

# The Courier

December 11, 2024 Volume 25 Number 14



**CONGRATULATIONS** to the Stephen Decatur Seahawks on back-to-back State Championship wins. At right is #79 **Shane McDermott**.

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## Worcester scores high in latest school report card data release

The Maryland State Department of Education released its annual update to the Maryland Report Card website, containing performance data for every school in the state of Maryland, including eleven schools in Worcester County.

In Worcester County, nearly 91 percent of all eligible schools earned a four- or five-star rating, a concentration well above any other school system in the state. In this year's release, 41 percent of all schools in the state earned a four- or five-star rating. Mirroring trends locally, the state acknowledged this year's data represents positive progress as the number of schools increasing their star ratings was twice the number of schools who experienced a decrease in star rating. In Worcester County, four of the school system's eleven eligible schools increased their star ratings by one star while only one experienced a decrease.

Highlights of these increases include Stephen Decatur High School, which increased its star rating from three to four over last year by increasing its total earned percent by seven percentage points. Both Pocomoke and Snow Hill high schools also saw significant gains over 2023 and landed just on the cusp of five-star status.

Both Pocomoke and Ocean City elementary schools, which also increased its star ratings in this year to four- and five-star status respectively, saw significant progress in reducing their chronic absenteeism rates, which contributed to their increases.

To receive a star rating, a school must have 45 or more possible points. Some schools may not have possible points for every measure or indicator. In Worcester County, Snow Hill Elementary School did not reach this possible point threshold, which is why the school was not issued a star rating. Additionally, Worcester Technical High School and Cedar Chapel Special Schools do not meet the qualifications for a star rating.

These scores reflect school performance on multiple components. For elementary and middle schools, the system includes academic achievement, academic progress, progress in achieving English language proficiency, and measures of

school quality and student success. For high schools, the system includes academic achievement, graduation rate, progress in English language proficiency, readiness for postsecondary success, and measures of school quality and student success. All schools' calculations incorporate school composite scores on a statewide School Survey, which is based on input related to safety, community, environment, and relationships.

"I continue to be in awe of our schools' positive trajectory in Maryland's accountability system," said Superintendent of Schools Louis H. Taylor. "Worcester continues to outperform our counterparts across the State, and today's release is just another example of how we are delivering dividends on the investment our community has made in our educational system."

The school system is also defying expectations, according to Taylor. "Research shows the number one indicator of a school's performance is its level of poverty, but here in Worcester County, our schools continue to help students rise above their circumstances to reach success."

Maryland introduced School Report Cards in 2018 for students, parents, educators and community members to better understand how their schools are performing, just as report cards help parents understand how their kids are doing. The goal of the School Report Card is to bring together school data in an easy-to-understand and usable format to help us ask questions, find answers, make decisions, and act.

The School Report Cards can be found on the Maryland Report Card website, as well as more information and data about schools and districts. This information can be found at: [MdReportCard.org](https://MdReportCard.org). An update on the latest release of the Maryland School Report Card was made to the State Board of Education on December 3, 2024. The presentation materials for the meeting, which provide statewide context to Worcester County's performance, can be found at <https://marylandpublicschools.org/stateboard/Pages/meeting-agendas/2024/1203/2024-12-03.aspx>.



**Pink Ladies** - The 13th Annual Ocean Pines Pink Lady Golf Tournament, hosted by the Ocean Pines Ladies' Golf Association (OPLGA) and Ocean Pines Men's Golf Association (OPMGA), recently raised \$9,075 for Atlantic General Women's Imaging and the Eunice Q. Sorin Women's Diagnostic Center at Atlantic General Hospital.

The funds raised by the tournament, held at the Ocean Pines Golf Club on October 9, will help pay for and provide mammograms and other cancer-related care for local individuals who are unable to afford such services.

This year's tournament was open to the public and hosted a record-breaking number of participants.

Over the past 13 years, the tournament has raised more than \$27,000 for these critical screening services.

## Ocean Pines Golf & Country Club vandalized

On November 16, an Ocean Pines Police Officer responded to the Ocean Pines Golf and Country Club and began an investigation into an act of vandalism that occurred to the public restrooms on the 15th hole of the course. It was discovered that the restrooms had been entered and rocks and toilet paper were strewn inside. Additionally, the toilet tanks in both the men's and women's restrooms were

both damaged to the point where they required replacement.

On November 27, an additional call came in for report of juveniles in vicinity of the same restrooms on the 15th hole that had thrown a rock at a Golf Course employee doing maintenance on the course. The responding officer checked the neighborhood adjacent to the golf course and located two juvenile subjects that matched the description provided. During the ensuing investigation, the officer determined that these were the subjects involved not only in the incident that had just been reported but also the incident of November 16.

The officer contacted the parents of both juveniles. A juvenile referral will be submitted to the Department of Juvenile Services for the 15-year-old. The second juvenile cannot be referred due to age limitations under current state law.

Charges filed: Malicious Destruction of Property; Assault 2nd Degree.

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## Wellness at Worcester Prep

As Thanksgiving break approached, Worcester Preparatory School (WPS) students took a moment to unwind during "Wellness @ Worcester," a program designed to alleviate stress during a typically hectic time.

The week leading up to a holiday break can be chaotic for students as they try to complete their to-do lists before finding time to relax. "Wellness @ Worcester" was launched last year as an initiative to support the physical and mental well-being of Upper School students. Spearheaded by enthusiastic senior Lydia Schwartz in collaboration with the College Counseling program, the event introduces students to a holistic approach to health, focusing on stress management, study skills, and healthy lifestyle choices.

On the Friday before the break, Upper School students enjoyed warm apple cider and hot chocolate while participating in various activities such as decorating cookies, playing Giant Jenga, using adult coloring books, writing thank-you cards to family and friends, and crafting beaded bracelets.

Above: WPS seniors **Briar Parsons** and **Will Wells** took a moment to write thank-you cards to their loved ones before heading off for Thanksgiving break.



## Bruce Edward Clark, 65,

Bruce Edward Clark, 65, of Ocean Pines, Maryland peacefully passed away on Wednesday, December 4, 2024, at the Stansell House in Ocean Pines.



**Bruce Clark**

Bruce was born on March 25, 1959, in Easton, Maryland to his parents Isabella and John Clark. For 29 wonderful years, Bruce was a beloved participant at the Worcester County Developmental Center, where he brought smiles to those around him. Before that, he was part of the Holly Center program. His genuine love for life was evident in the little things, whether it was a scenic car ride, dancing on the dance floor, or an afternoon spent watching his favorite shows. He was always happiest when surrounded by his favorite people. Bruce also loved spending time around horses, and often snuggled up with a blanket covered in images of them. His passion for food was equally notable, often delighting in a delicious meal.

