you're having a stroke."

When I arrived at the hospital, nurses stopped me at the entrance to take my temperature and ensure I had a mask - it was March 26, 2020, the very beginning of what we now know as the COVID-19 pandemic. After being cleared I walked in and went up to the hospital bed in dad's room and grabbed his hand. I asked what was going on, and through tear filled eyes he shared that the CT scan had revealed a mass in his brain. We cried together.

The doctors and nurses had already prepared dad's transfer to MedStar Georgetown University Hospital where he underwent a craniotomy the following day. It revealed a soft tumor in his right frontal lobe. About two weeks later dad was diagnosed with Primary CNS Diffuse Large B Cell Lymphoma and the day after his diagnosis he began his first chemotherapy treatment.

The next several months were a blur. While we (and the rest of the world) were living through and attempting to navigate a global pandemic, dad was spending weeks at a time in the hospital for treatment.

After 10 long weeks of rigorous chemotherapy at MedStar Georgetown, the tumor in dad's brain was in fact growing. We were informed by dad's treatment team of a clinical trial at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and

knew that this was our only hope. We had dad transferred to NIH as fast as we could, and a week before his 70th birthday he was admitted for the clinical trial. Thankfully after he participated in 15 weeks of an experimental chemotherapy treatment he was deemed to be in complete remission. Unfortunately, during his final treatment he began experiencing lower body numbness, and eventually lost all feeling below his waist. The treatment that saved his life had paralyzed him.

NIH discharged dad to an acute rehabilitation facility where we hoped that he would regain the feeling in his lower body. Instead, after five weeks he started exhibiting decreased function of his left arm and increased confusion. An MRI then revealed new lesions on his brain. The lymphoma had returned.

We rushed dad back to NIH where they quickly put him on a radiation treatment. He received radiation as an inpatient every weekday from Thanksgiving to Christmas. Since then, dad has been deemed cancer free. He continues to reside in a rehabilitation facility and is working tirelessly day in and day out to regain his strength, rebuild his muscles, and ultimately walk again. However, as you can imagine, this is extremely hard work mentally, emotionally, and physically, not to mention the stress of the financial burden created by the cost of this care.

My dad, Danny Norris, is a humble man. He is honest, loving, gregarious, generous, and the best story teller I've ever met. He grew up in Leonardtown and attended Leonard Hall before graduating from Chopticon High School. He has served our community in countless ways through volunteerism and philanthropy. Dad is the embodiment of everything good about St. Mary's County and he is on the road to recovery.

Please consider making a donation to dad's GoFundMe <http://gf.me/u/zn62qh> which will be used to cover his medical expenses and ongoing rehabilitation needs.

Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative's (SMECO) Board of Directors has appointed 10 members to the 2021 Nominating Committee scheduled to meet on Wednesday, May 12, 2021, at SMECO's headquarters in Hughesville or via teleconference. The committee will select a slate of candidates for the five Board positions to be elected this year. Elections will be held to fill one position in Calvert/Anne Arundel counties, two positions in Charles County, and two positions in St. Mary's County.

The 2021 Nominating Committee members follow:

- Calvert County: Kimberly Freeland, Prince Frederick; and Terence N. Gibson, Prince Frederick.
- Charles County: Joseph L. Gardiner Jr., La Plata; Edward Holland III, Waldorf; and William B. Young Jr., Waldorf.
- Prince George's County: Charles E. Clagett, Accokeek; and Ernest H. Riess, Brandywine.
- St. Mary's County: Edith M. Bell, Chaptico; George A. Brown, Loveville; and Catherine Brenda Coates, Lexington Park.

SMECO members interested in being nominated should complete a Board of Directors Candidate Application, which may be accessed and submitted online at smeco.coop/annualmeeting. To be

reviewed by the nominating committee, completed candidate applications should be submitted online by 4 p.m., Friday, May 7, 2021.

In addition to nominations made by the committee, any 15 or more SMECO members acting together may make other nominations by petition. Members running by petition should complete and submit a Board of Directors Candidate Application by 4 p.m., Friday, May 28, 2021. The application and candidate materials are located on SMECO's website at smeco.coop/annualmeeting.

SMECO's Annual Meeting will be held Thursday, August 26, 2021; however, the election will be conducted by mail and online. Co-op members will receive ballots in the mail. Members may vote online or return their completed ballots by mail prior to the Annual Meeting. Election results will be announced at the meeting, but no voting will occur on-site.

Selection of the Nominating Committee members is in compliance with SMECO's bylaws. For more information regarding the committee, nominations, and qualifications of directors, refer to Article IV, Sections 4.02 and 4.03, of SMECO's bylaws. Bylaws may be obtained from a SMECO office or online at www.smeco.coop.

Legal Notice

IN THE MATTER OF CRISTEN GAIL DALTON
FOR CHANGE OF NAME TO CRISTEN GAIL YEARICK

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

Case No.: C-18-FM-21-137
Notice (Adult)

The above Petitioner has filed a Petition for Change of Name in which he/she seeks to change his/her name of a minor from CRISTEN GAIL DALTON to CRISTEN GAIL YEARICK. The petitioner is seeking a name change because: Divorce

Any person may file an objection to the Petition on or before the 05/07/2021. The objection must be supported by an affidavit (written statement confirmed by oath or affirmation) and served on the petitioner (Maryland Rule 1-321). If no timely objection is filed, the court may issue a default judgement or grant the name change.

Debra J. Burch,
Clerk of Court for
St. Mary's County Maryland

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ST. MARY'S SHERIFF'S OFFICE CRIME REPORT

Wanted for Escape- Anthony Yorke

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office is seeking information on the whereabouts of **Anthony Michael Yorke**, age 29 of Charlotte Hall. Yorke is wanted for the charge of escape for failing to report to the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center, to begin his incarceration for the original charge of driving on a suspended license and privilege. Yorke is a white male, 5'11" and weighs 180 pounds with brown hair and blue eyes.



Anthony Yorke

Anyone with information on the whereabouts of Anthony Michael Yorke is asked to contact Detective Tyler Payne at (301) 475-4200 extension 78010 or by email at Tyler.Payne@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.

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

Assault Suspect Sought

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office is seeking the identity of the person shown in an assault investigation. On Friday, March 26, 2021 at 10:40 pm, the suspect entered the Charlotte Hall Wawa store and while inside confronted the victim. As the suspect left the store, he told the victim he would be outside waiting. The suspect then approached the victim at the fuel pump and punched the

victim in the head, knocking the victim to the ground. The suspect continued to assault the victim while on the ground. The suspect then fled in a silver sedan.



Suspect

Anyone with information about the identity of the suspect or this incident is asked to call DFC Carl Ball at 301-475-4200, ext. 78131 or email carl.ball@stmarysmd.com. Case # 16419-21

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.

Theft/Resisting Arrest-

On March 17, 2021, Cpl. Beishline responded to 21800 block of Shangri La Drive in Lexington Park, for the reported theft/property damage. Investigation determined **William**

Andrew Krell, age 34 of Newburg, broke and removed the victim's vehicle's antenna. The victim's vehicle was damaged during the theft. Krell pulled away from Cpl.



William Krell

Beishline after being advised he was under arrest, and began causing a disturbance and yelling profanities. Krell was taken into custody and charged with Theft, Malicious Destruction of Property, Resisting Arrest and Fail to Obey Lawful Order.

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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Clements Gas Station Seeking \$64k Lotto Winner



A FAST PLAY Home Run Riches player won the first progressive jackpot of the game Friday night, rounding the bases for a \$64,708 prize. Meanwhile, another player is \$50,000 richer after the Bonus Match 5 drawing that same evening!

The March 26 winners found Lottery luck at two different retailers. Selling the progressive jackpot-winning Home Run Riches ticket was St. Mary's Gas Station in Clements, while White Oak Convenience Store in Silver Spring sold the top-prize winning Bonus Match 5 ticket.

The Home Run Riches ticket went on sale March 8 and has a progressive jackpot that starts at \$40,000. The progressive jackpot increases with each ticket sold until a player buys a jackpot-winning ticket. This exciting game can make players home-run rich, too, through its familiar Contestant of the Game second-chance promotion. Players have another 19 progressive jackpots to chase in this FAST PLAY game.

The lucky Bonus Match 5 player won the 14th top of 2021 in the nightly game. The winning numbers in the March 26 drawing were 30, 33, 34, 36 and 38; the Bonus Ball was 7.

Lottery officials encourage the two

big winners to sign the backs of their tickets immediately and put them in a safe location. Winners typically get 182 days from the date of the drawing to claim prizes. However, the Lottery has temporarily extended claiming deadlines due to Maryland's COVID-19 state of emergency.

The big winners can claim their prizes by mail, in person by appointment or by dropping off the claim form and winning ticket at Maryland Lottery headquarters, 1800 Washington Blvd., Baltimore. Winners of smaller prizes can claim them by mail, at Lottery retailers, at casinos or by appointment at Lottery headquarters. Get details on how to claim by mail here, how to schedule an appointment here, via the dropbox here (see last paragraph) and at Lottery retailers and casinos here.

Both Lottery retailers can celebrate, too, because they earn bonuses for their lucky sales. St. Mary's Gas Station located at 23950 Colton Point Road in Clements earns a \$647 bonus for selling a jackpot-winning FAST PLAY ticket – equal to 1% of the jackpot prize. White Oak Convenience Store located at 11407 Lockwood Drive in Silver Spring earns a \$500 bonus for selling a top-prize winning Bonus Match 5 ticket.

Volunteers Sought for Property Tax Assessment Appeals Board

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County are seeking interested citizens to fill three vacancies on the local Property Tax Assessment Appeals Board.

The Property Tax Assessment Appeals Board has jurisdiction over all appeals in its area concerning property tax assessments, the Home Owners' Tax Credit Program, the Renters' Tax Credit Program, the Agricultural Land Preservation Easement Program, and other local tax matters as-

signed to the board for hearing. This jurisdiction includes but is not limited to appeals concerning local tax credits, local taxes and special taxing areas (Code Tax - Property Article, Title 3).

All interested candidates should apply directly through the Governor's office at: <https://govappointments.maryland.gov/>. Applications are due by April 30, 2021.

For assistance or more information, please contact Diane Gleissner at 301-475-4200, ext. 1707.

Five Quilts of Valor Awarded



Five military veterans were awarded with Quilts of Valor by PAX Sound of Freedom at the Thrivent Financial Offices of Matt Budde in Lexington Park on March 27. The recipients were, (l to ri) Gregg Dorgan (Navy - 11 years), Mabel Cooper (Navy - 4 years), Gary Morgan (Navy - 11 years), Levi Uffens (Navy - 10 years), and Charles Dorsey (Army - 20 years).

Pet

OF THE WEEK

MEET DEDEE



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St. Francis of Assisi

Hello there, my name is Dedee. One look at my BEAUTIFUL, TOO SWEET face will tell you I'm a RESERVED GIRL that enjoys gentle handling. My wonderful buddies here at TCAS say if you want to become my best friend, give me a scratch on the back and you will win me over! I'm ONLY A YEAR OLD with my whole life ahead of me and I would LOVE to be part of a FUREVER FAMILY. I would do best in a quiet home with other kitties. To schedule an appointment to meet me ASAP, email animalshelter@charlescountymd.gov today! BE MY MIRACLE AND PLEASE CHOOSE ME! When you choose to adopt from TCAS, you are literally saving a life.

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

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North End Gallery Hosts Free Art Classes For Leonardtown Learn & Share

North End Gallery, located on Fenwick Street in Leonardtown, is a co-op Gallery that has been in existence for over 35 years. Featuring 31 member artists who are rich in experience and knowledge gained from a commitment to their artistry.

Leonardtown is proud to announce that it is partnering with North End Gallery to offer a series of informative and dynamic art classes for the Leonardtown Learn & Share online platform. The North End Gallery Learn & Share Series, funded in part by the St. Mary's County Arts Council, will offer FREE art classes taught by gallery members. Example classes include oil painting, watercolor, pastels, pottery, mosaics and more.

The series premieres on Monday, April 5, 2021 with a Still Life Oil Painting Class taught by Gallery Member, Polly Lange. Polly has been a member of North End Gallery since 2014 and offers over 15 years experience. Polly currently paints with oils, although she has experience in pen-and-ink, watercolor, pastel and collage media. Her focus is on still life and landscape art.

In her Oil Painting classes for the North End Gallery Learn & Share Series, Polly plans to provide the basics of painting with oils while performing a complete demonstration, from start to finish. "The cre-



ative process of painting provides a wonderful dimension to my life and I recommend it to anyone!", says Polly.

The North End Gallery Learn & Share Classes premiere on Monday, April 5, 2021 at 11 AM. Tune in at www.VisitLeonardtownMD.com/NorthEndGallery or at the Town of Leonardtown Facebook Page.

For more information and scheduling for the North End Gallery Learn & Share Series, visit www.VisitLeonardtownMD.com or contact brandy.blackstone@leonardtownmd.gov.

