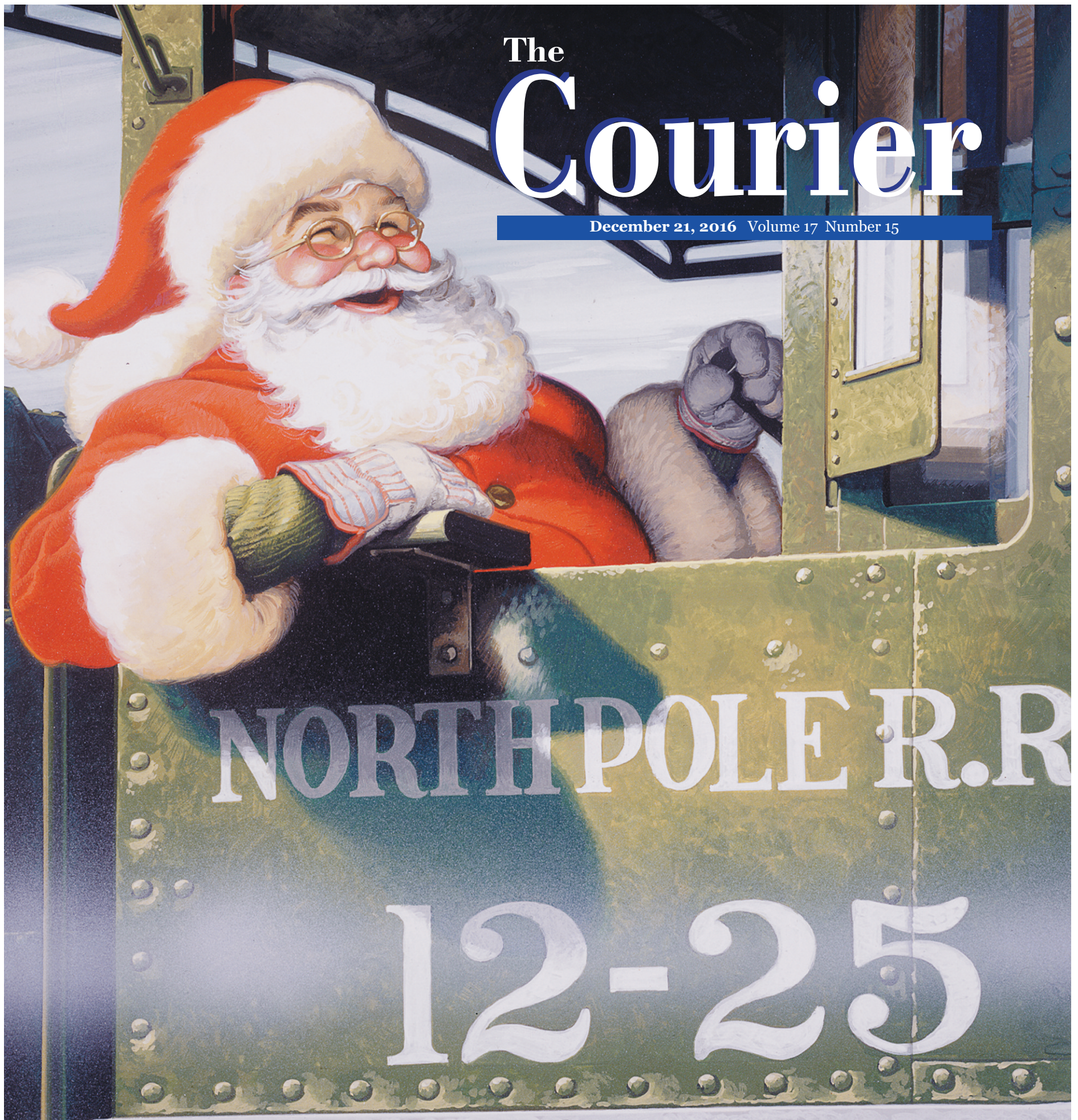



The Courier

December 21, 2016 Volume 17 Number 15



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December

Community Calendar 2016

Brought to you by **Law Offices of Patricia Cleary**

Beef and Beer scheduled

On Friday, January 27 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Star Charities will hold its Annual Beef & Beer at the Ocean Pines Community Center. Tickets are \$25 per person. This event supports wounded veterans in Maryland. There will be many items for auction as well as music for your listening and dancing pleasure. For tickets and information please contact Anna Foultz at 410-641-7667 or Larry Walton at 443-831-1791..



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		

Drums Alive instructor training scheduled

Share the joy of music, the power of drumming, and help others discover the thrill of being able to express their inner creativity in a fun and non-judgmental atmosphere by becoming a certified Drums Alive instructor. Master Trainer Carrie Shult will host a Drums Alive Basic Certificate workshop at the Worcester County Recreation Center on Wednesday, December 28 at 9 a.m.

Participants will learn the theory, science, research, and application of this fun and effective group exercise program. Explore sound and movement therapy through drumming and music. Learn the loco-motor skills to drum your way to a distinctive and unforgettable class design.

The goal of Drums Alive is to improve lives, physically and psychologically, through a unique sensory motor drumming in a group fitness program. Drums Alive creates a whole mind, whole body experience for all who participate, regardless of their age, abilities, or disabilities.

Drums Alive Basic Certificate workshop is a one day (eight hour) training designed to provide the instructor with a basic knowledge and practical application of the Drums Alive program. The fee for Drums Alive Basic is \$315 between Dec. 8-21, or a late price of \$350 from December 22-28. Participants will receive a manual, DVD, and certificate upon completion.