He is survived by his brother, Philip Clark (Nadine); sister, Karen Monteith (Marshall); four nieces and one nephew; and his longtime guardian, Cheryl Moore.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a great nephew.

Services for Bruce were held at the Worcester County Developmental Center in Newark, Maryland. Interment was held privately.

Arrangements are in the care of Short Funeral Home in Delmar. Online condolences may be sent to the family by visiting [www.shortfh.com](http://www.shortfh.com).

## Possible origins of the Friday the 13th legend

This Friday is the thirteenth of the month. Why does "Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>" cast a spell of superstition?

The number 13 is widely considered unlucky, so much so that certain buildings do not list a thirteenth floor. It's hard to avoid 13 when it makes up a day each and every month, and even more so when the 13th falls on a Friday.

Every year people are treated to at least one Friday the 13th on the Gregorian calendar, but some years there can be as many as three such days. It is difficult to pinpoint when superstitions surrounding Friday the 13th first came to be, but it may have something to do with Christianity.

The New York Historical Society says the unlucky connotations may be traced back to The Last Supper. In attendance were 13 people: Jesus as well as his 12 apostles (one of whom betrayed him). The following day (Friday) Jesus was crucified. Superstitions cropped up among Christians that a table of 13 "courted death" and that having 13 people around a table or in a group was unlucky, according to the BBC.

The number 12 often is seen as a sign of completion. The 12 months of the year, 12 zodiac signs, 12 apostles, 12 days of Christmas, and 12 gods of Olympus perhaps bolster that reputation. That belief may have given rise to foods being sold in multiples of 12, as in a dozen doughnuts. Thirteen is then incomplete.

Friday also has a reputation for being unlucky. It was said to be the day Eve gave Adam the apple from the Tree of Knowledge as well as the day Cain killed his brother, Abel.

The Christian connection is not the only potential source of superstition surrounding the unlucky nature of 13. History.com says the ancient Code of Hammurabi reportedly omitted a 13th law from its list of legal rules. Also, National Public Radio says the Knights Templar

were condemned on a Friday the 13th.

Although there are many past examples of when Friday and the number 13 have been linked to potential bad luck, word of mouth also may have contributed to this unfortunate relationship. Things have a tendency to be misremembered, which is known as the "Mandela Effect." It is possible someone misremembered or incorrectly indicated that Friday the 13th was unlucky, and then it has since been remembered that way.

Thirteen is not always considered unlucky. Prior to World War I, the French traditionally considered 13 a lucky number. In Italy, 13 was the lucky number in football pools. The



Italian expression "fare tredici" meant "to hit the jackpot" and is translated as "make thirteen." Also, Colgate University has long considered 13 a lucky number, as the school was founded by 13 men with 13 dollars, 13 prayers and 13 articles.

Friday the 13th next falls on this Friday, potentially leaving the superstitious on edge.

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# Threading a needle

Threading a needle is easier said than done. In my case I guess it has something to do with age, poor eyesight and fingers plump as breakfast sausages. All of the above conspired against me recently when I attempted

needle. Would the third one be the charm?

Going into the second hour, I gave serious thought to taking the shirt to a tailor or seamstress for the repair. A few thoughts crossed my mind. First,

I don't know a tailor or seamstress. Second, the cost to replace a button would probably be more than I'd want to pay no matter how reasonable it was. Third, I just couldn't bring myself to admit defeat. After all, I was only attempting to replace a single button, not rebuild an engine.

In a last ditch effort before throwing in the towel, or in this instance a shirt, I scavenged around a cabinet drawer hoping to find a larger needle

with a larger eye. As luck would have it, I found one just as soon as it pierced my thumb. More blood. Another bandage. Chooch stayed in the other room.

Holding the needle up to the light with my right hand, I gently pushed the thread tip closer with my left hand. Success! The needle was threaded. Unfortunately, the success was short-lived because the thread

stuck to the bandage around my index finger and pulled out of the eye when I took my fingers away. The gods were against me.

Let's do it again. This time, I pushed enough of the thread passed the eye that I was able to pull it through several inches.

More than two hours into this project, I began the process of sewing on the button. It didn't take as long as threading the needle to be sure but I did prick my finger a few times.

An after-action appraisal of the episode revealed the following: two needles were lost; cold water does not remove drops of blood from a white shirt; two hours is way too long to replace a single button; my fingers are in fact plump; and, it was a while before my dog Chooch returned to the room. Conclusion - the next time I lose a shirt button, I'm buying a new shirt.



## *It's All About...*

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

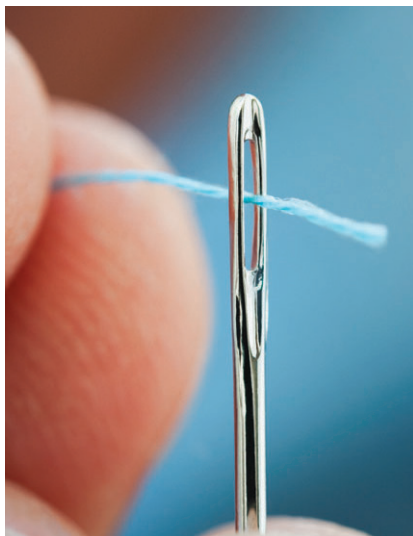
to replace a collar button on a dress shirt that had popped off. What should have been a quick and easy undertaking was mired at the get-go when attempts to pass the white thread through the eye of a needle proved elusive, and frustrating.

Even wearing my reading glasses and working under a bright light, I just could not get the end of the thread to cooperate. Matters weren't helped much because my fat fingers grasping the thread obstructed my view of the needle's eye when I brought the thread close. Attempts to hold the thread so that more of the end

was exposed were unsuccessful because the thread end was limp and constantly missed the hole.

Twice I dropped the needle, finding it only once. The second needle was no more cooperative than the first. Hoping it would make a difference I put the thread to my lips to moisten the end. Why? In desperation I thought it might help. It didn't. In full disclosure, without thinking, on one try I inadvertently brought the needle to my lips instead of the thread. My reaction to the sharp needle jab to the tongue is not fit to share in a family-friendly newspaper. Suffice to say, my reaction was loud and animated enough that my dog Chooch left the room.

On three occasions the needle pricked my finger. The first time drawing blood which dropped on my white shirt. After returning with a bandage, I realized I had lost another



# GREAT STOCKING STUFFER

Author and columnist Chip Bertino's book, *It's All About... Some of My Favorites*, is a collection of some of his favorite columns written during the past two decades.

