Saluting RED WHITE & BLUE
County Fair Cancelled, First Time in 74 Years

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The volunteer citizens board which organizes and oversees the St. Mary’s County Fair each year has decided to cancel this year’s event.

This marks the first time in the county fair’s 74-year history that the event has been completely cancelled; the St. Mary’s County Fair Association said the cancellation was due to concerns over the novel coronavirus.

John Richards, president of the fair association’s board of directors, confirmed this was the first time the fair has ever been cancelled in almost three-quarters of a century.

“We never have before,” Richards said. “This is an unusual time.”

The statement from the fair board said the novel coronavirus was the main concern.

“After months of monitoring the COVID requirements for physical distancing, the limitations on the number of people in a social gathering, and most importantly, the significant risks to the safety and health of our community, we determined it would be best to cancel this year’s County Fair,” the statement from the fair’s board of directors said. “This decision was very difficult to make.

“A huge percentage of our volunteers are in the at-risk category,” Richards said. “It just didn’t make sense to do it.

“It would have jeopardized the safety of too many people.”

The county fair takes place over four days in September at the fairgrounds in Leonardtown, which the fair association maintains throughout the year.

Tens of thousands of county residents attend the fair each year, which includes carnival rides, activities, food, drink; but the biggest attraction is the agricultural life of St. Mary’s County, represented by farm animals displays vying for a prize blue ribbon.

The county fair is one of the most heavily attended events in St. Mary’s. Richards said that non-public events, such as livestock shows that could be broadcast on social media and “behind the scenes” productions of young people raising livestock, could be in the fair’s immediate future without a public event.

While cases of COVID-19 have been increasing in Maryland, the number of hospital stays and cases in intensive care units have been on the decline, leading to a cautious reopening of some businesses and community activities.

However, re-openings in many other states have led to explosions in serious COVID-19 cases after people began congregating in close proximity to each other.

The fair board said in the statement that the fair association would continue to maintain the grounds throughout the year, host certain events as long as they were “appropriate,” and prepare for the 2021 county fair.

The county fair takes an entire year to plan and organize and the work is accomplished by a host of volunteers along with the members of the fair association.

Mike Alderson, president of the 7th District Optimist Club, announced June 30 that the organization had cancelled the Blessing of the Fleet, which has taken place every year for more than 50 years in Colton’s Point to commemorate the once-great fishing fleets of Southern Maryland.

The event is also the largest fundraising time for the local Optimists, as they provide scholarships and activities for county youth.

“It’s due to the requirements from the Maryland Department of Health and the Department of Agriculture regarding outdoor festivals,” in the time of COVID-19, Alderson said.

The two-day event at the St. Clements Island Museum grounds featured numerous activities, as well as a parade around Colton’s Point and one of the biggest fireworks displays in the county.

The Town of Leonardtown has also decided to cancel one of its most important summer events, the Beach Party on the Square, this year.

“Due to COVID-19 restrictions and for the safety of the public, it’s with heavy hearts that we have to inform everyone that this year’s Beach Party on the Square has been cancelled,” a statement from the town government read. “Thank you to everyone who has been a part this popular annual event over the years - our amazing sponsors, donors, volunteers, vendors and attendees.”

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Light Rail or the TJ Bridge?

Charles Vs. Calvert/St. Mary’s

By Dick Myers

In recent years deciding on Southern Maryland’s top regional transportation priority has been a foregone conclusion – the replacement of the Governor Thomas Johnson Bridge over the Patuxent River, connecting Calvert and St. Mary’s counties. The process usually had those two counties identify the bridge as their priority and then the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland (TCCSMD) adopt the bridge as their top regional priority and inform the state.

This year, with the bridge being removed by the state from its Consolidated Transportation Plan (CTP), which looks six years into the future, the two counties decided they didn’t see a bridge anywhere in anybody’s crystal ball. So, they replaced the bridge with another priority – Route 231 in Calvert County and the Great Mills intersection in St. Mary’s County.

When the downgrade got to the Tri County Council’s Regional Infrastructure Advisory Committee, the decision was made to adopt Charles County’s top priority, light rail to Waldorf, as the region’s top priority, since the Calvert and St. Mary’s projects were more local.

The committee, co-chaired by Calvert County Commissioner Steve Weems and Charles County Commissioner Gilbert Bowling, crafted a proposed letter to send to the state transportation secretary. The letter said in part:

“Since 2002, the TCCSMD continues to recommend the Governor Thomas Johnson Bridge replacement with accompanying improvements to the Route 2/4 corridor and capacity improvements at the MD 235 interchange as the top regional highway bridge project priority. This project has been included in the CTP since FY 2007. This project will relieve commuter congestion and improve emergency evacuation and will properly position the Naval Air Station Patuxent River for future BRAC activities and other mobilizations. In FY2019, the project received $750,000, but, since that date, there has been little to no visible progress and the subsequent MDOT budget removed future spending”.

The letter goes on to say, “Although the importance of the Thomas Johnson Bridge remains a primary regional concern, these efforts have not resulted in success either presently or in the near future. Should the full bridge replacement not be included in the CTP budget, the TCCSMD is requesting funding for extending the MD-4 merge lane north of Patuxent Boulevard to allow more efficient intersection functionality.”

The letter then gets to the heart of the matter: “Our Top Regional Transit Priority continues as the Southern Maryland Rapid Transit (SMRT) Project to provide fixed-route, high-capacity transit service in the MD Route 5 US 301 corridor from the Branch Avenue Metro Station to Waldorf/White Plains in Charles County. The SMRT project is estimated to reduce single occupancy vehicle trips on MD 5 (Branch Avenue) by 24,000 to 28,000 vehicles each day and will enhance the Southern Maryland job base.”

The letter failed to attain a consensus in the council’s executive board, so it was brought to the full council at a virtual meeting on June 25 attended by 12 council members, just one more than a quorum. The letter immediately drew strong, adverse reaction from some of the members from Calvert and St. Mary’s.

St. Mary’s County’s citizen member of the council, Helen Wernecke said the bridge had been a priority for a long time. She said the letter made the bridge seem like an afterthought, when in fact it was critical, being one of the area’s vital emergency routes. “We can’t lose sight of the Thomas Johnson Bridge,” she insisted.

Delegates Matt Morgan of St. Mary’s and Mark Fisher of Calvert were much more cautious. Fisher said, “This is so incredibly silly.”

Morgan said the letter takes the region’s number one priority, the bridge, and “shoves it in a corner for some pipe dream of mass transit.”

Charles County Commissioner President Reuben Collins, II charged that Morgan’s comments weren’t “in the spirit of regional friendship.” Collins said that rapid transit “benefits the entire Southern Maryland region.”

Council Chairman Bowling, noting that the letter was reflecting each county’s wishes, attempted to get the membership to support the committee letter. But the 6-6 vote, with all of the Charles County members supporting it and all of the Calvert and St. Mary’s members opposing it, created a stalemate.

Three of the six Calvert and St. Mary’s members opposing were county commissioners, Weems and Tin Hutchins from Calvert and Todd Morgan from St. Mary’s, the two boards that removed the bridge as their top priority.

Before the strident discussion, U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen appeared virtually at the meeting. He said efforts were underway in Congress for increased federal bridge funding which could benefit the bridge project. He also said he sent a letter to the U.S. transportation secretary touting light rail, but he said that project needed to also be adopted by the state.

With an impasse, TCCSMD Executive Director John Hartline asked the Calvert and St. Mary’s commissioner boards to revisit their transportation priority decisions and report back to the full council. However, at press deadline neither of the boards had met in open session. Hartline announced on June 30 that the full council would have a virtual meeting on Thursday, July 2 at 4:30 p.m. to further discuss the contentious issue.
Police, Education and Health Leaders Launch Equity Task Force

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The county sheriff, school superintendent and health officer all signed a resolution June 29 to combat disparities in services to county residents and find ways to reach equal health, justice and education results for all.

Dr. Meena Brewster, chief of the St. Mary’s County Health Department, said one way to eliminate the inequities in health among county residents, most often seen among racial minorities, was more closely examining the impacts of the novel coronavirus.

“African American residents are disproportionately impacted by COVID-19,” Brewster said at a joint press conference held at the District 4 sheriff’s office substation in Lexington Park. “The health department is working to better understand the reason for this disparity.

“We have the power, together, as a community to take meaningful steps to address equity and racial justice.”

The movement towards government agencies to identify biases, disparities in services or outright prejudices have been drawn into sharper focus since the death of Minnesota man George Floyd in May at the hands of a white Minneapolis police officer. Floyd, who was black, has been a rallying point against racism, social inequities suffered by minorities and police brutality, but his death has also fomented rioting and looting across the nation.

“Equity simply means the principals of fairness,” said Sheriff Timothy K. Cameron. “Inequities occur when bias or unfair policies, programs, practices or situations contribute to the lack of equity.

“Public safety is best applied when applied fairly.”

Part of the resolution states that each agency, which often work together on mutual projects and issues in the community, will continually re-examine their policies and procedures to eliminate bias and disparities.

Cameron added he was “sickened by the actions of a few reflecting on the many” regarding reports of police brutality.

Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith said the school system was dedicated to identifying barriers to student achievement and providing them with a sense of investment in their education.

“Each student must have a voice and agency,” Smith said. “And a brave, safe space where accountability is balanced with fairness.”

Smith said the task before them would be accomplished the way the county has often dealt with critical issues: “By bringing people together.”

The focus of the school system’s work, Smith said, would be on “equitable opportunities and outcomes for all.”

guyleonard@countytimes.net

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**JULY 10: “PRAYER FOR OUR PLANET”**

Featuring deeply moving music to refresh your spirit with Arvo Pärt, Bernard Kroll, John David Lang, Fisher Tull, and Ernst Bloch. Special 6:15 p.m. pre-concert by alumna Rachael Meador ’20 senior recital reprise

**JULY 17: “THE SPANISH INFLUENCE”**

Featuring Jose Cueto, violin; Pedro Giraudo, Diego Gabate, violin; Music of deFalla, Piazzolla, Guastavino, Saglietti. Special 6:15 p.m. pre-concert by Rachel Steelman, SMCM recital

**JULY 24: “THE SHEER VIRTUOSITY”**

Featuring Brian Ganz, piano; Olivia Vote, mezzo-soprano, and Chesapeake Orchestra strings.

**JULY 31: “IT’S A ST. MARY’S THING – OUR BRAND!”**

Featuring a veritable who’s-who of St. Mary’s College musical alumni kicking off the SMCM Alumni Weekend event! Alumni include: Paul Reed Smith of PRS Guitars, Don Stapleton, sax; Sara Jones, vocalist; Rick Humphries, sax; Chuck Orifici, trumpet; Ross Wixon, composer & trumpet; Mark Runkles, oboe; Peter Field, guitar; Rie Moore, piano; Gino Hannah, Ari Pluznik, and Zachary Silberschlag, trumpet.

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**Carroll’s Equipment Shifting Gears After 88 Years**

By Guy Leonard

Staff Writer

The management of Carroll’s Equipment in Dameron, a longtime John Deere product dealer, said this week they had lost their franchise with the farm equipment manufacturer and would be transitioning to a new business model.

