

Area children to perform

Nearly a dozen local children will be the stars in the Ocean Pines Players' (OPP) production of Ken Ludwig's children's play "Twas The Night Before Christmas," based on the original classic poem.

The play will be performed on Friday, December 13 at St. Peter's Lutheran Church at 10301 Coastal Hwy, Ocean City, at 7 p.m. and on Saturday and Sunday, December 14 and 15, at 2:30 p.m. at the Red Doors Community Center located at 10959 Worcester Highway, Berlin.

The cast of young performers come from Ocean Pines, Ocean City, Selbyville, Berlin and Bishopville. They were chosen in November after an audition call by the Ocean Pines Players.

This delightful children's story follows the quest by a spunky little girl named Emily, her friend, Amos, a mouse, and Calliope, an Elf, who want to find out why Santa missed her house the previous year.

The children, ages 9 to 14, who have been cast in the show are: Alyssa Clymire of Ocean Pines, who will play Emily; Emma Feagans of Selbyville as Amos the mouse; Emily Backof of Ocean City, playing Calliope the good elf; Kenady Scott of Ocean Pines as Amos of Kansas, a cousin to Amos; Marlie Scott of Ocean Pines as Sir Guy, an evil elf; And Elise Baycura of Bish-

opville as Mulch, sidekick to Sir Guy. Rounding out the childrens' cast as elves and reindeer are Amori Purnell, Maheila and Makaiya Robinette, and Seamus and Ewan Betz, all from Berlin.

Adult roles in the play will be performed by members of the Ocean Pines Players: Jerry Gietka, who also directs the show, Lee Olsen, and Kathy Wiley. OPP President Karen McClure is the show's musical director. Andrea Clymire is the assistant director.

Tickets for the play are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children 3 to 16, payable at the door, although seats can be reserved in advance on the Ocean Pines Players website at www.oceanpinesplayers.com.

OPP is also hoping to feature a special presentation by some of the students from the dance classes at the Red Door Community Center at St. Paul's by the Sea. The Ocean Pines Players wishes to express a special thank you to them for graciously hosting this production.

The Ocean Pines Players is a local, all-volunteer, 501 (c)(3) non-profit charitable organization. Consider joining our organization and continue the tradition of "local" theater in the greater Ocean City area. Follow the Ocean Pines PLAYERS on Facebook and visit us online at www.oceanpinesplayers.org.



Christmas Tree

On November 22 the Kiwanis Club tree was decorated by (L-R) **Barb and Dan Peletier** and **Candy and Roy Foreman** in preparation for the celebration. The tree is part of the White Horse Park display that is part of the Ocean Pines Hometown Christmas event that was held Saturday evening.



Dressed for success

Ocean City Elementary School celebrated College and Career Spirit Day on November 15. Students were encouraged to wear a college shirt or dress in a career they might like to pursue in the future. Pictured L to R are PreK-4 students **Carter Justice**, **Amelia Purnell** and **Aubrey Newcomb**.



Visit - Ocean City Elementary School third grader **Carly Watts** received a special visit during American Education Week from Board of Education member **Todd Ferrante**.

A Time To Remember

Heavy smog began to hover over London on this day in 1952. It persisted for five days, leading to the deaths of at least 4,000 people.

It was a Thursday afternoon when a high-pressure air mass stalled over the Thames River Valley. When cold air arrived suddenly from the west, the air over London became trapped in place. The problem was exacerbated by low temperatures, which caused residents to burn extra coal in their furnaces. The smoke, soot and sulfur dioxide from the area's industries along with that from cars and consumer energy usage caused extraordinarily heavy smog to smother the city. By the morning of December 5, there was a visible pall cast over hundreds of square miles.

By December 7 there was virtually no sunlight and visibility was reduced to five yards in many places. Eventually, all transportation in the region was halted. An unusually high number of people in the area, numbering in the thousands, died in their sleep that weekend.

Pine Tones to perform

On Friday, December 13, at 7:30 p.m. the Pine Tones Chorus will present its Christmas Concert at Atlantic United Methodist Church in Ocean City, Baltimore Ave. and 4th Street.

The concert opens with its title song "Everywhere Christmas Tonight." Popular selections will include the all-time favorites: "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" and "Happy Holiday" as sung by Frank Sinatra, Andy Williams and other artists. Cinema fans may recognize "Merry Christmas, Merry Christmas" from the show "Home Alone 2."

"Masters in This Hall" and "Here We Come a-Caroling" are some of the holiday carols in the program.

Classical selections will feature "Gesu Bambino" a song cherished by many stars including Pavaratti. The well known Christmas favorite "O Holy Night" will include a duet performed by Mary Price, soprano and Fr. Michael Moyer, tenor.

The Pine Tones Chorus includes about 55 singers from Ocean Pines, Ocean City, and nearby areas. June Todd is the Chorus Director, Jim Meckley is Assistant Director, and Jenny Anderson is the group's

Accompanist. Guest musicians will include: Becca Doughty-percussion, Julie Barton-oboe, Kristilyn Friese-cello, Sally Hendon-flute and Tom Baione-string bass.



Admission is free and an offering will be received. After the concert, guests may enjoy refreshments in the church social hall.

The Pine Tones Chorus has been entertaining local audiences in the Ocean Pines and Ocean City areas since 1984. For additional information, call the Chorus President Dave Holloway, 410-641-5672, or June Todd, 410-289-7373. Funding for Pine Tones Chorus activities has been from individual donations and patrons as well as the Worcester County Arts Council, Maryland State Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts. These organizations are dedicated to cultivating a vibrant cultural community where the arts thrive.

Community Calendar NOVEMBER

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

Quilting Club

Quilters by the Sea meets most Wednesdays at the Ocean Pines Community Center. First Wednesday of the month is Volunteer Day, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., when the group sew or tie quilts for charity. The second and fourth Wednesdays are free sewing or workshops from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The third Wednesday of the month is the business meeting, followed by Show & Tell, from noon to 3 p.m. Open to the public.

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 Pinestepers 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.

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.

Fire company announces events

The following events take place at the Bishopville Volunteer Fire Department.

