

Annual Finnegan's Wake scheduled

Traditionally, an Irish Wake marks the end of someone's life, but this year in Ocean City it marks the start of the lively and rousing St. Patrick's festivities when the Friends of Worcester County Developmental Center (WCDC) holds its 6th annual Finnegan's Wake Saturday, March 3, in Seacrets Morley Hall.

The event is a mock Irish funeral inspired by the traditional Irish song of the same name. The doors to Morley Hall open at 4:30 p.m., and the evening's festivities will commence at 5:15 p.m. with the funeral procession winding its way through Morley Hall led by the Ocean City Pipes and Drums. Included in the cortege will be St. Patrick, clergy members, mourners, pall bearers and a leprechaun or two.



Music is an integral part of an Irish wake, and back again by popular demand are local favorites Folk Heroes. Last year, Robby C. on fiddle, Mick Haensler on whistle and percussion, Jon Moore on guitar and Melissa Moore vocals entertained and enthralled the large audience with Irish folk songs both electric and acoustic. Folk Heroes has impressed Delmarva audiences for a quarter of a century with their style, multi-instrument musicianship and dynamically charged performances.

A Wake requires a bagpipe, and this wake has much, much more. Area legends The Ocean City Pipes and Drums will not only lead the funeral procession, they will also perform two flawless sets of Highland and military songs that will make this an unforgettable evening.

Audience participation will be encouraged throughout the evening. Audience members will have a chance to become part of the show when viewing Tim Finnegan. If you can raise Finnegan from the dead by telling him a joke and making him laugh, you win a beverage. Those with strong voices can enter the Keening contest. Wealthy Irish would

please see **wake** on page 15



McComas visits Kiwanis

Elena McComas, a member of the Worcester County Board of Education recently visited the local Kiwanis Club. McComas, who was a teacher for 30 years, was elected to the school board in November of 2016. She said, "Our schools are amazingly vibrant" and credits Superintendent Lou Taylor for very positive contributions to that end. Elena reported that due to the ever-rising concerns over security of the schools, every school has a security officer. Some 43% of students are on the free lunch program, yet Worcester County is considered the richest county under the Maryland State system that determines the percentage of funding provided to state public schools.

According to McComas, Worcester County students score high on the standard testing making the county third behind Howard and Frederick counties. She also talked about a unique local teacher "Educational Chat" on Twitter every Thursday evening for teachers to interact, exchange ideas and results and discuss concerns.

Pictured is **Elena McComas** receiving the customary Kiwanis Pen for guest speakers from Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City President **Ralph Chinn**.

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Community Calendar FEBRUARY



4-H open house scheduled

The University of Maryland Extension (UME) Worcester County 4-H will host a 4-H Open House on Tuesday, February 27 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Snow Hill library meeting room at 307 N. Washington St. in Snow Hill.

Every child has the potential to be a leader. However, young people today say they lack the opportunities that prepare them with the skills to lead. Worcester County 4-H invites Worcester County youth and family members to learn about 4-H Youth & Development and how youth can become a True Leader through 4-H membership.

4-H is the nation's largest positive youth development and youth mentoring organization, empowering six million young people in the U.S. In partnership with 110 universities, 4-H life changing programs are research-backed & available through 4-H clubs, camps, afterschool & school enrichment programs in every county & parish in the U.S. 4-H is the youth development program of the nation's Cooperative Extension System and the USDA.

To attend the Worcester County 4-H open house call 410-632-1972.

Chamber to host annual expo

The Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce will hold the 8th Annual Chamber Business Expo on Thursday, March 16, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the new event space at Ocean Downs Casino.

All Worcester County business people (employers and employees) are invited to attend and display their services or goods. Last year over 35 exhibitors displayed their services and products with creative and interactive exhibits in a wide range of interest such as: business products, home improvements, social media, healthcare, education, financial, insurance, travel, beauty, massage, promotional products and more. There will be door prizes donated from local businesses and a 50/50 raffle.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 <small>Grounding Day</small>	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 <small>Valentine's Day</small>	15	16	17
18 <small>Presidents' Day</small>	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

Italian dinner tickets on sale

Tickets for the Kiwanis Club's Annual Italian Dinner on Sunday April 8 are now on sale. Two seatings are offered: 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. Seating is limited to 100 persons per seating. The dinner will be held at De-Novo's Trattoria. Ticket costs are adults \$12 and children under 12, \$5. RSVP to 410-208-6719 for tickets/reservations recommended. Walk-ins welcome, space permitting. Carryout is also available. Proceeds benefit local youth.



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.

County offers free Emergency Response Training

Resilient communities weather storms together. Worcester County Emergency Services (WCES) invites the public to participate in a free, eight-session Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training course in Newark this spring. CERT is open to teens and adults and will take place at the Fire Training Center, on Tuesdays from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. from March 20 through April 14. Cardiopulmonary Response (CPR) and Automatic External Defibrillator

training will take place during the March 27 CERT session.

"CERT equips participants to assist family members and neighbors during an emergency until fire and rescue personnel arrive," WCES Emergency Planner Tom Kane said. "WCES encourages all residents to develop emergency plans, to be prepared to respond before, during, and immediately after a natural or man-made disaster strikes."

Other CERT sessions will cover how to prepare and respond to natural disasters common to Worcester County as well as manmade disasters, fire suppression, basic disaster medical operations, light search and res-

cue procedures, disaster psychology, team organization, and terrorism awareness. Participants will practice the skills they learn throughout the course.

Upon completion of the course, participants will know how to apply basic lifesaving skills and recognize both natural and manmade hazards. They will also be able to create disaster plans and supply kits and aid in responding to hazardous materials emergencies. Those who successfully complete the training will receive CPR and First Aid certification through the American Heart Association, and interested participants may qualify to become part of the Worces-

ter County CERT team.

Instructors will provide information on hazards typical to Worcester County, hazardous materials in the home and the National Incident Management System. Instruction is geared to help residents better prepare and survive during the first 36 to 72 hours after a catastrophic event when local first responder resources are stretched to their limits.

"CERT is about people supporting people in their communities," Kane said. "It's about being resilient and being prepared, so you can bounce back faster after a disaster."

please see **training** on page 15

Memorial is a constant reminder of service, sacrifice

By **June Freeman**

People often take for granted our veterans who most deserve our gratitude. But this is not the case in Ocean Pines.

In 2005 a group of Ocean Pines community members conceived the idea of creating a Veterans Memorial and worked tirelessly to complete their vision.

An open field was transformed into a beautifully landscaped haven with trees, flowers, and swaying flags while park benches dedicated to servicemen and women offer a place of serenity and reflection.

Marie Gilmore who is president of Worcester County Memorial in Ocean Pines explained, "It is a place in Worcester County to honor and remember as veterans are too often for-

gotten."

