

# The Courier

February 1, 2017 Volume 17 Number 21

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## Boating courses offered

Ocean City Power Squadron, a unit of the United States Power Squadrons, will present America's Boating Course. The boating course will be given at the Ocean Pines library, on Monday evenings starting February 27.



This is an eight-hour course and will be given each consecutive Monday starting on February 27 and continuing on March 6, 13 and 20. An exam will also be given on the last day March 20. On the first day, registration will be at 6:30 p.m., followed by the class starting at 7 p.m. the same evening. The course will be from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. each evening. There is a minimal \$15 fee for the course and material. Middle and high school students are free.

Anyone born after July 1, 1972 must satisfactorily complete a safe boating class to operate a recreational vessel or personal watercraft in the State of Maryland.

This course covers basic boat handling, navigation, Federal and State regulations, rules of the road, aids to navigation, required equipment and much more.

For more information and a recommended early registration call 410-641-6535 or 410-641-8040.

## Zumba workout offered

Zumba Gold, an easy-to-follow, six-week program that lets you move to the beat at your own speed, returns to the Worcester County Recreation Center (WCRC) in Snow Hill this February.

Zumba Gold, open to those ages 45 and older, is an invigorating, community-oriented dance-fitness class that feels fresh, and most of all, exhilarating. Zumba Gold classes provide modified, low-impact moves for active, older adults.

Classes run Tuesdays and Thursdays, February 14 through March 23, from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. The cost is \$20 per person.

For more information, contact Lea Cataggio at 410-632-2144, ext. 2509 or email [lcattaggio@co.worcester.md.us](mailto:lcattaggio@co.worcester.md.us). For a complete list of Worcester County Recreation and Parks programs and classes, visit [www.WorcesterRecandParks.org](http://www.WorcesterRecandParks.org).



**Flying donation -** Ray Unger holds the airplane he made and donated to Star Charities for the Annual Beef & Beer held last Friday. Photo by Anna Foulz.



**Leading Delmarva's Cancer Fight for 50 Years**  
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**Community Calendar**  
**February**

*Brought to you by Law Offices of Patricia Cleary*



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			

**Yard sale is this weekend**

The Bishopville Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary will be holding an indoor yard sale at the main street station on Saturday, February 4 from 7 a.m. to noon. Tables are \$15 each or 2 for \$25. Breakfast sandwiches available. Call 443-235-2926 to reserve your table space.

**Apply for free welding training course**

Anyone interested in the next welding training course being offered by the continuing education and workforce development division at Wor-Wic Community College has until Feb. 3 to apply.

The course will be offered Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., February 13 through April 24, at the Arcon Welding Training Center at 2028 Northwood Dr. in Salisbury.

This course is designed to provide the entry-level welder with the skills necessary to secure employment in the welding industry. Students will progress from basic arc welding to the welder qualification test for structural welders and develop knowledge to work safely within industry standards and to recognize and avoid hazards. Basic safety for welders and an introduction to hand tools is included.

Tuition is free, but applicants must go through a selection process and space is limited. The training is being funded by an EARN (Employment Advancement Right Now) grant from the Maryland Department

of Labor, Licensing and Regulation.

For more information about the course, visit the college website at [www.worwic.edu](http://www.worwic.edu) or call 410-334-2815. To be considered for the training, visit the training programs section on the Quality Staffing Services website at [www.easternshorejobs.com](http://www.easternshorejobs.com) or call them at 410-742-2600.

The course is a partnership between Wor-Wic, Arcon Welding Services, Quality Staffing Services and the Lower Shore Workforce Alliance in Salisbury.

**Legion to meet**

On Tuesday, February 2 the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 166 will hold its monthly meeting. The social hour starts at 6 p.m. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. The event will be held at the American Legion Synepuxent Post 166, 23<sup>rd</sup> Street in Ocean City. Current members and those interested in becoming a member are encouraged to attend

**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](mailto: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.



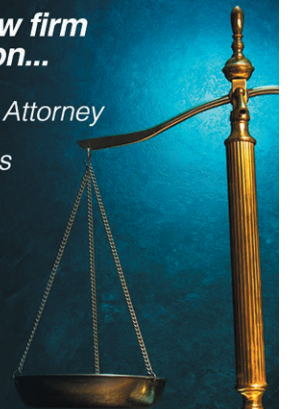
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**Success** - Star Charities' annual Beef and Beer fundraiser was held January 27 at the Ocean Pines Community Center to a sell-out crowd. Em-ings of Bishopville catered the food while Sir Rod Stewart impersonator Tommy Edward entertained. The event raised over \$4,000 to benefit canine units for Wounded Soldiers of Maryland.

Above: **Peggy Rumberg, Faith Stanley, Anna Foultz, and Sue Walter.** Standing: **Sandy McAbee, Sharon Sorrentino, Larry Walton, Paulette Mari, Tommy Edward, Mary Evans, Lee Tilghman, Janet Donoway and Gilly Foultz.**

## Donations sought to fund drug prevention speaker

By **Morgan Coulson**

Inspired by the epidemic of opiate and heroin overdoses in the immediate area, Worcester County locals Ruthie and Brian Shofi of Growing Hope are working hard to raise funds for drug addiction prevention in schools and a series of seminars featuring Michael DeLeon, founder and educational speaker of Steered Straight, Inc. to the immediate area.

Steered Straight, a nonprofit organization founded in 2000, adopted the mission statement to "commit to reaching children, teens and young adults with a message of reality about life-choices and the importance of consequential thinking so that they understand that there are consequences to their actions."

DeLeon, a recovering addict and reformed offender, created Steered Straight with hopes to inspire youth and families with his story. His methods are described as "more than a lecture, rather an experience in prevention through choices, education and honesty."



Brad Hoffman, CEO of Ocean City's Livewire Media, is a member of Growing Hope and spearhead of the effort to engage DeLeon. He said of the addiction prevention movement, "I have seen a plague of death, that is sickening, all around us; we want to help save one person at a time. Self Worth, Education, Support. It takes a

village to save a life."

Growing Hope is a community or-

please see **speaker** on page 4

### Winter To-Do List

1. Remember to get flu shot at Apple
2. Check with Apple pharmacist for other vaccinations that are not up-to-date
3. Sign up for Apple MedSync & make refills of routine RX's more convenient by having one refill appointment day each month. 
4. Stop worrying about loved ones' adherence to medication schedules. Sign them up for Apple Pax, prescription packaging service. 
5. Download the FREE Apple app for your smart phone. Search "Apple Discount" on the Apple or Google Play store.
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# The Courier

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## 2012 Business of the Year

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A collection of interesting facts and figures about the Super Bowl of American football.

