

# The Courier

December 13, 2017 Volume 18 Number 15

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## ***Pup of the Pines winner announced***

The winner of the Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department's third annual "Pup of the Pines" photo contest has been announced.

Bruce, a fluffy, ninety-pound golden retriever, received the greatest number of votes from attendees at the Ocean Pines Halloween fall festival on October 28. He was recognized as the winner at the community's "A Hometown Christmas" and tree lighting ceremony at White Horse Park on November 25.

Bruce's owners said their furry friend loves cuddling, having his belly rubbed, long hikes in the woods and swimming along the shore of Assateague Island. They said Bruce promises to give everyone who wishes plenty of sloppy wet kisses and lots of cuddles.

As "Pup of the Pines," Bruce receives a free 2018 Ocean Pines Dog Park registration. He will also be the official face of the dog park and will be featured in the *Ocean Pines Activity Guide* and other postings throughout the year.

Money raised from the contest entry fees will be used for upgrades and improvements to the dog park in Ocean Pines.

## ***County Rec Center is a Toys for Tots drop-off***

Worcester County Recreation and Parks (WCRP) has again partnered with Toys for Tots and will serve as a public donation drop-off location. All in the local community are invited to drop off new, unwrapped toys now through Monday, December 18, in the Worcester County Recreation Center (WCRC) lobby in Snow Hill.

WCRC hours of operation are Monday through Thursday 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Friday 6 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. The WCRC is closed on Saturday and Sunday.

In 2016, this region's campaign distributed 7,241 toys to 4,074 children. By joining together, the community can spread hope to even more families this holiday season.

Learn more at [www.toysfortots.org](http://www.toysfortots.org), or contact Program Manager Trudy Porch at 410-632-2144, ext. 2520 or [tporch@co.worcester.md.us](mailto:tporch@co.worcester.md.us).



## **Pup of the Pines winner announced**

*Bruce, a Golden Retriever, was named Pup of the Pines. See story on top of page 1.*

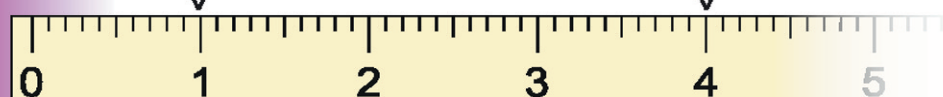
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**Community Calendar**  
**December**

**Cove at Mumford's to ring in new year**

The Cove at Mumford's, the Ocean Pines community's elegant waterfront dining establishment, will ring in 2018 with a New Year's Eve party featuring dinner, drinks, dancing and more. Tickets are currently on sale.

The party, which traditionally sells out, will also serve as a kick-off for Ocean Pines' 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, heralding a year of celebratory events.

The party will begin at 7:30 p.m. with bar service and appetizers downstairs. Passed hors d'oeuvres, raw bar, seared pork belly bao and tapas and charcuterie featuring homemade breads, cheeses, jams and cured meats will be served.

A plated dinner will be served upstairs and will include a festive salad, surf and turf with filet mignon and snow crab-stuffed jumbo shrimp, sides and tiramisu for dessert.

Local favorite Prime Time, a dance party band, will play rock classics and dance music throughout the night.

A champagne toast at midnight will be served before the party wraps up at 1:30 a.m.

Tickets for the event are \$100 per person and include all food, soda, beer, wine and a champagne toast. Tax and gratuity are not included. There will be a cash bar for liquor or specialty drinks.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call The Cove at Mumford's at 410-641-7501, email dining@oceanpines.org or visit The Cove at Mumford's, located at 1 Mumford's Landing Road, open Fridays 4 p.m.-midnight and Saturdays 11 a.m.-midnight.

For more information about the Ocean Pines community, contact Denise Sawyer, director of marketing and public relations for the Ocean Pines Association, at (410) 641-7717 ext. 3006 or dsawyer@oceanpines.org.



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 <small>New Year's Eve</small>	25 <small>Christmas</small>	26 <small>Boxing Day</small>	27	28	29	30

**Diabetes self-management classes offered**

The Atlantic General Diabetes Center at Atlantic General Hospital will be offering diabetes self-management education classes in January 2018.

The series of four, two-hour sessions will address blood glucose monitoring, foot care, nutrition, exercise, and other self-management skills to help individuals better manage their diabetes. A family member is invited to attend. The program is recognized by the American Diabetes Association (ADA) for quality education, and program staff includes a Registered Nurse (who has diabetes) and a Registered Dietitian, both of whom

*please see class on page 15*

**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.

**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.

**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 Pinestepers 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 or Kate at 410-524-0649 for more activities. BeachSingles.org.

**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.

**First Saturday**

**Creative Writing Forum**  
Every first Saturday of the month at 10 a.m. at the Berlin Library. Novice and established writers gather to share their fiction, non-fiction, and creative writing projects. Program includes critiques and appreciation, market leads, and writing exercises.

**Youth tour applications available**

Choptank Electric Cooperative is now accepting applications for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) 2018 Youth Tour program which will take place June 10-14 in Washington, D.C. They are looking for five current high school juniors who are interested in continuing their education through higher education like college or through a trade school.

Youth Tour representatives are

selected by Choptank Electric based on an application, 90 second first-round self-produced video, short essay, and, if applicable, a second-round interview. To qualify for this opportunity, students must be juniors whose parents or guardians are Choptank Electric members. Applications are due Wednesday, January 31 by end of business at 4:30 p.m.

This amazing experience includes the opportunity to meet congressman and senators, visit the U.S. Capitol Visitor's Center, tour the Capitol building, visit local memorials and museums, and other historic sites. In previous Youth

Tour trips, students have attended Nationals baseball games, the Kennedy Center, and Mount Vernon. Along with the sites, candidates will meet over 1,500 other co-op member students from all across the country. All expenses and transportation are paid for by Choptank Electric.

The applications are now available online at Choptank Electric's website at www.choptankelectric.coop under Community tab, Youth Tour. Members can also check with the school guidance office or call Choptank Electric Cooperative, 1-877-892-0001, extension 8640.

**New grief support group to meet**

Atlantic General Hospital has created a new support group for those who have lost a loved one to addiction or overdose.

"Losing someone you love is one of the most painful trials life can throw your way," said Gail Mansell, director of supportive care services at Atlantic General Hospital and founder of the support group. "Each person who goes through the grieving process does it in his or her unique way. Grief

*please see support on page 15*



**Winners** - The Ocean Pines Anglers Club presented the awards for the 2017 Fishing Tournament winners at its December meeting. Tournament Chairman Tim Mullin made the presentation to the following Anglers Club members; As shown in photo L to R. **Tim Mullin**, chairman, **Budd Heim**, (24 1/2" flounder, tie for 18 1/2 tautog); **Ken Thompson** (51" tuna); **Tom Nelson** (44" red drum and 31" black drum); **Harvey Johnson** (22" large mouth bass), **John McFalls** (16 1/4" fresh water trout). Not shown; Greg Donahue (41 3/4" striped bass), Charles Warner (36 1/2" bluefish), Frank Watkins (tie for 18 1/2" tautog and 20 1/2" black sea bass).

