

Winter birding weekend returns

The 2019 Winter Delmarva Birding Weekend invites hundreds of nature enthusiasts to the shore January 25 through 27 to enjoy memorable winter experiences including a near-shore maritime boat cruise, waterfowl, seal, and eagle-watching trips, and jaunts through some of the most pristine habitats on the East Coast in Delaware and Maryland.

You can sign up for a trip or two on the award-winning weekend at www.DelmarvaBirding.com. This fall, Maryland Governor Larry Hogan issued an acclaimed 2018 Transactional Tourism Award for the popular event. Organizers have again planned an exciting schedule of field trips to showcase Delmarva's incredible diversity of winter wildlife.

"This event is so popular," said guide and event co-organizer Jim Rapp. "Folks all over the East Coast are starting to realize just how much nature is still thriving on the Delmarva Peninsula."

Harlequin Ducks, eiders, Purple Sandpipers, falcons and more than 25 species of duck, goose and swan are on full display in the mid-Atlantic for about four months a year. More than 108 species were tallied in 2018 during the winter weekend, including snowy owls which are again dotting the region in covert locations in 2019.

The best way to see these birds is to shed those winter blues, dust off the binoculars, and get outside. Seals are a huge draw too for the Lewes Boat Tour with Harbor and Gray Seals traversing the ocean and inland waterways regularly. Winter is a true Arctic experience on the peninsula.

Guided by fun-loving local birders with decades-long experience on the shore, the walking tours and boat trips accommodate visitors from the curious nature lover to fowl fanatics. Last year, birdwatchers from more than a dozen states flocked to the winter event.

"We enjoy such a big difference in bird species in winter and spring that it just makes sense to host winter birding trips," said Worcester County Tourism Director Lisa Challenger.

"Most folks have no idea how spectacular the winter birding is down here," said Rapp. "The sheer number of Bald Eagles and ducks is mind boggling. We host the event on the weekend between the NFL playoffs and the Super Bowl, so we hope you'll get

*please see **weekend** on page 15*



Guest speakers - Mid-Atlantic Symphony Orchestra's Patty Campbell and Mike Castoro were the guest speakers at the weekly Kiwanis Club meeting on Wednesday January 16 in the Assateague Room of the Ocean Pines Community Center. They spoke about their musical education & outreach programs in local schools as well as the concerts. Above: (L-R) Mike Castoro, Patty Campbell and Kiwanis Club President Dick Clagett.

 **new! INDOOR WINTER MARKET**
Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market Jan - 5 - March 9
at the OPVFD Fire House, near White Horse Park 410.641.7717 9am - Noon

Community Calendar JANUARY



Monday

Ocean Pines Poker Club

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

Delmarva Chorus

The Delmarva Chorus meets every Monday evening at 7PM at the Ocean Pines Community Center in Ocean Pines, Md. Women of all ages are invited to sing with us. Please contact CAROL at 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 Gentlemen'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.

Second Wednesday

The Polish American Club of Delmarva meets at the Columbus Hall, behind St Luke's Church, 100th St & Coastal Hwy, Ocean City, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. the second Wednesday of the month. Come join us if you are of Polish or Slavic descent. No meetings.

June, July, August. Call Helen Sobkowiak 410-723-2639 or Maryann Lula 410-250-2548 for more information.

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.



Fair Hill International

On this day in 1957, machines at the Wham-O toy company rolled out the first batch of their aerodynamic plastic discs—now known to millions of fans all over the world as Frisbees.

Today, at least 60 manufacturers produce the flying discs—generally made out of plastic and measuring roughly 8-10 inches in diameter with a curved lip. The official Frisbee is owned by Mattel Toy Manufacturers, who bought the toy from Wham-O in 1994.

Pancake breakfast tickets on sale

Tickets are now on sale for the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines- Ocean City Annual Winter Pancake Breakfast. It will be held in the Assateague Room of the Ocean Pines Community Center from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Saturday February 23. Pancakes, sausages, scrambled eggs, orange juice, coffee and tea will be offered. Tickets are \$6 for adults, \$3 for children under age 12 and free for children under age five. Carryout is also available. For tickets call Ralph Chinn at 410-208-6719 or see any Kiwanis member. The price is the same at the door. Proceeds benefit youth of the community.

Weight management/ pre-diabetes program offered

Get a helping hand for a healthy start to 2019 – Peninsula Regional Medical Center Nutrition and Diabetes Education is offering a Weight Management/Pre-Diabetes Program class session on two consecutive Tuesdays starting January 29, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Classes will be held in the Hallowell Conference Center of the Layfield Tower on the Peninsula Regional campus.

Registered dietitians and nurses provide participants with strategies to develop healthy eating habits and lead a more active lifestyle. The fee is \$50.00.

To register or if you have questions about diabetes, please call the Peninsula Regional Medical Center Nutrition and Diabetes Education at 410-543-7061, or register online at peninsula.org/events.

Free poetry reading to be held

The public is invited to attend "An Evening with Poet Erika Meitner," which will be held on Friday, February 1, at 6 p.m., in Room 302 of the Hazel Center at Wor-Wic Community College in Salisbury.

Meitner is the author of five books of poems. She was a 2014-2015 Fulbright scholar and the 2001-2002 Diane Middlebrook Poetry Fellow.

She has received additional fellowships from The MacDowell Colony, the Virginia Center for Creative Arts, the Hermitage Artist Retreat, the Blue Mountain Center and the Sewanee Writers' Conference (John N. Wall Fellowship). Meitner is an associate professor of English and the director of the master of fine arts program in creative writing and the undergraduate creative writing program at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

This program was made possible

by a grant from Maryland Humanities, through support from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities or Maryland Humanities.

For more information, contact Tavel at atavel@worwic.edu or 410-334-2866.

AYCE breakfast offered

The Grace Parker All You Can Eat Breakfast will be held on Wednesday, February 6 between 7 a.m. and noon at First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City located at 13th St. and Philadelphia Ave. Eggs any style, pancakes, buckwheat pancakes, sausage, ham, biscuits, hash brown potatoes, grits, coffee and tea will be available. The cost is \$9. Carry out is available for \$7. For more information call 410-289-9340.



Buckingham K-Kids officers installed

The Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City sponsors Kiwanis student leadership clubs in local schools. Buckingham Elementary School is one of them. On Thursday January 17 the officers for the club were installed by Kiwanis Past Lt. Governor Carolyn Dryzga. She also presented them with a \$500 check from the parent club to assist the K-Kids programs for the year.

Pictured (L-R) are President **Brianna McCray**, Vice President **Sloan Wade**, Secretary **Elizabeth Palmer** and Treasurer **Miralena Smith**.

On patrol at Assateague

By **June Freeman**

Maryland's Assateague Parks offer sandy beaches, salt marshes, maritime forests, and coastal bays. It is famous for the majesty and wonder of the wild ponies that roam free.

Assateague Pony Patrol volunteer Dave Smith has spent the last eighteen years helping visitors understand the mystery and the needs of these wild ponies, descendants of domesticated animals that have reverted to a wild state. At the age of eighty-three, Ocean Pines' resident Smith rides his bicycle around the park which can be a twelve to sixteen-mile trek. He describes the pony patrol job as "interfacing with people and the ponies." He animatedly explained, "We need to keep the ponies wild.

For the majority of the year, the ponies are on their own so they can't be dependent upon people for their needs."

Upon entering the park, visitors are sometimes greeted by ponies lingering in the middle of the road posing as traffic police as they slow down cars and bring traffic to a dead stop. They carry out vehicle searches as they poke their heads into an unsuspecting driver's car while performing an illegal search for food. They do their food shopping at the local Assateague campsites and make off with anything left within smell or sight.

Smith finds the most difficult part of volunteering is getting across to people how critical it is to allow the ponies to remain independent. Because they have learned that begging works, horses walk onto the road looking for cars that have food; this in turn causes the ponies to be injured and sometimes killed by cars while seeking a handout.

