

# The Courier

January

24

2018

Volume 18 Number 21

## AARP offers free tax prep

The AARP Foundation will offer free tax preparation for low-to moderate-income tax payers, on February 2 thru April 16 at several locations around Worcester County. The locations and days are: Ocean Pines library on Monday, Ocean City Senior Center on Saturday, Pocomoke City library on Friday and Salisbury/Mac Center on Tuesday. Volunteers will assist in e-filing returns but cannot prepare rental/business income.

Appointments for Ocean Pines and Ocean City locations may be made by calling 410-641-5036. Appointments for Pocomoke may be made by calling 410-957-0878. Appointments for Salisbury/Mac Center may be made by calling 410-376-3662. Tax assistance will be available from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. by appointment only.

## Dems to meet

The Democratic Women's Club of Worcester County will meet February 19 in the Assateague Room of the Ocean Pines Community Center. Coffee will be served beginning at 9:30 a.m. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. Jesse Colvin, a candidate for Congress in Maryland, and Jamie DeMarco will discuss how renewable energy will create jobs on the Eastern shore. For more information, call 410-973-1021.

## OCES pre-K registration to open

Ocean City Elementary School (OCES) will begin the registration process for the 2018-2019 Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten programs in February. Children who will be four years old on or before September 1, 2018 may be eligible for the OCES Pre-Kindergarten program. Space is limited and children from families who meet the federal income guidelines will be given priority enrollment.

Children who will be five years old on or before September 1, 2018 must register for Kindergarten. Children who are currently attending Pre-Kindergarten at OCES do not need to register for Kindergarten. They will be enrolled automatically in OCES Kindergarten. Please call Ocean City Elementary School at (410) 632-5370 beginning February 1 to schedule a registration appointment.



**Kindness** - First graders at Ocean City Elementary School showed kindness towards others by collecting hats, gloves, and scarves for the Worcester County Outreach Program this holiday season.

Top row from left to right: Evelyn Eade, Colton Rhoad, and Carly Watts. Bottom row from left to right: Cruz Smith, Elizabeth Garcia-Leon and Thomas Cantine.

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# Community Calendar JANUARY

## Safe boating classes to begin

The days are already getting longer. The boating season is rapidly approaching. Are you ready? Perhaps you are starting out in boating, or coming back to it. Regardless, the Maryland Basic Boating Class is a great opportunity to satisfy Maryland requirements and to get practical boating knowledge from state certified Coast Guard Auxiliary Instructors.

The Maryland Boating Safety Education Act requires that anyone born after July 1, 1972 must possess a Maryland Basic Boating Safety Certificate to operate a boat in the state of Maryland. Those attending the class and passing the test will receive a Maryland Boating Certificate.

Besides the state mandated material, the class will tap the local knowledge and experience of the certified instructors. Topics include: safely navigating and piloting about our Ocean City waters, how to tie basic nautical knots, how to identify bad weather and tactics for boating in foul weather, nautical terminology, boat trailering, and more. There are also discussions on maintenance and common medical issues that can occur while boating.

Even if you were born before 1 July, 1972, and can 'shiver your timbers' like a buccaneer, the Maryland Basic Boating Course is an ideal low-key environment to brush up on your general nautical knowledge and to build your boat handling confidence.

A class will be held February 6, 7 and 8 at the Ocean Pines library. The three-evening course will begin at 6 p.m. and end no later than 9 p.m. each evening.

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary will teach the state mandated Recreational Safe Boating Course at the Ocean Pines library five additional times on three consecutive week nights in 2018.

Cost for the course is \$15.00 and includes all course materials. Pre-registration is required. To register or if you have questions, please contact: Barry Cohen at 410-935-4807 or E mail CGAUXOC@Gmail.com



## Personal training info session set

The continuing education division at Wor-Wic Community College is offering an information session for anyone interested in becoming a certified personal trainer on Saturday, January 27, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., in room 109 of the Allied Health Building on the college campus on the corner of Route 50 and Walston Switch Road in Salisbury.

For more information and to register, contact Teresa Tyndall, Wor-Wic's continuing education director of allied health, at tyn-dall@worwic.edu<mailto:tyn-dall@worwic.edu> or 410-334-6781.

## 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.

## Tuscany trip planned

Tuscany is known for its landscapes, traditions, history, art, and of course, food and wine. It is regarded as the birthplace of the Italian Renaissance and contains many museums and art galleries. Florence is believed to have the largest concentration of Renaissance art and architecture in the world. It is also the home of Michelangelo's famous statue of "David."

Peninsula Regional Medical Center's Peninsula Partners is hosting a nine-day travel experience to explore Tuscany. Learn more about this unique travel opportunity brought to

you by Peninsula Partners and Collette, on Tuesday, February 27 at 1:30 p.m. This informative travel presentation will be held in the auditorium of the Avery W. Hall Educational Center on the Peninsula Regional Medical Center campus. Bruce Smith of Collette will highlight the Tuscany adventure and answer any questions about this experience. Travelers will depart on October 4 and return October 12.

Call 410-543-7766 or email rhonda.snyder@peninsula.org to reserve your seat for the presentation. You do not have to be a Peninsula Partner member to take advantage of this travel opportunity.

## Groove party scheduled

A "Let's Groove Tonight Party" will be held to benefit the Jesse Klump Suicide Awareness & Prevention Program. The event will occur on Thursday, February 1 between 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. at Sello's Italian Oven and Bar located at 9802 Golf Course Road in West Ocean City. The cost is \$75/person which includes music by DJ Wax, small plates, dessert bar, and wine tasting bar. Advance tickets are available at Sello's or at Baked Desserts Café located at 4 Bay Street in Berlin or at www.sellosoc.com.

## Taco night set

The Bishopville Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary will hold an all you can eat taco night on Friday, January 26 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The cost of tickets is \$10 for adults and \$6 for children under age 11. The menu includes beef, chicken and fish hard and soft tacos, beans and rice. Soda and water are separate. Call 443-880-6966 for more information.



**Marie Gilmore** (left), president of the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation, accepts a check from **Denise Sawyer** (right), director of marketing and public relations for the Ocean Pines Association, on January 18.

## Memorial benefits from club memberships

BJ's Wholesale Club, in partnership with the Ocean Pines Association, donated \$585 to the Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines as a part of its fall 2017 membership offer.

BJ's donated \$5 of each membership fee paid as a part of the promotion to the foundation in addition to offering special benefits for new and renewing club members.

Denise Sawyer, director of marketing and public relations for the Ocean Pines Association, presented a check to Marie Gilmore, president of the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation, on January 18.

"The Veterans Memorial Foundation is grateful for the continuing support of our community and business partners. These donations from B.J.'s Wholesale Club directly support our

Educational Outreach Program," Gilmore said.

The Educational Outreach program enables over 500 Worcester County fifth-graders to visit the memorial site and learn about the branches of the service, flag history and the sacrifices veterans have made to protect our freedoms.

Gilmore added, "The Veterans Memorial Foundation 100 percent supports these trips, paying for school buses and a student activity guide for each student to take home to continue the discussion at home. We are so very grateful to this community for their support."

Area residents who missed the fall BJ's promotion will have the opportunity to participate in the spring offer, which will run April 13 to 27.

## AGH receives 'best in benefits' award

This year, AGH has been recognized with a Best in Benefits Award for providing their associates with superior benefits packages among employers in the mid-Atlantic region. The Best in Benefits award recognizes employers who offer the best benefit plans relative to their peers. Using the plan designs, premiums, and contributions from employers in the Mid-Atlantic Benchmarking Survey, the benefit value and cost for each plan is calculated using proprietary actuarial cost models. Plans are then ranked by the lowest cost-highest benefit metric to determine who is Best in Benefits.

Only ten employers in the mid-Atlantic region received the award for 2017.

This is not the first time Atlantic General Hospital has been recognized for the benefits it provides to its associates. AGH received the 2016 and 2017 Wellness at Work gold tier award from Maryland's Healthiest Businesses for the quality of its employee wellness program and the employee assistance benefits offered to associates.