Humorous and poignant, the book chronicles experiences of raising children, getting older, being (and staying) married and just living life. The stories resonate with readers who will visualize their own similar experiences.



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# Commentary

By Joe Reynolds  
OceanPinesForum.com

## Odds & Ends

### Election Committee Controversies Continue

As reported previously, at a public meeting of the Elections Committee a month or more ago, committee member Ken Petrini said the Elections Committee under the previous chair, Tom Piatti, was a “sham.” Incredibly not one committee member responded to such a personal attack on Piatti and the committee he chaired.

To his credit, committee chair Steve Ransdell in later newspaper interviews said, “Piatti acted with integrity as chair and the committee that was in place after he resigned executed the plan for this year’s election that Piatti had developed with the old committee. In no way was this a sham.” In fact, Petrini’s comment was a disgraceful public attack on a good man who served OPA with honor in a number of positions, including a short stint as a board member.

Petrini was at it again during the November 25, 2024 Elections Committee Meeting. He became involved in a somewhat nasty argument with the other committee members and abruptly shut down his video connection.

Association members can only wonder how long the board will tolerate such behavior.

### Ocean Pines Service Area

Worcester County owns the Ocean Pines Water and Wastewater Service system in Ocean Pines. Years ago, when the county was expanding the sewage system capacity, we were told the expansion was only needed for Ocean Pines. That was not true. The system now serves a number of areas outside Ocean

Pines and the county is expanding service to other outside areas.

For example, now the County is going to connect River Run to the Ocean Pines sewage service area. Since its inception, River run has used a spray irrigation system. Will this new connection to the Ocean Pines plant provide land for development that was previously dedicated to spray irrigation? We do not know.

The County is also going to run a sewage line from the Ocean Pines plant to Riddle Farms. The Ocean Pines drinking water system is already there. As a practical matter, the County is spending big money to make the Ocean Pines system a backup for Riddle Farms. The County may say it works both ways, but Riddle Farms cannot even handle its own water and sewage needs much less backup a much, much larger service area like Ocean Pines.

The County, regardless of any protestations to the contrary, looks to the Ocean Pines Service area to fuel intense future development in this area of the county. Sadly, despite the promises of 20 years ago, there is nothing Ocean Pines can do about it.

Decades ago, the County created an Ocean Pines water and waste water committee whose sole purpose was to protect the interests of people in Ocean Pines. It has proved useless.

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## Jolly Roger Parks partner with Diakonia Inc

Jolly Roger Amusement Parks joined forces with local nonprofit organization Diakonia Inc. on Tuesday, December 3, to kick off the season of giving for this year’s Giving Tuesday.

“This year is our fourth Giving Tuesday partnering with Diakonia,” said Steve Pastusak, vice president of Jolly Roger Amusement Parks. “Every year, our team comes together to give back and make a meaningful difference in the local community where we live, work, and play.”

Giving Tuesday is a movement that unites individuals, charities, businesses, and communities across the U.S. Recognized as the world’s largest generosity movement, it signals the

start of one of our favorite seasons, the giving season.

The impact of Giving Tuesday extends beyond monetary donations and inspiring acts of generosity. From fundraising for local charities to participating in food and clothing drives, practicing kindness, and helping neighbors, people across the country embrace this day as a celebration of giving.

“Our parks give back year-round, but we are especially energized to continue our tradition, and take action on Giving Tuesday” Pastusak added. “We encourage other local businesses to join us in making a difference in our community.”

## Courier Almanac

On December 11, 1963 kidnappers release Frank Sinatra, Jr., after abducting him in Lake Tahoe, California, three days earlier. The 19-year-old man, who was trying to follow in his father’s footsteps by pursuing a singing career, had been blindfolded and taken at gunpoint from his hotel room at Harrah’s Club Lodge and taken to Canoga Park, an area of Southern California’s San Fernando Valley. After allowing a brief phone conversation between father and son, the kidnappers demanded a ransom of \$240,000..

Crossword puzzles have been enjoyed for years and years. Arthur Wynne, a journalist from Liverpool, England, is usually credited as the inventor of crossword puzzles. The first such puzzle appeared in the Sunday newspaper the New York World on December 12, 1913. Wynne’s crosswords differed from modern ones in that the



crossword was diamond-shaped and contained no internal black squares. Over time, additional publications recognized the popularity of crossword puzzles and started including them in their papers. Typically, the standard for crossword puzzles is a 15-by-15 square. The puzzle may have a theme that the words share in common. Another tradition in puzzle design is that the grid should have 180-degree rotational symmetry, so that the pattern appears the same if the paper is turned upside down. Grids appearing in North American newspapers and magazines consist mainly of solid regions of uninterrupted white squares, separated sparsely by shaded squares. Elsewhere around the world the grids feature a greater percentage of shaded squares. Crossword puzzles are not only a popular pastime. Researchers continue to study how doing puzzles like crosswords strengthens cognitive health. Starting out with easier puzzles and building up in difficulty can make them easier to solve. Also, over time, avid crossword enthusiasts often learn repeated patterns and words that appear frequently in these puzzles.



Side Trip

# Bush's Baked Beans, a family favorite

By **Chip Bertino**

For more years than I can remember, Bush's Baked Beans have been a favorite in my house. Maybe it sounds silly to have a baked bean preference, but we do. So, when we were recently in the Smoky Mountains - Pigeon Forge, Tennessee to be exact - my wife and I were eager to take a side trip excursion along US 411 to Chestnut Hill, TN to visit the Bush's Bean Welcome



**Duke**

Center and museum nestled in the foothills of the Smokies. As soon as we stepped in the museum it became very clear these people are serious about their love of beans.

The museum entwines the history of the Bush family and the company that bears its name. The company's origins and the family's heritage are interesting coincide with many of the milestones of the last century. We learned about Bush Brothers & Company's over 100-year-old canning history and how they became number one name in beans. Fourth generation family member Jay Bush and his "un-trusting" sidekick spokesdog, Duke were well represented as well.

The family history is well documented. Andrew Jackson Bush was born in 1867 in Chestnut Hill. He was educated at nearby Carson-Newman College where he earned a teaching degree before returning home to teach at a one-room schoolhouse.

He married in 1891. He and his wife Sallie had four boys and two girls over the next few years. A deeply principled man, A.J. and Sallie were heav-

ily involved in the community and in the raising of their children. She tended the sick, acted as midwife and trained young girls in household management skills.

A. J. served on the school board and taught in the school.

A. J. was always interested in trade and in ways to help his community. His interests intersected when in 1897 he started the general store that would become A. J. Bush & Co. The store provided a convenient place to barter for goods that could not be produced locally and served as a place where his children could lend a hand as they grew up.