Some foods can be harmful, and there is no time when it is good to feed any type of food to the wild horses. Smith



Dave Smith on patrol

*please see **patrol** on page 11*

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New shelter and tethering laws better protect animal welfare

New sheltering and tethering laws became effective in December, and Worcester County Animal Control (WCAC) officers have been working diligently to educate the public about the new requirements. The new law, adopted unanimously by the Commissioners as Bill 18-4 Public Safety – Animal Control, defines suitable shelter, tethered, restraints, and unsafe weather conditions, and establishes standards for tethering an animal, for suitable tiered shelter of animals if left outdoors and unattended, and for shade to be provided if an animal is left outdoors and unattended and the forecasted weather is 85 degrees Fahrenheit or higher.

While Bill 18-4 empowers WCAC officers to intervene in instances when pets are subjected to inhumane conditions, and violations are punishable with a civil infraction citation, the ultimate goal of WCAC staff is education, to encourage pet owners to willingly comply with the new animal welfare requirements.

“We’re all carrying copies of the new law with us to show people what changes

they need to make,” WCAC Chief Animal Control Officer Glen Grandstaff said. “We don’t want to go out and cite them. That’s not what this is about. This is about education. We talk to people. We let them know what changes need to be made. We give them time to make those changes, and then we go back to assure those changes have been made.”

The new law includes sheltering



requirements that assure an animal’s safety during adverse weather conditions and that are based on the animal’s size, age, physical condition, or thickness of the animal’s fur. Specifically, suitable sheltering is required for dogs that are not kept indoors or are housed outdoors for periods of 30 minutes or more no matter the weather conditions. Suitable shelter is defined as a structure with secure sides, a roof, and a floor to protect the animal from weather. Wind breaks, dry clean bedding, and access to fresh unfrozen water must be provided during temperatures that drop below 32 degrees Fahrenheit.

For temperatures above 85 degrees Fahrenheit, dogs that are housed outside must be provided shade from direct sunlight and be kept away from hot pavement and any other hot surfaces. Fresh clean drinking water must always be available. Dog tethers must either be a cable style tie out of at least 15 feet in length and positioned so that the dog cannot become tangled in debris or otherwise endanger itself. Overhead trolley systems, dog kennels, or runs of suitable size, fenced in yards or invisible fencing are also acceptable. Chains, ropes, and choke collars are no longer acceptable for use as a collar or for tethering.

Since the new law took effect, WCAC has only been called upon in a few instances to step in and enforce the new code. However, WCAC relies on the public to inform them of instances of potential abuse, so they can work together to assure the welfare of animals. To view Bill 18-4, email admin@co.worcester.md.us or visit www.co.worcester.md.us/public-posts/notice-passage-bill-18-4-public-safety-animal-control.



Show time - Tickets are on sale now for the Worcester Prep (WPS) musical, “The Pajama Game,” to be held on Friday, February 22, and Saturday, February 23. The show will feature a cast of students from the Upper School. Showtime for both nights is 7 p.m., with doors opening at 6:30 p.m. in the WPS Athletics and Performing Arts Center. Tickets are \$12 in advance or \$15 at the door. To purchase tickets in advance, visit worcestertprep.org/ticket-sales or call WPS (410) 641-3575. **The show is open to the public.**

Above: (Front L-R) Lexi Willey, Max Taylor, Jaye Eniola, Director Paulette DeRosa-Matrona, Annika Larsen, Quinn McColgan, Kaitlyn Hamer, Grace Baeurle. (Middle L-R) Waverly Choy, Anna Dashiell, Noah Hudson, Aria Islam, Hannah Perdue, Natalie Foxwell, Arusa Islam, Jacob Osias. (Back L-R) Ian Betterson, Devin Wallace, Dominic Anthony, Caleb Foxwell, Anthony Reilly, Sydney Lamson-Reich, Brooke Phillips, Chipper Becker.

Buddy Holly program slated at library

February 3, 1959, will forever be known as “the day the music died,”

when a plane crash killed three of the top musical entertainers of the time: Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens, and J.P. Richardson, otherwise known as “The Big Bopper.” The Ocean Pines Branch of the Worcester County Library will mark the 60th anniversary of the tragic event with a lively discussion on Friday, February 1, at 2 p.m. in the library’s main meeting room.

Buddy Holly and the Crickets enjoyed a long series of hits including “That’ll Be the Day,” “Peggy Sue,” and “Not Fade Away” during an amazingly brief 18-month period. His unique vocal style, the driving rhythm of his guitar-playing, and his insistence on writing his own songs inspired “The Beatles” and “The Rolling Stones,” and influenced most rock performers of the 1960s and

beyond.

The deaths of Holly and Ritchie Valens, who was dominating the charts with hits such as “Donna” and “La Bamba,” are believed to have stalled the momentum of rock ‘n’ roll at the end of the 1950s. Since that time, all of their songs have become standards.

Presenters Frank DeLucco and Harry Burkett will detail how the lives of these three men converged, and the incredible series of events that led to their demise in a farm field in Clear Lake, Iowa. For more information, call the Ocean Pines library at 410-208-4014.



HOLLY TRIVIA

The single “Peggy Sue,” released on September 20, 1957, first carried the moniker of Holly’s niece, Cindy Lou Kaiter. But Jerry Allison, “The Crickets” drummer who co-wrote the song (with Holly and Norman Petty), prevailed upon the others to name it after his girlfriend, Peggy Sue Geron. Happy ending: Allison and Peggy Sue got married. Unhappy: they divorced in 1965.

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Not the top rack

My wife and I have different perspectives on what is the correct way a dishwasher is to be loaded. So differ-

In time my parents installed a dishwasher. It was a KitchenAid with a butcher block top. I remember that first time it was used. It was a big deal. My brother and I helped our mother load it. (Side note: that was the last time we helped load it). My mother referred to the directions to ensure everything was done properly including putting the



It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

ent are our points of view that I'm told I'm wrong.

My belief is that if everything fits in the confines of the machine, then it's loaded correctly. Whether it be pots, pans, colanders, serving spoons, serving plates, dishes, bowls or anything else, as long as I can close the door, things are good to go.

My wife thinks otherwise. For more than 30 years she has been giving me remedial tutorials on how a dishwasher is supposed to be loaded. Apparently, just because the door can close doesn't mean loading has been done properly. In fact, more often than not, it's been done wrong, at least according to my wife.

A refrain I hear often is, "How are the sprayers supposed to be work properly when you have everything jammed in there?"

Another aspect of loading that I often ignore is rinsing things in the sink first. I thought the whole idea of having a dishwasher was that it did all the work, not me. It doesn't. The mashed potato bowl has to be rinsed almost clean before it can be placed on the bottom rack. The same is true with the spatula that was used to serve the stuffed shells. A scrub brush has to be applied to remove the cheese and sauce that's dried on it. This makes no sense to me.

We didn't have a dishwasher growing up. After each meal my mother washed the dishes, pots and pans, leaving them to dry on a rack beside the sink. On holidays, an after-dinner production broke out as the women in attendance gravitated to the kitchen to wash and dry and wrap leftovers that would eventually be shoehorned into the refrigerator.

soap in the right place and closing the door. And then it was time to start it up both my brother and I wanted to be the first to hit the button. In the interest of fairness, my mother did "Eenie, meenie, minie, mo." I won. The button was pushed and the machine came to life. We could hear the water jets engage. When it was finished, it was a new sensation to feel the warm plates and glasses as we put them away.

We had a dishwasher in the house as our children grew up. They didn't have to "rough it." However, there were times when we required one, two or all of them to clean the dishes by hand as a punishment for something. To listen to the howls of protest, you would have thought they were being forced to bear a punishment beyond human endurance instead of just washing by hand five plates and accompanying forks and knives. "Oh, the humanity!"

