







Thursday, December 2710:00 am - 3:00 pm11144 Cathell Road, Ocean Pines, MD 21811410-641-5255 - \$75 per child - Public EventIncludes day of learning, t-shirt, whistle, first-aid kit, pizza lunch,
snacks and drinks. Strong swimmers only.



Courier holiday schedule

The Courier will be on a holiday hiatus. We will resume publishing on January 9, 2019. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Fire company to host bingo

The Bishopville Volunteer Fire Dept Auxiliary will hold its annual cash Bingo on January 4 at the main station. The cost is \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and early birds begin at 6 p.m. There will be 20 regular games, two specials and one cash jackpot. There will be food and beverages available for purchase. Call 443-880-6966 to reserve your ticket in advance.

PRMC to offer diabetes education classes

People with diabetes can start their new year off right by taking control and learning how to live a healthy, fulfilling life while managing their condition. Peninsula Regional Medical Center is sponsoring Wednesday evening and Thursday afternoon diabetes self-management education class sessions start to discuss healthy eating, activity, monitoring, medications, healthy coping, risk reduction and other self-management skills to help assist with diabetes control.

The evening class session will meet at the Medical Center on five consecutive Wednesdays from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. attended school in Portsmouth. beginning January 9. The afternoon class session will meet at the Medical Center on five consecutive Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. beginning January 10. All classes are taught by certified diabetes educators.

Registration is required. The cost of the five-week program may be reimbursed by insurance or Medicare. For more information or to register, please call Peninsula Regional Nutrition and Diabetes Education at 410-543-7061.

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23 30	24 31	25	26	27	28	29



On this day in 1843, Charles Dickens' classic story "A Christmas Carol" was published. The first edition sold out by Christmas Eve; by the end of 1844 thirteen editions had been released.

Dickens was born in 1812 and His father, a clerk in the navy pay office, was thrown into debtors prison in 1824, and 12-year-old Charles was sent to work in a factory. The miserable treatment of children and the institution of the debtors' jail became topics of several of Dickens' novels.

Mondav

Ocean Pines Poker Club Poker players wanted in Ocean Pines area for Monday evenings. Call 410-208-1928

Sweet Adelines

The Delmarva Sweet Adeline Chorus meets from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Ocean Pines Community Center. Call 410-641-6876.

Monday/Tuesday

Sanctioned Duplicate Bridge Open bridge games Monday at 12 p.m., Tuesday at 10 a.m. at OP Community Center. Call Mary Stover 410-726-1795.

Tuesday

Families Anonymous

From 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at room 37 in the the Community Church at Ocean Pines on Rte. 589. For more information call Carol at 410-208-4515.

Tuesday/Thursday_

Poker Players wanted for Gentalmen's Poker in North Gate area Ocean Pines.Game played every Tuesday & Thursday evening 5:45 p.m. to 10:45 p.m.on Pinehurst Rd.Ocean Pines. Call 410-208-0063 for more information.

Wednesday

Kiwanis Club Meeting

Weekly meetings at 8 a.m. on Wednesdays in the Ocean Pines Community Center. Doors open 7 a.m.

Elks Bingo

Ocean City Elks in Ocean City (behind Fenwick Inn) open at 5:30 p.m. Early birds at 6:30 and bingo at 7 p.m. Call 410-250-2645.

Rotary Club

Ocean City/Berlin Rotary Club meetings are held at 5:45 p.m. at the Captains Table in Ocean City, Contact Stan.Kahn@carouselhotel.com

Square Dancing

The Pinesteppers have introduction to square dancing at the OP Community Center at 7 p.m. Call Bruce Barrett at 410-208-6777

AL-Anon/OP-West OC-Berlin

Wednesday Night Bayside Beginnings Al-Anon family meetings are held at the Ocean Pines Community Center at 7:30 p.m

Thursday_

Story Time

Stories, music and crafts at 10:30 a.m. for children ages 3-5 at Ocean Pines library. Call 410-208-4014.

Beach Singles

Beach Singles 45 for Happy Hour at Harpoon Hanna's at 4 p.m. Call Arlene at 302-436-9577 or Kate at 410-524-0649 for more activities. BeachSingles.org.

Legion Bingo

American Legion in Ocean City opens doors at 5:30 p.m., games begin at 7. For information call 410-289-3166.

Gamblers Anonymous

Group meets at 8 p.m. at the Atlantic Club, 11827 Ocean Gateway, West Ocean City. Call 888-424-3577 for help.

Friday

Knights of Columbus Bingo

Bingo will be held behind St. Luke's Church, 100th St. in Ocean City, Doors open at 5 p.m. and games begin at 6:30 p.m. Refreshments available. Call 410-524-7994.

First Saturday Creative Writing Forum

Every first Saturday of the month at 10 a.m. at the Berlin Library. Novice and established writers gather to share their fiction, non-fiction, and creative writing projects. Program includes critiques and appreciation, market leads. and writing exercises.