The first Super Bowl game was played on January 15, 1967, as a playoff between the AFL and NFL champions.

The game was called the World Championship of Professional Football. No network footage exists of Super Bowl I. Apparently, it was taped over for a soap opera.

At every Super Bowl, two Lombardi trophies are present in the unfortunate event that one is accidentally destroyed in the celebrations.

Mike Ditka and Tom Flores are the only two men to win a Super Bowl both as a player and a coach.

Each Super Bowl trophy is handcrafted by Tiffany & Co. master artisans at their workshop in Parsippany, New Jersey, and is valued at \$12,500.

-Topend Sports



## Being wireless at home requires proper equipment

Electronic devices enable us to access information, communicate and engage in entertainment. Consumer electronics also have transformed the typical household.

Data from the Consumer Electronics Association, CTIA and U.S. Census Bureau paint a picture of just how immersed in new technology society has become. Statistics indicate the typical home of 2.6 people has



an average of 24 electronic gadgets in use, including one or more smartphones. These devices include eReaders, HDTVs, laptops, tablets, printers, digital cameras, DVRs, Bluetooth speakers, portable GPS devices, and more.

To meet the demands of all of these devices, some homes need an electronics overhaul, including beefing up the capabilities of Internet connections

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### speaker from page 3

ganization that has demanded “an end to complacency and to get into action” about addiction education, “our youth are relying on us and it’s time we grab the bull by the horns.”

“This is our backyard so it’s easier to relate to it because the stories are people we know. Their struggles are seen and felt by this community,” Hoffman said, “It makes you want to help! Friends, friends’ children, young, old, rich, poor. It’s touching everyone. We just want to help find some type of solutions.”

Since DeLeon’s release from prison, he has garnered three Associate’s Degrees, a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Management, with a minor in Criminal Justice, and a Certified Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor Educational Certificate. His accomplishments will be furthered as he finishes his Masters Degree in Social Work at Liberty University while obtaining his Licensed Clinical Alcohol and Drug Counselor Certification. He



**Luncheon** - The Republican Women of Worcester County held their monthly luncheon meeting at the Clarion Hotel, Ocean City on Thursday, January 26. The guest speakers were Jackie Ball and Heidi McNeely from the Worcester County Warriors Against Opiate Addiction. They spoke about the widespread epidemic of opiate addiction in our nation, across Maryland and how it affects those in Worcester County. The organization provides resources, support and education for loved ones of people struggling with opiate addiction. Pictured left to right; **Jackie Ball**, **Beverly Bigler** (President of RWWC) and **Heidi McNeely**.

also has produced two award winning documentaries, “Kids Are Dying”, and “An American Epidemic.”

“He has a depth of knowledge unequaled with over 15 years of refining this program. That is why he is so acclaimed by law enforcement, educators, addiction professionals around the nation,” Hoffman said, “He seemed like the star quarterback in this field. Once we all met I was even more impressed. He gets it... and shares it.”

The presentations to the public and local schools are planned to be both informative and interactive, supplying tools and information essential to combatting the addiction pandemic, and to continue the conversation as an extended program long after the formal discussion is over. Educators, public attendees, and students are promised relatability and “a heartfelt honest approach about the heroin and opiate epidemic. How to attack it at its core.”

“We hope that all addicts find the strength through any tools available to beat their addiction. To live to be

productive loving respectful people able to realize their own dreams. To move beyond their addiction to a brighter future,” Hoffman said.

DeLeon will be in several schools throughout the area the week of February 27 and will hold a free open seminar for the public set to take place on the evening of Tuesday, February 28 at the Roland E. Powell Convention Center at 4001 Coastal Highway in Ocean City.

Anyone who would be interested in standard donations to offset the cost of DeLeon’s appearance, travel, and programs to be set in place in schools after his departure can visit the Go Fund Me page at gofundme.com/be-a-part-of-the-Solution.

If interested in a sponsorship for the event contact Ruthie Shofi at 443-783-9723 or Mrs513@comcast.net, or Brian Shofi at 443-783-9524 or bsho14@comcast.net. The organization is also on Facebook as Growing Hope.

# After all

Accolades and tributes have been overwhelming for Mary Tyler Moore who passed away last week. She was known to millions of people as house-

fanned out in different colors and then dissolved into images of her driving into Minneapolis to make it on her own. When she finally twirled and threw her hat in the air, the fun began.



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

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

wife Laura Petrie in "The Dick Van Dyke Show" during the 1960s and later as career woman Mary Richards in the 1970s show that bore her name.

Many of the eulogies for Mary have focused on how her character, Mary Richards, advanced the objectives of the Women's Movement by successfully surpassing expectations and overcoming biases in what was considered a man's world. Such thoughts never crossed my mind as a little boy watching Mary on television. Funny. Beautiful. Talented. Glamorous. Witty. Those were the thoughts that came to mind.

Like many who heard the news of Mary's passing I was saddened. I never met her personally but I did feel I knew her, or at least the characters for which she is most remembered. When I was growing up, Saturday night was special in my house because laughter could be heard in our little home on Verree Road in Northeast Philadelphia. And this came to be because of Mary and Bob (Newhart) and Carol (Burnett). The scene was pretty much the same each Saturday evening. My brother and I would be sprawled out on the floor propped up on an oversized green and gold pillow, in front of the 19 inch RCA color television. Our parents were behind us on the sofa and recliner. Except for the glow of the television screen, the room was dark. At 9 p.m. the familiar theme song (Bada, Ba, Baaaa...) started and Mary's first, middle and last names glided in sequence onto the screen,

The entire cast, Mary, Rhoda, Phyliss, Lou, Murray, Sue Ann, Georgette and Ted were family, at least for 30 minutes each week. And it was nice to have them visit. Although too young to really appreciate the quality of the show's writing and acting, I did appreciate that the show could do something very special, make my parents laugh together. I guess because Ted Baxter was kind of a big kid, his comments and expressions made my brother and I laugh most.

Before she turned the world on with her smile, Mary was a New Rochelle housewife living on Bonnie Meadow



Lane. Episodes of the "The Dick Van Dyke Show" aired on WKBS Channel 48 in Philadelphia and I watched them after school when I could. Laurie Petrie reminded me of my mother. Like Laura, my mom was pretty. My mom was a brunette. My mom was a young stay-at-home mom. And like Richie Petrie, my

mom too made me wash my hands before dinner. There were some differences though. To my knowledge my mother never accidentally inflated a life raft in our living room. And I don't think my mom slid out of a closet on a wave of walnuts. Of course, I wasn't home all the time so anything's possible.