Getting back to my apparent misunderstanding of how a dishwasher is to be loaded. On an evening not long ago, I was cleaning up after dinner, wiping down the counters and loading the dishes when my wife came into the kitchen. "The bowls go on the bottom," she told me.

Ah, I thought I had her this time. "There's no room on the bottom," I responded.

Without saying a word and in movements that would have made "The Flash" seem like he was left behind, my wife reorganized both the top and bottom racks, making room for at least another two meals' worth of dishes.

"How do you do that," I asked. All I got in return was a look that expressed sentiments that could be loosely translated to: "I'm a woman and I'm better."

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Kirwan could have devastating effect on Worcester

Commentary by **Chip Bertino**,
Worcester County Commissioner

A threat looms over the horizon.

Earlier this month I attended the annual Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) conference held in Cambridge. One of the conference sessions entitled "Keeping Up with Kirwan," was an update on the Kirwan Commission's progress. What was said was alarming.

The one-year study, now in its twenty-sixth month, was charged with evaluating academic needs, opportunities and funding with a goal toward propelling the state education system to global performance levels. The session I attended was moderated by two Commission members, each appointed to the Commission by MACo. There is a total of 25 members on the Commission, a majority of whom are educators.

What I heard during this session and the possible impact the Commission's conclusions, if implemented,

could have on Worcester County taxpayers raised all sorts of red flags. It's clear, even during this early stage of learning what's contained in the Kirwan Commission findings, that fair and equitable funding solutions have not been part of the deliberative process. The projected cost of the Commission's plan is \$4.5 billion. The state legislature is expected to review the Commission's findings during this session. It is expected to deliberate on the funding aspects during the next session.

Currently there is an unfair omission to the state education funding formula that weighs heavily on Worcester County taxpayers. The weight will only become more burdensome should Kirwan be adopted. So, it is not too soon to raise awareness on this looming threat. Why? Because if the current state wealth funding formula, which predates the creation of the Kirwan Commission, is not addressed and fixed, the ramifications of Kirwan on Worcester County taxpayers will become more odious.

The current state wealth formula, which relies heavily on the assessed values of Ocean City properties, ranks Worcester as one of the wealthiest counties in the state. The state equation does not incorporate local demographics which in the case of Worcester is necessary to establish a realistic representation of the County. Identifying Worcester as wealthy is erroneous and misleading especially when nearly 45% of our students are enrolled in the FARM (Free and Reduce Meals) program. The sad reality is that the farther south one travels on Route 113 below Berlin, the more evident poverty within our county becomes.

Worcester County is very fortunate to have a premier education system. Thanks to past and present taxpayers, Board of Education members, school superintendents, teachers, students and County Commissioners our county school system is a community-based achievement of which we can all

be proud. We have accomplished this despite state mandates that have weighed heavily on County taxpayers.

According to Fiscal 2018 data compiled by MACo, Worcester County taxpayers pay the highest per student allocation of any other county in the state, just over \$13,000. This amount does not include restricted or debt service funding which brings the figure up to over \$16,000. Worcester spends more per student than Montgomery, Howard, Baltimore, Prince George's counties and Baltimore City. In fact, Worcester County taxpayers spend more on each student than Caroline (\$2,596), Wicomico (\$2,925) and Somerset (\$3,596) county and Baltimore City (\$3,645) taxpayers combined.

The biggest concern heard during the conference was learning there has been nearly zero discussion by Commission members on the funding formula used to determine a jurisdiction's education allocation. One of the goals of the Commission when it was formed was to address the current funding formula inadequacies. Sadly, this has not happened.

Our County gets the second lowest amount (behind Talbot) of state education funding assistance per student at \$4,195. To put this in perspective, Wicomico County receives \$10,591 per student; Somerset gets \$12,954; Dorchester gets \$10,260; and, Baltimore City gets \$12,104.

Kirwan recommends: mandated

statewide teacher starting salaries at \$60,000. (The starting salary for teachers in Worcester County is \$44,700); a requirement that teachers spend only 60% of their time in the classroom teaching; and, mandated all-day Pre-K for three- and four-year-olds.

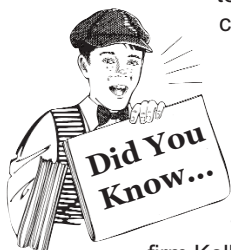
The inequities of the current formula are magnified many times over through the lens of Kirwan.

Should the Commission's recommendations be approved by the state legislature and signed by the Governor, should there be no change to the current funding formula and should no additional education funding be provided to Worcester County by the state, the effects of Kirwan on our County budget will be deleterious.

Regardless of whether the findings of the Kirwan Commission are implemented, the state must review and reformulate the education funding formula so it is fair and equitable; that it takes into account local demographics. This is necessary so that Worcester County taxpayers are spared increasingly heavy and unreasonable financial burdens.

Parents, students, educators and taxpayers should expect Worcester County to continue to provide an exceptional education experience. To that end, our County should expect and demand that it be treated fairly by the state.

Investing in a home renovation project not only requires money, but also time and patience. While contractors, architects and designers can estimate how long a project may take, it is impossible to anticipate all of the scenarios that can affect that estimated timeline. Information from the real estate firm Keller Williams indicates an average kitchen remodel involving installation of new countertops, cabinets, appliances, and floors can take three to six months. But if ductwork, plumbing or wiring must be addressed, the job may take longer. A midline bathroom remodel may take two to three months. Adding a room to a house can take a month or two. The home improvement resource Renovation Junkies offers similar estimates, with the average home renovation taking between four and eight months. Homeowners need to consider time when planning their home projects.



Position

Ocean Pines Chamber opposes seismic testing

The Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce joins the Ocean City Mayor, City Council, the Fenwick Island Town Council, the Greater Ocean City Chamber of Commerce and numerous environmental non-profits in their collective opposition to any form of seismic testing in our offshore waters.

Ocean City Mayor, Rick Meehan, and the City Council recently put out a similar press release, in which, Mayor Meehan was quoted in saying, "The recent

please see on page 15

The Courier

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Student loan debt relief announced

Governor Larry Hogan announced last week that the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) has awarded \$9 million in tax credits to nearly 9,500 Maryland residents with student loan debt. Nationally, student loans exceed \$1.48 trillion and Maryland's average is \$27,455 per graduate. "Student loan debt is a daunting and overwhelming burden for thousands of Marylanders," said Governor Hogan. "These tax credits will help ensure access and success for students committed to furthering their education, while bolstering our economy. We are providing real solutions for our students and continuing to invest in making college more accessible and affordable for all Marylanders seeking a higher education."

More than 9,494 students were eligible for the student loan tax credits. The tax credits were divided into two groups of eligibility: Maryland residents who attended a Maryland institution and those who attended an out-of-state institution. There were 5,232 eligible applicants who attended in-state institutions and will each receive \$1,000 in tax credits, while 4,263 eligible applicants attended out-of-state institutions and will receive

\$883 in tax credits. Last year, MHEC authorized a total of \$5 million for the Student Loan Debt Relief Tax Credit.

To further address the student debt burden, Governor Hogan has introduced the Student Debt Relief Act of 2019, which will allow Marylanders to deduct 100% of the interest paid on their student loans from their state income tax. It will also expand the Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship Program to include four-year Maryland public institutions and double the deduction for families participating in Maryland 529 savings plans from \$2,500 to \$5,000. The governor is urging the Maryland General Assembly to work with his administration to pass this critical bill during the current legislative session.

Since taking office, Governor Hogan has invested more than \$7.1 billion in higher education and has diligently worked with Maryland's public colleges and universities to cap tuition growth at two percent annually for Maryland residents at these schools. To learn more about the program and apply for next year's tax credit, visit: Student Loan Debt Relief Tax Credit.