For more information on the Gallery and the member artists, visit www.NorthEndGallery.com or contact bpoulin20764@gmail.com.

St. Mary's County Schedule for Good Friday & Easter Weekend

All St. Mary's County Government administrative offices will be closed Friday, April 2, 2021, in observance of Good Friday. All county government administrative offices will reopen for normal business hours Monday, April 5, 2021.

The St. Andrews Landfill and six (6) Convenience Centers will be open during regular hours Friday, April 2, but will be closed Easter Sunday, April 4. The landfill and convenience centers will resume regular operations Monday, April 5.

All three St. Mary's County Library branches (Charlotte Hall, Leonardtown and Lexington Park) will be open and will operate under normal schedules. Please visit www.stmalib.org for

more information.

All Senior Activity Centers (Garvey, Loffler and Northern) remain closed due to COVID-19 precautions.

The St. Mary's Transit System (STS) and ADA Paratransit Program will operate on the Saturday schedule on Good Friday, April 2. The Statewide Specialized Transportation Assistance Program (SSTAP) will not operate on Good Friday, April 2.

St. Clement's Island Museum, Piney Point Lighthouse Museum and the Old Jail Museum will be open for visitors from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Easter Sunday, April 2-4.

For information on county government operations, please visit www.stmarysmd.com.

Junior Science and Humanities Symposium Awardees Named

Thank you to the 2021 MD JSHS Partner Organizations

Naval Air Station Patuxent River
Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division
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 Naval Surface Warfare Center Carderock Division
 Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command
 Detachment Joint Base Andrews
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 316th Mission Support Group (Joint Base Andrews - USAF)

St. Mary's College of Maryland
 University of Maryland for Environmental Science Chesapeake Biological Laboratory
 College of Southern Maryland
 Towne Dentistry Center
 The Patuxent Partnership

JUNIOR SCIENCE & HUMANITIES SYMPOSIUM
 MARYLAND REGIONAL COMPETITION
 MARCH 15th - 16th, 2021

The Patuxent Partnership (TPP) and our partners the Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division (NAWCAD), and St. Mary's College of Maryland (SMCM) are pleased to announce that the virtual MD Regional JSHS competition on March 15th & 16th, 2021 has been completed and the winners have been announced.

We would like to congratulate all 20-student finalist for their excellent oral and poster presentations. The depth of their research, knowledgeable demonstrations, excellent modeling, their collaboration with teachers, mentors, research labs, and the diversity of the topics chosen, was outstanding.

Colonel Tyler R. Schaff, Commander of the 316th Wing and installation commander for Joint Base Andrews-Naval Air Facility Washington, MD was the keynote speaker and emphasized the importance of STEAM -M (Medical) studies, encouraging students along that path.

Ms. Bonnie M. Green, Executive Director, The Patuxent Partnership, reiterated the same in her introduction: "We continue to encourage all students on their path of STEM learning and we wish them all the best for their future endeavors. We hope these MD JSHS students will consider STEM careers with the DOD community, where they will be

essential to the growth and development and security of our nation."

The students, from High Schools across Maryland, also heard from several distinguished NAWCAD speakers, Mr. Andrew Koch and Ms. Elizabeth Michelbrink, and Ms. Glory D. Sebulime, a 2nd year student at the College of Southern Maryland (CSM) where she is pursuing an Associate Degree in Electrical Engineering. She plans on transferring to the University of Maryland College Park - Southern Maryland Engineering Program to earn her Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering.

The Maryland Regional JSHS Finalist Awards includes the following scholarship recognition:

- 1st Place: Abar Sheikh - oral presentation- \$2000 undergraduate tuition scholarship
- 2nd Place: Boaz Yoo - oral presentation- \$1500 undergraduate tuition scholarship
- 3rd Place: Lauren Choi - oral presentation- \$1000 undergraduate tuition scholarship
- 4th Place: Hannah Skwarek - oral presentation- certificate recognition
- 5th Place: Juni Polansky - poster board presentation- certificate recognition

These students will compete in the National JSHS Symposium in late April.

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Smith: Schools Back To Normal Next Year

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Dr. J. Scott Smith, Superintendent for St. Mary's County Public Schools, said he will not force teachers and students to endure next school year what they had to this year; the virtual learning, the hybrid return to school, the shutdowns of the school system and all because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"This [the current status of hybrid learning] will end and we will be coming back," Smith said. "We're not planning this again; we're not doing this again."

"For the 2021-2022 school year we're going to be normal – we're going to be normal."

Buses will be full, Smith said, as will be classrooms and cafeterias, though students and staff alike should prepare for the likely continuation of strict sanitation practices.

This includes wearing masks and washing hands frequently.

"I will never ask again of a St. Mary's County school teacher what has been asked of a St. Mary's County school teacher this year," Smith said.

The challenges, technically and methodically, of teaching children in a hybrid fashion were too great, despite the herculean effort teachers have put forth, Smith said.

Options for virtual learning would still exist, he said, but things must go back to the way they were for the vast majority before the advent of COVID-19.

"Next year's going to be normal," Smith said. "We need to get kids back in school."

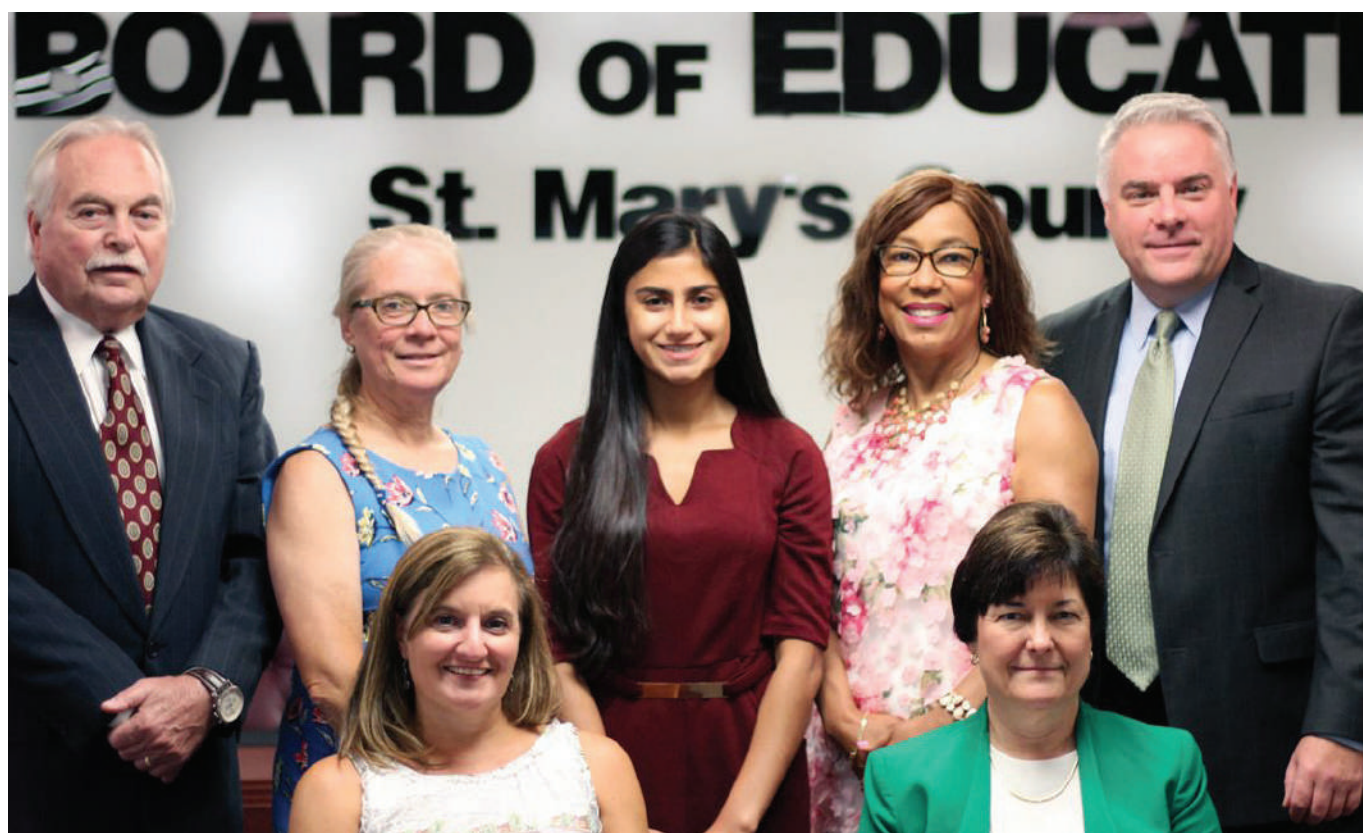
Smith made his proclamation at the March 24 Board of Education meeting after sharing preliminary data which showed transmission of the virus among students who had returned to class in the hybrid model was extremely low.

"We've had over 13,000 students in classrooms and 2,300 employees... the first week we had four students test positive, the second week we had three students test positive and last week we didn't have any students test positive," Smith said. "We had people who were staying home, learning virtual, who tested positive."

Smith said the safest place for students was in a St. Mary's County public school, since there was evidence to show that students who stayed in a virtual setting had more chance of becoming infected, not less.

But this was probably because the students who were supposed to be staying home, were not strictly doing so, Smith said.

"We're not seeing a great deal of transmission going on there," Smith said of the classroom environment, praising efforts of students and staff alike to stay healthy. "To have this many kids together learning and



not have something happen is really quite a testament to the work they've been doing."

School Board Chair Karin Bailey said the school system, working in close concert with the health department, would assess whether a full return to in-person next school year was warranted.

"I think we're going to see how it goes," Bailey said. "But it's something we have to plan for."

Smith's declaration came just weeks after the school system released information showing that students had been failing in at least one of their courses for the second marking period at a rate sometimes three times than normal.

This stressed the critical need to get children back into school – at least on a hybrid model – to ensure quality of instruction.

"We need to work on getting these kids caught up," Bailey said.

Despite the increased failure rate, the school system has been able to get about 75 percent of its total student population back into hybrid learning, she said, which was a good indication that returning to normal was a possibility with the right health metrics.

"I think people are very encouraged with what we've accomplished," Bailey said. "I'm hopeful, I'm very hopeful."

Recent news that vaccines might soon be available for young people under the age of 16 also gave her encouragement that a full return might be possible, said Bailey.

The U.S. Center for Disease Control's recently released new guidance on social distancing recommendations has also given Smith and the school system hope for finally bringing the school experience back to

normal.

The new guidance suggests just three feet between students and teachers in elementary school classrooms; three feet of social distancing is also acceptable when there is universal use of face masks and transmission of the virus is low.

The CDC still cautions that six feet of social distancing is needed in secondary schools where classes change throughout the day and in cafeterias where students are eating as well as in other common areas and between adults and students.

"That's really important," said Smith. "That means we can bring more elementary-aged children back into the building."

The new guidance from the CDC, released March 16, was what the school system had been hoping for, Smith said, particularly since it will allow for the creation of new cohort of students who will be returning to school Monday through Thursdays for both of the hybrid "A" and "B" days.

Starting April 12, about a week after the return from Spring Break, students with individual education programs (IEPs), those for whom English is not their first language, homeless students and those students who are failing courses, will be included in the new Group AB, as Smith referred to it.

The return of those students to classroom instruction is voluntary, Smith said.

"That is the best we can do right now based on what the CDC has shared with us," Smith said.

Student life also appears to be returning to normal in other ways.

Two of the county's high schools – Great Mills and Leonardtown – have

an approved plan to proceed with prom celebrations, while Chopticon High School's plan is under review by the St. Mary's County Health Department, Smith said.

"One thing we can look forward to is that there will be proms in the month of May for our seniors," Smith said.

Graduation ceremonies will also take place in June, the superintendent said, but in what form was undetermined.

"The first week of June we are going to have commencement exercises for our seniors," Smith said. "I can't tell you exactly what they will be."

"But I can tell you seniors at Chopticon will graduate on Wednesday, June 2, seniors at Leonardtown High School will graduate on Thursday, June 3 and Great Mills High School seniors will graduate on Friday, June 4," said Smith. "We will do the very most we can, given the opportunities we have."

Smith said his counterparts had already beseeched Gov. Larry Hogan to notify them of the possibility of special dispensation for allowing thousands of parents and students into graduation settings at a time, if health conditions were favorable by the summer.

Otherwise, students would have to be divided into small groups from each high school and be allowed to collect their diplomas throughout an entire day of ceremonies, with their parents in attendance.

No school board member took issue with Smith's proclamation at the board meeting.

"Next school year it'll be business as usual," said Board Member Jim Davis.

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CSM Earns Top U.S. Ranking

Cited for Degree and Program

College of Southern Maryland (CSM) has been awarded top ranking status for its Associate of Science in Business Administration Degree and Allied Health programs by Intelligent.com.