-Saturday, December 7: Fresh Sausage Sale pickup 9 a.m. to 11a.m.

-Saturday, December 7: Annual Yard Sale at the Bishopville Volunteer Fire Department main station from 8 a.m. to noon. Breakfast sandwiches available. Tables \$15 each or 2 for \$25. Call to reserve a table 619-922-9950.

-Friday, January 3: Annual Cash Bingo at the Bishopville Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary. Doors open at 5 p.m. and early bird games will begin at 5:45 p.m. \$25 in advance; \$30 at the door. Food and beverage available for sale. Call 619-922-9950 to reserve your advance ticket.



Santa, pictured with Georgia and Colt Duffie, will be at the WPS Christmas Bazaar for photos on December 8, noon to 2 p.m.

WPS bazaar is Sunday

Kick off your holidays at the annual Worcester Preparatory School (WPS) Christmas Bazaar on Sunday, December 8, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free and the event is open to the public. Held in the WPS Field House, the Bazaar is a festive family affair where you may fulfill all your holiday needs and have your photo taken with Santa! Take a stroll through the Christmas Village, which includes one-of-a-kind decorated wreaths and trees, holiday décor, decadent homemade

desserts, handmade gifts, local vendors, silent auction items and so much more. Children will especially love the Mallard General Store where they can purchase and wrap gifts for their loved ones, enjoy fun games, and visit with Santa who will be in the Village from noon to 2 p.m. There is even a Peloton bike raffle and the winner will be drawn the same day. All ages are sure to get in the Christmas spirit at this merry event.



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Ortt leads turnaround

Commentary by **Joe Reynolds**
OceanPinesForum.com

Hiring Matt Ortt Company to manage the Yacht Club and Beach Club proved to be the catalyst for a financial renaissance in the Ocean Pines Association. More than any other single action by any board or any General Manager, hiring Ortt impacted OPA financial results to a greater degree than anyone might have imagined.

The OPA financial report for the first six months of the current fiscal year provides ample evidence of Ortt's positive impact on the bottom line. At the end of October, the Yacht Club net operating bottom line was in the black to the tune of \$312,088, after what looks to be the best month-of-October results for the Yacht Club in the history of Ocean Pines. OPA's financial picture is brighter, but six of the typically worst months in the OPA fiscal year calendar remain.

Few would disagree that OPA currently has an excellent management team in place, led by General Manager John Viola. However, it is always beneficial to have a clear picture of where we are, and how we arrived. Looking back, the fiscal year ending in April 2018 was an absolute disaster. The Yacht Club operations alone lost \$673,211. A sense of panic engulfed OPA. John Bailey was hired as General Manager. Bailey pushed the Board of Directors to hire Matt Ortt Company. In a strange turn of events, the Board of Directors subsequently fired Bailey.

In spite of all the changes within the

OPA management team over the past five years, including changes on the Board of Directors, the one major impact on OPA's bottom line was the hiring of Matt Ortt Company, and Ortt's ability to turn around OPA's food and beverage operations.

This is clear to anyone looking at the audited financial reports on the OPA website. Major departments outside food and beverage operations continue to operate at more or less consistent cost levels, despite management changes. Golf has seen some improvement, but due to accounting changes, it is virtually impossible for the average association member to look at monthly financial reports and make any comparisons to prior years. This applies to Aquatics as well, where it actually is impossible to make any reasonable year-to-year comparisons of late.

Major expense areas like Public Works, Recreation & Parks, and Police continue to operate very well within rather consistent budgets over many years.

Big-picture or 30,000-foot view of OPA finances? Other than the anomaly of food and beverage losses in fiscal 2017-2018, OPA is humming along rather well from an operations cost standpoint. The hiring of Matt Ortt Company not only corrected the anomaly but put OPA on a course for improved financial results overall for the next five years or more.

Politics aside, the Board of Directors could very easily reduce the assessment for the next fiscal year by at least as much as the \$35 increase this year, and still maintain a positive bottom line for the next fiscal year compared to budget.

The benefits of tennis

Commentary by **Allen Brodsky**

You need to stay healthy and in shape to have a happy, successful career and life. If possible, take up tennis when time and neighborhood allow, and support kids into getting into the sport by about age 10 if not sooner.



I have found it to be the sport that most depends on, and best teaches, temper and emotional control, which can be useful throughout life. Also, watch how many of the players hug each other at the end of a match, whether loser or winner. This shows the friendship and sportsmanship between players from all over the world and various ages, skin colors, and ethnic backgrounds. Thus, the World Tennis Association has accomplished what the original United Nations Charter intended but was not able to

accomplish.

Watch some of the top professionals on the Tennis Channel, and you will see the necessity to use the muscles and coordination of the entire body over time, ensuring good heart-lung conditioning, as well as keeping a cool mental state without temper as much as possible. These requirements of tennis promote reaching an adult maturity that is best for functioning on any job, and enjoying the happiest life.

I am glad I took up tennis at age 13 and was able by age 15 to enjoy the lessons of competition of local tournaments, and by 16 and 17 of varsity tennis in high school and college. The physical requirements of tennis, along with those of wrestling in high school and college, gave me exercises for stamina that I continued to use and expand throughout my life.

The need to stay in shape to enjoy tennis year-round has kept me exercising and in great shape up to my age of 91 today.

Rose dedicated for Rose Parade float

Atlantic General Hospital joins The Living Legacy Foundation in dedicating roses for the Donate Life float in the Rose Parade to honor the generous patients and their families who have given the gifts of life and hope by donating eyes, tissue and organs.

The rose was signed by Atlantic General Hospital President and CEO Michael Franklin, on behalf of the organization. This rose will ac-

company over 100 roses dedicated by The Living Legacy Foundation on the Donate Life float at the January 1st Rose Parade in Pasadena, California.

"Atlantic General Hospital had four tissue donors in the first half of this year. We are so appreciative of the generous patients and their families who chose to give the gift of life. Each donor has the potential to impact 50 lives. We are proud to support The Living Legacy Foundation in their efforts to facilitate donation and educate the public on this life-saving opportunity," said Scott Rose, Director of Critical Care.