AGH employee health and wellness nurse, Tracey Mullineaux, said, "Because we're a hospital, we care deeply about wellness and the health of our associates. We recognized that if we had a healthy, productive workforce, we could give the care and support that our patients need. The healthier we are, the more productive we are, and the less absenteeism there is."

With this in mind, AGH created the Associates Getting Healthy wellness program in 2013. This program was implemented with the goals of providing opportunities for the associates to improve their health and wellbeing and control the high cost of providing health benefits. Those goals were achieved and results in creating a culture at AGH that helped associates begin or enhance a healthier lifestyle.

A case study was performed by Business Health Services (BHS), Atlantic General's wellness program partner that delved into how the hospital prioritizes wellness for its employees.

Since beginning the wellness program, there has been a marked improvement in employee health at AGH. Overall, 82 percent of associates participating in the wellness program are in a low to moderate blood pressure risk. For body mass index (BMI), a standard measurement used to determine overweight and obesity, 52% of participants are in a low to moderate risk category, with 16 having moved out of the high-risk category. Additionally, medical claims were 20% lower than expected in 2016 and thus far in 2017.

"We're not only providing competitive benefits to our employees, we're promoting a healthier lifestyle," said Jim Brannon, director of human resources at Atlantic General Hospital. "Our associates' wellness successes are testament to that."

## Recycling leads to art

During last summer's Art Adventure Camp in Ocean City, more than 150 children hand-colored 500 used plastic water bottles as part of an "up-cycle" project. The bottles were then cut into long curly ribbons and assembled into art, The Rainbow Tree.

The Rainbow Tree, a tall fountain of colorful plastic that glows in the light, is now on display for public viewing in the recreation room at the Ocean City Recreation & Parks Center located at 200 125<sup>th</sup> St. in Ocean City. The center is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., and the tree will be on display there until June 1.

Every year, the Art League of

Ocean City and the Ocean City Recreation & Parks Department jointly run the Art Adventure Camp for children ages six through 14 at the Ocean City Center for the Arts. In 2017, the four week-long sessions ran from July through August 3.

"Using art to repurpose things we throw away was a theme of last summer's camp," Rina Thaler, executive director of the Art League, said. "We wanted to inspire the children to look at an everyday, disposable object in a new and creative way. We hope to do something similar at this year's camp."

Children may register for the 2018 Art Adventure Camp by calling 410-250-0125.

## Tern Grille open for dining this winter

Area residents will not have to venture far this winter to enjoy a meal out. The Tern Grille, located in the heart of the community at Ocean Pines Golf Club, is now open on weekends for drinks and casual dining.

The opening of the Tern Grille coincides with the closure of The Cove at Mumford's, preserving a dining option within Ocean Pines.

The Tern Grille, located at 100 Clubhouse Drive, is open on Fridays and Saturdays from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. and on Sundays from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. It features a casual dining menu as well as a prime rib night, Sunday breakfast buffet and weekly football specials.

Prime rib is offered every Friday and includes prime rib, au jus, a baked

please see **dining** on page 15

# The Courier

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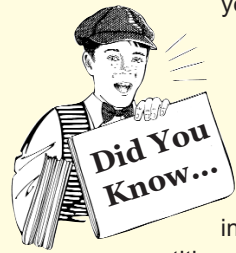
Ron Fisher, Douglas Hemmick, Jean Marx,  
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Robert B. Adair 1938-2007

## 2012 Business of the Year

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Aerial yoga is a relatively new form of the Hindu spiritual and ascetic discipline of yoga. Inspired by aerial gymnastics, calisthenics, pilates, and, of course, yoga, aerial yoga is sometimes referred to as "anti-gravity yoga."



This unique form of yoga involves the use of hammocks suspended from the ceiling that support practitioners' bodies, allowing them to work against gravity.

Popular aerial yoga poses include aerial lunges, the half boat pose, the reclining angle pose, and the one-legged king pigeon pose. Though aerial yoga is a recent phenomenon, those interested in pursuing this unique form of exercise can seek more information at local yoga studios. Unlike traditional yoga that many people can practice at home without supervision, aerial yoga participants should only perform the poses under the direction and supervision of professionals to reduce their risk of injury.

# Fifty years later, TET to be remembered

By **Sarge Garlitz**

On January 31 2008 the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the TET Offense of the Vietnam War was recognized and those who fought in this victory were honored by Post #166 American Legion. The TET 40 Wreath made by Rosie Garlitz was placed at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial by Leroy Hohman and Dennis Bowers.

Each year since then a wreath has been placed at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial on the January 31. This year the TET 50 wreath will be placed at noon at the Memorial to recognize the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Also, a moment will be taken for those who did not return from this victory.

When the TET took place, the media reported it incorrectly. There is no doubt it was a victory and that it made a difference. What follows is information about other U.S. military battles whose significance at first was not immediately recognized.

**Gettysburg** July 1-3, 1863: 23,000 Federal and 28,000 Confederate soldiers were killed in action. The Gettysburg Battle was not decisive and General Lee was able to retreat with his force mostly intact back into Virginia. Had Gettysburg ended with a severe defeat of the Confederacy as suffered by the Communists in TET, the American Civil War would have ended in 1863. In the TET Offense, the Viet Cong insurgents in the south were shattered as a fighting structure, and until the American participation in the war ended they had no more major role to play.

**Guadalcanal** (World War II, 1942): The first major allied land victory over the Japanese. Japan lost 25,000 combatants who were killed in action. American losses were 1,500 dead and 4,800 wounded. The number of Americans killed in action during TET was about the same of those killed in action on Guadalcanal. During TET more than 7,000 were wounded, a figure more that was two thousand higher than the number on Guadalcanal. Fighting on Guadalcanal in 1942 and early 1943 marked a turning point in the Pacific for U.S.

air, naval and ground forces. All battles after that campaign focused on taking terrain away from the enemy, and resulted in defeat after defeat for the Japanese. The same can be said of what happened in Vietnam. From the TET, until the political decision was made by the U.S. to disengage, never again was the enemy able to control the flow of battlefield events.



**Sarge Garlitz**

## TET Offense Facts 1968

There was fighting in 36 of 44 provincial capitals, five of six autonomous cities, 64 of 242 district capitals, and 50 hamlets. Every allied airfield was hit as were many different kinds of military installations and government facilities.

About 70,000 enemy troops actually participated the first day.

The enemy's attack against Tan Son Nhut Air Base, just outside Saigon, was a strike against the heart of the American effort in-country. MACV Headquarters was located on part of the installation. Beginning at 3:20 a.m. on January 31, 1968, four reinforced enemy battalions came against the west perimeter, while elements of two battalions attacked MACV itself. The defending force consisted of USAF personnel, mostly assigned to the base combat defense force, U.S. Army soldiers, some from Allied nations, and members of the Republic of Vietnam armed forces. The allied side, in the initial few hours of battle, suffered 55 dead and 163 wounded. There were 157 enemy bodies on the air base and another 267 were counted just outside the fence line. In all, it is estimated that 962 or more enemy died in the attack against Tan Son Nhut and facilities in its immediate area. The number of wounded are not known. As of February 23, 1968, 5,519 enemy were killed in the greater Saigon area.

Allied losses were great throughout the country. The South Vietnamese lost 3,000 soldiers and 8,000 wounded. U.S. losses were 1,500 killed and 7,764 wounded. About 800,000 people became refugees and the Communists are believed to have committed at least

6,000 murders.

The 77 day siege of Khe Sanh of the 6,000 U.S. Marines and handful of personnel from other services may have really been intended as a feint, with Hue being the true objective. About 500 Americans were killed at Khe Sanh. About 10,000 enemy soldiers are believed to have been killed at Khe Sanh, and it is suspected that more than 5,000 native Bru people of the region also died in the fighting. The siege began in January and was lifted in April 1968. There is no question, the U.S. Marines holding Khe Sanh as well as hilltop outposts and support by elements of the all branches of the services, completely defeated the enemy offensive.

