

The Courier

December 7, 2016 Volume 17 Number 13

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Choptank to distribute credits to members

The Choptank Electric Cooperative Board of Directors voted to return \$1.75 million to its members during the month of December to long-time members who were part of the Co-op in 1992.

The amount received is based on how much electricity the member purchased during the year. Any active member who has accrued capital credits less than \$75 will receive the amount credited directly to their December bill. Active members who have accrued more than \$75 in capital credits will receive a check in the mail. For any member who is inactive, you must accrue \$75 before a check is sent. Inactive members must have a good address listed at the co-op to receive their check. The checks are scheduled to be mailed by mid-December.



“Since a cooperative has members, the capital credits reflect each member’s ownership and contribution of capital to the cooperative. This differs from investor-owned utilities who pay dividends to shareholders. These shareholders may or may not be customers of the utility,” said Mr. Olin Davis, Chairman of the Board of Directors for Choptank Electric Cooperative.

Choptank Electric allocates and periodically retires capital credits to its members based on a variety of factors including the overall financial condition of the Cooperative. “Allocating and retiring capital credits to members helps distinguish a cooperative from other business models,” said Mr. Davis. “We’re proud to support our local communities by putting money back into the pockets of our members and their economies. It makes our business model special.”

For more information on capital credits, you may call our Member Service Center at 1-877-892-0001, email capitalcredits@choptankelectric.coop, or go to our website at www.choptankelectric.coop.



Special delivery - Most Blessed Sacrament Catholic School (MBS) recently collected personal care and food items for the Seton Center, a multi-purpose neighborhood community center located in an area of Princess Anne. Services available at Seton Center include a Brown Bag food cooperative club and an emergency food pantry; health advocacy, thrift shop, women’s support groups, financial assistance for basic living expenses during crisis, information and referral services, case management, and behavioral health counseling.

Items were delivered by the MBS Student Council on November 17. For Christmas, the Seton Center set up a “Santa’s Workshop” where they have presents and stockings for needy children and families. The student council assisted with stuffing some of the stockings for children in need while at the Seton Center. The stockings consisted of items including coloring books, crayons, stuffed animals, snacks, balls, and toys. The MBS student council learned about the Seton Center and its mission to help the community.

Above are front row L-R: **Juliana Fohner, Emily Selba**, (second row): **Julia Carlson, Lauren Kemp**, (third row): **Taylor Barrett, Lily Jones**, (fourth row): **Griffin Jones, Hayes Peterson, James Barrett and Jacob Shoup**.



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December

Community Calendar 2016

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Anglers to meet Saturday

The Ocean Pines Anglers Club will meet on Saturday, December 10, at 9:30 a.m. in the Ocean Pines library. The speaker will be Bill O'Brien, owner of Shore Tackle & Custom Rods of Grasonville, MD. He will discuss inshore fishing for Striped Bass covering location, tackle and techniques. Members are also reminded to bring a canned good or donation for Diakonia Shelter. The meeting is open to the public.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Church offers 'time out' event

Parents "Time Out," a free annual community outreach event held at Bethany United Methodist Church, will occur on Saturday, December 17 between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. Children participate in games and holiday crafts while parents take time out to handle holiday preparations or relax. Ages Pre-K through grade six are invited to spend the afternoon at Bethany UMC, located at 8648 Stephen Decatur Highway in Berlin (corner of Snug Harbor Road and Rte. 611). Bethany UMC offers this special event during what can be a hectic time of year to support parents who may be looking for a fun and exciting holiday opportunity for their children while they shop, wrap gifts or spend a few quiet hours away from the holiday hustle and bustle. Parents are encouraged to register children in advance for this event by calling Megan at 443-614-3870.

Dance theater performs Saturday

The Pointe Youth Dance Theatre will present excerpts from the Nutcracker with a little bit of jazz will be held Saturday, December 10, with performances at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club. While the Sugar Plum Fairy's "Land of Swinging Treats" come to life, you may enjoy the option to purchase sweets and treats by Yummy Sweet Shop. You may also have your picture taken with your favorite character.



Reservations are recommended. This event is open to the public. Tickets are as follows \$12 for adults and \$10 for children ages 4 and up. For tickets and additional information, please contact Chrisy Winton at (443)-880-0930 or Shelly Olafsson at (209) 277-0001.

Monday

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

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

Monday/Tuesday

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

Tuesday

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

Tuesday/Thursday

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

Wednesday

Kiwanis Club Meeting
Weekly meetings at 8 a.m. on Wednesdays in the Ocean Pines Community Center. Doors open 7 a.m. 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@delmarvahand-dancing.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.

Thursday

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

Beach Singles

Beach Singles 45 for Happy Hour at Harpoon Hanna's at 4 p.m. Call Arlene at 302-436-9577, 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.

Friday

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

Gamblers Anonymous

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



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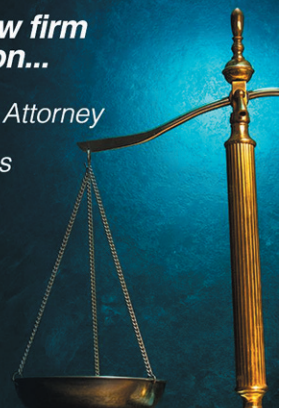
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Board of Education releases annual report

The Worcester County Board of Education released its Annual Report for 2016-2017 which provides an overview of the county school system with its 6,663 students and approximately 1,171 employees and its strategic direction entitled, "Worcester 2016."

The county system has 14 schools throughout the county including five elementary schools, one intermediate school, three middle schools, one special school, three high schools and one career and technical high school.

The five goals of Worcester 2016 are "meant to prepare all students for college and career readiness using innovation and creativity. The goals are:

- Academic success for each student.