Interestingly, the museum is situ-

ated on the site of the original general store.

In 1904 he partnered with the nearby Stokely Brothers and estab-



**Bush's museum and welcome center in Chestnut Hill, TN**

lished a tomato cannery in Chestnut Hill. By 1908 he had bought out their interest and established a partnership

*please see **beans** page 12*



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## 'Mitzvah Team' launches campaign to support first responders

A group of Ocean Pines residents, known for their charitable efforts, is leading a new campaign to support local first responders.

The Teal Bay Mitzvah Team, a volunteer group of neighbors in the Teal Bay section of Ocean Pines, is asking for donations of supplies to benefit the Ocean Pines Fire/EMS and Police departments. The group is named after the Jewish word for good deeds.

Mitzvah Team member Margit Novack said the group recently met with leaders of both departments to identify specific needs. The new campaign launched on local Facebook groups, including "Ocean Pines Get Involved" and "Ocean Pines News and Info."

"Either you've been helped personally by Ocean Pines Police or Fire/EMS, or you know people who have been," Novack said. "This is a way to show your support and give back."

Requested items include:  
-Keurig K-Cups (caffeinated and non-caffeinated)  
-Boxes of sugar, stevia, and raw sugar

- Gatorade (diet and regular)
- Bottled water
- Individual snack bags (requested only for police personnel)

Novack emphasized the importance of supporting first responders who dedicate their time to keeping the community safe.


"The police and fire/EMS teams are always there when we need them. This is a small way to say thank you and help make their workday a little easier," she said.

Donations can be dropped off or shipped directly to Novack at 2 Riverside Court in Teal Bay, Ocean Pines. The collection drive runs through Christmas Day.

For more information about the campaign, contact Novack at [margitnovack@gmail.com](mailto:margitnovack@gmail.com).

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**Guest speaker** - The Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City, MD has a guest speaker almost every Wednesday. On December 4, Steve McGee, a former U.S. Coast Guard Officer and the son-in law of member Ron Kline spoke about his experiences, which were most interesting: shipwreck recoveries and drug and immigrant interdictions in the Caribbean. Previously, Steve spoke about his current job with American Cruise Lines and the shipbuilding his company does for them in Salisbury.

Above: (L-R) **Steve McGee** and Kiwanis Club President **Tom Southwell**.



**Creative** - The After-School Art Club at Berlin Intermediate School (BIS) recently focused on birds. Students made cranberry and apple bird feeders and bird-themed holiday cards. The BIS Art Club, led by artist Joanne Guilfoil, is a program of the Art League of Ocean City with a grant from the Worcester County Arts Council.



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# The Boston Tea Party ignites a call to action

Monday marks the anniversary of an event that galvanized a belief among many American colonists that independence from Great Britain was necessary.

The Boston Tea Party was a political protest that occurred on December 16, 1773, at Griffin's Wharf in Boston, Massachusetts. American colonists, frustrated and angry at Britain for imposing "taxation without representation," dumped 342 chests of tea, imported by the British East India Company into the harbor. The event was the first major act of defiance to British rule over the colonists. It showed Great Britain that Americans would not tolerate taxation and tyranny sitting down, and rallied American patriots across the 13 colonies to fight for independence.

In the 1760s, Britain was deep in debt, so British Parliament imposed a series of taxes on American colonists to help pay those debts.

The Stamp Act of 1765 taxed colonists on virtually every piece of printed paper they used, from playing cards and business licenses to newspapers and legal documents. The Townshend Acts of 1767 went a step further, taxing essentials such as paint, paper, glass, lead and tea.

The British government felt the taxes were fair since much of its debt was earned fighting wars on the colonists' behalf. The colonists, however, disagreed. They were furious at being taxed without having any representation in Parliament, and felt it was wrong for Britain to impose taxes on them to gain revenue.

On March 5, 1770, a street brawl happened in Boston between American colonists and British soldiers.

Later known as the Boston Massacre, the fight began after an unruly group of colonists—frustrated with the presence of British soldiers in their streets—flung snowballs, ice and oyster shells at a British sentinel guarding the Boston Customs House.

Reinforcements arrived and opened fire on the mob, killing five colonists and wounding six. The Boston Massacre and its fallout further incited the colonists' rage towards Britain.

Britain eventually repealed the taxes it had imposed on the colonists except the tea tax. It wasn't about to give up tax revenue on the nearly 1.2

million pounds of tea the colonists drank each year.

In protest, the colonists boycotted tea sold by British East India Company and smuggled in Dutch tea, leaving British East India Company with millions of pounds of surplus tea and facing bankruptcy.

In May 1773, British Parliament passed the Tea Act which allowed British East India Company to sell tea to the colonies duty-free and much cheaper than other tea companies—but still tax the tea when it reached colonial ports.

Tea smuggling in the colonies increased, although the cost of the smuggled tea soon surpassed that of tea from British East India Company with the added tea tax.

Still, with the help of prominent tea smugglers such as John Hancock and Samuel Adams—who protested taxation without representation but also wanted to protect their tea smuggling operations—colonists continued to rail against the tea tax and Britain's control over their interests.

The Sons of Liberty were a group of colonial merchants and tradesmen founded to protest the Stamp Act and other forms of taxation. The group of revolutionists included prominent patriots such as Benedict Arnold, Patrick Henry and Paul Revere, as well as Adams and Hancock.

Led by Adams, the Sons of Liberty held meetings rallying against British Parliament and protested the Griffin's Wharf arrival of *Dartmouth*, a British East India Company ship carrying tea. By December 16, 1773, *Dartmouth* had been joined by her sister ships, *Beaver* and *Eleanor*; all three ships loaded with tea from China.

That morning, as thousands of colonists convened at the wharf and its surrounding streets, a meeting was held at the Old South Meeting House where a large group of colonists voted to refuse to pay taxes on the tea or allow the tea to be unloaded, stored, sold or used. (Ironically, the ships were built in America and owned by Americans.)

Governor Thomas Hutchison refused to allow the ships to return to Britain and ordered the tea tariff be paid and the tea unloaded. The colonists refused, and Hutchison never offered a satisfactory compro-

mise.