Register for this class at www.drums-alive.com. For more information, contact Worcester County Recreation and Parks Program Manager Lea Cataggio at 410-632-2144 x2509 or lcattaggio@co.worcester.md.us or Drums Alive contact Karen Watanabe at 808-271-4110 or karen@drums-alive.com.

EWGA to hold annual tournament

The Executive Women's Golf Association (EWGA) Eastern Shore Chapter (ESC) of the Delmarva area, will hold its 20th Annual Co-Ed Miniature Golf Tournament on Friday, January 13, at Old Pro Golf Indoor Safari Vil-

*please see **tourney** on page 6*

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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Ocean Pines bridge repairs underway

Construction is now underway on two bridges in Ocean Pines, one is located on Clubhouse Drive, the other on Ocean Parkway. Both bridges were built about 50 years ago and were in need of repairs.

Murtech Inc., a Salisbury-based company, has completed under-bridge-repairs and started sidewalk/railing replacement for the Clubhouse Drive Bridge. Traffic is restricted to a single lane along Clubhouse Drive, heading to the Golf Club. Construction workers with Murtech Inc. will work on one side of the bridge at a time. Under-bridge-repairs for the Ocean Parkway Bridge have now begun.

According to a report released by facilities manager Jerry Aveta in October, the Clubhouse Drive Bridge had about one third of its

steel and concrete underneath the bridge repaired. Deterioration was not as bad as expected in some cases. Contracted workers have peeled the utilities back by excavating the area near the bridge to gain access. A temporary steel structure was put in place and the utilities were temporarily moved, which enabled the contractor access to the bridge railings for removal.

Anticipated completion of the repair project for both bridges is February 1, depending on the impact of weather on the construction schedule. The Ocean Pines Board of Directors voted unanimously to grant a contract to Murtech Inc. at its April 28 meeting.



Pines Police investigate rash of thefts

With the holiday season here, the opportunity for criminal activity increases. Ocean Pines police are seeing a large increase in thefts from vehicles. Recently, a total of 15 cases have been reported to the police department. The thefts



have occurred in South Ocean Pines in the King Richard, Camelot, Robin Hood areas, as well as in North Ocean Pines, in the Sandyhook, Birdsnest areas. In each incident, the thefts were from unlocked vehicles. It appears that money and electronics were the target.

Police remind Ocean Pines residents to be extra vigilant in locking their vehicles. Be prepared to report suspicious activity. Try to remain calm and avoid taking any risks. Anyone with information about these reported thefts from vehicles is asked to contact Detective Corporal Tish Ottey of the Ocean Pines police department at (410) 641-7747.

The police department is focusing its resources to solve the cases.

May you and your family cherish the
wonderful memories of love, care and hope.
May you live life in joy and peace.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

Mary Beth Carozza
Maryland State Delegate 38 C



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

Robert B. Adair 1938-2007

2012 Business of the Year

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She gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Luke 2, 7-12



Santa's Workshop

North Pole

Dear Children,

Thank you for taking time to visit with me at the Ocean Pines Tree Lighting and Breakfast with Santa. The elves and I loved talking with you this year and hearing about what you've been doing over the past months. According to the "naughty/nice list", I know that most of you were doing good things at home and at school.

It's been another busy year here at the North Pole, making toys and games and electronic gadgets. The elves are working very hard to prepare all of those things for you, if you've been good. Rudolph and the reindeer are practicing take offs and landings every day in preparation for Christmas eve. Mrs. Claus, unfortunately, is not feeling well this year, so everything is even more hectic than usual. She's unable to help me with the naughty and nice list and keeping everyone well fed in preparation for our big night delivering presents all over the world, but the elves are filling in nicely for her.

I've been checking over the list to see who's been naughty and who's been nice, and, as usual, most of the children on the Eastern Shore are on the "nice" list again this year. Thank you for paying attention to what I asked you to do last year at this time. If, for some reason, you forgot my message, I'll remind you now. There's still time to get on the "nice" list.

First, be respectful of everyone. No bullying. No fighting. No bad language. No talking back.

Listen to your teachers, parents, grandparents, and all other adults who help you each day. Older folks have a lot of important things to teach you.

Say "Thank you" to everyone in a military uniform; they're fighting to keep you and our country free. Do the same for firefighters and police officers and first responders who keep you safe at home, and remember them all in your prayers.

Always be kind to animals and treat them with care and kindness.

Most importantly, remember the real meaning of Christmas.

I'll be stopping by several of the area schools, so perhaps you'll see me once more before the "big day". Of course I'll see you all (but you won't see me because you'll be asleep) on Christmas Eve. I'm sure you'll be very happy when you wake up Christmas morning and look under the tree.

If you'd care to leave a snack for the reindeer on Christmas Eve, I'm sure they'd appreciate it, and you all know how much I love cookies and a glass of milk or a mug of hot chocolate.

Well, it's time to get back to the workshop and get busy. Please continue to be good and be respectful and kind to everyone you meet. Remember, I'll be watching.

Mrs. Claus and I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthful new year.

Love,
Santa



The lights of Christmas

The lights of Christmas shine most brightly when reflected in the eyes of a child, especially when that child is yours.



It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

The wonderment of the holiday illuminates the many dreams held dear by children whose wishes are tied with ribbons of hope that parents try to fulfill.

A child's squeals of joy at the sight of Santa Claus ring clear and innocent through the air, reminding those of us

who are many years away from having sat upon his lap, just what is so magical about this time of year.

Our children are now all grown and no longer at home; our grandchildren are more than a thousand miles away. Yet, with each gift we wrap for one and for all, our spirits lift and our joy becomes more real thinking of their reactions when the wrapping is torn away.