The ancient imperial city of Hue was attacked January 31 and the enemy held parts of it for 26 days. In the fighting, 142 U.S. Marines were killed and 857 were wounded. The U.S. Army had 74 killed and 507 wounded. South Vietnam military lost 384 killed and 1,830 wounded. The enemy lost over 5,000 killed and 89 taken prisoner. More than 50% of the city was destroyed and more than 116,00 were made homeless.

January 31 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of this victory of the Vietnam War. At this time the anniversary should be recognized and the U.S. servicemen who served should be honored as should those heroes who never returned. To the Vietnam Veterans of Worcester County and the area it would be an honor to have you join us this year for the TET 50 at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial. Members of the newly formed Vietnam Veterans of America Ocean City Chapter #1091 will be attending and participating in the program.

There is no doubt in our minds that the U.S. flag and the State Flag should be flown at half-staff on this day and each year after. No doubt! Also, a reminder of all conflicts, the POW/MIA Flag should be flown at every location a U.S. flag is flown in the U.S. as it is in Maryland.

To all Vietnam Era Veterans, "Welcome Home."

*Sarge Garlitz is Commander of the South Eastern Shore District American Legion.*

# Universes found in reading

My granddaughter is learning to read. She's five years old. She may not yet realize it, but with each word she reads, she is expanding her universe and stretching her imagination. She has stepped across a threshold into a world of limitless possibilities. One of the first books she read by herself was "Clifford's First Easter."

Bobbsey Twins were popular as were the adventures of the Hardy Boys, Frank and Joe.

The joy of reading deserted me when I entered high school and was compelled to read all sorts of books from all sorts of genres: "The Catcher in the Rye," "Fahrenheit 451," "1984," "The Last of the Mohicans" and various works of William Shakespeare, which I admit bored me to distraction. There were many more books by many more authors that I had to read but have since put out of my mind.

College was no differ-

ent. As an English Communications major, all sorts of reading assignments were a part of my life. World Literature. American Literature. European Literature. Poetry. I did my best to get through the assignments and pass the tests or write the papers that were required. For the most part, I've forgotten what I read then. It's probably more like I've blocked it out.

Nonfiction holds an attraction for me. I've always enjoyed reading about history, especially American history,

specifically presidential history. David McCullough is one of my favorite authors. I've read several of his books more than once including his biographies on Harry Truman and John Adams as well as his tomes on the construction of the Panama Canal and the Brooklyn Bridge.

There are a couple of fiction books I've read repeatedly through the years including Edwin O'Connell's "The Last Hurrah," Joseph Heller's "Catch 22" and Herman Wouk's "The Caine Mutiny." Each is a very comfortable experience for me in which I get lost in the story.

In some ways I envy my granddaughter as she begins to explore the vast and varied universes found within the pages of a book. She still has before her the joy of reading for the first time, "The Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler" and so many others. What a lucky little girl.



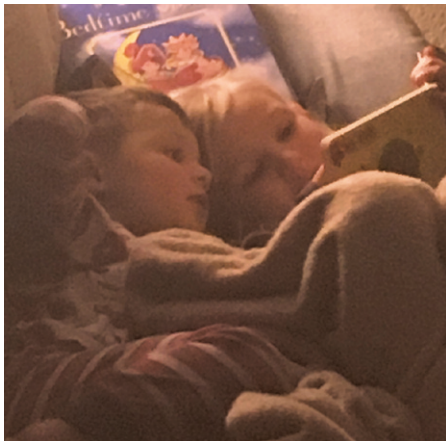
## It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

Many years have gone by since I learned to read. I do remember sitting in Sister Elizabeth Ann's first grade class and getting my first "reader." It was a Dick and Jane book. You may remember it: "See Dick run;" "See Jane play." Sister

would have the class sound out the words, prompting us when necessary as we tried to read; word after word, sentence after sentence, page after page until we made it through the book. At the time it was difficult. Looking back now, I can only imagine that Sister would have rather



watched paint dry than hear thirty first graders try to sound out words as if we had marbles in our mouths. She stuck it out though and so did we. In all honesty, I really don't think we had a choice.

One of the first books I remember reading by myself, outside of school, was, "Meet the North American Indians," one in the series of Step-Up books published by, I think, Golden Books. I was very proud of myself when I was able to sound out the word, "A-mer-i-can." Unfortunately, our dog Sammy also had an interest in books and devoured it in her own way.

I don't remember the first chapter book I read but I do remember the feeling of accomplishment and the sense of having arrived, when I was allowed to select a book from our school library that did not have blue tape on the binding. The blue tape indicated the book was an Easy Reader. The

## Worcester Preparatory School

508 South Main Street • Guerrieri Library Rotunda • Berlin, Maryland



### OPEN HOUSE

Tuesday, February 13, 2018 9:00 a.m.

**Admissions Testing for the 2018-2019 School Year**  
Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 11 - Saturday, February 17, 2018

Contact Tara Becker at 410-641-3575 or [tbecker@worcesterprep.org](mailto:tbecker@worcesterprep.org)  
Worcester Preparatory School is committed in its consideration and acceptance of students to the principles of non-discrimination on the basis of race, color, gender, religion and/or national and ethnic origins.



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## Choptank rate increase hearing rescheduled

The Maryland Public Service Commission has rescheduled a public hearing on a request by Choptank Electric Cooperative, Inc. to raise its electric distribution rates by \$8.3 million, an increase of 6.6 percent. Choptank is a member-owned, electric distribution co-op serving approximately 53,000 residential, commercial, and industrial members in all nine counties on Maryland's Eastern Shore. The hearing will be held on Thursday, February 1, at 7 p.m. at Choptank's Denton District Office located 24820 Meeting House Road (Routes 404 and 328) in Denton, MD

The hearing was initially scheduled for January 4, but was canceled

due to weather conditions. Members of the public who wish to comment on the matter are encouraged to attend the hearing before Public Utility Law Judge Ryan C. McLean.

As described in its application, Choptank requires an increase in its rates in order to recover the costs of providing service to its members. The proposed increase to Choptank's rates and charges will result in an increase on the bill of the average residential customer (using 1,000 kWh/month) of approximately \$9.10 per month.

The application and associated filings in the case are available in the electronic docket for Case No. 9459, which may be viewed or downloaded at [www.psc.state.md.us](http://www.psc.state.md.us).

Written comments referencing Case No. 9459 may also be sent by Wednesday, February 7, 2018 to: David J. Collins, Executive Secretary, Maryland Public Service Commission, William Donald Schaefer Tower, 6 St. Paul Street, Baltimore, MD 21202.



**Appreciation** - At their January 16 meeting, the Worcester County Commissioners extended their appreciation to county employees involved in snow removal to clear county roads and properties of ice and snow during the recent winter storm. Those in attendance at the meeting included Public Works Deputy Director **John Ross** (front row from left), and Emergency Services Director **Fred Webster**; Roads Supervisor **Keith Berdan** (second row, from left), Roads Superintendent **Frank Adkins**, Solid Waste Superintendent **Mike Mitchell**, Maintenance Superintendent **Ken Whited**, Maintenance Supervisor **Michael Hutchinson**, Emergency Services Assistant Director **James Hamilton**; and Commissioners **Jim Bunting** (third row, from left), **Chip Bertino**, **Merrill Lockfaw**, **Diana Purnell**, **Ted Elder**, **Bud Church** and **Joe Mitrecic**.

## New trips added for Delmarva Birding Weekend

With trips filling faster that organizers can keep pace, the Winter Delmarva Birding Weekend is adding new excursions for birders locked out of their favorite tours.

On Friday, January 26, organizers have added an afternoon trip to the duck-laden Berlin Falls Park and the private Golden Quarter Farm on Ayers Creek. Hooded mergansers, brown-headed nuthatches and wood ducks are common in winter on the historic farm.

On Saturday, January 27, guides will also be running more trips as needed. Would-be participants can

keep abreast of the changes at <http://delmarvabirding.com>. Folks can sign up any time during the weekend too on-line or by calling Jim at 443-614-0261.

Organizers have again planned an exciting schedule of field trips to showcase Delmarva's incredible diversity of winter wildlife. With the presence of Snowy Owls, Snow Buntings and Snow Geese this year, lovers of the outdoors could boast a rare snowy trifecta.

