

The Courier

April 27, 2016 Volume 16 Number 35

All the flags are flying again

By Marie Gilmore

Once again, it took the village to get all the flags flying at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines. Near the end of January the cable that holds the American flag separated inside the pole. A repair to this pole always requires the assistance of the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department (OPVFD). The OPVFD has the only bucket truck able to extend its arm the distance needed to reach the top of the pole where the repair has to begin. The bucket must also accommodate at least two people to execute the repair. The other factor is always the weather. Because of the weight of the OPVFD truck, the ground must be very dry for the truck to reach the memorial from the road. Mother Nature did not cooperate much this winter. We needed at least six days of dry weather for the ground to dry. Last Monday was the first opportunity the OPVFD had the necessary conditions to make the repair.



Dave Smith, Bill Truitt and Bill Bounds

The Veterans Memorial Foundation is grateful to OPVFD Chief Steve Grunewald and the assistance of Bill Bounds and Glenn Shockley, both members of the OPVFD as well as William Truitt from Ocean Pines Public Works. These gentlemen along with Veterans Memorial Maintenance Chief Dave Smith and his helpers Bill Lee, Ray Bieber and George Roche completed the repair.

Many people in our community were concerned and several offered their assistance but were unable to help with the repair because we needed the right equipment. We are truly fortunate to live in a community that cares so very much. If you or someone you know would like to be a part of our terrific maintenance crew, please contact Dave Smith, at 410 208 0002.

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Learning - Ocean City Elementary second grade students are pictured trying vegetables as part of a recent health literacy unit. Pictured are: Riley Yli-Piipari, Riley Stephen and Bo Gehrig.

Registration open for youth swim lessons

Swimming is a great summer pastime. Since safety is key in and around water, Worcester County Recreation & Parks (WCRP) is offering youth swim classes at the Shad Landing pool in the Pocomoke River State Park in Snow Hill during summer 2016.

WCRP will offer three sessions of youth swim lesson, with each session lasting two weeks. Session One begins July 5, Session Two begins July 18, and Session Three begins August 1. Classes are designed for children ages three and up. The cost is \$45 per child, per session, and financial aid is available to those that demonstrate the need.

The first week of Session One classes will run from Tuesday – Friday, due to the Fourth of July holiday. All other classes will meet Monday through Thursday for two weeks. If a class is cancelled due to severe weather, a makeup class will take place that Friday.

WCRP employees will work with

all participants to place them in the proper level. Age, ability, and maturity are all factors used to determine the appropriate level for each child. Visit our website at www.Worcester-RecandParks.org for a complete description on the swim levels.

Class space is limited and is offered on a first come, first served basis, so reserve your spot today. For further details or to register, please contact Kelly Buchanan at 410-632-2144, ext. 2503 or kbuchanan@co.worcester.md.us.

AARP to meet

The next meeting of AARP will be May 2 at the Community Center in Ocean Pines. Social time will be at 9:30 a.m. and the meeting will start at 10 a.m. This month's speaker will be Executive Director Rina Thaler and Marion Bickerstaff of the Art League of Ocean City. Attendees are encouraged to bring a can of food for Sarah's Pantry to help residents of the community.



Home Depot hosted a Suddenly Single Workshop

On April 16, the Suddenly Single Event, in partnership with Home Depot, hosted 16 women to a Spring "Spruce-Up" workshop. Above: **Lorena Christian** volunteered to work with Home Depot employee **Neil O'Callaghan** to replace a damaged screen.

Area water systems to be flushed

The Water and Wastewater Division of Public Works will begin its semi-annual program for flushing waterlines in Mystic Harbour, West Ocean City Area, Newark, Riddle Farm, Nantucket Point, Edgewater Acres, Oyster Harbor, Ocean Reef, Deer Point, Whispering Woods, and Bayside Landings in May.

The purpose of this program is to remove any accumulated sediment from the lines and to ensure the hydrants are operational. Below are the proposed dates for the flushing of the waterlines, and please be advised that these dates are subject to change.

-Week of May 2 - Riddle Farm and Bayside Landings

-Week of May 9 and 16 - Mystic Harbour including Bay Vista, Ocean Reef, Deer Point, Oyster Harbor, Whispering Woods and West Ocean City

-Week of May 16 - Newark, Nantucket Point and Edgewater Acres

Please be aware that, even on dates the water lines in your section are not being flushed, it is still possible to experience discolored water. If area residents notice that their water becomes cloudy during these times, please allow the water to run for a few minutes until it becomes clear. For more information, please call the Water and Wastewater Division at (410) 641-5251.



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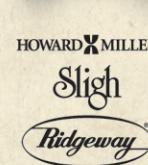
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Thank you - Worcester County Health Department thanks all of the retailers who passed compliance checks from law enforcement this year, checked IDs and refused to sell alcohol or tobacco to minors. A recognition breakfast featuring speakers from government, law enforcement and public health was held on April 14.

Pictured above are a few of the many compliant retailers posing with their certificates of recognition. All of our retailers who check IDs and refuse to sell to minors are doing an amazing job and help keep our kids safe.

PGA Junior League Golf coming to Ocean Pines

Ocean Pines Golf & Country Club will be joining other golf courses in the Ocean City/Berlin area for the 2016 season of PGA Junior League Golf.

PGA Junior League Golf provides an opportunity for boys and girls ages 7-13 to play golf in a fun, social and inclusive atmosphere. The season, which will take place in May, June and July, will consist of 5-6 regular competitions, practices and the chance for advancement to post-season play.

Players of all abilities are encouraged to join, and every participant will play in every competition. Advanced skills are not required.

The Ocean Pines team will compete against other PGA Junior League Golf teams in the area. Competitions will take place at Ocean Pines Golf & Country Club and at other local courses. PGA Director of Golf John Malinowski will serve as the captain of the Ocean Pines team and will lead the team's practices and competitions.

The cost to participate is \$125 per player, which includes greens fees for all competitions, a numbered team jersey, balls and bag tag.

Ocean Pines Golf & Country Club, which is open to the public, offers an array of junior golf activities including a spring junior golf clinic, summer junior golf camps, junior golf memberships and private golf lessons for juniors. All activities are open to the

public.

More information about PGA Junior League Golf and other junior golf activities is available at OceanPinesGolf.org or by calling 410-641-6057.

MBS students to perform

Most Blessed Sacrament Catholic School cordially invites you to attend one of the performances of Disney's "The Little Mermaid Junior." Performances will be at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 29 and Saturday, April 30 and 3 p.m. on Sunday, May 1. Adult tickets are \$5 and student tickets are \$2. Tickets are available at the school office. Tickets will also be available at the door the night of the performance.

For the convenience of guests with disabilities/wheelchairs, etc. doors will open at 6 p.m. For all other guests doors will open at 6:30 p.m. Guests who arrive earlier than 6:30 p.m. will be asked to wait in the front lobby until doors open at 6:30 p.m. Please share this information with any friends or family members who plan on attending a performance.