It is not uncommon to encounter visitors resting on a bench remembering a loved one or someone who has served in armed forces reflecting on their time in the service. As a reminder and a tribute, oftentimes pennies are placed on the pavers which are engraved with names, dates, branch of service, ranks, places served, and messages. And with each paver or brick, there is a story of a hero who served. Some stories are heartwarming and some are heartbreaking but what they all have in common is a story of men and women who were willing to serve so that we can enjoy the gift of living in a free county.

Two years after the inception of Worcester County Memorial at Ocean

please see memorial on page 15



Jeep Run - On Saturday, February 10, Ocean City Jeep Club participated in the 2nd Annual Worcester County Humane Society supply run. A large amount of supplies such as cat/dog food, cleaning supplies and cat/dog toys just to name a few were donated. A total of 45 Jeeps and their owners participated in this year's run.

Film festival coming to resort

After a successful first year, the Ocean City Film Festival is returning March 9 through 11 to bring 100 films and artists to the resort. The Art League of Ocean City and the Town of Ocean City are sponsors of the festival.

One hundred films will be screened over three days at three locations in the resort: Princess Royale Hotel, Clarion Resort, and Fox Gold Coast Theater. The Ocean City Center for the Arts will also host the opening night

reception and several workshops on filmmaking.

The films come from local filmmakers as well as from across the country and around the world. The lineup includes feature-length films, short films, documentaries, funny films, films made by youth, horror films, animation, music videos, and social commentaries.

Tickets are \$50 for an all-access

please see festival on page 15



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Adults: \$12 - Children 12 and under: \$5.00

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The Courier

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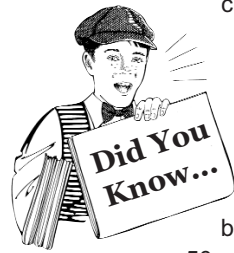
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Robert B. Adair 1938-2007

2012 Business of the Year

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Over the last decade, seniors have become increasingly more savvy in regard to social media usage. The Pew Research Center found that, in 2015, around 35 percent of people age 65 and older reported using social media.



That's a large jump from just 2 percent in 2005. As of 2016, 65 percent of people between the

ages 50 and 64 reported using social media, according to Pew. Social media usage among seniors continues to climb, although young adults still comprise the demographic most likely to use it. Among seniors ages 50 and older, Facebook is by far the most popular social media platform used, followed by Pinterest and LinkedIn.



CPR training offered

Peninsula Regional Medical Center will host a free Friends & Family CPR class on Tuesday, February 27 from 10 a.m. to noon as part of its American Heart Month festivities

The Family & Friends CPR course is an American Heart Association class that teaches the lifesaving skills of adult hands-only CPR, adult CPR with breaths, child CPR with breaths, adult and child AED use, infant CPR, and mild and severe airway block for adults, children, and infants. Family & Friends CPR is for people who want to learn CPR, but do *not* need a CPR course completion card to meet a job requirement. This course is ideal for new parents, grandparents, babysitters, and others interested in learning how to save a life.

The class will be held in the Avery W. Hall Educational Center Auditorium, on the PRMC campus at the corner of Waverly Drive and Vine Street. Registration is required and space is limited - call 410-543-7028 to sign up.

Drug, alcohol prevention honorees sought

The Worcester County Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council is seeking nominations of individual adults, youth or groups who have made outstanding contributions to drug and alcohol prevention or treatment. The awardees will be honored during the 27th Annual Drug and Alcohol Awards Reception which will also celebrate the 35th year of the Council's existence. The event will be held at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, April 17 at the Worcester Career and Technology High School.

Worcester Health will accept nominations of individuals or groups who have made a significant impact on the community through drug and alcohol prevention or treatment. Criteria for selection of honorees include program impact on community, appropriateness of approach, and personal contribution to the program. Anyone who received an award in the past three years is not eligible. The deadline for nominations is March 16. Please call 410-632-1100 ext 1038 or e-mail jack.orris@maryland.gov to request a nomination form or to make a reservation.



Helping hands

Since its founding in 2011, the Pillowcase Ministry Mission continues to thrive on the Eastern Shore. Recently, volunteers met to organize materials for kitchen kits. One hundred kitchen kits were assembled, including pot holders, soap, dishcloths and towels, and scrubbers and sponges. Young girls from the villages of Panama and Haiti will benefit from these kits and they will help girls avoid burns.

The Pillowcase Ministry has grown from the initial sundresses made from pillowcases to shorts, market bags, backpacks, shower and feminine kits, and sleep mats. Materials needed for the items are also included in the kits. Over 3,700 dresses, 1,500 shorts and 2,700 market bags have been provided to the children and women of impoverished nations.

Anyone interested in making items or donating to this project should call 443-944-5868. The next meeting and work session will be on Saturday, April 14 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Berlin library.

Above are purses and backpacks made from recycled shopping bags and disposable tablecloths. Crocheters **Rose Shahid** and **Shirley Manning** and coordinator **Barbara Entwistle**, are shown at the Clarion Hotel.

Governor announces education lockbox proposal

Governor Larry Hogan announced last Wednesday legislation to create a "lockbox" for education funding to ensure that all revenues from Maryland casinos go directly to funding K-12 education and improvements to the state's public school facilities. The governor was joined by Maryland Comptroller Peter Franchot, a longtime advocate for reforming the funding system set up by flawed legislation passed in 2007.

"Ensuring that this money is required to be used the way voters were promised it would be is long overdue; this is a bipartisan issue that a majority of Marylanders agree with," said Governor Hogan. "The additional revenue that was promised for the classrooms should be required to go into the classrooms, and the people of Maryland and our children should not have to wait for another election in order to fix this important issue."

Maryland voters approved slot machine gambling in 2008 based on a pledge from the legislature and previous administration that the new revenues generated would supplement existing funding. However, the legislation that was enacted allowed for the new revenues to simply supplant existing funding.

The governor's Commitment to Education Act of 2018 will increase education spending by more than \$4.4 billion over the next decade by phasing in casino revenues from the Education Trust Fund over the next four years. The legislation also dedicates the first 20 percent of these revenues to school construction starting immediately, which will add an additional \$1 billion over the decade.

Comptroller Franchot, who has been warning Marylanders of the problems with the existing legislation

please see **proposal** on page 6



A lowered flag

The American flag has been lowered to half mast too many times of late. Too, too many.

Driving to the post office along Cathell Road last Wednesday, lowered flags at the library and the Veterans Memorial were visible. I didn't have to ask why and it broke my heart.

Yet again children, students, were

Scared, seemingly helpless and facing an uncertain fate, these teachers were doing what needed to be done. I'd like to think I would conduct myself so well under such circumstances.

And then there were the students who braved a black force to help their classmates; holding doors and pushing kids through them to safety. It takes my breath away just thinking about their actions, trying to put myself in their circumstances. What strength of character!