## Tournament raises money for Big Brothers Big Sisters

Area golfers enjoyed golf and holiday cheer at the Santa's Open Charity Golf Tournament, held on December 2 at Ocean Pines Golf Club.



Participants in the 2017 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Santa's Open Golf Tournament at Ocean Pines Golf Club gather before the event. Photo by Ocean Pines Golf Club

The event, which celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, raised over \$8,600 for Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Eastern Shore and collected a variety of gifts for area children in need. This year marks the fifth consecutive year the Santa's Open has been held at Ocean Pines.

Ocean Pines Golf Club PGA Director of Golf John Malinowski was instrumental in bringing the annual tournament to the course.

"I had worked with the Santa's

Open for several years prior to my coming to Ocean Pines and was excited to bring the event to this course," Malinowski said. "I'm proud of how the Ocean Pines community has rallied around the tournament and Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Eastern Shore year after year."

Presented by title sponsor Delmarva Power, this year's event saw close to 90 golfers and numerous area businesses participate. Four-person teams competed for first, second and third place low gross; first-, second- and third-place low net and closest to the pin. Awards were presented at a reception ceremony at the Tern Grille at Ocean Pines Golf Club following the tournament.

The team of Ray Wankmiller, Mike Wankmiller, Tim McMahon and Daryl Griffith won first-place gross. Bobby Goroy, Brian Patey, David Bledsoe and Jimmy Sweet won second-place gross and Bill Mears, Jamie Neal, Randy Mears and Zeke Prygocki won third-

please see *tourney* on page 15

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# The Courier

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## 2012 Business of the Year

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*The winter solstice is considered the shortest day of the year. The solstice is when the sun's path has reached its southernmost point, producing the fewest*



*available hours of daylight all year long. The winter solstice marks the first day of*

*winter. Also on this day, the sun is directly overhead at high noon on the latitudinal point called the Tropic of Capricorn. "The Farmer's Almanac" says that some historians surmise Stonehenge was built to correspond with the use of solstices and other solar and lunar events. In 2017, the winter solstice arrives on December 21 at 11:28 a.m. EST in the northern hemisphere.*

## Big city girl settles in small town

By **Gloria Dietz**

Last year at this time I was a big city girl struggling in this small town. I am happy to say that 14 months later I am no longer homesick and that is mainly due to facing my fears. You see, I was frozen with fear to drive back and forth over the Bay Bridge to visit my family and friends; I no longer fear this drive and actually think it is quite nice.

At first, I was not used to the peace and quiet this town offers. Jump to one year later and I guess my ears have become sensitive to loud noises. If I start to get a little stir-crazy, I just hop into my car and go back for a visit.

Every day is the same down here. Most people are retired, but they are some of the nicest people I have ever met. I take comfort in hearing their stories, gaining knowledge and words of wisdom. They wear the 'no-stress' life well and it makes them so much fun to be around.

Writing profile stories on the people in this community for this newspaper has also helped me get acclimated. Many of them sharing a part of their life with me has been a blessing and I couldn't be more thankful. I also was lucky enough to get a permanent part-time position as an Event Coordinator at Glen Riddle Community Association.

My husband and I are starting to feel like locals. When we walk into our favorite hot spots, the staff



*Gloria Dietz has come to appreciate living on the Eastern Shore.*

knows who we are and what we drink. I'm even trying to recruit my two adult sons into moving down here.

What I know for sure... I can see that I will one day be a mentor to the newcomer that I once was; when the people said that I was going to love it here, they were right; the roads are so smooth that my car is happy; but the amount of leaves that have to be raked are less than desirable.

Although it is still hard for me to believe that I am a full-time resident, it brings me comfort to know that I am only two and a half hours away from my other home. My new family in the Pines have helped me find the right balance. I am proud to say that I am much more relaxed and settled compared to last year when I was out of my element.

Change is good, but patience is key. In time, everything works according to plan.

## Worcester County experiences worth giving

Tis the season for giving and you can select handcrafted gifts from countless local shops or give the gift of Worcester County. From small to large budgets, here are 15 experiences worth gifting. View the complete list at [www.visitworcester.org](http://www.visitworcester.org). Happy gifting!

Take in Live Performances. December 8-10, catch A Charlie Brown Christmas at the Mar-Va Theater in Pocomoke or an upcoming production at the Ocean City Performing Art Center at the Convention Center.

Plan a Camping Adventure. Gift a tent site or cabin rental or an annual Assateague Island National Seashore or Pocomoke River State Park pass.

Contact park offices to make that Christmas dream a reality.

Gift a Winter Getaway. Throw in a few gift cards to favorite restaurants. From condos in Ocean City to bed and breakfasts in Snow Hill, you'll never forget the expressions when they discover you're all taking a vacation.

Attend Winterfest of Lights with the family. Sip hot cocoa. Ride the Winterfest Express, or tuck Winterfest tickets in their stockings, and let them go on their own.

New Year's Eve Family Night in Berlin or Ocean City. Make it an overnight staycation to ring in the New Year.

Send them surfing. Schedule lessons with a local surf shop to let them experience the wave action from a board.

Charter a Deep Sea Adventure.

Remember the fishing license, beach chairs, buckets, surf fishing books, bait, and tackle.

Throw Strikes. From the beginner to the serious league bowler, everyone is sure to enjoy, so grab tickets for a few games of bowling at Ocean Lanes in Ocean City or Eastern Shore Lanes in Pocomoke.

Make it a Big Day in a Small Town. Plan a stroll for you and someone special in Berlin, Snow Hill, Ocean City, or Pocomoke. Sip coffee, savor lunch, and indulge in signature desserts at area eateries.

Golf Getaway. Gift greens fees, cart rentals, clubhouse dining, or book them a complete golf package.

Crabbing Starter Pack. Crab pots, lines, coolers, and OLD BAY Seasoning to get started next summer.

Transport them in Local Time

*please see **experience** on page 15*

## Highs and lows of the season

It's that time of year when children are aglow with anticipation, counting the days until Christmas break, making the final touches to their Santa lists and hoping for the first snowfall.

Parents too are aglow this time of year but for entirely different reasons.



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

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

Mainly it's anxiety over what yet needs to be done before the big day and angst over how quickly time is slipping by. Probably the largest concern among parents is gift shopping: what to get for whom and how much to spend. Such considerations can tie people up in knots.

Most people, and I include myself in this category, don't have the financial resources to purchase the gifts really desired by the people on the gift list. In some instances, especially in large families, there are just so many people that it's impossible to get something special for everyone. Some families employ a lottery to determine who will buy gifts for whom.

In addition to the gift buying, there are so many other things we consider necessary preparation for Christmas. There's decorating the house both inside and out, putting up the tree, writing and sending

Christmas cards and preparing a Christmas Eve and Christmas day meal. About this time, some people are still deciding where they will spend Christmas. Will travel be involved?

But alas, not all is overwhelming. There are a number of things I look forward to during this time of year. First, I get to watch some of my favorite movies. My wife and I have, over the years, developed a schedule of when we watch certain movies. For instance, it has become common prac-

tice that while decorating the tree, we watch the original "Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street." On Christmas Eve we watch my all time favorite movie, "It's a Wonderful Life." And on Christmas day we watch the British version of "A Christmas Carol," with Allister Sim. Also sprinkled into the mix leading up to Christmas day are viewings of the most recent version of "Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street," "Elf," and other remakes of "A Christmas Carol," starring Patrick Stewart and the Muppets respectively.