"This year is insane," said guide and event co-organizer Jim Rapp. "If there's a year to get all three in one weekend, this is it!"

In addition, the Harlequin Ducks, eiders, Purple Sandpipers, falcons and

*please see weekend on page 15*

**The LORD will surely save me  
So we will play my songs on  
stringed instruments** Isaiah 38:20

**We do that!**

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## Indoor yard sale to be held

The Bishopville Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary will hold an indoor yard sale at the main station on Saturday February 3. Tables are \$15 or 2 for \$25. The event will be held from 7 a.m. until noon. Breakfast sandwiches and beverages will be available for purchase. This will also be the pickup day for the fresh sausage sale. Call 443-880-6966 for more information or to rent a table.

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# Hogan submits budget; no tax increase, higher ed. funding

Governor Larry Hogan announced major items in the administration's fiscal year 2019 budget, which was submitted last Wednesday. The budget holds the line on spending without raising taxes, cutting services, or raiding special funds. The budget leaves nearly \$1 billion in reserves and continues, for the fourth straight year, to fund K-12 education at an all-time record level.

The administration's proposed budget is 100 percent structurally balanced, adheres to the legislature's Spending Affordability guidelines, and continues to deliver on the promise to grow our private sector, put more people to work, and turn our economy around. The budget also ensures that Maryland's most vulnerable populations have access to critical health care services and other important programs, and curbs the growth of legislative mandates.

"For nearly three years, our administration has pledged to bring fiscal restraint to Annapolis and to hold the line on spending, and we have," said Governor Hogan. "We vowed to fund priorities like education, transporta-

tion, and health care and we have done exactly what we said we would do."

The FY 2019 general fund operating budget totals \$17.7 billion and continues to make responsible investments in Maryland programs, including the administration's top priority, education. This year, the historic \$6.5 billion K-12 education budget goes above and beyond even the required statutory funding formulas, ensuring that every jurisdiction receives more direct education aid than in the previous fiscal year. There is also \$365 million set aside for school construction, the largest investment in a decade, bringing the administration's total new investments in school construction to \$1.4 billion.

As in previous years, the budget ensures that Maryland's most vulnerable citizens have access to the critical services they need. The budget includes more than \$11.5 billion for Maryland's Medicaid program, which currently provides health coverage to nearly 1.4 million Marylanders. Funding for the Autism Waiver is increased, enabling an additional 100 children to receive services in their community

rather than in more restrictive and expensive institutional settings. This budget also invests \$11.5 million in additional funding for the Child Care Subsidy Program, ending the waitlist and increasing subsidy rates paid to providers by 8 percent.

To continue aggressively addressing the heroin and opioid epidemic, an additional \$13.7 million is provided in combination with nearly \$160 million for substance abuse programs.

The budget fully funds important environmental programs including Program Open Space, the Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Coastal Bays 2010 Trust Fund, and the Maryland Park Service.

In spite of the administration's continued fiscal restraint and budgeting, legislatively forced spending increases continue to be an issue, causing spending to grow faster than revenues. Once again, the governor will submit legislation to limit the growth of these increases while preserving funding for critical areas like education and debt service payments.

"While our economy is growing and state revenue is projected to in-

crease by more than \$3 billion dollars over the next five years, over that same period spending is expected to increase by an additional \$4.5 billion dollars," said Governor Hogan. "Our administration has repeatedly cautioned against the unsustainable forced spending increases that currently account for 84 percent of the state's budget, and which have put our budget on auto-pilot for even more massive spending increases that we simply can't afford."

This budget also controls out year spending by once again holding the capital debt limit line at \$995 million a year. Years of over-borrowing by previous administrations have led to debt service becoming the fastest growing cost, on a percentage basis, in the general fund budget. Over the next 15 years, the state will save \$740 million by limiting debt issuances for the next five years to \$995 million level when compared to the recommendations of the General Assembly's Spending Affordability Committee.

The governor also reaffirmed his

*please see budget on page 8*

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**budget**

from page 7

intention to submit legislation to mitigate potential negative impacts stemming from recently enacted federal tax reform legislation.

“We expect to receive an analysis from Comptroller Peter Franchot in the next few weeks to determine how Maryland taxpayers will be affected,” said Governor Hogan. “However, it is very clear that due to the loss of several long-standing federal tax deductions and exemptions, Maryland state revenue will likely increase by hundreds of millions of dollars. Our legislation will protect our taxpayers and will mitigate potential negative impacts of these changes to state taxes.”

Below are highlights of the FY 2018 Budget:

**Investing in Education:**

-For the fourth consecutive year, the Hogan administration is providing record funding for K-12 education. The FY 2019 budget includes a \$6.5 billion state investment in Maryland’s public schools, fully funding state aid programs.

-Direct aid to local schools grows by \$139.2 million, or 2.5 percent.

-The budget goes above and beyond required statutory funding formulas to ensure that every Maryland jurisdiction receives more direct education aid than in FY 2018. Five jurisdictions will receive \$15.2 million in FY 2019 to ensure that their direct K-12 education formula aid grows by at least \$100,000 over FY 2018: Baltimore City (\$11.1 million), Cecil County

(\$3.4 million), Calvert County (\$540,610), Carroll County (\$99,799), and Garrett County (\$47,626).

-The budget includes \$855,000 to continue operations at eight P-TECH 9-14 schools in Maryland, all created as a result of a Hogan administration initiative. Graduates from Maryland’s P-TECH schools will earn their high school diploma and a two-year post-secondary degree in a STEM field from an accredited community college.

-The Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today (BOOST) Program grows by \$3.5 million to \$9 million, continuing the governor’s commitment to double funding for the program over three years. BOOST provides scholarships for low-income students in areas with under-performing schools to attend non-public schools, giving them the opportunity for a better education. This is in addition to the \$5.5 million increase approved by the General Assembly last year.

-The budget includes \$3 million in grant funding for local boards of education to implement policies and practices that address heroin and opioid addiction and prevention as part of the administration’s comprehensive approach to the opioid crisis.

-The governor’s budget provides \$1.38 billion in state funds to the University System of Maryland (USM), a 2.4 percent increase over FY 2018.

-For the third year in a row, tuition growth at Maryland’s public four-year institutions is held to 2 percent, helping to keep higher education affordable for Maryland taxpayers.

-The Sellinger program for Maryland’s independent colleges and universities is funded at \$49.8 million.

-The FY 2019 budget invests \$11.5 million in additional funding for the Child Care Subsidy Program to end the wait list and to increase subsidy rates paid to providers by 8 percent. Funding totals \$90.7 million in FY 2019.

-The Cade formula and grant funding for the local community colleges grows to a record level of \$261 million in FY 2019, or 2 percent over FY 2018. There is additional funding of \$2 million available for community colleges that limit tuition increases to no more than 2 percent in the 2018-2019 academic year.

**Creating Jobs and Expanding Opportunities for Businesses:**

-The Governor’s budget provides \$25 million in FY 2019 and an additional \$2.5 million in FY 2018 for the Maryland Economic Development Assistance Authority and Fund (MEDAAF), a substantial investment in the state’s most powerful tool to attract and grow businesses.

-Governor Hogan’s FY 2019 budget includes \$10 million for two new tax credits established under 2017’s More Jobs for Marylanders Act. The new credits will create thousands of jobs and attract businesses by reducing state taxes for manufacturing employers that create jobs in qualifying high-unemployment zones.

-The FY 2019 budget distributes a total of \$10 million from the “Sunny Day” Fund as part of the administration’s efforts to create and retain jobs in the state, including the final \$5 million payment to Northrop Grumman Corporation, and the first \$5 million payment to Marriott International, Inc., part of a multiyear, \$20 million commitment to ensure that Marriott’s headquarters remains in Maryland.

-Governor Hogan’s budget includes \$12 million for the Biotechnology Investment Incentive Tax Credit and \$2 million for the Cybersecurity Investment Incentive Tax Credit to capitalize on Maryland’s strategic advantages in these business sectors.