When I first heard the news reports of what happened in Florida, I teared up. "Not again," I thought.



It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

victims of a senseless, tragic rampage at a school, this time in Florida. I have no words of grief or anger to add to what has already been written and spoken by so many following this and other tragedies that have unfortunately become more commonplace.

Students, teachers and parents were going about their business on what should have been a regular, normal day. It wasn't.

I was most acutely struck by reports of the professionalism and calm under pressure exhibited by teachers who herded students to safety; some making themselves human shields against the assault, savings the lives of their student but losing their own. A student interviewed after the chaos, spoke of her teacher taking attendance of those in her charge and then Emailing the list to other teachers and administrators so students could be accounted for as quickly as possible.

Images of my grandchildren flooded my thoughts, especially my granddaughter who attends Kindergarten. I don't know why but they did.

Much is made sometimes of how children nowadays have it easy. They didn't live through the Depression or the war (whatever war that may be). It's believed they don't know what it's like to have it "tough," however that is defined. Well, I think children today have it tough in a way that no adult could have imagined when they were school-aged. Today's world is unrecognizable from the childhood world experienced by many of us. During not one day of school did I fear for my life, not even from Sr. Mary Therese when I hadn't done my homework.

I don't know exactly how to close this column this week. All I can do is finish where I started. The American flag has been lowered to half-mast too many times of late. Too, too many.

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For cancer care, all roads lead to home.

Humane Society to host fundraiser

On Thursday, March 8, Worcester County Humane Society will hold its first “Wags and Whiskers” Thirty-One Bingo fundraiser. The event will be held at the Ocean Pines Community Center Assateague Room. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. All proceeds benefit the homeless dogs and cats at the no kill shelter.

When it’s game time, participants will have multiple chances to win official Thirty-One Bingo items. The bingo games will run from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Eventgoers must be 18 or older.

Advance tickets are \$25 for 20 regular games for Thirty-One bags full of goodies and gift cards. There will be two special Bingo games for an additional small fee. There will also be an opportunity to participate in a Chinese auction and raffle boards for additional items and prizes as well as food and beverage available for purchase. Other vendors such as LulaRoe and

Pampered Chef will also be at the event.

“Whether a person comes alone or brings a group of friends, the event offers a fun atmosphere of fellowship for all,” said Diana Snyder, Event Chair.

Tickets will be available at the door the night of the event for \$30.

For advance tickets contact Diana Snyder 443-987-2870 or Mary Martinez 410-382-2661. Advance tickets are also available for purchase at Worcester County Humane Society 12330 Eagles Nest Road in Berlin.

Prayer event scheduled

For women who would like to grow in their prayer life or want take part in a budding prayer movement, a non-denominational, Spirit-led gathering will be held to focus on prayer on Saturday, March 3, from 9 a.m. to noon, at Holy Trinity Cathedral, located at 11021 Worcester Highway in Berlin. For directions, see www.htcanglican.org or call 410-641-4882.

This event is being held to encourage women to deepen their intimacy with God through prayer and to expand corporate prayer for God’s kingdom in our geographical area.

Founder of the event, Sara Lewis, author of the Called to Pray series,

please see event on page 11



Successful fundraiser

The first of three annual Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City Pancake Breakfasts took place on Saturday February 10 in the Ocean Pines Community Center. It was a successful fundraiser to benefit local youth via the club’s programs and scholarship fund. Members of the Stephen Decatur Key Club and the Worcester County Aktion Club worked serving food and taking care of guests needs, like coffee, tea, orange juice and clearing tables. Pictured are some of the Key Club members with Kiwanians (L-R) Kiwanian and Co-Chair of the event **Stella Hartington**, Key Club members **Mikayla Denault**, **Richard Poist** and **Julissa Astudillo**, Kiwanians **Charlotte Cathell** and **Skip McComas**.

proposal from page 4

for over a decade, affirmed his support for the governor’s bill.

“Students, teachers and families have waited long enough for state government to finally deliver on its promise. This session, I hope that both sides of the aisle can set partisanship aside, and come together to do the right thing, by passing this bill and sending it to the governor’s desk,” said the comptroller.

Governor Hogan’s Fiscal Year 2019 budget provides \$6.5 billion for K-12 education, which is record funding for a fourth straight year and includes an additional \$140 million in direct aid to ensure funding increased for all jurisdictions and \$15.2 million over and above legislative funding formulas. The governor and the comptroller are also providing an additional \$365 million for school construction in the next fiscal year through the Board of Public Works, which they sit on along with Treasurer Nancy Kopp. This constitutes the largest investment in school construction funding in a decade.

“Voters want to know that these dollars that were promised for schools actually go to schools – that is exactly what our education lockbox legislation will accomplish. Our Commitment to Education Act of 2018 will finally fulfill the promise made to voters back in 2007,” said Governor Hogan. “Our administration didn’t make that promise, but it’s imperative that we all come together to keep that promise.”

**The LORD will surely save me
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stringed instruments** Isaiah 38:20

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Gov. signs Rape Survivor Family Protection Act

Governor Larry Hogan joined Senate President Thomas V. "Mike" Miller and Speaker of the House Mike Busch to sign the Rape Survivor Family Protection Act into law. This new law, passed with the governor's vocal support after nearly a decade of efforts by advocates, will enable rape victims who conceive a child to terminate the parental rights of their rapist. At the outset of the 2018 session of the Maryland General Assembly, the presiding officers stated their support for this legislation, while the governor called on legislators to act expeditiously and pledged to sign it the moment it reached his desk.

"Our administration made a commitment to work with legislative leaders to pass this important and long overdue legislation, and today, I am proud to sign this bill into law," said Governor Hogan. "No rapist should be allowed to maintain their rights as a parent, and no victim should ever be forced to interact with their attacker. The Rape Survivor Family Protection Act will ensure just that."

Earlier this year, Governor Hogan announced several proposals to further protect, support, and empower victims of crime in Maryland, and the governor today urged the Maryland General Assembly to act on those bills, which are currently going through the legislative process.

The Felony Human Trafficking Act of 2018 classifies felony human trafficking as a violent crime, ensuring that offenders will be held truly accountable. The Repeat Sexual Predator Prevention Act of 2018 mirrors legislation that was proposed by the governor during the 2017 session and has received bipartisan support for nearly a decade. The bill allows courts to admit evidence of a criminal defendant's prior history of sexual crimes or abuse if he or she is prosecuted for subsequent sexual offenses.

In addition, the Hogan administration has proposed legislation to strengthen the Maryland "Safe-at-Home" Address Confidentiality Pro-

please see act on page 11



Black History Month

In honor of Black History Month, Stephen Decatur High School students and staff celebrated African American authors and literature by hosting the National African American Read-In after school on February 13. The read-in, which is an initiative promoted by the National Council of Teachers of English, was hosted by the school's National English Honor Society and Seahawk Writing Center. The well-received event featured several students and staff members, who read their own pieces as well as excerpts from various writers including Maya Angelou and Langston Hughes.