All guests under 18 years of age should be accompanied and supervised by an adult when not watching the performance.

Hogan announces plans to complete 113 widening

Governor Larry Hogan announced Friday plans for the final two phases that will complete the US 113 widening to a four-lane divided highway for the entire 38-mile stretch in Maryland from Pocomoke City to Delaware. The \$136.8 million investment in US 113 projects will address the county's top transportation priority, improve safety, and reduce traffic congestion for local and seasonal drivers.

"This roadway has a long history of neglect and deteriorating safety conditions," said Governor Hogan. "Completion of this project will make improvements that are critical to reduce traffic and help ensure the safety of people headed to work and the thousands of tourists and vacationers who visit this area every year."

Widening US 113 from a two-lane undivided highway to a four-lane divided highway along this major north-south route in Worcester County is being constructed in phases. The 4.6-mile, \$50.4 million Phase Three project that widens the roadway from Massey Branch to Five Mile Branch Road is under construction now and is about 25 percent complete. The \$86.4 million Phase Four project to complete improvements for 4.3 miles from north of MD 365 to Five Mile Lane will be advertised next month and go to construction in spring 2017.

Today, 13,100 drivers travel US 113

daily during the summer. By 2035, that number will increase to 27,350 in the summer. Once the final phases of widening are completed by spring 2019, these drivers will enjoy a safer, more efficient ride throughout the en-



Governor Hogan making announcement
Photo courtesy of Executive Office of the Governor

tire corridor.

The funding for the \$86.4 million project to build the final US 113 phase is part the \$1.97 billion investment in highway and bridge improvements Governor Hogan announced last June. According to the governor's office, the announcement demonstrates the governor's commitment to safety and infrastructure improvements in every jurisdiction in the state and is just part of \$173.3 million in transportation investments in Worcester County over six years, including: \$169 million for highways; \$3.7 million for Shore Transit; \$149,275 in grants for highway safety and other programs; and \$371,600 in aviation grants for Ocean City Municipal Airport.

WCCW to hold meet and greet

The Worcester County Commission for Women and The Friends of the Commission will meet on Tuesday, May 17 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Ocean Pines library. All women are invited to join to learn about the Women's Commission and The Friends' initiatives. Light refreshments will be served.

The Friends organization is a 501(c)(3) with membership dues of \$30 per year; \$20 is a donation to the McGuffey Literacy project where 1,500 elementary school students receive books in a book bag on June 6 to encourage summer reading. Other initiatives include Recognition Awards of Worcester County Women, the Suddenly Single Project, Support of a GOLD Family, and the "Empowering Women" Scholarship. A membership in Friends provides an opportunity to network with women in Worcester County. For information, call 443-614-3957 or 410-641-7391.

The Courier

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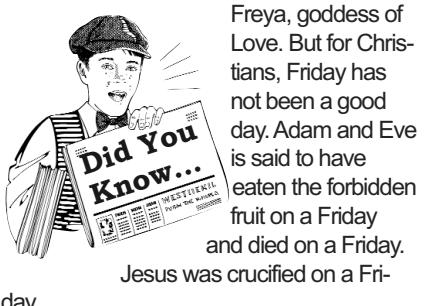
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2012 Business of the Year

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In pagan times Friday was the luckiest day of the week because it was ruled by the planet Venus, the symbol of love and fortune. In fact, Friday is named in honor of



Freya, goddess of Love. But for Christians, Friday has not been a good day. Adam and Eve is said to have eaten the forbidden fruit on a Friday and died on a Friday.

Jesus was crucified on a Friday.

For centuries sailors refused to set sail on a Friday. It is told that when the reluctance of seamen to set sail on a Friday had reached such proportions that it interfered with naval operations, the British Admiralty decided to prove once and for all that it is a fallacy. They laid the keel of a new vessel on a Friday, named her H.M.S. Friday, and launched her on a Friday. On her first voyage, setting sail on a Friday, she was commanded by Captain James Friday. She left the harbor and nothing has since been heard of her or her crew. The identical story has also found its place in American lore. But – fear not – it is a myth.

The fear for traveling on a Friday continued until the early 20th century where in Europe bus and train travel was lowest on a Friday. But before you say "Thank Goodness, it's Friday!" consider that, FBI statistics show, most robberies take place on a Friday.

Mathias reviews session accomplishments

Sen. Jim Mathias quoted the late John Denver, saying, "It's good to be back home!" as he touched on his accomplishments during the 2016 Legislative Session at a gathering of the Ocean City business community.

Jim Mathias

Speaking to the April meeting of the Governor's Economic Development Committee (EDC) at the Carousel Hotel in Ocean City, Mathias talked about the legislation he worked to get passed, as well as some bills he was able to thwart.

"I'm proud of my efforts this session alongside leadership in the Senate, House of Delegates, and the Governor's Office," Mathias said. "In that spirit of bipartisanship, the Governor's Office even invited me to attend Opening Day of the baseball season in Baltimore, where I got to sit and talk with Gov. Hogan."

Mathias was the lead sponsor this session on bills that will:

-Safeguard the lives of people who rent their home, by requiring specific rental dwellings to have a carbon monoxide alarm outside each sleeping area, and on every level of

the unit (SB 182).

-Authorized golf carts with certain modifications to be driven on the streets of Crisfield (SB 309).

-Help Wicomico County raise new revenue by creating a specific liquor license that would allow the future alcohol sales at the Wicomico Youth & Civic Center in Salisbury (SB 1140).

-Enable Wicomico County voters to decide via referendum this fall whether they want a fully elected school board (SB 145).

-Preserve the legacy of family entertainment on Ocean City's Boardwalk, and its iconic amusement arcade industry, by removing certain skill-based devices from onerous regulation by the state Lottery and Gaming Control Commission (SB 941).

-Support arts and culture in our district by securing \$150,000 in grants collectively for the Delmarva Discovery Center in Pocomoke City (SB 1034) and the Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art in Salisbury (SB 1042).

Another very important topic the senator mentioned was the inevitable return in 2017 of proposed legislation mandating earned sick pay days for employers. The House version of the bill (HB 580) died in the Senate Finance Committee, of

which Mathias is a member.

Mathias believes very strongly that this legislation needed significantly more input from businesses large and small, as well as balance for their most important asset, their valued employees.

And, because the bill as written exempts the agriculture industry, Mathias has been working for the very same consideration for other seasonal and tourism-related businesses, many of which can be found in his district.

Pines to host spring bike expo, skate demo

Area children ages eight and up and their parents are encouraged to grab their bikes, skate boards or walking shoes and head to the Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department's 2nd Annual Spring Bicycle Expo, Skate Demo & Pedestrian Info Event Day on Sunday, May 1 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at White Horse Park in Ocean Pines

This free event is being presented in conjunction with National Bike Month and will offer information and activities that celebrate moving around outside.