The Donate Life Rose Parade float pays tribute to those who have donated organs, eyes and tissue, as well as honors their families. The float aims to inspire its viewers to register as organ, eye and tissue donors.

The holiday season is rife with tradition. Some holiday traditions, such as holiday lighting displays, are impossible to miss, while others are more subtle and possibly even unknown to many celebrants. One tradition that falls into the latter category involves the placing of oranges into Christmas stockings. The origins of Christmas stockings are rooted in legend, and one of the more popular tales involves a widowed father of three beautiful girls. According to Smithsonian.com, this father was struggling to make ends meet and was concerned that his financial



struggles would affect his daughters' ability to find a spouse. As the legend goes, St. Nicholas was wandering through the man's town and heard of his concerns. Recognizing that the man was unlikely to accept charity, St. Nicholas slid down the chimney of his house and placed three gold balls in the girls' recently laundered stockings, which were hanging by the fire to dry. The value of the gold balls, which were discovered the following morning, was enough to ensure the girls could eventually wed. So, what does that have to do with oranges? Those who wanted to replicate the tale could not so easily come upon gold balls to place in stockings, so they chose something similar in appearance: oranges.

The Courier

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All Aboard!

Men become boys when it comes to model trains, whether O, HO or N gauge. I am one of those men.

Growing up, around this time each



It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

year the train platform, covered in green felt, was brought down from the attic along with the wooden saw horses made by my grandfather. My brother and I stood at the bottom of the attic ladder with great anticipation. Once the platform was set up in the spare bedroom, we began unpacking the box containing the locomotive, rail cars



and other accessories. Our HO model train configuration was a simple oval. We did not care.

We arranged and rearranged the few cardboard and plastic buildings and houses we had. We'd add some Matchbox cars to lend an air of authenticity, parking the Mach 5 and the Batmobile in front of the church which was positioned next to a Lego skyscraper.

The big treat was removing from its box the single engine we had, a Riverossi Pennsylvania Railroad 2882 steam locomotive and coal tender. It took some coordination to get all the wheels on the track but once we did, the blue box car, green oil tanker and red caboose were coupled. And if all went well and the wiring was connected properly, we'd advance the power pack lever. The headlamp

would flicker to life and the engine wheels would begin to turn, a little slippage before traction, and off the engine would go, much to the delight of my brother and me. It mattered not that the oval was probably no more than 40 inches in length, our imaginations carried us away on epic journeys as we rode the rails around the tiny village and through the Styrofoam mountain.

Through the years we spent hours at that train platform, from time to time adding new accessories and rolling stock.

Time marched on and eventually the trains remained in the attic. The platform was eventually thrown away. Not long after I was married, my mother gave me the train set. Several times when my children were little, I attempted to recreate the memories of my youth by setting up the trains. Many years ago, I regularly visited Dennison's Train Shoppe in Berlin, getting ideas and purchasing an assortment of accessories. But life got busy and the trains again remained in the attic.

Then this Thanksgiving while visiting my grandchildren, my grandson told me he wanted a train set for Christmas. Hmm. The boy in me was awakened. As we were driving home, my wife and I were talking about our time with the family. I asked if she heard our grandson's request. She hesitantly said she had. Then she turned to me with a look I've seen many times through the years. "Where are you going to set them up?" She read my mind.

The next morning, I was at Home Depot purchasing wood to build a train platform. Retrieved from the attic were the many train boxes. By the end of the weekend, I had created a little village. It's all waiting for my grandchildren when they visit at Christmas. Between now and then, I'll probably let my imagination wander as I watch the little locomotive travel around the oval track.

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Pearl Harbor had ironies and paradoxes

By **Robert Adair**

Saturday is the anniversary of the “day that will live in infamy.” On December 7, 1941 Japan launched two devastating attacks on U.S. forces in Hawaii and the Philippines. The attack on Pearl Harbor was one of the most brilliant tactical feats of World War II. Six carriers had crossed the vast Pacific to a point 200 miles north of Oahu and launched 350 aircraft to attack the fleet at anchor at Pearl Harbor. It achieved total surprise and sank a major portion of the U.S. Pacific fleet. Sortie after sortie attacked the harbor while others strafed aircraft lined up at Wheeler Field and Hickam Field.

On the same day (although it was December 8 in that longitude) Japanese bombers flying out of bases on Formosa bombed the U.S. Far East Air Force that was lined up on Clark Field and Iba Field, just outside Manila, virtually destroying it.

At Pearl Harbor all eight U.S. battleships were sunk or badly damaged, along with numerous other vessels. Two hundred aircraft were destroyed

that day and there were 3,600 casualties, the great majority being killed. The Japanese lost 29 aircraft and five midget submarines.

The Joint Committee investigating the attack called it the “greatest military and naval disaster in our nation’s history.” The irony of that day was that after all the careful planning on the part of the Japanese and with all the

damage inflicted by the surprise attack, two very significant targets were missed.

First, the three aircraft carriers of the fleet were not at Pearl Harbor. The reason for that is a whole other story. It would be the carriers that would bring Japan’s military strength to its

knees. The second vital target left intact was the major ship repair complex located at the port. These repair shops would be responsible for returning the



majority of the fleet to combat duty in record time. Had they been destroyed the time lines for taking the war to Japan would have been quite different.

In Gordon W. Prange’s volume, “At Dawn We Slept,” a statement in the Preface states, “Pearl Harbor resulted

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pearl harbor
from page 6

from a vast combination of interrelated, complicated and strange historical factors: on the one hand, bountiful human errors of great variety, false assumptions... on the other, precise planning, tireless training, plain guts and uncommon luck." It also identifies factors such as weather, quirks of personality, prejudice and accident that impacted events. History is not made in a vacuum.

Twenty years before the attack the U.S. took steps to call the world's sea powers together at the Washington Naval Conference of 1921-1922 to develop an agreement on capital ship construction and a limitation on total tonnage for a period of ten years. The strategy was to limit the powerful navies of the world so that no one fleet could pose an international threat. The agreed ratio of ships among the United States, Britain and Japan was 5:5:3. This treaty was extended another five years under the London Naval Treaty of 1930.