- Multiple pathway opportunities and connecting classrooms to future work environments.

- High quality teaching and learning.

- Use process improvements and safe, healthy, sustainable, innovative practices to manage resources.

- Partnerships to enhance student success.

A survey of the student population shows the following:

65.78% Caucasian;
19.52% African American and, 6.7% Hispanic.

Forty-three percent of students live in households at or below poverty which makes them eligible for Free and Reduced Meal Services (FARMS).

The state average is 38%. In the state of Maryland an annual income of \$24,300 is considered poverty level for a family of four according to The People's Law Library of Maryland 2016 guidelines. Some 2,850 students are receiving FARMS assistance.

The school system relies on 79 school buses, driven by 69 bus contractors who travel just over 9,000 miles daily or 1.62 million miles during the school year of 180 days.

The report indicates that teachers at all schools and grade levels have digital devices and that the district's infrastructure is upgraded to support a high bandwidth network. Digital devices to support digital conversion are



Maryland Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence

Ocean City Elementary School
Pocomoke Elementary School
Showell Elementary School
Snow Hill Elementary School
Stephen Decatur Middle School
Snow Hill Middle School
Pocomoke High School
Snow Hill High School
Stephen Decatur High School



National Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence

Ocean City Elementary School
Pocomoke Elementary School
Showell Elementary School
Snow Hill Elementary School
Stephen Decatur Middle School

Gold Designation Positive Intervention Strategies schools

Buckingham Elementary School
Pocomoke Elementary School
Snow Hill Elementary School
Cedar Chapel Special School
Berlin Intermediate School
Pocomoke Middle School
Snow Hill Middle School
Snow Hill High School
Stephen Decatur High School

Ribbon Schools of Excellence. There are 74 Blue Ribbon schools throughout the state of Maryland. Five schools are National Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence and nine have received the highest gold designation as Positive Behavior and Intervention and Supports schools. Three schools have been certified as Green Schools by the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education.

All teachers in Maryland are required to hold a teaching license. To maintain a teaching license, a teacher must earn a Master's degree or Master's equivalency by their tenth year of teaching. Presently just over 50% of teachers have either a Master's degree or Master's equivalent. Some 33.47% have a Master's degree plus 30 additional credit hours. Just under 2% of instructors have their doctorate.

The Board of Education budget for fiscal 2017 is \$114,212,283. It receives 76.36% of its funding from Worcester County, 18.27% from the state, 4.7% from the federal government and .67% from other sources. Funding per student is about \$16,843. The report reveals that, "WCPS receives the second lowest state funding per student, despite that 43% of our students come from households of poverty."

-Chip Bertino

provided to incoming and tenth graders.

A quick review of academic data shows that the average SAT score of Worcester County students is 1117 in reading and mathematics. There are 319 students participating in AP courses and 63% of test takers scored a 3 or higher in the AP exam. Five county students are AP Scholars with Distinction. Some 107 students are earning college credits by participating in dual or concurrent enrollment. And 72.5% of high school students participate in one or more extracurricular activity.

The report provides a profile of 2016 high school graduates of which there were 467. Seventy-nine percent planned to attend a college/university

or special training school; and, 5.5% planned to enter the military; 13.1% planned to enter the job market. Graduates accepted \$5,566,238 in grants, scholarships and merit-based awards. Additionally, Worcester County's graduation rate is 93.1%, above the state rate of 86.98%. The dropout rate among Worcester County students is 6.13% compared to the state rate of 8.08%.

Worcester County Public Schools (WCPS) led the state in PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College Careers) scores. In Mathematics (grades three to eight) WCPS scored 41% (30% state average); in Reading/Language Arts (grades three to eight) WCPS scored 54% (40% state); Algebra WCPS scored 57% (31% state); and, English 10 WCPS scored 59% (40% state).

Worcester County has the highest concentration of Blue Ribbon Schools in the state with nine of 12 eligible schools designated as Maryland Blue

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Superintendent of Schools

The Courier

P.O. Box 1326
 Ocean Pines, MD 21811
 410-641-6695 • fax: 410-641-6688
 thecourier@delmarvacourier.com
 www.delmarvacourier.com

Chip Bertino

Publisher/Editor
 chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

Susan Bertino

General Manager

Mary Adair / Comptroller

Contributing Writers

Ron Fisher, Steve Habeger
 Douglas Hemmick, Jean Marx, Dolores Pike,
 Kelsey Reichenberg and Bev Wisch

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2012 Business of the Year

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Online shopping has expanded considerably in the last several years. Although Black Friday and its online counterpart, Cyber Monday, may seem like the best times to gain the lowest prices on merchandise, it



actually could pay to wait a little longer. Merchants may offer deep discounts on premium items that

haven't moved during the last days of the holiday shopping season, typically between December 21 and 24. This includes big-ticket products, such as fine jewelry, furniture and televisions. It is possible to take advantage of deep price cuts the closer you get to Christmas Day. Keep in mind that you may have to pay a premium for getting those gifts delivered on time, which could offset the savings. Therefore, it might be a wise idea to present gift recipients with a photo of what they will be getting for the holidays and deliver the item a day or two later.

Youth sports programs open

Volunteer coaches needed

The winter Youth Indoor Soccer League and Youth Basketball League seasons will begin Saturday, January 7, and all the action will take place at the Worcester County Recreation Center (WCRC) in Snow Hill. Both leagues are co-ed.

The five Youth Indoor Soccer League divisions are ages 3-4, and grades K-1, 2-3, 4-5, and 6-8. Ages 3-4 and grades K-1 divisions will play on Saturday mornings, grades 6-8 on Monday and some Wednesday evenings, grades 4-5 on Wednesday or Thursday evenings, and grades 2-3 on Thursday evenings. Practice dates, times, and locations are to be determined.