Whether she was the "Coast to Coast Big Mouth" or the associate producer at WJM; whether she sang and danced on the "Alan Brady Show" or became giddy at the funeral of Chuckles the Clown, Mary Tyler Moore was one of those performers we were so much the better for watching.

"Meow."

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**wireless**  
from page 4

and wireless networks. Many Wi-Fi routers claim to be capable of supporting as many as 255 connected devices. While this is theoretically possible, having that many devices on a standard home wireless router can compromise how well a network works. The results may include slow Internet browsing abilities, long lag time and even connection interference or droppage. When considering renovation projects around the home, it may be worth it to pay attention to electronic devices and their connectivity.

Start with the router. The wireless router in your home is a technological workhorse. When the router goes down, your devices follow suit. Without a router you will not be able to access the digital signal from your Internet Serv-

ice Provider and send it out to all of your devices.

Many older routers broadcast on a 2.4GHz signal, the same as many other radio devices. Crowding on the 2.4GHz spectrum could cause slowdown during the busiest times of the day for Internet traffic. It may be worth it to invest in a new router that can search for other channels that have less traffic and broadcast through them.

Test your speed. Relatively inexpensive software can show you your Internet speed numbers to see if your connection is meeting the speeds promised by your ISP. If your speed is slow when tested at various times in a given day, you may want to upgrade your service package to a faster service plan. If the speed is adequate, you can invest in some other options.

Get new hardware. Routers should be placed in a central location so that the signal can be accessed throughout the house. But router placement may depend on where your cable or fiber optic lines enter the home. If router signal interference seems suspect in slower connections, hardware, such as a greater-range antenna, wireless access points, and wireless repeaters can help expand your router signal throughout the house. Speak with a wireless network expert about the options that may be best for your home. Another consideration is a Wi-Fi plug that uses existing electrical circuits in a home to expand the signals offered by the router.

Expand your gadget list. Once a wireless signal is verified and confirmed as adequate, you may be interested in additional devices that can tap into the

wireless network and make your home run more efficiently. Manufacturers now offer everything from wireless door locks that can be controlled with a smartphone to wireless flash memory cards that can easily transfer photos from a camera to computer to wireless lighting control throughout the entire house. With wireless speakers, you can instantly beam music to any number of units in a home or use a NAS (network attached storage) drive as a backup for photos, videos and other large files.

Technology is changing the way people utilize their homes. Making sure a wireless network is up to par can make using devices easier and more efficient.

## Parish to host lunch, bingo

St. Luke's parish is hosting lunch bingo on Wednesday, February 22 at 11:30 a.m. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased by contacting Pat Lockett at 302-436-0351. The event will take place at the St. Andrew Catholic Center located at 14401 Sinepuxent Avenue in Ocean City. Contact the parish office at 410-250-0300 if you have questions.

## Pancake breakfast scheduled

The Kiwanis Winter Pancake Breakfast will be held Saturday February 18, from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. in the Ocean Pines Community Center. The menu includes pancakes, sausages, scrambled eggs, orange juice, coffee and tea. Tickets are \$6 for adults; children under 12 are \$3 and kids under 5 eat free. Tickets can be purchased in advance by calling 410-208-6719 or purchased at the door. Carryout is also available. Proceeds benefit the youth of our community.



### Monday

Chicken Parmesan over Pasta  
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### 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**

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## Stocking up on money

Planning out what to do with \$100,000 may not be a challenge for many teenagers, but planning an investment strategy may not be so easy.

However, for Stephen Decatur High School ninth grader Chris Kaufman the challenge of turning a profit was answered.

Kaufman placed first in the fall session of the Maryland Council on Economic Education's Stock Market Challenge (SMG) while participating in the After School Academy Investment Club. The SMG is an educational simulation that teaches students about the stock market, the American economic system, and the global economy. Kaufman earned just over a 10% return on a virtual \$100,000 investment. **Chris Kaufman** is pictured with Investment Club advisor and economics teacher **Kurt Marx**.



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# LSLT brings on new AmeriCorps service member

The Lower Shore Land Trust (LSLT) organization has partnered with AmeriCorps through the ShoreCorps/PALS State program offered at Salisbury University, and has brought on Michelle Winters as new

AmeriCorps service member. Michelle comes to LSLT with four years of undergrad experience studying environmental studies and marketing management, where she gained valuable knowledge about environmental-

ism and sustainability. Joining an established organization, Michelle will apply useful techniques directed toward rural community engagement and land preservation to achieve a more healthy and connected Eastern Shore.

Michelle joins LSLT in an AmeriCorps service member position. The position aims to further develop the pollinator certification program and implement pollinator gardens, develop native landscaping resources, coordinate pollinator festival and na-

tive plant celebration, and assist with efforts to develop Sturgis Park with environmentally friendly landscaping. Michelle comments, "I'm really looking forward to working with community members and hoping to enhance engagement through the various workshops and activities LSLT has planned. I'm fortunate to work with such a respected organization, and learn from such experienced and en-

*please see member on page 8*



**Celebration** — **Grant Helvey** (seated), chairman of the Worcester County Republican Central Committee, and his wife **Erma** standing behind him on the right, held an Inauguration Celebration in their Ocean Pines home on inauguration day. Photo by Anna Foulz.

## A BAGEL and...

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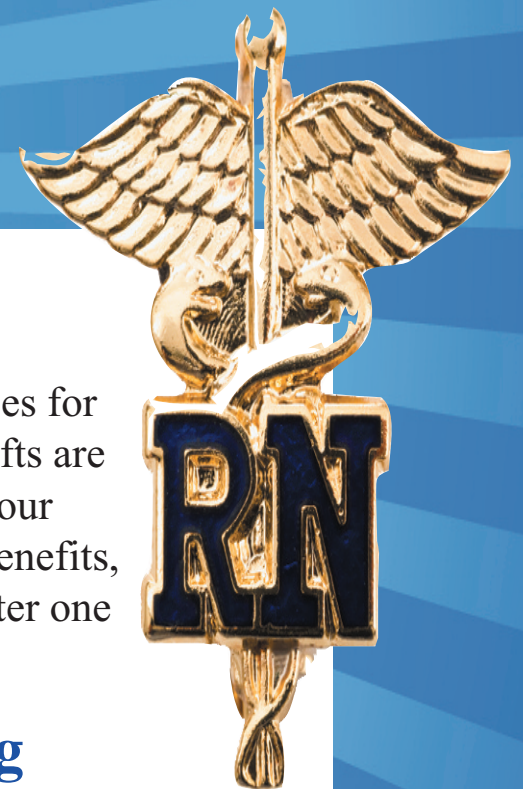
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# Make sure a revocable trust is funded correctly