Just after World War I, even before the Washington Naval Conference, U.S. military planners had begun to

develop a series of "Color-coded plans." Each color represented a potential adversary of the United States. Each plan was developed to contain plausible courses of action in case military involvement was required.

Plan Orange dealt with war against Japan. The supposition was that Japan would capture U.S. assets and bases in the Philippines and the Pacific islands, and that force would be necessary to retake the bases. Whatever scenario was used, it pointed out the vast distances involved and amount of shipping needed to project a force from the U.S. to those locations. Variations of Plan Orange were studied and war-gamed during the 1920s and 1930s.

There appears to be a paradox involved in these historical events. On one hand the Joint Planners identified Japan as the major threat to the U.S. interests in the Pacific and that it would take maximum effort on the part of naval assets to engage the enemy and move forces to the islands and the Philippines. At the same time Washington hosted a conference that would limit the total tonnage allowed.

Many other factors played into the history of Plan Orange and the Naval

Treaty. The limit on ships was designed to keep each nation in check. By agreeing to the treaty, the United States was able to divert funds away from fleet modernization. All strategic war plans are based on potential events and plausible scenarios. If the nation is not at war or about to be pulled into one, the historical response from the government is to reduce the cost of the armament program because it is politically astute. Planning is one thing; financing and providing necessary assets is another.

With the Manchurian Incident of 1931, which could be viewed as the initial steps of expansion on the part of Japan, Plan Orange received more attention. Ironically, the Japanese military planners, in their war-gaming exercises, mirrored the thinking of the Americans. They anticipated the U. S. would cross the Pacific to reclaim its bases and possessions. This provided additional argument for the large group of Japanese naval officers who were bent on military buildup and territorial expansion through use of force. They convinced the Japanese government that equal parity with the U.S. and Britain was necessary. The

alternative was to abrogate the treaty when it ran out in 1936. When the other powers refused Japan's request, it withdrew from the agreement.

The irony found in this event is based on the personalities involved. The Japanese naval officer who, under orders, forced the talks to fail at the London preliminary naval talks in 1934 was Rear Admiral Isoroko Yamamoto, who later planned and executed the operation against Pearl Harbor. Personally Admiral Yamamoto thought withdrawal was a mistake, however, the Japanese naval shipbuilding program had already exceeded the treaty limitations.

The paradox involved in this turn of events is that the actions of Admiral Yamamoto to remove Japan from the bounds of the Naval Treaty allowed the "battleship supporters" to immediately build the super dreadnaughts *Yamato* and *Musashi*, even though Admiral Yamamoto believed strongly that emphasis on aircraft carrier development was much more important. During the 1930s he did everything possible to make the carrier-based pilots the best trained in the world. They

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CELEBRATE THE

Holidays

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Letters to Santa

Through December 13

Drop off your Christmas letter to Santa at the bright red mailbox in the Community Center. Be sure to include a return address so Santa can write back!

"Light Up the Pines"

Holiday Display Event

Register at
info@oceanpines.org

Help light up the Ocean Pines community by registering your home! View the online map at https://drive.google.com/open?id=1sAvmTC7hgxb0iXW21_83hrGxRDM3Nb8h&usp=sharing

Great Train Robbery

Live Music

December 13
6-10pm | Yacht Club

The Yacht Club Ballroom will be rockin' to the sounds of one of the area's most popular bands!

\$5 cover charge. Call 410.641.7501 for advance reservations.

Santa in the Park

December 7, 12, 14, 19, 21 | 6-8pm
December 15, 22 | 12-2:30pm
White Horse Park

Visit Santa Claus in his little red cottage in White Horse Park. Be sure to bring your camera for this FREE event!

Tie Dye Workshop

December 8
10am-12pm
Community Center

Bring your own white t-shirt and tie dye some holiday colors! \$10 per person.

Christmas Crafts for Kids

Ornaments & Clay Bead Bracelets

December 8 | Community Center

Ornaments | 1-2pm
Ages 4-10. Join us for a fun story & holiday craft. \$8 OP residents, \$10 non-residents.

Bracelets | 2-3pm
Ages 3-6. String pre-made beads to create a Christmas bracelet. \$10 OP residents, \$15 non-residents.

Call
410.641.7052
to register.

Breakfast with Santa & Reindeer Lane Gift Shop

December 14
8-11am | Community Center

Enjoy a pancake breakfast & visit with Santa. \$5 ages 4-10, \$7 ages 11+. Free for ages 3 & under. Pictures with Santa are \$5.

Be sure to stop by the gift shop after breakfast - kids 12 & under can purchase presents (all \$5 or less) for family & friends! Donations of new or gently used gifts accepted through Dec. 13.

Holiday Movie Night

Gingerbread Cookie Decorating

Holiday Movie Night - "The Grinch"
December 13 | 7pm

FREE for all ages! Popcorn, drinks & candy for sale. Bring a chair or blanket.

Gingerbread Cookie Decorating
December 20 | 4-6pm

For ages 3-12. All materials & instruction provided. \$8 per child.

Swim with Santa

December 14
11am-1pm | Sports Core

The Jolly Old Elf has swapped his red suit for a Hawaiian shirt. Waterproof your Christmas list & jump in!

\$6 swimmers, \$3 non-swimmers.

Penguin swim is approaching

It's almost time for our 26th Annual Penguin Swim to be held on New Year's Day, Wednesday, January 1. As always, the swim will be held at the Princess Royale Hotel, Oceanfront and 91st Street in Ocean City.

The Atlantic General Hospital Foundation is inviting individuals and teams to join in the fundraising. All Penguins will receive an official 2020 AGH Penguin Swim short-sleeve t-shirt for their \$25 registration fee. Additional incentive prizes can be earned based on individual fundraising efforts! Individual and team participants can register online now to start collecting donations. To view this year's shirts and prizes, or to register, visit

www.aghpenguinswim.org or text PENGUIN to 51555.

Event day registration will begin at 10 a.m., ending promptly at 12:30 p.m., with the main event at 1 p.m. on the beach. The time in between will be chock full of fun activities the whole family will enjoy: carnival games, face painting, mermaids and more. The Bull on the Beach team will parade down the beach at 12:45 p.m. from 94th Street to the swim area in front of the Princess Royale. Spectators are welcome.