Community Foundation makes donation

The Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore has awarded Atlantic General Hospital a \$1,000 mini-grant. The purpose of the grant is to provide one-time assistance for transportation home for patients who qualify after receiving treatment in Atlantic General Hospital's emergency room. Education will also be provided on additional resources available for transportation assistance and how to prepare for any planned or emergent transportation needs in the future.

Above: **Chuck Gizara**, director of integrated care management at Atlantic General Hospital; **Bett Weaver**, RN, case manager; **Heather Mahler**, program director at Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore; **Toni Keiser**, vice president of public relations at Atlantic General Hospital.

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in the Food Lion Shopping Center

Haddaway-Riccio to assume new role

Governor Larry Hogan announced last week named Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio as the Secretary of Natural Resources. Haddaway-Riccio currently serves as a Deputy Chief of Staff in the governor's office, where she advises on environmental-related issues.



Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio

"Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio has been a strong member of my executive team since day one and has a proven track record of working to protect Maryland's environment," said Governor Hogan. "I know that Jeannie will be instrumental in ensuring that we continue to build on our incredible progress in preserving our

state's precious natural resources."

Haddaway-Riccio was previously director of Intergovernmental Affairs for Governor Hogan, where she served as the governor's liaison to local governments, including working with the Maryland Association of Counties and the Maryland Municipal League. Previously, she served as District 37B Delegate from 2003 to 2015, where she was a member of numerous committees including the Economic Matters Committee, the Joint Committee on Federal Relations, and the Legislative Policy Committee. She also served as Minority Whip from 2011-2013. In addition, Haddaway-Riccio has worked for the Maryland Department of Environment's Air and Radiation Management Administration, as well as the National Audubon Society.

"As a lifelong and proud native of the Eastern Shore, serving our citizens and protecting Maryland's natural resources has always been my passion," said Haddaway-Riccio. "I would like to thank Governor Hogan for this exciting opportunity, and look forward to helping further the administration's environmental agenda in my new role."

Haddaway-Riccio will replace Secretary Mark Belton, who is returning to his former post as Charles County Administrator. Belton previously served in the role from December 2012 to December 2014, before joining the Hogan administration at the start of the governor's first term in 2015.

"I sincerely thank Secretary Belton for his service to the state and wish him the best of luck in his new position," said Governor Hogan.

Haddaway-Riccio's appointment will take effect in early February.



Generous - At its annual membership meeting on December 11 the Atlantic General Hospital Auxiliary presented hospital officials with a check in the amount of \$40,000 towards the hospital's annual appeal.

Above: Members of the AGH Auxiliary Executive Committee present a donation to Atlantic General Hospital representatives (From left): **Barbara Lischak**, Auxiliary treasurer; **Jackie Choate**, Auxiliary secretary; **Lois Sirman**, Board of Trustee member; **Michael Franklin**, AGH president and CEO; **Margie DiNenna**, Auxiliary recording secretary; **Janet Mengel**, Auxiliary past president.

PRMC enacts visitation restrictions

With the traditional flu season active on the Delmarva Peninsula, Peninsula Regional Medical Center (PRMC) is asking members of the community, as it does every year, to please remember the important role they play in protecting both patients and other visitors and hospital staff from contracting or spreading the flu virus.

As a precaution and to be proactive, PRMC is asking anyone with a cold, cough, fever or other flu-like symptoms to please remain at home and not visit patients. Additionally, and for the immediate future, the Medical Center is restricting children under the age of 12 from visiting its Special Care Nursery, Pediatrics, surgical floors and general recovery floors. Siblings under 12 may visit PRMC's Mother-Baby unit after a screening by the patient's nurse; for babies' safety, children with upper respiratory infections will not be permitted to visit.

"Everyone understands this may cause an inconvenience, but we must continuously safeguard everyone visiting here or staying with us for care," said Karen Mihalik, RN, Infection Preventionist. "That includes taking extra precautions to protect our young visitors themselves from possibly contracting or spreading a virus at Peninsula Regional. This is a common, yearly practice for us during the

Delmarva flu season."

During the flu season, visitation may be further limited throughout the entire Medical Center depending upon the level of flu activity occurring in the community or within the facility. "We welcome visitors and understand their importance in the recovery of friends and loved ones, but we will take all necessary steps to prevent the contracting or spreading of viruses," added Mihalik.

Anyone experiencing any emergency-related healthcare need is still encouraged to visit the PRMC Emergency Department for care.

Peninsula Regional Medical Center expects these restrictions to be in place through March, and will keep Delmarva residents updated on any changes in visitation during the current flu season.

Baseball memorabilia auction, sale scheduled

Judy Johnson, a well-known baseball star from Snow Hill, will be honored later this year with a memorial monument at the Snow Hill Library. An all-star player for the Negro Leagues in the 1920s and 1930s, he was named to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1979. As a fundraiser for the construction of the monument the Worcester County Historical Soci-

please see **sale** on page 12

Book discussion scheduled

In celebration of African-American history month, the public is invited to a discussion of Harriet Jacobs' book, "Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl," on Saturday, February 9, at 11 a.m., in Room 200 of the Hazel Center at Wor-Wic Community College in Salisbury.

The book is an autobiographical account chronicling Jacobs' life as a slave in North Carolina, her escape from her master and her reunion with her children, in the 1800s.

This event, sponsored by Wor-Wic's cultural diversity committee, is limited to 25 participants.

For a copy of the book or more information, call 410-334-2850.

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Valentines for Veterans returns

Start the year off by thanking a veteran with a Valentine card that says thank you for your service. For the 17th year, cards will be sent to four veteran rehab medical centers to thank them for their sacrifices and to let them know they are loved, appreciated, and not forgotten. All area schools, clubs, businesses, organizations, and individuals are invited to participate with purchased cards (no youth cards, please), but homemade cards are particularly appreciated. No postage is necessary and the card is addressed to "A Veteran."

Through the generosity of Linda Dearing and the Copy Central staff, the cards, plus some candy, will be delivered to Charlotte Hall Veterans Hospital, Baltimore Rehab Center, Baltimore VA Medical Center, and Perry Point Hospital. Drop off locations are: Shamrock Realty Group, 11049 Racetrack Rd; Copy Central,

Cathell Rd.; the Ocean Pines library; the Ocean Pines Community Center and Recreation and Parks Bldg.; and, other locations as they become available.

The deadline is Wednesday, January 23. For more information, call 410-208-9390 or email at ultimateenergy@verizon.net. This project is sponsored by Caring for America, a mission of the Republican Women of Worcester County.



Indoor pickleball offered

Pickleball enthusiasts are invited to play indoors this winter at the Ocean Pines Community Center. Drop-in rates are \$5 for Ocean Pines residents, \$7 for non-residents and free for Ocean Pines pickleball members.

Drop-in hours through May (excluding holidays) are Mondays 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., Tuesdays 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., Thursdays 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Fridays 1:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. and select Sundays 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. (dates available at OceanPines.org).

For more information about indoor pickleball, call the Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department at 410-641-7052.

Scholarships available

The Women's Club of Ocean Pines (WCOP) will award scholarships at its May general membership meeting to promising students who are full-time residents of Ocean Pines. These students must graduate from high school in good standing with a minimum grade point average of 2.5 and plan to attend an accredited institution for further education. These awards may be used by the recipient to help defray post-high school expenses at any approved degree of certificate-granting college or university, technical or vocation school.

The Women's Club Scholarship committee will consider the applicant's needs, goals, scholarship, citizenship, community service, extra-curricular activities and motivation. The club believes in non-discrimination on the basis of race, gender, national origin or family status, in both principle and practice.


Applications for these scholarships must be completed and submitted to the senior guidance counselor at Stephen Decatur High School by March 22. Qualifying applicants who do not attend Stephen Decatur High School are asked to call 410-641-8046 for information and/or an application.