Rick Carroll, owner of the business which has operated for 88 years, said the loss of the franchise was due to John Deere’s reluctance to continue to do business with smaller, family operated stores.

“They don’t want to do business with an organization that pays them less than $100 million a year,” Carroll told The County Times. Carroll’s Equipment will now focus on servicing farm equipment, Carroll said, and close for about 30 days starting July 22 to return the John Deere products they have in stock.

“We’ll reorganize at that point and we’ll see where we’re going to go,” Carroll said. “My youngest daughter [Andrea Carroll], she wants to pursue the mechanical side of the business and continue providing services. We’ll service everything; we’re transitioning to a younger generation.”

Prior to their announcement this week, corporate representatives had advised them to consider selling their business to a multi-store operator on the Eastern Shore. But, Carroll said, they had to refuse.

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**Two Charged in Weekend Shootings**

By Guy Leonard

Staff Writer

St. Mary’s County Sheriff’s Office investigators have arrested two men, one from St. Mary’s and the other from Calvert, for allegedly committing separate shootings over the weekend of June 12.

Nikko Muhammed Mason Coates, of Mechanicsville, has been charged with attempted first-degree murder and armed robbery as well as other counts in the shooting that took place the night of July 12 on Sugar Maple Court in the Wildwood community in California.

Deputies have also charged Trevon Brooks Sr., of Lusby, with shooting two victims at the Xtreme Kleen carwash in Lexington Park during the daytime June 14.

Brooks also faces attempted murder and first-degree assault charges.

According to an application for a state-ment of charges filed in District Court, Coates was at Sugar Maple Court where a music video was being filmed along with his alleged victim, 19-year-old Vincent Ryan Goedecke.

Sometime that evening Goedecke noticed his bookbag was missing and eventually saw Coates walking away with it to his car, charging documents stated.

When Goedecke went to confront Coates, he allegedly shot Goedecke, police reports stated.

The bag and its contents were valued at $600, according to charging documents.

Brooks is alleged to have committed the shooting that left victims Michael Harrod and Justin Parker wounded over a dispute regarding gang membership.

According to charging documents, Brooks became involved in an argument the day of the shooting, June 14, with a witness at the Xtreme Kleen carwash on Great Mills Road over the witness’ possession of a red bandana.

Brooks was told to leave, and did so, but returned in a white Nissan Sentra about half-an-hour following the argument.

Police allege that, as he drove up to the crowd at the carwash, he reached out the driver’s side window of the car and fired into it.

Both Harrod and Parker were struck by the gunfire and required medical attention.

guyleonard@countytimes.net
Corrections

In the June 11 story about the “Four Sisters of Solomons,” a layout error caused the final line of the caption of their picture to be cut off. The caption should have read: “Sister Paula Gohs stands admiring her birthday parade as (l to r) Sister Ruth Parent, Sister Peggy Jacobs and Sister Grace Schmersal look on admiringly. Submitted photo.”

In the June 4 story about Farming 4 Hunger, it was reported they are “a 276-acre non-profit organization located in Benedict.” Actually, they only rent a 12-acre parcel and the greenhouses from Serenity Farm. They do not own or rent the entire farm of 276 acres.

The County Times apologizes for both mistakes.

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Retail Stores Adjust to COVID-19

By Grace McCready
Contributing Writer

For 21-year-old Rachel Giese, a Brand Associate at Old Navy in California, the coronavirus has translated into significant schedule changes and increased customer protection policies.

Originally from Iowa, Giese moved to Maryland in 2017 and started working at Old Navy in November of that year. A few of the tasks that she performs there are cashiering, managing the fitting rooms, and arranging merchandise on the store floor.

Prior to the COVID-19 crisis, managing the fitting rooms essentially meant folding clothes that customers didn’t end up wanting and then preparing those clothes to be returned to the store floor. Arranging store merchandise, which includes pushing a folding cart around the store and folding clothes, is an aspect of Giese’s job that has remained the same.

Regarding her schedule, she normally had shifts of about four hours. She noted that, as a brand associate, having a six-hour shift would be unusual. When she could work more during summers, she couldn’t get many shifts because other students were also available to work.

However, the store has been operating very differently since it reopened in late May.

Now, Giese’s work week generally has four or five shifts that are eight hours long. When she received her first schedule after returning to work, she said she was “pretty shocked to see I had four eight-hour shifts on there.” She was definitely pleased when she got her paycheck.

Perhaps the most drastic change for Old Navy has been the cleaning procedures now in place. Giese stated that, normally, “We would have someone come in, usually in the morning, to do a little cleanup of the store, like sweep and wipe down.” Now, essentially everything is cleaned thoroughly and frequently.

When Giese is checking out customers at the cash register, it’s mandatory for her to wear a mask and wear gloves. After a customer leaves, she must use Germ-X on her gloves before helping the next customer. “And every two hours, we have to change our gloves out,” she added.

Also, the counter and PIN pad must be wiped between customers. A Plexi glass wall partially separates cashiers from customers.

Though not every customer is under normal circumstances, the doors stay unlocked so anyone can walk in to use them. However, now they’re carefully managed by an employee.

“We have six fitting rooms total, but only three of them are open at the moment,” stated Giese.

Currently, customers can only enter the fitting rooms through one entrance and must wait in line if the three rooms are occupied. After a customer leaves a fitting room, Giese must clean it for the next customer. Although the process takes a little longer, customers are thrilled that Old Navy’s fitting rooms are available.

Likewise, the shopping bags have been receiving extra attention because they get a deep cleaning daily in the back of the store. She said, “…we’ll spray them down with our cleanser and then let them dry, and the next morning we bring them out.”

To stay within the half-capacity guidelines for retailers, an Old Navy employee must track how many people enter and leave the building. The store hasn’t yet reached its 80-person limit, but about 40 shoppers are typically in the store at once.

The shopping craziness has calmed down since the store reopened. At first, even weekdays were busy with customers. Recently, the number of shoppers has become more normal.

For ship from store orders, Giese said that “we basically pick the items that they order online from our store, and we ship those out to them.” This task is basically the same as it was before COVID-19, but the corporate office has hoped to see the store doing more Ship from Store orders.

Order Online Pickup in Store and Curbside Pickup are other options for customers who prefer not to shop inside yet. For Curbside Pickup, an individual calls the store to alert the employee that he or she has arrived to pick up the online order. The customer stays in the car while the employee brings out the order and puts it inside the vehicle.

Though Giese’s job has changed significantly since returning to work, she still likes her job. And customers can feel content shopping in an environment with protective policies in place.

 mccreadyjc@gmail.com
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ST. MARY'S SHERIFF'S OFFICE CRIME REPORT

Assault- On June 18, 2020, Dep. Graves responded to the 45900 block of Indian Way in Lexington Park, for the reported assault. Investigation determined Joseph Aloysius Broome, age 28 of Great Mills, struck the victim with a baseball bat. Visible injury was observed to the victim and Broome was arrested and charged with Assault 1st and 2nd Degree.

Assault- On June 23, 2020, Dep. Graves responded to the 45700 block of Military Lane in Great Mills, for the reported disturbance. Investigation determined Joseph Briscoe, age 28 of Great Mills, struck the victim multiple times in the face, and attempted to strike the victim with a baseball bat. Visible injury was observed to the victim and Broome was arrested and charged with Assault 1st and 2nd Degree.

Assault- On June 23, 2020, Dep. Edwards responded to the 46000 block of Radford Lane in Lexington Park, for the reported assault. Investigation determined Brian Cartel Dobyns, age 29 of Lexington Park, assaulted the victim by slapping the victim’s phone out of the victim’s hand, scratching the victim, Dobyns was arrested and charged with Assault 2nd Degree.

Handgun Arrest- On June 23, 2020, DFC. McClure responded to the 22500 block of MacArthur Boulevard in California, with an individual sleeping inside the vehicle. Contact was made with Connor Jai’mere Walton, age 22 of Michigan. Located under the backseat of the vehicle was a loaded firearm. An unloaded shotgun was also found behind the backseat of the vehicle. Walton was arrested and charged with Handgun in Vehicle and Loaded Handgun in Vehicle.

Pair Sought in Theft Scheme
The St. Mary’s County Sheriff’s Office is seeking the identity of the persons pictured in a theft investigation. On Monday, June 15, 2020 at 11:20 am, the suspects selected clothing from a display table at the Lexington Park Foot Locker and walked out of the store without paying for the items.

Anyone with information about the identity of the suspects or this incident is asked to call Deputy Michael Rycyzyn at 301-475-4200, ext. 78030 or email michael.rcyzyn@stmarysmd.com. Case # 38289-20.

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.

Legal Notices

2019 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)

Commissioners of Leonardtown

The 2019 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) will be available July 1st to Town residents, the public at the town office at 22670 Washington St. Leonardtown, MD between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., and at the Leonardtown Post Office, 22735 Washington Street. Also, available online at: http://leonardtown.somd.com under Town Government, Water Quality Reports.

Commissioners of Leonardtown

Notice of Public Hearing

The Leonardtown Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, July 20, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. in the Town Office located at 22670 Washington Street, Leonardtown, MD. The purpose of the hearing is to present for public review and comment text amendments to the Leonardtown Zoning Ordinance – Ordinance No. 198 for Streets and Sidewalks; Ordinance No. 199 for Chapters 155-4 and 155-48 to set regulations for small wireless facilities; Ordinance No. 202 for Chapter 155-44 to allow assisted living facilities as an allowed use and; and Ordinance No. 203 for Chapter 155-23 to allow for a greater percentage of multi-family housing in PUD's.

The Commission will also hear comments on the following two ordinances: Ordinance #200 - Revised Comprehensive Land Use Plan, and Ordinance #201 - Revised Comprehensive Zoning Map. The purpose of the hearing will be to present for public review and receive public comment on the proposed revised Leonardtown Comprehensive Land Use Plan and Comprehensive Zoning Map to include properties south of the existing eastern boundary to MD Rt. 4 into the future growth area.

All interested parties are encouraged to attend or to submit written comments by 4:00 p.m. on July 20, 2020 to the Commissioners of Leonardtown, P.O. Box 1, Leonardtown, MD 20650. Special accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities upon request.

By Authority:
Laschelle E. McKay, Town Administrator
Join the Quest, Help Slay the Elusive Dragon
Scavenger Hunt Replaces Solomons Festival

By Bri Corley
Contributing Writer

Join the Quest, Help Slay the Elusive Dragon
Scavenger Hunt Replaces Solomons Festival

By Bri Corley
Contributing Writer

Southern Maryland Community Resources, the organization behind the now-canceled Solomons Dragon Boat Festival, have come up with an alternate fundraising event called Dragon Quest that plans to bring fun and excitement to competitors while maintaining social distancing guidelines.

SMCR Dragon Quest is a scavenger hunt for puzzle pieces at locations around Calvert and St. Mary’s counties in teams and their “chariots.” The motor vehicles they will use to go from one location to another. Chariot teams will have the opportunity to win prizes while trying to decipher clues to determine where to find their next puzzle piece. Each chariot team will be asked to complete a “challenge” at each stop to gain the puzzle piece and next clue. The Quest will not be timed and is not a race.