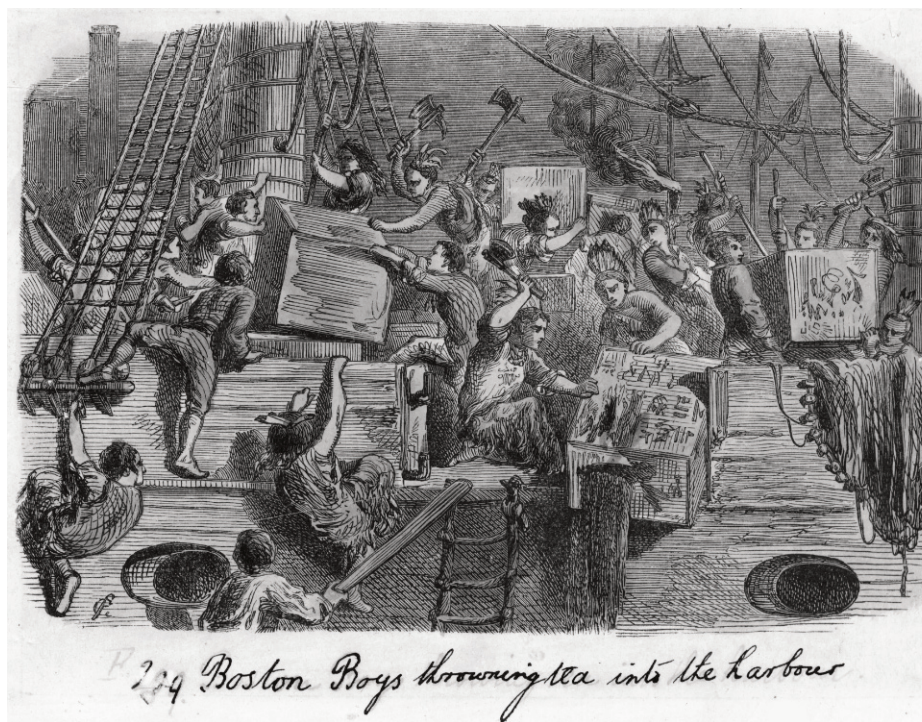
That night, a large group of men—many reportedly members of the Sons of Liberty—disguised themselves in Native American garb, boarded the docked ships and threw 342 chests of tea into the water.

Said participant George Hewes, "We then were ordered by our commander to open the hatches and take out all the chests of tea and throw them overboard, and we immediately proceeded to execute his orders, first cutting and splitting the chests with our tomahawks, so as thoroughly to

to pay for it himself.

No one was hurt, and aside from the destruction of the tea and a padlock, no property was damaged or looted during the Boston Tea Party. The participants reportedly swept the ships' decks clean before they left.

Though led by Samuel Adams and his Sons of Liberty and organized by John Hancock, the names of many of those involved in the Boston Tea Party remain unknown. Thanks to their Native American costumes, only one of the tea party culprits, Francis Akeley, was arrested and imprisoned.



expose them to the effects of the water."

Hewes also noted that "We were surrounded by British armed ships, but no attempt was made to resist us."

While some important colonist leaders such as John Adams were thrilled to learn Boston Harbor was covered in tea leaves, others were not.

In June of 1774, George Washington wrote: "the cause of Boston...ever will be considered as the cause of America." But his personal views of the event were far different. He voiced strong disapproval of "their conduct in destroying the Tea" and claimed Bostonians "were mad." Washington, like many other elites, held private property to be sacrosanct.

Benjamin Franklin insisted the British East India Company be reimbursed for the lost tea and even offered

Even after American independence, participants refused to reveal their identities, fearing they could still face civil and criminal charges as well as condemnation from elites for the destruction of private property. Most participants in the Boston Tea Party were under the age of 40 and 16 of them were teenagers.

But despite the lack of violence, the Boston Tea Party didn't go unanswered by King George III and British Parliament.

In retribution, they passed the Coercive Acts (later known as the Intolerable Acts) which:

-Closed Boston Harbor until the tea lost in the Boston Tea Party was paid for

-Ended the Massachusetts Constitution and ended free elections of town officials

please see party page 11





**Gingerbread houses** - Ocean City Elementary School fourth graders participated in their annual tradition of constructing gingerbread houses with their family members during American Education Week. Students invited parents and grandparents to assist as they applied engineering and geometry in the creation of their sweet and symmetrical masterpieces.

**party**  
from page 10

-Moved judicial authority to Britain and British judges, basically creating martial law in Massachusetts

-Required colonists to quarter British troops on demand

-Extended freedom of worship to French-Canadian Catholics under British rule, which angered the mostly Protestant colonists

Britain hoped the Coercive Acts would squelch rebellion in New England and keep the remaining colonies from uniting, but the opposite happened: All the colonies viewed the punitive laws as further evidence of Britain's tyranny and rallied to Massachusetts' aid, sending supplies and plotting further resistance.

A second Boston Tea Party took place in March 1774, when around 60 Bostonians boarded the ship *Fortune* and dumped nearly 30 chests of tea into the harbor.

The event didn't earn nearly as much notoriety as the first Boston Tea Party, but it did encourage other tea-dumping demonstrations in Maryland, New York and South Carolina.

Many colonists felt Britain's Coercive Acts went too far. On September 5, 1774, elected delegates from all 13 American colonies except Georgia met in Carpenter's Hall in Philadelphia for the First Continental Congress to figure out how to resist British oppression.

The delegates were divided on how to move forward but the Boston Tea Party had united them in their fervor to gain independence. By the time they adjourned in October 1774, they'd written The Declaration and Resolves which:

-Censured Britain for passing the Coercive Acts and called for their repeal

-Established a boycott of British goods

Declared the colonies had the right to govern independently

-Rallied colonists to form and train a colonial militia

Britain didn't capitulate and within months, the "shot heard round the world," rang out in Concord, Massachusetts, sparking the start of the American Revolutionary War.

-History.com

# Celebrating Poinsettias

Tomorrow, Thursday is national Poinsettia Day. Poinsettias and their rich red, white or variegated color schemes are the ideal backdrop for Christmas celebrations. In fact, poinsettias are among the most popular decorative flowers during the holiday season.

According to the 2013 USDA Floriculture Statistics report, poinsettias accounted for about one-quarter (23 percent) of all flowering potted plant sales that year. Roughly 34 million poinsettia plants are sold in a given season. Indigenous to Central America, the plant was introduced to North America in the 1820s when Joel Roberts Poinsett, the first United States Minister to Mexico, brought the red-and-green plant back with him from a trip abroad.

While millions of poinsettias will be purchased for the holiday season, many mistakenly think their utility ends once New Year's Day has come and gone. But with proper care poinsettia plants can continue to thrive and bring warmth and beauty to a home long after the holiday decorations have been tucked away.

Choose a hearty plant. Experts with the University of Vermont Extension Department of Plant and Soil Science say that many people mistake the plant's leaves for its flowers. The red, white or pink bracts are actually modified leaves. The flowers of the plant are the yellow clustered buds in the

center called "cyathia." Choose poinsettia plants that have buds which are, ideally, not yet open.