CSM was listed among thousands of public institutions in the nation, and the comprehensive research guide is based on an assessment of 2,277 accredited colleges and universities. Each program is evaluated based on curriculum quality, graduation rate, reputation, and post-graduate employment before being included in the education resource guide on the best public institution programs for 2021.

CSM has been recognized for the following programs:

Associate in Business Administration Degree Programs | 11th in the nation

<https://www.intelligent.com/best-associate-in-business-administration-degree-programs/>

Colleges in Maryland | 29th for Allied Health programs

<https://www.intelligent.com/best-colleges-in-maryland/>

The 2021 rankings are calculated through a unique scoring system which includes student engagement, potential return on investment, and leading third-party evaluations. Intelligent.com



analyzed thousands of schools with comparable programs on a scale of 0 to 100, with College of Southern Maryland making it to the final list for two Degree Programs. The methodology uses an algorithm that collects and analyzes multiple rankings into one score to easily compare each university's degree program.

About Intelligent.com

Intelligent.com provides unbiased research to help students make informed decisions about higher education programs. The website offers curated guides which include the best degree programs as well as information about financial aid, internships and even study strategies. With comprehensive, user-friendly guides and hundreds of program rankings, Intelligent.com is a trusted source among students and prospective students. To learn more, please visit <https://www.intelligent.com/>.

Press Release from CSM.

★ ST. MARY'S COUNTY Library

Meet Maryland Author John Balkam

John Balkam, author, social entrepreneur, and sports marketing professional will be joining us to talk about his book "3-Win Sponsorship: The Next Generation of Sports & Entertainment Marketing" on Monday, April 12 from 7 – 8 p.m. As a public speaker and the founder of Third Win Group, John's primary goal is to connect activist athletes and artists to brand marketing teams interested in taking a stand on social and environmental issues. In 3-Win Sponsorship, he points out the impact that sports and entertainment sponsorships have had on our society in the past, and the reasons why athletes, artists, and entertainers will continue to influence social issues in the future. Join us as John explains the 5 principles behind a 3-win sponsorship, how a Win-Win-Win mentality benefits

all of us, and the business case for brands to embrace the 3-Win mindset and methodology. Register with an email address on www.stmalib.org to receive the link to the Zoom meeting the day before the event. Copies of Balkam's books will be available for purchase at White Rabbit Bookstore in California, MD

STEM Fun: Art Machines

STEM Fun: Art Machines will be held Tuesday, April 13 from 6:30 – 7:15 p.m. Learn about levers and fulcras as you engineer three sculptures that are designed to move. Register to reserve a supply kit and receive the link to the live Zoom event with STEM coaches from FutureMakers. Register once per child needing a supply kit on www.stmalib.org; kits will be available for pickup beginning Thursday, April 8. The live program will also be recorded for later viewing.



Art with Jamie Naluai: Welcome Spring

Paint a spring scene in acrylic on wood with local artist Jamie Naluai on Thursday, April 8 from 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. Find a list of recommended materials to follow along and register on www.stmalib.org. Jamie Naluai is a local artist based in Southern Maryland who creates murals, faux finishes, and trompe l'oeil of all sizes in Maryland and the greater Washington D.C. area.

Outdoor Storytime at Historic St. Mary's City

Stories, songs, and activities for children with their adult caregivers, in the great outdoors at Historic St. Mary's City on Saturday, April 17 from 9 – 9:30

a.m. Siblings welcome; please register once per family group on www.stmalib.org. Rain date: Apr 24. This activity will take place on the State House lawn, which is a grassy area. Participants should park at the State House parking area and follow the signs to storytime, bring blankets or chairs for comfort, and follow social distancing practices during the event. This outdoor event is weather-dependent; in case of bad weather it will be postponed or cancelled. Masks are encouraged during the outdoor storytime, and required to enter any Historic St. Mary's City buildings. Storytime attendance is free; families wishing to explore the grounds afterward should plan to visit the Gift Shop to purchase admission after 10am.

'Getting Southern Maryland Back to Work' Progress Cited

Program Helps Businesses, Citizens with Workforce Challenges

The progress made by the regional effort aimed at 'Getting Southern Maryland Back to Work' is the latest topic of "Inside Your County Government," a podcast that brings an inside look at the people and events that shape Charles County and the Southern Maryland Region. During the podcast, host Brent Huber was joined by College of Southern Maryland (CSM) Associate Vice-President of Continuing Education and Workforce Development Ellen Flowers-Fields and Ruthy Davis, director of Regional Workforce and Business Development for the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland (TCCSMD) to discuss the significant headway being made to create transparent, accessible and coordinated pathways to skills upgrade training and re-employment for individuals who became unemployed or underemployed as a result of the pandemic.

CSM and TCCSMD partnered to launch the Getting Southern Maryland Back to Work effort one year ago when the nation's business shutdowns began.

"This all started with a compelling conversation between Ruthy and I immediately following the shutdowns back in March of 2020," said Flowers-Fields of her and Davis' partnership. "We talked about the very important role that we play in supporting our regional economy in terms of connecting people with jobs and providing skills training." Recognizing the foreshadowing impact of prolonged shutdowns, the pair moved quickly "to align the federal, state and local resources that we each receive so that we could respond to business needs, help individuals being laid off and get in front of some of the emerging trends," she added, "and from that conversation, the Getting Southern Maryland Back to Work Initiative was launched."

Davis pointed out that she and Flowers-Fields had long been partners in local workforce development and they knew early on that every business and citizen in Southern Maryland would become a stakeholder in the effort.

"Our local businesses ... immediately needed help to sustain and continue to operate and grow and thrive in the midst of the pandemic shutdowns," Davis said. "Second [were] our citizens. Now there are citizens who are unemployed or under-employed as a result of the pandemic. There are citizens – who data shows us from previous economic upheavals – are going to want to be career changers at this point. We saw this after 9/11, when some first responders wanted to get out of that business and people who weren't first responders said "I want in [that career]."

Another compelling issue, according to Flowers-Fields, is that many resources are available to businesses and individuals within the community but very often they either are unaware of them, or uncertain as to whether or not the services are actually available to them.

"So being able to communicate to the community and through the community about the availability of the resources, and to make sure the services we are providing,

actually respond to immediate pain points," was very important, according to Flowers-Fields. "So it was important for us to engage as many individuals as possible to ask the question, first and foremost, 'what do you need?' Second [was] to educate them about the capacity we have to respond to workforce needs. Also engaging our K through 12 and our economic development partners in those conversations so that we are ensuring that the full spectrum of people entering the workforce – whether you're just coming out of high school, or whether you are in a GED program or whether, as Ruthy said, you're a career changer – that the conversations were happening across the full spectrum of the workforce. More importantly was having the conversations that we are here to help this economy reposition itself. That is the work we have been doing."

"Our road to recovery actually moves through CSM and the Tri-County Council at bringing together the businesses and then training the people to help recover us economically," said Huber as he heard details of the many results already provided by the initiative.

To identify issues and leverage progress, Flowers-Field and Davis held virtual Town Halls meetings with leaders from healthcare, retail/hospitality, construction and IT/professional services industries – all considered essential trades during the pandemic and all largely reshaped by COVID-19. A snapshot of results include:

Workforce Preparation

Equity & Access in Instructional Delivery

During the pandemic, more than 90 percent of CSM instructional learning was switched to web based, Real Time Technology or hybrid learning modalities allowing existing students to continue their studies and providing new students access.

Aligned workforce training efforts with those of the Workforce Development Board with the goal of meeting the needs of disadvantaged populations in the community. From March – December 2020, 28 individuals were awarded nearly \$106,000 in federal Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) funding to support their education and attainment of an industry recognized credential.

In 2020, CSM conferred 1,426 certificates and associate degree graduates,

CSM delivered workforce and continuing education training to 4,298 individuals. Of those, 3,458 enrolled in courses leading to an industry recognized certification or credential. While many are still enrolled, 290 students completed workforce training certificates by the end of December 2020. The highest number of completers were in Electrical Helper and Certified Nursing Assistant/Geriatric Nursing Assistant providing a skilled and readily available workforce.

SkillUp© Southern Maryland was procured providing an online training platform to upskill our local workforce and increase the pool of qualified candidates to support our existing and potential local businesses. Accessible 24/7 from anywhere with internet access, SkillUp® Southern

Maryland can help workers who plan to return to their former employer as well as those who are looking to change careers by offering free and unlimited access to more than 5,000 high-quality online training courses for 180 days. Whether they are looking for a first job, a new job or to advance in their chosen field, residents can take advantage of this service to reach their career goals. The platform also offers business services to assist with recruitment, hiring and internal training.

Approximately 7,500 unemployed Southern Maryland residents receive weekly outreach providing relevant information and useful resources.

Industry Engagement

To date, more than 240 industry and community leaders have convened through this initiative to discuss solutions to COVID impacts on existing and future workforce needs (in collaboration with TCCSMD).

Getting Southern Maryland Back to Work delivered customized employer-specific workforce and professional development training for 26 regional employers, supporting 734 incumbent workers gaining skills upgrade training in areas from leadership development, technology skills, COVID safety to employee wellness and more.

A regional virtual hiring event held in September 2020 connected 64 hiring employers with 952 individuals seeking employment and resulted in 52 confirmed hires.

Fifty customized recruitments were held for 44 employers and 127 individuals were hired as a result.

Meeting the needs of the construction industry

In response to the regional needs of the construction industry and to assist the K-12 public school CTE programs, CSM entered into an agreement with Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) last fall, according to Flowers-Fields. This agreement focuses on early entry into formal apprenticeships through the delivery of an Electrical Pre-Apprenticeship training program. This 200-hour Pre-Apprenticeship Electrical Helper Hybrid training program provides classroom, skill lab and online instruction preparing participants to enter full-time employment as an electrical helper and entry into formal apprenticeship training to become an electrician.

In addition, Flowers-Fields said the first cohort with Charles County Public Schools is scheduled to begin training in early 2021. Ten individuals were awarded federal Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) funding to support their education and attainment of an industry recognized credential in the construction industry.

Meeting the needs of the healthcare community

"One of the hardest hit industries during this pandemic has been our healthcare providers, specifically our local/regional Developmental Disability Administration (DDA) providers," said Flowers-Fields. "CSM and representatives of local DDA providers have been meeting to discuss the development of a standardized training pro-

gram and professional development pathway which would assist our local employers with recruitment and retention of valuable frontline caregivers by relieving the burden of new employee training and existing employee professional development from the employer and moving it to the college."

Additionally, CSM added COVID-19-specific educational materials and skills to all its allied health course content to prepare students with the information and skills necessary to safely deliver patient care in the community.

In the fall of 2020, CSM also launched educational/career pathways in several healthcare areas. Continuing Education students completing CSM's Certified Clinical Medical Assistant can earn credit for courses in the academic certificate/degree program – allowing an individual to earn an entry-level industry credential in a condensed period of time, gain employment, and continue an educational pathway (while working in the industry) to earn an academic certificate/degree that will increase earning potential on the job.

Nine individuals were awarded federal Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) funding to support their education and attainment of an industry recognized credential in the healthcare industry.

Meeting the needs of the IT/Professional services community

The needs of the IT community are being met at CSM through offering multiple different scheduling options; daytime, week-long accelerated courses and evening, multi-week exam prep courses for the most in-demand certifications. Courses include computer systems support (A+), networking (Network+) (CCNA), security (Security+) (CEH) (CISSP), cloud security (CCSP), and software development security (CSSLP).

The needs of the professional services community are being met through offering both contract training and open enrollment courses in leadership, supervision and management, soft skills, and project management.

To help students realize their education and career potential, CSM has developed Guided Pathways to also provide its students with academic credit for continuing education courses and recognized industry credentials.

"For example, a student completing the workforce course CIT 5020 A+ Exam Prep and earning the CompTIA certification can receive academic credit for the academic ITS 1050 Computing Essentials course in the AAS degree program," Flowers-Fields explained.

In addition, nine individuals were awarded federal Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) funding to support their education and attainment of an industry recognized credential in the IT/Professional Services industry.

For more information about the Getting Southern Maryland Back to Work Initiative, or to listen/view the Town Hall meetings, visit online at <https://tccsmd.org/bactowork/>.

Press Release from CSM.



PATUXENT RIVER NAVAL AIR STATION

News

NAVAIR Names 2020 Sailor of the Year

OS1 Ashley C. Clines, lead petty officer assigned to the range department of Air Test and Evaluation Squadron (VX) 30, was named the Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR) 2020 Sailor of the Year during a virtual ceremony March 29.

Clines, representing Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division (NAWC-WD), received the honor virtually at Naval Air Station Point Mugu, California.

Prior to her assignment at VX-30, Clines served as an Operations Specialist aboard USS Lassen (DDG 82) and USS John Paul Jones (DDG 53). She joined the Navy in 2011.

"Thank you for my God, Lord and Savior, my family, the board members that believed in me and gave me this opportunity, and my chain of command here at VX-30 which is absolutely phenomenal in pushing me, as well as my past and present leaders and the mentors that I have had that pushed me to get here, because, honestly, I would not be in this position if I did not have all of those people to support me," Clines said.