There were many years of late nights and early mornings assembling wagons and bikes; doll houses and a Millennium Falcon. It seemed like an eternity at the time to get done all that needed to get done by dawn or before dawn when the children would emerge excitedly from their rooms,

rubbing from their eyes the sleep that was so hard fought. But when that time arrived it was a pajama-clad jam-boree.

Those were mornings of great mirth and loud celebration as each present was opened. At the time I told myself that these were happy times and I reminded myself to enjoy them for they wouldn't last forever. And now I

look back, visualizing each of my children on those mornings bouncing around the living room, sometimes stepping over one another to get to the next gift. I can see them clear as day, knee-high, pressing against me beseeching me to install a battery or open a package, "Daddy, Daddy, will you..." Oh, how I wish I could again.

Compared to years past, Christmas morning will be silent this year. Yes, there will be a lighted tree and a couple wrapped gifts beneath the boughs, but most of the gifts will have been mailed to addresses far from our living room to be opened under other trees.

The lights of Christmas shine most brightly when reflected in the eyes of a child. They also illuminate the many rich memories held dear by this old, sentimental Dad.



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MD #2294



WCAC grants announced

The Worcester County Arts Council has awarded \$15,250 in Community Arts Development Grants program to nine art projects and events to be presented by local non-profit arts organizations during the six month granting cycle beginning January 1.

Funding will support a wide variety of creative and innovative projects that are of outstanding artistic quality and demonstrate community benefit enhancing the lives of everyone living and visiting the Worcester County. This program is funded and supported by the Maryland State Arts Council.

Grant projects are evaluated based on overall quality of cultural excel-

lence, community outreach and public impact, and financial/administrative merit.

The following is a list of organizations and their projects that are being awarded a Community Arts Development Grant for the current granting period: Art League of Ocean City (various art exhibits); Assateague Native Peoples Tribe (Drums on Pocomoke Pow-Wow); Brown Box Theatre Project (2016/2017 season); Mid-Atlantic Symphony Orchestra (various performances); Pine Tones Chorus (spring concert series); Pocomoke High School Drama Club ("Aladdin"); Snow Hill High School (spring musical); Town of Ocean City Special Events (Children's Art workshops); and, The Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art (carving competition and art festival).

The next deadline to apply for Community Arts Development Grants is April 15.

Revised Grant Application and Guidelines will be available on our website www.worcestercount-yartsCouncil.org in the middle of January.



Monday

Chicken Parmesan over Pasta \$9.95
Lobster Tail \$14

Tuesday

Burger and French Fries \$6

Wednesday

Meatloaf with mashed potatoes
and a vegetable \$6.95
Add a soup or a salad \$9.95

Thursday

Steak Night! \$13.95

Friday

Fried Shrimp with French Fries
& cole slaw \$14.75

Saturday

Crabcake Platter with 2 sides and a
choice of a soup or salad \$15

\$2.50 Bottles

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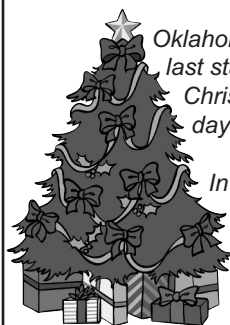
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In 1836 Alabama became the first
state in the US to declare Christmas
a legal holiday.



Oklahoma became the
last state to declare
Christmas a legal holi-
day in 1907.

In June of 1870
Christmas be-
came a federal
holiday in the US.



Fishing awards - At the final meeting of the year the Ocean Pines Anglers Club presented awards to the 2016 Fishing Tournament winners. Tournament Chairman Tim Mullin recognized nine anglers for the largest fish caught during the year in 12 species of fish. Top anglers shown left to right are; **John McFalls** (41 1/2" Striped Bass [tie], 11" Croaker and 15" Fresh Water Trout), **Tom Nelson** (29 1/2" Black Drum), **Frank Watkins** (41 1/2" Striped Bass [tie] and 18 1/2" Black Sea Bass), **Pat Connelly** (20 1/2" Tautog), **Rich Patschorke** (48" Tuna) and **Jake Eichler** (17 1/2" Large Mouth Bass). Not shown; Budd Heim (25 1/2" Flounder and 17 1/2" Red Drum), Finn McCabe (23 1/4" Weakfish), Kevin Welkner (36" Bluefish).

tourney
from page 2

lage & Family Arcade at 136th Street and Coastal Highway in Ocean City. Local PGA pros, EWGA members, spouses and prospective members will attend the event.

"This event has always been one of our most popular winter events. It is a fun evening and an opportunity to get together after the holiday season," said Judy Schoellkopf, who with her husband Herb, have hosted this event for the last 19 years.

This year's tournament will be chaired by EWGA member Valerie D'Ambrogi and her husband Tom. "We're hoping for a record attendance this year," said D'Ambrogi. The format will be a four-person scramble with prizes for 1st place team, low score for both men and women, as well as a 50/50. The cost is \$25/person which includes: Refreshments, beer, wine and soda.

For more information, please contact Valerie D'Ambrogi at vsdambrogi@aol.com, or www.ewgaeasternshore.com.

EWGA/ESC was formed in 1996 with 35 members and has grown to over 300 members. The Eastern Shore Chapter offers women the opportunity to learn the game of golf in a woman-friendly environment with golf clinics, organized golf events, golf leagues with all levels of play, championship golf, business networking, fun events, golf tournaments, mentoring, discounts at several golf courses local and nationwide and social gatherings throughout the year. For more information on the Eastern Shore Chapter of EWGA, please visit our website: www.ewgaeasternshore.com.

