



The Courier

December 9, 2015 Volume 16 Number 15

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Anglers Club to meet

The Ocean Pines Anglers Club will meet on Saturday, December 12, 9:30 a.m. at the Ocean Pines library. The speaker will be David Blazer, former executive director of the Maryland Coastal Bays National Estuary Program and most recent deputy director of Harbor Development for the Maryland Port Administration. Blazer was also just appointed director of fisheries of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Blazer will address fisheries legislation, regulations and other outstanding issues of interest to our local fishery. All are welcome. Attendees are reminded to bring a food item or cash which will be donated to the Diakonia Shelter in West Ocean City.

Democratic Women's Club to hold luncheon

The Democratic Women's Club will have its holiday luncheon on Monday, December 14 at 11:30 AM at Lighthouse Sound. Also, new officers for the club will be installed. Please call Sandy 814-322-2119 for further information.

Church to hold concert

On December 12 at 3 p.m., the Stevenson United Methodist Church will be holding a Christmas concert and hymn sing. The concert will feature organist and pianist Ty N. Thompson and Jeff Thompson. The Stevenson UMC handbell choir will also be featured. A fundraiser dinner will follow the concert in the Fellowship Hall at 5 p.m. The cost for adults is \$15, and for children under the age of 8 it will cost \$5. The dinner will consist of pork, green beans, mashed potatoes, bread and beverages. All proceeds benefit the pipe organ fund.

Berlin Fire Company hosts breakfast

On December 13, the Berlin Fire Company will be holding an all-you-can-eat breakfast buffet from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. The event will be held at the Berlin Fire Hall. The cost is \$9 for adults, \$7 for carry-outs, \$5 for children ages 5 through 12 and free for children under the age of 5. The menu includes pancakes, scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, hash browns, waffles, biscuits, cereals, coffee, milk and juice.



SDHS opens doors during American Education Week

Members of the Stephen Decatur High School club Future Educators of America **Savannah Payne, Adam Melson, and Brooke Cord** greet visitors during American Education Week, November 16 through 20. SDHS opened its doors to over a hundred guests throughout the week.



16th Annual
Ocean Pines
Community

Candlelight
Christmas Eve
Service

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



Come as you are...
casual dress welcomed.





Early Celebration - Good friends (L-R) **Bob and Dorothy Danchik** and **Peggy and Bill Long** took **Anna Foltz** to Fagers Island for an early 90th birthday celebration.

A 'star' to celebrate her 90th birthday

By **David J. Landis, Sr.**

The star was born January 11, 1926. Her name is Anna Foltz, a resident of Ocean Pines since 1975. She is about to celebrate her 90th birthday. She visits family in Houston, TX yearly for the holidays, allowing her family to celebrate her milestone birthday during this year's visit. Her granddaughter Shirley Isbell, who planned the celebration, sent Anna the invitation to her party featuring a picture of her grandmother in her youth. This was accompanied by a campaign button emblazoned with, "Happy Birthday Nan Nan."

Anna is an unbelievably active, young-at-heart, wonderful woman, known to almost everyone locally for all the volunteering she does. To be as energetic as she is, would be a blessing to anyone.

Using the word star to describe Anna Foltz has many meanings. She has been a featured columnist in the *Ocean Pines Independent* for almost two decades. In 2006, Anna and her late husband Carl formed Star Charities. The organization enabled the all volunteer foundation to make charitable contributions to local organizations. Before Star Charities, Anna was a big fund raiser for the Alzheimer's Foundation with yearly

galas in Ocean City as well as many other fundraisers each year. She has received many awards including honors at the Maryland State Senior Hall of Fame in 2005, the Worcester County 2005 Most Beautiful People



Award, the 2008 "Sam Wilkinson Volunteer of the Year Award, honors from the Girl Scouts, two "Keys to the City" from Ocean City, a Congressional Award from President Jimmy Carter and another from Congressman Andy Harris and the first

ever awarded Citizen of the Year from the Sons Of Italy Ocean City Lodge 2474.

In recent years Anna has raised funds for military organizations. Annually she continues her late husband's project of collecting items to be shipped overseas to soldiers for Christmas. She held a V.I.P. Social in October 2015 which combined with her Annual Beef 'N Beer, to be held on January 8, will benefit Maryland Wounded Soldiers.