**The LORD will surely save me
So we will play my songs on
stringed instruments** Isaiah 38.20



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Review

Lolita in Tehran

By **Jean Marx**

This book is an autobiography by the author, Azar Nafisi, about her life in Tehran, Iran, before she left the country permanently with her family to settle in the United States in 1997. Her fascinating story alternates between the more present day of the two years prior to her departure, and the rise of the Islamic Republic of Iran when Ayatollah Khomeini ousts the Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlavi (the last Shah of Iran) beginning in early 1979. The Islamic Republic gained its foothold as Iranians grew fed up with what they believed to be the corrupt dictatorship under the Shah and very unequal wealth distribution.

In the ensuing years between 1979-1995, the author describes the deterioration of individual freedoms most Iranians enjoyed, especially the gradual removal of freedoms and even identity extended to women. Iraq invaded Iran on September 23, 1980 as tensions ignited between the Ayatollah Khomeini and Saddam Hussein, and the war proceeded to devastate both countries for eight long years.

It was in these early years of the revolution that Nafisi was a literature professor at the University of Tehran. She explains that when the new Islamic government was first taking power, the government decided to take over the university to hold its weekly Friday prayers. Nafisi described, "It seemed as if with this act, the Islamic faction asserted its victory over other political groups: like a victorious army it positioned itself on the most cherished site of the occupied land, at the heart of the vanquished territory." She thought it was initially going to be a turf war, but she soon discovered that this was the beginning of her own fight for identity.

Before the fall term began at the university in September 1979, she went to a local bookstore in search of works of literature to share with her class. At the suggestion of the store owner who urged her to buy the books while she still could, she purchased favorites such as "A Farewell to Arms"

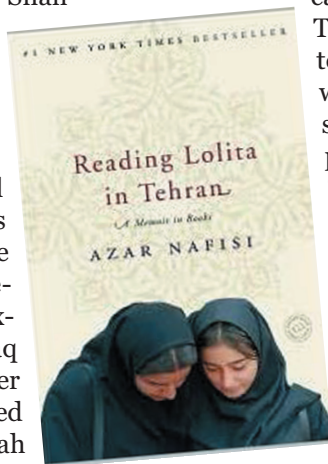
and "The Great Gatsby." On her way to the English department, she noticed more than ten tables filled with literature belonging to revolutionary groups. Anti-America and Anti-Western propaganda proliferated, and in early November 1979, the American Embassy in Tehran was invaded and 52 American diplomats and citizens were held hostage. By this time, the American Embassy was being referred to as "the nest of spies."

Nafisi found herself increasingly conflicted. Previously, she attended college in Norman, Oklahoma and frequently participated in protests for causes she believed in. Thus, she was no stranger to having opinions and wanting to voice them, so she made the decision to proceed with teaching "The Great Gatsby" that fall despite her fears and many nightmares. When one of her outspoken male students persisted in declaring the novel immoral, she boldly announced to the class that they were

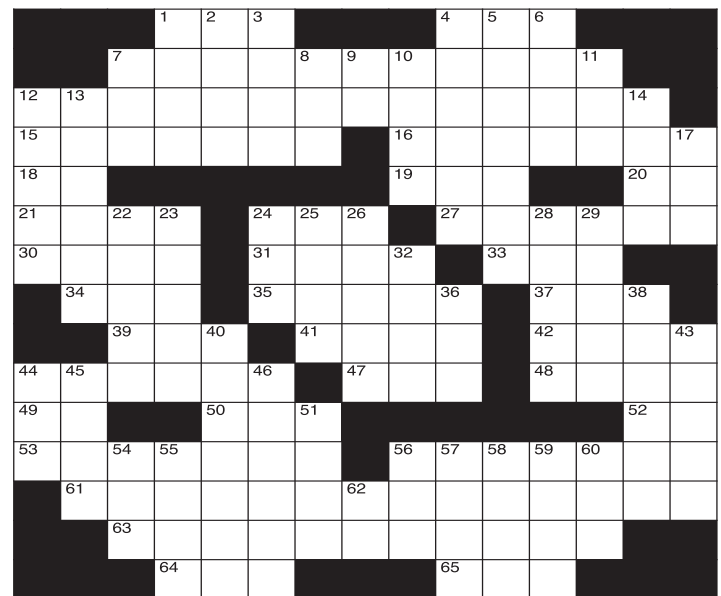
going to put the novel on trial and she offered that the male student serve as the prosecutor. One of her strong-willed female students volunteered to be the defendant, and Nafisi served as the sole witness for the defense. She soon began to feel a real affinity to her female students.

In the spring of 1981, she attended a meeting of the newly elected committee for the implementation of the cultural revolution. All the female attendees wore their black veils and chadors, except for herself and two others. Nafisi described that it wasn't as much the wearing of the veil that she objected to as it was freedom of choice. Over time, morality police squads continued to enforce the veiling of women whenever in public and women's complete subjugation to men.

Nafisi continued to teach academically through these turbulent years, although she reluctantly had to don the veil to do so. She taught what she was allowed to, but in 1995, she chose to resign in order to fulfill a dream of hers. She invited seven of her best fe-



please see review on page 12

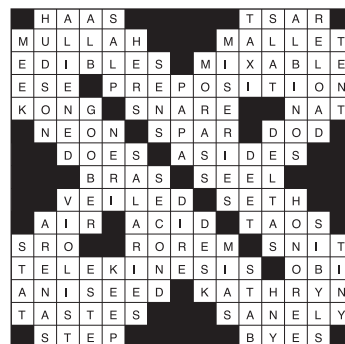


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Political action committee
- 4. One point north of due east
- 7. Marital
- 12. Religious building
- 15. Intrinsic nature of something
- 16. Safe to drink
- 18. Letter of credit
- 19. Single Lens Reflex
- 20. Keeps you cool in summer
- 21. Monetary unit
- 24. The Eye Network
- 27. Moving with a bounding stride
- 30. Figures
- 31. Of the pia mater
- 33. Male offspring
- 34. Indicates near
- 35. Calvary sword
- 37. South American plant
- 39. Doctor of Education
- 41. Something to take
- 42. Remove the edges from
- 44. Inattentive
- 47. Pick up
- 48. Latch for a window
- 49. Region of the U.S.
- 50. Windy City ballplayer
- 52. The NFL's big game (abbr.)
- 53. Be permanently present in
- 56. Novice
- 61. Pirate novel
- 63. In a law-abiding way
- 64. Where one sleeps
- 65. Criticize

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Bullfighting maneuver
- 2. Egyptian Sun god
- 3. Predatory semiaquatic reptile
- 4. Register formally
- 5. Eating houses
- 6. Japanese port
- 7. Genus of rodents
- 8. Nigerian city
- 9. Milliwatt
- 10. Mistake!
- 11. Women's ___ movement
- 12. Greeting
- 13. Songbirds
- 14. An arrangement scheme
- 17. Heartbeat test
- 22. Push back
- 23. Intended for the audience only
- 24. Cycles per second
- 25. Impartiality
- 26. Polio vaccine developer
- 28. Bowel movements
- 29. South American Indian
- 32. Queen of Sparta
- 36. Confederate soldier
- 38. Emerged
- 40. Death
- 43. ___ and flowed
- 44. Folk singer DiFranco
- 45. Email folder
- 46. Throbbled rhythmically
- 51. English rockers
- 54. Disaster relief operation
- 55. American model and TV personality Katherine
- 56. Potable
- 57. Tough outer layer
- 58. ___ Spumante (Italian wine)
- 59. Troubles
- 60. Negative
- 62. Camper



Answers for January 16



Project - Members of the Ocean City Career Firefighters Association teamed up this season with Ocean City Elementary School for their Operation Warm Project. This year, Operation Warm, coordinated by firefighter paramedic, Ryan Womer and OCES teacher, Kristin Van Kirk, provided 28 brand new coats to OCES students. Pictured with some of the students who received coats are firefighter paramedics **Galen Curtis, Dan Wills, Ryan Womer and Sean Sullivan.**

patrol
from page 3

remarked, “The horses have become so used to people feeding them that they can even tell you what brand of potato chips they like best. Some people find it hard to understand how harmful this can be to their ability to survive.”