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The birth of Jesus is shared through the ages

Christmas traditions focus on several different aspects of family and spiritual life. While many stories are shared around Christmastime, perhaps none bears more significance than the origin of the Christmas celebration. Sharing the Christmas story is an integral part of holiday gatherings, reminding families that faith is foremost during this festive time of year.

The Conception of Jesus

Mary was a woman living in the Galilee area of Nazareth. She was engaged to a Jewish carpenter named Joseph. An angel visited the Virgin Mary and told her that she would conceive a child, a son, by the power of the Holy Spirit. When the son was born, she would name him Jesus. Mary questioned the angel, who reassured her that anything was possible by God and that Jesus would be God's own son.

Joseph was troubled when he found out Mary was with child and even considered breaking their engagement, which was allowed under Jewish law. But God soon sent another angel, this time to Joseph, in a dream. The angel reassured Joseph that his

marriage to Mary and the birth of this child were His will. Joseph awoke from his dream and took Mary as his wife soon after, ready and willing to raise the child despite the public humiliation he may experience.

The Census

During this time the Romans had control over many parts of the world, including where Joseph and Mary resided. Ruler Caesar Augustus decreed that every person living under Roman rule had to return to his town of origin to participate in a census so everyone could be taxed accordingly. Joseph, hailing from Bethlehem, had to return to this town with his very pregnant bride.

They traveled for many days and, upon arriving in Bethlehem, found

that the inns were full and there was no available lodging. Mary and Joseph took shelter in a stable and prepared to welcome their son.

Jesus' Arrival

According to the Gospel of Luke, Mary gave birth to her firstborn, a son, while in the stable. She wrapped him in cloth and placed him in a manger because there was no guest room available for them.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them,



and they were terrified.

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths

please see **birth** on page 8

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"On Christmas, we celebrate the birth of Christ with prayer, feasting, and great merriment. But, most of all, we experience it in our hearts. For, more than just a day, Christmas is a state of mind. It is found throughout the year whenever faith overcomes doubt, hope conquers despair, and love triumphs over hate. It is present when men of any creed bring love and understanding to the hearts of their fellow man. The feeling is seen in the wondrous faces of children and in the hopeful eyes of the aged. It overflows the hearts of cheerful givers and the souls."

Ronald Reagan
Christmas Message 1981



Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah!
Happy New Year!

**REPUBLICAN WOMEN OF
WORCESTER COUNTY**

Boxing Day extends gift giving

Celebrated each year on December 26 in Great Britain and the Commonwealth nations, Boxing Day may sound like a day to clear a home of the boxes that accumulate during Christmas gifting celebrations.

Some people may think it is a time to head to the gym and work off some of those extra holiday pounds by landing a few hits on the punching bag.

Despite its name, Boxing Day has nothing to do with heavyweight fighters or post-holiday cleanup. In fact, the holiday's origins can be traced to Great Britain and the practice of bestowing gifts on the lower classes, primarily house servants and the working class.

Centuries ago, among family members and friends of equal station, Christmas gifts were exchanged on or before Christmas Day. Presents for the working class were bestowed the day after. A gift from one's employer was called a "Christmas box." The Oxford University Press defines a Christmas box as a present or gratuity given at Christmas. In Great Britain, it was usually confined to gratuities given to those who were employees or paid by the grantor of the gift or a customer.

Although the holiday was once based around gifting, today it is primarily known as a shopping holiday, much like Black Friday in the United States. Banks and non-retail businesses are closed on Boxing Day, but shoppers flock to stores to use gift cards or other funds to purchase or return gifts. Sales are prevalent, and

the day presents yet another opportunity for retailers to maximize year-end profits.

In the world of sports, Boxing Day is an opportunity for fans to see their favorite teams play. In the United Kingdom, football and rugby leagues host a full schedule of matches on Boxing Day. In Australia, cricket matches are held. Boxing Day also marks the start of the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race. Boxing Day also may be an opportunity for wild game hunts across the UK.

Boxing Day is a day for residents of Australia, Britain, New Zealand, and Canada to celebrate and take advantage of great deals offered by retailers.

Celebrating Midnight Mass

Many families have their own unique holiday traditions, but one tradition that unites millions of Christians all over the world is the celebration of Midnight Mass. In many parishes, Midnight Mass is the first celebration of Christmas Mass. The origins of Midnight Mass are not exactly known. However, certain monks and nuns attended liturgical services at midnight every day in ancient times, and the Christmas Midnight Mass very well may have been adopted from these practices. Regardless of the basis behind the celebration, it can be a breathtaking and emotional service thanks to the memorable passages read and the inclusion of church choirs. Many Midnight Mass celebrants feel the Mass serves as an impressive reminder as to the true meaning of Christmas.



Season's gathering - The ladies of Books by the Bay enjoyed their holiday luncheon and book exchange at the "Inn of the Ocean" at 10th Street and the boardwalk in Ocean City on December 8.



Matias speaks to OCPS - State Senator Jim Mathias was the guest speaker during the November meeting of the Ocean City Power Squadron. He discussed a new boating regulation he was working on that would prohibit bow riding on vessels. If enacted it is expected to be in place by summer 2017. The Power Squadron is an organization dedicated to boating safety through education and provides boating courses to the public.

Above are **Linda Hess, Raymond Calandra, Senator Jim Mathias, William Killinger, Antonino Curro and John Hess.**

birth

from page 7

and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. (Luke Chapter 2)

Many people visited the baby Jesus, including three wise men from the East who traveled by following a guiding star to bestow gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh on the baby king.