The four Youth Basketball League division are grades K-1, 2-4, 5-6, and 7-8. Games will take place Saturday afternoons. Grades K-1 will begin at 1 p.m., grades 2-4 at 2:15 p.m., grades 5-6 at 3:30 p.m., and grades 7-8 at 4:45 p.m.

Volunteer coaches are needed to run successful leagues. Please contact the WCRC prior to January 5 if you are interested in volunteering this winter. An orientation meeting will be held for all interested volunteers.

Emphasis for all youth recreation leagues is placed on skill development, participation, sportsmanship, and most of all, kids having fun. Both the soccer and basketball leagues are designed for pure enjoyment and skill development. Scores and standings are not recorded.

The cost for each program is \$30 per player (\$25 for each additional child) and financial aid is available for those who have a demonstrated need. Proof of eligibility is required. The registration deadline is Thursday, January 5. Those registering after this deadline may not have the request met for certain teams or coaches, and there is an additional \$5 fee after the registration deadline. Sign up today for these fun-filled, skill-developing recreation programs.

For more information on the Indoor Soccer and Winter Youth Basketball Leagues or to volunteer as a youth coach, contact the WCRC at 410-632-2144 or recandparks@co.worcester.md.us.



Decorating - Star Charities decorated its Christmas tree for the Ocean Pines Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony in White Horse Park on November 26. (L-R) Dan Peletier, Sandy McAbee and Susan Walter, secretary for Star Charities. Photo by Anna Foulz.



Holiday ceremony - Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks staff hosted a Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on Saturday November 26. They served free cookies and hot chocolate to the crowd. Debbie Donahue (center) with her staff. Photo by Anna Foulz.



Holiday song

The Ocean Pines Hometown Christmas Tree Lighting event on Saturday November 26 featured the Delmarva Chorus entertaining under the direction of Carol Ludwig. (L-R) Carol Ludwig and Delegate Mary Beth Carozza, Maryland House of Delegates District 38C. Photo by Anna Foulz.

The pressure is on

Well folks it's that time of year when Christmas gift buying goes into overdrive. I'm a 23rd and 24th of the

they've been a hit. It could be they're quietly exchanged several days later with one of the gift receipts that I collect on my bureau. I prefer to believe the former, just as Colonel Klink believed there had never been an escape from Stalag 17.

In our early years together it seemed easier for me to know what to buy my wife. But as time has passed ideas have become

scarce as she seems to have everything she wants. I'm the same way I guess, finding it difficult to offer gift ideas for myself. The older I get the less material items are important. Unfortunately though it's tough to wrap an evening talking and laughing with family and friends over a wonderful dinner, drinking a smooth glass of port and enjoying a fine cigar. I'd gladly unwrap that gift over and over.

Also, as I've matured, I've found it's more enjoyable to give gifts and watch people's reactions than it is to receive. There's just a certain look that comes across a person's face when you've given them the unexpected that when witnessed is more cherished than all the apps in a Smart phone.

But I digress. For the most part I've stayed within what most would consider the traditional parameters of gifts for my wife: clothes, jewelry, books, CDs and from time to time a chotsky or two. One of our earliest Christmases together, I bought her a bathrobe. That sounds nice doesn't it? Well it was one of the few gifts that didn't make the hit parade. Why? Because it was flannel. Yes, it was a flannel bathrobe. I thought it would be warm. It was a few days before my wife said anything. She's not the type to hide feelings. Eventually though she asked if I had mistakenly given her a gift I meant for my grandmother. At first I wasn't catching on. Then she asked if I knew robes were also made of other fabrics such as silk. I got the message and never made a similar mistake.

I'm tossing around several gift ideas for this year. I just hope that by the time I've made a final decision that the stores are still open. Fortunately though the 7-11 stays open late on Christmas Eve.



It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

month kind of shopper. There's nothing like shopping on a deadline with adrenaline pumping fast and furious and a dose of anxiety running rampant over whether the store will close before I get there or before I've decided what to purchase.

For the most part I'm responsible for only buying gifts for my wife. My wife handles buying everyone else's gift on whose tag my name appears, usually in parenthesis in smaller print. As much as I hate to admit it, I'm usually just as surprised as the gift recipient when the wrapping paper is torn away.

When our children were younger, much younger, my wife and I would shop for Christmas gifts together in the toy store. I loved strolling down the aisles, especially in the boys section, looking at and touching all the cool toys, wishing I was once again a child able to play with Matchbox cars or Legos without people looking askance at me. During these outings my wife was up to a point understanding about my penchant for preadolescent behavior. However, when I would put on a cowboy hat that was much too small, brandish a toy revolver and tell her to "stick 'em up" shopping came to a halt quickly. She didn't quite appreciate the excitement of my recreating "High Noon" in aisle 5A of Toys R Us. Eventually she began shopping when I was away on business or otherwise unavailable.

As I mentioned, shopping for my wife's gifts is about my only responsibility. I very much enjoy shopping for her. I'm happy to report that most of my gifts over the years have been a hit. Or at least I've been led to believe



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MD #2294



Can the government criminalize flag burning?

By **Steven W. Rakow**, Esquire

Now that the country has elected a new president, much is being made about the criminalization of flag burning. President-Elect Trump recently posted on his Twitter account that those who burn flags should go to jail. Many citizens have strong feelings about what the American flag represents. Veterans like me tend to be very patriotic about the flag and have strong feelings towards those who show disrespect to the flag and our country. Yet, many veterans feel very



Steve Rakow

strongly that they fought for the rights of every citizen to enjoy the protections of free speech – including the right to burn a flag.