Hot buttered rum is a treat to which I also look forward. Admittedly, I do very little decorating around my house. This is handled quite expertly by my wife who has the decorating almost down to a science. Watching my wife decorate the house is like watching an artist at work. My role in this effort is usually confined to moving furniture and bringing down boxes from the attic. Other than that, I stay out of sight and out of the way.

Through the years we've adorned the outside of our house with lights. The first time was our first Christmas in our first home. Being young and eager at the time, I ventured up on the roof with enough stringed lights to illuminate the Chrysler building. It was a windy day and I was nearly blown off the roof. Following that incident I made it clear to my wife that we would never put lights up outside the house. Well, through the years, I softened my stance. When my sons

were home, they one year put the outside lights up. I stood on the lawn saying things like, "there's a bulb out" and "that side is crooked." For reasons I don't understand, that was the last year they went up on the roof.

This time of year is what you make it. It can be a time of anxiety or it can be a time to enjoy. My suggestion to all is simple. Make yourself a mug of hot buttered rum and watch Tiny Tim melt the heart of Scrooge.



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# Happy Holidays!

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## Choptank distributes capital credits to members

The Choptank Electric Cooperative Board of Directors voted to retire \$2.0 million from the Choptank Electric Cooperative allocated capital credits to its members of record from 1992 and 1993. Additionally, Old Dominion Electric Cooperative (ODEC) allocated capital credits from 1987 will be retired in the amount of \$326,000. These two retirements result in a total of \$2.3 million being returned to the membership during the month of December.

The amount of capital credits each member receives is based on how much electricity the member purchased during the year. Any ac-

tive member who has accrued capital credits less than \$75 will receive the amount credited directly to their December bill. Active members who have accrued more than \$75 in capital credits will receive a check in the mail. For any member who is inactive, you must accrue \$75 before a check is sent. Inactive members must have a good address listed at the Co-op to receive their check. The checks are scheduled to be mailed by mid-December.

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

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

For more information on capital credits, you may call our Member Service Center at 877-892-0001, email [capitalcredits@choptankelectric.coop](mailto:capitalcredits@choptankelectric.coop), or go to our website at [www.choptankelectric.coop](http://www.choptankelectric.coop).



President **Diana Purnell** and Vice President **Ted Elder**

## Purnell elected president

On Tuesday, December 5, the Worcester County Commissioners elected Commissioner Diana Purnell as Commission President and elected Commissioner Theodore J. Elder as Vice President.

Commissioner Purnell was elected County Commissioner in 2014 to represent District Two, the Central District. Prior to being elected president, she served as vice president in 2017. Commissioner Purnell is an inventor who holds two patents, and she has owned and operated a successful business for the past 37 years. She is the former executive director of the Berlin Community Improvement Association and past president of the Worcester County Commission for Women. She is an active member of the Recognition Advisory Committee for the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs, Atlantic General Hospital Foundation Board,

Worcester County Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and St. John’s United Methodist Church. Purnell and her husband, Gabe, reside in Berlin. They have two daughters, two grandchildren, and four great grandchildren.

Commissioner Elder was elected County Commissioner in 2014 to represent District Four, the Western District. He represents the Commissioners as Treasurer for the Tri-County Council (TCC) for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland, and represents the Commissioners on the Health Planning Advisory Council. Commissioner Elder has been a successful business owner and operator since 1982, and he has served as a Worcester County bus contractor for over 25 years, where he acted as president of the Bus Contractor’s Association for over 20 years. He and his wife, Joyce, reside in Whaleyville. The couple has three children, five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren, with a third on the way.

The Board of Worcester County Commissioners is the seven-member legislative and executive branch of county government. Each Commissioner is elected to serve a four-year term, and one representative is elected from each of the seven election districts. The current board was elected to serve the 2014-2018 term. The County Commissioners meet the first and third Tuesday of each month in the Worcester County Government Center in Snow Hill.



### Monday

Chicken Parmesan over Pasta \$9.95  
Lg. Cheese Pizza \$8.50 (carry-out only)

### Tuesday

Burger and French Fries \$6  
Lg. Cheese Pizza \$8.50 (carry-out only)

Wednesday - Pasta Night

Thursday - Steak Night!

Friday- Fried Shrimp with French fries & cole slaw \$14.75

Saturday - Crabcake Platter with 2 sides and a choice of a soup or salad \$17

### Drink Specials

Drinks of the Month \$7.50

The Poinsettia

Cranberry Whiskey Cocktail  
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Martini of the Month \$7.50

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# Ocean Pines Police honored for exemplary efforts

The Ocean Pines Police Department held a special departmental meeting on, December 7 at the Ocean Pines Community Center to honor the outstanding and exemplary efforts put forth by members of the police agency.

“Our officers work hard to keep our community safe,” said Ocean Pines Police Chief Dave Massey. “The actions of these police personnel are in the best traditions of our police department. I am proud to command such personnel.”

Along with Chief Massey and Officer of the Year Lieutenant Leo Ehrisman, General Manager John Bailey attended the presentation of awards.

“It was an opportunity for me to be reminded of how dangerous such jobs are because they deal with the unknown every minute,” said Bailey. “I encourage everyone to continue to say a word of thanks and appreciation for what they do.”

During the special presentation, seven members of the Ocean Pines Police Department were recognized and received the following awards.

**Meritorious Service Award:** Awarded to any member of the Police Department who distinguishes him/herself by performing his/her duties in a manner that clearly exceeds what is normally required or expected or for a highly creditable police accomplishment. The Meritorious Service Award for 2017 was given to PCO Kim Carmine.

For the first time, the FBI conducted an audit of criminal history computers in all police departments in the state of Maryland. Each police department had to submit a preliminary audit statement prior to the FBI arriving for an on-scene inspection. When our FBI auditor arrived, he stated that Ocean Pines had submitted the most thorough and complete audit from all other police agencies he had inspected. The result of this audit later determined that Ocean Pines had only minor corrections needed for the audit. The excellent results of this audit were largely due to the efforts of PCO Kim Carmine.

**Excellent Police Performance:** Awarded to any member of the police



Chief Dave Massey, John Baily and Kim Carmine

department, including civilians, for an act or achievement above that which is normally required or expected.

Recipients: PFC Dylan Miller and Cpl. Chris Tarr. PFC Miller conducted a routine traffic stop of a suspicious vehicle. The operator of the vehicle did not have a valid driver's license. Seeing the vehicle on the road at a later date, Miller followed the vehicle to a

please see **awards** on page 15

**SAVE THE DATE!** **IT'S TIME TO GET READY!**  
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## Get ready for annual Penguin Swim

It's almost time for the 24th Annual Penguin Swim to be held on New Year's Day, Monday, January 1. As always, the swim will be held at the Princess Royale Hotel located at Oceanfront and 91st Street in Ocean City. Get ready to dunk your penguin tail in the icy-cold Atlantic Ocean! Ocean City beach will be flooded with Penguins and it's all for a good cause!