-Governor Hogan’s FY 2019 budget also includes funding for a \$33 million multi-year collaborative effort with the University System of Maryland to produce more graduates in key workforce areas such as science, engineering, and cybersecurity.

**Tourism and the Arts:**

-An all-time high of \$21.7 million to the Maryland State Arts Council, which provides grants, technical assis-

tance, and other support services for the arts.

-A combined total of \$13.1 million for the Office of Tourism Development, the state’s official marketing agency, and the Maryland Tourism Development Board to stimulate and promote travel and tourism in Maryland.

**Building for the Future – Transportation & Infrastructure:**

-\$2.9 billion in capital spending to improve transportation infrastructure and promote economic development.

-In addition to the \$178.1 million in Highway User Revenue funds, the budget includes \$53.7 million in capital grants to local jurisdictions to improve local roads and transportation facilities.

**Treatment, Safety, and Correctional Services:**

-In addition to \$159.3 million dedicated to existing, non-Medicaid substance use disorder and addiction programs, the FY 2019 budget includes \$13.7 million in spending to augment the state’s response to the heroin/opioid epidemic. This includes the second \$10 million installment in the governor’s five-year, \$50 million commitment, an additional \$3 million enhancement, and \$700,000 plus one new position to expand the efforts of the Opioid Operational Command Center.

-In fulfillment of the state’s commitment to increase its capacity to accept court-ordered placements for behavioral health treatment, the FY 2019 budget supports the addition of 82 treatment beds in state facilities as well as expanded access to treatment in the community. The budget provides an additional \$3.4 million in FY 2018, \$8.1 million in FY 2019, and 33 new positions toward this end.

-Police aid to local governments and municipalities is funded at \$74.5 million in FY 2019. Local law enforcement grants total \$35.3 million and include an additional \$2 million each for the new Maryland Criminal Intelligence Network and a new program of school safety grants for schools and child care centers.

-Consistent with goals of the Justice Reinvestment Act, an additional \$1.2 million is provided in FY 2019 to establish a new Community Adult Rehabilitation Center, expanding community assistance, substance abuse programs, rehabilitative services, and job readiness training for DPSCS’s

please see **budget** on page 15



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# Governor honors Century Farm families

Governor Larry Hogan recently honored Maryland's farm families for their commitment to farming and leadership in preserving agricultural land by presenting Century Farm designations to nine families from six counties who have farmed the same land for more than 100 years. Since the program began in 1994, 182 farms, about one percent of the state's 12,200 farms, have received the Century Farm designation. Four of those have received the Tricentennial Farm designation and 26 have received the Bicentennial Farm designation.

"We are proud to celebrate our state's strong agricultural history by honoring our century farms, as well as some of our great Maryland farm families," said Governor Hogan. "Together, we have made incredible progress over the past 3 years, and our farmers and our agriculture community have been an important partner and a key part of that success."

The Maryland Century Farm Program was established in 1994 by Governor William Donald Schaefer to recognize farms that have been in the same family for at least 100 consecutive years, contain a minimum of 10 acres of the original parcel, and gross annual income of \$2,500 or more from the sale of farm products. The Century Farm Program honors families who have passed their farming operations down from generation to generation, making it possible for future stewards of the land to continue in their family tradition. The Hogan administration re-established this annual tradition last year for Maryland farm families after it had been halted for the past 10 years. The last ceremony was held in 2007.

"The best agricultural preservation program is an economically healthy agriculture industry," said Maryland Secretary of Agriculture Joe Bartenfelder. "Farming has formed the foundation of our nation's economy for hundreds of years. The farm families we honor today are stewards of the land who have maintained family traditions and a continuity of agriculture important to our communities and our economy."

The honorees included two farms in Worcester County and one in Wicomico County.

Shockley Farms (Snow Hill, Worcester County). Currently owned by Curtis Shockley, this 166-acre farm was originally purchased in 1897 by Curtis's great-grandfather Elijah J. Shockley. Today, 71 percent of the land is used for crops and 28 percent is woodland. Shockley Farms grows potatoes, tomatoes, wheat, corn and soybeans in addition to raising beef cows, pigs and sheep. Shockley was the first farmer to go 100 percent continuous no-till farming in Worcester County in 1984. This farm has developed several programs on its property including the Timber Harvest in 1957 and 1997, and the Tree and Shrub Establishment in 1993. Over the years, many Native American artifacts have been found on the farm's property.

William Watson Farm (Stockton, Worcester County). Purchased in 1914 by W.P. Watson, who was the great-grandfather of current owner Curt Lambertson, this farm totals 131 acres divided into three parts: 90 acres used for cropland, three acres for pasture and 38 acres of woodlands. The original home was built in

1922 and is still being used today. The William Watson Farm produces corn, soybeans, wheat, cotton, tomatoes and potatoes. They also raise horses, mules, cattle and hogs.

Perdue Family Farms (Salisbury, Wicomico County). This 41-acre operation has grown from a 4-acre purchase on October 20, 1916 by Arthur W. Perdue, grandfather of current owner Jim Perdue. Originally 100 percent of the land was used for crops, but today 35 percent of the

land is used towards development and 5 percent contains solar panels. The farm produces corn, soybeans and wheat. The family also raises chickens on the property. The present home dates back to 1917 and is still in use today. Perdue Farms was officially founded by Arthur Perdue in 1920.

Maryland currently has 12,200 farms averaging 166 acres in size with a gross annual income of \$2 billion.

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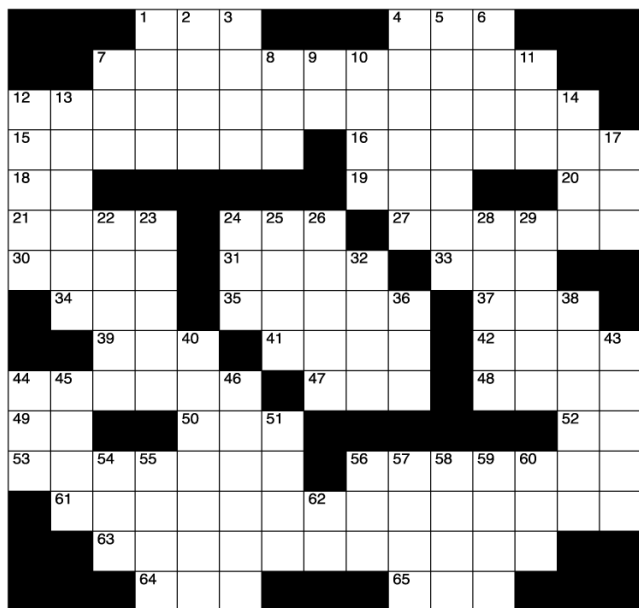


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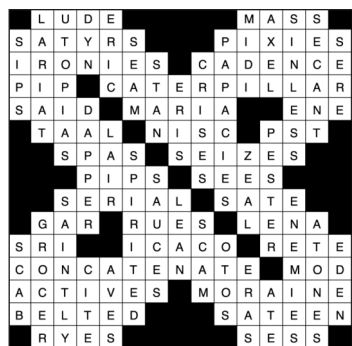


**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Measurement (abbr.)
- 4. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
- 7. Sorting
- 12. Attribute
- 15. Poked holes in
- 16. Angers
- 18. Doc
- 19. MLB journeyman pitcher Dillon
- 20. Not don't
- 21. Snubs someone
- 24. Where kids bathe
- 27. One might be in distress
- 30. Chair
- 31. Music industry honors (abbr.)
- 33. Dash
- 34. Owed
- 35. Caucasian language
- 37. One thousand (Span.)
- 39. Musical style drum and bass
- 41. Evergreen trees native to warm climates
- 42. Begin \_\_: start fresh
- 44. Marshy outlets
- 47. A chicken lays one
- 48. Yemen's largest city
- 49. Conversion rate
- 50. Single Lens Reflex
- 52. Atlanta rapper
- 53. Reduce the importance of
- 56. Faces of buildings
- 61. Something achieved
- 63. Distribute again
- 64. Tooth caregiver
- 65. 007's creator