The First Amendment of the Constitution protects, among other rights, the right of every citizen to freedom of speech without fear of being punished by the government. The Supreme Court has upheld the right to free speech, albeit with some limits. Speech that incites violence or disrupts the peace is not protected speech and may be criminalized. For example, one may not shout “Fire!” in a crowded theater or yell loudly at night outside a condo building and wake people up. Such speech is not for political purposes and is not protected under the First Amendment. Laws enacted for disorderly conduct are often used to handle such situations.

Unlike disturbing the peace or inciting violence, the act of burning a flag to protest a government policy or to gain attention for a cause falls under protected speech. In the late 1980s, 48 states and the federal government had laws banning flag

burning. In 1984, a Texas case involving flag burning went up to the Supreme Court for review. In *Texas v. Johnson*, the Court held in a 5-4 decision that flag burning is protected speech. The decision struck down nationwide all laws prohibiting flag burning.

In response to the *Johnson* decision, Congress passed the Flag Protection Act in 1989. This act was an attempt by Congress to resurrect the prior law by tailoring some of the language. However, it did not take long for this law to be struck down as well by the Supreme Court in 1990 for the same reasons cited in the *Johnson* decision. Once again, the Supreme Court held that flag burning was protected speech.

Other attempts have been made to try to protect our national symbol, yet all have failed. Between 1995 and 2005, Congress has often voted on the Flag Desecration Amendment. The amendment al-



ways passed in the House, but failed in the Senate. In 2006, the Senate vote was one short of the super majority required to send the proposed amendment to the states for ratification.

The question today is whether the new administration will be able to propose and be successful in passing a new law banning flag burning, or in amending the Constitution. Given the Supreme Court precedent, it is highly unlikely that any new law would pass Constitutional muster. Despite the Republicans having control of both houses of Congress, there would likely not be sufficient votes for an amendment banning flag burning.

Whether you agree or disagree with flag burning as free speech, the law of the land is that burning the flag is protected speech under the First Amendment. But just like the freedom to burn the flag, free speech also protects those who voice their opinions in favor of the flag and all it stands for.

Steven W. Rakow, Esquire, is a former assistant state’s attorney. His private practice focuses on civil litigation, contracts, construction law, criminal and traffic law, and other general practice matters. He’s a retired Marine officer and has owned several small businesses. Steve can be reached at 410-600-3075, by email at steve@steverakowlaw.com, or through his website www.steverakowlaw.com.

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Wednesday

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Thursday

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Friday

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Happy Holidays!

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Facebook Instagram Twitter YouTube

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1.877.892.0001



The holidays are approaching and now is a good time to review all your spices and baking items. Consider purchasing new baking powder, soda, nuts, etc. instead of using any out of date ones in the pantry. You want to be sure your spices are fresh as well as they really affect the flavor of your product. How about baking some cookies, cakes or pies to give to others? The best gifts you can give come from the heart and your kitchen. Following are some excellent recipes you might enjoy and so will your friends.

Combine first four ingredients in a large bowl. Beat with electric mixer until smooth. Add eggs one at a time. Add bourbon and next 5 ingredients; beat just until blended. Pour mixture into pastry shell. Bake at 375 degrees for 50 to 55 minutes or until set. Cool. Garnish with whipped cream if desired.

Holiday Pound Cake

- 1 cup butter
- 1/2 t. salt
- 1 cup sugar
- 4 eggs
- 1 t. vanilla
- 2 cups all- purpose sifted flour
- 2 t. baking powder
- 1/2 cup candied cherries (red or green)
- 1 cup mixed candied fruit
- 1-1/2 cups chopped walnuts

Carolina Sweet Potato Pie

- 1 - 17 oz. can sweet potatoes, drained and mashed
- 1 cup firmly packed brown sugar
- 2/3 cup milk
- 2/3 cup whipping cream
- 3 eggs
- 3 T. bourbon
- 1 T. melted butter
- 1 t. cinnamon
- 1/2 t. ginger
- 1/2 t. nutmeg
- 1/4 t. salt
- 1 - unbaked pie shell
- Whipped cream

Grease and flour 2 loaf pans or one 9 inch tube pan. Cream butter, salt and sugar and add eggs one at a time to mixer. Add vanilla, add sifted dry ingredients mixing well. Add nuts, cherries and candied fruit (which have been lightly floured). Bake at 325 degrees for about one hour. Test with tooth pick. Leave in pan on wire rack for about 10 minutes before removing cake from pan.

*Happy Holidays
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Pine Tones to perform

On Friday, December 16 at 7:30 p.m. the Pine Tones Chorus will present a Christmas Concert at Atlantic United Methodist Church in Ocean City, Baltimore Ave. and 4th Street.

The Pine Tones Chorus includes more than 50 singers from Ocean Pines, Ocean City, and nearby areas. June Todd is the chorus director and Cathy Morgan is the group's pianist. Featured instrumentalists will include Judy Benton and Fr. Michael Moyer playing trumpet, Jim Meckley-clarinet, Don Gury-trombone, and Tom Baione-string bass.

The concert is titled "Carol, Singers, Carol!" and offers a festive variety of holiday selections. Traditional melodies will include the theme from Beethoven's "Ode to Joy" and the classic "O Holy Night," sung by soprano, Evonne Lee. Fans of jazzy songs may enjoy the Ray Charles arrangement of "Jingle Bells," and a swinging version from Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker Suite," featuring four hands on the piano. Movie fans may recognize the Hawaiian Christmas song "Mele Kalikimaka," as sung by Bette Midler, Bing Crosby and others.

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

The Pine Tones Chorus has been entertaining local audiences in the Ocean Pines and Ocean City areas since 1984. For additional information, call Chorus President Pat Beisler, 410-208-2682 or June Todd, 410-289-7373.

Funding for Pine Tones Chorus activities has been from the Worcester County Arts Council, individual donations and patrons. The Arts Council is dedicated to cultivating a vibrant cultural community where the arts thrive.