When Joseph and Mary had performed all the things necessary according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Nazareth with Jesus, who was growing strong in spirit and filled with wisdom and the grace of God.



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Beary Christmas - Members of the Ocean Pines Hammerheads swim team joined Coach Brooks Ensor in delivering Build-A-Bear plush teddy bears to the Atlantic General Emergency Department recently to be given to children that might be spending their holiday there.

Ocean Pines swim team members, and Shannen Hilton, Nurse Technician and Beth Ann Wells, RN gather around over 30 individually boxed Build-A-Bear's donated to the hospital ER.

Register now for spring classes at Wor-Wic

Wor-Wic Community College is currently accepting registrations for credit classes that are being offered during the spring term, which begins on Friday, January 13. Early registration is encouraged for the best selection of classes. The payment deadline is Thursday, January 5.

Admission, registration and financial aid services are available Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Wor-Wic offers traditional classes on campus, as well as a variety of on-line, hybrid and virtual classes, and a variety of session lengths.

In addition to the regular 14-week spring term that begins January 13, Wor-Wic offers one seven-week session and a 10-week session that also begin January 13, as well as a three-week session that begins January 17 and a second seven-week session beginning March 3.

For more information or a credit

class schedule, visit www.worwic.edu or call 410-334-2895.

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If you received all the gifts from the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas" you would have 364 presents.



Do you know why we say the Twelve Days of Christmas? It is believed that it took the 3 kings 12 days to find baby Jesus.





SANDPIPER

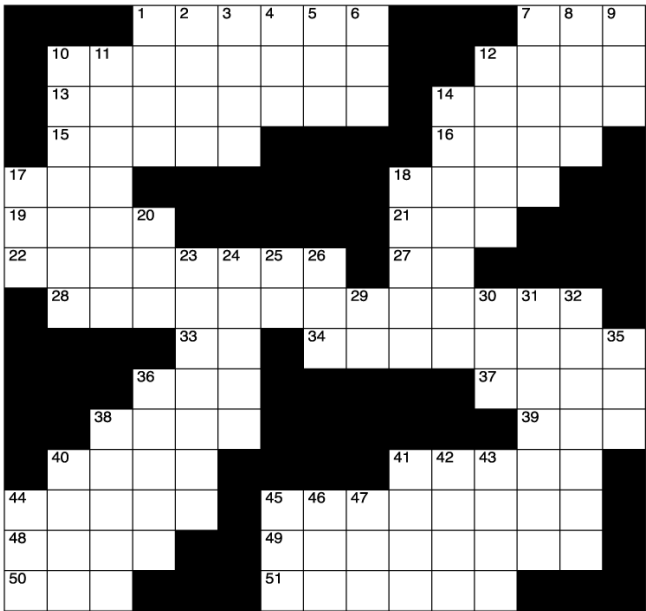
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Give a raucous cry

7. Mentally ill

10. Natural electrical phenomenon

12. Vessels

13. Judge the worth of something

14. South Asian garments

15. Studied intensively

16. District in Kazakhstan

17. Beloved meal ___ and cheese

18. Ceases to live

19. Home to BYU

21. What thespians do

22. Julianne Moore and Christina Hendricks are two
27. Double in chemistry

28. Clayton Kershaw plays here

33. Overdose

34. Begrudged

36. Consumed

37. A game of chance

38. A low platform

39. Shelled and crushed coffee bean

40. Dashes

41. Long lock of a woman's hair

44. Indicates silence in music

45. Positively charged

48. In bed

49. Cruciferous vegetable

50. Fuel

51. Kids' ride

CLUES DOWN

1. Greenish-blue

2. Having sufficient skill, knowledge, etc.

3. Dirt

4. New Zealand mountain parrot

5. Back muscle

6. Supplement with difficulty

7. Kate and Rooney

8. How Amazon identifies its products (abbr.)

9. Emirati island

10. Contended

11. Pear-shaped fruit

12. Parks cars

14. Killing oneself

17. Austrian river

18. Older brothers

20. Home hemodialysis

23. One who is self-absorbed
24. Yellow fever mosquitos

25. Pepper or Oz

26. Soviet Socialist Republic

29. Tellurium

30. Pens are filled with it

31. Use this at dinner

32. Thin fibrous cartilage (pl.)

35. When you were born

36. Oohed and ___

38. Small freshwater fishes

40. Religion in China

41. Twitches

42. Cape near Lisbon

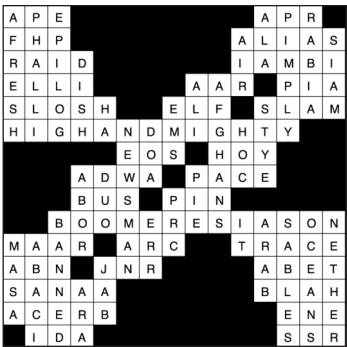
43. Management software

44. Game for kids

45. Ed Murrow's home

46. They ___

47. Part of the foot



Answers for Dec. 14



Having been boating for most of my life and like you I have seen many boaters who don't practice safety or good boating manners on the water. We have all seen many boats aground speeding in no wake zones, having boats pull a stern asking what the

ing propellers.

According to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources a typical three-blade propeller running at 3,200 rpm can inflict up to 160 impacts in one second and a typical recreational prop can travel from head to toe on an average person in less than one tenth of a second.

We owe a great deal of credit to the Coast Guard and Department of Natural Resources Police for the great job they do policing our waterways and if you spend any time on the water during the summer months you should be aware that they are always busy.

What can you do to prevent propeller injuries?

Never permit passengers to ride on the bow, gunwale, transom, seat backs, or other locations where they might fall overboard.