Above are: Stephen Decatur High School speakers from the school sponsored National African American Read-In included Eunice Huesca, Justice Paige, Assistant Principal Leland Green, teacher Jeff Phillips, Kameron Lewis, and NEHS Vice-President Ulyssa Jacobs.

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Adopting a dog or cat later in life

Companion animals bring great joy to their owners. The unconditional love cats and dogs provide appeals to people of all ages. While many people associate pets with kids who cannot wait to welcome the first cat or dog into their homes, pets can benefit aging men and women as well.

It is not uncommon for seniors to feel lonely or depressed when they retire, their children move away or they lose a spouse or close friend or friends. The American Humane Society states that studies show pets help seniors overcome loneliness and depression by providing affection, company and entertainment. Pets also provide much-needed mental stimulation, and many pet owners find their pets help them become more physically active as well.

Seniors who adopt pets may also feel a sense of purpose when helping animals who may not have anywhere to live. This is particularly true of older companion animals, which many young families are understandably hesitant to adopt. Mature pets might be an ideal fit for seniors. When seniors are looking to adopt a pet, there are various reasons why older pets or



particular animals might be the perfect fit for them.

Adult pets may already be house trained, saving seniors the trouble and effort of training them.

Seniors may find cats fit their lifestyles more than dogs, as cats are less active and do not need to be walked or played with as much as dogs. Cats also are small and easily maneuverable, meaning even seniors who have arthritis or other physical limitations can easily care for cats. Many cats are also content to spend long periods of time sleeping on their owners' laps.

Small dogs that can be active within the house might be a good idea as well, especially for seniors with mobility issues. They are also easily transported to and from vet appointments.

It is important that seniors carefully weigh the benefits of adopting a pet against any limitations they may have. Having a backup plan for care is advantageous as well. Seniors should not adopt a pet if they anticipate frequent travel or medical care that requires they be away from home for long periods of time.

PRMC expands CareSync

Peninsula Regional Medical Group of the Peninsula Regional Health System announced today it is expanding its partnership with CareSync, an industry leader in chronic care management, to provide expanded care coordination services to eligible Medicare patients in six family medicine and specialty offices.

Through this partnership, CareSync is able to provide patients with telephone and online access to clinical health assistants, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, every day of the year. The CareSync team will answer healthcare questions day or night, schedule medical appointments or transportation to doctor's visits, and help patients stay on track with medications, treatments, and doctor instructions through regular check-ins and reminders.

This month, Peninsula Regional Family Medicine Snow Hill, Peninsula Regional Family Medicine Ocean Pines, Peninsula Regional Pulmonology and Critical Care and Peninsula Regional Diabetes and Endocrinology will join family medicine offices in Millsboro and Laurel, DE that have been operational with CareSync as pilot offices for the past four months. Peninsula Regional Family Medicine Salisbury will add CareSync in April.

"Peninsula Regional Medical Group seeks to support patients in any way possible," said Travis Bond, CEO of CareSync. "By choosing CareSync to act

*please see **expands** on page 11*



Gala benefit

Attached you will find a photo taken Friday, 9 Feb. at the Ocean City American Legion Post 166. The picture shows the American Legion staff and USCG Station Ocean City volunteers prepared and served dinners at the fundraiser held at American Legion Post 166 for Wounded Warriors. Approximately 100 people participated in the event held February 9.

Above are (l to r) **Joe Vendura, Ben Neilson, Ray Kudobeck, Tommie Wade, Master Chief Timaree Sparks, Brandon Chadwell, Sam Wiley, Don Crocket, Irene Gilchrist, Ken Sheltry, Sebastian M. Gomez, Michael McKinney, and Chairman John P. Quinn.**

The annual Wounded Warriors Gala is scheduled for Saturday, November 8 at 5 p.m. For tickets, call the American Legion at 410-289-3166, Sarge Garlitz at 443-735-1942, commander166@msn.com or Chairman John Quinn at 443-235-9444. Photo by Dan Collins.

Hospice announces new board

Coastal Hospice has announced itsr new Board of Directors for 2018, including three new members.

For a second year, Michael P. Dunn continues in the chair position, and Stephen R. Farrow as vice chair. Lorie Phillips continues as treasurer and Alane Capen as president. Michael Schrader becomes the new member-at-large, and Byron D. Braniff moves into the secretary position.

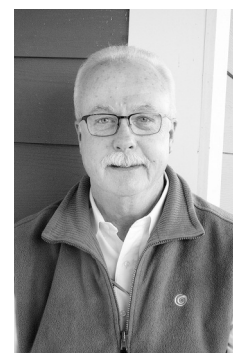
Returning board members are Colleen "Cam"

Bunting, Roger L. Harrell, Madalaine L. How, Richard M. Laws, Barbara C. Long, Robert M. Purcell, and Anthony Sarbanes. New members of the board are David "Buddy" A. Dykes, Wiltssy Payero, and Margaret Whitten.

Dykes is a graduate of James. M. Bennett High School and a board member of the Ocean City Development Corp. A resident of Dagsboro, he is a sales representative with Doodle

Designs and Berkshire Hathaway Real Estate.

Payero, a resident of Salisbury, is a graduate of Lebanon High School and Oakland City University. She is the Learning & Development Manager



Buddy Dayles



Margaret Whitten



Wiltssy Payero

at Perdue Farms and also volunteers for St. Jude's Children's Hospital and Habitat for Humanity.

Whitten is a graduate of North Dorchester High School and Salisbury University. A resident of East New Market, she works in customer service for Whitten Insurance in Cambridge and volunteers with Habitat for Humanity and the Dorchester Chamber of Commerce.

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Saturday, February 24th

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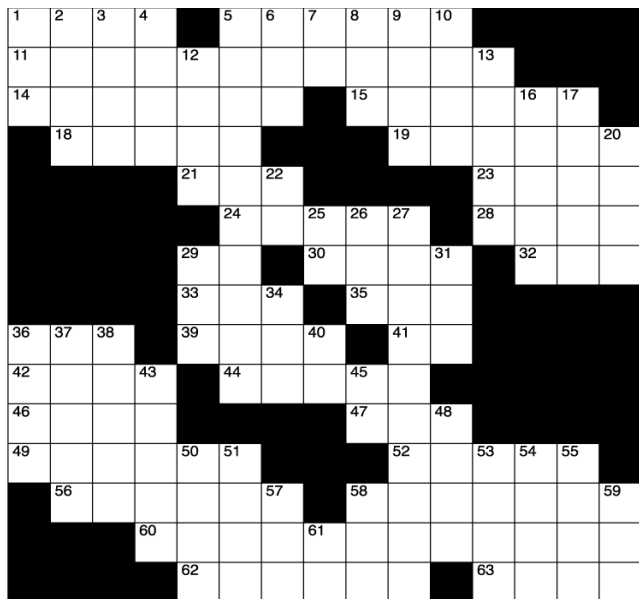
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CLUES ACROSS

