

The Courier

November 25, 2015 Volume 16 Number 13



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A new country, a new language

By **Dolores E. Pike**

It was Tuesday night and the members of the Church Council gathered for their monthly meeting at the Community Church at Ocean Pines. Member Bud Heim mentioned to Pastor Boyd Etter that his Korean neighbor, who also attended Sunday morning service with his wife and sons, was looking to improve his English. Even though Heung Sik Han was participating in a local GED class (his only purpose to learn English, he already had his Korean high school diploma) he wanted to do even more to improve his language skills. Arlene Page spoke up and said that her husband Ted had lived in South Korea for three years. Though this was several years in the past Ted, in his capacity as a civilian employee of the federal government, had to have a working command of the Korean language and maybe he could help Heung with his English.

And so began the meetings between Ted Page and Heung Sik Han. It has been about six weeks now and they have been meeting every Tuesday and Friday at the Page home in Bishopville. Ted helps Heung with his English while incorporating a bit of American history and customs into the instructions of the morning. In reciprocity Heung provides Ted with all

the kimchi (pickled Chinese cabbage and a staple of the Korean diet) he can eat, made by Heung's wife Mi Suk Byun. Ted claims it is an acquired taste, some people consider it too spicy.

Heung has lived on the Eastern



Mi Suk Byun and Heung Sik Han

Shore since 2012 when he arrived from Seoul, the capital of South Korea, to work at the Mountaire Farms in Salisbury where the family took up residence and attended a Korean Christian church. He and his wife Mi Suk Byun now reside in North Ocean Pines with their two sons ages 13 and 9 and both parents work in Ocean City. Besides being busy with work and cooking kimchi, Mi Suk also manages to give private piano lessons two days a week.

Heung began his immigration pro-

please see language on page 12

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2012 Business of the Year

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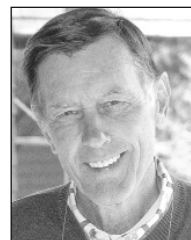
Though many competing claims exist, the most familiar story of the first Thanksgiving took place in Plymouth Colony, in present-day Massachusetts, in 1621. More than 200 years later, President Abraham Lincoln declared the final Thursday in November as a national day of thanksgiving. Congress finally made Thanksgiving Day an official national holiday in 1941. Sarah Josepha Hale, the enormously influential magazine editor and author who waged a tireless campaign to make Thanksgiving a national holiday in the mid-19th century, was also the author of the classic nursery rhyme "Mary Had a Little Lamb."



It was embarrassing

Commentary by **Joe Reynolds**

By the end of the OPA board meeting on November 19th almost all the original few in the audience had left, perhaps in disgust. What went on was a text-book display of adults acting like second graders in a yelling match about whose father was tougher. OPA President Pat Renaud did nothing to stop the too frequent yelling and discord among various board members. At one point he even entered the fray. The meeting was one of the most disgraceful I can recall in over 25 years.



Joe Reynolds

It began with the first old business item on the agenda when Director Tom Herrick asked for a discussion about how three board members were appointed to deal with golf management firm Landscapes Unlimited, and if the board president had the right to do so without board confirmation.

Long story short — months ago Renaud appointed himself, Cordwell, and Director Tom Terry to deal with LU in developing a business plan for the golf course. Some board members say Renaud did not ask for required board confirmation of those appointments and never even told the rest of the board.

Speaking immediately after Herrick raised the issue for discussion, Director Bill Cordwell launched into what became a long, red-faced diatribe about the selection process that brought LU to Ocean Pines earlier in the year, complaining his integrity had been questioned in a local newspaper.

At a prior meeting Stevens questioned those appointments without board confirmation, also noting that two of those appointed to deal with LU, Cordwell and Terry, had opposed hiring LU. Cordwell was an outspoken critic of hiring LU, even suggesting OPA look into what he said were accusations of their "poor business, legal and personnel practices and financial improprieties." Now Cordwell says he wants to help them succeed. Apparently anyone surprised about his currently expressed desire for LU success is questioning his integrity.

At the 11/19/2015 meeting Stevens again maintained the OPA by-laws re-

quire board confirmation of appointments by a board president. Director Cheryl Jacobs disagreed with Stevens. Reading the by-laws, it appears Stevens is correct. With regard to any "appointments to committees or advisory bodies," the by-laws state: "Chairpersons and members shall be members of the Association eligible to vote and shall be appointed or reappointed by the President, with the consent of the Board of Directors." Regardless of the by-laws, common sense, respect for all elected board members, and good management should dictate board confirmation of such critical appointments. Those appointed represent the board, not the board president.

The argument over the LU advisory appointments raged on among the board members, with most of the argument coming from Cordwell, Terry, Stevens and Collins, with absolutely no control by the board president. The only board member without much to say was Tom Herrick, perhaps in shock to see his simple request for a discussion turn into a verbal version of a bar room brawl. It was ugly.

At one point Director Jack Collins asked Cordwell about LU's business plan and Cordwell's dealings with LU as board liaison to LU. Cordwell strongly denied he held any such liaison position, and General Manager Bob Thompson said Cordwell was correct. More loud arguing continued.

Cordwell was correct. However, the confusion for Collins, Stevens, and perhaps others, was caused by what the GM previously said at the October 29th board meeting. At that meeting when Stevens asked about the LU business plan and why the GM had not provided it to board members, the GM replied that he had given the plan to the "board liaison, Bill Cordwell." The GM's comment at the time was clearly intended to suggest it was then Cordwell's responsibility to provide it to other board members or that by providing the plan to Cordwell, the GM had done his duty to the entire board in that regard.