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Robert B. Adair 1938-2007

2012 Business of the Year

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Decorating evergreen trees had always been a part of the German winter solstice tradition. The first "Christmas trees" explicitly decorated and named after the Christian holiday, appeared in Strasbourg, in Alsace in the beginning of the 17th century. After 1750, Christmas trees began showing up in other parts of Germany, and even more so after 1771, when Johann Wolfgang von Goethe visited Strasbourg and promptly included a Christmas tree in his novel, "The Suffering of Young Werther." In the 1820s, the first German immigrants decorated Christmas trees in Pennsylvania. After Germany's Prince Albert married Queen Victoria, he introduced the Christmas tree tradition to England. In 1848, the first American newspaper carried a picture of a Christmas tree and the custom spread to nearly every home in just a few years.



Christmas Traditions ...

Christmas in Italy is a splendid time

As in previous years *The Courier* continues its series describing the times and traditions found in different countries around the world during the Christmas season. The country of Italy, where the celebration of Christmas really began, leads this year's selection of countries whose Christmas traditions will be highlighted.

Christ was born in Bethlehem, in Judea, 300 years before his birthday was first celebrated in Rome by Emperor Constantine who adopted Christianity. It was the practice of early church leaders to substitute holy days for pagan feast days. No one knows the exact date of Christ's birth. The early church decided to celebrate the birth on December 25, the feast day of the Roman's pagan god Mithras.

In Roman times the period between mid-December and mid-January was a period of almost non-stop revelry. It began with the Saturnalia, a winter solstice festival and ended on the Calenda, the Roman New Year in the middle of January.

With the acceptance of Christianity the period became a time of holiness, which ended on January 6, the date when it is believed the Three Kings visited the Christ child.

Today the Italian Christmas season opens with a nine-day novena of special church services ending on Christmas Eve. The opera season begins in Italy at the same time.

Before delving into the different traditions and events that make up the Christmas season in Italy it may be worthwhile to review the physical aspects of the country.

Italy is comprised of several diverse regions. The country, shaped like a boot is narrow and long. It stretches about 1,000 miles from the snow-capped mountains of the Alps in the north to sun-baked Sicily in the south.

Christmas season in the north is celebrated amid snow and ice, while the southern end, near the island of Sicily, is warm and sunny most days. Residents in Rome will celebrate the holiday in a combination of spring-like weather that might be on the chilly and damp side. Some traditions connected with Christmas are as diverse as the topography of the country.

When it comes to receiving gifts children in the vicinity of Bari and other towns along the Adriatic coast

believe Saint Nicholas visits them on his feast day, which is December 6, and brings gifts to those that have been good. Nicholas was Archbishop of Myra in Asia Minor in the fourth century. Legend claims his remains were stolen in 1087 by a group of Italian clergy and moved to Bari where a festival is held each year on his day.

The children in Sicily believe Saint Lucia brings presents on her feast day, December 13. Saint Lucia also lived in the fourth century. The tales of old claim she was murdered for her belief in Christmas. She wears a star-sprinkled cloak and goes about with her donkey leaving gifts in shoes left by the children outside their door.

Allied soldiers introduced another dispenser of gifts, Santa Claus, during World War II.

Perhaps one of the most touching legends dealing with the practice of giving at Christmas is the story of LaBefana. On the eve of the Epiphany (January 5) children hang their stockings on the fireplace hoping that each will be filled with good things when they awake. They try to stay awake and catch a glimpse of the bringer of gifts. It is not St. Nicholas, St. Lucia or Santa; it is a witch, old and bent over, dressed in black with long white hair. Her nose is hooked and she rides on a broomstick. It is LaBefana.

The legend begins with the night the Three Kings stopped to ask directions to Bethlehem from an old woman who was sweeping out her cottage. They even invited her to join them in their search for a special child. In a very gruff manner she told them she was too busy to take such a trip and did not have any idea where "Bethlehem" might be located.