The Atlantic General Hospital Foundation is inviting individuals and teams to join in the fundraising. More than thirteen teams and fifty individuals have already registered and more are joining every day!

This year, event day registration will begin at 10 a.m., ending promptly at 12:30 p.m., with the main event at 1 p.m. on the beach. The time in between will be chock full of fun activities the whole family will enjoy: carnival games, face painting, mermaids and more. For advance check-in and registration, go to the Princess Royale in the

Premier Lobby from 2 to 4 p.m. on New Year's Eve and you can be eligible for a pre-registration incentive prize.

Special recognition awards will be given to Oldest and Youngest Penguins.



Trophies for first, second and third place will be awarded to those who raise the most money in divisions for Individuals (Adults and 18 & under), and Teams (Businesses, Community Groups/Organizations, and Youth/Family). There will also be prizes awarded for the best costumes. All Penguins will receive an official 2018 AGH Penguin Swim short-sleeve t-shirt for their \$25 registration fee. Additional incentive prizes can be earned based on individual fundraising efforts!

Individual and team participants can register now to start collecting donations. For more information, to view this year's shirts and prizes, or to register, visit [www.aghpenguinswim.org](http://www.aghpenguinswim.org) or text PENGUIN to 51555. Find the event on social media using #OCPenguinSwim, like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/penguinswim](http://www.facebook.com/penguinswim), or call the Atlantic General Hospital Foundation office at 410-641-9671 for more information.



**Collection** - Girl Scout Troop 812 collected personal items for active servicemen and women overseas. They teamed up with Most Blessed Sacrament for the collection during the month of November.

Above are: **Julia Kozma, Summer Brenner, Evelyn Walsh, Emery Busko, Chloe Beall, Isabella Johnson, Stephanie Sampson and Summer Banks.**

## PRMC alters visitation restrictions

Peninsula Regional Medical Center (PRMC) is asking members of the community, as it does every year, to please remember the important role they play in protecting both patients and other visitors and hospital staff from contracting or spreading viruses including Respiratory Syncytial Virus or RSV.

The RSV season is upon us, and as a precautionary measure, PRMC is putting visitation restrictions in place for their young visitors under the age of 12 in certain select areas. For the immediate future the Medical Center is not allowing children under the age of 12 to visit the PRMC Special Care Nursery. Siblings under 12 may still visit PRMC's Mother/Baby, Labor and Delivery and Pediatric units, but only after a health screen is completed by

nurses on those units prior to entry. Children with upper respiratory infections or other symptoms of RSV will not be permitted to visit.

Infants are most vulnerable and RSV is, in fact, the leading cause of babies under the age of 12 months being admitted to American hospitals. It's easily spread through touching, hugging, on toys, clothing and bedding. Precautions include regular hand hygiene, avoiding crowds of young children and by keeping toys, clothes, blankets and sheets clean.

"Everyone understands this may cause an inconvenience, but we must continuously safeguard everyone visiting here or staying with us for care," said Karen Mihalik, RN, Infection Preventionist. "That includes taking extra precautions to protect our young visitors themselves from possibly contracting or spreading a virus at Peninsula Regional. This is a common, yearly practice for us during the RSV season."

Symptoms include a cough that doesn't stop, fast or troubled breathing, a bluish color around the mouth or fingernails and a fever, especially above 100.4 degrees in infants under 3 months of age. Parents are encouraged to contact their pediatrician if concerned about possible symptoms of RSV.

"We welcome visitors and under-

please see **visitation** on page 11

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## Make worship an integral part of the holiday season

The hustle and bustle of the often hectic holiday season can make it easy to overlook religion during this special time of year.

Come the holidays, adherents of Judaism celebrate Chanukah while many Christians celebrate Christmas. Though different, the two holidays share some similarities.

In celebration of Chanukah, which this year begins December 13, families gather for an eight-day commemoration to honor the rededication of the Second Temple of Jerusalem and a miracle in which a small amount of oil illuminated a menorah for eight days. Perhaps because it falls during the holiday season, Chanukah has become one of the most well-known Jewish celebrations, even for those who do not adhere to the Jewish faith.

For devout Christians, Christmas is not about eggnog and Santa Claus.

Christmas (Christ's Mass) is a celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, who Christians believe is the son of God. Christmas is a day of great joy in the Christian faith because it marks the



beginning of Jesus' time on earth. Both Chanukah and Christmas, while joyous celebrations, are laced with solemnity. The Second Jewish Temple was desecrated by Greek-Syrians, who had erected an altar to Zeus and sacrificed pigs within its sacred

*please see season page 11*



Above: (seated) **Marie Gilmore**, president of Auxiliary Unit #166, **Charles Herbert**, vice commander of Squadron #166 Sons of the American Legion and **Nelson Kelley**, Post #166 chairman of Pearl Harbor Remembrance Committee. (standing left to right) **Frank Hoover**, WWII US Navy Veteran, **Carroll Wagner**, WWII US Navy veteran, Senator **Jim Mathias**, Post #166 Chaplain **Ben Dawson** and **Peter Wimbrow**.

## Post recalls Pearl Harbor

On December 7, 2017 Synepuxent Post #166 American Legion went back in time to December 7, 1941. Chairman Nelson Kelley of the Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Program provided the radio transmissions of the attack on Pearl Harbor and President Franklin D. Roosevelt's message to the joint session of the US Senate and Congress that this action of war could not be ignored.

There were comments from those in attendance expressing their thoughts and feelings of this major day in US History. Peter Wimbrow, Ocean City's World War II expert added his expert history throughout the program.

Senator Jim Mathias commented that the multitude of lives lost defending freedom could not be for-

gotten. In attendance were two World War II Navy veterans, both member of Post #166. Frank Hoover and Carroll Wagner, were recognized for their WWII military service. They remember December 7, 1941 very well but were not eligible for the military during this time. They both joined the US Navy later when they were eligible.

## WPS scholarships offered

Worcester Preparatory School is offering a scholarship for students entering the ninth grade in September 2018. An outstanding student will have the opportunity to join the

*please see wps page 11*



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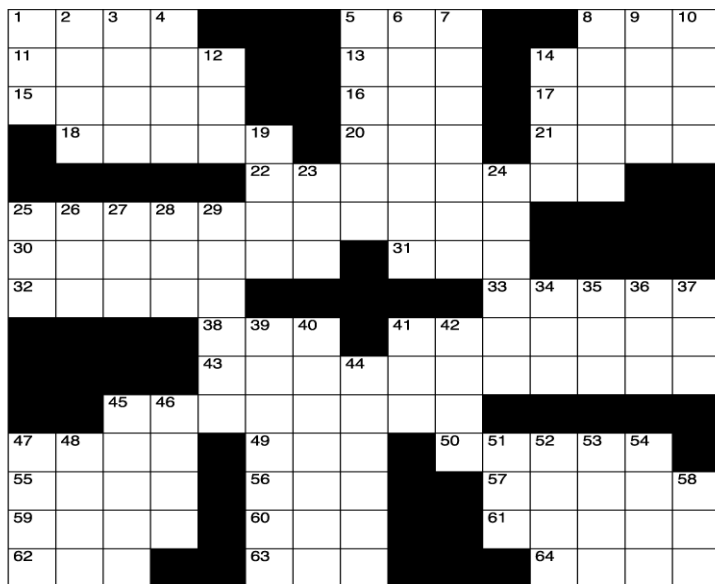
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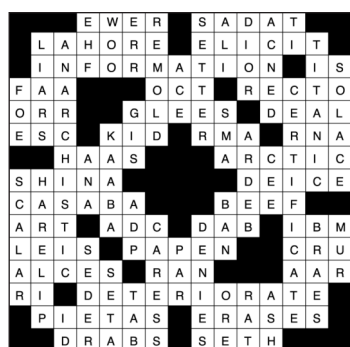