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Skater Lipinski
- 2. Data
- 3. Single step
- 4. Destroyed financially
- 5. Fail to interpret correctly
- 6. Fava d'\_\_: tree found in Brazil
- 7. Vehicle
- 8. Limited
- 9. Old English
- 10. Aussie golfer Norman
- 11. Job
- 12. Loose-fitting undergarments
- 13. Protected by balancing
- 14. Give up
- 17. Fifth note of a major scale
- 22. Extravagantly bright
- 23. Takes dictation
- 24. 19th letter of Greek alphabet
- 25. Rounded knob (biology)
- 26. French philosopher Pierre
- 28. Mothers
- 29. Dardic ethnic group
- 32. Supports the rudder
- 36. An ugly evil-looking old woman
- 38. Of a fasting time
- 40. Filled with passengers
- 43. Below the ribs and above the hips
- 44. Binary-coded decimal
- 45. 51 is a famous one
- 46. Goes into a funk
- 51. Chief O'Hara actor
- 54. Videocassette recorder
- 55. Scored perfectly
- 56. Type of tree
- 57. \_\_ Spumante (Italian wine)
- 58. Popular commercial "pet"
- 59. Supreme god of Ancient Egyptians
- 60. Room in a home
- 62. \_\_ and behold



Answers for Jan. 17

For the Love of Travel

# Tibet and a story of searching for a better life

By Kelly Marx

I found my 10-day tour in Tibet both awe-inspiring and enlightening. The country has a powerful, unifying religion that binds people together. After my local tour guide shared with me his amazing story, I saw a different side of Tibet that I'd heard about but wasn't sure was true. China considers Tibet an "Autonomous Region," implying that Tibetans have rights and control. Unfortunately, this is not the case. In the 16th century when the Mongol King gave the ruler of Tibet, a Buddhist Lama, the title of Dalai (which means "Ocean of Knowledge"), politics and religion became inextricably woven into the fabric of Tibet.

Of the 30 countries I have now visited, it struck me that nowhere have I seen oppression like what the Tibetan people are forced to endure in their own land. Security checkpoints are everywhere and identification is mandatory. Without one, you are not only barred from many sites, including monasteries, but you could be jailed for an indeterminate amount of time. Even with identification, do not expect to get a passport until you are older and deemed less of a threat, if you ever get one at all. My tour guide (I will call him "G") has been trying to get his passport for more than a year, and he is no closer now than when he started.

G's story is nothing short of remarkable. When G was nine, his parents paid a Nepali smuggler to take him over the border from China into India. He walked for more than 15 days with four other boys whose parents sent them away for a better education and greater acceptance of their beliefs. One of the boys had the typical Tibetan red cheeks which the smugglers rubbed with dark powder to make him look more Nepali. Another had a very small nose, also a Tibetan trait, and the smugglers dressed him as a girl. These two boys were put on one bus with two smugglers and G and the other boy were put on the other. When border agents in Nepal arrested the two smugglers from the other bus, the boy on the bus with G started to cry. G was afraid people were going to realize he was also not Nepali and he ran from the bus. He ran until he found a hole to hide in

and eventually, he fell asleep. When he woke up, he made his way back to the bus area in the dark. Thankfully, he found it empty and he spent the rest of the night in the trash heap next to a building to keep warm and hidden. When he took off on foot the following day, two other Nepali men came across his path. The men demanded money in order to facilitate his passage into India. He gave them the spare money he had in his front pocket, careful to not draw attention to his back pockets where most of the money lay.

When his feet finally touched Indian soil, G was asked where he wanted to go. He began to cry because he didn't know. The smugglers took him to Northern India where there were escaped Tibetans and foreigners working to help the Tibetan cause. An escaped Tibetan asked G where he wanted to be taken and all G could think of was that his father wanted him to go to school. G made his home there and stayed until he was 22 years old. There, he studied Buddhism, Hindi, and English. In particular, he loved the music and meeting the Dalai Lama, who is currently in exile from Tibet after riots broke out in 1959 over land policies and religious restrictions that the Chinese imposed upon their invasion in 1950.

As background, during the Cultural Revolution, thousands of monasteries were completely destroyed, as were the relics and cultural items inside. The Chinese saw themselves as "Liberators of Tibet," and still do. While his photo is allowed nowhere in Tibet, the Dalai Lama is still revered. He received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989 for his tireless efforts toward a peaceful solution to what is happening in Tibet at the hands of those in power in Beijing.

G was able to sneak back across the border into Tibet without incident until his peace was disrupted in 2008. That will be the subject of my second article on Tibet. I couldn't help but feel for G during the telling of his story, so I hope that by sharing his story, it does a small part in illuminating the Tibetan people's ongoing struggle to be a free and independent people.

## DAISY award honors PRMC nurse

Nursing staff can be confronted with difficult situations – it takes a special skill to turn these situations



Joy Andrews, RN

positive. Joy Andrews, RN, at Peninsula Regional Medical Center, has that skill thanks to her kindness and compassion, and for that she has earned the Daisy Award for Extraordinary Nurses.

The staff on Andrews' floor had been confronted by an angry visitor who claimed they had broken her glasses. But after a little investigation, the visitor admitted she had made up the story because she couldn't afford a new pair. Andrews, who works on the 3 Layfield medical-surgical unit, took time to talk with the woman. She found the woman's glasses were so old and scratched, she couldn't even see out of them anymore, and she had no resources to get to a vision center or pay for glasses. Joy found an older pair of glasses and a case at home, and brought them in with her the next day. She gave the visitor the glasses – Joy says the woman exclaimed, "I can see!" when she tried them on. But Joy didn't stop there. She educated the woman on low-cost resources in the area to have her vision checked and new custom glasses made. Joy's kindness went beyond a simple commitment to customer service. She reached out and saw a human in need, and helped. Her colleagues say they feel fortunate she brings her caring heart to the bedside at Peninsula Regional every day.

For making such a difference in

the lives she touches, Andrews was honored with the Daisy Award in a ceremony before her colleagues. She received a certificate commending her for being an extraordinary nurse. The certificate reads: "In deep appreciation of all you do, who you are, and the incredibly meaningful difference you make in the lives of so many people." She was also presented with fresh flowers on behalf of the Peninsula Regional Medical staff, and a sculpture called A Healer's Touch, hand-carved by artists of the Shona Tribe in Zimbabwe. To nominate an exceptional nurse, visit [www.peninsula.org/DaisyAward](http://www.peninsula.org/DaisyAward) and share a story.

The not-for-profit DAISY Foundation is based in Glen Ellen, CA, and was established by family members in memory of J. Patrick Barnes. Patrick died at the age of 33 in late 1999 from complications of Idiopathic Thrombocytopenic Purpura (ITP), a little-known but not uncommon auto-immune disease. The care Patrick and his family received from nurses while he was ill inspired this unique means of thanking nurses for making a profound difference in the lives of their patients and patient families.

President and Co-Founder of The DAISY Foundation Bonnie Barnes said, "When Patrick was critically ill, our family experienced firsthand the remarkable skill and care nurses provide patients every day and night. Yet these unsung heroes are seldom recognized for the super-human work they do. The kind of work the nurses at PRMC are called on to do every day epitomizes the purpose of The DAISY Award."



Pictured from left are Craft Club President **Sharon Puser**, **Jim Hamlin**, Neighborhood Watch, **Nate Wilkins**, Ocean Pines Public Works, **Julie Messick**, Ocean Pines Branch library, **Marie Gilmore**, Veterans Memorial, and **Debbie Donahue**, Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks..

## Craft club presents donations

The Pine'eer Craft Club of Ocean Pines presented donations to various community organizations. The donations represent proceeds from their August Craft and Artisan Festival, their November Winter Wonderland Craft and Artisan Fair, and profits from the Artisan and Craft Shop the group sponsors in White Horse Park. The 2017 donations totaled \$5,300. Over the more than 40 years the club has been in existence they have donated approximately \$136,427 back to the community of Ocean Pines.

The presentations were made prior to the club's annual Installation/Holiday luncheon held in December. The event was held at the Captain's Table Restaurant in Ocean City.