Consider taking a safe boating course offered by the Coast Guard Auxiliary or the Power Squadron. Only 15% of boating deaths occurred on vessels where the operator had received a nationally-approved boating safety education certificate. I took this course myself and it is well worth the time. Most of these courses are advertised locally.

State approved Basic Boating Course offered by the Coast Guard Auxiliary

Date: March 7 and 9, 2017
Duration: 3 hrs. Each session
Location: Ocean Pines library
Contact: Barry Cohen @ 410-935-4807 or cgauxoc@gmail.com

I would like to share with you some of the pros and cons of entering the world of recreational boating so that your purchase is a good experience. I will only be addressing a boat purchase to be used in our Coastal Bays and not offshore.

Boating can be great fun for you and your family particularly living here on the Eastern Shore. However, I will caution you that it can also be expensive and a times quite frustrating.

please see *capt. ron* on page 11



markers mean or how to get back to where they started from.

According to the United States Coast Guard in 2015 there were 4,158 boating accidents that resulted in 626 deaths, 2,613 injuries and approximately \$42 million dollars of damage to property as a result of recreational boating accidents.

Where cause of death was known, 76% of fatal boating accident victims drowned and of those drowning victims 85% were not wearing a life jacket.

Seventy-one of deaths occurred on boats where the operator did not receive boating safety instruction.

There were 158 accidents in which at least one person was struck by a propeller. Collectively, these accidents resulted in 27 deaths and 150 injuries.

Alcohol use was listed as the leading factor in 17% of the deaths.

Twenty-two children under age 13 lost their lives while boating in 2015. Twelve or 55% died from drowning. Only two children (17%) were wearing a life jacket.

Eight out of every 10 boaters who drowned were using vessels less than 21 feet in length.

As you are quite aware we had a number of boating accidents here in the local bays with at least two involv-



Tis the season - On Friday, December 2, Worcester Prep Upper School Music Director Christopher Buzby and his Select Choral Ensemble treated residents of three local retirement homes in Berlin, Snow Hill and Salisbury, to singing performances. To cap off the day, the ensemble even pulled off a flash mob in The Centre At Salisbury during their lunch at the food court.

Above ninth grader **Quinn McColgan**, sings holiday carols as part of a WPS one-day road show to entertain residents of local Assisted Living Communities.



Writers at work - Students from Cindy Leitgeb's second grade class at Ocean City Elementary are working hard at informational writing during Writer's Workshop. The books the students are creating are meant to teach others about a topic for which they have become an expert. Pictured from left to right are **Quincy Miller, Katie Betz** and **Milagros Mil-Castro**.

capt. ron
from page 10

First you will need to consider a few very important questions. Buying a boat without considering these could result in many unpleasant surprises. They are as follows:

- Will you be using the boat for pleasure boating, fishing or both?
- Will you be taking children on the boat?
- Are you interested in speed or simply a boat that will get you around at a comfortable pace?
- How big a boat are you interested in?
- Are you interested in a new or used boat?
- Will you have a slip in a marina or your own docking facility during the boating season?
- Will you trailer the boat or will you have it stored and launched by someone else?
- Where will you store the boat in winter?
- Do you have a vehicle equipped and is it capable of towing the size boat you are interested in purchasing.

Next month buying a boat Part II

I hope you each have a very Happy Holiday Season and remember to take a kid fishing!

Tradition a major component of Chanukah celebrations

Tradition is a major component of the Jewish faith, so it is no surprise that tradition plays such a central role during the celebration of Chanukah.

Although some are quick to note Chanukah is not one of the major Jewish holidays, Chanukah is celebrated in a very public fashion. Chanukah celebrants make the holiday more high profile by displaying their menorahs in prominent locations and participating in holiday meals.

Like other Jewish holidays, Chanukah is shrouded in tradition. Chanukah means “dedication” or “induction” in Hebrew. The holiday begins on the 25th of Kislev and can occur in either November or December. Also known as the Festival of Lights, Chanukah includes menorah displays, traditional foods and games and songs.

Chanukah rose to prominence thanks in part to the story of faith and miracle behind its inception. Antiochus IV was a Greek sovereign in control of the region of Syria, Egypt and Palestine, where many Jews resided. Antiochus began to oppress the Jews, prohibiting the practice of the Jewish religion and desecrating the Jewish Temple. Opposition to Antiochus grew, and a group led by Mattathias the Hasmonean and his son, Judah Maccabee, took on the Syrian army. They were successful in their efforts to combat religious oppression, and the Temple was subsequently rededicated. The Talmud states that, at the time of

the rededication, there was very little oil left that had not been defiled by the Greeks. This posed a problem because oil was needed to burn the Temple menorah throughout the night every night. However, there was only enough left for one night’s illumination. Miraculously, that oil burned for eight nights, leading to the development of an eight-day festival to commemorate this miracle.

Because Chanukah is about the miracle of the oil and the lasting flame, oil and candles factor heavily in the holiday. A nine-armed menorah called the hanukiah is lit, and one candle is lit on each of the eight nights of the celebration. The last branch of the candelabra holds the shamash (servant) candle. The organization Reform Judaism says the traditional song “Manoz Tzur (Rock of Ages)” is sung after the lighting of the candles each night and at other times throughout the holiday. Foods fried in oil, including latkes and jelly doughnuts, are consumed as well.

Celebrants play games with a dreidel, a German-based spinning top, and giving to charity is encouraged.

Chanukah is one of the few times of the year when rabbis permit games of chance. The letters atop the dreidel stand for the first letter of each word in the Hebrew statement “Neis gadol hayah sham,” which translates to “A great miracle happened there,” and refers to the defeat of the Syrian army and the rededication of the Temple.