Dragon Quest is a 2020 substitute event for SMCR’s main annual fundraiser, the popular Solomons Dragon Boat Festival which had to be canceled due to health concerns regarding large crowd gatherings. SMCR is looking for sponsors, chariot teams, vendors and volunteers to make Dragon Quest a success. Please visit www.somdcr.org or contact Executive Director Bonnie Elward at info@somdcr.org for information on how to get involved.

Churches of Southern MD:
Church of the Ascension and St. George’s Episcopal Church

By Grace McCready
Contributing Writer

Two campuses but the same church, Church of the Ascension of Lexington Park and St. George’s Episcopal Church of Valley Lee work together to bring hope to the St. Mary’s County community.

Reverend Gregory Syler, who pastors both campuses, felt called to ministry as a child but didn’t have a church home per se. He grew to love the Episcopalian religion through his college’s Episcopal campus ministry.

While in seminary in Virginia, he regularly traveled up to Trinity Episcopal Church, located in St. Mary’s City, to serve as seminarian. Though he became the rector of St. George’s Episcopal Church in 2007, he didn’t become the rector of Church of the Ascension until 2017.

He said that both churches “had grown to do a lot of things together, and both of us were at the point where what we needed to continue to sustain our life as separate churches was going to be so much more work and so much more difficult than if we simply said, ‘Let’s partner together, and let’s create a shared future together.’

The two churches are still in the process of merging.

The campuses have a long history, with Valley Lee being established in the 1630s but Lexington Park only dating back to the 1940s. Syler noted, “So Church of the Ascension is there because when the Patuxent Naval Air Station was built, the Episcopal Diocese...realized that there was a real opportunity to plant a church there because you had all those homes and all those young families just flocking in to Lexington Park.

Regular services occur at 7:30 a.m. and 9 a.m. at St. George’s Episcopal Church and 10:30 a.m. at Church of the Ascension. The Holy Eucharist is celebrated every Sunday; the service includes music, Scripture reading, prayer, and communion.

While there are many established members at St. George’s Episcopal Church, Church of the Ascension truly seeks to assist those in its neighborhood. With an average of 75 people per Sunday at St. George’s Episcopal Church and about 50 people at Church of the Ascension, the congregations are relatively small. However, both campuses are big-hearted.

The Pastoral Counseling Center of St. Mary’s is based in Church of the Ascension, and so is H.O.P.E. of Southern Maryland. Likewise, the church participates in WARM (Wrapping Arms ‘Round Many) and is home to Church of the Ascension’s Food Pantry.

Syler described the food pantry, which is a pilot pantry of Feed St. Mary’s, as “one of our real hallmark ministries and one of our deep connections to the neighborhood and the community.” Another outreach program that’s held at Church of the Ascension is the Pastoral Counseling Center of St. Mary’s. This center was actually founded by the church during the 1980s as a way for individuals to get inexpensive but professional counseling, though the center is now a separate nonprofit organization.

Syler said that “we’re big believers in the fact that God gave us these buildings and all of these resources so that we would use them and so that we would share them.”

The church is used for a variety of both church-run and community-run activities, such as piano lessons and after-school tutoring and youth group.

Since the coronavirus started, outreach has looked very different. The food pantry has gotten even busier and has moved outside. Regarding the Pastoral Counseling Center of St. Mary’s, Syler noted that it “really shifted to online telehealth back in March, but their numbers have continued.

On Sundays, the children have “Donut Church,” which is a short service for them on Zoom. A single service meets on Zoom for both Church of the Ascension and St. George’s Episcopal Church. Also, there has been a prayer service on Wednesday nights and a Bible study on Thursday mornings; and a new Bible study on Thursday nights is starting soon.

Zoom has made life easier for attendees of both campuses. It was considered the best option for services, particularly because church members who lack internet availability or know-how can still call in to participate. Syler even mentioned, “And so it’s really going to be an open question for us moving forward. Like, when we’re allowed to go back into our buildings, we might continue with Zoom Bible studies.”

Resuming in-person services isn’t Syler’s top priority. He stated, “Frankly, we’re in no real rush to go back in the in-person worship...”

Still, he said both churches are “incredibly vibrant communities of Christian disciples, and they have shown over the years a great deal of creativity in coming up with new solutions to longstanding problems, as well as a whole heck of a lot of resilience in standing in the gap and serving the needs of St. Mary’s County.”

mccreadygc@gmail.com
More than 20 pastors joined in Christian fellowship June 28 at Lexington Park Baptist Church to promote unity, freedom, and love through the gospel. They and more than 100 members of the faith community marched from the church on Shangri-La Drive to the Freedom Monument at Tulagi Place for a prayer vigil against injustice, inequity and violence in America.

Photos courtesy of Ceandra Scott

**County Churches March For Unity, Freedom & Love**

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Governor Proclaims Freedom of the Press Day Marks Second Anniversary of Capital Gazette Tragedy

Governor Larry Hogan has proclaimed June 28 “Freedom of the Press Day” in honor of the five Capital Gazette employees who were murdered in the newsroom on June 28, 2018: Gerald Fischman, Rob Hiaasen, John McNamara, Rebecca Smith, and Wendi Winters.

“Two years ago today, five Marylanders lost their lives to a heinous and unthinkable act of violence,” said Governor Hogan. “Today, as we honor those we lost and all who have lost their lives in the pursuit of informing our citizens, we recognize the vital role that the freedom of the press has in our democracy and our duty to honor and protect this most fundamental constitutional right.”

Here is the proclamation for Freedom of the Press Day:

WHEREAS, The Founding Fathers of the United States recognized the vital importance of a free press to uphold the nation’s democracy through the inclusion of the right to a free press in the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, Members of the United States Armed Forces have defended and given the ultimate sacrifice to protect this right; and

WHEREAS, This right is threatened in the United States and around the world by acts of violence and dangerous, irresponsible rhetoric; and

WHEREAS, All Marylanders join on June 28, 2020 in honoring the loss of the lives of Gerald Fischman, Rob Hiaasen, John McNamara, Rebecca Smith and Wendi Winters of the Capital Gazette, who were murdered in the newsroom in Annapolis, Maryland; and

WHEREAS, June 28, will be observed as Freedom of the Press Day in Maryland to memorialize the lives lost on June 28, 2018, at the Capital Gazette offices and to honor and protect all journalists serving a vital role in the world’s democratic process to inform residents of the happenings of their governments.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LAWRENCE J. HOGAN, JR., GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, do hereby proclaim June 28, 2020 as FREEDOM OF THE PRESS DAY in Maryland, and do commend this observance.

Joe St. Clair
President

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Blackistone Lighthouse Closed for Summer

We would like to announce that the Blackistone Lighthouse, located on St. Clement’s Island, will be closed for repairs effective immediately. The architect for the Lighthouse has advised that we need to replace some broken slates on the roof, repair flashing on the chimney, replace 4 beams in the attic ceiling on the second floor due to termite damage and since we will be under maintenance, the Board has decided to get rid of some mold on the building and repaint the entire exterior of the Lighthouse. We will need a "man lift" to do some of these repairs, so it makes sense to close the Lighthouse now and capitalize on the barge that will be utilized to work on the "South Pier", bringing boards and equipment over to also bring our equipment over as well.

We feel this is the best time to close the Lighthouse and get these repairs done financially and economically, due to the pandemic. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work to persevere our beautiful peace of history located on "Maryland Birthplace". The St. Clement’s Hundred prides itself in caring for the Blackistone Lighthouse and we look forward to sharing her with you as soon as possible.

Joe St. Clair
President

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ENERGY ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

* APPLY NOW *

Southern Maryland Tri-County Community Action Committee, Inc. is committed to providing energy assistance to all eligible residents in Calvert, Charles and St. Mary’s Counties. While our offices remain closed to the public for face-to-face contact due to COVID-19, the agency continues to process applications for energy assistance.

Submit applications NOW for the new program year! Applications for energy assistance may be submitted as follows:

1. **Online:** www.dhs.Maryland.gov/benefits
2. **Email:** OHEP@smtccac.org
3. **Fax:** (301) 274-5638
4. **U.S. Mail:** P.O. Box 280 – Hughesville, MD 20637
5. **Dropbox:** 8371 Old Leonardtown Road, Hughesville (adjacent to parking lot)

Please contact our office to request an application and for additional information at 301 274-4474, ext. 200. Our website is www.smtccac.org.
NAS Patuxent River and other installations in Naval District Washington (NDW) transitioning from Health Protection Condition (HPCON) Charlie to Bravo June 29. HPCONs are protocols for public health emergencies, such as a pandemic. Commanders review and update these HPCONs based on risk levels within a local community and in cooperation with local, state or host nation guidance. Military leaders and public health personnel use them to guide actions taken in response to a health threat.

NDW changed the HPCON as a result of declining COVID-19 transmission in the National Capital Region. In addition to NAS Patuxent River, NDW installations include Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, and Naval Support Activities Annapolis, Bethesda, South Potomac and Washington.

“As always, my primary focus is providing a healthy and safe environment for our service members, their families, our civilian workforce, and everyone within our military communities,” said Rear Adm. Carl Lahti, Commandant of Naval District Washington. “The decision to move to HPCON Bravo is based on local medical conditions as tracked and reported by county and state departments of health, the advice of the NDW public health emergency officer, and recommendations from our installation commanding officers.”

At NAS Patuxent River, reports of COVID positive cases among personnel working aboard the installation has remained low, and conditions in the surrounding counties have also continued to improve.

“Thanks to everyone’s adherence to the CDC guidelines and DoD’s Force Health Protection Guidance across the base, we’ve been able to protect the force and provide mission assurance by keeping COVID-positives safely at Pax River very low and stable,” said Capt. Christopher Cox, NAS Patuxent River commanding officer. “Our low and stable numbers, combined with the continued downward trend of COVID19 symptoms and cases in the surrounding counties, is what has allowed us to start a phased reopening of previously curtailed base operating services and move into stage 2 of the CNIC reset plan. I think we can remain on course to continue to re-open additional base services and programs as long as everyone continues their individual efforts to wash or sanitize their hands more frequently, wear a mask, and maintain six feet of separation as much as possible.”

HPCON Bravo implementation will vary at each installation in the region, however, personnel across all NDW installations should continue to adhere to physical distancing protocols and wear face coverings when unable. Personnel should continue to avoid unnecessary contact and stay home when sick.

Pax River has begun executing plans to reopen certain services, such as select MWR programs, under HPCON Bravo. As new standard operating procedures are trained to more programs will be able to open, though likely with modified hours and services. Patrons are reminded to follow NAS Patuxent River’s social media feeds on Facebook (www.facebook.com/NAS PaxRiver ) and Twitter (@NASPaxRiverPAO), as well as the NAS Pax River COVID-19 Information page at https://www.cnic.navy.mil/regions/ndw/installations/.

The Navy continues to remind service members, the civilian workforce and their families that COVID-19 has not been eradicated and advises personnel to stay vigilant in execution of force health protection guidance in order to mitigate its spread.

“It’s important to remember that although conditions are improving, we must still all do our part to ensure the health of our force; COVID19 has not been eradicated, and there is still no vaccine,” said Cox. “The three biggest things our people can do is keep your mask on, keep your distance, and keep washing your hands.

By Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jason Amadi, Naval District Washington Public Affairs and Patrick Gordon, NAS Patuxent River Public Affairs
Saluting

FIRE  RESCUE  POLICE
By Guy Leonard

**FIRE**

**Hollywood Volunteer is Firefighter of the Year**

Anthony “Tony” Norris has been a member running emergency calls with the Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department since he was 16 years old; that was back in 1978.

He’s still running calls in the present day and his dedication to the fire service has earned him the Maryland State Fireman’s Association’s Firefighter of the Year Award.

As a young man, born and raised in Hollywood was then, as it is now, a tightly knit community and there was always the local volunteer fire company and it captured his imagination, Norris said.

He joined as soon as he could; it only seemed natural, he said.

“I just grew up around it,” Norris said. “And I knew a lot of people who were in it.

“I would watch them go out on calls and said to myself, ‘You know that’s what I want to do.’”

Since joining the fire company Norris has lost count of how many calls he has run, but he estimates it to be in the thousands.

Norris said he ran so many calls in the early years of his membership with the fire department that he found he had to take a break, so he went to run calls with the Hollywood Volunteer Rescue Squad.

He said the rescue squad was his service home for about 10 years before going back to the Company 7.

He learned there was only so much one person could do; he had a family and was working on Patuxent River Naval Air Station as an avionics support mechanic where he eventually retired after 38 years of hard work.

He has advice for someone who wants to work in the fire service: “If you run every call you will get burned out.”

Not one to stay still, Norris owns and operates his own landscaping business and still loves running fire calls.

As Hollywood has grown so has the demand for service from Company 7; volunteers ran 857 calls last year and just three calls short of 900 for 2018.

The volunteer fire house has always been a center for the Hollywood community and that spirit is a part of the company itself.

It’s one of the reasons Norris signed up so many years ago and has stayed with it.

“It’s a family,” Norris said. “It’s a great place.

“If any young person wants to try it, they should; at the fire house they always do a good job.”

And, of course, there is the excitement of running towards a fire instead of away from it.

“I enjoy it, I really do,” Norris said. “If I have to get up in the middle of the night, I don’t mind.

“I may not be as fast, but I still go.”

At the core of Norris’ drive to serve is his love of his hometown.


“We all look out for each other.”

guyleonard@countytimes.net
By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Dep. Benjamin Luffey has only been patrolling the streets of St. Mary’s for about 18 months, but his work has already earned him last year’s Rookie of the Year award from the sheriff’s office.

Long before he became a deputy, he was working in the St. Mary’s County Adult Detention Center as a corrections officer, one of the toughest jobs in law enforcement.

Not only are they responsible for ensuring the safety of all inmates in the facility but the facility itself makes the job more difficult since it has no air conditioning in the hot summer months.

He worked there for four years but did such an exemplary job that he was promoted to the Southern Maryland Criminal Justice Academy to teach new corrections recruits the trade.

He hadn’t even intended on becoming a deputy, Luffey said, but he realized it was time to move on.

“I got really fortunate,” Luffey said. “I loved what I did, but I wanted to do more.

“I wanted to challenge myself again, so I jumped for it.”

Being a corrections officer is one of the most important but often not very appreciated of law enforcement jobs, Luffey said, but he found that the other corrections officers with whom he worked were the epitome of professionalism.

They were one of reasons he stayed in the corrections profession and came to enjoy the job so much, Luffey said.

“It was mainly the people I worked with,” Luffey said. “It was my squad.

“They did an extraordinary job with little recognition; it was just the camaraderie that I enjoyed so much.”

Working in the detention center for corrections officers is often a step in their eventually becoming deputies; jailers become familiar with many inmates who come in and out of the facility who sometimes reoffend once back on the streets.

Deputies who come from the detention center know who might be responsible for a crime with that kind of knowledge taken out on patrol.

Luffey said his interactions with most of the people he met as inmates at the detention center has been positive when he sees them on the streets.

Many of them have chosen to reform their lives and Luffey said he was gratified that his work, especially treating inmates with respect and fairness at the detention center, helped contribute to that change.

“When you’re out there you meet a lot of the same people who were at the detention center,” Luffey said. “People remember you for doing your job.

“My interaction with them has been phenomenal.”

More than just having cordial relationships with people he was once charged with overseeing while they were incarcerated awaiting trial, these former inmates have helped him deal with watching neighborhoods and criminal cases.

“These people who I’ve met, they’re my neighborhood checks, they’re my witness,” Luffey said.

guleonard@countytimes.net

Dep. Benjamin Luffey

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info@crossandwood.com
By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

For most of his adult life, Shawn Davidson, has worked as an emergency medical technician in St. Mary’s and has served as the chief of the Lexington Park Volunteer Rescue Squad. Also, a paramedic and now the county’s emergency medical services chief, he has logged 30 years of service to local residents in their most critical moments.

Since 2004 he has been an instructor at the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute in College Park, working on curriculum that shapes what first responders learn about emergency medicine.

Working in the field always appealed to him, Davidson said, but his family has a long tradition of service. His father has been a member of the Lexington Park rescue company for 44 years, his mother for 43 and his grandmother, until her death, had been a 42-year member.

His grandfather, a career Navy officer at Patuxent River Naval Station decades ago, was the rescue squad’s first chaplain. It was an office he held for 25 years, Davidson said. “It was just stuff that clicked for me,” Davidson said. “It was something I readily absorbed.”

Having technical proficiency isn’t enough though, he said. “You have to have the combination of raw intelligence and compassion with a capacity for empathy,” Davidson said.

Also, first responders have to be able to deal with a wide range of calls, from ordinary sick calls to ones in which death and gore are inescapable.

“It’s disingenuous to say anybody can do well at this,” Davidson said. “Some people don’t have the tools to deal with the spectrum of calls.”

Some get bored with simple sick calls, he said, while other can’t handle the stress of gruesome sights found and some vehicle crashes. Emergency responders aren’t immune from danger that befalls their patients. Four years ago, when responding to a call in a supervisor’s vehicle, Davidson was struck by a driver running a red light.

His concussion was so bad he continues to have cluster headaches to this day. “For the first six weeks after the crash I couldn’t make sentences,” Davidson said. “I was almost completely unintelligible.”

His advice to those who considered getting into the volunteer service was to get comfortable with being ready for just about anything. “I never get to meet folks when they’re having a good day,” Davidson said.

guyleonard@countytimes.net
THANK YOU FIRST RESPONDERS & MEDICAL STAFF!

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SAT 7AM-4PM

Owings
7605 Meadow Run Lane
410-257-2830
M-F 7AM-6PM
SAT 7AM-4PM

All locations closed on July 4th
River Concert Series to be Virtual

The Chesapeake Orchestra and St. Mary’s College of Maryland announce that the River Concert Series will be held virtually for the 2020 season.

Music Director of the Chesapeake Orchestra and Chair of the Music Department at St. Mary’s College Jeffrey Silberschlag, explained, “For the safety of our audience and our artists, it is the only reasonable alternative. However, the resulting programs are a lot more creative and fun than one might have imagined at the onset of the change.”

“We have been able to put together an extraordinary set of online partners that will view the concerts here from St. Mary’s College, but also throughout the United States and Europe. Along with St. Mary’s College, the St. Mary’s County Arts Council, the Alba Music Festival, St. Ann Catholic Church in Washington, D.C., and several embassies are all connected to our program.”

Virtual mainstage programs will be on Friday evenings at 7 p.m. (EST) starting on June 26, and continuing through July 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31. June 26, July 10 and July 17 feature special pre-concert recitals starting at 6:15 p.m. The concerts will available online at St. Mary’s College and at the Chesapeake Orchestra websites. The Chesapeake Orchestra website will offer additional complimentary programming.

According to Silberschlag, “The response of my colleagues, from across the planet, and their willingness to participate in the new 2020 online version, has been very inspiring and gratifying. There are over 100 artists involved. We are shooting new programs, but we are also preparing nostalgic photo exhibits with our recordings of River Concert Series favorites.”

Program themes and artists include:

June 26: “Let Us Break Bread Together”
Featuring Sherri Fenwick, piano/organ; Roy Johnson, drums; Chesapeake Orchestra Brass: Giuseppe Nova, flute; Zach Silberschlag, trumpet; Nathaniel Silberschlag, horn; Alec Manasse, clarinet; and Milad Daniari, bass.

Special 6:15 p.m. pre-concert by alumna Rachel Meador ’20 senior recital reprise

July 3: “A Traditional 4th in an Unconventional Way!”
Featuring jazz artist Hilary Kole performing New York City, the Southern Maryland Community Gospel Choir, Chesapeake Orchestra Brass, Bryan Bourne, trombone; fire trucks in “Hose down,” Ballet Caliente, and a special presentation of fireworks.

July 10: “Prayer for Our Planet”
Featuring deeply moving music to refresh your spirit with Arvo Pärt, Bernard Kroll, John David Lang, Fisher Tull, and Ernst Bloch.

Specific 6:15 p.m. pre-concert by alumna

July 17: “The Spanish Influence”
Featuring Jose Cueto, violin; Pedro Giraudio, Diego Gabete, violin; Music of deFallas, Piazzolla, Guastavino, Baglietti.

Special 6:15 p.m. pre-concert by Rachel Steelman, SMCM recital

July 24: “The Sheer Virtuosity”
Featuring Brian Ganz, piano; Olivia Velez, mezzo-soprano, and Chesapeake Orchestra strings.

July 31: “It’s a St. Mary’s Thing – Our Brand I”
Featuring a veritable who’s-who of St. Mary’s College musical alumni kicking off the SMCM Alumni Weekend event! Alumni include: Paul Reed Smith of PRS Guitars, Don Stapleton, sax; Sara Jones, vocalist; Rick Humphries, sax; Chuck Orifici, trumpet; Ross Wixon, composer & trumpet; Mark Rumkles, oboe; Peter Field, guitar; Rie Moore, piano; Gino Hannah, Ari Pluznik, and Zachary Silberschlag, trumpet.

Press Release from St. Mary’s College of Maryland

Elementary School Gets New Parking Lot

Two School Modernizations Approved

The County Times

Thursday, July 2, 2020

Education

By Dick Myers
Editor

“I’ve lived with it for 10 years,” mused St. Mary’s County Board of Education Chairman Karin Bailey. She was talking about the parking lot of Lettie Marshall 1 Dent Elementary School, where her children attended. Bailey and the other school board members celebrated at their June 24 meeting the award of a half-million-dollar contract for the New Market school’s parking lot configuration and expansion.

School board member Cathy Allen noted “the challenging property acquisition” that took years to complete. “I am just happy we were able to do this,” Allen said.

Director of the Department of Design and Construction Paula Laino detailed the problems with the existing layout. Bailey summed them up by saying, “Dropoff and Pickup was all-hands on deck. So much could happen,” referring to the safety concerns.

One of the problems with the existing configuration, Laino said: “School bus loading and unloading is not separated from the traffic flow associated with staff and visitor parking.”

The improvements will include:

“Eliminate end-to-end parking and instead school buses will have a designated area to park side-by-side;”

“Vehicular traffic, other than school buses, will not be allowed to operate near school buses when loading and unloading students;”

“Eliminate pedestrians crossing the bus school traffic pattern and parking area to access the school building;”

“Students will not be permitted to walk between or behind school buses during loading or unloading;”

“Sidewalks will be designated to eliminate student crosswalks in front of the buses; and”

“Ten additional parking spots are being added.”