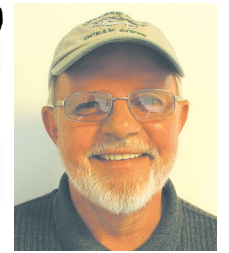
- 1. Emperor of Russia
- 5. Abounding in rocks
- 11. Increase in speed
- 14. Music app
- 15. Not nice
- 18. Tables (Span.)
- 19. Decomposes
- 21. ___ student: learns healing
- 23. Nursemaid
- 24. Joke-teller
- 28. Male parent
- 29. Group of countries (abbr.)
- 30. "Rambling Rose" actor Lukas
- 32. Midway between south and southwest
- 33. Cartoon Network (abbr.)
- 35. Peacock network
- 36. Principal ethnic group of China
- 39. Made of honey and water
- 41. Exclamation of surprise
- 42. Evaluates skill or knowledge
- 44. Stage in ecological succession
- 46. Ethnic group of SE Asia
- 47. Not small
- 49. A cat is one
- 52. Broken piece
- 56. French president
- 58. Artist's workroom
- 60. Ability to apply knowledge and skills
- 62. Visually stunning
- 63. Ancient region south of Dead Sea

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Used to pour beer
- 2. Con game
- 3. Skin disorder
- 4. Communists (slang)
- 5. Subjects to hostility
- 6. A major division of geological time
- 7. Hitting statistic (abbr.)
- 8. British thermal unit
- 9. Influential envoy to Woodrow Wilson
- 10. Goes on neck of animals
- 12. Fertile soil
- 13. Type of battery
- 16. Khoikhoi peoples
- 17. Consist of two parts
- 20. Small group of trees
- 22. Execute or perform
- 25. Milliheny
- 26. 007's creator
- 27. Associated with esoteric doctrine
- 29. Electronic countermeasures
- 31. Schenectady County Airport
- 34. No (Scottish)
- 36. Position of leadership
- 37. Statement
- 38. Raccoons belong to this genus
- 40. One who diagnoses
- 43. True mosses
- 45. Blood type
- 48. Albanian
- 50. Emergency response notification system
- 51. College reservists
- 53. Away from wind
- 54. Tough outer layer
- 55. Art __, around 1920
- 57. Born of
- 58. The greatest of all time
- 59. Georgia rockers
- 61. Natural logarithm



Answers for Feb. 14



Let's talk Crappie Fishing

By Ron Fisher

Fishing Report: Not much to report. Offshore when the weather cooperates some nice Tog are being caught. Trout have been stocked at Shad Landing and another stocking will occur sometime in March. Let's hope for some continued mild and calm weather? That being said when you're out at Shad Landing Trout fishing you might want to move over to the boat docks and try some Crappie Fishing.

What is a Crappie?: In our area we have White and Black Crappie many times they are the same colors and most can't tell them apart. Black Crappie have 7 or 8 dorsal spines and white only six. They also have many different names such as Calico Bass, White Perch, Croppie, and Pa-permouth to name a few.

They grow 3-5" their first year and to 7-8" their second year. Most Crappie caught are in the range of one half to one pound.

Where to go? One area I found to be a hot spot is the Pocomoke River at Shad Landing Just off MD Route 113. You will need a Maryland Freshwater Fishing License to fish this area. Check the current regulations but usually there is no closed season and no size requirement. Also you are al-

lowed 15 fish per day or 30 possession in aggregate

What equipment do I need? An ultra-light spinning outfit spooled with 4lb test monofilament line is best. The rod can be 5.5 or 6' you will also need a good assortment of fine quality bobbers and size 6 and 8 short shank hooks.

What bait should I use? Crappie feed primarily on small minnows and insects. The bait of choice in my opinion is small live minnows of 1-2" maximum. These can be hooked through the lips on a size 8 hook with a bobber a couple feet above the minnow. Some fishermen prefer to jig for them and an assortment of crappie jigs can be found at local tackle shops.

Where should I fish? They prefer structure.

Drop your minnow or jig next to boat docks, trees or cypress roots and wait for the bite with minnows are move you jig in a jiggling motion slowly so it looks like a minnow. Don't hesitate to move around until you find them. They are a schooling fish so when you catch one there are likely to more in the area.

What about eating? How can I prepare them? Crappie are one of the best eating fish around. Here are a

please see ron on page 12

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Knots & Knots

Where to begin?

Publisher's Note: This The Courier is pleased to introduce a new monthly feature, Knots & Knots by Dan Collins. Each month, Dan will write about different aspects of boating. We hope you enjoy this new addition to The Courier.

By **Dan Collins**

Where do we begin? High tide? Low tide? The boat show? The boat launch ramp? At a boat rental dock? The safe boating class? On a friend's boat? With a home equity line? Or just watch "Pirates of the Caribbean?" Seventy percent of the world is covered with water and it's alluring. So where do we begin this new column called 'Knots & Knots' in *The Courier*?

We could look to famous sailors like Columbus or Magellan for inspiration but let's be realistic, we're not

them. They did it without steel and fiberglass and electricity and mechanical power. They had no buoys, GPS, charts, radios, radar, and no towboat companies.

In fact, they only had one type of knot, the kind you make with 'rope' on land and with 'line' on water. They didn't have the measurement of nautical mile (~6077 feet) so they couldn't express their speed in nautical miles per hour or 'knots.'

In our new world of knots and knots, marine technologies have improved dramatically since the days of Captain Ahab or even the Titanic. While they hunted white whales and dodged icebergs, we hunt ethanol-free gas pumps and dodge crab traps.

In the coming months, this column, *Knots & Knots*, will explore various aspects of modern day

expands
from page 8

as an extension of their practice and implement care coordination services on their behalf, PRMG is providing patients with optimum care and support even when they can't be in the doctor's office."

"We are excited about our partnership with CareSync," said Thomas De-

Marco, MD, Vice President of PRMG. "They have a wealth of experience and expertise in chronic care management that will greatly benefit our patients in supporting our goal of improving the health of our community."

Anyone with questions about CareSync or eligibility requirements may call 1-800-587-5227 and speak with a CareSync patient representative.

act
from page 7

gram to better enable victims of domestic violence to safely purchase a home without fear of their abuser finding their address. Governor Hogan also announced a proposal to create a new victim services unit focused on restitution by centralizing data collection across state agencies that will act as a one-stop shop for victim notification and information regarding restitution.

"We look forward to working with the legislature in a bipartisan manner to pass our commonsense victims' right proposals in order to make Maryland safer for all of our citizens," said the governor.

event
from page 6

has long felt the call to intercede for others. For this third of many events, she has put together a team of Women of Prayer to bring down God's blessings in renewal of people and revitalization of prayer.