AGH plans new **Ocean Pines facility**

Atlantic General Hospital officials have announced plans for a new facility in Ocean Pines that will house a proposed surgery center in addition to primary and specialty care physician practices and other outpatient services. The project, which will expand surgical services and help consolidate existing community services into a single location that is convenient to Ocean Pines' large senior population and more centrally located for others in the region, is the next phase of the organization's master facilities plan being funded in part by their Campaign for the Future. Atlantic General will be working with a property developer, who will own the property and establish a long-term lease with Atlantic General.

With a patient/family-centered focus and on creating the "right place," one of the five rights principles of Atlantic General's 2020 Strategic Vision, hospital leadership determined that an outpatient surgery center should be built as a more cost-effective, convenient and comfortable option for most patients who plan to undergo elective surgical procedures. The surgery center will feature a spacious operating room and three procedure rooms in addition to a family-centered recovery area. Atlantic General has filed with the Maryland Health Care Commission for a Certificate of Need to support the establishment of the surgery center.

X-ray services, a lab, a drivethrough pharmacy and a new Atlantic ImmediCare clinic location will also be housed in the facility, along with a new integrative health center featuring community meeting space, treatment rooms and a demonstration kitchen. The Ocean Pines practice of primary care providers Lei Gong, M.D., and Oswaldo Nicastro, M.D. and the Atlantic General Diabetes Center, as well as Atlantic General's orthopedics, neurolpulmonology ogy, and

gastroenterology specialists, will relocate when construction is complete.

"Seniors make up a twice the proportion of Worcester County's communities as the state average, and many live in the Ocean Pines area. We wanted to create a hub for the types of healthcare and wellness services they need right where they live, and devote our existing hospital space to the most acute and seriously ill patients," said Michael Franklin, president and CEO of Atlantic General Hospital.

The new 98,000 sq. ft. facility will be located on Rte. 589 on the south end of Ocean Pines. It is anticipated that Atlantic General Hospital will break ground at the site in May, 2019.



The birth of Jesus is shared through the ages

Christmas traditions focus on several different aspects of family and spiritual life. While many stories are shared around Christmastime, perhaps none bears more significance than the origin of the Christmas celebration. Sharing the Christmas story is an integral part of holiday gatherings, reminding families that faith is foremost during this festive time of year.

The Conception of Jesus

Mary was a woman living in the Galilee area of Nazareth. She was engaged to a Jewish carpenter named Joseph. An angel visited the Virgin Mary and told her that she would conceive a child, a son, by the power of the Holy Spirit. When the son was born, she would name him Jesus. Mary questioned the angel, who reassured her that anything was possible by God and that Jesus would be God's own son.

Joseph was troubled when he found out Mary was with child and even considered breaking their engagement, which was allowed under Jewish law. But God soon sent another angel, this time to Joseph, in a dream. The angel reassured Joseph that his marriage to Mary and the birth of this

child were His will. Joseph awoke from his dream and took Mary as his wife soon after, ready and willing to raise the child despite the public humiliation he may experience.

The Census

During this time the Romans had control over many parts of the world, including where Joseph and Mary resided. Ruler Caesar Augustus decreed that every person living under Roman rule had to return to his town of origin to participate in a census so everyone could be taxed accordingly. Joseph, hailing from Bethlehem, had to return to this town with his very pregnant bride.

They traveled for many days and, upon arriving in Bethlehem, found that the inns were full and there was no available lodging. Mary and Joseph took shelter in a stable and prepared to welcome their son.

Jesus' Arrival

According to the Gospel of Luke, Mary gave birth to her firstborn, a son, while in the stable. She wrapped him in cloth and placed him in a manger because there was no guest room available for them.

please see birth on page 15

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Robert B. Adair 1938-2007

2012 Business of the Year

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Jingle Bells started as a Thanksgiving song. James Lord Pierpont wrote a song called "One Horse Open Sleigh" and performed it at his church's Thanksgiving concert. Then in 1857, the song was



under the title it has today, and eventually became one of the most popular Christmas songs. Bonus fact: It was also

the first song broadcast from space. On December 16, 1965, the Gemini 6 crew serenaded Mission Control after they reported seeing a "red-suited" astronaut.

The origin of Christmas trees goes all the way back to ancient Egyptians and Romans, who marked the winter solstice with evergreens as a reminder of spring, according to History.com. But it wasn't until Prince Albert of Germany introduced the tree to his new wife, Queen Victoria of England, that the tradition took off. A drawing of the couple in front of a Christmas tree appeared in Illustrated London News back in 1848, and royal fever did its work.