Carozza advocates for enhanced boater safety

In light of the serious boating accidents that occurred in local waters this past season, Delegate Mary Beth Carozza (District 38C) is advocating for changes to Maryland's current boat safety regulations aimed at increasing safety for Maryland families and visitors.

please see carozza on page 11



WPS students collect pajamas

To help make the holidays a little warmer for those less fortunate in the community, the Worcester Preparatory School (WPS) National Honor Society sponsored a Pajama Drive for the Pajama Program Eastern Shore Chapter. Furthermore, Scholastic Books, a partner of the Pajama Program, donated a new book to accompany each pair of the donated pajamas. WPS Upper School students collected hundreds of pairs of new pajamas in November that will be distributed this holiday season in the tri-county area. For more information about the Pajama Program, visit www.pajamaprogram.org.

Above student representatives from Worcester Preparatory School's NHS present the Pajama Program with hundreds of pairs of pajamas. (L-R) **Grace Nichols**, **Deborah Marini**, WPS English teacher and NHS Advisor **Kathleen Otway**, Pajama Program Volunteer **Mary Anna Pavlos**, and **Reese Gittelman**.



Holiday arts - The Worcester County Arts Council recently held its Berlin Holiday Arts Night. Pictured from left to right are board members **Dorothy Shelton**, **Nancy Howard**, **Sharon Sorrentino**, and **Anna Mullis** (executive director).



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4-9pm: **Serving Dinner**

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(OPEN 11am til Midnight)

11am-4pm: **Open for Lunch**

4-7pm: **Happy Hour**

4-10pm: **Serving Dinner Upstairs. Special: 2 Entrées, Shared Appetizer, Shared Dessert & Bottle of Wine, \$60***

6-10pm (upstairs): Featuring the music of *STILL ROCKIN'*

PRIME RIB *Saturday 12/10*

(OPEN 11am til Midnight)

11am-4pm: **Open for Lunch**

4-7pm: **Happy Hour**

4-10pm: **Dinner Special: Queen-Cut Prime Rib (10 oz) \$18, King-Cut Prime Rib (14 oz) \$21**

w/ **Chef's Choice Sides***

FOOTBALL *Sunday 12/11*

(OPEN 9am til 11:30pm or end of game)

9am-1pm: **Brunch \$15 Adults, \$7 Ages 6-12, 5 & under eat Free!**

During All NFL Games: **Tailgate Specials: \$3 Craft Brews, \$5 Crushes & more!**

4-7pm: **Happy Hour**

4-9pm: **Serving Dinner**

TAILGATE *Monday 12/12*

(OPEN 6pm til end of game)

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Upcoming Events

12/16: **PARENTS' NIGHT OUT!** Parents enjoy Date Night Dinner downstairs while the kids watch a movie & eat dinner upstairs. **\$15 per child / \$10 each add'l sibling** (parents pay regular dinner menu prices) **Pre-registration required - Call 410.641.7501**

*Tax & gratuity not included.

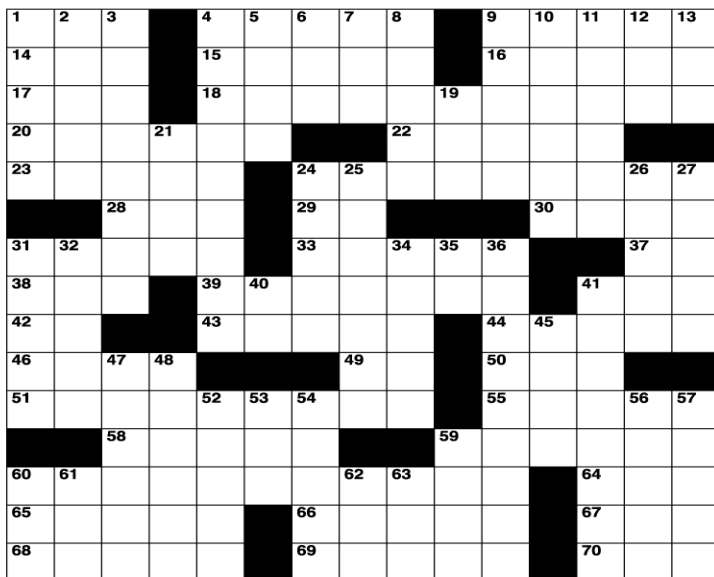


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New Year's Eve Party!

Dinner, dessert, champagne toast at midnight & dance party til 1am with the Good Foot Band!

\$100/person* Call for reservations



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. No (Scottish)
- 4. Heroic tales
- 9. A way to tend
- 14. Not or
- 15. Where rockers play
- 16. Dutch name for Ypres
- 17. Ingested
- 18. A resident of California
- 20. Unfounded rumor
- 22. Oats
- 23. Type of women's coat
- 24. Life forms
- 28. Every
- 29. Alternating current
- 30. Withered
- 31. "Gymnopedies" composer
- 33. Plate glasses
- 37. Muscial artist __ DeBarge
- 38. Before
- 39. Arrange in steps of size
- 41. Electron cloud model
- 42. Morning
- 43. Leonard __, famed Swiss mathematician
- 44. Capital city of Buenos Aires province
- 46. Snouts
- 49. Of I
- 50. Swiss river
- 51. Perplexes
- 55. Made angry
- 58. Precious stone
- 59. Type of envelope
- 60. One who believes in reason and knowledge
- 64. Monitors brain activity (abbr.)
- 65. Get __ of
- 66. Actress Zellweger
- 67. Spinal muscular atrophy (abbr.)
- 68. "Inferno" author
- 69. Puts together in time
- 70. Silvery-white metal