Bicycle League of America-certified bicycle instructor Cindy Morris will offer information about bicycle laws and safety. Participants may also bring a bicycle helmet or purchase a new one at the event and decorate it with a variety of craft supplies.

Other event highlights include demonstrations by local skaters, music, prizes, information booths, vendors, merchandise for sale and more.

Representatives from the Eastern Shore International Mountain Biking Association, Berlin Bike-Skate Unite, West Ocean City Pedal & Pedestrian Committee and Y Bicycle will be on hand to share information about their missions, volunteer opportunities and membership.

Event participants are welcome to bring bikes and skateboards to ride at the event. Parental supervision is required.

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

Free heart screenings offered

Peninsula Regional Medical Center's Guerrieri Heart & Vascular Institute is now taking appointments for its free Women's Heart Program screening assessments. The screening will be performed by Peninsula Regional medical professionals at the Peninsula Regional CV Surgical Office on the PRMC campus. Appointments are required.

The Women's Heart Program offers cholesterol and HDL test, ankle/brachial index, resting 12-lead EKG, coronary risk profile, body fat measurement, body mass index, waist to hip ratio, blood pressure and pulse oximetry testing, a review of current medications, a risk factor analysis and more.

Women choosing to participate must not currently be under the care of a cardiologist or have a known history of heart disease. To learn more about the Women's Heart Program, qualification requirements or to set up an appointment, please call 410-543-7026.

Dance theater to be held

The Pointe Youth Dance Theatre will perform We Go Together, a musical theatre cabaret style production that follows young performers trying to make it big in New York City. Featured will be musical numbers from "Grease," "Wicked," "Cinderella" and more. The shows will be performed Friday, May 6 at 7 p.m., Saturday, May 7 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, May 8 at 2:00 p.m. at Most Blessed Sacrament Catholic school located at 11242 Racetrack Road in Berlin. The cost for adults 12 years and older is \$10, children 11 and under \$8. Reservations are recommended. This event is open to the public.

Rainy day enchantment

As I sat at the drive thru waiting for my bank transaction to be completed I was mesmerized by the rain falling indiscriminately around me. So fast and furiously was it coming down that puddles turned quickly into standing ponds. Just over the berm ahead of me drivers along the roadway were slowing to a crawl as they approached deepening water that could find no



It's All About . . .

By **Chip Bertino**

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easy escape.

During the minutes that I sat under the overhang, untouched by the downpour, I was fascinated by the sight and sound of the driving rain. So hard were the drops hitting the macadam that they bounced giving the appearance of a little kick as if performing in a Radio City Music Hall Rockette finale. For a reason I cannot quite grasp I thought about Kermit the Frog sitting on a lily pad singing "It Isn't Easy Being Green." I don't why but I did.

It has been told to me that rain on your wedding day is an omen for good luck. How true that is I do not know. Whether I believe such a tale is questionable. What I do know is that it poured on my wedding day. As my bride and I drove home after the reception, we had to take a detour to avoid flooded roads. Has good luck been bestowed on our marriage? Hmm. It depends on what day you ask.

When my daughter got married the skies opened up quite dramatically showering all sorts of good fortune upon the bride and groom and the wedding party too. They should be good for the next 75 years or so, if you believe such things.



When I'm in the right frame of mind, meaning I don't have anything I want to do outdoors, a rainy day can be quite fulfilling and enjoyable. I'm a big believer in watching favorite movies during a rainy day. There's just something about getting comfortable on the sofa, preferably with a favorite someone, and watching a good drama or thriller or comedy or all of the above. Throw in a pepper and egg sandwich or a cheese steak and I don't care if rains for three days.

Another favorite activity on a rainy day is reading a good book. Why anyone would want to read a bad book I'll never know.

Nonetheless, there have been rainy afternoons when I've sat in the sunroom, my feet propped on the ottoman, and gotten lost in the pages of a book. Hearing the rain hit the window is quite soothing. Sometimes though it

has been so soothing it has lulled me to sleep after only a page or two of reading. I've awakened in a darkened room, the book having slid to the floor and my reading glasses perched on my chest. Comforted by the sound of rain still hitting the window, I've often gone back to sleep.

With my bank transaction finished I drove out from under the awning into the full force of the rain, my windshield wipers hardly able to keep up. I was able to skirt a couple of deep water areas on the road; had to take my chances going through some others. Finally arriving in my driveway I reached for my umbrella in the back-seat preparing myself for the journey into the house. I positioned my thumb on the umbrella trigger and opened the car door. I pushed the umbrella button and nothing happened. It would not open. In the blink of an eye I was drenched, soaked to the bone.

Rainy days are enchanting until someone, and when I write "someone" I really mean me, gets drenched. And then they're just miserable.

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AGH recognized again for patient safety

Over the past decade, healthcare providers and organizations throughout the mid-Atlantic region have submitted their quality improvement programs to the Maryland Patient Safety Center for their Patient Safety Innovation Awards. For the third year in a row, Atlantic General Hospital has been recognized as one of the top ten, from nearly 80 submissions.

This year, Atlantic General was recognized for pioneering programs that have improved patient outcomes, thereby drastically reducing preventable hospital readmissions.

Atlantic General Hospital is currently ranked No. 4 in the state of Maryland for readmission prevention, with a rate of 9.93 percent (the state average is 12.85 percent). A readmission is usually defined as a patient's being hospitalized again within 30 days of an initial hospital stay.

"The profound success of our accomplishments can only be attributed to the commitment and collaboration of our associates and medical staff within the hospital and community settings," said Charles Gizara, RN, director of clinical integration at Atlantic General Hospital.

Efforts began in 2014 with the establishment of the Potentially Avoidable Utilization (PAU) team, which focuses on integrated care coordination to prevent avoidable hospital readmissions while improving patient outcomes across the continuum of care.

The PAU team meets each month to review Atlantic General's performance compared to state of Maryland outcomes data and evaluate opportunities to improve community health through collaboration with health care professionals outside the traditional hospital setting.

Members include internal AGH clinical staff and physicians as well as community members from the Worcester County Health Department and local home health agencies and skilled nursing facilities.

Examples of innovative programs that have contributed to successful readmission reduction at Atlantic General Hospital include the following.

Condition R – The early identification of a potential readmission. This program provides immediate intervention by a registered nurse case

manager for any patient in the Emergency Room who has had a previous admission within the last 30 days.

The case manager meets with the patient and family to develop a personalized plan of care to treat underlying chronic conditions that may have led to the ER visit and get them on the path to better health.

Telehealth Collaboration with Berlin Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. A telemedicine program allows physician consultations to be performed for patients who have transferred from Atlantic General Hospital to Berlin Nursing and Rehabilitation Center if there is a change in their medical condition.