**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Member of a Semitic people
- 5. Certified public accountant
- 8. Residue
- 11. Sayings attributed to Christ
- 13. The products of human creativity
- 14. Listen to
- 15. Longed
- 16. No (Scottish)
- 17. Descriptor
- 18. Yankees' sensation Judge
- 20. Zero
- 21. Comics legend Lee
- 22. Honorary title holder
- 25. "Uncle Joey"
- 30. Graceful and stylish
- 31. Pitching term
- 32. Former Mets outfielder Jones
- 33. One who avoids animal products
- 38. Quick to learn
- 41. Mechanism in an organ
- 43. Redo with new materials
- 45. Epics
- 47. Wings
- 49. Extrasensory perception
- 50. Cavalry sword
- 55. Bangladeshi monetary unit
- 56. Not the bottom
- 57. Afflicted
- 59. Bound
- 60. One who is highly skilled
- 61. Jewish spiritual leader
- 62. Tall, rounded vase
- 63. Liturgical language of Hinduism (abbr.)
- 64. Cheek

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Pie \_\_\_ mode
- 2. Portuguese cape
- 3. Ottoman military title
- 4. Movable frame used in burials
- 5. Type of coal
- 6. A treeless grassy plain
- 7. Artist's workroom
- 8. Assists
- 9. Protein-rich liquids
- 10. A song of praise to God
- 12. Much \_\_\_ about nothing
- 14. Japanese city
- 19. Atomic number 10
- 23. Egyptian goddess
- 24. Go places
- 25. Having ten
- 26. Complete
- 27. Automotive belt
- 28. Psyche
- 29. Melodious bird
- 34. Medical personnel
- 35. Acquired
- 36. Type of beverage
- 37. Neither
- 39. Spanish monetary units
- 40. Small area of grass
- 41. Your
- 42. Diana \_\_\_, singer
- 44. Salt's partner
- 45. Made of wood
- 46. No longer alive
- 47. Alaskan island
- 48. Wild animal's resting place
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Partiality
- 53. "Luther" actor Idris
- 54. UNLV's "Runnin' \_\_\_"
- 58. Criticize



Answers for Dec. 6



**The Linganore Winery and its fascinating back story**

While visiting old friends in Mt. Airy, Maryland in October, we spent a leisurely afternoon at the Linganore Winery. The owner, Anthony Aellen, was a very gracious host and fascinating storyteller. Along with sampling delicious wines, I felt compelled to join Linganore's Wine Club that day. I figure it will enable me to enjoy Linganore's extensive array of wines year-round.

In describing the winery's beginnings, Anthony says the germ of the idea started with both sets of his grandparents who came from Europe and settled in New York City. They both purchased grapes that would arrive in train-car shipments frequently into New York from California. This was during the era of World War I and the Great Immigration, so Anthony said all the various ethnic groups in New York gravitated to grapes from their home countries. As Anthony states, "While nothing else in their new lifestyles in the U.S. was similar for all these immigrants, they could still make wine like they did in the old country." Anthony's maternal grandfather was one such immigrant who began making wine in his basement in Brooklyn.

Later on, Anthony's parents bought the farmland the Linganore Winery sits on in 1971, and they moved to the property in 1972. At the time, the farmland had been a Baptist dairy farm in a non-drinking area. Anthony relates, "The initial idea was that we would grow grapes just to continue to make wine in our basement. We planted 6 acres of grapes in 1972 and everyone at the time thought we were nuts." In 1974 at the age of 82, Anthony's grandfather finally gave up making wine in his basement, and he gave my parents his wine press and two hand-crank crushers. At that point, Anthony's father took the novel step of applying for a winery license. Anthony's family went on to crush, fer-

ment, de-stem, and press by hand a little over 6 tons of grapes in their first year of production.

Anthony graduated from high school in 1977 and continued working on the family farm. By 1985, they were running 60 head of beef cattle, 60 head of sheep, 100 acres of hay, 55 acres of fruit, and the winery. Anthony still runs the winery, and as his storytelling imparts, he runs it with just as much enthusiasm as in his youth. He describes the wide variety of flavor profiles in Linganore wines coming from a mixture of the weather, geography, the grapes themselves, and some art. Two examples of this "art" can be found in their *Red Skins* and *Traminette* wines. The first example, *Red Skins*, is made from grapes grown along the east slope on the winery. The grapes are hand-picked, and the resulting wine is fermented along with the skins. Anthony said it wasn't hard to come up with the wine's name, but they separated the wine's name into two words to avoid getting into legal trouble. Their *Traminette* wine, made from the grape by the same name, was originally created as part of a Cornell University study testing how hybrid grapes grow in different areas of the country. The Cornell study involves testing hearty hybrid grape varieties to be able to survive the New York winters. Anthony is proud to be one of these testing locations.

In all, Linganore Winery offers 29 wines with tastings offered nearly every day of the year. There are also many events held throughout the year that can be found, along with their extensive wine list, at [www.linganorewines.com](http://www.linganorewines.com). Our favorites were the unoaked *Chardonnay 2016*, *Retriever Red* (a soft red blend), *Red Skins* (oaked, dry red), the *Traminette* (semi-sweet and slightly spicy), the *Spiced Apple* (with tastes of cinnamon and

please see **wine** on page 15



Members of the Republican Women of Worcester County attended the recent American Cancer Society Luncheon.

## Lessons and carols to be presented

On Sunday, December 17 the adult choir of St. John Neumann Catholic Church will present a Christmas concert at the church. The church is located on Beauchamp Road off Racetrack Road. The event will begin at 3 p.m. and last about one hour. Composed of

wps  
from page 9

Worcester community which is recognized for its high academic standards, small classes, individual attention and strong sense of community. A need-based, 4-year high school scholarship covering tuition is available for a new student— a value of more than \$57,000 over four years. Selection is based on the following criteria: New student entering the 9th Grade; strong academic ability; strength in the arts and/or technology; and, demonstrated financial need. The application deadline is February 14. For more information about the Sara Chase Carlson Scholarship, contact Tara Becker, WPS Director of Admissions, at 410.641.3575 or tbecker@worcesterprep.org.

choral pieces, instrumental selections, and seasonal readings, there will be time for meditation and reflection.

Among the choral selections will be “Jesus Christ the Apple Tree,” “The Father’s Love” and “He Is Born.” Instrumentalists include Carole Loehmann, piano and organ, and Mary Mergott and Erica Holdren on the violin. Josephine Cover directs the St. John Neumann choir and members of the parish will provide the readings. Father Joseph Cocucci, pastor of the church, will preside at the non-denominational offering.