The bid was awarded to J. Calvin Wood, Jr., Inc. of St. Leonard. The project is expected to be completed by August 21 in time for school opening.

Lettie Marshall Dent Elementary School is one of two schools slated for modernization (FY 2023) in the Educational Facilities Master Plan approved at the meeting. Mechanicsville Elementary (FY 2022) is the other.

According to Director of the Department of Capital Planning Kimberly Howe, enrollment over the next ten years is projected to increase slightly each year, thus not creating the need for any new schools. After an increase of 181 students in 2021-22, increases will be less than 100 in the following years.

Howe said the greatest pressure would be on the high schools, where some relocations may be needed.

A HVAC system renovation at Chopticon High School is one of the other big-ticket items in the plan. It is slated to be done in FY 26 and 27.

Howe said the key demographic points driving capacity needs are:

“Projected birth rate reduced by the state;”

“Development approvals and residential permits remain flat;”

“Home School enrollment continues to grow; and”

“Maryland Department of Planning lowered their enrollment projection model.”

dickmyers@countytimes.net
The County Times encourages everyone to celebrate responsibly Independence Day Weekend.

DRIVE NOW.
TEXT LATER.
proven from 2017 but

"Although the number

"Despite the harsh win-

level," said Glenn Davis,

females, although down

dance of spawning-aged

dropping from 60 million

cracking season.

He said "the abun-

"The abundance of adult females dropped

habitat conditions will

lead to positive benefits

and underwater grasses

is still well in the healthy

average and remains an

The Calvert Recorder

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Thursday, July 2

Seventh District VRS Online Cake Auction
6 p.m.
Actual photos will be available at that time on our website. There will be a variety of delicious cakes, pies, etc. Bidding will end by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, July 3. The Auxiliary will be LIVE on Facebook from 3:45-4:00 p.m. on Friday. Winning bidders will be notified by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, July 3, and items must be picked up at the Rescue Squad Building on Friday from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. The Auxiliary would like to thank everyone for their support of our fundraiser and to wish all a Happy, Healthy and Safe Fourth of July.

Queen of Hearts LVRSA Fundraiser
Action Lounge Billiards; 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Queen of Hearts LVRSA Fundraiser. Please join us to take a chance to pick a card and find the Queen of Hearts to win. Each Thursday there will be a chance to win until she’s found. Thank you for your support to the LVRSA.

Friday, July 3

Old Jail Museum Open
Old Jail Museum; 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Interested visitors are encouraged to come and take a tour of this unique and fascinating historic site while enjoying Leonardtown First Friday that evening. Staff will be on-hand to showcase the Old Jail and its interesting story. A special exhibit regarding Benjamin Haney, a young African American man who was held at the Old Jail in 1887 and later lynched by a local mob, will be on display during this opening. Haney is the only documented lynching victim recorded in St. Mary’s County. Numerous safety precautions will be enacted regarding social distancing and sanitization. All guests are required to wear face coverings while inside the museum. Only two visitors may enter the building at a time (or a family unit of no more than 4). For more information about the Old Jail Museum, please visit www.facebook.com/TheOldJailMuseum.

“Welcome Back” First Friday
Downtown Leonardtown; 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.
The Leonardtown Business Association and the Commissioners of Leonardtown welcome you back to a chance to shop, eat, drinks and dessert.Restaurants will be open for dining in and take out. Select shops, stores, and galleries will also be open, social distancing and other guidelines will be in effect. We thank you in advance for visiting and supporting our many small shops and restaurants, the last few months have been a very challenging time for all. We truly miss our friends from the community and look forward to seeing everyone soon! Check the “Leonardtown First Fridays” Facebook page for details about specific events in Downtown and beyond!

Audience Participation Drum Circle
St. Mary’s County Arts Council office parking lot; 7 p.m. - 8 p.m.
The Drum Circle is back! A few changes will be in place for this month: bring your own drum as we will not have instruments to share and bring a chair. We will have free egg shakers to give away (one per person) for those without instruments. Social distancing will be in effect. Event is outdoors, in the case of poor weather it will be canceled. Visit www.stmarysarts council.com or email: info@smarts.org for further info. This is a free event open to all ages and skill levels! Sponsored by the St. Mary’s County Arts Council and the SoMar Drummers.

Thursday, July 9

Queen of Hearts LVRSA Fundraiser
Action Lounge Billiards; 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Queen of Hearts LVRSA Fundraiser. Please join us to take a chance to pick a card and find the Queen of Hearts to win. Each Thursday there will be a chance to win until she’s found. Thank you for your support to the LVRSA.

Ongoing
COVID-19 Appointment-Free Testing
Monday - Friday; 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
The St. Mary’s County Health Department is now offering COVID-19 testing at the SMCHD Harm Reduction Program office, located at 46035 Signature Lane in Lexington Park, MD 20653 (co-located with the U-Haul Mowing & Storage of Lexington Park). Community members may walk up for testing, parking is available. If you need assistance or any accommodations, please contact the Harm Reduction Program Office at (301) 862-1680. No prior test order is required.

Baseball Hitting Camp
Dorney Park; July 13 - 16
(Ages 6 - 13)
Camps will learn the mechanics of hitting. Basics as to the proper stance, bat speed, eye contact and hitting to the opposite field will be taught. Learn proper bunting techniques and how to hit when the pitch is pitched. 9:00am - 12:00pm
Cost $70

Tennis Camp
Town Creek Courts; July 14 - 17
Camps will learn rules and etiquette of the game as well as the places on the court. Proper techniques in the use of both forehand and backhand will be taught. Serving techniques will also be covered as well as sportsmanship. 9:00am - 12:00pm
Ages 6 - 10
Cost $70

Virtual Expungement Clinic
St. Mary's County Library Closed
7 at 3 p.m. Register on www.stmalib.org to receive the link to the Zoom meeting the day before the event.

Meet the Author “The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek” with Kim Michele Richardson
4:00-5:30pm - Ages 6-10
9:00am-12:00pm
Cost $100

Our second will focus on mytholgy. Our third will focus on classic fairy tales. Tweens & Teens.

Watercolor Techniques with Jamie Nahalu
Jamica Nahalu, local artist, will teach a series of 4 classes on Watercolor Technique virtually. Join us for Class 1: Color Theory and Value—Landscape on Wednesday, July 8 at 3:30 p.m. Find a list of suggested materials and where to find them, and register on www.stmalib.org. You must register to receive the class link. Each Wednesday in July you can join another class! Other topics are Class 2: Blending-Flowers; Class 3: Details and Texture-Birds; Class 4: Loose and Flowy--Jelly Fish. Supplies are not required; you are welcome to just watch the sessions, but if you'd like to participate, you'll want at least the basic supplies.

Meet the Author “The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek” with Kim Michele Richardson
4:00-5:30pm - Ages 6-10
Meet our author Jamie Nahalu as she teaches the materials and techniques needed to paint a classical watercolor landscape. Registration is required.

Virtual Expungement Day with Williams, McClneran & Stack LLC
Williams, McClneran & Stack LLC will be offering free legal help to those seeking Maryland expungements. Call 301-863-8188. Appointments will be 15 minutes phone sessions - the attorney will call you at your appointment time. Participants are asked to give their name, birthdate, and phone number when registering. This information will be shared with the attorney, so they can better assist during your appointment. Maryland expungements only.

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.
Jennie Sophia Pilkerton

Jennie Sophia Pilkerton, 100, passed away May 15, 2020, at St. Mary’s Nursing Center in Leonardtown, MD. She was born January 13, 1920 to the Late Henrietta (Hattie) Jones, and Alexander Clarke. She married Edward Pilkerton in 1938. Jennie is survived by her son Joseph (Winks) Pilkerton, her daughter-in-law Sue Pilkerton, her granddaughter Shelly Pilkerton and her fiancé Ricky Pierotti.

She was preceded in death by her husband Buck, her son Edward, and an infant son Larry. Her siblings William Clarke, Henrietta Martin, Richard Clarke, Estelle Martin, Ruth Byrnes, and Thomas Clarke.

A special thanks to Dr. Moon and Margaret for their care, neighbors Alan and Joyce Bell, Jimmy and Jeannie TENNISON, Francis Watts, and Wayne Clarke. A special thanks to the Nursing Home, especially the fourth-floor nurses, a very special thanks to my deceased neighbor Rusty Tarelton. He was always there for me. Another very special thanks to Frances Dicus and Peggy Gray, Truly wonderful women. Another special thanks to Juanta Herbert.

All Funeral Services will be private at this time. Pallbearers are Dale Tarelton, Bubby Joy, Wayne Thompson, George Clarke, Ricky Pierotti, and Winks Pilkerton.

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

Mary Jane Wood

Mary Jane Wood, 82, of Mechanicsville, MD, passed away Monday, June 8, 2020 in Leonardtown, MD. She was born on August 17, 1937 in Clements, MD, to the late Alice Estelle Higgs Woodburn and Wilmer Daniel Woodburn. Mary Jane was the loving wife of the late William G. Wood Sr., whom she married at Immaculate Conception Church in Mechanicsville, MD on October 5, 1958.

Mary Jane was survived by her children; William G. Wood, Jr., (Alicia), Wanda Worch (Pete), Mark Wood (Carol), Tim Wood (Kim), Rita Wood (Danny), Patrick Wood (Lisa), her sisters; Emily A. Christie and Rita W. Abell, eleven grandchildren and one great-grandchild. She is preceded in death by her siblings Alice M. White, William E. Woodburn, and Francis B. Woodburn.

She was born on the family farm in Clements, where she grew up with her brothers and sisters. She graduated from Margaret Brent High School in 1955 and there met her future husband Garland. They married in 1958 and celebrated over 54 years of marriage before his passing. During their marriage, their greatest joy in life was raising their six children at their home in Mechanicsville, where Mary Jane continued to live until her passing. Eventually they were blessed with eleven grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Mary Jane loved her children and all her grandchildren deeply and devoted her extra time and energy to spending time with them, even when it became physically challenging for her. After raising her own family, she went to work at a child care center and elementary school so she could continue to love and indulge children. It was a wonderful gift she had in how she made people feel special and loved. She let everyone be themselves and accepted all for whom they were. She never knew the word no when asked by family or friends for help.

In addition to her family, Mary Jane also loved long rides in the country, enjoyed local seafood and she was always up for a good party! If she won the door prize or the 50/50 raffle she was even happier. But, as she had an unknack for predicting the future, she would tell you she always knew she was going to win!

Mary Jane also enjoyed playing bingo, listening to Elvis and classic country music. She was a great cook and made the best stuffed ham for holiday dinners for the family or friends for help.

She loved the simple things in life and in doing so set an example for how to appreciate the things that really matter, a wonderful gift she left us all. She will be deeply missed by her loving family.

All funeral services will be private at this time. Serving as pallbearers will be; William G. Wood III, Brian Wood, Summer Wood, Rudy Worch, Jacob Wood, and Abigail Wood.

Contributions may be made to the Mechanicsville Vol. Rescue Squad P.O. Box 15 Mechanicsville, MD 20659.