Keep the temperature consistent. Poinsettias prefer a room temperature between 60 and 68 F during the day and 10 degrees cooler at night. Humidity levels between 20 and 50 percent are ideal. Group plants on water-filled trays full of pebbles to help increase humidity levels.

Place near sunlight. The United Kingdom-based Perrywood floral company advises placing poinsettia plants near a bright windowsill but not in direct sunlight. Do not let a poinsettia touch cold window panes.

Avoid drafts. The plants are sensitive to drafts and changes in temperature. So it's best to keep poinsettias away from drafty doors, windows, radiators, or fireplaces.

Don't drown the roots. Wait until the surface of the compost dries out before watering the plant anew. Also, the decorative foil wrapper that covers pots can trap water and lead to root rot. Remove it or poke holes in the bottom to allow for drainage.

Cut back plants. Come mid-March, cut back the plant by half to encourage new shoots, suggests the University of Illinois Extension. The plants also can be placed outside in the spring after the risk of frost has passed. Bring poinsettias back in around mid-September to early October to force them to bloom again.



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# Join OceanPinesForum.com

**Join the thousands** of other OPA members who enjoy the lively discussion and commentary on OceanPinesForum.com, your source of accurate information about OPA.

**Discuss Ocean Pines issues with other association members.** Some members of the Board of Directors participate on the forum message board, as well as OPA counsel Bruce Bright.

**All opinions are welcome.** However the forum message board is "G" rated - no vulgarity, no personal attacks.

**OceanPinesForum.com is not Facebook. It is a place for serious discussion of issues within the OPA HOA.**

"The Forum," as many call it, also contains a vast collection of OPA related images, going back to 2004 when forum moderator Joe Reynolds, a 35-year full-time resident of Ocean Pines, first created the site. Back then it was Dick Brady, a former OPA Board of Directors President and father of current board member Elaine Brady, who posted the first response to a message by Reynolds.

Today, the message board contains 323,413 posts on 24,558 individual topics - a virtual history of OPA issues for over 20 years.

In 2006, Reynolds and OceanPinesForum.com were honored with the **Business of the Year Award** by the Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce and received a special commendation from the Worcester County Commissioners. This was primarily the result of OceanPinesForum.com providing the first online videos of OPA meetings beginning with the Annual Meeting of 2004.

**Go to OceanPinesForum.com to join** and see the ongoing discussions, and add your own two-cents. Forum members also have the option of receiving occasional emailed commentary by Joe Reynolds on various issues as they arise.

**OceanPinesForum.com**  
News, Life and Politics in Ocean Pines, Maryland



*beans*  
from page 7

with his sons, Bush Brothers & Company.

The company was predominately a cannery for all sorts of vegetables.

It wasn't until 1969 that Bush Brothers came out with their now-famous Bush's Baked Beans based on a secret family recipe. The new product quickly gained popularity, inspiring the company to add more "table-ready" products. By the mid-1990s, Bush Brothers had transformed from a regional cannery to a nationally recognized brand with two manufacturing facilities - the original plant located in Chestnut Hill and a second plant located in Augusta, WI. Bush Brothers & Company is still family owned and is now in its fourth generation of family leadership.

Duke the dog is memorialized at the store and museum. You may recall Duke appearing in commercials with Jay Bush. Duke was always conjuring up ways to sell the family secret recipe to the highest bidder.

There are numerous interactive displays in the museum. One of the more interesting attractions is a scale that calculates your weight in beans instead of pounds. I can tell you that learning your weight in beans can bruise your ego. Another interesting item in the museum is heavily secured - a leatherbound book containing the Bush's Family Secret Bean Recipe.

The remodeled general store reopened in 2010 as part of the Bush's Vis-

itor Center. Added soon after were a museum/theatre and a restaurant featuring home-style cooking.

The general store is stocked with items ranging from vintage household items to an assortment of Bush Brothers memorabilia, including T-shirts packed in a Bush Beans can and other unique and fun items. We found all of the Bush product offerings in the store.



**Andrew Jackson Bush and his wife Sallie with their children.**

Bush's Family Café is a full-service restaurant offering a variety of Southern specialties including hot and cold sandwiches, barbecue platters, catfish/hush-puppies, chili and corn bread. We did not dine at the restaurant. Maybe next time. I did notice, as you would expect, beans are on the menu, and guests are given a small sample of Bush's "bean of the day."

Our visit lasted about an hour and a half. We left with a Christmas ornament to place on our destination tree.

In this day and age of corporations and international conglomerates, it was fascinating to learn about a family's aspirations to be the very best bean company in the world.

To learn more about the museum go to [www.bushbeans.com/en\\_US/about-us/visitor-center](http://www.bushbeans.com/en_US/about-us/visitor-center).

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## Penguin Swim returns

Get ready to dunk your penguin tail in the frigid waters of the Atlantic Ocean! Atlantic General Hospital's 31st Annual Penguin Swim is set for Wednesday, January 1 and will take place once again on the beach at The Princess Royale Oceanfront Hotel at 91st Street in Ocean City.

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 that allows access to the swim area. Advance online registration is recommended. Participants can register online by visiting [www.aghpenguinswim.org](http://www.aghpenguinswim.org). The registration fee is \$30 per participant if registering on or before December 30. The registration fee is \$35 per participant if registering on December 31 or January 1.

## Anglers to meet

The Ocean Pines Anglers Club will meet on Saturday, December 14 at 9:30 a.m. in the Ocean Pines library. The speakers will be four-time cash winners in the White Marlin Open, Captains Ken and Adam Thompson owners of the *Opportunity* fleet of charter vessels. They will speak about the challenges, successes and trials and tribulations of the 2024 season. Also, all things fishing will be discussed. All are welcome.

## Blue Holiday Service

St. Paul's Episcopal Berlin will host a Blue Holiday Service on Sunday, December 15 at 4 p.m. at its 3 Church Street location. This will be an interfaith service for those who are remembering or honoring loved ones during the holidays, facilitated by the All Faith Friendship Association (AFFA). All are welcome.

# Fun ways to make Christmas Eve even more special for kids

Parents know that nothing quite matches the excitement young children feel on Christmas Eve. On the day before Christmas, youngsters anxiously

anticipate the arrival of Santa Claus that evening, and are perhaps even more excited by the prospects of the following morning, when they'll race into the living room and discover all that the jolly old elf left behind.

Christmas Eve seems to have some built-in magical components, but there are a handful of ways parents can make the day even more special for children.