There is no admission charge to attend but a free will offering is welcome. Parking is readily available.

season  
from page 9

walls. At this point in time, Jews had to practice their faith in secret, reading the Torah underground and using dreidels to simulate games and confuse Greek soldiers. However, the Jews, led by a small group of rebels known as the Maccabees, persevered,

# Thunderbirds, Blue Angels will return

The OC Air Show will host the U.S. military’s two elite jet demonstration teams in back-to-back years, it was announced at the International Council of Air Shows Convention in Las Vegas.

The U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds will headline the 2018 show, June 16-17, before the U.S. Navy Blue Angels headline the 2019 show, June 15-16.

“We’re delighted to have commitments from the Thunderbirds and the Blue Angels for the next two years,” said OC Air Show President Bryan Lilley. “This makes six consecutive years that the event will host a military jet demo team.”

The U.S. Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron, known to all the world as the “Thunderbirds,” are the Air Force’s Ambassadors in Blue. They represent the 500,000 men and women of the United States Air Force. The Thunderbirds plan and present precision aerial maneuvers to exhibit the capabilities of modern, high-performance aircraft and the high degree of professional skill required to operate those aircraft. The Thunderbirds squadron is composed of eight pilots (including six demonstration pilots),

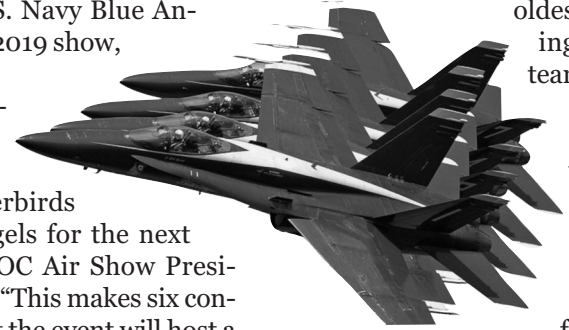
four support officers, four civilians and more than 100 enlisted personnel.

The Blue Angels is the U.S. Navy’s flight demonstration squadron with aviators from the Navy and Marines. The Blue Angels team was formed in 1946, making it the second

oldest formal flying aerobic team (under the same name) in the world, after the French Patrouille de France formed in

1931. The six demonstration pilots fly F/A-18 Hornets in more than 30 shows at various locations throughout the United States each year, where they still employ many of the same practices and techniques used in their aerial displays from their inaugural 1946 season.

Sponsorship opportunities and corporate hospitality packages are also currently available for the 2018 show and volunteer registration is open. More information is available online at <http://ocairshow.com/> or follow the show on Facebook.



marking the joy of Chanukah for years to come.

The period leading up to Christmas known as Advent is a time for repentance and preparation for the grace and miracle of Jesus’ birth. According to Christianity.com, the word “advent” is derived from the Latin word “adventus,” meaning coming. Advent is a time to both reflect on the past and look forward to the future. Much like Lent, Advent is intended to be a sea-

son of fasting, prayer and reaching out to God.

During the holiday season, houses of worship customarily host prayer sessions and special holiday-related events. The faithful are encouraged to participate in these events in celebration of their faith.

Prayer can help remove distractions during the holiday season, helping individuals reconnect with the true meaning of the holiday season.

visitation  
from page 8

stand their importance in the recovery of friends and loved ones, but we will take all necessary steps to prevent the contracting or spreading of viruses,” added Mihalik. PRMC encourages our visitors under 12 to send a greeting using the Ecard option on our website at [www.peninsula.org](http://www.peninsula.org) or to use any of the personal correspondence options like Skype or Facetime while the RSV visitation restrictions are in place.

Peninsula Regional Medical Center expects these visitation changes to be in place through March, and will keep Delmarva residents updated on any changes in visitation during the current RSV season. Additional information on RSV may be obtained on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

## 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., Dec. 14	4:36 a.m. 4:45 p.m.	11 a.m.	7:10 a.m.	4:41 p.m.
Fri., Dec. 15	5:18 a.m. 5:28 p.m.	11:47 a.m. 11:37 p.m.	7:10 a.m.	4:41 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 16	5:58 a.m. 6:09 p.m.	12:28 p.m.	7:10 a.m.	4:41 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 17	6:37 a.m. 6:50 p.m.	12:16 a.m. 1:06 p.m.	7:12 a.m.	4:42 p.m.
Mon., Dec. 18	7:17 a.m. 7:31 p.m.	12:55 a.m. 1:43 p.m.	7:12 a.m.	4:42 p.m.
Tues., Dec. 19	7:57 a.m. 8:12 p.m.	1:33 a.m. 2:21 p.m.	7:13 a.m.	4:43 p.m.
Wed., Dec. 20	8:37 a.m. 8:53 p.m.	2:11 a.m. 2:59 p.m.	7:13 a.m.	4:43 p.m.

## Dreidels have a rich history

Dreidels are especially popular during the eight-day Jewish festival of Chanukah. Even though they may seem like novelty items for children, dreidels have a rich and interesting history. In ancient times, Greek Syrians infiltrated areas where many practicing Jews resided. Over time, the Greek Syrians became more oppressive and tried to convert the Jewish people to their pagan beliefs. However, their efforts were not very successful. As a result, the Greek Syrians established laws that outlawed ritual commandments and the study of the



Torah. It is widely believed that Jewish people used dreidels to fool the Greeks into thinking they were just playing a game. Instead, rolls of the dreidel corresponded to numerical equivalents that could represent elements of the Jewish faith, according to My Jewish Learning. Others say the dreidel was a distraction. Children of Israel would learn the Torah in outlying areas and forests. When Greek patrols were nearby, the children would hide their texts and take out dreidels instead, says Chabad.org. Today the dreidel is a token of the Chanukah miracle. In Israel, the letters upon the

dreidel are Nun, Gimel, Hay, and Pay, which stand for the Hebrew equivalent of “a great miracle happened here.”

Outside of Israel, the last letter is Shin, which transforms the phrase into “a great miracle happened there.”

### Free flu shots offered

Still need your seasonal flu shot? Have a college student home now for the holidays that does? Good news, it is not too late. On Saturday, December 16 from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m., Peninsula Regional Medical Center and Froggy 99.9 are teaming up to provide Delmarva residents their best “shot” against the flu this season.

*please see **shots** on page 13*



**Attitude** - “It’s All About Attitude” at Berlin Intermediate School (BIS). Students are recognized each day for being Respectful, Responsible and Ready to Learn as part of the school’s PBIS initiative. Addison McDaniel, a 6th grade student, earned her “It’s All About Attitude” slip for being respectful to others, herself, and the learning environment. Addison’s teacher said that she is always doing things to help her teachers and her peers. Addison McDaniel is pictured with Tom Sites, BIS School principal.

## The history of Christmas stockings

Just when the excitement of opening presents abates after the last of the packages under the Christmas tree have been torn open, children and adults alike may discover that there are more treats to be had nestled inside of stockings hung on the mantle.

The hanging of Christmas stockings is a tradition with an extensive history. Several legends attribute the hanging of stockings to different people or events. Here is a look at some of the stories that have made Christmas stockings so popular.

**St. Nicholas Day.** Rather than hanging stockings on Christmas, many countries celebrate Saint Nicholas Day on December 6, and this is when stockings are proudly left out for treats. The small, inexpensive trinkets are later unwrapped and enjoyed on Christmas Day.