After the caravan had moved on

Befana began to think about this special child because she really loved children. Her husband had died and she was very lonely. She decided she would go see this special child, rationalizing that the town could not be that far away. With a gift for the child, her coat and her broom she struck out in search of the caravan.

LaBefana never caught up with the caravan, nor found the special child. The legend says she still wanders from house to house searching but never finds the one child.

However, wherever she visits she leaves a gift for the children of the house.

Another tradition associated with Christmas is the display of the mangers. Italy probably takes the

creation of the manger scene to a level beyond all other nations. Every kind

of manger from small, hand-carved replicas to huge, large-as life reproductions can be found in every town and village. Several places support live manger scenes containing people and animals.

The most famous story associated with the manger in Italy centers around a man named Francis, the son of a wealthy Assisi merchant. Francis turned to a life of devotion after a near-death experience as a captive soldier. He cared for the lepers and other outcasts and devoted time to the restoration of ruined churches.

Francis traveled to many places including Palestine, where he visited the birthplace of Christ. He became so taken with the scene of the birth that he wanted the whole world to experience what he felt.

When he returned to his hometown he contacted a noble lord named Giovanni Vellita who liked and respected Francis. He told the lord about his idea to create a manger scene for all the people of the region to enjoy. Vellita liked the idea and provided a manger filled with hay and live animals. People came from all over the re-



LaBefana

please see *Italy* on page 12

Two inches to the left

“A little more to the left. Wait a minute. Let me see. Okay. Perfect. Just move it two inches to the left.”

And so starts the official beginning of decorating the house for the holidays when we get the sofa in just the right position to make room for the Christmas tree.

No matter how much we look forward

much too large for our living room. We were not paying too much attention when we bought it so when we got it home and cut the twine, the tree branches exploded outward as if they were catapults. I was knocked clear across the room. The tree was so big that it took us a couple of days to learn a bear family of three was residing in there.

As time went by and we decorated the house earlier in the season, we found that the live tree lost its needles in increasing quantities as Christmas approached. By the time we took the tree down, the floor was covered with needles.

The house had a fragrant evergreen scent but we could not locate the carpet until Presidents Day.

Many of our neighbors have done a wonderful job putting up outside lights. Some of them are truly artists. We no longer put up outside lights. When we were decorating for Christmas in our first house many years ago, I decided to outline the roofline in colored lights. Up the ladder I went with what seemed to be miles of light strings. I was up there for a couple hours making sure the lines were straight and the lights were all facing the same direction. Things were going fine until I got to the peak of the roof.

I was hanging over the roof attempting to attach the lights when just at that moment the wind kicked up and I lost my balance. In that split moment instead of seeing my life pass before my eyes, all I could think of was that I had not put the cap back on the toothpaste tube. I know, it makes no sense but everyone has their own near death visions.

Fortunately before I fell too far, I grabbed the light string and swung Tarzan-like to the ground. So our neighbors would think I had planned the whole thing, I did a double flip after releasing the string and stuck the landing, arms and head stretched upward to bathe in the imaginary applause and cheers. It was a proud moment until I realized I landed on the dog. Since that experience, we don't trim the roofline with lights anymore.

It takes a couple of days to get adjusted to the house being decorated for Christmas. Furniture is moved. Knickknacks are boxed up and put into the attic and worst of all, the bar counter can no longer be used to pile junk that we're too lazy to put away.

Basically our holiday existence can be summed up simply as being off by two inches to the left.



It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

to Christmas, decorating for the holidays is a pain, literally and figuratively. First you have to unearth between seven and eight china barrel boxes in the attic. This task alone requires a map, searchlight and cell phone. No matter where you place the boxes the year before, they always seem to have worked their way to the back of the attic, on the other side of the HVAC duct work. You are forced to climb over all sorts of forgotten stuff to retrieve them.

Once you find the boxes, there is the task of lowering them through the attic opening that always seems to grow narrower with each passing year. My wife says it's the boxes that are getting wide because they are stuffed more. However, I like to believe it's the opening that's getting narrower. I do this so I can make the same assertion about my trousers as I continue to enjoy holiday cookies and pies.