Track the big guy's movements online. The North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) and its predecessor, the Continental Air Defense Command (CONAD), has tracked Santa's Christmas Eve flight for more than 60 years. Beginning on Christmas Eve, families can track Santa's movements across the globe at [Noradsanta.org](http://Noradsanta.org). Kids can visit the site to see where

Santa is at any given moment on Christmas Eve, growing more excited as the big fella gets closer and closer to their own region.

Create a Christmas Eve craft. Gather children and their cousins and/or friends to create a special Christmas Eve craft or decoration that can be displayed next year. This is a great way to channel youngsters' nervous Christmas Eve energy into something productive, and it can make for a great tradition families can continue even after kids are grown.

Watch a favorite Christmas movie. Hollywood has never shied away from holiday fare, so there's no shortage of festive films to enjoy with youngsters on Christmas Eve. Enjoy a classic like the 1947 film "Miracle on 34th Street" starring Natalie Wood as the adorable Susan Walker and Edmund Gwenn as Kris Kringle, or go with something more recent, such as "The Grinch," the 2018 adaptation of the Dr. Seuss book *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*.

Take a nighttime stroll or drive to see the lights. Lighting displays are another component that makes the holiday season so special. After Christmas Eve dinner, take a stroll through your neighborhood to see the lighting displays or climb into the car to take in a different neighborhood's offerings if you're already familiar with those in your own neck of the woods.

Christmas Eve is a magical day for youngsters and their parents. Some simple ideas can make the day even more meaningful for children and their families.



## Light up the Pines' outdoor decorating event returns

The Ocean Pines Association invites residents and property owners to bring holiday cheer to the community by participating in the annual "Light up the Pines" outdoor decorating program.

This festive event encourages households to add a sparkle to the season by decorating their homes and registering with the program. Registered addresses will be featured on a Google map available at [oceanpines.org](http://oceanpines.org) under the "News" section.

Participants who register by the initial deadline of Friday, Dec. 13, will be entered into a drawing to win one of three \$50 bill credits, generously donated by Choptank Electric Cooperative, the event sponsor. Additionally, the first 25 registered participants will receive a goody bag, also courtesy of Choptank Electric.

To add an extra touch of cheer, participants are encouraged to submit a photo of their lighted homes for inclusion in a special holiday video.

Those interested can sign up by emailing their name, address, and phone number

to [info@oceanpines.org](mailto:info@oceanpines.org) or by calling 410-641-7717 ext. 3014.

Although the deadline for the drawing is December 13, registrations will remain open throughout the holiday season to allow more decorated properties to be added to the online map.

## What is luminarias?

Aside from safety guidelines established by local authorities, there are not many rules when it comes to decorating for the holidays. Some individuals prefer a more understated look marked by a Christmas tree in their front windows, while others go all-out and cover their homes in colorful lights. Luminarias is one of the lesser-known ways to decorate for the holiday season, but it can be awe-inspiring and even help to bring communities together during this special time of year.

What is luminarias? A luminaria is a Christmas lantern that consists of a votive candle placed inside a small paper bag. The bag is weighted with sand. Communities or neighborhoods that decorate with luminarias typically place the luminarias at the end of their driveways or along sidewalks on a predetermined night, such as Christmas Eve. When all the candles have been lit, the result is an awe-inspiring and uniform display.

How long has the tradition of luminarias been around? According to LumaBase, a manufacturer of decorative luminarias, the tradition of luminarias dates back to 16th century Spain. At that time, small bonfires known as luminarias were lit along roads to help people travel safely to Midnight Mass on the final night of Las Posadas, a traditional celebration in many countries with significant Hispanic populations that runs from December 16 through December 24. The celebration is meant to serve as a remembrance of the story of Mary and Joseph seeking lodging in Bethlehem prior to the birth of Jesus Christ.

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# Stocking Stuffers

So, what do you get a mariner who has everything but a 100-foot yacht for Christmas (other than a 100-foot yacht)? Well, you start by challenging the premise that he/she has ‘everything.’ That’s as plausible as a young lady lamenting that she has too many diamonds.

There is a limitless list of gadgets that can delight the recreational boater on Christmas Day. There are novelty burgees and cup holders and monogrammed windbreakers and nautical corkscrews to name a few. But I’d like to suggest some more practical gear. I’d like to suggest stocking stuffers for the ‘Ditch Bag.’

A good friend of mine has a ditch bag that is a cornucopia for the practical paranoid. After more than fifty years of accumulating sailing remedies, here are some of the things that he carries and why.

The first item on Santa’s stocking stuffer list is the ditch bag itself. Not everybody carries a ditch bag per se but most folks have the most common gear eclectically scattered about the boat. The concept of a ditch bag is that all the emergency stuff is in one place. It’s usually a canvass bag with handles that can be easily stowed on board and taken off the boat for storage in a cool dry place or grabbed in a hurry if you need to address a problem or abandon ship.

Let’s start with the emergency gear. First Aid kit, whistle, flares, signaling mirror, flash light (with fresh batteries), light sticks, heavy duty knife, backup handheld marine VHF radio are rather easy to understand.

A personal locator beacon (PLB) may be a little bit pricy for a stocking stuffer but is absolutely appreciated by a loved one who finds him/herself off shore, in a lot of water with no one insight. Although PLBs cost a couple hundred dollars the ability to push a button that informs the Coast Guard that you are declaring an emergency and gives them your GPS coordinates is both comforting and lifesaving.

All PLB alert signals are considered distress signals and require the USCG to initiate a Search and Rescue mission. Since PLBs communicate over a satellite system they can be heard all over the world unlike the marine VHF radio that is a line of site device and can only be heard to about 20 miles off shore on a good day.

One less obvious item is self-fusing silicone tape. Functionally, it is sort of like duct tape because it has many uses. The difference is that self-fusing tape does not use sticky adhesives that are a mess to remove. In theory, silicone tape creates a bond simply by being stretched as it is wrapped back on itself. When you wrap it around a leaky pipe or hose or bare wire, it forms a strong, waterproof, and electrically insulating patch that gets stronger the tighter you pull it and yet can be removed by a simple slit from a knife or scissors. Great stuff for a marine environment.

Next there are some maintenance essentials that should be included. A multi-tool, a 6-in-1 screwdriver, a voltage gage that fits into the cigarette socket, a backup GPS device, spare binoculars, a hand pointing compass and a waterproof set of local charts and tide tables.

And finally, there is some stuff that you really would be inconvenienced or embarrassed if you didn’t have onboard. For example, spare boat keys; or consider a wallet with the boat registration, fishing licenses, phone numbers for towing assistance and the Coast Guard, and money – either a credit card or cash which Yoga Berra said was just as good as money. If you’re my age, a spare set of glasses are as vital as spare batteries. You should also carry a charger that works off of the cigarette socket for your cell phones and GPS rechargeable devices.