**Dutch heritage.** One tradition says that, in 16th century Holland, children kept their clogs filled with straw in front of the hearth for Santa’s reindeer to find. They also left treats for Santa Claus. In return, Santa would leave gifts in the clogs. Over time, stockings were swapped out for clogs.

**Merchant’s family story.** A popular tale tells the story of a merchant, his wife and three daughters. After the

wife falls ill and dies, the man becomes devastated and squanders all of his wealth on frivolous things to mask his sadness. When it comes time for the daughters to marry, the man does not



have money for a dowry. St. Nicholas hears of the plight and knows the man would be too proud to accept charity. Therefore, St. Nicholas anonymously tosses three bags of gold coins down the chimney. The man’s daughters had done the laundry prior and left their stockings hanging by the fireplace to dry. The gold landed in the stockings, thus starting the Christmas stocking tradition.

**Italian good witch.** One stocking story does not attribute the tradition to Santa, but to a kind-hearted Italian witch named “La Befana.” La Befana arrives on a broomstick the night of

*please see **history** on page 13*

## Steps to save energy this winter

Conserving energy is not just an eco-friendly endeavor, but a potentially lucrative one as well. Homeowners and apartment dwellers alike who attempt to conserve energy may do so to promote the long-term health of the planet, but such efforts also greatly reduce energy bills.

Thanks to air conditioning systems, energy bills might spike in summer. But winter utility bills also can be costly, especially in homes that have not been winterized or audited to ensure energy is not being wasted. Winterizing a home involves taking steps to conserve resources and save a little money along the way.



**Windows.** A home’s windows can be a great place to start when winterizing a home. If the residents of a home feel cold when sitting near certain windows even though the windows are closed, the windows likely have drafts. Feel around the edges of the window and frame to determine if any cold air is coming in. If so, seal the leaks immediately. Unsealed leaks can make air inside homes cold, prompting many to turn up the temperatures on their thermostats, which can lead to the unnecessary consumption of energy and contribute to high energy bills.

*please see **winter** on page 13*



**Pajama Day** - Berlin Intermediate School participated in a "Pajama Day" on December 8. Students and staff dressed in warm winter pajamas in turn for a donation of a minimum of \$1, or a warm pair of pajamas, or a children's book to benefit local non profit organizations. The students and staff collected 60 pairs of pajamas, 200 children's books, and \$425 that will be used to purchase additional pairs of pajamas. Pajamas and books will be distributed to local shelters and community organizations through the local chapter of the Pajama Program.

Pictured are **Jordan Armour, Dominick Digristine, Gabe Lewandowski, Lucas Magathan, Shayleigh Boyle, Keagan Shump, Kenady Scott and Fin Dudley.**



## Christmas Cheer

December 6 was the last day for the Kiwanis 2017 Toy Drive. The club purchased some toys and the rest came from member donations. Pictured are (L-R) **Dave Landis, his wife Rita** and Worcester G.O.L.D Executive Director **Sandy Snipes.**

# Understanding the bitcoin phenomenon

The going rate of bitcoins continues to rise. In September, one bitcoin was equal to nearly \$4,000. As of Monday, one bitcoin was valued at \$16,649. Considering bitcoin is such a highly valued yet volatile form of currency, many people have questions as to how bitcoins were created and how they are used.

Bitcoin is a relatively new currency that was created in 2009 by an anonymous person (or group) using the alias Satoshi Nakamoto. Bitcoins are produced and traded in the virtual world. In a relatively short period of time, bitcoins went from being worth pennies to thousands of dollars. Unlike other forms of currency, which are controlled by a central authority of a particular country, bitcoins are completely virtual.

How to get bitcoins. Bitcoins are not acquired in the same way as other currencies. Bitcoins can be bought and sold in marketplaces called "bitcoin exchanges." These online trading areas enable people to buy and sell bitcoins using various currencies, says CNN Money. Similarly, people can send bitcoins to one another using mobile apps or a computer, much like one would make digital transfers at a bank.

Bitcoins are not based on gold or another backing currency, but rather on mathematics. Instead of a federal reserve deciding on when to print and distribute money, bitcoins are created as a reward for mining. Mining involves a special open source software that is designed to solve math problems. As a reward for solving these problems, people are rewarded with bitcoins. This creates an in-

centive for people to mine.

Bitcoin mining is designed to require exertion and take time so that the rate resembles the rate at which commodities like gold would be mined from the ground, offers Bitcoinmining.com. According to ABC News, available bitcoins are hidden amid a complex encrypted computer program. Users' computers work around the clock to solve a complicated mathematical problem in order to release new coins. The system requires more work to get coins as time goes by.

How are bitcoins stored. Bitcoins are stored in a digital bitcoin wallet. Only 21 million bitcoins can be found by miners so the value of the system is preserved. To date, not all bitcoins have been mined. Every bitcoin transaction is completely transparent, which means they can be traced back to creation. The block chain is a public ledger where every bitcoin transaction that has ever taken place is registered.

Anonymity. Even though bitcoin transactions are recorded publicly, the names of buyers and sellers are never revealed. Only a wallet ID is recorded. This enables bitcoin users to buy or sell anything without it being traced back to them. While many legitimate businesses now accept bitcoins, bitcoins also are highly valued for black market ventures like purchasing drugs and illegal weapons.

Bitcoins are changing the way people see money and store their private wealth. The concept decentralizes money and makes the bitcoin exchange a relatively transparent process.

winter

from page 12

**Air conditioners.** Homeowners who cool their homes with window air conditioning units may benefit by removing these units from windows before the arrival of winter. Window units left in windows may be allowing cold air into a home, leading to more energy consumption and higher energy bills. If removing the units is too difficult or impossible, purchase window unit covers that can be wrapped around the outside of the unit to prevent cold air from entering the home.

**Water heater.** According to the U.S. Department of Energy, heating water accounts for roughly 18 percent of the energy consumed in a typical home. The DOE recommends setting water heater temperatures to 120 F. Doing so will save energy and money while still providing plenty of warm water when residents need to bathe.

**Fireplace.** Homeowners who have fireplaces in their homes should make sure dampers are closed whenever fires are not burning. Open dampers are akin to open windows, allowing plenty of cold air to enter a home. The DOE recommends opening dampers in the bottom of the firebox when using the fireplace. Doing so can reduce heat loss and allow homeowners to lower their thermostats while the fireplace is being used.

shots

from page 12

PRMC is bringing its Wagner Wellness Van to the Froggy 99.9 studios in the K-Mart Shopping Center on Route 50 in Salisbury, and will be providing free flu shots to anyone age 13 and above. If age 13 to 17, a parent or legal guardian must accompany the child to sign consent.

Froggy's Randy Scott will be broadcasting live from 10 a.m. to noon with giveaways. PRMC giveaways will also be available for anyone receiving their flu shot. You still have time to beat the flu this season. Call 410-543-7139 for more information.

history

from page 12

January 5 and fills the stockings of good children with sweet treats and toys. Bad children are awarded lumps of coal. La Befana is also credited with being the old woman who the wise men ask for directions to Christ's manger in the Christ child's story. After turning down an offer to accompany them, La Befana later carried gifts in search of Christ.