By **Mike Mathers**

NFL fans may remember the exciting finish to the 2000 Superbowl, when on the final play a Tennessee Titans receiver was tackled with his outstretched arm only one yard from the goal line. It was an incredible journey for the Tennessee team that began in the fall of the previ-

ous year, but all of that effort can nonetheless fall short without that one last yard. This reminds me of the subject of revocable trust, and the all-important last yard: funding. You can hire an attorney to draft a complex document with all the clauses you can dream up, but if you forget to *fund* the trust, that effort will have no effect. In fact, I sometimes tell clients who finish signing their trusts that they have just purchased an empty box. The only way to achieve their goals now is to actually move property into the name of the trust.

Revocable Trusts are documents used to pass someone's assets on to their heirs outside probate. At the time of your death, any assets which only have your name on them will usually be subject to probate administration of your will. On the contrary, assets which are titled to the name of your trust will controlled by the terms of your trust. For this article, I won't enter the debate of whether or not you should seek to avoid probate. However, I want to warn any readers who have already purchased a trust that they should double check and triple check that their assets are correctly titled.

So, what are the steps involved in funding? For most financial accounts, simply changing the title from your own name to the trusts name is sufficient. In the case of a home or other

property, you will need to sign a new deed gifting the home into the trust. Finally, remember that personal property like your furniture and jewelry don't have a certificate of title. For these items, you will need to sign a declaration assigning your personal property into the trust. Be aware however, tax deferred accounts like an IRA or a 401K usually cannot be assigned into a trust, and so you will have to take separate measure with your financial advisor to determine how they are passed on to your heirs.

Funding your trust should primarily done soon after it is signed. However, it will be an ongoing responsibility to double check that assets are titled correctly. As an example, imagine that Karen Carefree got organized enough to set up a trust and retitle her bank accounts and home. Ten years later however, Karen's mother passes away leaving her an inheritance. Karen decides to snatch up a good deal on an Ocean City condo, and open a new bank account with the rest of the money. Mrs. Carefree hadn't

thought about her trust since she left the lawyer's office a decade ago. Later, when Karen passes away, her estate will be anything but carefree. The reason is that Karen has half of her assets in a trust, and the other half in her own name, subject to probate administration of her will. This effectively doubles the work for her children.

If you have taken the time to set up a revocable trust, or plan to in the future, make sure that your effort isn't undone by a funding problem. Double check account registrations and the status of any properties. If it looks good, and no one else is around, go ahead and yell, "Touchdown!"

*Mike Mathers is a local attorney who practices in estate planning and elder law. He can be reached at 410-208-3331 or Mike@mbmatherslaw.com.*



Mike Mathers



**Contest winners** - Ocean City Elementary School students in grades two through four participated in the Eastern Shore Reading Council's Youth Author's Contest. The genres for submission included short story and poetry. Four students were recognized for their entries: Second grader, **Kennedy Kirby**, third place for her short story, "The New Girl," fourth grader, **Rori Holland**, third place for her poem, "The Sea," second grader, **Alex Abu-Zaid**, first place for his poem, "Shadows Beyond the Sea" and second grader, **Chloe Mahan**, second place, for her poem, "My Dogs."

**Valentine's** - Students in Robyn Diesel's Kindergarten class at Ocean City Elementary School (OCES) have been working on "How To" writing pieces. After learning "How to Make a Valentine," the students created Valentine cards for Veterans. The Valentines for Veterans program, organized by the Republican Women of Worcester County will be sending these special handmade Valentines to Perry Point Veterans Hospital, Baltimore Rehab and Baltimore VA Medical Center. Each year students in grades pre-K to four at OCES show their caring hearts by participating in this wonderful program.



member  
from page 7

thusiastic women."

Prior to starting at LSLT, Michelle learned sustainable landscape design techniques and rainforest restoration practices. "This is my first opportunity to really apply what I've learned and skills I've gained in the classroom to something that will really make a beneficial difference for all living things, both families and wildlife. I'm excited to be more active in the Snow Hill community and hopefully to meet some great people along the way!" Michelle will spend time coordinating with Kady Everson, Outreach and Education Manager, to help reach more people in the community and raise awareness about resource conservation.

The Lower Shore Land Trust is a private, non-profit, charitable organization formed in 1990, native to the Eastern Shore of Maryland. LSLT strives to connect and communicate with rural community members in Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester counties and provide assistance in preserving land of private landowners. In the past 26 years of operation, LSLT has assisted landowners in preserving close to 20,000 acres of land on 115 private properties throughout the lower Eastern Shore. The vision LSLT has for the future of the Eastern Shore incorporates engaged rural communities that support both local economy and environment through various initiatives.

For more information regarding upcoming events and activities, visit: [www.lowershorelandtrust.org](http://www.lowershorelandtrust.org)





**School Spirit** - Students at Ocean City Elementary School (OCES) are dreaming of warm summer days. Pictured above, dressed for Beach Spirit Day are **Meyer Henson, Clay McCabe, Kaila Wright, Molly Hoffman, Lily Olson, Marissa Hearne, Sarah Parypa, Jillian Hicks, Thea Macrides, and Rani Yonker.** Each month, OCES designates one day as a School Spirit Day where students have an opportunity to show school spirit by dressing in a fun theme or wearing OCES apparel.

## Humane Society to host quarter auction

Bring your quarters and your friends and join Worcester County Humane Society on Sunday, March 5 for their first Quarter Auction benefiting the many homeless animals at the no kill shelter. The event will be held at the American Legion Post #166 (2308 Philadelphia Avenue, 24<sup>th</sup> St., Ocean City). Doors open at 12:30 p.m. to preview items that will be bid on and the auction will run from 1:30-4:30 p.m.

Many donated items from local businesses will be auctioned along with some well known vendor items. Scheduled vendors for the event are Paparazzi Jewelry, Dove Chocolate, Scentsy, Tastefully Simple, Tupperware, Thirty-One, Pampered Chef, Magnolia and Vine and LulaRoe. Enjoy home made desserts, 50/50 raffle, golden paddle, money board game, and raffle baskets. American Legion kitchen will also be open for lite fare and cash bar. Advance tickets for the event are \$5 and include two paddles. Tickets at the door, if available, will be \$7. Parking is available and the side entrance should be used to enter the building.