An AGH provider will perform an exam by video with assistance from the facility's clinical staff in the privacy of the patient's room and recommend interventions to prevent readmission when possible.

Since the program's implementation, readmissions of patients previously discharged to the rehabilitation center have been reduced by 70 percent.

AGHRx RediScripts Pharmacy Concierge Program. The RediScripts Concierge Program helps close the medication safety loop by working closely with a patient's care team to review and fill all of a patient's discharge prescriptions. A concierge technician will deliver the medication directly to the bedside and call upon a pharmacist to provide personalized education on the medications. For the most critical patients, a pharmacist will place a



Atlantic General Hospital receives the Circle of Honor Patient Safety Innovation Award during the 2016 Maryland Patient Safety Conference. From left: **Bob Yocubik**, RN, director of quality at Atlantic General Hospital; **Charles Gizara**, RN, director of clinical integration at Atlantic General Hospital; **Joan Lunden**, 2016 Maryland Patient Safety Conference keynote speaker; **Jeff Kukel**, Pharm D., manager of AGHRx RediScripts Pharmacy; **Robert H. Imhoff, III**, president and CEO of the Maryland Patient Safety Center; and **Michael Franklin**, president and CEO of Atlantic General Hospital and Health System.

follow up phone call to the patient within 72 hours of discharge to ensure that patients are taking their medication as prescribed and have all of their questions answered. More than 80 percent of inpatients opt in to take advantage of the AGHRx RediScripts Concierge Program.

Transitions in Care Program. – A dedicated registered nurse care coordinator works with patients during their transition from inpatient to com-

munity setting (home, rehabilitation center, etc.). The care coordinator works with the patient, primary care provider and community liaisons for a period of 31 days and serves as the patient advocate.

If services are required beyond this time, the patient may be referred to Atlantic General's Patient Centered Medical Home. Less than eight percent of Transition in Care patients are readmitted to the hospital setting.

shopping for your garden. Choose colorful annuals, perennials, shrubs, and other garden related items. Bring a chair and friends. Proceeds fund our student scholarship and community projects. For further information contact Glenda Clarke, Chairperson, 410-632-2504.

Dance to be held

An Ocean City Dance is being held Saturday, May 4, at the Ocean City Recreation and Parks Community Center located at 200 125th St. in Ocean City. The event is open to singles as well as couples. Swing, ballroom, Latin, salsa, disco and country dancing will be offered to the music of DJ Mike T. East Coast Swing dance lessons by John Brillantes will be offered from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Open dancing will be from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. Admission is \$14 per person and includes a dance lesson. For more information call 443-474-0015 or www.DancingAtTheBeach.com

Garden Club to host sale

The Worcester County Garden Club plant auction and sale will take place Saturday, May 14 at 10 a.m. at the Calvin B. Taylor Museum located at 208 N. Main Street in Berlin. The rain date is May 15 at 1 p.m. Enjoy spring

Master gardeners to hold clinics

Starting from May to September, the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension Service is offering, "Ask a Master Gardener," at the Ocean Pines library. The clinic is free and will be held every Tuesday afternoon from 1 to 4:00. Master Gardeners will be available to help you with your gardening questions. Please put your plant damage samples in a plastic bag and label the bag with your name and phone number. If your questions cannot be answered at the time of submittal, it will be researched and someone will get back to you at a later date.



Essay winners - American Legion Auxiliary Unit #166 hosted a luncheon on April 19 to honor those from area schools who won this year's Americanism Essay Contest. The theme this year was "How Do We Keep Lincoln's Promise To Our Veterans And Their Families". Pictured from Stephen Decatur Middle School are **Luke Davis**, left (2nd place) and **Colin Porter** (1st place).

Summer Arts Camp registration is open

The Worcester County Arts Council is now accepting registrations for the annual Summer Arts Camp for children to be held June 20 through June 24 at Berlin Intermediate School.

This camp is designed for students entering third through eighth grades in fall 2016 and last year over 120 children attended.

The cost is \$100.00 for the week-long camp which is held from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Bus transportation from Pocomoke and Snow Hill for an additional \$15 for the week will be offered.

Registration form, including selection of various visual and performing art workshops offered this year, is available on the website www.worcestercountyarts council.org and the Arts Council's office, located at 6 Jefferson Street in Berlin.

Deadline for registration is June 6.

Financial support provided by Berlin/Ocean City Optimist Club and

patrons of the Council will allow for offering limited financial assistance. For details how to apply, please call our office at 410-641-0809.

For volunteering opportunities at the Arts Camp please contact Anna Mullis at 410-641-0809 or curator@worcestercount yarts council.org



The Courier welcomes letters for publication. Preference is given to letters addressing community and county topics and have not appeared in another publication.



Letters must be signed and include a phone number where the author can be reached to verify authenticity. Letters are not corrected for spelling or grammar and can be no more than 300 words.

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Unsightly caterpillar no threat to trees

Eastern Tent Caterpillar at annoying levels this year

One of the most visible signs of spring this year is the abundance of Eastern tent caterpillar nests. This native insect gets its name from its familiar silken tents in roadside trees. Typically there are only one or two tents per tree; however, many trees this year are sporting multiple tents, causing residents to be concerned for the trees as the caterpillars eat all the leaves.

"Residents are noticing the nests and may experience an annoyingly large population of caterpillars in their yards in the next couple of weeks," said Agriculture Secretary Joe Bartenfelder. "While the Eastern tent caterpillar does eat the early leaves of trees and shrubs, the defoliation usually does little damage to trees, and rarely do trees die from an infestation."

The lack of damage is due to the timing not the severity of the defoliation. Because the caterpillars hatch as soon as the young leaves unfurl in the spring, the tree has put little energy into the leaves and typically re-foliates in June, seemingly no worse for wear. The young caterpillars venture out to feed on leaves during the night and re-

turn to the tents for protection during the day. They will feed on most kinds of fruit trees, many hardwood trees such as ash, maple and oak, and other plants in the rose family, like ornamental cherries, wild cherries, crabapples and plums, and even pyracantha.

Homeowners concerned about particular plants may wish to keep an eye on them and consider U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-approved insecticides before the caterpillars mature and are done feeding. The Eastern tent caterpillar finishes eating in mid- to late-May and leaves the tent to seek a place to spin a cocoon. By this time in the lifecycle, it is too late to use insecticides to control the fully grown tent caterpillars since most insecticides available to the public must be sprayed on leaves and ingested by the caterpillars to be effective. Mature caterpillars can easily be recognized by the solid white line down the middle of their back, and a pattern of blue markings on the sides. Later in the summer after laying eggs, the tent caterpillar emerges as a moth.