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.,December 22	2:00 a.m. 2:14 p.m.	8:14 a.m. 8:35 p.m.	7:14 a.m.	4:44 p.m.
Fri., December 23	2:58 a.m. 3:08 p.m.	9:13 a.m. 9:22 p.m.	7:15 a.m.	4:45 p.m.
Sat., December 24	3:48 a.m. 3:58 p.m.	10:09 a.m. 10:08 p.m.	7:15 a.m.	4:45 p.m.
Sun.,December 25	4:34 a.m. 4:44 p.m.	10:59 a.m. 10:52 p.m.	7:16 a.m.	4:46 p.m.
Mon.,December 26	5:16 a.m. 5:27 p.m.	11:43 a.m. 11:34 p.m.	7:16 a.m.	4:47 p.m.
Tues.,December 27	5:58 a.m. 6:10 p.m.	12:24 p.m.	7:16 a.m.	4:47 p.m.
Wed.,December 28	6:39 a.m. 6:52 p.m.	12:15 a.m. 1:03 p.m.	7:17 a.m.	4:48 p.m.

The colors of Christmas have a rich history

Decorations adorning homes and businesses in the familiar colors of red and green are popular come the holiday season. Even gift wrap, greeting cards and clothing tend to lean toward red and green as the holiday season hits full swing. It is difficult to think of Christmas without envisioning everything awash in these popular colors, broken up only by the inclusion of gold, white or silver accents.

The colors of Christmas are often taken for granted, and many celebrants are unaware



of how these colors became symbols of the holiday season and why they remain so to this day.

Several theories exist as to why red and green became the hallmarks of Christmas. One such theory is that the colors evolved from pagan celebrations similar to the evolution of Christmas traditions. Prior to the arrival of Christianity, many cultures viewed the color green as the symbol of life. It is believed that, during harsh winters, evergreen trees were cut down and brought indoors to symbolize that life still exists and thrives despite the cold and darkness of winter. Other pagan holidays featured the use of green, red and gold, including the festival of Yule.

As Christianity spread across Europe and eventually other parts of the world, red and green were linked to Jesus Christ. Green still represented life, but now this was the eternal life offered by Christ. Red was said to symbolize sacrifice, namely the blood of Jesus when he died on the cross. Some Christians believe that Jesus wore a crown of holly thorns whose berries were originally white. As Jesus' blood touched the berries, they turned red.

Some theorize that the red of the holiday season represents the apples on the tree of paradise in the Garden of Eden. Around the 14th century, the faithful would put on Paradise Plays on December 24 to share the story of creation with those who could not read. It is nearly impossible to find a fruit-bearing apple tree in the winter, so a pine tree adorned with red apples was used instead. Bishops also wore red robes, further tying the color red to religious masses and celebrations.

Gold is frequently used in holiday decorations as well. Gold can represent the sun and light, both important ways to ward off the dark winter. In addition, gold was one of the gifts brought to baby Jesus, making it a color of significance within the Christian faith.

Red and green poinsettias also are a symbol of the holiday season, but they did not start the colorful tradition. Poinsettias are a relatively recent addition to Christmas symbolism, as they were only first introduced to America in 1828, when they were brought back from Mexico by Joel Poinsett.

The holiday season is filled with many different colors that brighten up homes and businesses. Combined with the many twinkling lights used on displays, red and green decorations can add vitality to the dark days of December.

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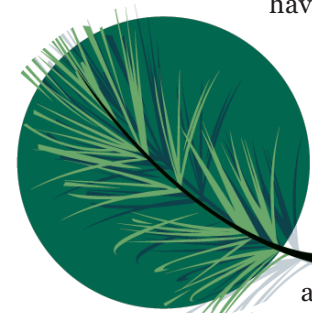
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Clean up pesky pine needles

Despite how well you may tend to Christmas trees and wreaths, you can expect some pine needles to find their way onto your floors during the holiday season. Such needles can become imbedded in carpeting or stuck in socks and furniture, proving to be quite a nuisance. Attempting to vacuum them all up can be frustrating, as some vacuums simply do not



have the suction power to handle all of those heavy needles. Plus, they can become lodged in the inner cavities of the vacuum and clog it. To lessen the mess, wrap a tree bag around the base of the Christmas tree when you are

setting it up and hide it under the tree skirt. This bag will catch many of the needles that fall off during the season. Each day, sweep any needles that make it to the floor so they are not tracked around the house throughout the month of December. Think about making a homemade sticky needle catcher. Wrap duct tape around your hands or a broom with the sticky side facing out, then pat areas of the floor where needles have accumulated, and the needles will likely stick to the tape. If you want the evergreen aroma to last a little longer in your home, place collected pine needles in a cloth satchel and make a potpourri bag for an inexpensive air freshener.

Place an ad in
The Courier and let others know what you'll be selling!

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The magic of Santa illuminates the season

He had a broad face and a little round belly that shook when he laughed like a bowl full of jelly. He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf. And I laughed when I saw him in spite of myself.

- "A Visit From St. Nicholas"

Christmas just would not be the same without Santa Claus. Santa will forever be ingrained in the holiday



season, serving as an endearing symbol of the season regardless of your religious affiliation.

Parents typically go to great lengths to ensure their children enjoy the holiday season. By keeping the magic of Santa alive, parents can add a special touch to the holiday

season for their youngsters. Children may become more skeptical of Santa around the time they turn 10, but there are plenty of ways to encourage this spirit to live on year after year.