One fabulous item that will be raffled off during the event is a chef prepared three course meal for two in your home by Bourbon Street on the Beach. This has a \$250 value and can

be used one day Sunday through Thursday during the months of February through April.

The shelter is still looking for donations from businesses for the Quarter Auction. Popular items are \$25 to \$50 gift cards to restaurants or shops, and gift baskets with various items totaling \$25 to \$100.

What is a Quarter Auction? Each item up for bid is displayed for all to see. The auctioneer gives a brief description of the item, noting how many quarters will be required for bidding (one quarter for a \$25 item, two quarters for \$50 item etc.). Guests then give their bids, raise their paddles, and when all quarters are collected, the auctioneer draws one, numbered chip from a container. The number on the bidding paddle that matches the chip drawn will determine the winner of each item.

“For just quarters you could win many wonderful items ranging from \$25 to \$100 in value,” says Mary Martinez, event coordinator. “The quarter auction is a really great way for everyone to have some fun, win some cool items all while supporting the animals at our shelter.”

For tickets, questions or to donate please call Mary Martinez at 410-382-2661. This event is for participants 18 and older.

## Short on days, long on history

Despite being the shortest month of the calendar year, February has an interesting history. Early calendars marked the start of the new year in March, but when the second king of Rome, Numa Pompilius, rose to the throne in 713 BC, he synchronized the calendar to the lunar year. That required the addition of January and February.

February was named after an end-of-year celebration called “Februa,” also known as “Februalia” or “Februatio.” Februa was a Roman festival of ritual purification and washing, a spring cleaning of sorts. This festival was later incorporated into Lupercalia, another Roman celebration that has ties to Groundhog Day. January was actually added after February and was named after Janus, the Roman god of beginnings and endings.

Both January and February originally had 28 days. However, at the time, even numbers were considered to bring bad luck, so Pompilius added another day to January. However, February was left with 28 days and had long been considered an unlucky month.

February was the last month of the year for around 200 years, until the Gregorian calendar designated January the start of the new year.

Julius Caesar is responsible for adjusting the calendar and the length of February’s length. In the Julian calendar, 10 days were added to the calendar year in various months, and February was increased every four years (leap year) to 29 days to coordinate the calendar year to the solar cycle of roughly 365.2425 days.

During common years, February can pass by without a single full moon.

British mathematician John Conway determined that some dates inevitably share the same weekday within any given year. The last day of February will be on the same weekday as March 7, April 4, May 9, June 6, July 11, August 8, September 5, October 10, November 7, and December 12.

In the northern hemisphere, February is the equivalent to the third month of winter. In the south-

ern hemisphere, it is the third month of summer.

In Finnish, February is called “helmikuu,” meaning “month of the pearl,” which refers to the snow melting on tree branches.

During leap years, February will end on the same day that it begins.

February’s birthstone is the amethyst, which symbolizes piety, sincerity and spiritual wisdom.

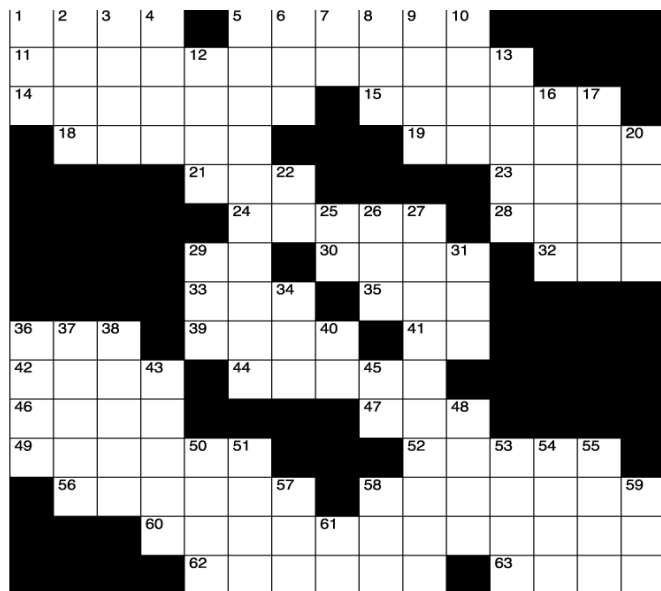
Residents of St. Lucia celebrate their independence on February 22.

Despite being the shortest month of the year, February is packed with events. In addition to Valentine’s Day, Groundhog Day, World Marriage Day, and Presidents’ Day, February is when Flag Day is celebrated in both Canada and Mexico. February also serves as Black History Month.

February is notable for many reasons and packs quite a number of activities into its few weeks.

### By the way...

Just like certain exercises, home improvement projects may involve heavy lifting, bending, moving, and stretching. After spending much of the winter indoors and largely sedentary, some homeowners may be tempted to jump into projects with gusto when the warm weather returns. But that can be a recipe for injury that can sideline DIYers for a while. Instead, homeowners can start slowly and then gradually work longer hours, just as they might do when returning to exercise after some time off. Homeowners can see how their muscles feel after an hour or two while not concentrating on one task for too long. Homeowners who vary the tasks they tackle will use different muscle groups, which can reduce strain and limit injury risk. Whenever possible, opt for ergonomic tools that can reduce users’ risk of repetitive stress injuries.

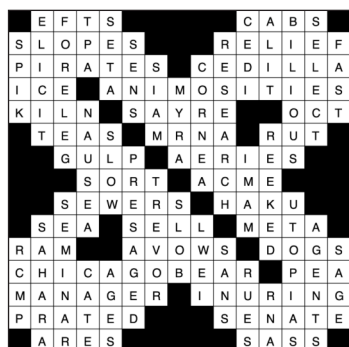


**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Baseball team
- 5. Hymns
- 11. Actor Jared
- 12. Fragrance
- 16. \_\_\_ Von Bismarck, Iron Chancellor
- 17. Nordic God
- 18. Weighed down
- 19. Coppola's mob epic
- 24. Nanogram
- 25. Famed street artist
- 26. Identifier
- 27. 23rd letter of the Greek alphabet
- 28. In addition
- 29. Micturated
- 30. Shock
- 31. Accept
- 33. Allotment
- 34. Eras
- 38. Emerges
- 39. Cape Verde capital
- 40. \_\_\_, United Arab Emirates capital
- 43. Small amount
- 44. Back of the foot
- 45. Pakrit language
- 49. Home of "60 Minutes"
- 50. Condemn
- 51. Ailed
- 53. Elevated railroad
- 54. Rebelliousness
- 56. Ancient Greek city
- 58. Clothing company (abbr.)
- 59. Member of the cabbage family
- 60. Softens or smooths
- 63. Mass of coagulated liquid
- 64. Problems
- 65. Irish Republic