-Good Housekeeping

Santa's Workshop

North Pole

Dear Children,

Thank you for taking time to visit with me at the Ocean Pines Breakfast with Santa. Mrs. Claus and I loved talking with you this year and hearing about what you've been doing over the past months. According to the "naughty/nice list," I know that most of you were doing good things at home and at school.

It's been another busy year here at the North Pole, making toys and games and electronic gadgets. The elves are working very hard to prepare all of those things for you, if you've been good. Rudolph and the reindeer are practicing take offs and landings every day in preparation for Christmas eve.

I've been checking over the list to see who's been naughty and who's been nice, and, as usual, most of the children on the Eastern Shore are on the "nice" list again this year. Thank you for paying attention to what I asked you to do last year at this time. If, for some reason, you forgot my message, I'll remind you now. There's still time to get on the "nice" list.

First, be respectful of everyone. No bullying. No fighting. No bad language. No talking back.

Listen to your teachers, parents, grandparents, and all other adults who help you each day. Older folks have a lot of important things to teach you.

Say "Thank you" to everyone in a military uniform; they're fighting to keep you and our country free. Do the same for firefighters and police officers and first responders who keep you safe at home, and remember them all in your prayers.

Always be kind to animals and treat them with care and kindness.

Most importantly, remember the real meaning of Christmas.

I'll be stopping by several of the area schools, so perhaps you'll see me once more before the "big day". Of course I'll see you all (but you won't see me because you'll be asleep) on Christmas Eve. I'm sure you'll be very happy when you wake up Christmas morning and look under the tree.

If you'd care to leave a snack for the reindeer on Christmas Eve, I'm sure they'd appreciate it, and you all know how much I love cookies and a glass of milk or a mug of hot chocolate.

Well, it's time to get back to the workshop and get busy. Please continue to be good and be respectful and kind to everyone you meet. Remember, I'll be watching.

Mrs. Claus and I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthful new year.



Thirty-two Christmases

once again to deck the halls for Christmas, hauling out the holly and all the other good stuff associated



Trimming the tree, just

ornaments trigger memo-



with the season. More quickly than ries of years gone by, eliciting "re-Santa sliding down the chimney does time go by, a fact brought home to me as I was hanging ornaments on the thirty-second Christmas tree my wife and I have had as a married couple. No longer are the kids home to help decorate. They're now decorat-

ing their own trees in their own homes.

The kids may not be home now, but we certainly have many ornaments that remind of years gone by. Some of the ornaments that adorn our tree were made by our children when they were in school. Others are souvenirs from places we've visited through the years.

But before talking about ornaments, a little aside. My wife has put the lights on our tree ever since

the '87 light fiasco when as a newly married husband, I assumed respon-

sibility for stringing the lights. I worked hard putting those lights up. When all was done, my wife looked at the tree and then to me. "The left side of the tree is certainly bright." That was the last year I had light duty. Thereafter, my wife has been in charge of all things Christmas tree related.

Our children loved to decorate the tree when they were young, usually hanging their ornaments in bunches. Their mother would come behind member when" comments. Over time we've collected ornaments from places we visited. The very first such ornament in our collection is a goose, a wooden goose, purchased in Stone Harbor, NJ. There's no way anyone other than my wife and me would

know it's a wooden goose from Stone Harbor. It's just a goose. But it's special because it was the first ornament we purchased as a married couple. It hung on our first tree in our little house by the bay on St. John's Avenue.

A recent ornament we purchased was from National Harbor. We spent a few days there with friends last year. Memories from that trip came alive as the ornament, a pewter ship's wheel and anchor, was placed on the tree. "Remember trying to get into the

piano bar?" "Remember getting on the tour bus?"

We have an ornament from Carlsbad Caverns in New Mexico where we visited a couple years ago with our daughter and grandchildren. For all the walking we did that day, underground, the kids did exceptionally well. The ornament sparked memories of us waiting with the kids for the elevator to take us down into the cavern. "How many times did Ben ask to go potty?" Smiles and chuckles.

There's an ornament we purchased at the Pentagon when we attended our son's commissioning into the Army. We have one from Fort Rucker, where our son-in-law was in training.

We have a decoration from Ruby Falls in Tennessee. It's really not much to look at, just polished quartz with a piece of ribbon through it. Written on the side is "Ruby Falls." Despite being very plain, it's a fa-

vorite. Returning home from a crosscountry road trip, we meandered our way to Ruby Falls. There was a huge billboard in Mississippi that asked passersby, "Have you been to Ruby Falls?" Our answer was, "No." So, we went and were entranced by the 184foot underground waterfall.

Hung in a visible spot each year is a cigar-shaped glass ornament given to me by a friend, a reminder of the good times we've spent on the piazza with a cigar in one hand, an adult beverage in the other and laughter, lots of laughter.

A couple years ago, my daughter gave us ornaments that were hand

impressions from our grandchildren. At the time the kids were ages two and three months. These ornaments are front and center.