Russell Millar

Russell was born on May 25, 1947, the second son of Edgar Poe Millar and Ruth Mabrey Adams Millar in La Plata, Md. He was preceded in death by his infant sister Cara Jane Millar and his brother, Douglass Millar. He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Linda Graff Millar, his children, Robert Millar (Pam), Cara Bean (Scottie). He is also survived by 5 grandchildren, Samantha Tippett (Ryan), Collin Millar, Kevin Bean, Erin Bean, and Lindon Berkley Bean. Along with 2 step grandchildren: David Thompson (Alicia) and Kayla Bean. As well as 2 great-grandchildren, Jaxon Goddard, Carsyn Tippett. Also, 2 step-great grandchildren: Remington Slaughter and Ryder Thompson. He is also survived by his brother Michael Millar and many loving nieces and nephews. He embraced his brothers and sisters in–law with all his love.

Russell graduated in 1965 from Lack High School in Indian Head, Md. In 1967 he graduated from Charles County Community College and then attended Towson University in Baltimore. He went on to pursue a career with Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company in La Plata as a Service Technician.

In 1977 he was President of the Optimist Club of La Plata and loved to be the Santa helper each Christmas. In 1979 he moved his family from Charles County to St. Mary’s County and remained there where he became very active in community service. He was a Life Member of the Optimist Club of Hollywood and held the Office of President and Chairman of the Bay Country Boat show for many years. He was a member of the Hollywood Moose Club and he was also a member of the Southern Maryland Recreational Fishing Organization (formerly MSSA). He helped create the ROMEO Club (Retired Old Men Eating Out!) and really enjoyed the socializing portion of all meals.

Fishing was his passion and didn’t miss any chance he could get to be out on the water; either by himself or with friends. Linda had to ask him to leave her a note on where he was going to be fishing so she would at least know which river to look in if he didn’t come home! He passed his love of fishing and being on the water to his children and grandchildren and loved to take them out in “Granddaddy’s Boat”. His fishing rod and reel collection is the cause of much amusement among his family and friends. His only regret was that his declining health prohibited him from pursuing his passion in the last few years.

Russell was a loving and caring man who adored his family and loved to throw a big party for all the extended family and friends that he knew. The parties often had 75 or more people wandering around the house and yard! Cooking crabs and roasting a pig were often included on his menu for the day. You didn’t want to get behind him in a buffet line because it was often said that he didn’t eat to live but he lived to eat!
Barbara Ellen Nagle

Barbara Ellen Nagle, 84, of Great Mills, MD formerly of Waldorf, MD passed away on June 22, 2020 in Great Mills, MD. She was born on October 20, 1935 in Washington, D.C. and was the loving daughter of the late Mildred Walker and John Robert Maddox. Barbara survived by her children Timothy Alton of Great Mills, MD, William Edward Nagle of New Port News, VA, Vivian Grossardt of Wrangell, AK, and John Robert Madison Nagle, 84, of Leonardtown, MD passed away on June 21, 2020. Barbara was preceded in death by her mother; Regina (Nancy) of Chaptico, Maryland and father; Kazimier Michalowski, her mother; Regina (Petner) Michalowski, and her sisters; Cindy (Michalowski) Hinkle. She is survived by, and will be dearly missed by her daughter; Laura Vancelette, her 20-year life partner; Cindy Roy, nephew; Ryan Hinkle, grandnephew; Adrian Hinkle, and extended family members. Born in Syracuse, NY, raised in Levittown, PA, and living the past 40 years in Southern Maryland, she retired after 38 years of federal contracting service with the U.S. Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR). Barbara enjoyed traveling, fishing, camping, astronomy, archeology, history, and comedy. She especially enjoyed the company of family, good friends, and laughter. Those wishing to honor Susan may do so by donating to St. Mary’s Hospice, P.O. Box 625 Leonardtown, MD 20650 or contributing to their local animal welfare league.

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

Susan Ann Blount

Susan Ann Blount passed away peacefully on June 21, 2020. She was preceded in death by her father; Kazimier Michalowski, her mother; Regina (Petner) Michalowski, and her sisters; Cindy (Michalowski) Hinkle. She is survived by, and will be dearly missed by her daughter; Laura Vancelette, her 20-year life partner; Cindy Roy, nephew; Ryan Hinkle, grandnephew; Adrian Hinkle, and extended family members. Born in Syracuse, NY, raised in Levittown, PA, and living the past 40 years in Southern Maryland, she retired after 38 years of federal contracting service with the U.S. Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR). Barbara enjoyed traveling, fishing, camping, astronomy, archeology, history, and comedy. She especially enjoyed the company of family, good friends, and laughter. Those wishing to honor Susan may do so by donating to St. Mary’s Hospice, P.O. Box 625 Leonardtown, MD 20650 or contributing to their local animal welfare league.

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

Ann Elizabeth Mattingly

Ann Elizabeth Mattingly of Boston, Virginia (Culpeper County) died at her residence on June 20, 2020. Ann, daughter of Charles and Agnes Mattingly, was born in Leonardtown, Maryland on August 27, 1923 and would have been 97 on her birthday. She is survived by her siblings: Joan Frances Raley of Avenue, Maryland; Margaret Yowaiski of Leonardtown, Maryland; Ruth Brown of La Luz, New Mexico, and her brother Joe Mattingly (Nancy) of Chaplin, Maryland and a wonderful large family of nieces and nephews. She is also survived by Nancy C. Garrett, of Boston, Virginia, her roommate of 55 years and her care-taker. She was preceded in death by her brothers C. Jenkins (Jenks) and Miles Mattingly and her sisters Mary Jane Mattingly, Betty Potts, and Mary Agnes (Sis) Farrell. Ann was also preceded in death by her long time partner and wonderful roommate Jessie C. Barton. Ann was retired from the Association of American Railroads where she served for 40 years in the law department library. Before she was taken ill she loved her retirement of life at the farm in Boston. Ann was an avid tennis player and won many trophies as a bowler. It has been said that she must have been born with playing cards in her hands because she was talented bridge player and wicked poker player. Believe it or not Ann also played softball (first base) with a league in Washington, DC (where she met Nancy who played second base.) Ann was the most dedicated Redskin fan even after all of their losing seasons.

In lieu of flowers donations in Ann’s honor and memory may be made to Precious Blood Catholic Church, 114 East Edmondson Street Culpepa, VA 22701 (where Ann was an active member for approximately 40 years and right up to her death) or to Hospice of the Piedmont, 675 Peter Jefferson Parkway, Suite 300, Charlottesville, Virginia 22911. Arrangements provided by the Mattingly-Gardiner Funeral Home, P.A. Leonardtown.

Rielle Amara Kent

Rielle Amara Kent, infant daughter of Roshaia Armani Thomas and Terrence Lamont Kent of Lexington Park, MD passed away Sunday, June 21, 2020 at MedStar Franklin Square Hospital in Baltimore, MD.

In addition to her parents, she is also survived by her grandparents: Rosalyn Dickerson of Lexington Park, MD and Antwone Dickerson of Lexington Park, MD, and Patricia and Terry Kent Sr. of California, MD; her great-grandparents; Joyce Curtis of Lexington Park, MD, Roderick Thomas of Hanover, PA, Cal-vin Dickerson of Lexington Park, MD, Jozone Straum of California, MD and Louise Dickerson of Clements, MD; her aunts and uncles: Rheiana Dickerson, Terrell Kent, Terry Kent, Jr., Terika Kent, Joelle Rollins-Kent, and Terrisa Kent. She is preceded in death by her great-grandparents: John Straun, Jr. Margaret Gertrude Curtis and Rosanna Young; and her cousin, Kaveh Frederick. Condolesnces to the family made be made at www.brinsfieldfuneral.com. Donations can be made to St Jude’s Hospital in memory of Martha E. Gates. All arrangements have been made by Brinsfield Funeral Home & Crematory, P.A., Charlotte Hall, MD.

Martha Evelyn Gates

Martha Evelyn Gates, 86, of Solomon, MD passed away peacefully on June 15, 2020 at her home. Born on Sep-te-ber 9, 1933 in Chapel Hill, MD, she was the daughter of the late James Clinton Smith, Sr. and Mary Louise (Morrison) Smith. Martha was one of eight (18) children. Martha met and married her first love, David Lee Gates on April 11, 1959. Together they shared over thirty (30) years of marriage before his passing in 1989. She always knew she would be reunited in heaven with her love one fine day. Her family is taking solace knowing they are together once again.

She worked and helped support her family by being a School Bus Supervisor for the Prince George’s County School Board. She began her career actually driving the school bus and loved watching the children grow throughout the years. Martha was a kind and caring woman that adored her “kids” as much as they adored her. Martha enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren, playing cards with her sisters, and visits from her family.

A mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, and friend has left her earthly body to become an angel in heaven. She wished everyone love, happiness and luck. As you spend your days reminiscing about her bright smile and silly stories, know that she will always be in spirit.

Martha is survived by her children, David Lee Gates, Jr., of Mechanicsville, MD and James Philip Gates, Sr., of Mechanicsville, MD; four (4) grandchildren; two (2) great grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by her husband, her parents and siblings.

Martha’s interment will be on Wednesday, July 15, 2020 at Maryland Veterans Cemetery, 11301 Crain Highway, Cheltenham, MD 20623. Due to COVID regulations and limited space, the interment will be by invitation only.

Condolesnces to the family made be made at www.brinsfieldfuneral.com. Donations can be made to St Jude’s Hospital in memory of Martha E. Gates. All arrangements have been made by Brinsfield Funeral Home & Crematory, P.A., Charlotte Hall, MD.

Charles Elwood Colona

Charles Elwood Colona departed this world and entered into the Kingdom of Heaven on June 24, 2020 where his mother, father, sisters, brother and wife, Thelma Colona, were waiting to greet him along with his family and friends.
grandson, Justin Colona.

Charles passed while residing at Charlotte Hall Veteran’s Home at the age of 88.

Charles was born in Leonardtown, Maryland on April 9, 1932. He joined the Army at the young age of 18. He served honorably in the United States Army for 22 years. He served in two wars, Korea and Vietnam, and he retired as a Master Sargent.

Charles was an active member of his community and was a part of many organizations, such as, The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Wounded Warrior Project, 17th Infantry Association, and the Military Order of the Purple Heart. He found joy in the simple things like dancing along to his favorite country music, and spent his time wood-working and making handmade wooden girl and boy figures that decorated the front lawn. Most of all, Charles cherished the time he got to spend with his family, especially his grandchildren, and the precious memories they made. He will forever remain in their hearts.

Charles is survived by his children, Vicki Bromble, Sharon Robinson, Bryan Colona and Steven Colona, their spouses, his first wife and friend Betty Colona. His grandchildren Bill Bromble, James Robinson, Shannon Reed, their spouses and 4 great grandchildren.

Charles is also survived by his sisters Barbara Prasser and Betty Frey, along with many nieces and nephews.

In addition to his dad, Thomas J. Colona, his mom, Catherine V. Colona and his wife, Thelma Colona, Charles is preceded in death by his siblings: Harry Colona, Evelyn Barry, Anne Piper, Vivian McMeans and Joyce Coombs, as well as his youngest grandson, Justin Colona.