People need to give the ponies their space. Smith commented, “We want to make everyone’s trip pleasant but everyone needs to know that this is the home of the ponies, and they are not just visiting for that day.”

Visitors from all over the world come to see the ponies, and some come searching for their favorite horse. Each pony patrol volunteer is supplied with a book containing each horse’s name and photo; DNA samples are taken from every pony in order to determine the lineage.

The horses have their own unique and sometimes quirky personalities. Smith reminisced about a feisty stallion named Chip. Chip learned how to put his head under the spigot and pull up the handle so he could get fresh water, and unfortunately, he was not inclined to turning water off when finished. The horses have five fresh water ponds from which to drink, but

Chip was strong-willed and had his own way of doing things. He also was quite the ladies’ man. Some of the stallions had as many as six mares, and Chip yearned to continually add to his collection. With head down and ears pinned back, he was always ready for a good fight in order to steal mares away from another band.

Separated by a fence, the ponies are split into two main herds, one on the Virginia end and one on the Mary-



land end of Assateague. Currently there are seventy-three ponies on the Maryland side of Assateague. The herd is kept to a maximum of 100 ponies as uncontrolled population growth has a damaging impact on island ecology. The mares are darted with a non-invasive contraceptive that prevents pregnancy in selected mares.

With over a million guests each year, the pony patrol has proven to be indispensable for protecting both the wild ponies and the visitors.

Ocean Pines Chamber Community Connection

By Kerrie Bunting, Executive Director



Difference between members and partners

When you hear the word “member,” what do you think of? To me, it brings to mind belonging to an exclusive club. Two entities on a closed, two-way street; I pay my dues and you give me your service or product. Now, think of the word “partner.” What comes to mind? Partners join forces to head toward a common goal, something beyond themselves.

Would you rather your local Chamber create memberships or partnerships? That’s a new concept, yes? Historically, Chambers of Commerce have members. Why? It shouldn’t be an exclusive club since the “member” wishes to utilize the Chamber to access potential consumers, right? You can talk to other Chamber members all day but if your target consumers are the residents of a defined area, you aren’t getting anywhere.

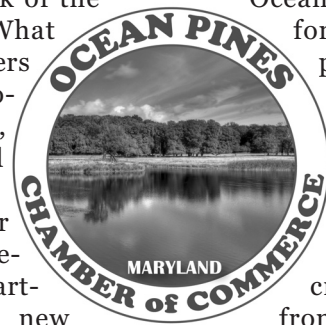
Henceforth, the Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce no longer has members. We have PARTNERS!

The common goal among our partners is the economic growth and strength of the Ocean Pines area as well as the wellbeing of the community as a whole. By attracting and keeping great businesses and non-profits, the Ocean Pines residents

benefit from their services and products while the lower shore becomes more economically stable and desired by future residents and companies.

Our close relationship with the Ocean Pines Association affords us a tremendous opportunity to speak directly to the residents and to provide trusted referrals and family friendly community events.

We are determined to create a better pathway from great businesses directly to the Ocean Pines and surrounding area residents through quality community events, helpful resources such as our Business Directory and website, which lists all our partners by service provided, and relocation and visitor information. The Chamber is a resource for the community as a whole. Take advantage of us, please!



Tides for Ocean City (Fishing Pier)

Day	High /Low	Tide Time	Sunrise Sunset
Th 24	Low	3:33 AM	7:11 AM
	High	9:53 AM	5:13 PM
	Low	4:18 PM	
	High	10:18 PM	
F 25	Low	4:30 AM	7:11 AM
	High	10:44 AM	5:15 PM
	Low	5:10 PM	
	High	11:12 PM	
Sa 26	Low	5:30 AM	7:10 AM
	High	11:36 AM	5:16 PM
	Low	6:02 PM	
Su 27	High	12:10 AM	7:09 AM
	Low	6:32 AM	5:17 PM
	High	12:31 PM	
	Low	6:56 PM	
M 28	High	1:12 AM	7:09 AM
	Low	7:36 AM	5:18 PM
	High	1:31 PM	
	Low	7:50 PM	
Tu 29	High	2:18 AM	7:08 AM
	Low	8:43 AM	5:19 PM
	High	2:33 PM	
	Low	8:45 PM	
W 30	High	3:21 AM	7:07 AM
	Low	9:50 AM	5:20 PM
	High	3:33 PM	
	Low	9:41 PM	

Letters sent to The Courier for publication consideration must be signed and include



a telephone number where the author can be reached to verify authenticity, if necessary. Letters

are not corrected for spelling or grammar and priority will be given to letters of 300 words or less. Letters must be received by Friday at 5 p.m. They can be e-mailed to:

thecourier@delmarvacourier.com

Dowling takes on new AGH role

Dr. Sally Dowling, a family practice physician by training, has accepted the position of vice president of medical affairs at Atlantic General Hospital and Health System. Dowling has been a prominent member of the Eastern Shore medical community for more than 20 years, providing primary care to families in Sussex County since 1992. She has also been actively



Dr. Sally Dowling

involved with Atlantic General Hospital in a leadership capacity. Since 2012, she has been a member of the Atlantic General Hospital Corporation as well as a member of the Board's Governance Committee.

As vice president of medical affairs, Dowling will assume the duties Dr. Stephen Waters carried out for 15 years as medical director of Atlantic General Hospital and Health System. In this role, she will oversee medical staff performance improvement activities, be physician champion for practice transformation, and serve as an executive partner with the organization's vice president of patient care and vice president of practice administration to create a coordinated care delivery system that supports the Maryland Total Cost of Care system.

"On behalf of the Board of Trustees, medical staff and leadership, I would like to thank Dr. Waters for his many years of service and guidance during a time of incredible growth and evolution in healthcare," said Michael Franklin, FACHE, president and CEO of Atlantic General Hospital and Health System. "We welcome Dr. Dowling to the position of vice president of medical affairs. Her dedication to her patients and her community will strengthen the culture of caring and innovation we already have here at Atlantic General."

"I am excited to join Atlantic General Hospital and Health System and

please see role on page 13

review
from page 10

male students to join a private discussion on literature every Thursday morning in her home. She changed the names of the women in the book to protect their privacy, but she described how each of their unique personalities began to emerge and blossom over the two years that the group met. As the group would arrive at her home, they shed their hated black veils to reveal their beautiful, clothing in various styles and colors underneath. One of the books they read together was "Lolita" who had a sad story of being manipulated by a much older man who abused her and became obsessed by her. What this man, however, never possessed was Lolita's mind and spirit. I encourage you to read this deeply moving story.

sale
from page 8

ety is planning a baseball memorabilia auction and sale on Friday, March 1, at the Atlantic Hotel in Berlin.

Included will be a large number of autographed photos, baseballs and other items signed by major league baseball stars such as Cal Ripken Jr., Ted Williams, Joe DiMaggio, Mickey Mantle, Nolan Ryan, Mike Schmidt, Bob Feller, Warren Spahn and many others. Also photographs signed by Judy Johnson will be included in both a live auction and a silent auction.

Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served and a cash bar will be available. Tickets for the event are \$40 in advance and \$45 at the door. People interested

in purchasing tickets in advance can send their checks made payable to the Worcester County Historical Society to Bob Fisher, treasurer, 230 S. Washington St., Snow Hill, MD 21863, by February 23 Please include your name,



telephone number, and email address.

For questions or additional information people can contact Newt Weaver, president, at 443-614-2386 or by email vette-99@verizon.net.