In all of the at times loud dispute over the issue of whether or not Cordwell was somehow the liaison to LU, the board overlooked the fact that it had just earlier approved the minutes of the October 29th board meeting. Those minutes contained the following

sentence: "Mr. Thompson stated he has given that (LU business plan) to the Board Liaison, Bill Cordwell, but can certainly make copies for the rest of the board."

So, the board approves minutes quoting the GM as giving LU's plan to board liaison Bill Cordwell, then listens to Cordwell vehemently deny he is any liaison to golf or LU, and the GM agrees with him. You can't make this stuff up. Cordwell denies he is any liaison to golf or LU just minutes after he voted to approve prior meeting minutes where the GM referred to Cordwell as the liaison.

If Cordwell has a gripe over the liaison question, it should be with the General Manager, not fellow board members.

In the end Stevens had his way with the issue of board confirmation of appointments. One might say he won the battle and lost the war after the GM suggested a motion to Renaud. Renaud then made the suggested motion to appoint himself, Terry and Cordwell as a committee to deal with LU. As everyone in the room already knew, the motion passed with Renaud, Terry, Cordwell, and Jacobs voting YES; Stevens, Collins and Herrick voted NO.

Stevens then made a motion to invite LU to a public board meeting to discuss their proposed plans for managing the golf course. Almost strangely, given the intensity of the prior discussion, it passed 5-2, with Jacobs and Cordwell in opposition.

In a related golf vignette, after Jacobs asked Bob Thompson for an explanation of a golf related financial number, Collins then said, "Let me, maybe, just educate Cheryl a little bit." He then provided some good information. However, his perhaps unintentional but somewhat condescending, lead-in comment certainly did not endear him with Jacobs.

In other matters, the board clashed strongly yet again over budget guidance it will provide to the GM. This time the friction and arguing was as much semantical as instructional. The board also resumed what has become an ongoing nonsensical discussion about what it can or can't do about trashy properties in violation of the Declarations of Restrictions. One property in question is clearly in need

please see commentary on page 15

How sweet it is

Ooooooooooh! As I sit writing this column I'm daydreaming about the wonderful aroma that will fill our home during my favorite holiday that is Thanksgiving. Oh, how I love the smell of my wife's cooking, a love that is surpassed only by eating what she makes.



It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

As Jackie Gleason used to exclaim, "How sweet it is!"

Without exception Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday. Why? Because it's a holiday that doesn't require gift buying. It's a holiday that requires only great food, great company and great conversation. In my book that's the way to spend a holiday. Throw in some after dinner port or brandy and cigars and you've really got something going on. Add a slice of my wife's cheese cake to the mix and I can tell you honestly that if the world were to end the following day, I would die a very, very satisfied man. Not that I want the world to end. There are turkey sandwiches still to make and leftover pumpkin pie still to eat.

The Thanksgivings I've enjoyed the most were the ones we've had at our own table, not having had to travel hither and yon. Over the years my wife and I have made a conscious effort to celebrate the holiday in our home, inviting others to join us. Many of my favorite Thanksgiving memories have been, and I mean no offense to those who have joined us, the ones we spent with just our children.

From the time they arrived on the scene sitting around the dinner table with my kids has always been a treat. Although slightly different, the humor of each is broad and at times sophisticated. When they're in sync, firing on all cylinders, doing what we call in our family, "material," you dare not put a forkful of food in your mouth for fear convulsions of laughter will project it across the room. My kids are downright hilarious as they do take-offs of how they were raised, impersonations of my wife and me, and humorous commentary about whatever caught their attention at that moment. On holidays,

especially Thanksgiving, their delivery and material is so charged you can almost hear it crackle.

Through the years I've been their prime foil. My oldest son would sit across from me at the other head of the table (or as I like to say, the foot of the table). There he had a direct shot at being the first one to make me crack up. It usually didn't take him long. He'd make a face or a gesture, or just ask for the salt to be passed his way, and I would begin biting my lip trying to stave off the inevitable. When that happened I better understood how Harvey Korman felt when Tim Conway would go off script on the "Carol Burnett Show."

In very short order the other two, my daughter and youngest son, would pile on throwing out one liners (original one liners I must say) or begin doing some physical comedy that would smash any reservoir of resistance I may have had. In short order I'd be a goner with tears running down my cheeks, my sides hurting and my food getting cold. The more I laughed, the more they added fuel to the fire. They were merciless and took a great deal of pleasure in being able to make dear old Dad "go squinty," which means that I'd be laughing so hard that my cheeks would be pulled back tight so that my eyes would be open just a slit. Kids can be so cruel.

My wife, their mother, would only be a little less likely to hold off cracking up. She usually waited a few seconds after I lost it so it looked like I was the "weaker one."

Thanksgiving traditions are as unique as the families who celebrate the holiday. Traditions are whatever we deem them to be: a special, handed-down recipe or the use of a family knife to carve the turkey. It's my hope that as my children go in their own directions that they create their own family traditions, as my daughter is doing with her family in Texas; that laughter and good conversation be their tonic.

Tomorrow our table will be set for family and friends, aromas will fill the air and simultaneous conversations will abound. I'm looking forward to the laughter and good conversation, and even an adult beverage or two complemented by a cigar.

My best wishes to you for an enjoyable Thanksgiving!

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A home for Butchie

The Worcester County Humane Society recently held a celebration in honor of the adoption of long time resident, Butchie. At 10 years old, Butchie, a pit bull mix, had spent 8 years of his life at the no-kill animal shelter. Staff and volunteers held a celebration on November 11 for Butchie along with his new forever family.