Clines was one of three nominees selected for NAVAIR Sailor of the Year honors. AWWFI Ryan Greer, assigned to VX-20 as the Command Career Counselor and representing NAWCAD, and AD1 David Schrum, representing NAVAIR Headquarters as a Safety Coordinator, were the other nominees.

From October 2019 to September 2020, Greer led a team of seven command career development members in enhancing the careers of 63 Sailors by completing 48 career development boards, 38 CY applications 13 career transition counseling sessions and 17 re-enlistments.

While serving as requirement advisory management group analyst lead for NAVAIR HQ, from October 2019 to March 2021, Schrum's leadership facilitated three major aircraft software updates resulting in an 8 percent decrease in down aircraft and a projected savings of 25,000 manhours per year. His leadership was also the catalyst to successfully executing his duties as the Navy Urinalysis Program Coordinator and serving as the treasurer for the First

Class Petty Officer Association.

"Across all of NAVAIR, there are almost 45,000 civilians ... and for many of our civilians, the Sailors that they see on a day-to-day basis are how they interpret the Navy to be, and when they see you all, they come away with such a positive image of what the Navy can be and what the Navy is all about," said Vice Adm. G. Dean Peters, presenting his comments during the virtual event. "It encourages them even more to apply their energy and their resources to making Naval Aviation the best that it can be.

"If you are the Sailor of the Year in your organization, that means that you are the best of the best; you have gone above and beyond. In our particular organization, that means that you have had to learn new skills in addition to what many of those in the Fleet would be graded against.

"I'm sorry that we can't do this in person. It is a privilege for me to be able to meet you all at these type of events and to formally recognize you. However, [doing the event virtually] takes nothing

away from this incredible achievement."

Clines will go on to compete for the Vice Chief of Naval Operations Shore Activities Sailor of the Year.

"Each of our Sailors here today is among the finest in our Navy," said Command Master Chief for NAVAIR Todd Anselm. "They have not only met but exceeded all expectations set forth for First Class Petty Officers. They demand excellence and accuracy from themselves and the teams they lead. They set and maintain the highest of standards, executing the right things at the right time for the right reasons. They expertly train and mentor their Sailors and are visibly loyal to the Navy and the NAVAIR team. They understand that honor, courage and commitment are more than just words."

"You have distinguished yourselves not only here today, but before all of your shipmates in your command and the Navy," Anselm said. "We know you will continue to serve the Navy and your country with Honor, Courage, Commitment and Respect, and we all look forward to your continued success."



OS1 ASHLEY C. CLINES

CONGRATULATIONS,
NAVAIR
SAILOR OF THE YEAR

St. Mary's College Presents Original Production

Deals with Healing During COVID

"Checking In," an original theater piece on the powers of healing during a COVID-19 lockdown, opens with a recorded Zoom performance on Thursday, April 15 at 7:30 p.m. Presented by the St. Mary's College of Maryland Theater, Film and Media Studies, the show performs through Sunday, April 18, with a final matinee performance at 2 p.m.

"Checking In" evolved from collaborative work between students in Assistant Professor of Theater Amy Steiger's fall 2020 course on devising community-based theater and the St. Mary's local community. Based on interviews students conducted with community members on subjects of race, gender and healing, a play took shape that focused on a group of people forced into lockdown in a medical waiting room. To keep themselves occupied, they share stories about their lives. As they transform the waiting room into a place for creativity and community, the group discovers that while there is no single path to

healing that works for everyone, the acts of storytelling and of listening have power.

"Checking In" continues professor Steiger's collaborative work with students and local community members on subjects of race, gender, class and social justice, begun with "Beyond the Sunset" and the 10-minute play festival of student-written plays, "Humanizing Histories."

Access to the recorded Zoom performance is by ticket registration through Eventbrite at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/146999614805>. Registration is required; performances are free. The first 10 patrons for each performance who register for tickets will receive a "care package" to make the Zoom performance an interactive experience.

"Checking In" performs at 7:30 p.m. from April 15-17, with a matinee performance at 2 p.m. on Sunday, April 18.

Press Release from St. Mary's College of Maryland

Men's Soccer Concludes 2021 Spring Season



The St. Mary's College of Maryland men's soccer team hosted the Salisbury University Sea Gulls on Friday (Mar. 26) in Coast-To-Coast Athletic Conference action. The Seahawks played to a 0-0 draw to conclude their 2021 spring season.

St. Mary's College - 0, Salisbury University - 0

How It Happened

The first half of action was scoreless and both squads struggled to find legitimate scoring chances. Salisbury held the slight advantage in shots (4-3) and both teams earned one corner kick each. The first half of play was also chippy as three yellow cards were handed out. Two were charged to the Seahawks, while one was handed to the Sea Gulls.

Both the Seahawks and Sea Gulls picked up the pace in the final half of play as both squads fired off seven shots apiece. St. Mary's College finished the frame with four corner kicks compared to the Sea Gulls one. In all, the Seahawks placed four shots on goal compared to Salisbury's three in the game.

Inside the Box Score

Isaac Ekobo led the Seahawks with four shots. Roshawn Panton added three on the night. Liam Delone-Bellsey and Matthew Kopsidas split time in goal this evening. Kopsidas collected three saves.

Up Next for the Seahawks

This concludes the 2021 spring season for the St. Mary's College of Maryland men's soccer team.

Press Release from SMCM.

Seahawks Fall in Final Match of Spring

The St. Mary's College of Maryland volleyball team (0-4, 0-0 C2C) traveled to the Knights of Neumann University (2-2, 0-0 AEC) Friday evening (Mar. 25). The Seahawks dropped the match to the Knights by a final score of 3-2.

St. Mary's College - 2 Neumann University - 3

How It Happened

The Seahawks came out hot and fired out to a 15-10 lead over the Knights. The two teams split the next 10 points until the Seahawks found themselves up 20-15. From there St. Mary's College won five of the next six points and took the first set 25-16.

The second set was also very competitive as the two were tied early on at 6-6. Both teams traded points until Neumann was up 19-17 and they would extend that lead into a 25-22 second set win.

Neumann jumped out to a 13-3 lead in the third and never looked back, taking the set 25-13.

Neumann took a 1-0 lead in the fourth and that would be the only time the entire set that they would be ahead. St. Mary's College won the next six points after going down 1-0 to be up 6-1 and cruised on to a 25-18 fourth set win.

The fifth and final set of the day



would go the way of the Knights as they claimed the win 15-11.

Inside the Box Score

Meghan Stevens finished her season like she started it by once again leading the Seahawks offensively with 14 kills and Chanel Lucas was second with 12.

Nicole Gibson had a huge night as she tallied 33 assists.

Lucas, Erin Krauss and Katelyn Klueh all lead in blocks by contributing three each.

Stevens also led the Seahawks in digs with 21 and Nicole Gibson was right behind her with 16.

Up Next for the Seahawks

This concludes the Seahawks 2021 Spring season.

Press Release from SMCM

Seahawks Edged by Shorewomen in Season Finale

The St. Mary's College of Maryland women's soccer team hosted the Washington College Shorewomen on Sunday (Mar. 28) afternoon in an exhibition contest. The Seahawks were edged 1-0 in their season finale.

St. Mary's College - 0, Washington College - 1

How It Happened

The Seahawks were held scoreless throughout the contest and struggled to find legitimate scoring chances in the first half. St. Mary's College fired off four shots and earned one corner kick, but couldn't convert for a score. The Shorewomen tallied 10 shots in the first frame of play and scored on one of them in the 32nd minute.

The second half of action was competitive and had both the Seahawks and Shorewomen tally five shots each. Megan Tazza, Lauren Baker, Haley Bullis, and Madison Webb recorded shots for the Seahawks in the second half but couldn't manage to find the back of the net. St. Mary's College and



Washington College earned one corner kick each.

Inside the Box Score

Tazza recorded a team-high three shots, while Baker added two. The Seahawks did not have a player from their team in goal. Washington College goalkeepers split time in goal for St. Mary's College.

The Shorewomen received their game-winning goal from Ellen Daly.

Up Next for the Seahawks

This concludes the 2021 spring season for the Seahawks.

A View From The BLEACHERS



Love Letter

By Ronald N. Guy Jr.
Contributing Writer

To my always:

A blank piece of poster board foretold your annual arrival. One always seemed to show up just before the break of spring. Whether it was requested or mom just knew that it was time, my memory can't definitively say. Rolled out on the table, carefully pinned down in each corner and surrounded by all the necessary equipment - a yardstick, ruler, pencil and pen - it didn't look like much more than lame school project. But with your inspiration, I knew, like a blooming spring, a magical and essential transformation was in the offing.

To properly capture your beauty, the poster board was divided into four identical quadrants. Each quadrant contained five columns consisting of 16, eight, four, two and one line, respectively. After reaching the last single line, the quadrant had to connect with the one above or below to form one last line. The quadrants had to be symmetrical, the column lines had to be of equal length and the final line drawn from the two merged quadrants on the left and right of the poster board had to meet precisely in the middle. There was no room for close or good enough. This exercise demanded my best - because you, my love, deserved it.

Once the structure was complete, names were carefully written on each line in the first column of four quadrants and the masterpiece was displayed proudly...regally even... on the wall next to cherished photos and our family's coat of arms - you mingled with this important company flawlessly. Over the next several weeks we faithfully tracked your progress until all lines were filled and a champion was crowned.

This was my original version of "bracketology."

Many years have passed now. We have both aged, you more gracefully than me, and my youthful poster board projects have transitioned to printouts and now, like so much in life, to the virtual realm. Ah, but my love for you is neither defined nor bound by form. Still, our relationship has evolved. No more am I fueled by blind passion. Age has increased my realism and cynicism, and our consistent acquaintance

has introduced your flaws. Perfect you are not, even if my early drawings were. The air of purity you've always maintained - it's about the kids! - has eroded to such a point of pure fiction now. Of course, given recent events, alternate realities are apparently in vogue.

Amateur athletes are the core of your beauty. And yet, those responsible for your fabulous show are the only stakeholders failing to benefit from the swollen revenue stream created by your broad appeal. How long will this charade continue? There is talk of compensation. Even reparations. And what of the disgraceful inequity between the men's and women's games, a gap willfully perpetuated by your governing body?

We missed our date last March, another sacred tradition claimed by COVID. The time apart should have made your presence all the more special this spring, but alas, your brackets arrived with a dash of guilt. This year was always certain to happen - or at least attempted. The machine - athletic department coffers, big money coaches and hungry television networks - demanded it. And so, the amateur athletes played. Some got sick. Many games were cancelled. But an irregular regular season was completed and a chosen few squads were sent to various gyms in Indiana to play this thing out and declare a champion - for good or ill, as Hunter S. Thompson would have surmised.

Business. Dirty. Business.

But enough of that, dear. Perfect is a fool's illusion; basketball simply imitates life. Your warts will work themselves out. It all pales in comparison to our electric moments - those childhood bracket builds, trips to D.C. and Charlotte for regional games and so many gatherings with you, a few friends and lots of frothy beverages. Now I am even completing virtual brackets with my kids (alas, no poster board requests). It has been an amazing journey, my dear friend.

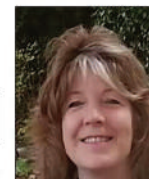
I love you, March Madness.

P.S.: Don't leave me hanging again. While we all learned to live without last year, let's not make it a habit.

Send comments to Ronald-GuyJr@gmail.com

Wanderings of an Aimless Mind

by Shelby Oppermann



LIFE'S TREASURED DAYS

Everything is blooming and propagating, pollen is flying, and suddenly Eastertide is upon us. Luckily, my younger son Ryan and his two little boys, two of our cute little grandsons, spent most of the day last Saturday with us, and I had a master plan in mind. Ryan knows there is always something his mother will need help with, and this time it was for him to take the other half of my album collection from the 60s and 70s (my oldest son already has the first half in safe-keeping) which was in a crate under the steps home with him. Naturally, and conveniently, that also meant that Ryan would have to take all the Rubbermaid boxes containing all my Easter paraphernalia that I needed out to get to the albums. Was this wrong of me? I don't think so, I believe this is a mother's hard-won, hard-earned moral right.

It was all well and good getting that dusty gray crate of albums out from under the steps and somehow not having to take out all the Christmas and Halloween boxes, but the real work is that we had to clean each album cover after 20 years of dust and mold from being there. I used one of those packages of disinfecting hand wipes and got to work at the basement worktable. Ryan placed a small stack of albums next to me and I would wipe them down inside and outside, hand it to Ryan who would dry them and so on. What may have taken us a little longer was me looking at my treasured albums and telling Ryan about which songs were my favorites, stories about the bands, and remembrances of concerts for nearly all of the bands. It was a treasured time for me, and the greatest treasure was now sharing those stories with my son who loves music, and the music from my time, as much as I do. It makes me so happy that both my sons appreciate my, and my brothers' old albums, and will listen to and care for them. We also found that the dusty gray crate was actually a light blue crate once Ryan hosed it off.