Proclamation - The Worcester County Commissioners presented a proclamation recognizing January as National Mentoring Month to **Robert McClure** of Big Brothers/Big Sisters (BBBS) and encouraged those looking to make a difference in the community to become mentors. Studies reflect that youth who are mentored miss fewer school days, are 81% more likely to play sports, and are 55% more likely to attend college. They are less likely to abuse alcohol or other drugs. They have healthier relationships, and they are more likely to feel empowered to pursue their own dreams and to themselves go on to become mentors and volunteers. "Youth in the local BBBS program graduate high school and go to college at higher than national rates," McClure said.

Find good food and pleasant company
at the
Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City



**PANCAKE
BREAKFAST**

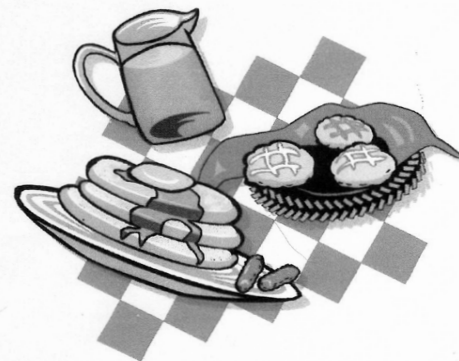
Saturday, February 23, 2019 ♦ 8 to 11 a.m.
Ocean Pines Community Center Assateague Room

Donation:

\$6 Adults

**\$3 Children
Under 12**

**Children Under 5
FREE**



Proceeds to benefit the youth of our community

Contributions or gifts to Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City Kiwanis Club are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes.



Guest speakers - *Mid-Atlantic Symphony Orchestra's Patty Campbell and Mike Castoro were the guest speakers at the weekly Kiwanis Club meeting on Wednesday January 16 in the Assateague Room of the Ocean Pines Community Center. They spoke about their musical education & outreach programs in local schools as well as the concerts. Above: (L-R) Mike Castoro, Patty Campbell and Kiwanis Club President Dick Clagett.*

Diabetes education classes offered

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. beginning February 20. The afternoon class session will meet at the Medical Center on five consecutive Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. beginning February 21. 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.

OPA Board admits error

In a statement released last week, The Ocean Pines Board of Directors said:

"The Board of Directors went into closed session on Saturday January 5, 2019 for the purpose of discussing and resolving a complaint from OPA employees filed against Director [Slobodan] Trendic. After reviewing the complaint and hearing from the parties involved it was clear that there was a misunderstanding. It was determined that Director Trendic did not act outside of his responsibilities as a Director. The Board regrets that the initial motion to go into closed session naming Director Trendic and has established a procedure to improve on the preparation and process of posting motions to the agenda going forward."



Ocean Pines to host free seminars

Area residents are invited to step out of the cold by attending one of several free seminars held at the Ocean Pines Community Center this winter. Hosted by the Recreation and Parks Department. The seminars will be led by local industry experts.

"My Spouse is in a Nursing Home...Now What?" Seminar, Thursday, January 24, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Presented by Senior Planning Services, this seminar will cover asset protection, Medicaid information and more.

Heart Health Seminar, Wednesday, February 6, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. Peninsula Regional Medical Center will discuss heart health in conjunction with American Heart Month.

Medicare Options Seminar, Monday, February 11, 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Baby Boomer Insurance's Lynne McAllorum, an independent agent with expertise in Medicare products, will discuss Medicare rules and what is available on the market.

Walking Problems Seminar, Monday, February 18, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Back in Action Physical Therapy will teach participants some of the common reasons people don't walk correctly and ways to address them.

These seminars are free and open to the public, but spaces are limited and advance registration is required. To register, call the Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department at

410-641-7052.

Information regarding additional recreational programs, including an online version of the Ocean Pines Activity Guide, is available at OceanPines.org.

Italian dinner to honor Galileo

Between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. on Sunday, February 17, St. Paul's by-the-Sea will host an authentic Italian dinner to benefit The Fellowship Commons. The authentic Italian meal will be prepared by Vi Candeloro along with her family and friends.

The event will celebrate the birthday of a Galileo Galilei who is known as the "father of observational astronomy," the "father of modern physics," the "father of the scientific method" and the "father of modern science".

Advance tickets are recommended. For more information call the church office at 410-289-3453 or by email at office@stpaulsbythesea.org or call 410-641-8171.

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role

from page 12

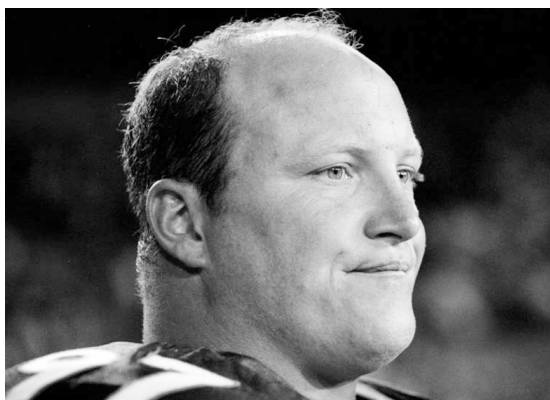
am honored to follow Dr. Stephen Waters, who has been a tireless champion of health care in our community," said Dowling. "I look forward to working with the medical staff and administration in continuing the commitment of providing excellent health care to our community."

Dowling will continue to care for the patients in her practice, located in Selbyville, Del., which will eventually become part of Atlantic General Health System.

Dowling earned her medical degree at the Medical College of Virginia, in Richmond. She is board certified by the American Board of Family Practice.

Players with the most Super Bowl appearances

Fans of professional football need not be told how popular the sport is. For 17 weeks a year, many fans set aside some time on Sunday afternoons



Mike Lodish

to watch their favorite teams and players battle it out on the gridiron. But interest tends to reach a fever pitch once those 17 weeks have come and gone and the National Football League's

postseason begins, ultimately culminating with the Super Bowl. According to Nielsen.com, seven of the 10 most-watched television broadcasts in United States history have been Super Bowls. Fans with especially sharp eyes and memories might have noticed some players have appeared in more Super Bowls than others.

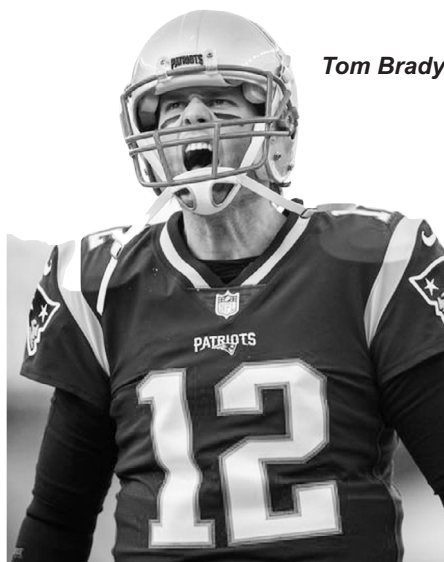
Tom Brady, considered by many to be the greatest quarterback of all-time, has appeared in eight Super Bowls as New England Patriots' signal caller, winning five of them. As a result of the Patriots' win Sunday over the Kansas City Chiefs, Brady will appear in his ninth Super Bowl. The nine appearances are the most ever, and Brady's five Super Bowl wins with a single team are a record as well. Incredibly, Brady is still going at age 41, so he

might even add to his record number of Super Bowl appearances.

Even diehard football fans might be surprised to learn Mike Lodish, a nose tackle who played for the Buffalo Bills and Denver Broncos, has appeared in the second most Super Bowls of any player in NFL history. Lodish was a member of the Buffalo Bills teams of the early 1990s that lost four consecutive Super Bowls. But Lodish would eventually play in

two more for the Broncos, winning them both.

Many players have appeared in five Super Bowls. Cornelius Bennett, Lodish's teammate on the Bills, appeared in five Super Bowls during his career. Unfortunately for Bennett, he lost all five, including one with the Falcons after he departed Buffalo as a free agent. On the flip side of that coin is Charles Haley, who shares Brady's record for Super Bowl wins as a player. Haley appeared in five Super Bowls during his playing days with the San Francisco 49ers and Dallas Cowboys, winning all five.