After one of her dogs passed away, Kim Shaneybrook decided she was ready to add another dog to her pack. Shaneybrook also has two other dogs, Quincy and Baxter. She quickly fell in love with Butchie, and after a successful meeting between her two dogs and Butchie, she decided he was the one for her. The three dogs get along so well, they actually shared a dog food cake shaped like a dog biscuit at the adoption celebration.

"He is such a sweet, well behaved dog," said Shaneybrook. "He is the wonderful dog that he is because of the love and care that he received at the

Pines tree lighting to be held

The Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department invites area residents and visitors to enjoy a cup of hot cider and treats by a warm fire and kick off the holiday season with the community's 5th annual "A Hometown Christmas" and tree lighting ceremony on Saturday, November 28 at 6:30 p.m. in White Horse Park.

Trees decorated by Ocean Pines businesses, clubs, families and individuals will be on display and illuminated at the event, which is free and open to the public. Local choral groups, including the Delmarva Chorus and the MBS Ambassadors, will perform and Santa Claus will make an appearance.

For more information contact the Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department at 410-641-7052.

Worcester County Humane Society." Staff and volunteers cried tears of joy as they said farewell to Butchie.



Butchie takes a treat

"Seeing any of our animals being adopted brings us great joy," said Jessica Summers, WCHS Adoption Coordinator. "Seeing one of our long time residents finally finding their forever family is a feeling that can't even be put into words."

Santa breakfast to be held

An all-you-can-eat breakfast buffet with Santa will be held on Saturday, December 5 from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. at Buckingham Presbyterian Church located on 20 S. Main Street in Berlin. The buffet costs \$8 for adults, \$4 for children ages 3 to 10 and free for kids 2 and under. Tickets are available at the door. Reservations are recommended for large groups. Those attending are encouraged to bring their cameras and camcorders. For more information call 410-641-0234.

Legion to host holiday party

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 166 will host a holiday party at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, December 15. The party will be held for members only at the American Legion Synepuxent Post 166, 23 Street in Ocean City. Those who attend are encouraged to bring a secret Santa exchange gift that costs between 5 and 10 dollars as well as a covered dish to share. For more information or to sign up call President Cathy Kline at 724-919-0012.



Mary Beth Carozza, center, with participants of the construction trade expo

Trade expo take place at WTHS

Working with local construction industry employers and the Worcester County School System, Delegate Mary Beth Carozza (District 38C) took the lead in coordinating a construction trade expo held on November 5 at Worcester Technical High School. This first expo was held for the eighth grade students at Snow Hill Middle School and WTHS pre-engineering students.

"The construction industry is rapidly growing and will face a huge shortage of well-trained employees by 2022," Carozza said. "By seeing some of the cutting edge equipment firsthand and talking to the young leaders in the construction field, this expo gave our local students the opportunity to know more about the high-tech, high-paid possibilities in the construction industry."

According to the associated builders and contractors, trained and qualified entry-level annual salaries in the construction industry range from \$30,000 to \$60,000. From there, project managers, crew leaders and superintendents can earn between \$60,000 and \$160,000, depending on experience, training and education.

Participating local employers for this first expo included DiCarlo Precision Instruments, Delaware Elevator and Gilbane Builders. Carozza worked with the Associated Builders and Contractors Chesapeake Shores Chapter in arranging the presentations and thanked the local construction industry representatives for participating in the expo. The expo also showcased equipment from DiCarlo Precision Instruments including a drone and a 3D handheld laser scanner.

The Worcester County school system officials indicated their interest in expanding the construction trade expo

to give more students, teachers, and parents the opportunity to learn more about the future of the construction industry.

"I believe our students and their parents should know about the variety of occupations across the board, and it was exciting to see the enthusiastic reaction of the students at the expo," Carozza said.

Chili cook-off approaching

The 18th annual Ocean City Parrot-head Club's Hots for Tots Chili Cook-off will be held on Sunday, December 6 at the West Ocean City Greene Turtle from 1 to 4p.m. The cook-off is a toy drive for the Ocean City Police Department and the Santa House as well as a fund drive for the Worcester GOLD families during the holidays. Hundreds of patrons throughout the day and over 25 different chili entries are expected. For more information on the chili cook-off or to register as a restaurant please visit www.ocphc.com and click on the Chili Cook-off link. For questions call 410-213-1500 or email ocphc@comcast.net.

Indoor yard sale to be held

The Bishopville Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary will be holding an indoor yard sale at the main street station on Saturday, December 5 from 7 a.m. to noon. Tables are \$15 each or 2 for \$25. Breakfast sandwiches will be available. Call 443-235-2926 to reserve your table space.

OPA board meets

By **Kelsey Reichenberg**

Last Thursday the Ocean Pines Association (OPA) board of directors held their regular meeting in the Ocean Pines Community Center. Following brief remarks by President Pat Renaud, General Manager Bob Thompson gave his report.

Thompson's report covered a range of topics including current capital projects in progress such as bridge repair and replacement, the Manklin Meadows project, the Reserve Study and the status of the agreement with Sandpiper Energy. Thompson also reviewed the finances for golf, the Yacht Club, and aquatics. He concluded with discussion of Compliance, Permits, & Inspections (CPI) Department violations.

In his discussion of the bridge repair projects, Thompson announced that the bridge repair applications have been completed along with 50 percent of the design drawings. Furthermore, the permit approval process is estimated to take three to four months to complete following submission, which took place by last Friday. Proposals for the projects are due by February 15. Once bridge repairs begin, the bridge may remain open throughout the repair, and it is estimated to take around six weeks to complete. The estimated cost per bridge is around \$243,100. A decision on bridge replacement has to be made, although the board will be provided with information on bridge types, options and costs at the December board meeting.