The Eastern tent caterpillar con-



tracts with the gypsy moths which finish consuming the leaves of oaks in early to mid June, after the leaves are fully developed. When heavy gypsy moth defoliation occurs, the trees are using depleted stores of energy to try to regenerate leaves and are vulnerable to other stress factors such as other insects and diseases, often leading to death of the trees. This is why the Maryland Department of Agriculture has had a gypsy moth suppression program for 30 years to control this

exotic insect. Eastern tent caterpillars, on the other hand, are native to North America, do little damage to the trees, and their populations are eventually controlled by native predators, parasites and diseases and so there has been no statewide control program for eastern tent caterpillars.

For additional information, visit http://mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/Pages/eastern_tent_caterpillar.aspx.

Boat fire extinguishers myths debunked

Every spring, the BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water receives questions from boaters about fire extinguishers. To help set the record straight here are four fire extinguisher myths debunked:



Myth #1: Tapping or striking the extinguisher keeps the contents "fresh."

Reality: Leave the mallet at home. Unlike days of old, today's modern fire extinguishers don't use chemicals that cake, get hard, or need to be broken up. Whacking it with a mallet or hammer could compromise the extinguisher's ability to put out a fire.

Myth #2: All extinguishers must be mounted with a bracket.

Reality: Mounting a fire extinguisher on a bracket keeps the unit in a handy place and may protect it from being banged around the boat, but it is not a legal requirement. You do, however, need to ensure the extinguisher

is readily accessible, so leaving it at the bottom of a compartment is a big no-no.

Myth #3: Fire extinguishers get old and go "bad" every year.

Reality: Unlike flares, fire extinguishers have no expiration date. To meet US Coast Guard carriage requirements however, the extinguisher must be Coast Guard approved and in "good and serviceable" condition. The charge indicator needs to be in the green zone, the nozzle free of obstruction and the cylinder not rusted.

Myth #4: The law says you only need to carry one extinguisher.

Reality: US Coast Guard minimum equipment requirements dictate that larger vessels require more than one fire extinguisher. While a full list of all minimum safety gear requirements for all boat sizes can be found at BoatUS.org/equipment, don't let that stop you from adding additional extinguishers. Having back-ups may help save your boat and won't break your budget.

Burns-Reinhart named interim director

The Worcester County Commissioners recently announced the promotion of Laura Burns-Reinhart to the position of Worcester County Department of Liquor Control (DLC) Interim Director. She stepped into this new role with the DLC on April 1.

Burns-Reinhart began her career with the former Liquor Control Board (LCB) in 2009, and in July 2011 joined Worcester County Government when the LCB was dissolved and the DLC opened as a County department. She was promoted to the position of Administrative Manager on April 2, 2013.

"During my years here, I've come to know many wonderful people throughout the community," Burns-Reinhart said. "Being of service to the public and Worcester County's licensees has been and continues to be an absolute privilege."

Along with her professional accomplishments, Burns-Reinhart takes great pleasure preparing and providing home cooked meals to those in her area who are in need, and has recently become involved in raising public awareness for those lives that are being affected by addiction.



**Laura
Burns-Reinhart**

the Many Facets of Wallops Island

A huge tip of a massive iceberg: OAA's CDA Station at Wallops

By Steve Habeger

Weather touches nearly every aspect of human endeavor; whether for work or recreation, we all want to know what the weather will be in the future.

The processes that produce the weather forecasts we see start with raw meteorological readings from around the globe which scientists enter into increasingly sophisticated computer models.

If you have ever wondered where

launched in the early 1960s. Since then the space assets have improved dramatically and the ground stations have had to evolve rapidly. The technical details of all these systems are beyond the space and scope of this article. A good web site which will provide information about the next generation of weather satellites, named GEOS-R can be found here: <http://www.goes-r.gov/>

Anyone who has driven Virginia Route 175 from the Eastern Shore

the finished products to users all over the world.

The dishes operated by CDAS personnel send commands to satellites and then receive the resultant data. CDAS works with two types of satellites: geosynchronous satellites which appear to be fixed from our vantage and polar orbiting satellites which cross the sky from pole to pole. The geosynchronous satellites are sending data continuously. Data from the polar orbiting satellites is only able to be received when the satellite passes within line of sight, typically 12–15 passes a day. In addition to routine weather needs, when a hurri-

cane or nor'easter threatens the eastern seaboard, the CDAS provide us the best view of what could be coming.

In addition to monitoring weather here on Earth, CDAS monitors weather on the sun. Solar "weather" is a different idea but the sun has a turbulent weather which is important to us living on Earth. Solar flares and other events can cause solar winds which affect our communications satellites and other aspects of life here. The Advanced Composition Explorer (ACE) satellite was launched years ago and remains at the L1 liberation point between Earth and the sun where it watches the sun. The large 26 meter antenna (pictured) receives data from ACE almost continuously. More information about ACE can be found [here](http://www.srl.caltech.edu/ACE/):

A staff of 63 Federal Civil Servants work at CDAS. The operations staff, who work with the satellites, to provide coverage 24 hours a day, seven days a week to keep the data flowing into the networks. Thanksgiving dinner, Christmas morning, birthdays and other family events yield to the demands of the satellites for constant tending.

A recent tour for this reporter was illuminating. Certainly the radio antenna dishes are impressive. Just looking up at these huge machines moving so precisely as they track a satellite which is one million miles from Earth is a tribute to excellent engineering. Inside the building is a calm buzz as operations personnel monitor the systems contained in rows upon rows of 19" electronic racks with cooling fans constantly whirling. The blinking lights on the consoles being monitored give one a minuscule taste of the enormous amount of data continuously being moved between space and earth as well as around the earth to users of weather information.

The unheralded stability and competency of the CDAS staff are critical to our understanding of current and, hopefully, future weather.



One of the many rows of electronic systems inside the CDAS.

Photo by Steve Habeger



Aerial view of the CDAS dishes.