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Dress
- 2. Deadly
- 3. Says aloud
- 4. PT Anderson film "\_\_\_ Nights"
- 5. Teacher (abbr.)
- 6. Anesthetized
- 7. Anno Domini (in the year of Our Lord)
- 8. \_\_\_ and behold
- 9. French young women (abbr.)
- 10. Scorch
- 13. Notre Dame
- 14. Express disapproval
- 15. Cars need these
- 20. Not off
- 21. Unit of mass
- 22. You
- 23. Concealed
- 27. Parent-teacher organizations
- 29. Approximately 3.14159
- 30. Chinese conception of poetry
- 31. Satisfaction
- 32. College degree
- 33. Formerly Ceylon: \_\_\_ Lanka
- 34. Effeminate
- 35. Something to solve
- 36. Horses like these
- 37. Intelligence organization
- 38. Blood type
- 40. Exhibition
- 41. Poisonous plant
- 42. Aluminum
- 44. Possesses
- 45. Penetrate with a sharp instrument
- 46. Ring-shaped objects
- 47. Speaks at church
- 48. Form in the mind
- 50. Selectors
- 51. Probability of default
- 52. 2001 Spielberg film
- 54. Where to get a sandwich
- 55. Newtons
- 57. Modus operandi
- 61. Exists
- 62. Politico-economic union



Answers for January 25

# Eyes on the Skies

## Binary Stars

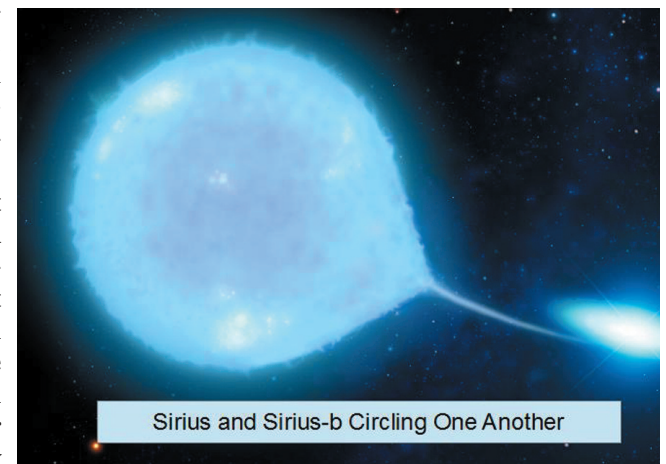
By Douglas Hemmick, Ph.D.



Those who brave February's chilly air will be well rewarded as this month's skies are among the best of the year. Venus begins the show early, followed by the dazzling star Sirius, and Orion the Hunter. Of particular note is the "penumbral lunar eclipse" on February 10.

The Milky Way topic of the month for February is binary stars. When stars are born from the galactic milieu of gas and dust, they are not always solitary but often form gravitationally bound pairs. Just as the planets are locked to their host stars, the binary pairs contain two stars linked together in a mutual orbital embrace.

Discovery of the first binary star is credited to astronomer William Herschel. Herschel, whose career began in 1782, was an early pioneer in surveying the stars – examining their positions, brightness, etc. In 1802 he wrote that some close pairs would slowly change positions, orbiting about one another. Herschel initially termed these pairs "binary sidereal systems," – later shortened to binary stars.



Sirius and Sirius-b Circling One Another

In 1844 German astronomer Frederick Bessel saw something quite curious. As Bessel examined Sirius, the bright star gradually changed location in the sky, showing motions typical of a binary star. Yet there appeared to be no star acting as its partner. Bessel theorized that Sirius may be a binary star, exhibiting a gravitational dance with a partner star that could not be seen. In 1862 the binary partner to Sirius was discovered by US astronomer, Alvin Clarke. The small newly discovered companion was given the name Sirius-b.

Technologies of the early twentieth century led to the discovery of a type of star called a "white dwarf," and Sirius-b was one of the first. To reach this conclusion several characteristics were considered. Spectroscopic analysis indicated its temperature at the white-hot 25,000 degrees Kelvin. Such high temperature coupled with the star's overall faintness told scientists that Sirius-b's size must be exceedingly small, no larger than a planet such as Earth. Its orbiting role implies that the object must be heavy enough, roughly comparable to Sirius' own mass. The combination of small size with large mass implies an enormous density, i.e. the mass is squeezed into an extremely small volume. The qualities of high temperature, enormous density and low luminosity are the features classifying Sirius-b as a white dwarf star.

Sirius-b has been observed to be stealing material, slowly drawing away gases from Sirius itself, its larger stellar companion. Such accumulations eventually, over the eons, will result in detonation of the white dwarf star, producing a gigantic nuclear explosion known as a type Ia supernova. This sequence of events is just one of several ways that supernovae can be created.

Some binary stars also appear as so-called eclipsing binaries. To produce such eclipses, the orbital inclination of the partner stars must be aligned just right, relative to their orientation towards the Earth. The two orbiting stars will then alternately block one another, resulting in noticeable changes in brightness. When the dimmer of the two stars swings in front of the brighter star, a minimum brightness occurs, an apparent eclipse. One such eclipsing binary is

please see **eyes** on page 11

# WCHS offers February program

Because there is no time limit on how long an animal stays at the Worcester County Humane Society, some stay at the shelter for extended periods of time as they wait for their forever homes. During the month of February, through Facebook and Instagram, the no-kill shelter will be highlighting some of the animals in what they are calling, "The Lonely Heart's Club." These are animals that have been at the shelter the longest, some for many years. The hope is to have businesses and/or individuals to sponsor the adoption fees for these animals. Cat adoptions are currently \$50 and dogs \$150. Like all animals at the shelter, they are spayed or neutered, vaccinated, and microchipped.

There are various reasons why an animal might end up waiting a long time before finding a home. Maybe they are older, not as outgoing, quiet, maybe they blend in, not as "fancy" looking as others. Most are simply overlooked, but will make wonderful family members if only given a chance.

"All our animals deserve a home and though we strive for their time at our shelter to be short and full of love, the "short" part doesn't always happen," says Jessica Summers, shelter manager.

Currently there are sixty-three animals that have been at the shelter for over a year. Twenty-two of those have been at the shelter longer than four years. The shelter took in over 175 kittens during the summer of 2016 which also contributes to more of the adult cats being overlooked. In 2015 there were just as many kittens taken in and some of them, now over a year old, are still looking for forever families.