Thompson went on to discuss the Manklin Meadows project, which includes the addition of two paddle ball courts, with the design option of two more courts in the future; the relocation of the existing playground; a realignment of the existing playground parking lot; and, the addition of four new pickleball courts with a design option for an additional four more courts in the future. Specifications and final design drawings for the project have been submitted to Worcester County and the Critical Area review is underway with approval expected by the end of November. Construction will begin mid-January, and the project should be completed by April 30.

Thompson discussed the reserve study, which involves the study of the physical status and repair/replace-

ment costs of major common area components OPA is obligated to maintain as well as the evaluation and analysis of OPA's reserve balance, income, and expenses. A draft report is anticipated in December.

Thompson announced that OPA's negotiations with Sandpiper Energy are in the final stages.

Lastly, he discussed the budgets of Ocean Pines' major amenities: golf, the Yacht Club and Aquatics. Golf and Aquatics closed out the month below budget while Yacht Club finished the month ahead of budget.

As the meeting progressed, Thompson named two locations that are currently violating CPI regulations, 6 Tiller Lane, where a box trailer is unlawfully present, and a home located on 42 Ocean Parkway where extensive maintenance is needed. The board is planning to take action against the violations.

Following Thompson's report, board member Tom Herrick addressed the three appointed representatives associated with Landscapes

please see **opa** on page 12

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Just Good Business ...

JJ Fish: Unique crafts sold in America

By **Jean Marx**

The JJ Fish Studio and Fine Crafts Gallery is proud to sell hand-crafted items made only in America. The store is located at 14 Main Street in Berlin and features work created by its owner, John Fisher, as well as up to 70 other artists. In the 1970s, John started designing and creating his own line of sterling silver jewelry pieces as a hobby. The hobby soon became a passion that was shared by both John and his wife Judy.

The store is easy to find with its whimsical stand out front where you can blow bubbles with a fancy wand and beautiful items displayed in the large picture window. All of the

artists featured at the JJ Fish Gallery have become long-time friends of John and Judy through their participation in jewelry craft shows hosted by the Pennsylvania Guild of Craftsmen. For 30 years, the Fishers enjoyed traveling to the craft shows to feature their one-of-a-kind jewelry pieces, and they actually first sought out their store space in Berlin as a workshop for John.

The Fishers were residents of Severna Park, Maryland before officially relocating here in 2001. John had been a school teacher, and Judy worked for many years in private industry as well as for the federal government. Since they had purchased a vacation home in Ocean Pines, the Fishers found the beach the ideal location to seek space for John's workshop. At first the store space was more than the Fishers felt they needed. To fill the additional space, Judy describes how she and John thought of their fellow craftsmen. "Since we knew all of these craftspeople, we started calling our friends to feature their work as well as our own."

In offering advice for running a successful business, Judy says it starts with being passionate about what you do. From there, "It takes a lot of work and dedication because you can't run your business just to make money. There will be ups and downs, and it's hard to sell something you don't believe in." One of the ways John and Judy convey their passion for homemade crafts is to provide their customers with the background stories of their artists. Judy describes, "Once people understand that there's a face behind what



John and Judy Fisher

they're buying, they end up gaining a whole different understanding and appreciation for it."

Two of the most popular items sold at JJ Fish are worry rings and marble pendants. (I have a marble pendant, and I delight in changing the marble for the season or just on a whim). Other items sold in the store are pottery, glass-blown ornaments, vases, wooden spoons, and many stunning jewelry pieces. Some of the artists have been with the Fishers from the beginning. Others are rotated based on when the artists change their styles or begin making new things. Judy points out, "You can't always count on something in our store being here the next time you come in." This is particularly true of John's unique sterling silver pieces that typically sell out quickly.

Judy mentions that she and John accept their challenges in stride. Their biggest challenges have been to establish a name for themselves and to balance their time to run and manage their business. The Fishers have met their challenges quite well. They will celebrate their 15th year in business in April 2016, and they have sold their jewelry to over 600 galleries across the country, and counting.

The aspect of the community that pleases the Fishers most is the spirit of cooperation between all the local businesses on Main Street and the friendly clientele. With the "Made in America" theme at JJ Fish, being located in the Coolest Small Town in America is a combination that is hard to beat. If you are in the market for unique, handmade gifts this Christmas, you'll want to look for the fanciful bubble stand and step inside the beautiful gallery that awaits you.

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Last year only 2,500 graves were covered. Our initiative sponsored over 470 wreaths last year.

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_____ WREATHS @ \$15.00 EA.