My little grandsons, Liam and Carson most likely enjoyed Grandma's plan for them which was to spruce up the two fairy gardens for spring with a little weeding so they could add all the little fairy garden items I had built up through the winter. The fairies have now asked for me to be on an episode of Hoarders because they have so much furniture and other items crowding them. Good thing they can fly. The little gnome people aren't so lucky, I wonder if they are like Leprechauns and can disappear when they want to. Liam and Carson did a great job on



both fairy/gnome areas, even going as far as to replace all the old moss on the bottom of the firepit fairy home in the paths with fresh new neon green moss before replacing all the items.

I really think the highlight of their day was going for a ride with Grandpop in our '65 Mustang, especially since Saturday was a beautiful, though a bit windy, day. I know I always look forward to spring through fall when we can cruise around or head over to local wineries in the Mustang. We even did an impromptu cookout of some freezer burned hot dogs and over frozen buns on the grill which was not as satisfying. All buns left in the freezer were thrown out after that. But these are things I hope they will remember; crazy, fun days with Grandma and Grandpop. Sometimes a little smidgeon of worry creeps up on me when I think that I was the same age as 8 year old Liam when I lost my beloved Grandma (Ma), and exactly Carson's age of 6 when I lost my grandfather (Pa). I keep telling myself that I have a lot of years left and that being 59 or 60 in the 1960s seemed to be much older than how people live life today.

This was such a treasured Saturday; I look forward to many more with our kids and grandkids. And just when I sat back that evening thinking what a fine day it had been, I started to receive video texts from Ryan who was at home listening to some of my favorite albums on a turntable he picked up some time ago. Tears came as I listened to the excerpts he played from Jimi Hendrix's Axis Bold as Love album; one with beautiful soft ballads and poetry, and then a few from Dan Fogelberg and Deep Purple. My heart was full. Now, I look forward to another outside Easter day of Easter baskets, egg hunts, and getting as close to our family as possible and wonder if my heart will just burst in happiness that day. I wish for you an Easter/Passover that is bursting in joy and happiness as well.

To each new day's adventure,
Shelby

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

St. Mary's Community Calendar

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

Thursday, April 1

Tobacco Cessation Program

The Tobacco Cessation Program is free and that takes place over the course of 8 weeks (weekly 1 hour sessions). Participants learn behavioral modifications, stress management, and other techniques to help them quit using tobacco products. Next Series: Thursdays, February 4, 2021 – April 15, 2021 from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Learn more or register at: www.smchd.org/tobacco

Diabetes Prevention Program

The Diabetes Prevention Program helps participants establish and stick with positive lifestyle changes, such as healthy eating habits, physical activity and positive stress management, which can prevent or delay the onset of Type 2 diabetes. This free program includes 16 weekly sessions, followed by monthly sessions for ongoing support from a lifestyle coach. Register at www.smchd.org/dpp.

Friday, April 2

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) for event details.

Saturday, April 3

Stuffed Ham Easter Sale

Hollywood VFD; 10 a.m. - noon

Stuffed Ham Sale: \$13.00 per pound. Pre-orders only. Pick up from 10-noon in the Social Hall. ONLY 150 pounds will be available for sale. Once this is gone NO additional orders will be accepted.

Sunday April 4

Easter Sunrise Service

Lighthouse at Calvert Marine Museum; 6:30 a.m.

Conducted by Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran Church in Lusby. Masks and social distancing required. All are welcome.

Tuesday, April 6

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 at 301-645-0660 or email us at admin@ccsmd.com.

Science for Citizens

Virtual; 7 p.m.

Presented by Dr. Victor Kennedy. In 1940, H.L. Mencken referred to the Chesapeake Bay as "the immense protein factory." In the late 1800s, its oyster and shad fisheries led the world in harvests and economic value. Waterfowl rafts covered miles of its winter surface. Sturgeon and terrapins were everywhere. Dr. Vic Kennedy, author of *Shifting Baselines in the Chesapeake Bay*, will use eyewitness reports by early colonists, newspaper articles, and management reports from the 1800s to describe a cornucopia that we can now only imagine.

Wednesday, April 7

Wayback Wednesdays

We hope you're loving our weekly video series showing some of the stories 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, April 8

Tobacco Cessation Program

The Tobacco Cessation Program is free and that takes place over the course of 8 weeks (weekly 1 hour sessions). Participants learn behavioral modifications, stress management, and other techniques to help them quit using tobacco products. Next Series: Thursdays, February 4, 2021 – April 15, 2021 from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Learn more or register at: www.smchd.org/tobacco

Diabetes Prevention Program

The Diabetes Prevention Program helps participants establish and stick with positive lifestyle changes, such as healthy eating habits, physical activity and positive stress management, which can prevent or delay the onset of Type 2 diabetes. This free program includes 16

weekly sessions, followed by monthly sessions for ongoing support from a lifestyle coach. Register at www.smchd.org/dpp.

Ongoing

Scratch-Off Fundraiser Raffle

PRIZE; \$250 Scratch-Offs & \$100 Cash; \$5.00 Per Ticket – (MUST BE 18 TO BUY RAFFLE TICKETS); Purchase in Person: *At SDVFD & RS, Valley Lee - Wednesday (6:30pm - 8:30pm); *At Dyson's Lumber, Great Mills - Saturdays (8am-2pm); or *At WEIS, Callaway – Sundays (9am-1pm); For more information contact: Robin Dove (240)577-0270, Drawing: Tuesday, May 18, 2021@ SDVFD RS Auxiliary Meeting; Winner need not be present to win!

COVID-19 Appointment-Free Testing

Lexington Park Office:
Tuesday and Thursday from 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

46035 Signature Lane, Lexington Park (co-located with U-Haul Moving & Storage)

For assistance or accommodations, call ahead to (301) 862-1680

Leonardtown Office:
Monday – Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

21580 Peabody Street, Leonardtown
For assistance or accommodations, call ahead to (301) 475-4330

SMCHD COVID-19 Testing:
Walk up for testing, parking is available

Appointment-free
No doctor's order needed
Free of Charge (no out-of-pocket cost, co-payment, co-insurance, etc.)

Bring health insurance information and identification, if possible – Uninsured community members are welcome.

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St. Mary's Department of Aging & Human Services

Programs and Activities

Loffler Senior Activity Center 301-475-4200, ext. 71658
 Garvey Senior Activity Center, 301-475-4200, ext. 71050
 Northern Senior Activity Center, 301-475-4002, ext. 73101

Visit www.stmarysmd.com/aging for the most up-to date information

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

Videos from Aging & Human Services

The Department of Aging & Human Services is proud to announce our brand new Virtual Senior Activity Center and YouTube page! Go to <https://www.stmarysmd.com/aging/virtual-senior-center/> or www.youtube.com, keyword SMC Aging & Human Services, to see what we have for you! There are more videos coming soon!

Scattergories- it's back with a new day and time!

Fridays March 26; April 9, 23, 1 p.m. via Zoom

Candice and Shellie will again be hosting Scattergories two times a month on 2nd and 4th Fridays at 1 p.m.! This game requires paper, pencil and computer or smart phone to connect with us on ZOOM. The rules are easy, but the categories can be challenging. If you like thinking up things that start with a specific letter while competing against a timer and other players, then this is for you! To get in on the game, e-mail Candice.Nelson@stmarysmd.com. She will e-mail you the link on the morning of play. Players will be admitted starting at 12:50 p.m. so that the game can begin on time.

Current Events Session on Zoom

Do you want to discuss today's topics with others? There's a lot going on! This was a popular meeting at the Loffler Senior Activity Center before COVID happened. Now that people are getting accustomed to using Zoom, we think this is a good time to start meeting again. We will hold these discussions on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at 10 a.m. The first one is scheduled for April 12. You do NOT need to have a Zoom account to attend, you only need to have access to the internet via computer, laptop or phone and an e-mail account so that we can send you the link, which you will receive in a reminder notice before the meeting. Contact Sheila.Graziano@stmarysmd.com to sign up for the first session.

Independent Project Clubs ASSIGNMENTS FOR APRIL 14

Sewing Club: Make cloth napkins Set of 12- Bonus Table Runner. Suggestion: Make it early using spring colors and use it for your Easter table

Garden Club: Draw design of small flower & herb garden plan. Include two seeding flowers (such

as marigold or zinnia) and your herbs. Size can be anywhere from 4-25 square feet. Can be annuals, perennials or mixed. Can use pots (10" deep) if you don't have a yard to put a garden in. E-mail Shellie at Sheila.Graziano@stmarysmd.com to let her know you are participating or to learn more about the program. Reveal Day will be April 14 from 1-3 p.m. at the Loffler Senior Activity Center (or you can send a picture of you and your project to Shellie).

Virtual Performance with Rearview Mirror

Join us on Zoom April 21, 2021 from 1-2 p.m. for a free virtual performance with Rearview Mirror. This oldies cover duo has provided entertainment for many of the luncheons at our senior activity centers over the years. Their lineup includes a blend of rock and roll, R&B, pop, country and more, covering many of your favorite artists. This event will be provided free of charge thanks to the MD Department of Aging Senior Center Operating Funds Grant. Pre-registration is required by e-mailing Shellie Graziano at Sheila.Graziano@stmarysmd.com .

911 Memorial Tour

Join us April 28, 2021 at Noon for a virtual tour of the 911 Memorial. This 45 minute live virtual tour via Zoom will explore the design and history of the outdoor Memorial, highlighting the stories of those affected by the attack. Funding for this event is being provided by the MD Department of Aging Senior Center Operating Funds Grant and will be offered free of charge for up to 100 participants. Pre-registration is required by e-mailing Shellie Graziano at Sheila.Graziano@stmarysmd.com .

Community Shred Day & Medication Collection

The Department of Aging & Human Services is proud to partner with the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office, the St. Mary's County Health Department, and the Department of Public Works & Transportation to host a Community Shred Day & Medication Collection on Saturday, May 15, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at the governmental center in Leonardtown! For more information, contact Sarah Miller at sarah.miller@stmarysmd.com or 301-475-4200, ext. 1073.

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 Crew Shirt
 Speed Crew Shirt
 Alpha Crew Shirt
 Forge Crew Shirt
 Circa Crew Shirt

Major Gerry I. Greenwell

Retired Army Major Gerry Ignatius Greenwell, 72, departed this world on March 27, 2021, to be with His Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He was born on August 30, 1948, in Leonardtown, Maryland. He spent the first 21 years of his life in Southern Maryland where he learned to work hard and play hard under the guise of good strong parents. On the day before he turned 21, he received his draft notice into the Army. What a birthday present! But it turned out to be the best thing that ever happened to him. During his 21 years of military service, he had many good stateside tours of duty, two overseas tours in Korea, and spent a short while in Germany. He retired in 1993 at the rank of Major. Gerry was a member of New Vision Church of God, Johnson City, Tennessee.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Nace and Laura Greenwell, grandparents, many aunts and uncles, two stepsons, Richard and Regan Garland; several friends, and a special Pastor, the Reverend Russell Ward.

Those left to cherish his memory are the love of his life, his wife Margo; his daughter Margo Ann; a son Gerry Jr.; four siblings (Janet, Danny, Sharon, and Lisa); four grandchildren (Solomon, Al-

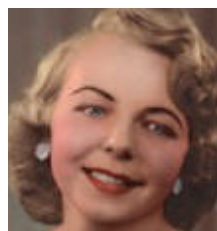
hona, Presley and Maison); nieces and nephews, Denny, Dawn, Ryan, Kaitlyn and Martha; many friends, especially long time friend Wolf Brother Ray Cameron; and special pets, Snowflake and Gonja.

Funeral services for Gerry will be conducted at 7:00 PM Thursday, April 1, 2021 in the East Chapel of Appalachian Funeral Home, 800 E. Watauga Avenue, Johnson City with Pastors Jim Furches, David Dugger and David Vanhoy officiating. The family will receive friends at the funeral home from 5:00 PM until the service hour. Graveside service will be held at 11:00 AM Friday, April 2, 2021 in the Sugar Grove Cemetery, 925 Sugar Grove Road, Butler, TN 37640. Pallbearers will be selected from the family and friends. For those attending this service you are asked to meet at the cemetery by 10:50 AM. In lieu of flowers the family suggests that contributions be made in Gerry's name to the Disabled American Veterans, Washington County Chapter 9, 407 E. Market Street, Johnson City, TN 37601.

Condolences may be made online at www.wadugger.com. Arrangements by Woodall-Anderson and Dugger Funeral Home, 108 W. Watauga Avenue, Johnson City. 423-928-2245

Shirley Ann Mulloy

Shirley Ann Mulloy, 86, of Upper Marlboro, Maryland passed away on Friday March 26, 2021 in Leonardtown, Maryland from complications follow-



ing a surgery compounded by many years of battling dementia. She was born October 09, 1934 in Washington, DC. She was preceded in death by her mother Hazel

Eunice Gaylor, her father William Eugene Mulloy Sr., her siblings Nancy Lee (Mulloy) Borland and William Eugene Mulloy Jr.