Speakers include two women who know how to pray for their families and friends and those in need of God's help. Candy Abbott, author of *I Never Loved Him More*, gives an inspiring chronicle of caregiving for a family member with Alzheimer's. And Lenore Hill, noted pastor's wife and teacher of God's Word, will share her thoughts on a unique way to pray for our families.

To RSVP or obtain more information, email dorisoceancity@aol.com or call 443-859-4238.

recreational boating in the Ocean City waters - places to visit, sandbars to avoid, boats to choose; and why we like being afloat.

However, safety is number one and has to be our first topic. If you find yourself on something that floats, your number one concern should be survival. How can I get back safely? How can I get the others on board back safely? How can I get the boat back safely? Once safety is satisfactorily addressed, we can look at why we are on the water: Fishing? Cruising? Water skiing? Partying? Kayaking? Paddle boarding? Jet skiing?

Safety is a ubiquitous concept. It's present in our work place, in our cars, and in our children's toys. We take it for granted that we put on our safety belts when we get in the car but we have to think twice and maybe even reject putting on a life jacket when we get on a boat.

There are laws that require some folks to wear a life jacket. Children under 13 on boats under 21 feet in length are required to wear a personal flotation device (PDF) and children under 4 have to wear special infant life jackets. And boats must be equipped with a properly sized life jacket for everyone on board plus 'throwables' (Type 4 PDF) to aid the recovery of someone in the water.

After life jackets, the second most important piece of safety gear is the anchor. Although some may argue it should be a cell phone or the marine radio or flares or the first aid kit or a bilge pump or the fire extinguisher, most US Coast Guard procedures that prescribe how to react to a problem, start with deploying the anchor. By rule, all USCG crews wear PDFs when underway so, unlike us civilians where the life jacket

is optional, their first reaction to a problem is the anchor. For us, it's the life jacket first, then the anchor.

Why the anchor? Fundamentally, the anchor helps you get control of the situation. It stops the boat from moving which is critical when the engine fails and you are drifting towards danger like a jetty or a bridge or into heavy traffic like around the Route 50 Bridge. It is also vital when there is a need to stay outside of a breaking inlet or to weather a storm or to hold a position until help arrives.



Coast Guardsman demonstrating the proper technique to drop a Danforth.

There are a couple of points to remember when anchoring: 1) Secure one end of the rode (anchor line) to the boat before you drop the anchor. 2) Bring the boat to a complete stop.

Please see **knots** on page 12

Tide and Sun Chart				
* tide is for Ocean City Fishing Pier. Add two hours for Isle of Wight tide				
DATE	HIGH TIDE	LOW TIDE	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Thur., Feb. 22	12:05 p.m.	6:10 a.m. 6:24 p.m.	6:42 a.m.	5:46 p.m.
Fri., Feb. 23	12:42 a.m. 1:04 p.m.	7:12 a.m. 7:22 p.m.	6:40 a.m.	5:47 p.m.
Sat., Feb. 24	1:47 a.m. 2:10 p.m.	8:17 a.m. 8:23 p.m.	6:39 a.m.	5:48 p.m.
Sun., Feb. 25	2:54 a.m. 3:17 p.m.	9:23 a.m. 9:27 p.m.	6:38 a.m.	5:48 p.m.
Mon., Feb. 26	3:58 a.m. 4:19 p.m.	3:58 a.m. 4:19 p.m.	6:36 a.m.	5:50 p.m.
Tues., Feb. 27	4:58 a.m. 5:17 p.m.	11:27 a.m. 11:30 p.m.	6:35 a.m.	5:52 p.m.
Wed., Feb. 28	5:54 a.m. 6:12 p.m.	12:20 p.m.	6:34 a.m.	5:52 p.m.

Safe boating class offered

The USCG Auxiliary graduated its first Safe Boating Class of 2018. Nineteen more area boaters know the meaning of 'Red, Right, Returning', when they are the 'give way' versus 'stand on' boat in passing situations and the importance of life jackets and other safety equipment, and the hyper-critical importance of a designated driver on the water.

The next class is scheduled for March 6, 7, & 8 at the Ocean Pines library. The class will run from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m.

The State of Maryland requires that everyone born after July 1, 1972, needs to pass the Maryland Safe Boating Class and have their certificate with them when operating a powerboat; however, it's highly recommended that everyone who wants to be informed about safe boating regardless of their age or experience take the class.

Taught by Maryland and USCG Auxiliary certified instructors, the class is a fun and relaxing three night event culminating in the administration of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) test and awarding of the Safe Boating Certificate.

Whether you are starting out in boating, or coming back to it – the Safe Boating Class is a great chance to brush up on your general boating knowledge and get practical boating insight and advice from Coast Guard Auxiliary Instructors. Besides the

state mandated material - legal responsibilities, safety equipment, navigation, good boating practices, the class also covers other pertinent subjects like marlinspike (knots & lines handling), local Ocean City water knowledge, and, of course, a couple of sea stories.

Class size is limited. Class fee is \$15 per student which includes study guide.

For more information or to register, please contact Barry Cohen at 410-935-4807 or E-mail CGAUXOC@Gmail.com.

Cordrey joins Wor-Wic

Wor-Wic Community College recently welcomed Lori M. Cordrey of Delmar, as fieldwork coordinator and instructor of the occupational therapy assistant program.

Prior to joining Wor-Wic, she worked as a certified occupational therapy assistant at Aurora Senior Living of Manokin in Princess Anne. She has associate degrees from Wor-Wic and Wesley College in Dover, and a bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore.



Lori Cordrey



Young authors recognized

The Eastern Shore Reading Council (ESRC) announced that twelve Worcester Prep students were named finalists in the 2018 Young Authors' Contest for short story or poetry. These finalists finished in the top three in their respective category and grade level two to 12. All finalists, along with their families, teachers and school administrators, are invited to attend the Young Authors' Awards Reception at Salisbury University on April 19. This year's contest was one of the largest with entries from 28 different schools, public and private. The Eastern Shore Reading Council is a nonprofit organization with the mission to improve the level of literacy in the three counties on Maryland's lower Eastern Shore.

Above are **Ben Rafinski, Scarlett Shimko, Rani Yonker, Ayla Yonker and Emaan Ehtasham.**

Optimists announce winners

The Ocean City/Berlin Optimist Club announced the winners of the Boat Show door prize and scholarship lotto following the show that closed Sunday.

The pontoon and motor door prize donated by North Bay Marina was won

by Brenda Esposito from Milford, DE. North Bay Marina has donated the door prize for 29 years.