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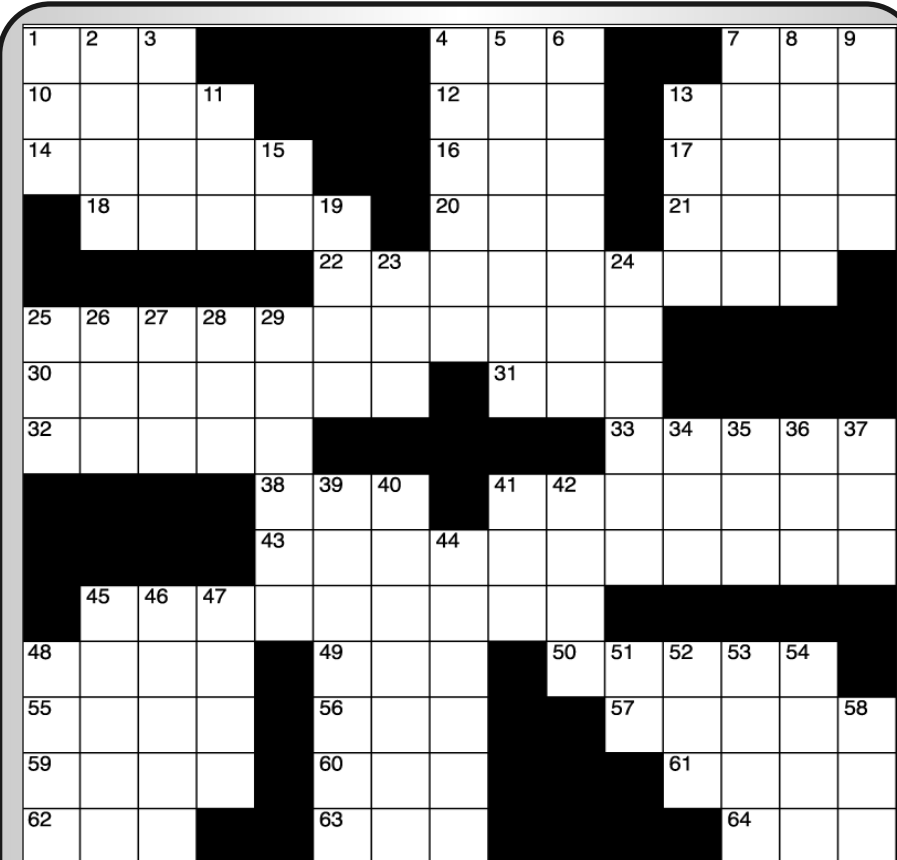
NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

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ACROSS

- 1. And so forth (abbr.)
- 4. Used to be United ____
- 7. Upper left keyboard key
- 10. Inevitable ruin
- 12. Consumed
- 13. N.H. Maine river
- 14. Sen. Thurmond
- 16. More (Spanish)
- 17. Oh, God!
- 18. Designed chairs
- 20. Insect living in organized colonies
- 21. Anglo-Saxon theologian, c.700
- 22. Ecclesiastics
- 25. Magic incantation
- 30. Swan Lake and Don Quixote
- 31. Affirmative
- 32. Conspiracy
- 33. Citizen of Stockholm
- 38. Light brown
- 41. Roman judge
- 43. Sonny & Cher classic

- 45. Chopped mixture for stuffing
- 48. Am. Nobel physicist Isidor
- 49. Maya ____ of Vietnam Veterans Memorial
- 50. Expressed pleasure
- 55. In bed
- 56. Finnish
- 57. Canacol Energy stock symbol
- 59. Leather strap for hawks
- 60. UA fraternity est. 3-9-1856
- 61. Low, sideless cart
- 62. They ____
- 63. Single Lens Reflex
- 64. Point that is midway between N and NE

DOWN

- 1. Murrow, Sullivan & Koch
- 2. Carrying bag
- 3. Countess of Grantham
- 4. Key fruit
- 5. One kept in readiness
- 6. Bring back to normal
- 7. Avid

- 8. Lots of
- 9. Formal close (music)
- 11. Dad's partner
- 13. Point that is one point E of SE
- 15. Myself
- 19. Minor disagreement
- 23. Promotional materials
- 24. Bahama capital
- 25. Rudiments of a subject
- 26. Bleat
- 27. Right line-backer
- 28. Flower petals
- 29. Early culture of Gr. Britain
- 34. Worldwide internet
- 35. 7th Greek letter
- 36. When born (abbr.)
- 37. Before
- 39. Existing forever
- 40. About name
- 41. Myanmar monetary unit
- 42. Island north of Guam
- 44. Soft
- 45. ____ Castell, makers of pens
- 46. Excessively fat
- 47. Eliminates
- 48. A Hindu prince or king in India
- 51. Carrier's invention
- 52. Possessed
- 53. Deserve through action
- 54. Doyen
- 58. A way to change color



Answers for Nov 18

For Art's Sake...

Memorable creations

By **Stasia Heubeck**

Randy Hofman, minister artist, has been creating Biblical sand sculptures for more than 30 years. He is well known in the Ocean City area where thousands of tourists come to see his creations on the beach at Second Street, in front of the Harrisons' Plim Plaza Hotel. His depiction of scenes from the Old and New Testaments are created every few weeks. Digging the sand and pulling it up to make a mound while adding water are the first steps to making these sculptures. Randy then draws a blueprint, somewhat like a coloring

rectly. This led to his becoming an ordained minister in 1985 in the Delmarva Evangelical Church of Salisbury. He is active in the Son Spot ministry, whose Fellowship Center is located at 12 Worcester Street, Ocean City. Randy and his wife, Marilynne, are residents of Ocean Pines.

From his studio in Newark, MD,



Randy Hoffman

Randy creates icons as frames for prints of his sand sculpture. He still paints on canvas using acrylics to portray his other love, the Assateague ponies. His many paintings are for sale and can be seen at "A Little Bit

book design, of the image he wants. He uses this image to guide him in creating the sculpture. Watered down Elmer's Glue sprayed on the final work helps hold the form together and makes it last longer.

Randy grew up in the Washington, DC, area and like just about every kid living within three hours of Ocean City, MD, came to the beach every summer. After studying advertising, design and visual communication at the Pratt Institute in New York, he became an oil painter. Coming back to Ocean City, Randy worked with Marc Altamar and learned the art of sand sculpting. He also made sidewalk chalk paintings. Although he was raised a Christian, he had to study the Bible closely in order to present the ancient characters cor-

rectly. This led to his becoming an ordained minister in 1985 in the Delmarva Evangelical Church of Salisbury.

Although he has been self-employed most of his life, Randy does get a Spring break, courtesy of the Island Baptist Church, South Padre Island, TX, who invite him to create his sand sculptures. His commissions for sand images celebrating lovers and marriage proposals are very popular. But it is the Biblical sculptures that draw people to observe in quiet contemplation God's messages. With the palm trees and the lighting, the beach at Second Street becomes, what Randy calls, a "spiritual oasis." He is thankful to his benefactors, John and Karen Harrison, and Hale and Alberta Harrison, for the many years the Plim Plaza has hosted his art.