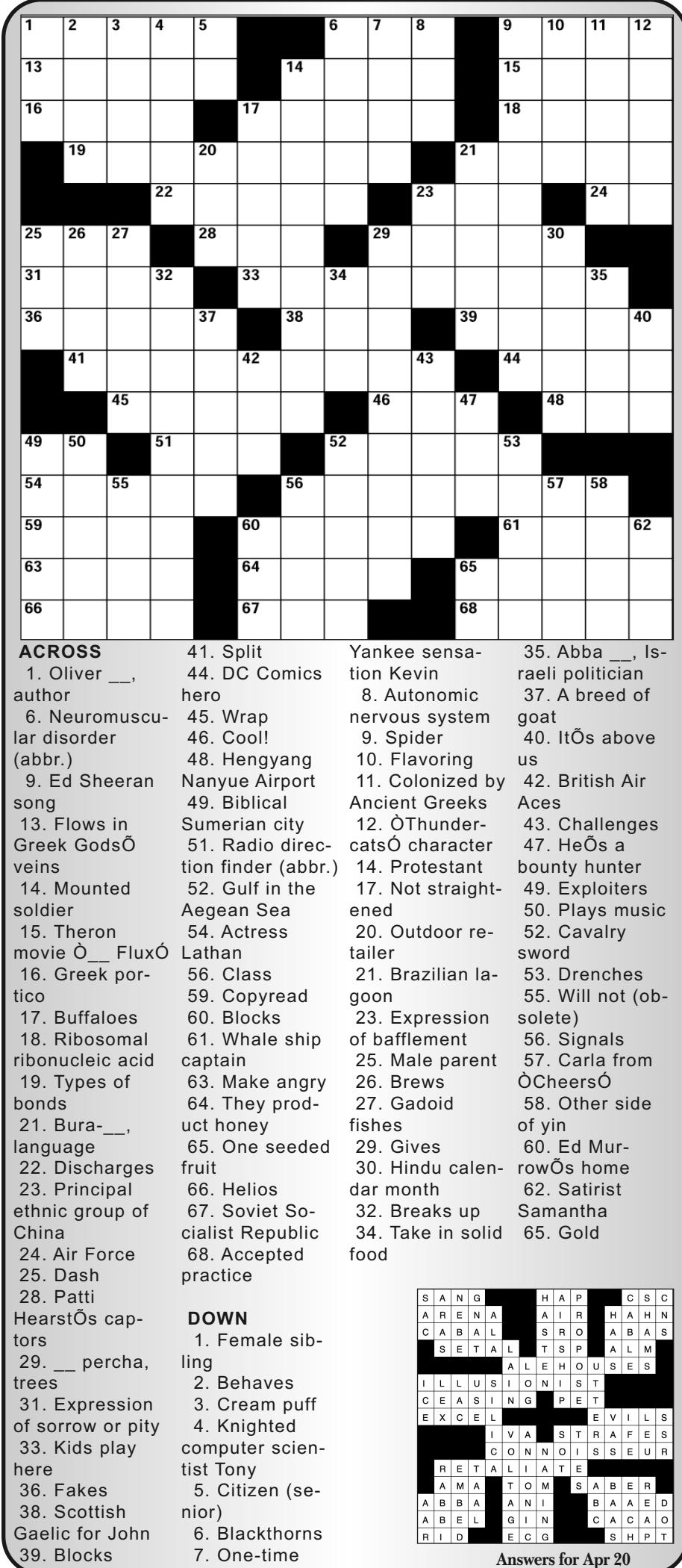
Photo courtesy of NOAA.

the raw instrument reading comes from, the answer, in most cases, involves a unique and vital group of people and equipment located at Wallops. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) established the Command and Data Acquisition Station (CDAS) at Wallops when the first weather satellites were

mainland towards Chincoteague, VA has seen the huge radio antenna "dishes" along the north side of the road. Many people assume the dishes are a part of NASA (and they once were) but the dishes (and several others beyond sight) are the tip of a huge iceberg of satellites, computers and networks which process and distribute

or other parts of the light spectrum (perhaps infrared) to examine other phenomena. Just a small sample of the data available from current systems include such diverse information as cloud cover, temperatures (both ground and sea), dust clouds and particle sizes, fire/hot spot estimation and (so useful to us) hurricane intensity estimation. Future systems are projected to greatly expand the variety of available information.

The systems at CDAS ensure the data meets all requirements for accu-



For Art's Sake...

Maurits Cornelis Escher

By Stasia Heubeck

Maurits Cornelis Escher (1898-1972), known as M.C. Escher, was born in the Netherlands, and is internationally famous for his woodcuts and watercolors that represent the Division of the Plane. His works illustrate patterns of fishes that become birds, red reptiles become green ones and bats become doves. His body of work also includes realistic landscapes, anatomy studies, and stairs that go nowhere, as in House of Stairs I-1951.

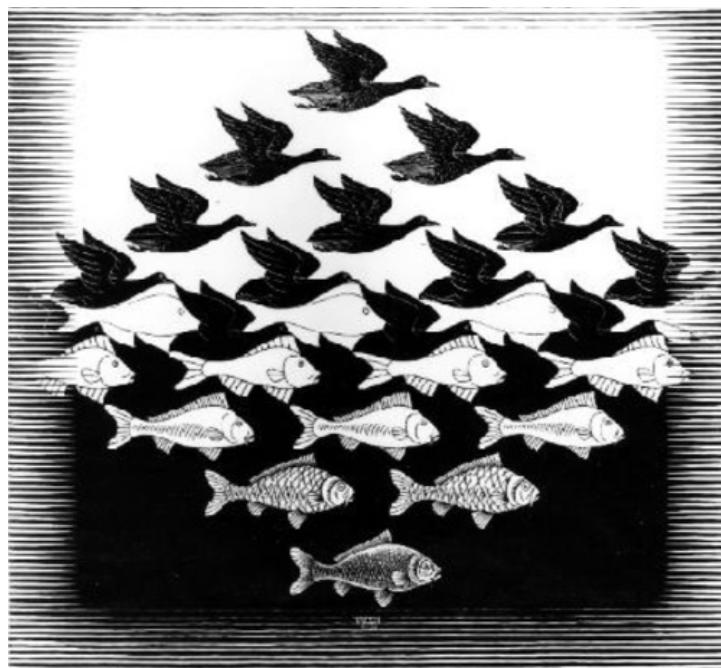
After failing his high school exams, Escher was eventually accepted in the

School for Architecture and Design in Haarlem where he studied graphic art. He sketched and traveled extensively after finishing school and produced many lithographs and woodcuts.

When he was 24 he visited the Alhambra, a fourteenth century palace of the Moorish kings in Granada, Spain. He was fascinated by the mosaics that were based on tessellation – the tiling on a flat surface using shapes that are repeated over and over again with

no gaps or overlaps. He is quoted as saying, "We adore chaos because we love to produce order."

His popularity is evidenced by the current exhibits in museums around the world: the North Carolina Museum of Art in Raleigh, NC, the Dali Museum in St. Petersburg, FL and museums in Germany, Italy and Scotland. Some of his most popular works are woodcuts: Tower of Babel, Sky and Water, and Metamorphosis I, where black and white designs on the right become cubes that then become houses of a town.



If you enjoy the popular adult coloring of mandalas, you may like to try coloring print-outs of the works of M. C. Escher or copies of the mosaics in the Alhambra.

Tide and Sun Chart

* tide is for Ocean City Fishing Pier. Add two hours for Isle of Wight tide

DATE	HIGH TIDE	LOW TIDE	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Thur., April 28	12:10 a.m. 12:36 p.m.	6:42 a.m. 6:44 p.m.	6:06 a.m.	7:49 p.m.
Fri., April 29	1:01 a.m. 1:31 p.m.	7:35 a.m. 7:42 p.m.	6:05 a.m.	7:50 p.m.
Sat., April 30	1:59 a.m. 2:32 p.m.	8:30 a.m. 8:43 p.m.	6:04 a.m.	7:51 p.m.
Sun., May 1	3:00 a.m. 3:34 p.m.	9:26 a.m. 9:45 p.m.	6:03 a.m.	7:52 p.m.
Mon., May 2	4:01 a.m. 4:33 p.m.	10:21 a.m. 10:48 p.m.	6:02 a.m.	7:53 p.m.
Tues., May 3	4:59 a.m. 5:29 p.m.	11:16 a.m. 11:49 p.m.	6:01 a.m.	7:54 p.m.
Wed., May 4	5:54 a.m. 6:22 p.m.	12:09 p.m.	5:59 a.m.	7:55 p.m.