Participants are encouraged to come to pre-registration and advance check-in at the Princess Royale in the Premier Lobby from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on New Year's Eve. Avoid long lines on event day and pick up wristbands, shirts and prizes early. You will also receive an additional incentive prize. All participants are required to register either online or in person and check-in on New Year's Eve or New Year's Day to receive a wristband to gain access to the swim area.

Special recognition awards will be given to Oldest and Youngest Pen-

please see swim on page 14



Appreciation - The Art League of Ocean City held its annual Volunteer Tea on November 14 at the Ocean City Center for the Arts to thank those who give their time and talents to help make the programs and events of the Art League happen.

Above (Left to right): **Pat Hammond, Sharon Hilty, Kathy Tobin, and Janis Sabetta.**



Government lesson - Students in Andrese Foreman's fourth grade class at Ocean City Elementary have been learning about Maryland's three branches of government in Social Studies. Students created brochures, children's books, and PowerPoint presentations to demonstrate their learning. Their projects included a description of each branch's main function and their responsibility in the process of a bill becoming a law. Pictured (left to right): **Lily Rados, Reid Anecharico, Nolan Sweitzer, Dawid Palowski and Paul Kraeuter.**

**The LORD will surely save me
So we will play my songs on
stringed instruments** Isaiah 38:20



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Keep safety in mind when decorating for the holidays

Decorations help make the holiday season a magical time of year. Stores are awash in color and twinkling lights, and similar imagery is on display in private homes.

Designing holiday displays can be a great way for families to spend time together and kick off the celebration. In fact, according to Electrical Safety Foundation International, around 90 percent of Americans decorate their homes for the holidays.

When trimming the tree and decorating this holiday season, families must keep safety in mind. A little planning and some precautionary measures can ensure displays are enjoyed all season long. Travelers Insurance offers the following holiday decorating safety tips.

Do not overload outlets. Plan displays according to the number and location of available outlets.

Never exceed the maximum number of light strands that can be attached together.

Use lights and products that have been tested for safety. Certification marks like UL, ETL and CSA are from nationally recognized laboratories.

LED lights should be used whenever possible. Such lights consume less energy and run cooler than other bulbs.

The ESFI says candles start almost 50 percent of all decoration fires. Minimize the risk by using candles only when they can be monitored. Artificial candles can be used in place of real candles.

Check for freshness in live trees. A fresh tree will last longer and is less of

a fire hazard than an old tree.

Place Christmas trees at least three feet away from all heat sources, including fireplaces and heaters.

Use decorations that are non-combustible or made from flame-resistant materials.



Pay attention to the age recommendations of decorations to see if they can be used in homes with young children. Some items, however common, are choking or strangulation hazards.

please see decoration page 12

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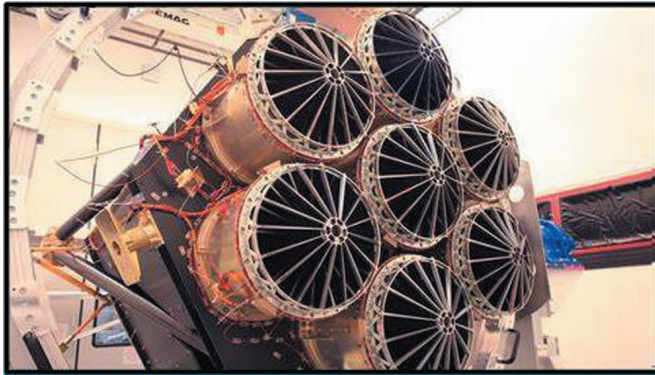
Astronomy & Spaceflight

By Douglas Hemmick, Ph.D.



Orbiting X Ray telescopes

This month's topic is a German—Russian sponsored satellite mission to collect high-energy X-Ray images from the deep sky. On July 13, this year, the “Spektr-Roentgen Gamma” (SRG) spacecraft was launched from the Russian Cosmodrome located in southern Kazakhstan. This is the same facility where Sputnik was launched in 1957 and is still used for many space flights including shuttles to the International Space Station.



“eROSITA” telescope's array of X-Ray sensing units

The new SRG mission will create a detailed sky map, as it plots the intensity of X-Rays across the entire sky. While earlier X-Ray satellite telescopes have returned valuable data, they did not operate in the high-energy range, and also did not gather information from all directions. This new X-Ray survey may include as many as 100,000 galactic clusters. In addition, SRG will observe supermassive black holes, white dwarf stars, neutron stars, and “proto-stars” undergoing birth processes.

Astronomy fans know that examining light from remote galaxies entails seeing those galaxies as they were in the distant past. The cosmic images received at a telescope today reflect conditions in the remote past when the light was first sent on its journey. In this way, astronomy is similar to archeology, studying how things once were. The contributions from SRG are especially important in the field of cosmology, where astronomers are studying earlier eons of cosmic history, dating back to the big bang.

The SRG craft carries two X-Ray telescope arrays. German scientists at the Max Planck Institute built “eROSITA”, the larger telescope, which is designed to cover the widest field of view. Russian scientists at the Space Research Institute in Moscow built “ART-XC” the smaller unit, which is designed to detect higher energy X-Rays, and at greater res-

olutions. Over the initial four years, eROSITA will record comprehensive sweeps mapping the entire sky eight times. During the next three years, ob-

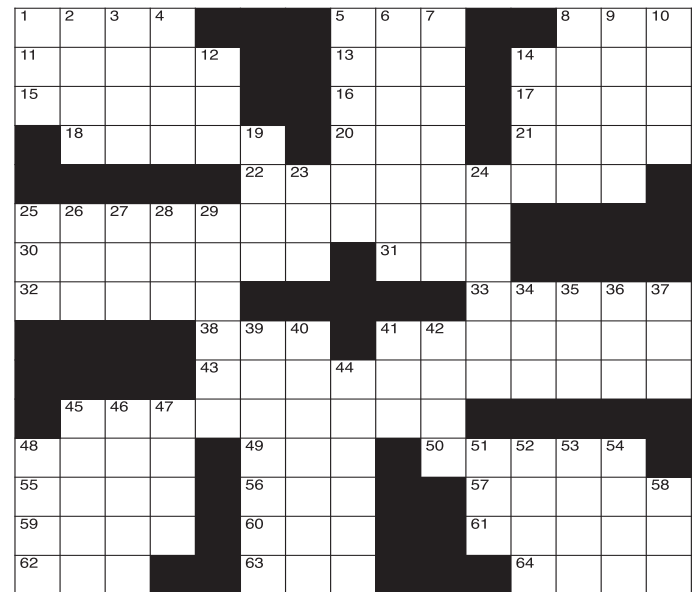
servations will be aimed at specific galaxy clusters. The ART-XC with its sensitivity for “harder” X-Rays might see objects appearing, then disappearing from one year to the next, providing new insights.