Once we finished trimming this year's tree and my wife gave her approval, it was time to place the tree topper. Again, this year, for the thirty-second time, St. Nicholas sits atop our tree, watching over our

Christmas. He'll see a quiet holiday this year. He'll not see any children sneaking out from their bedrooms before dawn. He'll not see an ocean of discarded wrapping paper strewn across the living room floor. And he won't be kept up late Christmas Eve night as my wife (mostly my wife) and I

assemble toys.

With the tree done and in place, my wife and I stood back to admire our work. It looked good. We celebrated with a "little" hot buttered rum.

There's certainly advantages to not having the kids home.

Merry Christmas!



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There's more to WCHS than meets the eye

By June Freeman

The Worcester County Humane Society (WCHS) located in Belin is unique as it is the only 'no-kill' shelter in the area. A no-kill shelter is an animal shelter that does not kill healthy or treatable animals nor do they kill as a means of population control. Worcester County Humane Society is committed to finding good homes for animals who in turn provide love and companionship to their owners.

Shelter Manager Jessica Summers said, "People don't always realize how much we invest in animals. We treat them as if they are our own pets. This includes spaying or neutering, giving vaccinations and dental care, and surgery, if necessary."

WCHS provides a safe and loving environment for their dogs and cats. Upon entering the lobby, visitors are greeted with kittens of every color swinging in hammocks, resting in cat

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beds, and expertly climbing while playfully batting at one another. Soft meows invite newcomers to pet them.

Each dog has an inside kennel with a bed and a few favorite toys, a doggy door which allows them to walk outside onto a screened-in porch, and a field where they can run. Trained volunteers walk the dogs three to four times a day. The adolescent and adult cats have three large communal rooms. The cats spend their time wandering about, playing, sleeping in hammocks and cat beds, and exiting through cat doors in order to romp in the outdoor screened-in patio.

Adoptions lessen the burden for all. Summers recalled the story of the well-liked Banzai. "Banzai was a good boy, a hyper dog who liked to play rough." He was adopted but was not a good fit so the owners brought him back. It was sad day for everyone at the shelter, including Banzai. As luck would have it, there was a young man who needed community service hours who was volunteering at the shelter; he spent time getting to know Banzai. After community his service was completed, the man became a committed volunteer and developed a strong re-



Jessica Summers with a few of the cats available for adoption

lationship with Banzai. And seven months later when, with a wagging tail and joy-filled bark, Banzai left the shelter to go and live his out his life with his new owner. Summers smiled as she commented, "It just goes to show you that there is someone out there for every dog."

Summers remarked, "It is a place where people feel free and safe to surrender their animals." On the surface it seems like a simple matter of dropping off a cat or dog and getting them adopted. But saving lives is much more complicated matter for their nokill shelter.

The facility is capable of housing a maximum of twenty-four dogs and one hundred cats, and the constant stream of cats and dogs can be overwhelming. Summers, who has a Bachelor's Degree in Animal Behavior and Management, explained that it is crucial to find homes for the animals, but there is more to their mission. The public needs to be educated and to un-

As you celebrate the miracle of this special season, may your heart be filled with joy and peace. May these holiday blessings linger in your home and stay with you throughout the year.

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Securities offered through Registered Representatives of Cambridge Investment Research, Inc., a broker-dealer member of FINRA/SIPC. Advisory services offered through Cambridge Investment Research, Inc., a Registered Advisor, Mitchell and Hastings Financial Services and Cambridge Investment Research, Inc., are not affiliated. derstand how to humanely and effectively reduce the massive number of homeless animals. The crux of the problem is overpopulation. It is not only the offspring of strays and 'street' animals but also the puppies and kittens born to treasured family pets. Spaying and neutering are critical to reduce the already exploded population.

WCHS is funded solely on donations and fundraisers. Volunteer Diana Snyder described her experiences at the shelter being happy ones. "It had to be a no-kill shelter or I couldn't work there," Snyder remarked. She spent several years helping with the animals. Then recognizing the constant need for funding, she decided to volunteer for the shelter's Ways and Means Committee which is charged with finding ways to raise money for the shelter. Some of the upcoming fundraisers which are posted on their website include 'Eat Chipotle' on December 23 and 'Christmas Beer Pong' on December 28. Plans are already in the works for 2019. On March 2, Wags and Whiskers Bingo will be held at Ocean City's American Legion. There will be fun, prizes, a Chinese auction, raffle boards and lots more.

During December the shelter is having a special cat adoption rate of \$25 which includes spaying or neutering, vaccinations, dental care, and wellness check. There are many fine cats and dogs looking for a home. But adoption is not the only way to help. Giving foster care, donating, volunteering, and shopping at their Ocean City thrift store can also make a difference.