She is survived by her two daughters Nancy Lynn (White) Szewczyk (Jay) of Great Mills, MD, and Sharon Leigh (White) Hancock (Dale) of Dunkirk, MD, her three grand-daughters Jamie Leigh Szewczyk (Jame girl) of Hurricane, WV, Alexandra Lynn Szewczyk (Allie) of Baltimore, MD, and Christina Marie Szewczyk (Tina baby) of Great Mills, MD, several nieces, nephews, and great nieces and nephews. She is also survived by her half-brother James (Tony) P. Hutchison Jr. of Leonardtown, MD.

She graduated from Anacostia High School in 1953 and later settled on Brown Station Road in Upper Marlboro, Maryland in 1960 where she raised her two daughters born in 1961 and 1966 keeping them involved in many activities such as majorettes, dance, piano, horseback riding, and 4-H. She lived there until 2017 when she moved to Leonardtown, Maryland to be closer to family.

After graduation she took a job as a legal secretary for the United States Tax Court Division of the Department of Justice. During her tenure with the Tax Division of the Department of Justice she received numerous awards to include two Meritorious Awards, and an Outstanding Secretary of the Tax Division in 1981 for the superior performance of her duties. Her tenure with the Department of Justice was composed of two parts as she briefly chose to remain at home with her children when her second daughter was born spending some of this time volunteering for her church. Once both girls were attending school, she worked as a Special Education Aide for grades K-12. After her youngest daughter completed elementary school, she returned to federal service until she retired from the United States Tax Court Department of Justice with 32 years of service on October 3, 1992. She thoroughly enjoyed her time with the Department of Justice and made many lifelong friends over the years.

Upon retirement from federal service, she attended Washington Bible College and graduated with an Adult Education Program certificate in 1997, while simultaneously working at a child day care facility. The last job she held before fully retiring was with Pat's Hallmark in Bowie, Maryland. She very much enjoyed working at Hallmark and became an avid beanie baby and Hallmark Christmas ornament collector. Family and friends always knew they could count on a Hallmark gift from her for all of life's special occasions.

She loved to be outside with nature

and spent much of her time doing her 'yard work' in the sun, and keeping the birds fed. She loved to watch football while drinking a cold beer and was an avid Baltimore Ravens fan. She loved her doll collection and shared that love with her granddaughters. She had an exceptionally great love for all animals. Her favorite wild animal being the elephant and she supported wilderness preservation and the reduction of human impact on the environment. She cared for many dogs, cats, birds, rabbits, gerbils, turtles, and fish over the years. She also cared for the many feral cats that would take up residence under her shed. The last animal she cared for was her beloved cat Baby. Baby kept her company, provided love, happiness, and security in the last years of her life while she lived with knowing she was losing her memories to dementia. She loved her friends and still maintained relationships with some that went as far back as high school. More than anything else in her life, she loved her family. Despite the dementia, she remembered and asked about each family member or friend by name, recognized their voice on the phone, or their face; whether in a picture that was sent in a Christmas card or when they came to visit her. Her love for the people in her life never allowed for her debilitating disease to take her memory of them away from her – she refused to lose that battle.

A graveside committal service will be held on Thursday April 01, 2021 at 11:00 at National Memorial Park, 7482 Lee Hwy., Falls Church, VA 22042.

Contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association at www.alz.org or 225 N. Michigan Ave., Fl. 17, Chicago, IL 60601, her daughter Sharon's horse rescue Lilly Pond Foal Rescue at 3655 Ferry Landing Rd, Dunkirk, MD 20754, or the St. Mary's Animal Welfare League (SMAWL) at www.smawll.org or P.O. Box 1232, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

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

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

Adoracion A. Cayanan

Adoracion A. Cayanan, "Dorie", 74, of Lexington Park, MD, formerly from the Philippines passed away on March 27th, 2021 at her

residence. Dorie was born on November 22nd, 1946 to the late Severo Acosta, and Francisca Z. Acosta in Batangas City, Philippines.

Dorie is survived by her husband Florencio Cayanan whom she married on August 24th 1972, in La Plata, MD. She is survived by her daughter Jane A. Cayanan, of Baltimore, MD. Along with her siblings, Antonio Acosta of Great Mills, MD, Teresita Acosta of Great Mills, MD, and Zenaida A. Delmore of Great Mills, MD.

She graduated from Batangas High



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School in 1962 where she then enrolled to Golden Gate College in the Philippines. Dorie graduated from the Golden Gate College in 1964 and earned her Bachelor's Degree in Education. In 1969, she moved to the United States from the Philippines where she became a school teacher for the St. Mary's County Public Schools. Retiring in June, 2011 after 42 years.

The family will receive friends Thursday April 8th, 2021 from 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church in Lexington Park, MD where a Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:00AM with father Daniel Gallagher officiating. Interment will be private. Serving as pallbearers will be Edwin Delmoro, Benjamin Cayanan, Antonio Acosta, Edwinson Delmoro, Ricardo Cayanan, and Jason Roof.

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

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

James Thomas Tennyson



James Thomas Tennyson, "JimTom", 94, of Mechanicsville, MD, passed away peacefully at his home, surrounded by his loving wife and family, on March 23,

2021.

Jim Tom lived his entire life in St. Mary's County. He was born on January 5, 1927, to the late Ira Francis and Mary Alberta Guy Tennyson of Clements, MD.

Jim Tom is survived by his wife, Marion Cecil Tennyson, whom he married on August 22, 1953, at Holy Face Church in Great Mills, MD, and his seven children, Joe Mike Tennyson (Kim Newton), Carolyn Berger (Tom), Rosella Nicolet (Buddy), Barbara Lacey (Bill), Kelly Goldsborough (Chris), Francis Tennyson (Lisa), and Patrick Tennyson (Ellie). He had 18 grandchildren, 14 great grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his granddaughter, Lee Lee Massey. He always bragged that he had the best family in St. Mary's County.

Jim Tom grew up on a farm. He learned early in life that hard work and dedication yielded many benefits. He grew tobacco, as many of the locals did "back in the day". But, with a growing family the need arose to broaden his work resume. He was handy with a hammer and a saw, so carpentry was a logical choice. He worked for many years in the building industry in Charles and St. Mary's Counties, eventually starting his own company building custom homes. Farming was still an important part of his life, and until the day he passed away, he was making plans for the spring garden.

Jim Tom loved sports, as a player and a fan. But his favorite sport was baseball. He was instrumental in organizing the first St. Mary's County youth

baseball teams. He played as a youth, as an adult, and later in life as a manager. He was particularly proud to have managed the St. Mary's County Men's Senior Olympics Team. His dedication to the sport and continued involvement with the baseball/softball teams in the County led to his induction as a member of the St. Mary's County Softball Hall of Fame. And, how about those Orioles! They were his favorite (and not so favorite, depending on the day) team, and he could give you a play by play description of every game.

Hunting was another past time. He was a terrific shot, bagging many a bird, rabbit, or squirrel for dinner. But, as the years went on and the quail faded, he found his true passion. CARDS! Any game, any time. He loved playing rummy, pitch, poker, even solitaire. He was a member of the Mechanicsville Moose Lodge and enjoyed participating in the weekly pitch games. He played cards with family and friends, hosted his own semi-annual pitch tournaments, played poker in Las Vegas, Atlantic City and Dover Downs, and is probably playing cards in Heaven right now.

Jim Tom was a humble man. He served on the Democratic Central Committee, in his early days, and continued to believe that taking the time to listen and having a kind word for everyone, was an important part of the moral character of St. Mary's County. He dreamed big things, built beautiful homes, and brought joy to so many people. Leonardo da Vinci once said "As a well spent day brings happy sleep, so life well used brings happy death". Jim Tom spent each and every day on earth to the fullest. He slept well, and will continue to slumber peacefully and happily in the afterlife.

The family will receive relatives and friends on Monday, April 5, 2021, from 9:00 to 10:00 AM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 AM in St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Morganza, MD. Interment will follow at Queen of Peace Catholic Cemetery.

Serving as Pallbearers will be his grandsons; Jason Beavers, JD Tennyson, Ryan Goldsborough, Daniel Berger, Christopher Tennyson, Joseph Tennyson and Kyle Nicolet. Honorary Pallbearers will be Alvin Tippett, Mike Burroughs, Jennings Anderson, Bo Tennyson, Joe Johnson, Zack Wood, Dr. John Roach, Tony Adams, Jackie Alvey, and all his fellow card players.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to; St. Joseph Catholic Church, Morganza, MD, Mechanicsville Rescue Squad, Mechanicsville, MD, or Hospice of St. Mary's County, Callaway, MD.

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

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

Gloria "Glo" Rose Copsey

Gloria "Glo" Rose Copsey, 69, of Mechanicsville, MD passed away on March 22, 2021 in her home. Born on



March 9, 1952 in Leonardtown, MD she was the daughter to the late Rose Grabis and James Clyde Raley. Gloria was the loving wife of the late Clements

"Dagger" William Copsey, Jr. whom she married on March 21, 1969 at Immaculate Conception Church in Mechanicsville, MD. Dagger preceded her in death on June 25, 2002. Gloria is survived by her children Crystal Copsey of Mechanicsville, MD and Clements William Copsey III of Mechanicsville, MD, 4 grandchildren, and 3 great grandchildren. She is also survived by her siblings John Raley (Hilda) of Weirton, WV, Sylvia Scumaci of Florida, and Rick Raley (Bertha) of Chaptico, MD.

Gloria was a lifelong resident of St. Mary's County, she graduated from Chopticon High School. Gloria and Dagger owned and operated Copsey's Seafood in Mechanicsville, MD for 35 years. She was employed by Dr. Luke Morgan, DDS Associates as a receptionist, retiring in 2019.

She was a wonderful cook. Everyone enjoyed her famous crab cakes, shrimp salad, and stuffed ham.

Gloria played softball for the Sunshine Girls, Anderson's Bar, Millers, and Pennies. She received the St. Mary's County Women's Softball League Hall of Fame award on October 30, 1999. She enjoyed playing volleyball, watching softball games, and playing the lottery.

Gloria made friends where ever she went and always looked out for everyone. She loved spending time with family and grandchildren.

Gloria was a daughter, sister, wife, mother, aunt, and grandmother. She will be dearly missed and always remembered.

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

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

James "Jim" Edward Gill, Jr



James "Jim" Edward Gill, Jr., 72 of California, MD formerly from Boston, MA passed away on March 19, 2021 in Clinton, MD. He was born on September 17,

1948 in Boston, MA and was the son of the late Mary Corrine "Dolly Drennan Gill and James Edward Gill, Sr. Jim was the loving husband of Hilary June Gill, whom he married on June 2, 2012 in Trinity Church St Mary's City, MD. Jim is survived by his children Jocelyn Gill Fitzgibbons of North Andover, MA, James M. Gill of North Andover, MA, Step children Stephanie Allers of California, MD, Travis Allers of Lexington Park, MD, 2 grandchildren and 1 step grandchild. Along with his siblings Roberta Ward (Thomas) of Woodbury, NJ

and Michael Gill(Carol) of Wakefield, MA.

He graduated from Don Bosco Technical High School in Boston, MA in 1966. Jim graduated from Northeastern University in 1971 with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering.

He moved from Boston, MA to St. Mary's County, MD in 1971.

Jim worked as a civilian employee of the navy from 1971 to 2009, for 38 years. Most recently he worked part time as a contractor for PAE Systems as a contractor from 2009 to February 2021 for 12 years.

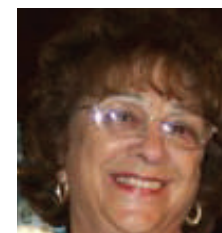
Jim enjoyed gardening, traveling, reading, drinking fine wine and eating too many potato chips.

Contributions may be made to Father Edward J. Flanagan Boystown 1410 Crawford St boys Town, NE 68010 and Society of St. Vincent de Paul 66 progress Parkway Maryland Heights, MO 63043.

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

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

Delores Ann MacRae Greer



Delores Ann MacRae Greer went on to the Kingdom of Heaven on 3/18/2021. She was born on Sept 18, 1936 in Crossnore, NC to

the late Athena Aldridge MacRae Durham and Dennis Murdock MacRae. She married her high school sweetheart Jack E. Greer on Aug. 16, 1952 and together they had 4 children. Jack passed in 2018 prior to their 65th wedding anniversary!

Shortly after Jack graduated from Army Specialized Training in Fort Benning, GA, they moved with their two young daughters (Debbie & Marsha) to Japan where they lived for 2 years. From there, they moved to Honolulu, HI for 5 years and had their son (Mike). After accepting a position at Lockheed Martin in Operations/Security in Marietta, GA they had their 4th child (Kim). They decided to relocate to St. Mary's County Maryland where Jack owned Mark IV Associates Real Estate and Appraising and made this their home for 49 years.