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Civil Rights group
- 2. Early Slavic society
- 3. Mammals that lack incisors and canines
- 4. Blasphemy
- 5. Israeli city
- 6. Put this in your hair
- 7. Black tropical American cuckoo
- 8. Month in the Islamic calendar
- 9. Begets
- 10. Court game
- 11. Painkiller
- 12. New Zealand parrot
- 13. Suffix
- 19. Egg cells
- 21. Another name for Thor
- 24. About pontiff
- 25. The academic world
- 26. Raise
- 27. Civil rights city in Alabama
- 31. Encompasses
- 32. Helmet
- 34. Nostrils
- 35. Lovable Spielberg alien
- 36. Divides
- 40. Ruthenium
- 41. Preceding all others in time
- 45. Past participle of lie
- 47. Fastener
- 48. Overindulged
- 52. Ancient lyric poem
- 53. Ardent supporter
- 54. Iranian village and Islamic pilgrim attire
- 56. A fragrant resin obtained from tropical trees
- 57. Semitic fertility god
- 59. Millisecond
- 60. Cool!
- 61. "Take on Me" singers
- 62. ESPN sportscaster Bob
- 63. Accommodating place



Answers for Nov. 30

Eyes on the Skies

Venus & Mercury

By Douglas Hemmick, Ph.D.



The month of December could bring colder temperatures, but bundling up for a stargazing session should be rewarding. This month will see the appearance of the familiar wintertime constellations Orion the Hunter and Gemini the Twins.

December's discussion focuses on the surface features of Venus and concludes with visits to Mercury, the closest planet to the Sun.

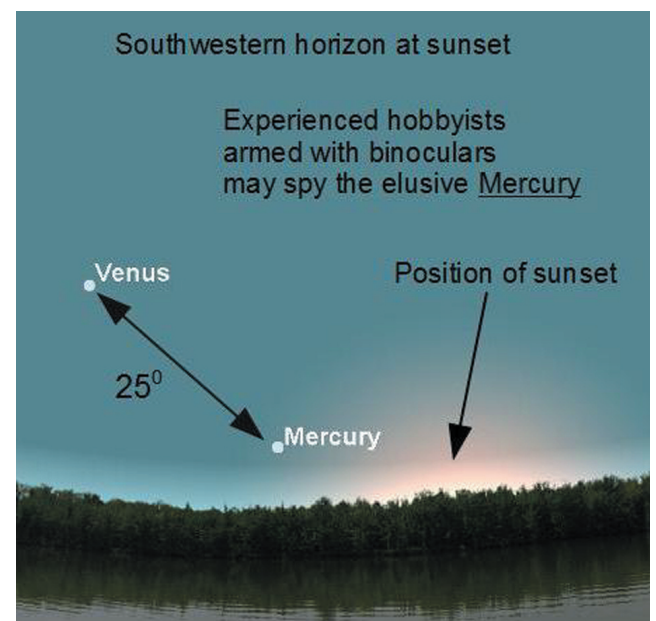
Readers may recall that Venus features extreme surface temperatures of 450 C (850 F) and the crushing atmospheric pressure 100 times that of Earth. In the mid-1970s Soviet landing probes survived these conditions and successfully transmitted messages from the planet's surface. In the 1980s attention shifted with both Russia and the United States launching missions to map out large-scale features across the entire planet. To penetrate the thick, cloudy atmosphere of Venus the orbiting spacecraft resorted to radar surveying technology.

In 1983 the Soviets' Venera 15 and 16 probes captured radar images of the northern hemisphere of Venus, covering 25 percent of the planet surface and featuring a resolution of about one kilometer. In 1990 NASA's Magellan craft began its three-year mission orbiting the planet and surveying its surface. In total, the Magellan mapping covered 98 percent of the Venusian surface, with resolution of 100 meters. These observations revealed a variety of mountainous and volcanic terrain.

The Venus surface includes vast plains of lava flows covering about 85% of the lowlands. The lava plains are dotted with 1,600 major volcanoes and thousands of smaller domes. Venus has the most volcanic history of any planet. Long lava-carved channels and troughs appear on the surface, in-

dicating a history of eruptions. The tallest volcano on Venus is Maat Mons. At 5.3 miles, this Venusian volcano is slightly shorter than Hawaii's 6.2 mile-high Mauna Kea.

Venus and Mercury are the only planets without any moons. Mercury became the smallest planet in 2006, when Pluto was redesignated into the



category dwarf planet. The diminutive but scorching-hot planet has been explored by two U.S. probes — Mariner 10 and Messenger.

Mariner-10 took an interesting journey, initially passing by Venus in February 1974, then making a close fly-by of Mercury in March 1974. Along its flight path, the probe orbited around the Sun to receive gravitational "sling-shot" boosts. In September 1974 and again in March of 1975 Mariner-10 performed additional Mercury flybys.

The Messenger space probe (designed and built in Maryland) achieved its planned orbit above Mercury in 2011, after three earlier flybys, beginning in 2008. Messenger continued orbiting and collecting scientific data until 2015.

The thousands of images of Mercury revealed a lunar-like, rocky surface pockmarked with craters. This planet is the most cratered in the solar

please see **eyes** on page 11

Reduce waste this holiday season

The holiday season is a time for families to gather and express their love and appreciation for one another. Exchanging gifts has become a big part of the holiday season, and while such a tradition is well-intentioned, gift-giving annually produces substantial amounts of waste.

Food plays a big role at many holiday celebrations, and uneaten food contributes heavily to the excess waste during the holiday season.

eyes
from page 10

system. The probes were able to detect an extremely thin atmosphere containing helium and also the prevalence of iron and titanium minerals on the surface. In November 2012, NASA reported that Messenger had discovered water ice in the permanently shadowed craters of Mercury's north pole. Just as in the case of Earth's moon, such regions of perpetual darkness create necessary temperatures for the freezing of water. In February 2013 NASA published a detailed 3D map of Mercury, a composite from all of the surveyed images.