Editor's note: For more information, go to www.worcestercountyhumanesociety.org. The mission of The Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines Foundation is to create and maintain, in perpetuity, a suitable memorial to honor and preserve the unselfish contributions to the security and freedom of our country by the men and women of our military services.

The Memorial benefits greatly from the financial donations of individuals and businesses. Additionally many individuals volunteer countless hours throughout the year to assist in the numerous programs like student visitations to events such as the Memorial and Veterans Day celebrations.

Our community is indebted to the men and women who have and are currently serving our country.

Our Memorial is indebted to our community and those it honors.

Thank you to the businesses and individuals that have supported the Memorial during this year.

May the blessings of the season touch all those who support our service men and women.



Help illuminate the legacy of our men and women who have served our country. Become a Foundation member for just \$15 per year.

To learn how to join, make a donation to th Memorial or to purchase a brick or paver go to www.OPVETS.org.

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Merchandise

MD #2294

Choptank board approves capital credits

The Choptank Electric Cooperative Board of Directors voted to return \$2.1 million to its members during the month of December.

Of the \$2.1 million to be returned, approximately 60 percent will be paid to long-time members who have Choptank Electric capital credits owed to them from 1992 and 1993. The other 40 percent will be paid to members who have been allocated Choptank Electric capital credits from 1994 through 2017.

Any active member who has accrued capital credits less than \$35 will receive the amount credited directly to their December bill. Active members who have accrued more than \$35 in capital credits will receive a check in the mail. For any member who is inactive, you must accrue \$35 before a check is sent. Inactive members must have a good address listed at the co-op to receive their check. The checks are scheduled to be mailed by mid-De-

please see **credits** on page 15

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Performance - The Delmarva Chorus performed at the annual Christmas Party of the Sons of Italy on Sunday December 9 at the Clarion Hotel in Ocean City. Far right is the president **Vito Portenza** and next to him is Director of the Delmarva Chorus **Carol Ludwig**. Photo by Anna Foultz.

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Wishing everyone a blessed and Merry Christmas, a joyful Holiday Season and peace and happiness in the New Year

The Republican Women of Worcester Count



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Pairs
- 5. Try to gain favor
- 10. Bloodsucking African fly
- 12. Preserve a dead body
- 14. Philly delicacy
- 16. Early multimedia
- 18. Agency
- 19. Teenagers' test
- 20. Net
- 22. Computer memory
- 23. Drove fast
- 25. Expression of annoyance
- 26. Google certification
- 27. A way to caress
- 28. Charles S. Dutton sitcom
- 30. OJ's judge
- 31. Pack up
- 33. Croc hunter
- 35. Extract

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Speedy ballplayer Gordon
- 2. Utah athlete
- 3. Former CIA
- 4. Teeter totter
- 5. Sporting dog 6. Woman (French)
- 7. Greek sophist
- 8. Gathered leaves
- 9. Milliliter
- 10. African nation
- 11. In a brazen way
- 13. Aquatic mammal
- 15. Pouch
- 17. Denies
- 18. Germany
- 21. Brightness
- 23. Cool!
- 24. Department of Defense
- 27. Indian city
- 29. "Our Betters" director

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- 37. Leg parts 38. Herbal tea
- 40. Humans have 10
- 41. Autonomic nervous system
- 42. Swiss river
- 44. Paddle
- 45. Taxi
- 48. Something to break
- 50. Hoarse
- 52. Flow's partner
- 53. Famed English cricketer 55. Parts per thousand (abbr.)
- 56. Peacock network
- 57. Sports highlight show
- 58. Great generosity
- 63. Barbary sheep
- 65. Agave
- 66. Crab (German) 67. Egyptian god of life

- 32. Ice cream brand 34. Midway between north and
- northeast
- 35. Postage are one type
- 36. Balearic island
- 39. Body part
- 40. Scotland's longest river
- 43. Where rafters go
- 44. Type of Kia 46. Where monks live
- 47. UK TV station
- 49. A way to raise an objection
- 51. Sunscreen rating
- 54. Unfriendly 59. Catch
- 60. Panthers' QB
- 61. Self
- 62. Type of sister
- 64. Alright

Answers for December 12

Ocean Pines Chamber Community Connection



By Kerrie Bunting, Executive Director

The Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce has worked hand and hand with area businesses, non-profits, residents and the OPA since 1975. Aside from changing faces and the evolution of signature events, not much has changed here since then. I hereby issue a "Can't wait to tell you what's coming in 2019" jump for joy. I'll keep you in suspense, tis the season!

In January, we will unveil not only new opportunities for our community but a different way of seeing the Chamber. A Chamber is the link between the business and non-profit leaders and potential customers in the area. As such, the Chamber should engage both sides, provide interaction opportunities and help promote the great successes and milestones of each.