The scholarship lotto prizes were won by Marie Christsen, \$10,000; Russell Queen, \$2000 and Cindy Naughton, \$1000.

knots

from page 11

3) Drop the anchor over the side, don't throw it. 4) Pay out enough rode to create a 7 to 10 scope (ratio of rode to vertical distance from the deck to the bottom). 5) Maintain an anchor watch to make sure the anchor is holding and the boat is not drifting.

The Danforth is the most popular anchor design for sandy and muddy bottoms like we have around Ocean City. When properly set, it rarely drags and is still relatively easy to weigh and store. The only thing left is practice. Get in the habit of wearing a life jacket and practice setting and weighing the anchor in calm conditions because we all know King Neptune has Murphy on a retainer.

Dan Collins has been an individual contributor to *The Courier* with articles and photographs since moving to Ocean Pines several years ago. He and his wife, Nancy, were avid sail boaters in New Jersey before retiring and now put around the St. Martin River dodging crab traps and discovering uncharted sand bars in Isle of Wight Bay. Dan is very active in the Coast Guard Auxiliary, the all-volunteer component of the USCG that is focused on recreational boat safety. Dan can be reached by email at: dancollins.ocean-pines@gmail.com.

ron

from page 10

few recipes.

Pope's Texas Crappie provided by Russell Pope – This recipe uses the whole fish cleaned and scaled

Coat crappie in sour cream (don't thin the sour cream)

Roll in mixture of salt pepper and corn meal

Deep fry or skillet fry till light brown

Get out of the way or your own loving kin and friends will run over you to get to it.

Sharp's Crappie Recipe provided by Douglas Sharp

Uses fillets

Fillet your catch the way you like them

Take equal parts of yellow corn meal and parmesan cheese

Add a Tablespoon of Dill Weed (freeze-dried or fresh)

Salt and Pepper to taste

Mix the above according to how much you'll need to cover your fillets.

Heat your frying oil to at least 375 degrees, drop those fillets in, and let'em fry till brown. Take'em out and squeeze some fresh lemon on them! Your tongue will slap your face!! Hope you enjoy.

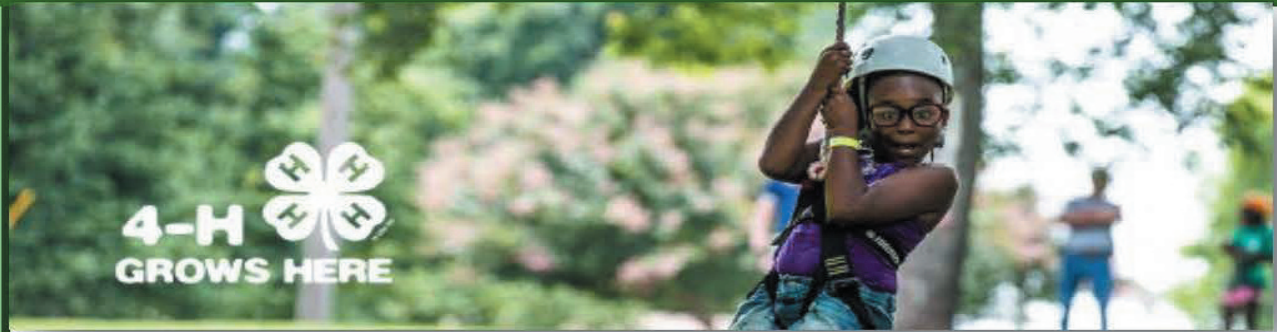
Until next time remember to take a kid fishing,
Capt. Ron



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4-H Open House

**Tues, February 27, 2018
6:30 PM - 8 PM**

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307 N Washington St.
Snow Hill**



Call 410-632-1972 to attend.

Protect the environment while addressing snow and ice

Snow and ice dominate winter landscapes in cold climates. To ensure that sidewalks, entryways and outdoor areas are safe, people who live in cold climates must emphasize snow and ice removal. While few may give thought to the environmental impact that snow and ice removal can have, some might be surprised to learn that certain methods are far more eco-friendly than others.

The application of salt is one of the most common methods to remove ice and snow. But excess salt can build up in the soil and prevent plants from absorbing moisture and nutrients. Salt also may leach heavy metals that can end up in water supplies.

Those looking for more eco-friendly ways to remove ice and snow can consider the following methods.

Shovel promptly. Minimize the buildup of snow and ice by shoveling snow as soon as it stops falling. A manual shovel is the most eco-friendly shoveling tool, but electric snow blowers are effective as well.

Add grip. Apply sand or seeds to create traction on slippery areas. While these techniques will not melt snow and ice, they can provide more supportive footing until the ice and snow have melted.

Try a mat. Snow mats or runners can make stairs and walkways safer to traverse. Lay mats or runners down over snow or ice to make walking safer.

Invest in a wired driveway. Electric coils can be placed beneath cement to heat up driveways and melt snow.



Getting together - Past President of the Republican Club **Beverly Bigler, Robert Bigler, Bill Carper, John Cabala** and **Mary Ellen Craig** at Whisker's recently. Photo by Anna Foulz.

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festival

from page 3

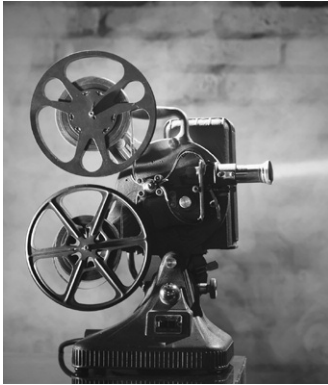
three-day pass that includes the opening and closing parties, or \$10 for a one-day pass. Tickets plus a full schedule of films and times of screenings are available at ocmdfilmfestival.com, by visiting the Arts Center on 94th St., or by calling 410-524-9433. Tickets will also be available at the film locations the day of the screenings on a cash-only basis.

Hundreds of films were submitted to the festival's producers, William Strang-Moya and Kristin Helf, who selected the 100 best for the festival.

"We have curated our films on the idea that each is both purposeful and personal to their respective filmmakers," Strang-Moya said. "Film is our way of engaging the community through art and uniting the artists with their audience through creative vision."

The OC Film Festival is the brainchild of Stephen Decatur High School graduate and 2017 Towson University graduate Strang-Moya, fellow TU graduate Helf, and Rina Thaler, executive director of the Art League of Ocean City and festival supervisor.

"There's a lot of interest in Ocean City for this project from a tourism point of view, from an artistic point of view, and from a community point of view," Thaler said. "This is going to jell into an event that we grow over the



years."

The inaugural festival was held in June 2017 and was the first of its kind in Ocean City. The 2018 festival has moved to the off-season to better accommodate traveling filmmakers and filmgoers and to stimulate the local economy in a shoulder-season month.

Screenings will begin on Friday, March 9, and an opening reception will take place that evening at the Arts Center on 94th that will include hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar, and an opportunity to meet the attending filmmakers.