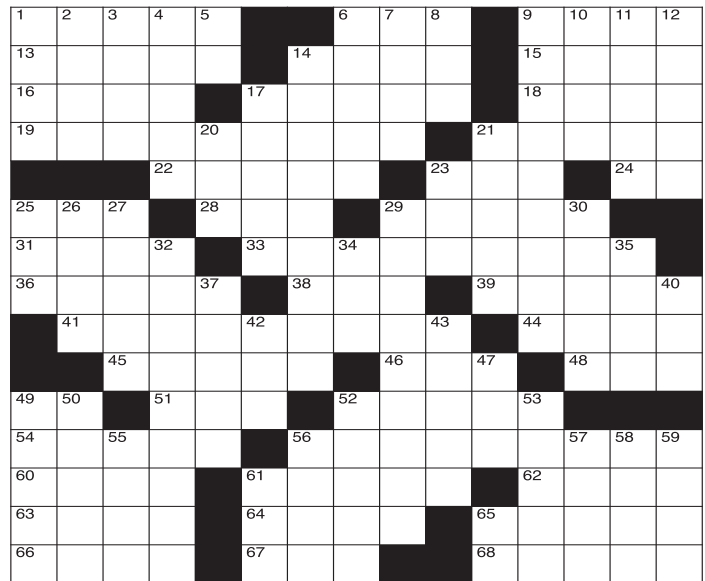
Some clean white hand towels, sun-block and deckhand gloves pretty much round out a ditch bag but like the young lady that’s collecting diamonds, there is always room in the bag for more.

One final observation: Everything in the ditch bag that is not made of marine grade material should be stored in waterproof, zip lock bags. Things rust, mildew, and corrode in salty air surprisingly fast. You don’t want to reach into your bag in need of a ball point pen and note pad and come up with soggy glob of pulp and a pen that looks like it’s been on the *Titanic* since 1912.

So, if you missed out on a great Black Friday sale on a 100-foot yacht, it’s not too late for Santa to stuff your mariner’s stocking with thoughtful and practical gifts for Christmas.

Happy Holidays.

*Dan can be reached for comment at [dancollins.oceanpines@gmail.com](mailto:dancollins.oceanpines@gmail.com)*



## CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Thou \_\_\_ do it
- 6. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
- 9. Brainstem part
- 13. Town in New York state
- 14. Little (Spanish)
- 15. Continent
- 16. Retch
- 17. Short-billed rails
- 18. Small period of time (abbr.)
- 19. Confused
- 21. A team needs one
- 22. Woman in ancient times
- 23. Republican Party
- 24. Spanish be
- 25. “The Godfather” character Johnny
- 28. Not around
- 29. City in Zambia
- 31. A type of beginning
- 33. Numb
- 36. Gurus
- 38. Small, gray-headed crow
- 39. Vehicle type
- 41. Disorders
- 44. One point east of southeast
- 45. Indian soldier
- 46. Tree type
- 48. Midway between south and southeast
- 49. It cools your home
- 51. Corn comes on it
- 52. Ship’s deck
- 54. A way to bake
- 56. Improvised
- 60. Butterfly genus
- 61. Baseball fields have them
- 62. Designated space
- 63. Discharge
- 64. Two of something
- 65. Once more
- 66. Part of your face
- 67. Tax collector
- 68. Cassia tree

## CLUES DOWN

- 1. One-time Aaron Rodgers target
- 2. Wings
- 3. Overly studious person
- 4. They protect your valuables
- 5. The Volunteer State
- 6. Non-hydraulic cement
- 7. Horse mackerel
- 8. Jackson and Diddley are two
- 9. Splendid displays
- 10. Mountain in NE Greece
- 11. A daughter or your brother or sister
- 12. German surname
- 14. Having more than one husband at a time
- 17. Romanian city
- 20. Energy
- 21. Makes less hot
- 23. Gas diffusion electrode
- 25. Former CIA
- 26. Set an example for others
- 27. Support of a particular person
- 29. One from the Big Apple
- 30. Mountain range
- 32. Violate the sanctity of something
- 34. Supervises flying
- 35. Talks
- 37. Persian male given name
- 40. Born of
- 42. Forcibly take one’s possessions
- 43. Discouts
- 47. Knockouts
- 49. Posh Colorado destination
- 50. Form of therapy
- 52. British rock band
- 53. Type of virus (abbr.)
- 55. The U. of Miami mascot is one
- 56. Volcanic crater
- 57. Middle Eastern nation
- 58. Sinn \_\_\_, Irish organization
- 59. Ethiopian lake
- 61. Bits per inch (abbr.)
- 65. Equally



Answers for December 3



# Some things to think about

Gathered from the internet by **Jack Barnes**

A thousand words can be generated by just this one picture. This is Tesla's roadside assistance vehicle filling up at the gas pump.

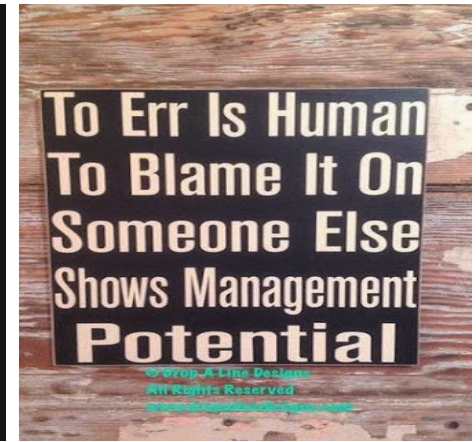


**Redneck Mini Blinds, no need to clean or dust em . Just tear off and toss away.**

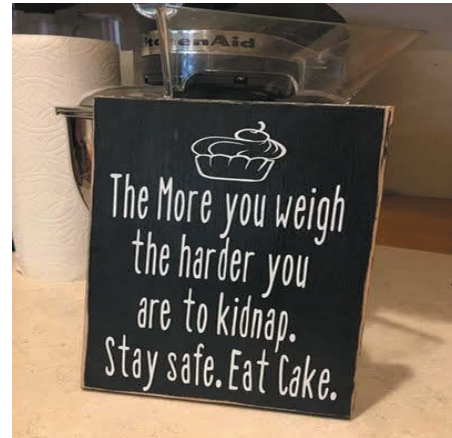


**Legend says, when you can't sleep at night, it's because you're awake in someone else's dream.**

**So if everyone could stop dreaming about me that'd be great.**



**I woke up this morning determined to drink less, eat right and exercise... But that was 4 hours ago...when I was younger and full of hope.**



**Last year I joined a support group for antisocial people. We haven't met yet.**

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