Historically, a Chamber has members. A club comes to mind. But what if the Chamber becomes less of a "club" and more of a proactive community interaction facilitator? Those who join a Chamber should be seen as business leaders who believe in their product as well as their community. In joining forces with the Chamber, they are saying to the community, that they chose to be here and to provide needed services to our residents and visitors. Those who invest in the economic growth of their area have the dedication and tenacity to enhance the entire community, not just their business.

Piners, the Chamber is here for you as well. Do you need a trusted recommendation for a local roofer? Salon? The best crab cakes? Use us as a resource! Our website, www.Ocean-PinesCahmber.org, has our easy to use directory where you can find the best of the best in your area. Looking for something to do? Our Events page will ensure you never miss a meeting, festival, or workshop.

And our signature annual events? How much fun are they? In 2019, we are bringing back our huge raffle with the winner receiving either \$1,000 OR your OPA assessment fees paid for the year, a \$200 credit toward your Choptank Electric bill and your Republic Services waste removal bill paid for the year! Our Car Show returns in May and the Flounder Tournament will be in August.

So, save a bit of the suspense of the holidays for our big announcements in January.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, Ambassadors and office staff, please have a safe and joy filled Holiday season.



Sacrifice - Students and staff at Ocean City Elementary School collected nonperishable food items for the Maryland Food Bank. Students were encouraged to make a sacrifice in order to donate to someone in need. Kindergarten student, Owen Lehman gave up a sweet treat in order to buy soup.

Openings available on county boards, commissions

Worcester County Government (WCG) is currently seeking interest from county residents to volunteer to fill open seats on 22 boards and commissions.

"Volunteers are the heartbeat of Worcester County," Commission President Diana Purnell said. "In the event that we receive more individuals interested in volunteering for a particular committee than there are available seats, we will maintain an interest list to help us fill future vacancies."

There are current vacancies on the following boards and commissions: Adult Public Guardianship Board (3), Commission on Aging Board (3), Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board (2), Agricultural Reconciliation Board (3), Building Code Appeals Board (1), Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council (3), Economic Development Advisory Board (1), Board of Electrical Examiners (1), Ethics Board (1), Housing Review Board (1), Board of Library Trustees (1), Local Management Board/Initiative to Preserve Families Board (1), Local Development Council for the Ocean Downs Casino (2), Lower Shore Workforce Development Board (1), Social Services Advisory Board (2), Solid Waste Advisory Committee (3), Tourism Advisory Committee (1), Water and Sewer Advisory Council in Mystic Harbour (2), Commission for Women (4), and Youth Council (13). Members of these boards and commissions are appointed by the Worcester County Commissioners.

There are currently two vacancies on the Worcester County Property Tax Assessment Appeal Board. Members are nominated by the County Commissioners, with final appointment by the Governor of Maryland. While there are no open seats on the Planning Commission, Recreation Advisory Board, Water and Sewer Advisory Councils for Ocean Pines and West Ocean City, and Board of Zoning Appeals, WCG will also maintain a list of residents interested in filling future vacancies on these boards.

Please send a letter of interest, along with a resume or cover letter outlining any pertinent experience, to admin@co.worcester.md.us or Worcester County Administration at One West Market Street, Room 1103, Snow Hill, Maryland 21863. Visit www.co.worcester.md.us and under Important Links click on County Boards and Commissions to learn about the duties and responsibilities for each board.

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A program of Worcester County Commission on Aging

PRMC to begin questioning patients about orientation and gender identity

and to gain a better understanding of patients and their emotional needs, Peninsula Regional Health System (PRHS) and Peninsula Regional Medical Center (PRMC) will soon begin asking everyone registering for service or care some new questions concerning sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI).

"This has been important to us. As an example, an individual who comes to PRMC and identifies as male, may have been born female and have anatomy of a female. If so, this information is important to know to provide appropriate care, understand laboratory and other diagnostic studies. Just as knowing medications at home, past history and other critical pieces of information, this information is also very important," said Dr. Kathryn Fiddler, MS, RN, NE-BC, Vice President of Population Health at PRHS and PRMC.

"We cannot make assumptions about an individual's gender at birth or how they identify their gender today without asking more questions. Those answers, like whether someone was born male and now identifies as another gender, is critical information for the healthcare team," Fiddler said. The information they share, like all health information in their medical record, is private and protected by law. Also, it's critical to receiving the right care at the right time and place, and it's just the right thing to do to be the most sensitive and responsive to our patients' needs."

Learning about a person's sexual orientation or gender identity at registration will help PRMC to deliver person-centered appropriate healthcare services, improve care and patient safety for everyone throughout their stay.

"To be at our best, we need to know a person's sex at birth (how they were born), their legal sex (how it appears on an identification card) and their gender identity (how they identify today)," added Dr. Fiddler. "We realize for some people it may seem uncomfortable or unnecessary, but SOGI is part of guaranteeing your provider has the correct information to safely diagnose vour illness and design the most appropriate plan of care."