Christmas stockings have become part of holiday traditions, and this beloved tradition has its own unique history.

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**support**

from page 2

can take a serious toll, even on the most resilient individuals.”

The support group was created with the intention of being a supportive and safe place to allow people to share their stories confidentially with those who have experienced similar loss.

The first grief support group meeting will be held on Saturday, December 16 in conference room #1 at Atlantic General Hospital from 10 a.m. through 11:30 a.m. There are no special or advanced requirements to attend, as well as no sign-ins at the door. Refreshments will be available for all who attend. Any questions can be directed to Gail Mansell at [gmansell@atlanticgeneral.org](mailto:gmansell@atlanticgeneral.org).

**class**

from page 2

are Certified Diabetes Educators.

Advance registration and a referral from your primary care provider (which the program can obtain) are required.

Diabetes Self-Management is a Medicare benefit and the cost of the classes is covered by most insurances.

Classes will be held on the following Tuesdays from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. on January 9, 16, 23 and 30,

They will occur at the Atlantic Health Center located at 9714 Healthway Drive in Berlin.

Please call 410-208-9761 for more information and to register.

**wine**

from page 10

cloves), and the *Skipjack* (a sweet, fruity Riesling).

A delicious recipe worth trying out this winter is Anthony's recipe involving the *Spiced Apple* wine. He says, "Put the wine in a crock pot along with slices of pear and chopped apple. Around the crock pot, set up some coffee mugs with a stick of cinnamon in each, and as your guests come in the house, you can serve them a delicious hot drink that will also have filled the house with wonderful aromas. It's fun and social, and it's what the wine experience is supposed to be." I encourage you to try the Liganore Winery if you're traveling through northwest Maryland. You may find yourself also joining their esteemed wine list. Happy Holidays!

**awards**

from page 7

residence in Ocean Pines. Seeing numerous vehicles frequent this residence at odd hours, and with computer information obtained about possible prostitution, Miller and Cpl. Tarr conducted a lengthy criminal investigation, which led to undercover solicitation, and arrests for prostitution and drugs. The dedication of Miller and Tarr to pursue this investigation from a simple traffic stop, helped break up a prostitution ring in Ocean Pines.

Recipient: PFC Maykel Suarez. During evening security patrol, PFC Suarez noticed a suspicious vehicle parked in Huntington Park. Through interrogation and investigation, PFC Suarez was able to make a drug distribution arrest and eventually recover 117 grams of suspected marijuana. He is recognized for his determination to take a suspicious vehicle incident and pursue it to a drug distribution arrest.

Recipient: PFC Dylan Miller. After stopping a vehicle for a traffic violation, PFC Miller noticed the driver acting in a nervous and unusually erratic manner. The driver provided a fictitious name and identity to PFC Miller. The investigation led the suspect to be correctly identified as a wanted subject with another name. Recovered from the vehicle were a concealed weapon and \$7,400 in counterfeit currency.

**experience**

from page 4

Machines, with the gift of an annual family membership to a County museum. Furnace Town Living Heritage Village, Julia A. Purnell Museum, Delmarva Discovery Center & Museum, and Ocean City Life-Saving Station Museum are just a few to get you started.

Book a Guided Eco-Tour, and get them on the water with Assateague Outfitters or Ayers Creek Adventures, rent a kayak or canoe from Pocomoke River Canoe Company, or charter an evening with Pocomoke River Cruises.

Birding Enthusiast Starter Pack. Plan a Worcester or Berlin Birding Weekend trip. Birding field guides & binoculars are a good start.

A Foodie Wallet filled with \$10 gift certificates to a handful of restaurant favorites for that special person who loves to dine out.

Through his tenacious efforts and investigation, Miller took a simple traffic stop and developed a counterfeit currency and concealed weapon arrest.

Recipient: PFC Ricky Kerrigan. While observing traffic and in stationary mode, PFC Kerrigan observed a single vehicle lose control, vault in a ditch and overturn several times, trapping the driver inside. The vehicle began to burn. PFC Kerrigan stabilized the victim, a 76-year-old female, and put out the fire with his fire extinguisher. He then contacted the fire department and attempted to remove the victim from the vehicle. With the later efforts of the fire department, the driver was removed and transported to a local hospital. PFC Kerrigan is recognized for his quick thinking and immediate response to a life-threatening incident.

Recipient: Lt. Greg Schoepf. In police work, it is not always what you do, but sometimes what you do not do. At the annual homeowner's meeting for Ocean Pines, Lt. Schoepf was designated as the Sergeant at Arms. His job was to keep order at the meeting, while utilizing discretion. During the meeting an irate citizen charged the podium, screaming at Board members about water in his ditches. Although Lt. Schoepf could have arrested the subject for disorderly conduct and created a public scene, he chose diplomacy, calming the homeowner down. He took a very public and video-based crisis and defused it. Numerous elected officials and residents remarked how professional and reassuring his actions were, reflecting positively on the department.

**Silver Star Award:** Awarded to any member of the police department who distinguishes him/herself conspicuously by gallantry and at the risk of his/her life. The Silver Star Award for 2017 went to PFC David Richardson.

As the result of a domestic complaint, a suspect was identified as having assaulted several individuals with a knife. The suspect was seen by PFC Richardson holding a knife and then retreating into a residence, barricading himself inside the residence and refusing to cooperate with police. Units of the Maryland State Police and Worcester County Sheriff's Office responded to assist at the scene. While the police chief was engaged in verbal conversation with the suspect, PFC Richardson and other units made forcible entry into the residence. Surprising the suspect, who was still armed with a knife, Richardson tackled the suspect and was able to take the knife away. The suspect was taken into custody, uninjured, and later charged with first degree assault. For risking his life, and not resorting to deadly force, PFC Richardson is awarded the department's highest honor.

Ocean Pines has a state certified, full service police agency that operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The department protects life and property, preserves the peace and enforces all state and county laws, including traffic laws, in a fair and impartial manner. All sworn officers attend 23 weeks of intensive police training at the Eastern Shore Criminal Justice Academy in Salisbury, Md. Upon graduation, all officers are certified by the Maryland Police Training Commission.

**tourney**

from page 3

place gross.

First-place net was won by Jay Graybill, Kenny Reed, Linwood Harmon and Matt Reed. Bryan Clark, George Vogelslang, Joe Sheehy and Neil Baker won second-place net. Third-place net was won by John Allen, Brandon Phillips, John Petito and Stan Botts.

The closest-to-the-pin contest was won by Steve Lennon, Ray Wankmiller, Tony Hughes and Stan Botts.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Eastern Shore makes meaningful mentorship matches between adult volunteers ("biggs") and children ("littles") ages 6-18. The organization provides the necessary training, resources and support necessary for those matches to succeed through community-based mentoring and site-based programs.

For more information about Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Eastern Shore, visit [www.shorebiglittle.org](http://www.shorebiglittle.org), email [info@shorebiglittle.org](mailto:info@shorebiglittle.org) or call 410-543-2447.



18th Annual  
Ocean Pines  
Community

Candlelight  
Christmas Eve  
Service

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

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



Come as you are...  
casual dress welcomed.