Delores obtained a certification in Respiratory Therapy and she held a position at Kennestone Hospital, Marietta Ga for several years. When they relocated to MD she worked at the family-owned business Patuxent Motors, and then became Jacks personal assistant for many years. She began working at BAE Systems and retired from there after 26 years when she was 73 years young! She and Jack delivered meals-on-wheels every week throughout the county for 13 years and became friends with many local families often buying Christmas gifts or "just a little something extra."

Delores could always be found in the kitchen and was known to burst in to clogging or singing gospel songs. She had a beautiful singing voice and would

often harmonize with her sister Glenda. She was faithful to her Lord and Savior and even through the struggles of dementia, she could recite her favorite spiritual poem, sing hymns and read her daily devotionals.

Delores loved to travel and with her best friend Peggy McWilliams, together they traveled to Ireland, Scotland, Canada, New York, Wyoming, Montana, Illinois, Tennessee and California, among other states. She also traveled to the Bahamas and Hawaii (several times) over the years; the last time being her & Jacks 60th wedding anniversary.

She is survived by her children and her youngest brother Dwight MacRae (Georgia) of Leonardtown and 11 grandchildren: Monique Rampley, Deborah, Josh, Jackie & Nikki (Gonzalez) Airhart; Courtney, David & Jordan Greer; Tori, Kami (McFadden) & Alli Lynch. Great-Grandchildren Ava Airhart and Nathaniel & Elliana Lynch. She was predeceased by her granddaughter Amber Rampley and great-grandson Israel Greer.

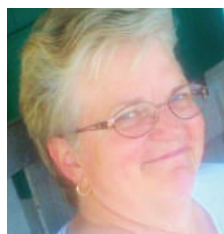
Moms celebration of life will be held in Elk Park, NC and her ashes (dads were too), will be distributed over the Elk River Falls where she and dad had their first date nearly 70 years ago!

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

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

In remembrance of mom, donations can be made to Hospice House of Calhoun or St. Jude.

Elizabeth "Betty" Ann Grindstaff



Elizabeth Ann Grindstaff, 73, of Great Mills, MD formerly from Clements, MD passed away unexpectedly on March 15, 2021 in Leonardtown,

MD. She was born on May 13, 1947, and was the loving daughter of the late Mary Quade and Roy Quade. Betty is survived by her husband Dwight Grindstaff whom she married on September 4, 2004 in Leonardtown, MD. She is the loving and devoted mother of Guy A. Lawrence (Monique) of Leonardtown, MD, and Bonnie L. Readmond of Ruther Glen, VA. Cherished husband David Grindstaff of Great Mills, MD. Adored Grandma Betty of Kiley Lawrence, Bowen Lawrence, and Murphy Lawrence and the affectionate Maw Maw of Lacey Readmond. Dear sister of David Quade and wife Patsy of Clements, MD, Jimmy Quade of Clements, MD and Bobby Quade and wife Margie of Leonardtown, MD. Also lovingly survived by many nieces and nephews.

Betty Ann was born and raised on a farm in Clements, MD. She was educated at Holy Angels-Sacred Heart and Margaret Brent Schools. Betty Ann was a hard worker and utilized that strong work ethic for several years as a Head

Bookkeeper and Receiver in the grocery store business, which provided her the opportunity to comfortably retire at the age of 62 years. She enjoyed her last retirement years spending time with family and friends, along with her passion of watching baseball, hockey, and QVC network.

Betty Ann was a dedicated mother and grandmother first and foremost. She treasured her children and grandchildren while embracing every moment with them. She especially loved her role as Maw Maw and Grandma Betty. She was a kind and giving person who always made people around her welcome. When not spending time with family, Betty Ann enjoyed the QVC network, as well as others who received her QVC gifts. As previously mentioned, when not looking for the next QVC deal, she enjoyed watching the rooting for her favorite baseball and hockey teams, as she was an avid Washington National and Washington Capitals fan. Along with birdwatching, going to the beach and spending time with family.

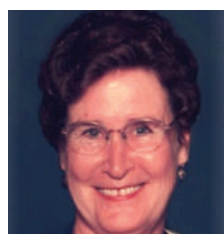
The family will receive friends on Tuesday, April 6, 2021 from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home Leonardtown, MD. A Funeral Service will follow at 10:00 AM in the Funeral Home Chapel with Deacon Joe Lloyd officiating. Interment will be private.

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

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

Please keep Elizabeth Ann "Betty" Ann Grindstaff in your prayers.

Mary Agnes (Aggie) Owens



Mary Agnes (Aggie) Owens, 80, of St. Inigoes, MD passed away on March 26, 2021 at MedStar St. Mary's Hospital, Leonardtown, MD. Aggie was born on November 10, 1940 in Washington, DC to the late John Edward Healy and Agnes Emily Hurry.

Aggie married Robert Lee Owens on January 18, 1986 at First Friendship Church, Ridge, MD. They enjoyed traveling, winters in Florida, dancing, and cheering on the Washington Nationals. She was the Executive Secretary at St. Mary's Ryken High School for 30 years retiring in 2000. Aggie was a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church, Ridge, MD and was involved in various organizations in which she volunteered her time including being a member of the Ridge Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary, the Ladies of Charity, and the Margaret Brent High School Alumni. Aggie was very active in St. Mary's County and Maryland State softball. She was the president of the St. Mary's County Women's Softball League; a founder, officer and member of the St. Mary's County Softball Hall of Fame; a Maryland State Commissioner for the American Softball Association (ASA); a Sportsmanship award recipient; and a member of the Maryland State Softball Hall of Fame. Some of her favorite past times were playing dominos and card games, having lunch with Friends, especially her "BFF" and high school groups.

In addition to her husband, Aggie is survived by her children, Patrick Anthony "Tony" Wilkinson (Marcia) of Mechanicsville, MD and Phyllis Delores "Lorie" Clarke (Ken) of St. Inigoes, MD, and her step-children Connie Phillips (Karl) of Frederick, MD; Rebecca (Becky) Owens Wathen (Johnny) of St. Inigoes, MD; and Bradley Owens of Lexington Park, MD. She is also survived by 7 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren. In addition to her parents she was preceded in death by her first husband John Phillip Wilkinson, her brother Edward Windsor Healy, her step children Kay Owens and Carol Owens.

Family will receive friends for Aggie's Life Celebration on Wednesday, April 7, 2021 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. with prayers at 7:00 p.m., at St. Michael's Catholic Church, 16566 Three Notch Road, Ridge, MD 20680. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. at St. Michael's Church. Interment will follow in the church cemetery.

Pallbearers will be Doug Clarke, Greg Wilkinson, John Healy, Michael Joseph, Chris Sullivan, and Randy Chandler. Honorary Pallbearers will be Carol Phillips, JW Wathen, Cody Owens and the Ridge Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary.

Memorial contributions may be made to Ridge Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary, P.O. Box 520, Ridge, MD 20680 or St. Mary's Ryken High School, 22600 Camp Calvert Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Joan Burrell Weaver



Joan Burrell Weaver, 88, of California, MD (formerly of Vienna, VA) passed away peacefully on March 23, 2021. She was born on February 3, 1933 in Washington D.C., to the late Donald W. Burrell and Ruth Morris Taber.

At the young age of 18, she volunteered as a "junior hostess" for the USO for returning veterans. She also graduated from the prestigious (now defunct) Washington School for Secretaries in 1952. In 1953 she met the love of her life, Bill "Coach" Weaver after being introduced at a party through a friend at the infamous "Bayou" in Georgetown, DC. Her friend mentioned he was a "football player" at George Washington University. She went to see him at a game and was so impressed by how good he was, they began dating. The rest is history! After a whirlwind romance, Joan and

Bill married in 1954, had their first child, Roy, in 1955 and second child Wendy, in 1957, and celebrated over 63 wonderful years together before his passing on March 24 (his birthday) in 2017.

Joan was an iconic figure for women of her generation in that she worked as a secretary and elementary school bus driver to help put her husband through college while raising two children. She was employed for many years by SBS using her secretarial skills in the beginning, then promoted to Technical Document Editor before her retirement with MCI as Executive Editor (now Verizon) after being relocated to Plano, Texas, in 2002. Joan and Bill were then moved back to Southern MD by her family in 2014.

Joan loved motorcycles (of which she drove herself for many years) and boating on the "Dream Weaver," a 32-foot Marinette FBM, which they received in 1985 after her devastating motorcycle accident in 1984. They shipped Dream Weaver to Lake Texoma in 2002 within bird's eye view of Ross Perot's estate.

Joan is survived by her children, Wendy Weaver of Hollywood, MD; William "Roy" Weaver of Berryville, VA; her grandchildren, Joseph (Joey) Roy Weaver and Kelley Lanelle Weaver; Linda Hatcher, her sister; her close friend and caretaker of seven years, Cheryl Morasch and extended family and friends. She is preceded in death by her parents, husband, and step-mother, Catherine Oyster Burrell.

Family requests memorial contributions be made in Joan's memory to the USO www.uso.org

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.



Kenneth "Kenny" Eugene Mills, Sr.

Kenneth "Kenny" Eugene Mills, Sr., 74, of Charlotte Hall, MD passed away peacefully on March 24, 2021 at his home. He was born on January 24, 1947 in Frederick, Maryland to the late, James Fred Mills, Jr. and Mary Elizabeth (Page) Mills.

Kenny married the love of his life, Jeannette, in June, 1979 and together they spent thirty-four (34) wonderful years of marriage until her untimely passing in December, 2013. He worked as a Supply Rep. for the DoD in Pax River until his retirement.

A strong man with a kind word for all, he was the patriarch of his adoring family. Kenny never liked to sit around idly and would tinker around his workshop for hours on end. He enjoyed working on model trucks, cars and ships. His attention to the smallest detail made his models true works of art. When the weather was nice, he could be found outside working in his garden. A green thumb gave him the ability to produce bountiful produce and vibrant colors all

seasons long.

Above all, Kenny loved spending time with his family and friends. His children and grandchildren were his purpose for life. His presence may be gone, but his legacy will live on in the bright smiles, sweet laughter and sparkling eyes of his family. He is now reunited in heaven with his beloved Jeannette and together they are proud of their family and smiling down upon them.

Kenny is survived by his children, Kenneth Eugene Mills, Jr. (Kandi) of Davidsonville, MD, Eric Allen Mills of Charlotte Hall, MD, Mary Elizabeth Guevarez (Rico) of Jacksonville, FL, Kathryn Shirley Mills of Baltimore, MD and Elizabeth A. Mills of Baltimore, MD; grandchildren, Dustin, Mikenna, Brooke, Brent, Katarina, Grace, Juanita, Julianna, Annie, Joseph, Mariano and great-grand-daughter, Bailey. He is also survived by siblings, Richard Mills (Donna) of Pittsville, MD, Bruce Yokley of Lexington Park, MD and Jamie Cover (Allen) of Bedford, PA. Kenny is preceded in death by his James and Mary Mills; grandsons, Shawn David Morgan and Rico Thomas Guevarez; and siblings, Louise Carver and Betty Wilcox.

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

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

Raymond "Buddy" George Combs

Raymond "Buddy" George Combs, age 80, of Hollywood, Maryland passed away on March 23, 2021.

Born on July 22, 1940 in Glendale, West Virginia to Albert Combs and Jane Grim Combs. He moved to St. Mary's County in 1945. He was a graduate of Great Mills High School in 1959. He served in the Lexington Park Volunteer Fire Department from 1956 to 1962 as a fireman and engineer. A very active participant in the Southern Maryland Boat Club from 1960 to 1965 racing in the E Class, driving a whirl wind called "Uncle Buddy" named by his nieces and nephew. He also served in the National Guard from 1963 until 1969 as missile mechanic and head cook.

Joining the Operating Engineers Apprentice Program in 1960 he studied pneudralics, diesel engines, and infantry mechanics courses to become a mechanic and heavy equipment operator. His career as an operator lead him to over 40 years in the construction industry where he was a master mechanic, union organizer, treasurer, and trustee for Local 77. He retired in 2001.

After retirement he lobbied for seven years to pass legislation opening aquaculture projects with the hope these projects would help clean the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. He always enjoyed time on the water and in nature. He loved to rise early in the morning to tong oysters, pull a haul seine, run a trotline, fish, hunt, tool leather or just watch a beautiful sunrise or sunset.

His greatest pleasure was spending time with his wife. He enjoyed teaching his children and grandchildren his

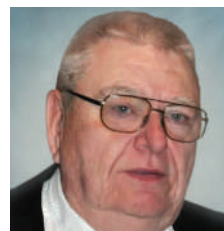
love for hobbies and the outdoors. He enjoyed coaching youth soccer and gardening. He is a member of St. John Parish, Hollywood, MD.