The process is part of the national "Healthy People" initiative by the U.S.

In an effort to enhance that care Department of Health & Human Services to address health disparities. While someone being treated at PRMC may present or appear to be a female, she may have actually been born a man, and therefore have medical needs that are still unique to the male population, like prostate issues.

"All patients will be asked these questions, as they are so important to providing the right care at the right place and time in a culturally competent manner. Every patient has the right to decline to answer any question. It is not uncommon that patients arrive unable to answer any questions because of the criticality of the illness. We would hope that everyone feels safe enough to provide the answers to our questions which are critical to appropriate care for them.

"It is important to understand that as a hospital focused on excellence in all we do, we strive to deliver the best and most personalized healthcare to each and every patient. We are not the first hospital to do this, and there are many hospitals far ahead of us in this journey. Our locally Federally qualified Health Center, Chesapeake Health Services has been doing this for a few years already," said Fiddler.

By being sensitive to a person's sexual orientation and gender identity, PRMC believes it will also be able to determine if there are gaps in care or the services it provides across all populations. SOGI data will help extend that mission by providing more targeted care and interventions for specific populations on the Delmarva Peninsula, with the goal of improving health outcomes for all.

-Chip Bertino

NAACP to meet

The Worcester NAACP Executive Board will meet at 6 p.m. on Thursday, December 20, with a general meeting at 7 p.m. at Snow Hill library located at 307 N. Washington St. in Snow Hill. Nominations for 2019 - 2021 officers will be presented at this meeting with elections to be held on January 17. Charles Weaver, Worcester County Historical Society, will update the group on the Judy Johnson Memorial to be installed at Snow Hill library.

Call 410-213-1956 for further information.



Honored - Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines - Ocean City President Dick Clagett named Carolyn Dryzga as the Kiwanian of the month for November 2018. Carolyn is past president of the club and the immediate past Lt. Governor of Kiwanis Capital District 5.



Vocal ensemble

On Friday, November 30, Worcester Prep Middle and Upper School Music Director Christopher Buzby and his Select Vocal Ensemble treated residents of three local retirement homes in Berlin, Snow Hill and Salisbury, to singing performances.

Above: WPS Upper School students (L-R) senior Dominic Anthony and freshman Ian Betterson share a handmade card with Gull Creek resident Bobbie S.



Transformation - Worcester Prep Kindergarten teacher, Angie Bunting, and her students studied the monarch butterfly lifecycle while raising them in their classroom. As part of a fall science project, students watched the eggs hatch into caterpillars which then munched continuously on milkweed plants. One by one, fattened caterpillars crawled to the top to form a J and made their chrysalises. About four to six weeks later, beautiful monarchs emerged and dried their crumpled wings, ready for flight. It was hard to say goodbye, but the Kindergarteners were happy for the butterflies to migrate to a warmer climate!

Above: (L-R) Gavin Dennis, Hunter Harrison, Madelyn Bobenko holding butterfly, and Soloman Prosser.

Kwanzaa celebrates family, community and culture

Kwanzaa traces its origins to Africa and is celebrated across North America and other nations that have large populations that trace their heritage to Africa. The holiday begins on December 26 and continues until January 1. The main components of the celebration include family, community and culture. Kwanzaa was not designed to replace Christmas. In fact, many Kwanzaa celebrants also celebrate Christmas. The word "kwanzaa" is from the Swahili phrase "Matunda ya kwanza," which means "first fruits." Maulana Karenga, the professor who created the holiday in 1966, chose Swahili as the language associated with the holiday because it is not affiliated with a particular African region or tribe. At the heart of the holiday are seven principles that celebrants embrace and follow: unity, self-determination. collective responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith. Even though the holiday was created for African Americans, many other ethnic groups are inspired by the foundations of Kwanzaa and choose to join in the festivities.





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Top-selling gifts from yesteryear

Many children who grew up in the 1980s hoped to find a wrapped Cabbage Patch Doll under the tree on Christmas morning, and many parents went to great lengths to procure such dolls for their children.

Cabbage Patch Dolls are just one example of a toy creating a shopping frenzy. Over the years, many toys have become the must-have presents of their times. The following is a history of some of the more popular gifts from bygone years.

1984: Transformers were a must-have present in 1984. Originally produced by a Japanese toy company, Transformers were eventually produced by Hasbro and became so popular they were a toy that spawned an animated series (not the

block-buster live-action movies.

1985: Just about every child, and maybe even adult, wanted a Nintendo Entertainment System for Christ-

> mas in the 1980s. The system ushered in a new era of gaming, and helped make Super Mario Bros. a household name. NES continued its success for several years, selling seven million systems during the 1988 holiday season.

1986: Introduced the previous year, Teddy Ruxpin was an animatronic bear that would tell stories from a cassette tape inserted in his back.