How to prepare a home for elderly residents

Upon reaching retirement age, new retirees may face decisions regarding their living arrangements. Some seniors may opt to stay put, while others may want to downsize their homes to save money and relieve themselves of the burdens of maintaining larger homes.



But those are not the only situations seniors find themselves in. Some seniors realize they can no longer care for themselves without assistance. In such instances, seniors may opt for assisted living facilities or choose to move in with a relative, such as a grown son or daughter. While assisted living facilities are designed to meet

the needs of the elderly, young men and women welcoming seniors into their homes may need to take on some home improvement projects to ensure their homes are as safe as possible for elderly residents.

-Convert a room on the first floor into a bedroom. While this may not apply to all seniors, some men and women struggle with stairs as they age, and that can make it difficult for them to fully participate in a household. Homeowners with an extra room to spare can convert a room on the first floor of their homes into a bedroom so seniors will not have to climb up and down stairs throughout the day. That ease of accessibility to the primary floor of the house encourages seniors to be active participants in a

Grab bars and shower benches can make bathrooms much safer for seniors.

household. If possible, choose an area that is close to a first-floor bathroom.

-Take steps to make bathrooms safer. The National Institute on Aging says that more than one in three seniors over age 65 fall each year, and 80

percent of those falls take place in the bathroom. Slippery tile floors can make it difficult for seniors to navigate bathrooms safely, and bathtubs and shower stalls present additional challenges. Install grab bars on bathroom walls and next to toilets to provide support. In addition, consider installing a shower chair or bench and removable shower nozzle in the shower or tub so seniors can sit down while they bathe and rinse without having to stand up on slippery surfaces. Make sure any mats around bathtubs and sinks are nonskid to reduce the risk of falls even further.

-Install an extra phone line or two. While kids and adults between the ages of 18 and 50 may never use the landlines in their homes, many seniors still rely on traditional telephones as their primary means of communicating with the outside world. Install extra landlines in your home, including in seniors' bedrooms, so they can more readily access the phone should they fall and need to call for emergency help. Phones in seniors' bedrooms may also provide some additional privacy to seniors who do not want to carry on phone conversations in busy areas of the home, such

as the kitchen or living room. Such lines may also reduce feelings of isolation.

-Prioritize accessibility when storing items. When storing groceries, books, magazines, or other items seniors are likely to use, choose locations that are accessible to seniors. Avoid storing items on the top shelf of pantries, bookcases or entertainment centers, as seniors with limited mobility may not be able to reach them.

Many seniors move in with their adult children to make their golden years safer and more enjoyable and manageable. Such a change in living arrangements may necessitate some changes on the part of homeowners so they can ensure their homes are safe for seniors.



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OPA board to meet Thursday

The Ocean Pines Board of Directors will hold a regular meeting on Thursday, April 28. The meeting will start at 9 a.m. and take place in the Assateague Room of the Community Center.

Among the topics on the agenda will be capital requests to purchase pool furniture and two storage sheds for the Manklin racquet facility.

The board will also consider a motion to offer free one-week trial memberships for tennis, platform tennis and pickleball to residents and non-residents alike.

It is expected that Tim McMullen, Bernie Flax and William Neville will be appointed respectively to the Recreation & Parks, Communications and Comprehensive Planning advisory committees.



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How to conquer the kid toy clutter

Too much household clutter is not only unsightly but also can contribute to a stressful environment. Children's toys are often key contributors to homes overrun with clutter, but with a growing family and birthday and holiday gifts streaming in, it can be challenging for parents to tame toy-related clutter.

Parents who have hosted play dates know that once the fun ends their youngsters' rooms often appear overrun with toys. Kids have a funny knack of taking out every toy they own without putting their toys away. But with a few tips, anyone can conquer the clutter created by toys.

-Take stock of what you have. Taking inventory helps to determine which toys can ultimately be donated or discarded. Look for duplicates, similar items, broken toys, and items that are seldom used.

-Start to organize. When you have everything laid out in clear view, start to divide and conquer. Create groups

in which to sort the toys. Dolls should be in one pile, building blocks in another and so on. Figure out a system that works for your family. You may find that active, sports-related items can be moved to the garage, while board games and books may be moved to a family room or a community closet in the house to free up more space in playrooms. Seasonal toys can be stored away in an attic or basement until they are needed.

-Create accessible storage. Toys should be stored where kids can easily access them. Clear bins are great for storage, and such bins come in a variety of sizes. Construct cubbies in the playroom where these bins can be kept. Be sure they are nearly ground level and not too heavy so that children can easily get to their toys come play time.

-Construct or buy a toy chest. A toy chest can house larger toys and act as a receptacle for fast cleanup when kids need to tidy up before company ar-

rives. Such chests are good for storing larger cars and trucks or the hordes of stuffed animals kids accumulate.

-Shelving gets things off the floor. Display collectibles that cannot be damaged on shelves. This makes sure they are still on display but not in jeopardy of being mishandled by curious youngsters.

-Donate toys kids no longer use. It can be a tough job, but children should work with you to thin out their toy collections. Designate a certain portion of items that need to go. Bring them to a consign-



ment shop or donate them to kids in need.

Organizing youngsters' toy collections can be a difficult job, but such organization is essential to keep a tidy home.

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Community Calendar

When submitting items for the calendar please include the event name, date, where held, time and a little about the event. Items being considered for the calendar need to be in by noon on Friday. E-mail to thecourier@delmarvacourier.com

Mondays

Ocean Pines Poker Club

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

Open every Monday through October: **Historic St. Martin's Church Museum.** 1-4 pm. 11413 Worcester Highway, Showell, MD. For more information, call 410-251-2849

Sweet Adelines

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

Mon. & Tues.

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

Mon., Wed. & Sat.

Church Thrift Shop

OC Baptist Church's Thrift Shop by Seaside Christian Academy behind White Marlin Mall open 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Mon. & Wed., 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sat. Call 410-251-6971.

Tuesdays

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.

Take off Pounds Sensibly

Meeting. Berlin group No. 331, Worcester County Health Center 9730 Healthway Dr., Berlin, 5:30-7:00 p.m. TOPS is a support and educational group promoting weight loss and healthy lifestyle. It meets weekly on Tuesdays. Info: jean-duck47@gmail.com

Tuesdaysand Thursdays

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.