The Film Festival will continue through the weekend with screenings running from morning until evening at the three locations. A panel of judges will review the films and present awards including The Damn Fine Film Award (judge's choice), The Pink Flamingo (most reflective of Maryland life), and The People's Film (audience choice).

More information about the Film Festival is available at ocmdfilmfestival.com and also at artleagueofoceancity.org.

The films that will be shown have not been rated, and viewer discretion is advised.

The Ocean City Center for the Arts at 502 94th Street is the home of the Art League of Ocean City, a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing the visual arts to the community through education, exhibits, scholarship, programs and community art projects.

memorial

from page 3

Pines a new and crucial piece was added. The Veterans Memorial Foundation established an Educational Outreach Program. It began with a man sitting on a bench. His name was Captain Ed Little. His dream was to pass along to the next generation the love, honor and respect that servicemen and women so much deserve. Marie Gilmore described how Ed Little wanted all school children of Worcester County to visit the Worcester County Memorial at Ocean Pines. Now every fifth-grade child attending school in Worcester County is given the opportunity to learn about the significance of being veteran.

Volunteers go into every school sharing their stories. Some docents discovered that because of the young age of a fifth grader, quite a few had a limited understanding of the word 'vet'. There were some who held to a singular definition that a 'vet' was a person who took care of dogs. Some students even had grandparents, parents, uncles, and aunts who served but the children were unaware of their service and sacrifice. With this program came knowledge and an empathy for those who served, whether in peacetime or war and whether past or present.

Each child who visits the Memorial is told about the history of the armed services, respect for the flag, how to

fold a flag and the importance of respecting the contributions and sacrifices of veterans.

Gilmore asserts that "there is no doubt that the children are impacted by the Educational Outreach Program." Frequently children write letters expressing their understandings and reverence for veterans. It is not uncommon for fifth graders bring their parents to the Memorial Day program at the site so they can share their newfound understanding of those who have served.

Volunteers work hard so that regardless of age, people remember those who have worn the uniform in service to the country.

On March 30 a bench will be dedicated to eight Worcester County residents killed in Vietnam. Another event "Flags for Heroes" will start May 19 and end on May 28. One hundred or more flags

will be displayed at the Memorial. For a donation \$50, individuals can sponsor a flag that will fly with the name of a honored service person and a medalion.

The Veterans Memorial Foundation is always looking for volunteers. There are various ways to help, such as becoming a member of the Veterans Memorial Foundation, purchasing a brick or paver in honor or in memory of a loved one who has served, becoming a docent and helping teach children or joining the team that maintains the site.

To sign up or get more information, email Marie Gilmore at opmarie@aol.com or call 410-208-6612.

**wake**

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hire professional mourners called Keeners to cry for their dearly departed. Contestants will be judged on volume, style and feeling as they compete for cash prizes.

Cathy Gallagher, President of the Friends of WCDC, the auxiliary that supports the mission of the Developmental Center, said, "Last year we had a wonderful time. Folk Heroes had the audience moving all night long and the Pipes and Drums were awe-inspiring."

Admission is \$20. Happy Hour prices will be available at the bar and the Seacrets kitchen will be offering an Irish menu.

Event sponsors are Robert W. Nock Insurance Solutions, Cheers of Berlin and Fins Ale House and Raw Bar. The entertainment is sponsored by Apple Discount Drugs and Steven R. Cohen, Realtor.

All money raised from this event will go towards supporting the clients of the Worcester County Developmental Center. WCDC provides employment opportunities, day habilitation training, residential services and community-based supports for adults who live with an intellectual disability. Worcester, Somerset and Wicomico Counties. Finnegan's Wake, member of the United Way of the Lower Eastern Shore, and the Ocean City, Berlin, Ocean Pines and Snow Hill chambers of commerce.

training

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The CERT program was developed by the Los Angeles Fire Department in 1985 and has since become the national model used by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for other communities throughout the country. CERT is an informative, hands-on, educational program packed with information to equip residents, who have no prior emergency medical training, to support their families and communities

during a disaster. Participants will gain the decision-making and practical skills necessary to offer immediate assistance to those in need following an emergency until further help can arrive.

CERT is available at no cost to all interested residents thanks to the support of the Worcester County Commissioners in the FY18 budget.

Space is limited to 20 individuals and is available on a first-come, first-served basis. For more info or to register, contact Kane at 410-632-3080 or tkane@co.worcester.md.us.

Vision greatly affects driving ability

Driving is a multisensory experience that requires careful coordination and mastery of a wide array of skills. Understanding the rules of the road and having sufficient practice are only part of the equation. Being able to see the road and react to obstacles, signage and more is crucial. Drivers should not downplay the importance of visual acuity when they turn their ignition keys.

Acceptable vision is involved in all components of driving. Motor vehicle operators need to have clear vision to read gauges and operate the controls of the car. Distance vision also is essential to identifying road hazards and seeing other cars on the road. The health resource, All About Vision, says aging and visual changes at any age can affect a person's ability to see moving objects while one is in motion, as is the case while driving a car or truck. In addition, changes in peripheral vision can increase blind spots while driving and affect reaction time.

Aging motorists. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports that 6,165 people ages 65 and older were killed in automobile accidents in 2015, representing 18 percent of all traffic crashes in the United States, and declining vision may have been a factor in many of those accidents. Older drivers can make certain changes to improve their safety on the roadways.

Reduce driving at night. The group AAA says by age 60 eyes need three times as much light to see as they did at age 20. Over time pupils get smaller and do not dilate as much in dark conditions at night, making it harder to see. Limit driving at night as much as possible.

Accommodate for glare. Invest in anti-glare coatings for glasses to minimize glare from the sun and oncoming headlights.

Be especially cautious at intersections. The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety says 40 percent of the fatal collisions that occur for people age 70 and older take place at intersections. Taking more time to assess oncoming traffic and make sure in-

tersections are clear can save lives.

Get frequent vision checks. Annual eye exams are recommended by the American Optometric Association. This can help older drivers be aware of shortcomings in their vision.

Other drivers. Drivers of any age



with vision issues should take heed of their limitations and make modifications as needed.

Driving with macular degeneration. Macular degeneration (MJ) affects central vision. It happens when deterioration of the central portion of the retina occurs. The American Mac-

ular Degeneration Foundation says MD is the leading cause of vision loss. As MD impacts vision, driving may need to be reduced or ceased.

Color blindness impacts driving. Those with color blindness may need to use caution when identifying traffic signals or the brake lights of other vehicles. It may take practice and driving with someone who sees colors to become comfortable.

Cataracts can blur vision. Those with cataracts may have blurry vision

and see halos around lights that can make driving challenging. Cataracts also may make it more difficult to see pedestrians against the landscape, especially at night. Treating cataracts can improve vision significantly.

Many motor vehicle agency vision tests do not take into consideration all of the factors that can impact vision while driving. Seeking care for visual problems and changing driving habits when necessary can help people stay safe on the road.

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