1990: Were you a fan of Michelangelo, Leonardo, Donatello, or Raphael? Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles were named after Renaissance

series leading to the toy) and later artists, but they were just pizza-eating teenage heroes at the start of the 1990s. Kids obsessed over these action figures and the animated series that featured them.

> 1992: Barbie has always been a popular holiday gift, but her reinvented Barbie Dream House was something girls were clamoring for in the early 1990s. Barbie's trendsetting home featured a ringing telephone, a working doorbell and a fireplace that lit up.

> 1993: The Talkboy was a portable audio cassette player and recorder made popular by the movie "Home Alone 2: Lost in New York."

> 1995: Beanie Babies were a popular line of collectibles that enjoyed their heyday in 1995. Rare Beanie Babies would later be worth hundreds of dollars.

1997: Tamagotchi made its appear-



ance and became a premiere virtual "pet." Industry insiders estimate that, at the height of its popularity, 15 Tamagotchis sold every minute across North America.

1998: Building on the Tamagotchi success, Furbies were poised to become a hit as well. And they did, as 27 million Furbies were sold in 1998 alone

Pokemon cards, Razor Scooters, Nintendo DS, Xbox 360, PlayStation 3, and many other gifts have reigned supreme during the holiday shopping season. Last year L.O.L. Surprise Dolls were the sleeper hit, and who is to say which gift will capture the hearts of kids this year?





Kiwanis coat drive

Another successful coat drive by the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City came to a close Thursday, December 6 when approximately 80 coats were delivered to The Joseph House in Salisbury and another 25 to St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Ocean City. Pictured are (L-R) Kiwanis Coat Drive co-chair **Kitty Wrench**, **Sister Virginia** and co-chair **Sue Wineke**.

credits

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cember.

When you signed up to receive electric service from Choptank Electric, you became a member of Choptank Electric, not a customer. While investor-owned utilities return a portion of any profits back to their shareholders, electric co-ops operate on an at-cost basis. Co-ops return their profits to its members. Choptank Electric allocates and periodically retires capital credits to its members. The amount received is based on how much electricity the member purchased during a year.

birth

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And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. (Luke Chapter 2)

Many people visited the baby Jesus, including three wise men from the East who traveled by following a guiding star to bestow gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh on the baby king.

When Joseph and Mary had performed all the things necessary according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Nazareth with Jesus, who was growing strong in spirit and filled with wisdom and the grace of God.

Burkett named Crafter of the Month

The Pine'eer Craft Club of Ocean Pines has announced that the Crafter of the Month for December is Nancy Burkett.

Nancy's mother helped Nancy sew her first dress at the age of 10, and she has been sewing ever since. Besides clothes, "I sew home decor and personal items," said Nancy. She said that making costumes for theater productions really tested her creativity while finetuning her craft.

Every time Nancy sits down to sew, she says a silent and love-filled "Thank You" to her mother who taught her everything about the art of sewing and the joy of sewing. "Sewing is my creative outlet and I'm in my Happy Place at the sewing machine. Pillows are my main product," she said.

"Each pillow takes over an hour to make, so you can imagine how much joy I get from each one and imagine how someone else will enjoy it for themselves.

"I sell my home decor under the name Caitlin Taylor Creations," said Nancy. These are the names of her daughters. She sells her creations in the craft shop, at a booth at the Farmers' Market and at several local craft festivals.

Nancy joined the Pine'eer Craft Club one year ago. "It's a great group of

AARP to meet

The next meeting of the AARP is Monday, January 7. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. and will be held in the Assateague Room of the Ocean Pines Community Center. The guest speaker will Claude Lewis.

Taco night returns

The Bishopville Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary will hold its All you Can Eat Taco Night on Saturday, January 26, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. The menu includes beef, chicken or fish tacos, beans and rice, guacamole dip, salsa and chips. Hard and soft shell tacos will be served. Soda and water sold separately. The cost is \$10 for all you can eat and \$6 for children under age 11. Take out available. Call 443-880-6966 for more information.

Cash bingo scheduled

The Bishopville Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary will hold its annual Cash Bingo on Friday, January 4. Must be age 18 to play. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and early bird starts at 6 p.m. There will be 20 regular games, two specials, jackpot and four early birds. Food will be available for purchase. The cost is \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. Call Tina for advanced tickets 443-880-6966.

women and I love how they share monthly craft lessons. A big plus is the fellowship with a great group of friendly and supportive ladies. I've also enjoyed the community outreach projects and



knowing that our club's financial support has helped so many groups in the community."

Nancy's creations can be found at the Pine'eer Artisan and Grift shop, open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and on Sundays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

19th Annual **Ocean Pines** Community Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

8:00 PM - December 24th Ocean Pines Community Center

Sunday Morning Service at Showell Elementary School at 9 a.m.

> Come as you are... casual dress welcomed.