Wednesdays

Kiwanis Club Meeting

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

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.

Delmarva Hand Dancing

Dancing at The Fenwick Inn in Ocean City from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Contact 302-934-7951 or info@delmarvahanddancing.com

Rotary Club

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

Square Dancing

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

AL-Anon/OP-West OC-Berlin

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

Wed., Thurs., Fri. & Sat.

Church Thrift Shop

The Shepherd's Nook at Community Church at Ocean Pines is open 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call 410-641-5433.

Diakonia Thrift Shop

'Used to be Mine' offers clothing, furniture, household items and more. Proceeds benefit Diakonia shelter and pantry. Located at

Rte. 611 and Sunset Ave. Open 10 - 4. Call 410-213-0243.

Thursdays

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, Kate at 410-524-0649 or Dianne at 302-541-4642.

Legion Bingo

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

Gamblers Anonymous

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

Fridays

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.

Free skin cancer screening offered

Free skin cancer screenings will be held at the Richard A. Henson Cancer Institute at Peninsula Regional Medical Center on May 2, 2016 from 3 to 6:30 p.m. Appointments are required. To schedule an appointment, call 410-543-7006.

May 2 is Melanoma Monday, part of a national campaign to encourage early detection and teach prevention of skin cancer. More than 1 million new cases of skin cancer will be diagnosed in the United States this year.

"The key to successful treatment of most types of skin cancer is early detection and treatment," said Thomas M. DeMarco, MD, Medical Director of the Richard A. Henson Cancer Institute. Current estimates are that one in five Americans will develop skin cancer in their lifetime; those rates are higher on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

Skin self-examinations consist of periodically looking over your body for any changes in color, shape or texture of a mole, the development of a new mole or any other unusual changes in the skin. Any of these signs should be reported to a dermatologist right away. A survey commissioned by the Academy showed that less than one-third of Americans currently examine their skin for signs of melanoma and more than half don't know the signs of melanoma. Dermatologists want to change this because when treated in its earliest stages, melanoma can be cured. If not treated early, the disease can quickly spread to other parts of the body and be fatal.

The free screenings will be held on the second floor of the Richard A. Henson Cancer Institute at PRMC. To schedule an appointment, call 410-543-7006.

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Volunteer changes announced at Coastal Hospice

After more than 10 years on the job, Judy Hunt-Harris, manager of Coastal Hospice's volunteer services, is resigning to move closer to family in North Carolina. Stepping into her shoes is Sally Rankin, current Coastal Hospice patient care volunteer and State of Maryland employee. The transition will take place the first week of May 2016.

The manager of volunteer services recruits, trains and coordinates the more than 280 volunteers who support the mission of Coastal Hospice. Volunteers fulfill the requests of Coastal Hospice patients and their families, perform support and office work, and staff the Coastal Hospice Thrift Shop in Berlin. Medicare requires that 5% of all hospice services be delivered by volunteers, but Coastal Hospice's rate is consistently 11% or higher.

"The volunteer force supports Coastal Hospice's mission in the most kind and gentle way," Hunt-Harris said. "They are not here for money or fame. They are non-judgmental and open their hearts and love to our patients and their families."

The requests for help from Coastal Hospice patients and families are diverse and very personal.

"We go shopping, hold a patient's hand, listen to life stories, take care of their dog, go to the bank, take them to the hairdresser," she said. "Whatever their needs and wishes are, we try to do it."

Hunt-Harris said her years at

Coastal Hospice have been some of the most rewarding of her life.

"The hugs I get around town when I'm wearing my Coastal Hospice ID... that's worth more than anything," she said. "I know I made a difference in not only the patient's life, but also in the family's. End-of-life is not a daily occurrence. There are no do-overs."

Rankin, who lives in Salisbury with her husband, was administrator for the State of Maryland's 1st Judicial Circuit for eight years. Her background includes human resources experience with the State judiciary in Annapolis and in the healthcare, financial services and education fields. She has also been a Coastal Hospice patient care volunteer for three years.

"Patient care with hospice was something that really touched me," Rankin said. "I'm at the time in life where mission and purpose are important to me."

Rankin's goal is to keep the volunteer standards high and preserve the reputation of Coastal Hospice.

"As volunteers, we feel honored to be part of a special time in someone's life and the people who care for them," she said. "I'm a person of faith, and hospice work has strengthened that. There's nothing like the expression of joy on the face of a patient or caregiver; the people are so affected by a volunteer's presence. It's like nothing I've ever seen before."

Founded in 1980, Coastal Hospice is a nonprofit health care organization that



Sally Rankin, left, will step into the shoes of **Judy Hunt-Harris**, right, as manager of Volunteer Services at Coastal Hospice.

cares for individuals facing life-limiting conditions but who want to remain as active and engaged as possible. Coastal Hospice cares for patients in their home,

nursing home, assisted living facility or at Coastal Hospice at the Lake and serves Wicomico, Worcester, Dorchester and Somerset counties.

Kids diabetes support group to meet

Peninsula Regional Medical Center's Kids and Teens Diabetes Support Group will meet on Tuesday, May 10, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the CQI2 Room of the Avery W. Hall Educational Center at PRMC.

The topic this month will be "Living with Diabetes." Local college student Thomas Moreno-Holt and his mother Susan Holt will share how diabetes has shaped and affected their lives.

All children must be accompanied by an adult. Please call the Peninsula Regional Diabetes Education Program at 410-543-7061 to register. The Kids and Teens Diabetes Support Group meets every other month from September to May and is sponsored by the Peninsula Regional Diabetes Education Program. The group provides an opportunity for kids and teens with diabetes, as well as family members and friends, to interact and talk about diabetes plus gain new information through special speakers and educational topics.



Arbor Day - The Ocean Pines Garden Club held its Arbor Day in the Pines ceremony on Thursday, April 14 at Pintail Park in Ocean Pines. The ceremony included proclamations from the Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors and the Worcester County Commissioners, as well as poetry readings by garden club members, bagpipe music by Pat Harmon and choral music by the Pine Tones. A Japanese Maple was planted in memory of loved ones who had passed away during 2015.

Above are Worcester County Commissioner **Chip Bertino**, Ocean Pines Garden Club President **Meg Herrick** and Ocean Pines Board of Director Vice-President **Cheryl Jacobs** standing beside the Japanese Maple. Photo by Gail Philippi:

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Builders Club supports African library project

The Stephen Decatur Middle School (SDMS) Builders Club is selling baked goods for African Library Project. The Kiwanis sponsored club is raising money to help fund a children's library in Malawi, Africa. They are also hoping to collect 1,000 gently used children's books. Books can be dropped off at the school. On May 19 they will be having a fundraiser at DeNovo's restaurant between 6 and 8 p.m. to raise funds for the African Library Project. Pictured are Veronica McCoy, Hanna Beck, Samantha Boger and Sydney Boger.

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