Scientists discovered that a massive asteroid struck Mercury in its ancient past creating the "Caloris Basin," an impact crater large enough to hold the entire state of Texas. The planet surface rippled into a ring-shaped pattern of mountains surrounding the impact site.



This concludes the 2016 discussions of planets of the solar system, with their surprising diversity of conditions, some as startling as active volcanoes and giant geysers found on moons of the outer planets.

For December stargazers, the show once again begins early, with the planet Venus appearing over the south-southwest horizon at about 4:45 p.m. This bright planet continues to dazzle, and begins the evening in grand fashion. However, Mercury is quite elusive. Unlike Venus, this small planet never separates itself very far from the sun, so that its dim light must always compete with the twilight, for visibility. Experienced observers armed with binoculars might spot the subtle planet hovering over the southwest between 4:45 and 5:15 p.m. After December 15 Mercury will be located too close to the horizon to be spotted. After 9:30 p.m., Orion the Hunter will appear over the eastern horizon, followed by Gemini the Twins, to his northeast.

"Time" magazine reports that an estimated 1.3 billion tons of food, or about one-third of global production, is lost or wasted each year. The United States alone wastes 34 million tons of food annually, and a considerable amount of that waste is produced during the holiday season.

Food is not the only thing wasted during the holiday season. Everything from packaging to gift wrap to the number of gifts purchased can

contribute to excess holiday waste.

As big a problem as holiday waste has become, there are several simple ways to reducing holiday waste.

Make a list and stick to it. Retailers are very good at upselling and getting people to purchase items they do not need during the holiday season. Stick to a shopping list for food or other supplies for the holiday season and beyond. Do not be tempted to buy more than is necessary.

Scale back the menu. If you typically have lots of leftovers after the holiday, you are likely overestimating just how much people will eat. Learn from past experience and cook less this year. If you have a lot of leftovers, send guests home with their own plates instead of letting them pile up in the refrigerator and spoiling. And keep in mind that leftover food can always be donated to nearby food banks and homeless shelters.

Reuse whatever you can. Diligently collect and store holiday wrappings and trimmings that are in good condition and put them to use again and again. Gift bags and boxes are

carozza
from page 8

In a letter to the Department of Natural Resources' Maryland Boat Act Advisory Committee, Carozza wrote in support of a proposed change to COMAR regulation 08.18.01.05, which pertains to operating a boat in a negligent manner. This proposed change would define bow riding on a boat and would specify that bow riding is a separate offense.

easily reused. Once materials have passed their prime, attempt to repurpose and recycle them before discarding them.

Compost food scraps. Eggshells, coffee grounds and vegetable peels can be put to use in the garden when composted.

Give an experience rather than "stuff." When gifting, think about giving experiences rather than traditional gifts. Experiences may include trips to a museum or tickets to a concert or a play. Such gifts will make for memorable experiences and, because experiences are not packaged, will help cut back on holiday



waste. Make your own gift tags and wrapping. When wrapping gifts, use comics, maps, old calendars, and items that you would otherwise discard. You even can decorate newsprint with rubber stamps or drawings from the children.

Purchase a rooted tree. Look for a tree that has the root intact so it can be planted afterward.

Decorate with items from around the house. Costume jewelry and other trinkets can adorn the limbs of Christmas trees. Look throughout the house to see what you might have that can serve as replacements for heavily packaged, store-bought decorations.

Reducing waste during the holiday season can be accomplished without affecting the festive atmosphere synonymous with this time of year.

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<h2 style="margin: 0;">Tide and Sun Chart</h2>				
* tide is for Ocean City Fishing Pier. Add two hours for Isle of Wight tide				
DATE	HIGH TIDE	LOW TIDE	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Thur., December 8	1:39 a.m. 2:00 p.m.	7:52 a.m. 8:23 p.m.	7:05 a.m.	4:40 p.m.
Fri., December 9	2:40 a.m. 3:00 p.m.	8:56 a.m. 9:18 p.m.	7:06 a.m.	4:40 p.m.
Sat., December 10	3:39 a.m. 3:58 p.m.	9:59 a.m. 10:13 p.m.	7:07 a.m.	4:40 p.m.
Sun., December 11	4:35 a.m. 4:54 p.m.	11:00 a.m. 11:07 p.m.	7:08 a.m.	4:40 p.m.
Mon., December 12	5:29 a.m. 5:48 p.m.	11:57 a.m.	7:08 a.m.	4:40 p.m.
Tues., December 13	6:23 a.m. 6:42 p.m.	12 a.m. 12:52 p.m.	7:09 a.m.	4:41 p.m.
Wed., December 14	7:16 a.m. 7:35 p.m.	12:52 a.m. 1:44 p.m.	7:10 a.m.	4:41 p.m.

Christmas tunes spread holiday spirit

Some stores start stocking Christmas decorations and wrapping paper as early as the end of October, and some families begin decking their halls in holiday finery in late November. But for many people, the holiday season has not truly begun until the music synonymous with this festive time of year has hit the airwaves.

Few things can make a person feel as festive as the holiday songs they know and love. Many families have a favorite musical artist whose music they consider synonymous with their holiday celebrations. While families have their own unique holiday traditions, over time certain holiday songs have emerged as favorites. These are the tunes you're likely to hear played over and over on the radio. Billboard, which tracks the music industry's most popular songs, compiled its own list of the most popular Christmas songs. The list measures the volume of people who

have been exposed to the song on the radio, and is based on ranking rather than exact figures of listeners, and the following are the 10 most popular songs based on those parameters.