Read an uplifting story. The holidays are ripe with stories that tug at the heartstrings. Parents can take their children to the library and rent a Christmas tale or take home a book of holiday stories, reading a different one before bed each night. Encourage children to write their own positive stories of what the holidays mean to them and read them aloud to family and friends. The book "101 Ways to Keep the Spirit of Santa Alive: For 'Kids' From 1 to 92" by John Hagerman is a great way to get everyone in the house enthusiastic about Santa.

Keep the magic flowing. Children who believe in Santa for an extra year or two often come from families that keep the magic of Santa alive. In addition to the standard traditions of leaving cookies and milk out for the jolly old man, come up with new ways to evoke the essence of Santa. Spray peppermint air freshener around the tree and other places Santa is sure to visit. Use a large boot to make a footprint in a plush rug. Find a way to trigger noise on the roof to give kids the impression that Mr. Claus himself has arrived. Extra measures to keep Santa alive can help everyone enjoy the holiday

that much more.

Take advantage of opportunities to spend time with Santa. Parents and children alike have many opportunities to spend time with Santa during the holiday season, including photo opportunities at the mall and personalized videos sent directly to youngsters' email accounts. Elf dolls and breakfast with Santa at a nearby restaurant are other opportunities to spread the magic. Make the most of these opportunities over the course of the holiday season.

Spread some Christmas cheer.

Santa's job is to bring presents to the world's children. Channel the notion that giving is better than receiving and spend time giving back to others as a family. Schedule a day when you can distribute gifts at a senior center or arrange to bring gifts to a foster child. Bake cookies and deliver cellophane-wrapped dishes to all of your neighbors. These activities put the emphasis on giving.

Keeping the tradition of Santa Claus alive can help adults and children alike enjoy a more festive holiday season.

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Santa Claus is also known as St. Nicholas, Father Christmas, Grandfather Frost and Kris Kringle.

There are three towns in the US that are named Santa Claus. One in Georgia, one in Arizona and one in Indiana.

As you celebrate the miracle of this special season, may your heart be filled with joy and peace. May these holiday blessings linger in your home and stay with you throughout the year.

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A Special Christmas poem

*T'was the night before Christmas and the stockings weren't hung,
The presents weren't wrapped and the cookies weren't done.
The floor was all covered with paper and tape,
A swath of destruction was left in the wake.*

*The lights weren't working and the tree took a lean,
There was so much to do I just wanted to scream.
Christmas was coming, of that I was sure,
But I wondered if I'd have the strength to endure.*

*And just as my spirit had sunk to a low,
The tree lights blinked on and it started to snow.
As I gazed through the window came a sight so serene,
For out on the lawn was a small manger scene.*

*I came to my senses as I took in the sight,
And I remembered the reason for this most holy night.
Decorations and presents and turkeys and hams,
Cannot hold a candle to God's gift to man.*

*I remembered the story of that first Christmas night,
The birthday of Jesus and the star that shone bright.
The gifts of the Magi, and a poor Shepherd boy,
And instead of despair, my heart filled with joy.*

*I stood there a moment and gave it some thought,
That the meaning of Christmas is easily lost.
How Santa and reindeer and presents of toys,
Overpower the true reason for Christmas joy.*

*I knew at that moment that all was all right,
I'd finish my chores and get through that night.
My list was long; I knew that was true,
But to it I added one more thing to do.*

*There was one more present I still had to send,
A prayer for peace and good will to all men.
And a special prayer on this Christmas day,
For those who defend us in lands far away.*

-Bob Lassahn

Christmas cookies made simple

Baking cookies is a holiday tradition for many families. Come the holiday season, many homes are filled with the inviting scents of vanilla, cinnamon and melting chocolate.

Baking cookies can be a social occasion in which family members and friends gather to create recipes passed down through generations. Or baking can be a solitary venture in which cookies are prepared and packaged as holiday gifts. Either way, people who bake during the holiday season understand that making Christmas cookies can be a time-consuming, yet rewarding, process.

This year, holiday bakers can embrace a number of time-saving tips and tricks to reduce the amount of time they spend in the kitchen and possibly even improve on existing recipes.

Use a cookie mix. Who says you have to toil and make cookies from scratch? It's the thought that counts, and any number of creative recipes can begin by utilizing a premade baking mix. These mixes already have most of the dry cookie ingredients sifted together, including flour, baking soda, baking powder, salt, and sugar. All you have to do is add the wet ingredients and any extra embellishments to make the mix your own. If mixes are too much work, purchase refrigerated or frozen cookie dough. Include your own add-ins, such as nuts, white chocolate chips, bits of dried

fruit, or crumbled candy canes, to give the premade dough a unique flavor.

Prepare ahead. Many cookie dough recipes can be made and stored for later use. In fact, refrigerating a log of cookie dough can make it easier to cut or handle later. Spread out the bulk of your baking over two days and you might feel less taxed.

Try a no-bake recipe. Creative culinary experts continually reveal their clever tricks, and many of these include no-bake versions of favorite desserts. No bake cookies come together in a matter of minutes, but still employ a host of delicious ingredients. Recipes frequently feature similar ingredients to traditional cookies, but rely on chocolate, honey or peanut butter as the setting agent to keep them together. Bakers may also like not having to turn on their ovens.

Recycle leftover cookies. If you have a fair amount of cookies remaining or several that broke apart or do not look good enough to serve, never fear. Such cookies can be used as part of another delicious dessert. Grind cookies into crumbs that can serve as a pie crust for pudding pies or no-bake cheesecakes, or mix cookie crumbs with cake frosting or a nut butter and roll into balls. Dunk the balls into melted chocolate, add a lollipop stick and make delicious cookie pops.

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