He is survived by his wife, Shirley Ann Brown Combs who he married on September 25, 1965 at Immaculate Heart of Mary, in Lexington Park, MD, his children, Raymond Combs, Jr., Shirley Quinan, Albert Wayne Combs, Teresa Hoblitzell, and Thomas Combs, and his grandchildren, Nicholas Combs, Christina Combs, Chystalyn Combs, Catherine Combs, Jehanette Combs, Rosanna Combs, Kathleen Combs, Emma Combs, Tristan Combs, Kyrsten Quinan-Miller, Garrett Quinan, and Kendalyn Quinan. He is preceded in death by his sister, Carol Lee Combs, his father, Albert Combs, and his mother, Jane Grim Combs.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Michael Glen Pfeiffer



Michael Glen Pfeiffer, 72, of Hollywood, MD formerly from Cleveland, OH passed away on March 18, 2021 in Washington, DC. He was born on May 5, 1948 in

Cleveland, OH and was the loving son of the late Geraldine Hendricks) Pfeiffer and Robert Pfeiffer. Michael was the love husband of Catherine Louise Thompson Pfeiffer whom he married on January 31, 1970 in St. James Church in Dameron, MD. Michael is survived by his children Michele L. Pfeiffer Underwood of Hollywood, MD, Geraldine Pfeiffer of NC, 5 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his daughter Robin A. Pfeiffer and brother Tim Pfeiffer.

He graduated from South High School in 1966. Michael served in the United States Navy for four years. While serving in the United States Navy he earned the Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device, Navy Unit Commendation, and National Defense Medal. In addition, he served aboard the Aircraft Carrier Bon Homme Richard. Furthermore, Michael, served in the National Guard for 2 years and Civil Service for 2 years. He was a member of the VFW. Michael enjoyed fishing, crabbing, woodworking, and spending time in the yard. Most of all he enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, April 1, 2021 from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home Leonardtown, MD. A Funeral Service will follow at 10:00 AM in the Funeral Home Chapel with Father Drew Royals officiating. Interment will be private.

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

REFRESHER ON THE NEW RETIREMENT LAWS

Contributing Writer:
Lynda J. Striegel

A refresher while you are preparing your taxes for 2020:

The SECURE Act, the "Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement Act" was passed into law effective January 1, 2020. This new retirement law has five significant changes, as follows:

1. The new law increases the age for Required Minimum Distribution (the "RMD") from 70 ½ to 72. The RMD is the amount you are required to withdraw from your retirement account. Anyone turning 70 ½ in 2020 is not required to take RMD. If you have been taking RMDs prior to 2020, you will need to continue taking them. Starting in 2020, you are required to withdraw retirement funds at age 72 (as opposed to 70 ½ prior to 2020). Those born on or before June 30, 1949 must take RMDs at age 70 ½. Those born in July through December 1949 take RMDs in 2021; those born in 1950 take RMDs in 2022 and those born in 1951 take RMDs in 2023.

2. The new law eliminates the IRA "stretch" option. This is potentially the most significant law change. When you withdraw money from a traditional IRA in RMDs, you must pay income tax on the money. Inherited IRAs with death dates prior to 2020 were able to "stretch" the RMDs over the beneficiary's lifetime. For younger beneficiaries, this meant the amounts of RMD could be much smaller and therefore result in a smaller income tax. Beginning in 2020, the new law requires, for non-spouse beneficiaries, that an inherited IRA has to be distributed over 10 years after the individual's death. The new provisions make it clear that IRAs must be liquidated, and income taxes paid,

over a ten year period, potentially resulting in income tax on much larger amounts required to be withdrawn. For deaths in 2020 and later, all IRAs must be distributed in full by the tenth calendar year following death.

3. The new law repeals the maximum age for traditional IRA contributions. Prior to 2020, no one over age 70 ½ was permitted to make IRA contributions. The new law allows anyone over 70 ½ who has U.S. earned income to make contributions to a traditional IRA. With our population aging, this is a good benefit for saving.

4. The new law expands Section 529 plans. Parents can now use their 529 accounts to cover costs associated with registered apprenticeships and for up to \$10,000 of qualified student loan repayments. This should be a help to those paying student loans.

5. The new law increases the maximum credit for startup business retirement plans from \$500 to \$5,000. A new tax credit of \$500 is also available for some smaller employers who set up automatic enrollment in their plans.

Everyone with a traditional IRA or similar retirement plan should consult their financial advisors or accountants about how to cope with the changes in the new law.

Join me on the third Wednesday of every month to discuss this and other topics at 11am, 8906 Bay Avenue, North Beach. Call 301-855-2246 to reserve your spot.

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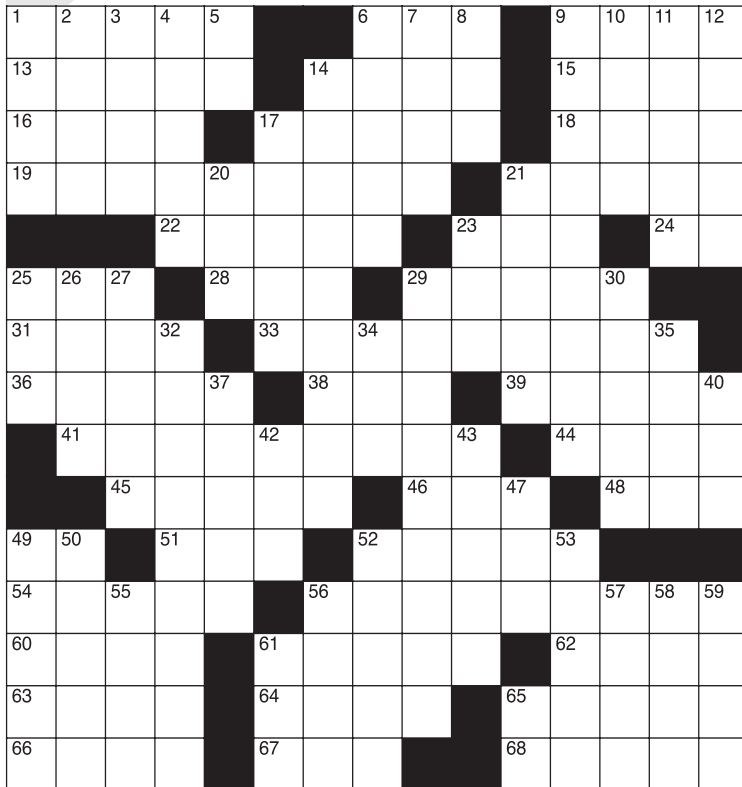
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GAMES & PUZZLES



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. One who manufactures
- 6. Science degree
- 9. Database management system
- 13. Desert
- 14. Inventor Musk
- 15. Welsh valley
- 16. Round Dutch cheese
- 17. Saying
- 18. Comedian and TV host
- 19. Uppermost portions of the brain
- 21. City in Transylvania
- 22. Where astronauts go
- 23. Men's hairstyle
- 24. Indicates position
- 25. One point east of due south
- 28. Businessmen may have one
- 29. Grass part
- 31. Running back Gurley
- 33. Unwavering
- 36. Options
- 38. Annoy
- 39. Greek mountain
- 41. Pastas
- 44. Fishes
- 45. Wrap
- 46. Potentially a criminal (slang)
- 48. Seize
- 49. The Constitution

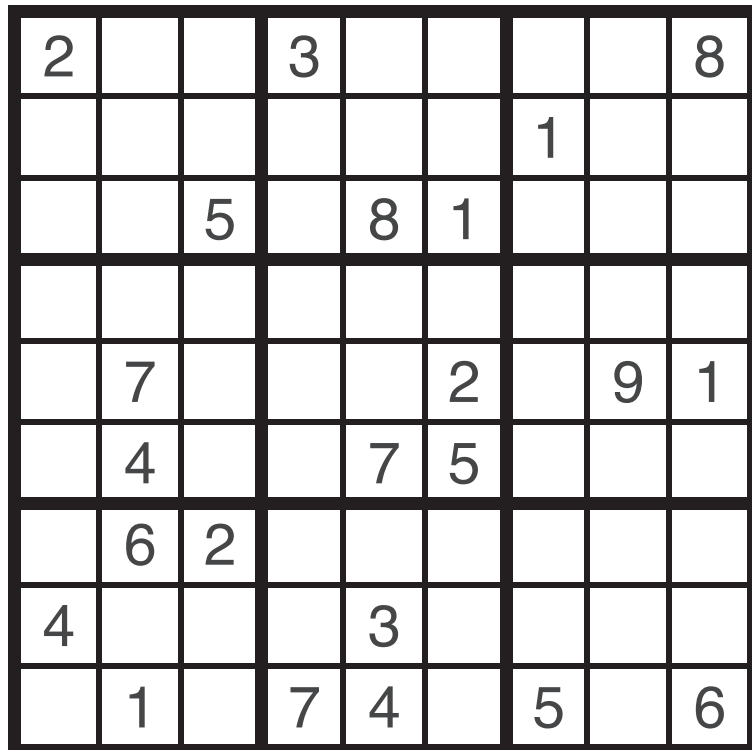
State

- 51. Upset
- 52. 1991 men's Wimbledon champ
- 54. Central Chinese province
- 56. Predisposition
- 60. A notice of someone's death
- 61. One-time Kentucky Rep.
- 62. Swiss river
- 63. Dried-up
- 64. Finger millet
- 65. ___ Allan Poe
- 66. German river
- 67. Brew
- 68. Kenyan river

- 17. Semitic peoples
- 20. Beats per minute
- 21. Family of drugs
- 23. Atrocious
- 25. Type of microscope (abbr.)
- 26. ___ or bust
- 27. Icelandic poems
- 29. A citizen of Pakistan
- 30. Very pale
- 32. Metric linear unit
- 34. Sea eagle
- 35. Biblical judge of Israel
- 37. Isaac's mother (Bib.)
- 40. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
- 42. Cool!
- 43. Large hotel room
- 47. Type of boat (abbr.)
- 49. Picked
- 50. Type of hookah
- 52. Attack
- 53. Directs
- 55. Belgian WWII resistance fighter
- 56. Finished negotiation
- 57. Heroic tale
- 58. Middle Eastern country
- 59. Protein-rich liquids
- 61. Malaysian Isthmus
- 65. Spielberg's alien

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Millisecond
- 2. Acts as military assistant
- 3. Knot in a tree
- 4. Husband-and-wife industrial designers
- 5. The Ocean State
- 6. Point the finger at
- 7. Parts in a machine
- 8. Midway between northeast and east
- 9. Portray precisely
- 10. Blister
- 11. Mental illness
- 12. Nose of an animal
- 14. What students receive



LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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

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The St. Mary's County Times is a weekly newspaper providing news and information for the residents of St. Mary's County. The St. Mary's County Times will be available on newsstands every Thursday. The paper is published by Southern Maryland Publishing Company, which is responsible for the form, content, and policies of the newspaper. The St. Mary's County Times does not espouse any political belief or endorse any product or service in its news coverage.

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



County Times

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TORNADO DRILL

As I sit here penning this out, my mind wanders back to Easters in my past, and I remember Easter eggs, baskets, treasure hunts, and fuzzy bunnies. I remember running around the back yard trying to find eggs that were dyed in an array of colors the night before. However, that all changed when, as a 9-year-old, I picked up a Gideon's bible and read John 3:16-17 for the first time. **“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.”**

Even at 11, I knew that I was not always a good boy and needed my sins forgiven, so I could see Jesus when this life was over. I remember in Sixth Grade, going out in the hallway and having a tornado drill where we all had to get close to the wall and cover our heads. At that moment, all I thought about was, “There has to be more to life than this.” I was scared, and no one spoke, but I knew there had to be someone other than me thinking the same thing at that moment, in a crowded hallway waiting for a tornado. Not long after that, I called out to Jesus to save me, and my life would never be the same again. I was twelve.

This reminds me of a hymn I read just a few days ago that says it all:

“Approach, my Soul! The mercy-seat Where Jesus answers prayer; There humbly fall before his feet, for one an perish there. Thy promise is my only plea, with this I venture nigh: Thou callest burdened souls to thee, and such, O Lord! Am I. Bowed down beneath a load of sin, By Satan sorely pressed, by wars without and fears within, I come to thee for rest. Be thou my shield and hiding-place, that, sheltered near they side, I may my fierce accuser face, and tell him, thou hast died. Oh! Wondrous love, to bleed and die, to bear the cross and shame, that guilty sinners, such as I, Might plead thy gracious name!”

(Psalms & Hymns, 15th Ed, Hymn 293, pg. 410, S.C. Griggs & CO, 1853)

Now my wonders are not egging and bunnies, they are the wonders of **Romans 5:8: “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”** Friends, nothing more is needed. As we think about the times we live in, just rejoice, for there is a Savior, one who has walked a road that we never could have. Put all your faith in Him, and you will find that, even as a little boy in a crowded hallway waiting for a tornado, you will have peace, for He has overcome the world.

Until next time,

Pastor, Robert Myers
The Mission



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