10. "Happy Xmas (War is Over)," by John Lennon: This song debuted in 1971 and was written by Lennon and his wife, Yoko Ono. Performed with the Harlem Community Choir, the song was originally a protest song about the Vietnam War before it eventually became a Christmas standard.



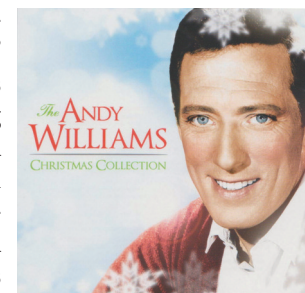
9. "Christmas Eve (Sarajevo 12/24)," by Trans-Siberian Orchestra: According to Nielsen, this instrumental mash-up of "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" and "Carol of the Bells" is one of the best-selling Christmas digital singles in SoundScan history. A combination of full, classical orchestra and rock, "Christmas Eve" is a memorable and powerful piece of music.

8. "White Christmas," by Bing Crosby: Crosby

crooned this tune in 1942 in the movie of the same name, and Irving Berlin's song soon became one of the most popular holiday tunes of all time. It has been covered innumerable times and has become a holiday season standard.



7. "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year," by Andy Williams: This popular Christmas song was written by Edward Pola and George Wyle in 1963. The song celebrates the traditions and feelings of the Christmas season.



6. "Feliz Navidad," by Jose Feliciano: This Spanish-English pop song is recognized by the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers as one of the 25 most-played and recorded Christmas songs around the world. Puerto-Rican born Feliciano has said that the song has always been a bridge to the cultures that are so dear to him.

5. "A Holly Jolly Christmas," by Burl Ives: This song was written by Johnny Marks, an American songwriter. Ironically, Marks was Jewish, but he specialized in Christmas songs and wrote many of the holiday standards people love, including this upbeat tune and "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree."

4. "The Christmas Song (Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire)," by Nat King Cole: Believe it or not, this song was actually written in the summer when composers Bob Wells and Mel Torme were trying to cool off with winter imagery. Snow-covered images and phrases eventually turned into lyrics for this popular song that was most memorably recorded by Nat King Cole.

3. "Jingle Bell Rock," by Bobby Helms: This song has been performed by many, but Helms' version of the is perhaps the best known. The song highlights the crossover style known as "rockabilly" and merges the classic "Jingle Bells" with rock n' roll references of the 1950s.

2. "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree," by Brenda Lee: Brenda Lee was a chart-topping female vocalist of the 1960s who owes much of her success to this beloved holiday classic. Despite the mature sound of her voice, Lee recorded this version when she was only 13 years old.



1. "All I Want for Christmas is You," by Mariah Carey: This up-tempo love song has become a Christmas classic and one of Carey's most popular hits. She co-wrote and coproduced the song with Walter Afansieff. It is one of the few, modern, original Christmas songs to stand the test of time and become an official Christmas standard.

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Flag retirement - Boy Scout Troop 261 and their fellow Cub Scouts assisted the American Legion Post 166 and the Ocean Pines Fire Department in a moving flag retirement ceremony on November 19.

Above are **Alex Navarro, Joe Coleman, Evan Hurley, Jack Pielstick, Joerg Leinemann, Miguel Navarro, Nick Busko, Sawyer Ellis-Gaal, Kurt Leinemann, Scoutmaster Ken Nichols, Nick Coleman, Matt Coleman, Ben Busko, Max Salerno, Liam Boyle and Andrew Busko.**

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Successful book swap held at Showell

Showell Elementary School held a very successful Book Swap on December 1. Each year students bring in books to swap for an equivalent number of books. This year every student, Pre-Kindergarten through the third grade, received a book thanks to the many donations made throughout the year.

Volunteers shown in the picture below from left to right, **Sandy West**, Showell Elementary School Book Swap coordinator, **Daniel West**, Sandy's husband, and members of the Republican Women of Worcester County, **Mary Adair**, **Mary Pat Carozza**, **Vera Beck**, and **Sharon Byerly**.



Reindeer and caribou are similar, but not the same

Reindeer are symbols of the holiday season. Legend states these antlered animals have a busy evening come December 24, helping Santa Claus pull a sleigh weighed down by toys for the world's children.

Why does Santa choose reindeer when caribou may be equally qualified for the job? It may be due to their greater history of domestication.

Although the terms "reindeer" and "caribou" are frequently used interchangeably, leading many people to assume they are the same creature, recent genetic mapping published in the journal "Nature Climate Change" shows caribou and reindeer are actually different animals. The journal determined that these mammals are quite similar and actually share the same scientific name, *Rangifer tarandus*, but they are only closely related cousins.

Reindeer may be slightly smaller and are generally more domesticated than caribou. Some people of the Nenet group in Russia keep reindeer for pets. The following are some other similarities and differences, courtesy of the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Reindeer are shorter, stouter and more sedentary than the long-legged caribou.

Caribou migrate longer distances than reindeer between wintering grounds and calving areas.

Reindeer have thicker, denser fur than caribou. Both have unique hair in their fur that trap air and provide extra insulation.

Both male and female reindeer and caribou grow antlers. However, female reindeer antlers grow larger than those of female caribou.

Reindeer calves are born at the end of April and caribou calves at the end of May.

Both animals have hooves that can be used as snowshoes for walking on the

snow and for digging.

Only in North America are wild *Rangifer* referred to as caribou.

Reindeer have been herded for years throughout Alaska and some parts of Canada for their meat. However, caribou are largely wild animals that roam freely. As a result, caribou are hunted in the wild.

Reindeer may get all the glory come the holiday season, but caribou are equally impressive animals. These large mammals provide food and other materials for survival to those who live in cold climates across the world.

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Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

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

Christmas Day and New Year's Day Worship Services at
Showell Elementary School at 9 a.m.



Come as you are...
casual dress welcomed.