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., November 26	7:15 a.m. 7:34 p.m.	12:53 a.m. 1:43 p.m.	6:53 a.m.	4:42 p.m.
Fri., November 27	8:05 a.m. 8:25 p.m.	1:42 a.m. 2:33 p.m.	6:54 a.m.	4:42 p.m.
Sat., November 28	8:54 a.m. 9:15 p.m.	2:30 a.m. 3:23 p.m.	6:55 a.m.	4:41 p.m.
Sun., November 29	9:42 a.m. 10:03 p.m.	3:19 a.m. 4:13 p.m.	6:56 a.m.	4:41 p.m.
Mon., November 30	10:30 a.m. 10:54 p.m.	4:10 a.m. 5:04 p.m.	6:57 a.m.	4:41 p.m.
Tues., December 1	11:19 a.m. 11:46 p.m.	5:03 a.m. 5:56 p.m.	6:58 a.m.	4:40 p.m.
Wed., December 2	12:10 p.m.	5:58 a.m. 6:46 p.m.	6:59 a.m.	4:40 p.m.

Veterans' benefits should be considered

By **Mike Mathers**

November 11th was Veteran's Day, a time set aside for honoring the men and women whose efforts and sacrifice protect our country. The holiday is a good occasion to offer not just thanks and appreciation in the abstract but concrete solutions to some of the problems faced by veterans. Like all older Americans, many aging veterans are concerned about the costs of long term medical care. What is not well known is that the Veteran's Pension benefit program, available through the Department of Veteran's Affairs is a unique solution available for in home, assisted living and even nursing home level long term care. Unlike Medicaid



Mike Mathers

for example, VA pension money is flexible and can provide extra income for any long term care environment. This means that VA pensions can be a powerful tool to help keep veterans (and their surviving spouses) out of nursing homes. In fact, the VA offers the same benefits to widows and widowers of veterans as long as they are disabled.

There are three levels of need in the VA Pension program. The current basic benefit is \$1,038 per month and can rise to as much as \$2,054 or more when dependent children are present. The amount paid out is based on three factors: service, disability, and assets. The service requirement is active duty during a declared period of war, and no dishonorable discharge. Importantly, the veteran does not need to have served in combat. Secondly, the veterans must be disabled or over 65.

Finally, the veteran's assets, income, and medical expenses will be evaluated

The VA pension is different than Medicaid, in that there is no specific number of assets that will qualify you. Instead, the VA looks at medical expenses for the household (including the veteran's spouse) and determines whether they will exceed the income and assets available to the veteran. Because of this balancing of resources and needs, it usually helps for a veteran to do some planning before he makes an application. For example, increasing the number of hours that a caretaker visits the home to assist the veteran will increase the medical expenses listed on the application. Those increased expenses might be the key to receiving \$1,000 or more per month in VA pension benefits, which would cover the costs of the increased care.

As another example of pre-applica-

tion planning, consider that the value of your home is not counted as an asset. If the VA will count your savings account against you when considering the pension application, but ignore the value of your home, then it makes sense to make some improvements to the home prior to applying. Spending that money on health care related improvements, like adding a bench to the shower or replacing steps with ramps, furthers the goal of maintaining the veteran's ability to stay in the home, and increases their ability to qualify for monthly pension benefits.

I encourage any veteran or surviving spouse of a veteran to look into these benefits as part of their planning for aging related medical expenses.

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



Showell "K-Kids" Club receives their bell

The "K-Kids" Club, a Kiwanis student club, received their bell used to open and close meetings just like the sponsoring parent Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines - Ocean City. The club was formed during the 2014 - 2015 school year when teacher Evy Collins became the adviser to the club. She and the Kiwanis liaison, Jackie Todd, have been helping these elementary school students learn how to be leaders and to do community service.

Pictured (L-R) are Kiwanis Club President **Mark Joseph** and **Jackie Todd** with the K-Kids bell at the parent club meeting.

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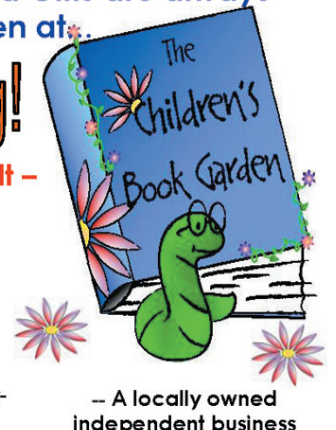
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On Wednesday, December 2 from 7 a.m. to noon, the Grace Parker All You Can Eat Breakfast will be held at the First Presbyterian Church located at 13th and Philadelphia Avenue. The breakfast will consist of eggs of any style, pancakes, buckwheat pancakes, Milton sausage, country ham, homemade biscuits, hash brown potatoes, grits, coffee and tea. It costs \$8 for attendees to eat in and \$6 for carry out. Milk, soda, and orange juice will also be available. For more information call 410-289-9340.

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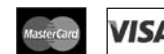
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language

from page 3

cedure in 2004 and it took nine years to complete. This, of course, was following 9/11 when the process became more difficult. When he began the process he had one young son. By the time they finally arrived in the U.S. he had two sons ages 13 and 9. One boy attends Showell Elementary School and the other Stephen Decatur middle school.

"I have many reasons why I come to America but this is my top one: my sons are free. And they are not in competition with their friends which I feel is not good. In Korea you study all the time because Koreans remember only the top one. It is study, study, study to get in the top schools," said Heung.