Tom Brady

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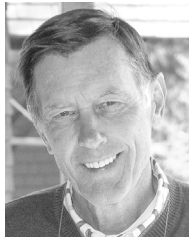
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New Country Club could be coming

Commentary by **Joe Reynolds**

A new Country Club now seems likely in OPA's future. This is all but guaranteed after a local builder walked the current structure a few days ago and essentially deemed the place should be torn down rather than renovated. The Country Club has been a hot topic of discussion on OceanPinesForum.com.



For nearly a year we have been told

this local builder suggested the second floor could be renovated for \$500,000. The board had previously estimated a 2nd-floor rehab cost of around \$800,000. Recent bids put that 2nd-floor rehab cost at around \$1.4 million. Now we are hearing the \$500,000+ spent on renovating the first floor did not fix mold and moisture issues, as we were assured it had. \$500,000 of your assessment dollars flushed down a sewer.

In fact, a reliable source says OPA currently has an actual contract in hand from general contractor Gillis

Gilkerson Construction Company to build a new 7,000 SF Country Club for \$1.3 million, including demolition. This is half the space of the current Country Club. Price is good for 30 days. So much for any transparency from newly elected and returning board members. Apparently, additional bids are being sought.

This development raises new and interesting issues. Do we even need 7,000 SF? Should we build again at 14,000 SF? Everyone in management and the board says we don't have enough meeting room space. Adding space while constructing a new Country Club will be much less expensive than adding space later with another new building.

A price of \$1.3 million for a new structure, with another \$100,000 or so for furnishing, brings the cost to near referendum level. Will the board

price the work appropriately and risk going past the referendum trigger, or try to low-ball costs to avoid a referendum? Or, will the board commit to a referendum under any circumstances.

Regardless, what we end up with if the current Country Club is demolished should be a topic for community involvement and input.

Unfortunately, it feels like there will be a rush to do something, anything... without proper thought of the future. Elimination of the rehabilitation option opens up a number of issues critical to the future of golf and the community overall.

The OPA Board of Directors should address these issues with the Ocean Pines Association members before proceeding with any plan to replace the Country Club with a structure half the current size.

Letter

There are angels among us on the Eastern Shore

Editor:

We asked the community to join our Angel Appeal this holiday season, and the awe-inspiring response resulted in a record-breaking year. Thanks to our neighbors, we raised more than \$128,000 to fund hospice charity care for those in need right here in Wicomico, Worcester, Somerset and Dorchester Counties.

Last year, Coastal Hospice cared for approximately 1,300 patients in the region. The donations will help us provide care to patients and families with no resources and those with needs beyond their insurance coverage throughout the coming year. These gifts will bring comfort and support to those who truly need it most in the end stages of life.

All of us at Coastal Hospice would like to express our sincere thanks for the generous contributions that made the 2018 Coastal Hospice Angel Appeal a success! Thank you for "Being an Angel!"

Alane K. Capen
President

Coastal Hospice & Palliative Care

position

from page 6

permits issued by the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration, combined with the pending permits being reviewed by BOEM, open the door for seismic blast testing and ultimately offshore oil and gas drilling off the Ocean City coastline," Meehan continued. "The short-term benefits of oil and gas exploration or any large-scale industrial activity in the ocean pale against the permanent catastrophic environmental and economic harm that such activity will cause. We are urging BOEM to preserve our beach and ocean by denying any permit applications related to oil and gas exploration and development off the coast of Maryland."

The Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce is proud to stand with and is resolute to support our neighboring community leaders in this opposition. Disruption of our treasured ocean ecosystem is unacceptable. Local commercial fishermen are already seeing damage to benthic species due to other offshore activities. Seismic testing will further alter migration patterns and drive away resident species. Not to mention the ultimate goal of this testing is to determine if the area is appropriate for offshore oil and gas drilling. We will whole-heartedly stand in opposition to that!

Kerrie Bunting
Executive Director

Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce

weekend

from page 1

off the couch, bundle up, and get outdoors!"

The Delmarva Peninsula is one of the country's premier birding areas, thanks to an extensive variety of habitat protected by coastal parks, refuges, and wildlife management areas. More than 400 bird species have been

recorded in the region and some weekend tallies have topped 200 species.

Indeed participants recount the event in

terms of experiences rather than simply observing birds – thousands of Snow Geese lifting off a farm field, a majestic Bald Eagle soaring over the marsh, Long-tailed Ducks bobbing on the waves at the inlets, or the lazy nap of a seal on the Delaware Bay breakers. An outdoor experience is the true draw.

"Delaware is teeming with bird species in winter," said Southern Delaware Tourism Director Scott Thomas. "And this is a great place to experience them."

If seeing so many bird species isn't enough, participants should feel even better knowing that they've helped

Delmarva's birds by promoting birding and habitat conservation. Birders, both novice and experienced, make an important statement about the economic value of birds and their habitats through the money they spend in local hotels, restaurants, and shops.

In addition on April 25 to 28, the Spring Delmarva Birding Weekend will celebrate the migration of the spring suite of warblers, shorebirds, waterfowl and raptors. Registration for the spring weekend is expected to be on-line by January 13.

Marketing plan course to be held

The continuing education division at Wor-Wic Community College is offering a course for small business owners called "Creating a Marketing Plan for Current and Future Success," on Friday, January 25, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., in Room 204 of Fulton-Owen Hall at the college campus on the corner of Route 50 and Walston Switch Road in Salisbury.

The course will cover market research, basic branding techniques, traditional and innovative advertising strategies, and free and low-cost public relations opportunities.

For more information about the course or to inquire about customized training for your business, contact Kerry Cleaver, director of continuing education and workforce development, at kcleaver@worwic.edu or 410-334-2815.





Donation - Andrea Bowland, executive director of Habitat for Humanity of Worcester County (center), accepts a \$5,000 donation from First Shore Federal, presented by Ocean Pines Branch Manager **Debbie Tingle** (left) and Berlin Branch Manager **Patti Feeheley** (right).

Travitz to join PRMC

Steve Leonard, MBA, FACHE, president/CEO of Peninsula Regional Health System (PRHS) and Peninsula Regional Medical Center (PRMC), announced recently that Ronald P. Travitz, MD, will join the Peninsula Regional Health System on February 7.

Dr. Travitz, a specialist in internal medicine and the current Adult Medicine Department Head at Chesapeake Healthcare, will be practicing at the Peninsula Regional Family Medicine Salisbury office, 145 East

Carroll Street, Suites 101/102 in the H. Gray Reeves Medical Office complex, which is located directly across the street from PRMC.

Patients wishing to transition with Dr. Travitz from Chesapeake Healthcare may ask to have their medical records faxed to PRMC at 410-912-5788 or have them mailed directly to the Peninsula Regional Medical Center Health Information Management Department, 100 East Carroll Street, Salisbury, Md. 21801, attention Chasity Landing. Those who have questions or an existing appointment with Dr. Travitz scheduled after February 4 may call the Peninsula Regional Family Medicine Salisbury office at 410-912-5785 to have an appointment rescheduled.



Ronald Travitz

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Swim Ocean City donates to Diakonia

Swim Ocean City's founder, Corey Davis, donated rotisserie chickens to Diakonia, a local homeless shelter in West Ocean City. Swim Ocean City is a local non-profit organization that raises funds for research and awareness of traumatic brain injuries and promotes the positive effects that sports have on the brain and body.

Every July, Swim Ocean City, hosts Ocean Games, a competitive open water nine-mile and three-mile swim along the shoreline of Ocean City. The funds raised from this event support Johns Hopkins Brain and Stroke Rehabilitation Program and local charities and families. Since its debut in 2013, the Ocean Games has raised over \$130,000 for the Johns Hopkins Program and local charities. Ocean Games is widely supported through grants and many local Ocean City businesses. For more information please visit www.oceangamesusa.org.

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