Astronomers are excited to explain the advantages of observations using X-Rays. Kirpal Nandra, director of High Energy Astrophysics at Max Planck Institute said: “Where we see clusters of galaxies with optical telescopes, X-rays reveal the reservoirs of hot gasses [or filaments] filling the space between them and tracing out the dark matter structure.” Astronomers know that gigantic filaments of hot gas are linking galaxies together in groups and clusters.

Analyzing the galaxy cluster formations may help scientists to characterize the behavior of dark matter, the unseen 25% of the universe, and dark energy, the unknown force representing about 70% of the “mass-energy” of the universe. The SRG goal of creating a three-dimensional map of the entire universe offers an important step in the quest to understand dark matter and dark energy.

On October 22, 2019, the first X-ray images from the eROSITA telescope were released by the Max Planck Institute. The remarkable details within a photo of the Large Magellanic Cloud revealed dif-

please see **x-ray** on page 11

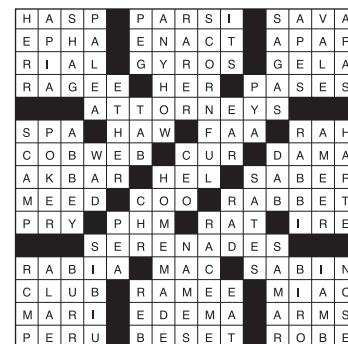


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Egyptian bull-god
- 5. America
- 8. Type of field (abbr.)
- 11. Reagan's Deputy AG
- 13. Negative
- 14. Mother of Hermes
- 15. Summer and Winter Olympics gold medal winner
- 16. In shape
- 17. Oh my goodness!
- 18. People of Guinea or Sierra Leone
- 20. A form of “to be”
- 21. Succulent plant
- 22. Estranges
- 25. Honest
- 30. Showing conviction
- 31. High schoolers' test
- 32. Implant
- 33. Acknowledgment
- 38. Cash dispenser
- 41. Transferred to another
- 43. Superhero group
- 45. Photographers
- 48. Small, rich sponge cake
- 49. Power to perceive
- 50. Heavy cavalry sword
- 55. Israel's first permanent UN delegate
- 56. Everything
- 57. Afflicted
- 59. Language spoken in Chad
- 60. Pioneering MC Kool Moe
- 61. Jewish spiritual leader
- 62. Keyboard key
- 63. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 64. Impudence

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Type of degree
- 2. Expression of sorrow or pity
- 3. Large, predatory lizard
- 4. River in Romania
- 5. Biased
- 6. Parties
- 7. TV's used to need one
- 8. Philly football player
- 9. Recognized ethnic group of China
- 10. Gradually disappear
- 12. Large, dark antelope
- 14. Vegetarians won't eat it
- 19. Takes the energy out of
- 23. Body part
- 24. Succeed in achieving
- 25. Where golfers begin
- 26. Computer memory
- 27. One who buys and sells securities
- 28. Midway between north and northeast
- 29. Quiet and rather dull
- 34. A limb on which to walk
- 35. It precedes two
- 36. Of she
- 37. Commercials
- 39. Necessary for sewing
- 40. Infectious viral disease
- 41. Expression of good wishes
- 42. Some are contact
- 44. More plentiful
- 45. Secret political clique
- 46. Behind the stern of a ship
- 47. Supernatural force
- 48. Altar in Orthodox churches
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Impartiality
- 53. “Luther” actor Idris
- 54. They resist authority (slang)
- 58. Criticize



Answers for November 27

x-ray
from page 10

fuse emissions of hot gas between the stars with temperatures of a few million degrees. Also, remnants were seen of a huge explosion ending the life of a supernova. Another photo shows similar similar conditions — a “bridge” or “filament” of hot gasses between two interacting galaxy clusters, A3391 and A3395. The Max Planck scientists were enthusiastic, with one staff member saying: “This is a dream come true.”

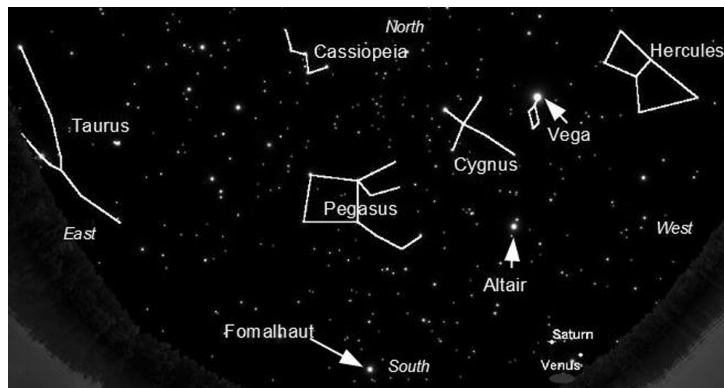
On December 7, 1972, the final Apollo manned mission was launched. The astronauts spent three days and their activities included driving the lunar rover a total of 22 miles. They returned to Earth on the 19th.

This month’s early stargazers may spot Venus in the southwest after about 4:40 p.m. But don’t wait too long, since the planet begins setting at about 5:30

p.m. About 5:15 p.m. Saturn’s soft glow begins emerging east of Venus. Venus and Saturn appear less than two degrees apart on December 10.