For any business and/or individual interested in sponsoring one of the animals from "The Lonely Heart's Club" call the shelter at 410-213-0146, send an email to [savinganimals@worcestercountyhumanesociety.org](mailto:savinganimals@worcestercountyhumanesociety.org), or private message the shelter's Facebook page. Sponsoring a shelter animal would also make the perfect gift for that special someone for Valentine's Day.

eyes  
from page 10

in the constellation Perseus and is named Algol. At its brightest, Algol shines about three times more brightly than at its faintest.

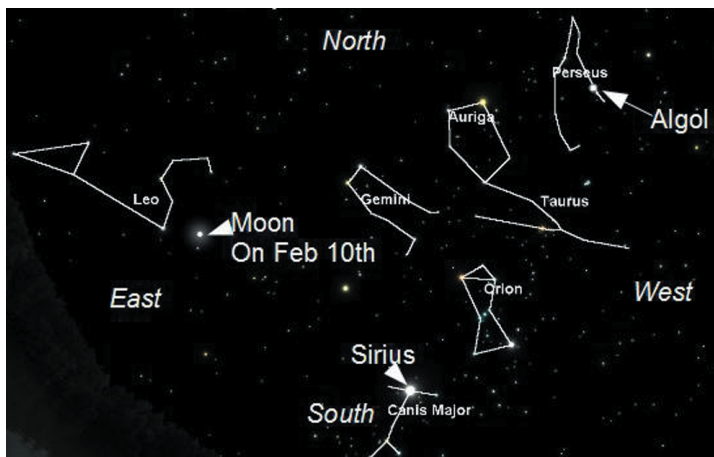
For stargazers venturing outside this month, the evening show begins early, as the planet Venus may be seen just as the sun sets at 5:30 p.m. This is the best month of the year for the brilliant planet and it remains clearly visible until about 8:30 p.m. The full wintertime display can be seen after about 7 p.m. Constellations include Orion the Hunter, Taurus the Bull, and Gemini the Twins. Sirius is located

to the southeast of Orion. Only professional astronomers might detect the minute movements of Sirius, as the star orbits about its faint partner.

Perseus the Hero appears in the north part of the sky, to the northwest of

Taurus. Experienced stargazers might look for the Algol eclipse on February 19, from about 8 to 10 p.m. The subtle dimming also occurs on February 22 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

On February 10 stargazers will be treated to an eclipse, during the full-moon phase. This penumbral type of eclipse occurs when the moon does not fully enter Earth's shadow. In the eastern US, at about 6:14 p.m. the moon's disk will begin to dim, reaching maximum fading at 7:44 p.m., regaining full luminosity at 9:14 p.m. Some hobbyists may consider the penumbrals to be less dramatic – with only a slight graying effect.



## Kiwanis collects, donates winter clothes

Winter coats, hats, gloves, sweaters were collected by the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines & Ocean City in partnership with St. Peters Church in Ocean City. Pictured at the weekly meeting are (L-R) Co-Chairs **Char** and **Ted Vanvick** and **Fred Kauffman** with Vice President **Ralph Chinn**. St. Peters Church handles the disbursement of the clothes to those in need in Ocean City.

## New shows open at arts center

The public is invited to a free, opening reception of five new art shows on First Friday, February 3 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Ocean City Center for the Arts, 94<sup>th</sup> St. bay-side. Hooked Restaurant will be serving complimentary hors d'oeuvres.

Hanging in the Thaler Gallery, "Home" is the theme of the group show by members of the Art League of Ocean City. The artists will interpret what home means to them in both 2D and 3D media. Eastern Shore artist Leslie Belloso will judge the show and award cash prizes.

The Galleria will be filled with original works of art from the co-operative Artists' Gallery of Ellicott City, Md.

Fourteen artists working at various media – acrylics, oils, watercolor, printmaking, ink, stained glass, and photography— will bring their work across the bridge to Ocean City. All are members of the co-op gallery, which formed in 1995 and recently opened in a new Ellicott City location.

Up-and-coming painter Reeves Dark of Ocean City occupies Studio E in February. A representational artist working mostly in oils, Dark is currently a student at Salisbury University where he is working towards his BFA in graphic design. His work is inspired by his experiences while surfing and by the natural beauty of the area.

*please see arts on page 12*

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., February 2	11:17 a.m. 11:49 p.m.	5:13 a.m. 5:41 p.m.	7:04 a.m.	5:24 p.m.
Fri., February 3	12:21 p.m.	6:12 a.m. 6:34 p.m.	7:03 a.m.	5:25 p.m.
Sat., February 4	12:49 a.m. 1:10 p.m.	7:15 a.m. 7:31 p.m.	7:02 a.m.	5:26 p.m.
Sun., February 5	1:54 a.m. 2:15 p.m.	8:21 a.m. 8:31 p.m.	7:01 a.m.	5:28 p.m.
Mon., February 6	3:01 a.m. 3:20 p.m.	9:28 a.m. 9:33 p.m.	7:00 a.m.	5:29 p.m.
Tues., February 7	4:04 a.m. 4:22 p.m.	10:33 a.m. 10:34 p.m.	6:59 a.m.	5:30 p.m.
Wed., February 8	5:02 a.m. 5:19 p.m.	11:33 a.m. 11:31 p.m.	6:58 a.m.	5:31 p.m.

# The tradition of Groundhog Day goes back many years

Every year on February 2, people anxiously await the appearance of a medium-sized furry mammal who they believe can predict if winter weather will rage on or if spring will arrive sooner than later. Although it is a rather strange means of prognostication, millions of people celebrate Groundhog Day, a tradition that is older than many people may know.

The first official Groundhog Day took place on February 2, 1887 at Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. In the ensuing 130 years, individuals have gathered in Pennsylvania and other areas around the United States to find out if the groundhog will see his shadow. If the groundhog sees his shadow, winter will continue for six more weeks. If the groundhog does not see his shadow, then spring will arrive early.

Although the Groundhog Day of today is relatively new, the concept is actually quite old and dates back to the ancient Christian tradition of Candlemas. Candlemas is a Christian holiday commemorating the presentation of Jesus at the Temple. Candlemas falls on the 40th day of the Christmas/Epiphany period and is one of the oldest feasts of the Christian Church, celebrated since the 4th

century in Jerusalem. Around the 14th century in Europe, Candlemas began to overshadow Pagan holidays like Lupercalia (Romans) and Imbolc (Celts). Rather than torches and blessings from goddesses, on Candlemas custom called for members of the clergy to bless candles and distribute them to the people to symbolize that Christ was the light of the world. Weather played a role in the celebration of Candlemas. Rainy, wet weather was preferable because it suggested spring's arrival was on the horizon.