According to Charles’ wishes, he will be cremated and placed with his wife at Crownsville Veteran’s Cemetery given full military honors at a date not yet determined. If you would like to honor our full military honors at a date not yet determined. If you would like to honor our family, you are encouraged to make donations to www.brinsfeldfuneral.com or contact us at 301-540-1100.

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

**Ella Louise Reddington**

Ella Louise Reddington, 73, of Mechanicville, MD, passed away from heart failure on June 18th, 2020 at St. Mary’s Hospital.

She worked as a unit secretary for various medical facilities, most recently Southern Maryland Hospital. Affectionately known as “MeeMaw” to her family, she enjoyed playing Bingo & slot machines, listening to music, cooking, and eating blue crabs.

Ella is survived by the families of her five children: Christine & Mark Kuhn, Judy and Ronald Kirk, Thomas & Cindie Reddington, Cynthia Parsons, and Kenneth & Catherine Reddington, as well as her twelve surviving grandchildren Jenna, Austin, Dakota, Madison, Ryan, Justin, Sean, Brady, Jacob, Gabrielle, Gracie, and Evelyn. She is also survived by her three great grandchildren, Emma, Rilyn, and Cameryn.

Ella joins her husband Thomas Patrick Reddington, Sr. who died in 2012 and her granddaughter, Barbara Ann Sneed who passed in 2016.

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

**Mary Margaret Burch**

Mary Margaret Burch, 51, of Mechanicsville, MD, passed away on Sunday, June 21, 2020 at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, D.C.

She was born July 31, 1968 to the late John Leslie Reed and Estelle Olivia Dodson Hare.

She is a 1987 graduate of Hagerstown High School. On April 1, 2004, she married her husband, Charles Morgan Burch. Together, they celebrated over 16 wonderful years of marriage. She was employed for many dedicated years as a cashier for the Washington Post. Her hobbies included spending time on the water, going to the beach and fishing and crabbing with her husband. She was a delicious cook, famous for her deviled eggs and macaroni salad. She also enjoyed listening to country music.

In addition to her husband, she is also survived by her daughter, Jessica Nicole Goss (Mark) of Chambersburg, PA, her step-daughter, Jessica Varekso-Dean (Michael) of Leonardtown, MD, her sister, Delores Altamirano (Pedro) of Frederick, MD; her half-sister, Elizabeth Cavalier (Mouse) of Lewis, PA; her half-brother, Kenneth Hare of Maryland; her step-granddaughters, Paislee and Paige Varekso-Dean; her nieces: Tina, Isabella and Sophia. She is preceded in death by her parents.

The family appreciates any donations to help with the funeral costs be made to Brinsfeld Funeral Home, P.A., at P.O. Box 279, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

All services will be private.

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

**Paul Dean Kaplan**

Paul Dean Kaplan, 78, of Charlotte Hall, MD passed away on June 16, 2020 at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home in Charlotte Hall, MD.

Born on May 1, 1942 in Brockton, MA, he was the son of the late Ethel Dean and Robert Kaplan.

Paul married the love of his life, Margaret “Meg” Kaplan (Gahan) on August 18, 1990 and they shared 30 wonderful years of marriage together.

After graduating high school, Paul

**Walter Charles “Chuck” Davis, Jr.**

Walter Charles “Chuck” Davis, Jr. of Charlotte Hall, MD departed this life on June 14, 2020 at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, DC.

Born on August 3, 1959 in Peoria, IL, he was the son of the late Walter Charles Davis, Sr. and Mary Elizabeth Hoover (Johnson).

Chuck married his beloved wife, April L. Davis in August of 1983 and together they spent nearly 37 wonderful years of marriage.

During his high school years Chuck was a devoted member of the Waldorf Volunteer Fire Department where he made many lifelong friends.

After graduating high school, Chuck entered the United States Army and proudly served in the First Infantry Division stationed at Fort Riley Kansas. After his service Chuck worked as an elevator technician in abandoned buildings and then managed the elevators at the Pentagon until his retirement.

Chuck was proud to be a retired member of The International Union of Elevator Constructors.

Chuck loved sports and was always excited to watch his favorite teams: The Washington Nationals, The Washington Redskinks, NASCAR driver Kurt Busch and The Kansas Jayhawkes for college basketball. Above all, Chuck was a family-oriented man who cherished the time he spent with his family, dogs, and especially his grandchildren.

In addition to his wife, Chuck is survived by his son, Charlie Davis (Lindsay) of Prince Frederick, MD, his brother, Ricky Davis (Jean) of Colonial Beach, VA, his sister, Leigghann Hobbs (Jim) of Prince Frederick, MD, (3) grandchildren: Bradley (13), Earleigh (9) and Patrick (6) and many Nieces and Nephews.

He is preceded in death by his parents, and stepfather Tom Hoover.

All services will be private.

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

**Mary B. Hundert**

Murray B. Hundert, 100 years old, of Solomon’s, MD (formerly of Livingston, NJ) passed away on June 13, 2020.

Murray was born on September 15, 1919 in New York City to Israel and Clara Hundert. He had one younger brother, Irwin Hundert.

Murray graduated from Brooklyn College and then on to New York University where he earned a PhD in Chemistry in 1948. He worked in the chemical industry for many years. While still working in industry, he began teaching Chemistry part time. He found he loved sharing his knowledge with college students and decided to teach full time. He taught Chemistry at Fairleigh Dickinson University in Rutherford, NJ until 1986, when he retired from FDU. But he didn’t stop working. He continued with consulting work that had begun when he was teaching.

Murray Hundert had many interests that he enjoyed pursuing. He loved working in his yard and garden. He loved travelling. He and his wife Rose together visited almost every continent. They enjoyed the sites on all of their journeys and also the many people they met.

Murray’s greatest love was for his lovely wife, Rose and their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. They loved travelling to visit their family. They would drive toNova Scotia every year for leisurely vacations with their son Eric and his family. They particularly enjoyed their annual lobster roasts.

They would drive to Southern Maryland every year for visits with their son Steve and his family. They came bringing delicious New Jersey bagels, and left with delicious Maryland Crab to take home and share with friends.

Murray and Rose celebrated their 71st wedding anniversary in September of 2019. Murray and his whole family celebrated his 100th birthday in August, 2019.

Murray was a most kind and generous man. Everyone who met him was touched by his gentle manner, his curiosity, his intelligence, and his happiness with his life. He leaves behind friends and family who will miss him. He is survived by his wife Rose Kordish Hundert of Lusby (though she will always be “Brooklyn Rose”). Sons Eric of Nova Scotia, Canada and Steve (Betsy), of Leonardtown. Grandchildren, Thian (Sandy), Asa, Sam (Feng), Jacob and Amos. Great-grandchildren Meredith, Ella, Jocelyn, and Henry.

In lieu of flowers, a donation could be made to Hospice of St. Mary’s, P.O. Box 625, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

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

**Walter Charles “Chuck” Davis, Jr.**

Walter Charles “Chuck” Davis, Jr. of Hagerstown, MD, passed away on July 2, 2020.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Walter Charles Davis, Sr. and Mary Elizabeth Hoover.
Vernon Hare

Vernon Hare, of Hollywood, MD, passed away on June 5, 2020 at the Charlotte Hall Veteran Home at the age of 100. Vernon, born on March 21, 1920, was preceded in death by his parents, Wallace Jefferson Hare and Addie Rhelletter Hare. He was born in Madison, South Carolina. Vernon was the middle child and the oldest son of eleven children. He is also preceded in death by his sisters; Eva, Vinnie, Ivy, Carrie and Beulah and by his brothers; Clifton, Nelson, Bruner, Broadus, and Wallace Jr. Vernon led a very simple life. He grew up on a farm and worked extremely hard alongside his father and siblings. Along with the jobs commonly associated with farming, his family grew cotton and he was also in the fields picking it. His farm equipment was a mule, not the fancy tractors of today. He worked hard all his life. He was always a kind man, who would lend a hand at any time to help a friend or family member. He spent some time in Minnesota doing a wide variety of jobs on a cattle ranch. The cold of Minnesota was not for him and he packed up, came home, and enlisted in the Army.

He entered the Army on January 31, 1940. While in the Army, he worked as a truck driver. He was stationed in Germany during World War II and drove a two and one-half ton truck in transporting military personnel, equipment and ammunition. He also made minor road repairs. He was appointed to Corporal, Service Company, Third Infantry on July 21, 1942. He had intended to make the Army a career, however, once the war ended, they were all sent home. He received an Honorable Discharge on October 16, 1945.

After returning home from the Army, he worked on the family farm until he heard of job openings at Pax River Naval Air Base. He headed to Maryland and took a job as a truck driver at the Pax River Naval Air Base. He received a Diploma from the American Technical Society in “Automobile, Maintenance, and Repair” on May 31, 1945. He received his commission of Honorably Retiring on June 17, 1977.

After he left the base, he went to work for Pottery Trucking in 1977 and continued with him for 11 years. During that time, he hauled logs from Waldorf, MD to Pennsylvania. In 1988, he began working for Ronnie Buckler, Buckler Trucking, again as a truck driver. He stayed with Buckler until he turned 80 years old in the year 2000 and finally retired.

After his discharge from the Army he returned to South Carolina and married Kathryn Mucky. They made their home in St. Mary’s County. He has one daughter Sheila (Jim) Presley of Virginia Beach, Virginia and 3 granddaughters, 3 great-grandchildren, and 3 great, great grandchildren. One great grandson preceeded him in death.


All services will be private. Interment will take place in the Maryland Veteran Cemetery, Cheltenham, MD. Contributions may be made to the Charlotte Hall Veteran Home, 29449 Charlotte Hall Road, Charlotte Hall, Maryland 20622.

Arrangements are being handled by Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, P.A. Leonardtown, MD 20650.

Marsha Ann Downs Guy

Marsha passed away peacefully at her home in Leonardtown, MD on Wednesday, June 24, 2020 surrounded by her loving family. She was the daughter of Lilian Alice Guy and James Richard Downs.

She is survived by her husband, Donnie, her brother, Ricky Downs of Mechanicsville, MD and her sister, Tere Vallandingham (Joe) of Clements, MD. She graduated from Chopticon High School in 1968. She began working at Patuxent River Naval Air Station for the Naval Air Warfare Center. She retired after 37 years receiving many awards and accolades.

She married her husband, Donnie on June 17, 1972 at Holy Angels Catholic Church. They celebrated 48 years of marriage.

Her passion was softball – playing on Anderson’s Bar and other teams in the St. Mary’s Women’s League. She received the Budweiser Sportsmanship award in 1992 and was inducted into the Women’s Softball Hall of Fame in 1999.

She also enjoyed playing in the Pool League. She was a high scoring shooter for the Pennys team for many years.

Besides softball and pool – she enjoyed playing the slots, weekly card games with friends and getting together with the “Pennys Girls.”

She had a love of cars and kept them meticulously clean.