The full stellar vista arrives at about 5:30 p.m. when the Great Square can be seen flying high overhead. After about 7 p.m., Taurus the Bull, with its familiar “V”-shaped pattern, will come into view over the eastern horizon.

After about 9 p.m., the popular winter attraction, Orion the Hunter, appears over the eastern horizon. Orion is perhaps the most famous constellation of all



with its bright stars outlining the shape of a giant human figure in the sky.

Wishing good luck and clear skies to all stargazers.

Quantum Computing Club

Next Meeting is
at the Ocean Pines library
Thursday, December 5
7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The group is dedicated to following the ongoing revolution in quantum computing and related technologies. Led by Doug Hemmick, PhD. The group meets the first Thursday each month.

All are welcome.

Eastern Shore Physical Therapy



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Holiday songs with storied pasts

The holiday season is not complete without music. Holiday hits play in shopping malls, and families often trim the tree to their favorite albums.

Even if Elvis' "Blue Christmas" or Johnny Mathis' "Do You Hear What I Hear" reign supreme in your household, it can be interesting to learn about some of the other songs made famous this time of year.

Modern classics. Classic carols may be the first Christmas songs that come to mind. However, less than a quarter century ago a pop singer managed to contribute to the holiday music pantheon. Mariah Carey's "All I Want for Christmas is You," released in 1994, is considered to be the most popular modern Christmas standard. With global sales exceeding 16 million copies, the song is one of Carey's biggest hits.

Sad Origins. "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town," with its warning to chil-

dren to be nice since Santa is keeping tabs on kids' behavior, has helped children tow the line for decades. Songwriter James "Haven" Gillespie was asked to pen the tune during one of the



darker times in his life. Gillespie was jobless and poor and his brother had just passed away, hardly inspiration for a Christmas tune. However, after thinking about the memories he shared with his brother, Gillespie was able to pull together an upbeat and

please see songs on page 14



Lock challenge - During American Education Week parents visiting Mrs. Miller's fifth grade class at Berlin Intermediate school had the opportunity to join their children in a Breakout.Edu locked box challenge. The topic was "Mission: Nutrition" and participants worked out clues to find the combination to each of the five locks keeping them from opening the boxes in the challenge. This activity required everyone involved to use higher level thinking skills in a friendly competition.

SDHS heroes emerge from Blood Drive

Stephen Decatur High School students and staff potentially saved over 200 lives after participating in the first of two yearly Key Club Blood Drives during American Education Week. With over 150 pints collected each year, Stephen Decatur High School is typically one of the largest high school blood donation sites on the Eastern Shore.

Pictured is Stephen Decatur High School student **Kyler Stubblebine** preparing to donate red blood cells using the ALYX apheresis machine.



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Tides for Ocean City Inlet

Day	High /Low	Tide Time	Sunrise Sunset
Th	5	High 2:19 AM	7:02 AM 4:40 PM
	5	Low 8:11 AM	
	5	High 2:38 PM	
	5	Low 8:47 PM	
F	6	High 3:15 AM	7:03 AM 4:40 PM
	6	Low 9:07 AM	
	6	High 3:31 PM	
	6	Low 9:31 PM	
Sa	7	High 4:05 AM	7:04 AM 4:40 PM
	7	Low 10:02 AM	
	7	High 4:19 PM	
	7	Low 10:15 PM	
Su	8	High 4:51 AM	7:05 AM 4:40 PM
	8	Low 10:53 AM	
	8	High 5:04 PM	
	8	Low 10:58 PM	
M	9	High 5:34 AM	7:05 AM 4:40 PM
	9	Low 11:41 AM	
	9	High 5:48 PM	
	9	Low 11:40 PM	
Tu	10	High 6:16 AM	7:06 AM 4:40 PM
	10	Low 12:26 PM	
	10	High 6:31 PM	
W	11	Low 12:22 AM	7:07 AM 4:40 PM
	11	High 6:59 AM	
	11	Low 1:10 PM	
	11	High 7:15 PM	

decoration
from page 9

Avoid putting small, "mouth-sized" decorations near the ground or on lower limbs of trees, where young children can easily reach them.

Exercise caution when hanging decorations at high heights. Make sure the ladder is secured and have a spotter who can hold the ladder and pass items up safely.

Outdoor electric lights and decorations should be plugged into circuits protected by ground fault circuit interrupters, or GFCIs.

Exercise caution when decorating near power lines that extend to the house.

Keep hung stockings far away from open flames so they do not catch any errant embers.

These are just a few suggestions for decorating a safely for the holiday season.



Jail and correctional officers graduate

Twenty-two jail and correctional officers from Wicomico, Worcester, Somerset, Dorchester, Talbot and Caroline counties graduated in the 106th entrance-level class of the Eastern Shore Criminal Justice Academy (ESCJA) operated by Wor-Wic Community College in Salisbury.

Graduation exercises, which were held in Guerrieri Hall on the college campus, featured a commencement address by Charles Scott, warden of the Caroline County Department of Corrections.

John C. Moses, director of criminal justice at Wor-Wic, and Rob Dell'Erba, ESCJA coordinator, presided at the ceremony. Ivie N. Foster of ECI was the class speaker.

Officers from the Worcester County Jail and Detention Center who graduated are shown, from left, **Norman Edwards III, Kaelan R. Patterson and Joseph H. Sinclair.**

AGH workplace recognized

The American Heart Association recently announced the results of their 2019 Workplace Health Achievement Index, and Atlantic General Hospital achieved Silver Level recognition for taking significant steps to build a culture of health in the workplace.

This is not the first time Associates Getting Healthy, Atlantic General's wellness program, has been recognized; it has garnered the Healthiest Maryland Business Gold Award for the last four years for providing resources and support to employees that has resulted in overall improvement of health status and a reduction in medical claims.

The program was launched in 2009 and has evolved and expanded over the years to include annual health risk assessments and biometric measurements for participants as well as wellness coaching, ongoing access to educational resources, and incentives to encourage healthy behaviors and utilization of preventive healthcare.