Donations were presented as follows: \$1,500 to Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks, \$500 to Ocean Pines Public Works

Department, \$300 to Ocean Pines Branch library, \$400 to the Veterans Memorial and \$100 to the Neighborhood Watch organization. Additional donations to be presented in January include \$1,500 to Ocean Pines Police Department and \$1,000 to Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department.

The craft shop sponsored by the group is located across from the Ocean Pines Community Center in White Horse Park. It is open every weekend year-round on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Handmade/hand-crafted items are available for sale. The group meets at the Ocean Pines Community Center on the third Thursday of each month. Guests are always welcome. Call Sharon (410-208-3032) for more information.

## Send Valentines Day greetings to veterans

Start the year off by thanking a veteran with a Valentine card that says thank you for your service. For the 18th year, cards will be sent to four veteran rehab medical centers to thank them for their sacrifices and to let them know they are loved, appreciated, and not forgotten. All area schools, clubs, businesses, organizations, and individuals are invited to participate with purchased cards (no youth cards, please), but home-made cards are particularly appreciated. No postage is necessary and the card is addressed to "A Veteran." Through the generosity of Linda Dearing and the Copy Central staff, the cards, plus some candy, will be delivered to Charlotte Hall Veterans Hospital, Baltimore Rehab Center, Baltimore VA Medical Center, and Perry Point Hospital. Drop off locations are: Shamrock Realty Group, 11049 Racetrack Rd, Ocean Pines; Copy Central, Cathell RD, Ocean Pines; the Ocean Pines library, the Ocean Pines Community Center and Recreation and Parks Building, and other locations as they become available. The deadline is Wednesday, January 24. For more information, call 410-208-9390 or email at [ultima-teenergy@verizon.net](mailto:ultima-teenergy@verizon.net) This project is sponsored by Caring for America, a mission of the Republican Women of Worcester County.

## 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., Jan. 25	1:08 a.m. 1:28 p.m.	7:31 a.m. 7:48 p.m.	7:11 a.m.	5:15 p.m.
Fri., Jan. 26	2:11 a.m. 2:31 p.m.	8:35 a.m. 8:45 p.m.	7:10 a.m.	5:16 p.m.
Sat., Jan. 27	3:14 a.m. 3:34 p.m.	9:40 a.m. 9:45 p.m.	7:09 a.m.	5:17 p.m.
Sun., Jan. 28	4:15 a.m. 4:34 p.m.	10:44 a.m. 10:45 p.m.	7:09 a.m.	5:18 p.m.
Mon., Jan. 29	5:13 a.m. 5:31 p.m.	11:43 a.m. 11:43 p.m.	7:08 a.m.	5:19 p.m.
Tues., Jan. 30	6:09 a.m. 6:27 p.m.	12:38 p.m.	7:07 a.m.	5:21 p.m.
Wed., Jan. 31	7:02 a.m. 7:21 p.m.	12:38 a.m. 1:29 p.m.	7:06 a.m.	5:22 p.m.

## Reasons to spay or neuter pets now

Upon adopting a companion animal, one of the first decisions pet parents should make, advise veterinarians and animal welfare experts, is to spay or neuter their new friend.

Homeless animals are a global problem. Overpopulation continues to plague dogs and cats, and there are as many as 300,000 homeless animals euthanized in animal shelters every year, says The Humane Society of the United States.

While many would be quick to assume these are puppies and kittens of “street” animals, the society notes that euthanized animals are often the offspring of family pets, even pure breeds.



Spaying females and neutering males is the most effective method of birth control for these popular pets. Preventing unwanted offspring might be the main reason many pet owners spay or neuter their pets. But there are many additional reasons that make spaying and neutering a good decision.

The ASPCA says spaying helps prevent uterine infections and breast tumors that are malignant in roughly 50 percent of dogs and 90 percent of cats. Spaying before a cat’s first heat is ideal.

*USA Today* reports that neutered male dogs live 18 percent longer than dogs that were not neutered, while spayed female dogs live 23 percent longer than those that are not spayed. Neutering reduces the instinct to roam and get into trouble, which may contribute to the longer life expectancy.

Neutering can help prevent testicular cancer in male pets.

Spayed females will not go into heat. During heat, which can occur four to five days at a time, every three weeks during mating season, females may yowl and urinate around the house.

WebMD says non-neutered male dogs and cats may mark their territory with urine and can be more aggressive during mating seasons. Neutering can help calm the animals.

HSUS states that neutering and spaying is the best way to prevent overpopulation and improves the chances that shelter pets will be adopted.

Contrary to popular belief, spaying and neutering pets will not cause weight gain. As long as pet parents continue to provide exercise and control their pets’ diets, pets will remain fit and in good health.

It is best to discuss neutering and spaying with a veterinarian to determine the best time for pets to undergo the procedure. Many cats and dogs can be successfully neutered and spayed at around eight weeks of age, but older pets can be spayed or neutered as well.



**Honored** - *The Ocean City Lions Club has presented Courtesy Chevrolet-Cadillac of Salisbury with its highest and most prestigious community service award, “The Pride.” The “Pride Award” is given to individuals and businesses that make contributions to the OC Lions Club, who take interest in the club and who help the Lions make our community a better place.*

*Courtesy Chevrolet-Cadillac of Salisbury has been a long-time contributor to the Ocean City Lions Club by furnishing a new Cadillac as a “Hole in One” prize at the Lions annual “Wounded Warriors” Golf Tournament and without their support the tournament would not be as successful. With Courtesy’s help, the Ocean City Lions Charities has raised over \$339,000 for the benefit of our military personnel injured in armed conflicts while serving the United States of America.*

*Picture, left to right: Ocean City Lion Norm Cathell presents “The Pride Award” to Brod Records, sales manager of Courtesy Chevrolet-Cadillac of Salisbury.*

## Changing parenting roles for dads

Parenting roles continue to evolve as families look for solutions that meet all of their needs. In an effort to meet the financial demands of raising a family, parents may be taking on less traditional roles. For example, many fathers are now stay-at-home dads.

The number of stay-at-home fathers continues to climb. The Pew Research Center indicates that roughly 550,000 men have become full-time stay-at-home parents in the previous 10 years.

Economics have forced many couples to make less traditional decisions for their families. The National At-Home Dad Network says the stay-at-home dad is a growing trend because men want to be more involved with their kids.

The following factors may give families pause to consider swapping parental stereotypes in favor of stay-at-home fathers.

**Earning potential:** Money is very often a factor in deciding that Mom will be the breadwinner and Dad will be the caregiver. In the event

one parent earns considerably more money than the other, and paying for childcare so both parents can work would be a detriment to the family, it can make sense to have the higher earner be the sole breadwinner.

**Personalities:** Some women simply see themselves thriving more in the workforce than as a primary caregiver at home, while some dads want to be home with their children and do not measure success in job titles or income. These scenarios make the stay-at-home dad model more plausible.

**Open-mindedness:** If the situation does not affect the children, and grandparents and other supportive people in the kids’ lives are amenable to the idea, then accepting less traditional roles can be successful.

**Traditional family roles** are increasingly falling by the wayside as both men and women put their families first and make decisions based on what is best for all members of the family.

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**budget**

from page 8

pre-release population.

-The budget includes \$6.9 million to improve retention of Correctional Officers at state facilities.

-The FY 2019 budget for the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services includes \$1.4 billion to house and rehabilitate a population of nearly 19,000 inmates, detain arrestees, house pretrial offenders, and supervise nearly 70,000 individuals in the community. This year, the correctional population is projected to fall below 19,000 for the first time since 1992.

**Protecting the Environment:**

-The fiscal year 2019 budget marks the first time since 2008 that no funding for transfer tax programs, including Program Open Space, is diverted to the General Fund. Programs funded by the transfer tax receive \$253 million, an increase of \$67 million from FY 2018.

-The Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays 2010 Trust Fund receives \$52.9 million in FY 2019, marking the third year in a row that the Hogan administration has fully funded Bay restoration efforts. Funding for the 2010 Trust Fund under the Hogan administration exceeds the amount pro-

**dining**

from page 3

potato and vegetable. The price is \$14.99 for 12 ounces of prime rib and \$18.99 for 16 ounces.