When asked if his boys help him with his English, Heung replied, "My kids teach it to me? English? No, no. My son (his oldest) he talks to his friends in English but talks to me in Korean. His teacher says he talks to his friends too much. And I tell my son you cannot talk during class - that is your teacher's time. So now he is being more quiet in school."

opa

from page 7

Unlimited, which is Ocean Pines' golf management company. Discussion centered on whether Renaud, as president, had the authority to select the representatives without the consensus of the remainder of the board, as well as the representatives' lack of communication with the rest of the board following meetings with the Landscapes Unlimited. Following the lengthy, and at times acrimonious discussion, the board voted 5-2 to meet with Landscapes Unlimited and 4-3, with Stevens, Collins and Herrick against supporting the current representatives, Tom Terry, Pat Renaud and Bill Cordwell as golf representatives.

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On the Friday morning this reporter was privileged to sit in on a lesson at the Page home Ted and Heung were working on the complexities involved with the words "stick" and "stuck." First they looked at the words as verbs and then at "stick" when applied as a noun. Heung seeks many avenues for help with his English. He likes to listen to Diane Rehm on NPR because she speaks "slowly and distinctly." He often visits the Ocean Pines library where he borrows books aimed toward young readers and will review them with Ted if something needs an explanation. Heung continues to be amazed by the multitude of offerings the community library has to offer, which he says is very different from the single purpose of libraries in Korea. He remarked on the day that the firefighters came to the library to present a special program. He marvels in the fact that the library can even help people get jobs.

Heung has often said to Arlene Page that he wants to make sure his children are raised in a religious atmosphere. When they moved to the Pines they began attending Community Church on Racetrack Road, which early in its history maintained a close association with a Korean ministry. They became members this past November.

As minister to a congregation involved with several outreach programs, Rev. Etter feels that helping Heung and his family is one of the most important missions at Community Church.

Christmas cookie walk approaching

A Christmas cookie walk will be held on Saturday, December 5, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Bethany United Methodist Church located on 8648 Stephen Decatur Hwy in Berlin. There will be homemade fancy cookies sold by the pound. Attendees can make their own selections. Packaging will consist of ribbons and bows. For more information contact 410-213-8238.

*If you live in Ocean Pines, be sure to contact
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Community Calendar

When submitting items for the calendar please include the event name, date, where held, time and a little about the event. Items being considered for the calendar need to be in by noon on Friday. E-mail to thecourier@delmarvacourier.com

Mondays

Ocean Pines Poker Club

Poker players wanted in Ocean Pines area for Monday evenings. Call 410-208-1928

Open every Monday through October: **Historic St. Martin's Church Museum.** 1-4 pm. 11413 Worcester Highway, Showell, MD. For more information, call 410-251-2849

Sweet Adelines

The Delmarva Sweet Adeline Chorus meets from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Ocean Pines Community Center. Call 410-641-6876.

Mon. & Tues.

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

Mon., Wed. & Sat.

Church Thrift Shop

OC Baptist Church's Thrift Shop by Seaside Christian Academy behind White Marlin Mall open 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Mon. & Wed., 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sat. Call 410-251-6971.

Tuesdays

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.

Take off Pounds Sensibly Meeting. Berlin group No. 331, Worcester County Health Center 9730 Healthway Dr., Berlin, 5:30-7:00 p.m. TOPS is a support and educational group promoting weight loss and healthy lifestyle. It meets weekly on Tuesdays. Info: jean-duck47@gmail.com

Tuesdays and Thursdays

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.

Wednesdays

Kiwanis Club Meeting

Weekly meetings at 8 a.m. on Wednesdays in the Ocean Pines Community Center. Doors open 7 a.m. October through April.

Elks Bingo

Ocean City Elks in Ocean City (behind Fenwick Inn) open at 5:30 p.m. Early birds at 6:30 and bingo at 7 p.m. Call 410-250-2645.

Delmarva Hand Dancing

Dancing at The Fenwick Inn in Ocean City from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Contact 302-934-7951 or info@delmarvahanddancing.com

Rotary Club

Ocean City/Berlin Rotary Club meetings are held at 5:45 p.m. at the Captains Table in Ocean City. Contact Stan.Kahn@carouselhotel.com.

Square Dancing

The Pinesteppers have introduction to square dancing at the OP Community Center at 7 p.m. Call Bruce Barrett at 410-208-6777.

AL-Anon/OP-West OC-Berlin

Wednesday Night Bayside Beginnings Al-Anon family meetings are held at the Ocean Pines Community Center at 7:30 p.m.

Wed., Thurs., Fri. & Sat.

Church Thrift Shop

The Shepherd's Nook at Community Church at Ocean Pines is open 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call 410-641-5433.

Diakonia Thrift Shop

'Used to be Mine' offers clothing, furniture, household items and more. Proceeds benefit Diakonia shelter and pantry. Located at

Rte. 611 and Sunset Ave. Open 10 - 4. Call 410-213-0243.

Thursdays

Story Time

Stories, music and crafts at 10:30 a.m. for children ages 3-5 at Ocean Pines library. Call 410-208-4014.

Beach Singles

Beach Singles 45 for Happy Hour at Harpoon Hanna's at 4 p.m. Call Arlene at 302-436-9577, Kate at 410-524-0649 or Dianne at 302-541-4642.

Legion Bingo

American Legion in Ocean City opens doors at 5:30 p.m., games begin at 7. For information call 410-289-3166.

Gamblers Anonymous

Group meets at 8 p.m. at the Atlantic Club, 11827 Ocean Gateway, West Ocean City. Call 888-424-3577 for help.

Fridays

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.