The American Heart Association created the Index with its CEO Roundtable, a leadership collaborative of more than 40 CEOs from some of America's largest companies who are committed to applying evidence-based approaches to improve their employ-

please see **agh** page 14

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Christmas tree facts

One of the most recognizable symbols of the holiday season, Christmas trees can be seen in private homes, public spaces and many prominent locations beginning each December. Christmas trees come in all shapes and sizes, and families may prefer certain types of trees, including aromas, needle types and fullness.

Christmas trees have a diverse history. The following are some facts about Christmas trees that holiday celebrants may or may not be familiar with.

Many harvested Christmas trees do not grow in the wild, but are raised on farms. Christmas trees are an agricultural product.

Roughly one million acres are dedicated to tree farming.

Approximately 25 to 30 million real Christmas trees are sold in the United States every year.

agh

from page 13

ees' overall health.

The Index uses science-based best practices to evaluate the overall quality and comprehensiveness of their workplace health programs. Studies show that worksites with a culture of health with comprehensive, evidence-based policies and programs, and senior leadership support are more likely to have engaged employees and a healthier, more productive workforce.

A unique feature of the Index is that it calculates an average heart health score for employees of participating companies that securely submit aggregate health data. Companies receive benchmarking reports, which allow them to identify potential areas of improvement so that they can advance their annual performance and recognition.

songs

from page 12

catchy classic, changing his life for the good.

Bestseller. Even though "Silent Night" is the most recorded Christmas song in history, another tune holds the title of the best-selling holiday standard of all time. "White Christmas" was written in 1942 and reminisces about an old-fashioned Christmas celebration. The version recorded by Bing Crosby has estimated sales in excess of 100 million copies worldwide, according to "The Guinness Book of World Records." There are various accounts as to when and where Irving Berlin wrote

The top Christmas tree-producing states are Oregon, North Carolina, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and Washington.

It can take as many as 15 years for a tree to grow to the typical height required of a Christmas tree.

Every state in the United States grows Christmas trees.

Germans are credited with bringing the first Christmas trees into the home and decorating them in the spirit of Christmas. The first recorded reference to the Christmas tree dates back to the 16th century.

Tree farms are beneficial to the environment because they reduce the amount of carbon dioxide in the air and help counter global warming.

The most common Christmas tree species are balsam fir, Douglas-fir, Fraser fir, noble fir, Scotch pine, Virginia pine and white pine.

Christmas trees can be recycled into mulch.

swim

from page 8

guins. Trophies for first, second and third place will be awarded to those who raise the most money in divisions for Individuals – Adults and 18 & under, and Teams – Businesses, Community Groups/Organizations, and Youth/Family. There will also be prizes awarded for the best costumes. Be sure to sign-up for the Costume Contest in the Atrium at the Princess Royale before the swim!

Find the event on social media using #OCPenguinSwim, like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/penguinswim, or call the Atlantic General Hospital Foundation office at 410-641-9671 for more information.

the song. Some state he did so at a hotel in Hollywood, while others say it was the Arizona Biltmore. Wherever Berlin happened to be when writing the tune, there is no doubt he was pining for the quintessential white Christmas.

The song was written for the 1942 movie "Holiday Inn," starring Crosby and Fred Astaire. It became an instant classic and remains Crosby's best-selling recording. Some of the most recent versions of the song have been recorded by Pentatonix, Sara McLachlan and Laura Pusini.

Christmas songs remain near and dear to people's hearts, and a few of these beloved songs have interesting back stories.



Jammy Jamboree - Ocean City Elementary (OCES) held its third annual Pajama Drive. Students were encouraged to bring in a new pair of pajamas to donate to the Pajama Program, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that provides new, warm pajamas and books to children in need. At the end of the PJ Drive, OCES students, faculty and staff proudly collected 132 pairs of pajamas. Pictured are OCES students showing pairs of pajamas that were collected.



Clean-up

In an effort to create new learning spaces at Berlin Intermediate School (BIS) students and staff participated in the After-School Courtyard Cleanup Club and a courtyard cleanup night. Staff and students worked collaboratively in spreading gravel purchased with Choptank Electric Trust Grant funding. The BIS courtyard cleanup effort was possible due to our dedicated students, staff and community partners.

pearl harbor
from page 7

were flying 700 hours a year compared to the U.S. pilots who could only fly 305 annually.

Perhaps the ultimate paradox involved with the attack on Pearl Harbor is that after all the millions of dollars spent on the launching of a fleet of super dreadnaughts and the attendant support vessels, the Japanese sent six aircraft carriers to sink the American battleships of the Pacific fleet. No Japanese battleship ever committed a hostile act anywhere close to the U.S.

The overarching irony of the events of that day may be the absence of the three carriers, which had been sent to sea to improve their readiness level. It would be these three carriers, along with others that would break the back of the Japanese navy, both their battleship and carrier fleets. The Japanese planned an attack against the American fleet, with no contingency plans

to follow up on the outcome of the major event, the attack on Pearl Harbor. They had no plans to search the surrounding waters for the American carriers. They carried no landing force to follow up on success. What they did accomplish was prophetically summed up by Admiral Yamamoto after he learned the Japanese envoys to Washington had not delivered the declaration of war to the American government prior to the attack. He said, "I fear we have awakened the sleeping giant."

Irony or paradox, the reality was that the nation had suffered the loss of thousands of men, the Pacific fleet was severely crippled but the admiral was correct. The sleeping giant awoke with a fierceness never expected by the Japanese. History has recorded the American reply.

Robert Adair was editor of *The Courier* between 2000 and 2005. He passed away in 2007.



Packages for the troops

In honor of Veterans Day, Stephen Decatur High School students donated 38 packed boxes of toiletries and other goods, a monetary donation, and handwritten thank you cards to the troops. The annual drive was coordinated by Connections Advisor Laurie Chetelat. American Legion Post #166 partnered with the school to deliver the packages.

Pictured: Back row: Connections Advisor **Laurie Chetelat, Lauren Kennard, Gabby Izzett, Hunter Selzer, Mae Purnell, Isy Kristick**, American Legion Post #166 member **Sarge Garlitz, Sydney Boger and Mary Fogle**.

Front row: **Elizabeth Meyer, Ellie Dutton, Malery Andrews, Danielle Consigli and Macy Dill**.

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