She enjoyed the company of family, good friends and her puppies – Poppie and Blackie.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, from 9:00 AM to 10 AM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home Leonardtown, MD. With A Private Funeral Service in the Funeral Home Chapel with Father Stephen Wyble officiating. Interment will be private. Serving as Pallbearers will be her nephews, Robby Williams, Bobby Vallandingham, David Vallandingham, Wayne Guy, Nick Guy, David Williams, her 1st cousin, Donald Guy, and a family friend, Eric Poole. Serving as Honorary Pallbearers are: Harry Poole, Tony Beakes, Joe Vallandingham, Diane Delahay, Christy Morgan, Cindy Beakes, Alice Bailey, Diane Norris, Ginny Taylor, Faye Burroughs, Mary Kay Myers, Jannie Woods, and Lisa Oliver.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Sacred Heart Catholic Church P.O. Box 37 Bushwood, MD 20618.

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

Helen Louise Miarowski

Helen Louise Miarowski, of Park Hall, MD passed away in her sleep on June 24, 2020 at MedStar St. Mary’s Hospital in Leonardtown, MD.

She was born on June 17, 1926 in South Philadelphia section of Philadelphia, PA, to the late LCDR William Edwin Bemson, USN, (Ret.) and Margaret Mabel Cree. Helen was the oldest living descendent of the James Harrison Benson Family of Pigeon Forge, TN and Palestine, TX, and the John D. Cree, Jr. Family of Philadelphia, PA. Her American ancestry dates back to the mid to late 1600’s.

Helen graduated from Little Flower High School for Girls in 1944. She married her beloved husband, Stanley Miarowski, on April 24, 1954 at Immaculate Conception (East Germantown) in Philadelphia, PA. They were married for over 51 wonderful year before his passing in 2006. She was a member of the Yankee Doodle Service Club (Philadelphia USO) during WWII which entertained at several area military bases. She and Stanley were original residents of the Levitt and Sons development called Levittown PA which later became Willingboro. They were also founding parishioners of Corpus Christi Roman Catholic Church in Willingboro, which they attended from 1958 to 1999. Helen was a member of the Church’s adult choir during that time. In September 1997, the choir sang for Pope John Paul II at his monthly papal audience at the Vatican.

She was a retired employee of the Society of the Divine Word (SVD) also known as the Divine Word Missionaries (a Roman Catholic Order of Priests and brothers) at Bordentown, NJ. Originally a temporary worker, she liked what she did. For at least two decades she was the vocation office director’s secretary. When she retired, she became their food service purchaser.

Helen and Stanley owned and operated the Dunkin Donuts at Route 38 and Chapel Ave, Cherry Hill, NJ for a short time in the mid 1960’s until a fire forced them to close.

After moving to Maryland in April 1999, Helen was involved in several parish activities at St. Cecilia’s Roman Catholic Church in St. Mary’s City, MD. These included the Stai, food pantry and the parish council. For several years she was the sacristan for the daily mass. She gave her time, talent and prayer to the church. Helen enjoyed traveling with her family. She visited 49 states, Washington D.C., 6 Canadian Provinces and Ottawa. She toured Italy and the Vatican City in 1997, and France in 2002. Her hobbies included crocheting, cross-stitch, ceramics and china painting. One of her pieces is on display at St. Cecilia’s church. St. Cecilia is the patroness of music. Helen enjoyed listening to Placido Domingo, Luciano Pavarotti and George Strait.

Helen previously resided in Willingboro, NJ, Trenton, NJ, Phoenix, AZ and Philadelphia, PA. She spent 2 summers during World War II living in Newport, RI. As a child she lived in Ocean City, NJ during the summer.

She is survived by her son, Edwin A. Miarowski of Park Hall, MD and her nieces and nephews: William B. Magill of Linwood, NJ, Robert E. Magill, Sr. (Shirley) and Helen C. Newman of Lancaster, PA, and Andrew “Serrhi” Magill of St. Petersburg, FL, as well as extended family members. In addition to her parents and husband, she is also preceded in death by her sister, Margaret E. Benson Magill; brother-in-law, Andrew E. Magill, and nieces, Joan M. Magill Dockery and Edith A. Eisenhardt Magill (wife of William P.) A Graveside Service will be celebrated on Friday, July 3, 2020 at White Marsh Memorial Park at 1169 Limekiln Pike, Ambler, PA 19002. Memorial contributions may be made
to a charity of your choice.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Alice Teresa Abell Spalding

Alice Teresa Abell Spalding, 91, of Ridge, MD, went to be with the Lord June 25, 2020.

She was born on January 6th, 1935 to Mary Louise Wood Abell and Joseph Ethelbert (Bert) Abell. On July 26th, 1952, she married her one true love, Samuel Chapman Spalding, Sr; and together they had 10 children. They enjoyed 63 years of marriage and weathered the heartache of burying three of their children before he passed in 2016. Teresa, aka “Mother Teresa” or “The Queen”, enjoyed being a homemaker and most especially being a mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She was Mom Mom to many little ones who were not related to her. She never asked for or needed much. She was happy getting her weekly hairdo’s, eating a sausage and egg McMuffin once a week on Saturdays, playing cards with her sisters, occasionally playing the slot machines, and of course one of her favorite pastimes playing bingo. If you came to her house, you could expect to be warmly welcomed (unless her hair wasn’t done or you showed up at nap time), well fed, and any babies in tow to be spoiled. Even when her health started failing, she brightened up instantly when the children came in. The Pandemic was hard on her because she missed the children terribly and it took an even greater toll on her health. Her surviving children were devoted to her care the last few years and were honored to be there for her final days and hours on this earth. She also enjoyed the love and support of some special caregivers and hospice angels.

She is survived by her children, Betty Smith (Gordy), Becky Felix (Arnie), Anna Long (Gary), Sharon Farr (Jerry), Kathy Dean (David), Jenny Bothe (Wayne) and Jeff Spalding (Teresa); daughter-in-law Vicky Spalding; her sisters Dorothy Clarke and Mary Lou Bassford. In addition to her husband, she was predeceased by her son, Sam Spalding Jr and two daughters, Valerie Sue (stillborn) and Karen Ann Spalding; also by her brother Steve Biondi; and together they had 10 children. They enjoyed 63 years of marriage and weathered the heartache of burying three of their children before he passed in 2016. Teresa, aka “Mother Teresa” or “The Queen”, enjoyed being a homemaker and most especially being a mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She was Mom Mom to many little ones who were not related to her. She never asked for or needed much. She was happy getting her weekly hairdo’s, eating a sausage and egg McMuffin once a week on Saturdays, playing cards with her sisters, occasionally playing the slot machines, and of course one of her favorite pastimes playing bingo. If you came to her house, you could expect to be warmly welcomed (unless her hair wasn’t done or you showed up at nap time), well fed, and any babies in tow to be spoiled. Even when her health started failing, she brightened up instantly when the children came in. The Pandemic was hard on her because she missed the children terribly and it took an even greater toll on her health. Her surviving children were devoted to her care the last few years and were honored to be there for her final days and hours on this earth. She also enjoyed the love and support of some special caregivers and hospice angels.

She is survived by her children, Betty Smith (Gordy), Becky Felix (Arnie), Anna Long (Gary), Sharon Farr (Jerry), Kathy Dean (David), Jenny Bothe (Wayne) and Jeff Spalding (Teresa); daughter-in-law Vicky Spalding; her sisters Dorothy Clarke and Mary Lou Bassford. In addition to her husband, she was predeceased by her son, Sam Spalding Jr and two daughters, Valerie Sue (stillborn) and Karen Ann Spalding; also by her brother Bert Abell Jr and sisters Irene Hayden, Juanta (Nita) Hayden, Margaret Jane Mattingly, and Agnes (Piggly) Joy, and a special aunt who she was named after, Sister Alice Teresa Wood. She leaves 18 grandchildren and 29 great-grandchildren. Now that she is free in the arms of the Lord, may she enjoy reuniting with pre-deceased relatives and dancing once again with her beloved Sammy to their favorite song “Look at Us”.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to St. Mary’s Hospice, P.O. Box 625, Leonardtown, MD 20650; St. John’s Church, 43950 St. John’s Road, Holwood, MD 20636, or ACTS (A Community That Shares) P.O. Box 54, Bushwood, MD 20618.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Patricia Carolyn Griffith Biondi

Patricia Carolyn Griffith Biondi, 91, of Ridge, MD, went to be with the Lord June 25, 2020.

She was born April 8, 1929 in Frederick, MD to the late Clyde Griffith and Myra Landella Etcinshon Griffith. Patricia was an active long-time member of First Saints Community Church of Ridge. For many years she was a Girl Scout leader and she taught Sunday school. She loved her cats, researching family genealogy and the history of local Methodist churches. She enjoyed reading her Bible and spending time with loved ones. She was known for her compassion, well-timed cards, coconut cakes and pecan sticky buns.

Patricia is survived by her children: Steve Biondi, Carole Biondi Woodburn (David) and son-in-law Doug Koontz; 7 grandchildren Jason Koontz, Jenna Holmes (Kevin), Stephanie Koontz, Cory Woodburn (Caitlin), MacKenzie Koontz, Ryley Koontz and Madalyn Koontz; three great-grandchildren Kel- len Holmes, Emmet Holmes and Evelyn Woodburn; and friends. In addition to her parents she is also predeceased in death by her husband, Harry James Biondi, Jr, daughter Debbie Koontz and sister Alice Griffith.

A Life Celebration Funeral Service will be celebrated by Pastor Cindy Caldwell at First Saints Community Church, Ridge, MD. Inurnment will follow in the church cemetery. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, services will be private.

Memorial contributions may be made to Ridge Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 456, Ridge, MD 20680 or United Methodist Women at First Saints Community Church of Ridge, c/o Geri Bryan, P.O. Box 21, Dameron, MD 20628.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

To each new day’s froggy adventure, Shelby

Please send your comments or ideas to: shelbys.wanderings@aya hoo.com or find me on Facebook
**The County Times**

**Thursday, July 2, 2020**

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CLUES ACROSS
1. Central processing unit
4. Military action
10. How electricity gets to train carriages (abbr.)
11. Unsafe
12. Of (French)
14. Autonomic nervous system
15. Type of bean
16. Accuse formally of a crime
18. Promote
22. Type of lava
23. Meat from a deer
24. Herbaceous plants
26. Potato state
27. Helsinki neighborhood
28. Sports officials
30. Shout wildly
31. Reptile genus
34. Frocks
37. N. Scandinavian indigenous people
39. Poultry cage
41. Of I
42. Ad __: tirelessly
48. Item
50. Produce
51. Seedless raisin
52. Bond in a third party’s control
53. Legendary character
__ Finn
54. Space station
55. Note at the end of a letter
56. In a way, contradicted
58. Midway between northeast and east
59. Bears important traffic
60. Brooklyn hoopster

CLUES DOWN
1. Presides
2. Artist’s tool
3. On a higher floor
4. Commercial
5. Something to watch
6. Chased
7. Commercial producers
8. Keyboard instrument
9. Blue grass state
12. Phonograph recording
13. Unusual
15. Popular average
19. A native or inhabitant of Asia
20. N. Sweden river
21. Related on the mother’s side
22. Egalitarian
25. Mediator
29. Partner of to
31. Arm bones
32. Korean seafood dish
33. Tap of the foot
35. Astronauts
36. Carolina footballer
38. Indiana city
43. Of or relating to bears
44. Not widely known
45. Body part
46. At the peak
47. High-pitched cries of a cat
49. A way to intimidate
56. Prosecutor
57. Atomic #66

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