Candlemas was celebrated in many parts of Europe and eventually spread to Germany, where animals were involved in the ceremony. Hedgehogs were plentiful in the area, and celebrants believed if they cast a shadow during fair weather on Candlemas, more bad weather was in store. Pennsylvania's earliest settlers were German, and these immigrants brought their Candlemas traditions with them. But hedgehogs were not common in Pennsylvania, so settlers used groundhogs instead. Thus, the groundhog was seen as a wise and suitable substi-



tute for prognostication.

Today's celebrations include tens of thousands of visitors from all around the world who travel to Pennsylvania to see Punxsutawney Phil in person. Phil has become a celebrity of sorts and has appeared on various television shows, on a jumbo screen in Times Square and as the star of the 1993 movie "Groundhog Day." (Although the real Phil was not allowed to be in the movie because it was filmed in Illinois instead of Pennsylvania, and the Groundhog Day organizers were notably upset.)

Boasting a deeper history than many people may know, Groundhog Day will continue to delight revelers for years to come.

## CLASSIFIEDS



**Display Ads:** \$15 per column inch **Deadline:** 3 p.m. Friday **Prepayment required. Cash or check accepted**  
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**arts**  
 from page 11

The batik work of Betsy Hall Harrison occupies the Spotlight Galley during February. Born in Baltimore and a childhood student at the Maryland Institute of Art, she studied art in Mexico and Idaho before moving to Ocean City in 1980. An accomplished batik artist working on silk, Harrison is a long-time member of the Art League of Ocean City.

Local jeweler Rae Smith shows her work in the Artisan Showcase during February. She creates one-of-a-kind pieces that incorporate sterling silver and copper and are inspired by rustic textures with natural influences.

The Ocean City Center for the Arts at 502 94<sup>th</sup> Street is the home of the Art League of Ocean City, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the visual arts in the Ocean City area through education, exhibits, scholarships, programs and community art events.

Financial support comes primarily through membership dues from individuals and corporate sponsors. Funding for exhibits is also provided by the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore, the Worcester County Arts Council, Maryland State Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts, organizations dedicated to cultivating a vibrant cultural community where the arts thrive.

More information is available at 410-524-9433 or [www.artleagueofoceancity.org](http://www.artleagueofoceancity.org).

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# How to tame indoor home odors

A clean home interior can make a strong first impression on prospective buyers, but only if that home is accompanied by pleasant scents. Odors can make a strong impact on



all about  
**pets**

buyers' perceptions of a home, including its level of cleanliness and upkeep.

Although dirt and other grime can contribute to the odor of a home, additional culprits can contribute to foul smells as well. Everything from pets to the foods cooked in the kitchen to the hidden presence of mold can impact air quality and odor inside a home. Fortunately, there are ways to remedy stinky problems and come away with sweet-smelling solutions.

It is important for homeowners to realize that foul air inside a home can be the result of poor indoor air quality, which can be a health hazard. The United States Environmental Protection Agency ranks indoor air quality as a top five environmental risk to public health. EPA studies found indoor air pollutants were generally two to five times greater than outdoor pollution levels. In some cases, indoor air pollution was 100 times greater. The United States Consumer Product Safety Commission says the following can contribute to poor indoor air quality and also to some interior odors: combustion sources; tobacco products; building materials and furnishings; wet or damp carpet; cabinetry or furniture made of certain pressed wood products; products for household cleaning and maintenance and even outdoor sources such as radon, pesticides and outdoor air pollution.

So how does one remedy poor indoor air quality and odors inside a home? These tips can improve conditions.

Ensure adequate ventilation. Open windows and doors when weather permits to eliminate the con-

centration of pollutants and help air out odors. Use exhaust fans in kitchens and baths to pull indoor air to the outside.

Invest in an air filter. A high-efficiency particulate air filter will force air through a fine mesh and trap harmful particles, such as pet dander, smoke, pollen, and dust mites,

that can build up in a home. Remember to change the filter regularly.

Increase the number of plants. Plants can brighten interior spaces, and they are also remarkable at cleaning indoor air. The Clean Air Study conducted by NASA set out to find out the best way to clean the air in space stations. The association found that the Boston fern, spider plant, Chinese evergreen, weeping fig, variegated snake plant, and English ivy, among many other plants, were ideal for filtering air and removing harmful contaminants.

Ditch disposal odors. Food can become trapped and decompose in garbage disposals. Cut citrus fruit into chunks and drop them into a running disposal to remove many odors.

Air out the washer. New washing machines have tight seals and gaskets that do not allow air to penetrate (or water to leak out). Mildew can grow as a result. Leave the washer door open after a round of laundry to let things dry and air out.

Tame pet odors. Pets contribute heavily to odor in a home. Wet dog smells are prevalent on rainy days, while cat litter boxes can pack a pungent punch. Cleanliness can cut down on smells. Use activated charcoal in litter products to tame smells and empty the litter box frequently. Make sure dogs are dried off thoroughly when coming in from the rain, and use a deodorizing spray on pet fur. Regular grooming can help as well.

Odors in a home can be embarrassing and set a poor tone when inviting company over or showcasing a home for prospective buyers. Keep odors at bay by identifying the sources of smells and taking action.



**Equality** - Tina Adams' first grade class at Ocean City Elementary recently read about Rosa Parks and equality during a unit on Courageous Leaders. Pictured are Brody Taylor, Gabriel Marin Cano, Gavin Smith, Chloe Holland, Noa Bouzaglo, and Lucia West.

## By the Way ...

Dented cans have long been a source of confusion and concern for shoppers. They may be discounted and seem like a good deal, but some of those dented cans may not be safe to eat. Damaged cans may be harboring food that contains botulism and other toxins. According to the United States Department of Agriculture Food Safety and Inspection Services, if a can of food has a small dent but is otherwise in good shape, the food should be safe to eat.



However, deeply dented cans should be discarded. Dented cans of food that are safe will have smooth dents or dents that are not on the seams of the can. A person should avoid sharp dents, dents in the seam and dents where the seam and the can meet. In addition, if the can is bulging or swollen, it should be avoided. Dents in a seam can let in air and bacteria. Deep dents may have left pinholes, again where bacteria can enter. When in doubt, avoid dented cans.

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