A breakfast buffet, served Sundays from 9 a.m. until noon, is \$12.99 for adults and \$7.99 for children and includes a variety of traditional breakfast favorites including scrambled eggs, potatoes and onions, French toast, pancakes, bacon and sausage, sausage gravy and biscuits and an omelet and waffle station. Bloody Mary and mimosa drink specials are also available.

After undergoing an extensive expansion and renovation in 2017, the Tern Grille has ample table and bar seating and sweeping views of the golf course's 18<sup>th</sup> hole.



vided in the prior four years by 80 percent.

-Total funding for Maryland State Parks under the Hogan administration exceeds the level provided during the prior four years by 25 percent.

**Health Care and Public Safety Net:**

The FY 2019 budget includes more than \$11.5 billion for Maryland's Medicaid program, which currently provides basic health coverage to nearly 1.4 million Marylanders, including more than 147,000 children through the Maryland Children's Health Program.

-The Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS), which promotes the employment and independence of individuals with disabilities, receives \$123.3 million in FY 2019, an increase

**weekend**

from page 6

more than 25 species of duck, goose and swan are on full display in the mid-Atlantic for about four months a year. More than 105 species were tallied in 2017.

The only way to see these birds is to shed those winter blues, dust off the binoculars, and get outside. Seals are a huge draw too with close-up looks at Harbor and Gray Seals on the breakwaters in Delaware Bay during the Lewes Boat Trip that departs from Fisherman's Wharf.

"We enjoy such a big difference in bird species in winter and spring that it just made sense to host two weekends," said Worcester County Tourism Director Lisa Challenger. Now waterfowl, raptor, and songbird lovers can enjoy an arctic experience on the Peninsula.

Guided by fun-loving local birders with decades-long experience on the shore, the walking tours and boat trips accommodate visitors from the curious nature lover to fowl fanatics. Last year, birdwatchers from surrounding states flocked to the winter event.

"Most folks have no idea how spectacular the winter birding is down here," said Rapp. "The sheer number of Bald Eagles and ducks is mind boggling. We're hosting the

of \$1.6 million. In the past year, the DORS wait list has fallen by 33 percent.

-Funding for Autism Waiver services grows by \$2.7 million to \$24.4 million, enabling an additional 100 children to receive services in their community rather than in more restrictive and expensive institutional settings. Under the Hogan administration, the number of children served by the program has grown by 20 percent.

-Nearly \$52 million is provided in FY 2019 to fund a 2 percent rate increase for behavioral health service providers and a 1 percent rate increase for most other health care and group home providers. This budget includes \$11 million for the Developmental Disabilities Administration to benefit di-

event on the weekend between the NFL playoffs and the Super Bowl, so we hope you'll get off the couch, bundle up, and get outdoors!"

The winter trips feature a near-shore maritime boat cruise to enjoy pelagic and arctic migrants, waterfowl and eagle-watching trips, and jaunts in Delaware and Maryland through some of the most pristine habitats on the East Coast.

Indeed participants recount the event in terms of experiences rather than simply observing birds — thousands of Snow Geese lifting off a farm field, a majestic Bald Eagle soaring over the marsh, Long-tailed Ducks bobbing on the waves at the inlets, or the eerie hoot and shadow of owls at dusk. An outdoor experience is the true draw.

The Delmarva Peninsula is one of the country's premier birding areas, thanks to an extensive variety of habitat protected by coastal parks, refuges, and wildlife management areas. More than 400 bird species have been recorded in the region and previous Weekend tallies have topped 200 species.

"Delaware is teeming with bird species in winter," said Southern Delaware Tourism Director Scott Thomas. "And this is a great place to experience them."

If seeing so many bird species isn't

rect care workers serving some of Maryland's most vulnerable citizens.

-An additional \$17.6 million is included to bring physician rates under Medicaid up to 93 percent of Medicare rates.

-The FY 2019 budget includes \$1 billion in federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits for more than 364,000 households, \$3.1 million in supplemental SNAP benefits for more than 18,000 households with a member aged 62 or greater, \$116.4 million in heating and electricity assistance benefits for 218,000 households, and \$29.5 million to provide cash, medical, and housing benefits to 13,000 people with disabilities.

enough, participants should feel even better knowing that they've helped Delmarva's birds by promoting birding and habitat conservation. Birders, both novice and experienced, make an important statement about the economic value of birds and their habitats through the money they spend in local hotels, restaurants, and shops. Participants are encouraged to remind local businesses that they are here to enjoy Delmarva's natural areas and the birds that inhabit them.

"It's our vast shallow bays and large tracts of protected marshes and Bald Cypress forests that make the Delmarva Peninsula one of the finest birding regions in the nation," said guide and event co-organizer Dave Wilson. "During the Weekends, our guests will hike on private farmland and woodland that are normally off-limits to birders, and our waterborne trips go where the birds are. It's amazing to tally 100 species in a single day on light hikes and boat trips in our own backyard."

Gift certificates and customized private birding tours are available for the birder in your life.

The Spring Delmarva Birding Weekend, held April 26-29, celebrates the migration of the spring suite of warblers, shorebirds, waterfowl and raptors. Registration will open later this month. In addition, 2018 continues the Beans, Birds, and Beers day-trip series, starting in February and continuing throughout the year all over the Lower Shore. Participants can enjoy local coffee, birds, and craft brews on half- or full-day excursions.





**Dance fun** - Some of members of the Ocean Pines Line Dancers attended the annual benefit sponsored by Scooter Lee, *Dancing the Dream* in Ft. Myers, FL on January 13. Shown above are **Jo Thompson Szymanski, Kathy Havey, Dot Danner, Janet O'Brien, Scotter Lee, Suzanne Wilson, Betty Daughtery and Suzanne Wilson.**

**RWWC to meet**

The Republican Women of Worcester County will host their January luncheon meeting on Thursday, January 25, at the Captains Table Restaurant, located at 15<sup>th</sup> Street at Baltimore Ave., Ocean City. Several speakers will discuss what is happening at the County, State and Federal levels. Commissioner Chip Bertino will cover Worcester County, Pat Schrawder will handle state activities, Carol Frazier will discuss federal legislation and Liz Mumford will talk about the Worcester County Commission for Women. Cost of the luncheon is \$20 per person. Doors open at 10:30 a.m. and the meeting begins at 11 a.m. To make your reservation or for more information, please contact Ann Lutz at [annlutz60@gmail.com](mailto:annlutz60@gmail.com) or at 410-208-9767.



Left: Star Charities President **Anna Foulz** and General Levin Winder Chapter Regent **Patricia Ayers**. Right: Jesse Klump Memorial Fund President **Kim Klump** and General Levin Winder Chapter Regent **Patricia Ayers**.



**DAR recognizes community service**

The General Levin Winder Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) presented two local women with a DAR Community Service Award at its recent fundraiser luncheon and meeting. The award was established to give chapters the opportunity to recognize worthy individuals in their communities for outstanding unpaid voluntary achievements in cultural, educational, humanitarian, patriotic, historical, citizenship, or environmental conservation endeavors. Anna Foulz, president of Star

Charities, was recognized for her dedication and countless volunteer hours in support of military personnel and veterans as well as for promoting good citizenship in young women through Girl Scouts. Kim Klump, president of Jesse Klump Memorial Fund, Inc., was recognized for channeling her grief into a community-wide suicide awareness and prevention program and the scholarships provided to students demonstrating a willingness to help others. Regent Patricia Ayes presented each with a certificate and lapel pin. They also received a portion of the luncheon proceeds for their respective organizations.

# Tern Grille

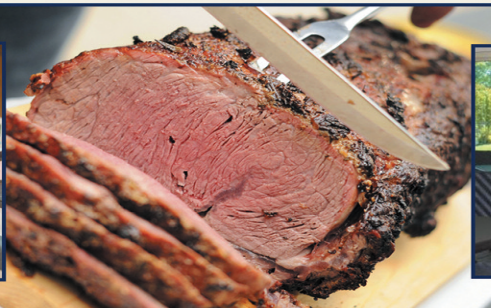
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