Sundays

Sunday Night Serenity **Al-Anon Family Group** 7:30 p.m. at The Woodlands/Independent Living Apt. Bldg. 1135 Ocean Parkway-Ocean Pines, Md. 21811

Third Sunday

Sharing Sunday

Bring non-perishable groceries and paper goods to the Ocean Pines southside fire hall 1 -3 p.m. to benefit local food banks.

Third Monday

Democratic Women

The Democratic Women meet 9:30 a.m. for coffee followed by a meeting at 10 a.m. at the Ocean Pines Community Center. Guests and new members are welcome.

Third Tuesday

Widows & Widowers Social Club.

Group meets in Ocean Pines at 1 p.m. for luncheon meeting. Call 410-208-1398.

Third Wednesday

Survivors of Suicide Meeting

Starts at 6 p.m. at the Worcester County Health Department. 9730 Healthway Drive, Berlin. Open to anyone who has lost a friend or loved one to suicide. Quiet listening, caring people, no judgment. For more information, call 410-629-0164 or visit www.choosetolivemaryland.org.

Fourth Wednesday

Marine Corps League

First State Detachment Marine Corps League raises funds for a variety of charities and meets at 7 p.m. in VFW Post 8296, 66th St. Ocean City. Open to all fellow Marines and FMF Corpsmen. Visit www.firststatemarines.org.

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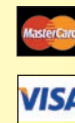
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OPA completes budget guidance document

By **Tom Terry**
Treasurer, OPA

During the Ocean Pines Association's Board meeting on Thursday November 19 the work was completed on the budget guidance document for the fiscal year 2016/2017. The creation of this document included extensive discussions by the Budget and Finance Advisory Committee and the Board of Directors. This document is provided to the General Manager as a means of providing the Board's initial interests, directions, and policy positions it wishes the GM to use in developing the proposed budget. This document is not meant to cover every item of a proposed budget but does provide a policy framework around which the budget can be crafted.

The document includes a reaffirmation of the OPA vision statement to assure the budget will support our premier resort community, offering exceptional value and quality of life to property owners who are diverse in

age, economic status and interests, and to provide residents the facilities, services and amenities that are attractive, affordable, safe and enjoyable.

The document states that operating dollars should emphasize having the availability of the required skill sets appropriate to an enterprise of our current size and to the delivery of quality services, while effectively reducing unnecessary expenditures. Process improvements and increased staff productivity should be based on the inclusion of expanded investment in and use of updated technology.

The capital dollars included in the plan should continue the long standing capital funding approach utilized by the OPA to build and use reserves inclusive of depreciation expense. The FY 2016/17 budget should continue with the capital funding provided to support the major capital repairs, enhancements, or replacement of existing major assets, as well as provide for the repair and/or replacement of

smaller general assets. As part of the capital budget, the funding of Road Resurfacing costs should continue to utilize the Casino Funds, which have been restricted by the legislation for "infrastructure" purposes, and by the Board for Road Resurfacing expenditures.

In total, the GM should continue the use of a \$0 based budget approach

and, if possible, dues should remain at the same level as FY 2015 or be lowered based on a thorough assessment of the needs of the organization.

While the actual budget under development for Board approval is focused on the single FY 2016/17, the budget must address and be built on the concept of a multi-year foresight.

Students sign pledge for Red Ribbon Week

Red Ribbon Week is a national observation that has been celebrated over the last 30 years in many Worcester County schools. It is a time that youth are encouraged to say no to drugs and alcohol and yes to healthy lifestyles. During Red Ribbon Week at Most Blessed Sacrament Catholic School (MBS), students signed

*a class pledge to show their dedication to living a healthy lifestyle, drug free. In addition, MBS students brought in canned goods to kick off our season of giving. Students pictured out of uniform celebrating a no uniform day are (L-R): Piper Bandorick, Athena Quillen, Ava Ball, Gavin McVicker, Michael DePalma, Paul Vitaliti, Kaylie Gott, Julia Carlson, Katrina Val-
lorosi.*



commentary
from page 4

of some trash removal and other maintenance. Reports indicate the home may be abandoned. Issues with this location go back perhaps a decade, some involving court action by OPA and threats against inspectors.

The GM continues to mislead the board about what can be a fast tracked violation and the board continues to fail to read its own resolutions on fast tracking violations and the GM's involvement in those. Fast tracking, contrary to what the GM told the board, can be done in cases other than those related to health and safety. Tom Terry seems like the only board member to have a modicum of understanding on this issue.

Board meetings have become battlegrounds, not deliberative management meetings. There is little or no following of Robert's Rules. There is little or no real understanding of the Declaration of Restrictions, bylaws and resolutions. There is little or no real understanding of the Maryland HOA Act. Similar questions go unresolved meeting after meeting.

A good start to cease the nonsense at board meetings might be for the OPA president to begin exercising even a little control and use Robert's Rules as required by our by-laws; and perhaps, most important, resume the historical practice of having legal counsel attend all board meetings.

During forum [OceanPinesForum.com] discussion of the meeting, association member Ed Moran wrote, "Were I on this board, I would insist that Joe Moore (OPA counsel) be present at these meetings. These people cannot be trusted to conduct the association's business intelligently. They seem to have no conception of the by laws or if they do, they violate them at their convenience."

Past OPA President Bill Zawacki wrote, "The performance of the Board President with respect to controlling the meeting was appalling. He should take the time to read Robert's Rules of Order and OPA Resolution M-02."

Anyone who thinks some new level of comity arrived with the board election last August is sadly mistaken. Things are not only worse than last year, they are worse than in decades. One four-three board majority was replaced by a different four-three majority. Three open seats will be up for grabs in the election next August.



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