Once the boxes are down from the attic, the next task is to decide where certain decorations are going to be placed. My wife collects nativity scenes of all different sizes and motifs. We have traditional scenes made of ceramic. We also have scenes made by our kids. She is such a collector that I am surprised she has not arranged a live set on the front lawn with donkeys and camels. Although, the other day I saw her measuring our dog for a papier-mache hump.

Several years ago and after much discussion and debate we decided to purchase an artificial tree. For many years we were dead set against the idea. We liked going out to select a fresh tree, putting it on top of the car and bringing it home to decorate. We often decorated our tree Christmas Eve while watching “It's a Wonderful Life.” It was romantic. Now we have accumulated so many decorations and ornaments that if we don't start right in after Thanksgiving we may not be ready in time for Easter.

One year we bought a tree that was

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Worcester County honored for excellence in financial reporting

Worcester County Government (WCG) was recently honored with an award and a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the seventh consecutive year by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of the United States and Canada. The GFOA recognizes contributions to the practice of government finance that exemplify outstanding financial management, and WCG was honored with this recent recognition for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015.

“Receiving the GFOA award for the last seven years is truly an honor and reflects the strong work ethic and standards of the Finance Office staff and management team,” Finance Officer Phil Thompson said. “It requires a truly dedicated and knowledgeable team to accomplish this task, and I am fortunate to work with such a team.”

The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition awarded to local governments in the areas of accounting and financial reporting. The CAFR was judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, including demonstrating a constructive “spirit of full disclosure” to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the

Church to hold ‘parents’ time out’

Bethany United Methodist Church, located on 8648 Stephen Decatur Highway in Berlin, will be hosting a parents’ time out on Saturday, December 19 from 1 to 4 p.m. Parents take a “time out” for themselves while children ages pre-k through grade 5 enjoy this free event filled with games, crafts and more. Contact Megan to sign up at atbethany21811@gmail.com or 443-614-3870.

Chick-fil-A holds pictures with Santa

On Thursday, December 10 from 5 to 7 p.m., Chick-fil-A in West Ocean City will be holding free pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus, face painting and balloon art. For more information call the store phone at 410-213-1825.

CAFR.

To be awarded the Certificate of Achievement, a governmental unit must publish an easily readable and efficiently organized CAFR, and its contents must conform to program standards. Such reports should satisfy Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and applicable legal requirements.

WCG was a recipient for this prestigious award, with Finance Officer Phil Thompson, Budget Officer Kathy Whited, Assistant Finance Officer Jennifer Swanton, Enterprise Fund Controller Jessica Ramsay and Budget Accountant Kim Watts accepting the certificate on behalf of the county.

AGH offers home sleep study testing

The Sleep Disorders Diagnostic Center at Atlantic General Hospital now offers sleep studies that can be conducted in the comfort of a patient’s home.

During a traditional sleep study, an overnight stay in a hospital or sleep center is required. Upon arrival, a sleep technician attaches sensors to the torso and head that monitor brain waves, heartbeat, and breathing. The results captured over the next eight hours of sleep help physicians determine if a patient has sleep apnea, restless leg syndrome, and a variety of other sleep disorders. The testing can be very revealing, but is not always the most convenient or comfortable experience for patients trying to sleep normally in an unfamiliar environment.

With a home sleep study, patients are in their own surroundings and can follow their usual routines which will result in falling asleep faster and yield truer results. Unusual sleep hours can be accommodated as well. For those who work night shift or have a lifestyle that results in an unusual bedtime, it can be difficult to fall asleep for a typical 11 p.m. sleep study. The tech can even pre-program the machine to turn on and off at a certain time if the patient has a usual bedtime.

Convenience is just one of the benefits of a home sleep study. If a patient has an unusually restless night that may yield inconclusive results, there is an opportunity to monitor a second

*please see **agh** on page 11*



The Pine Tones Chorus

Pine Tones Chorus to hold Christmas concert

On Friday, December 18 at 7:30 p.m., the Pine Tones Chorus will present a Christmas Concert at Atlantic United Methodist Church in Ocean City, located on Baltimore Avenue and 4th Street.

The Pine Tones Chorus includes about 55 singers from Ocean Pines, Ocean City, and nearby areas. June Todd is the chorus director, and Cathy Morgan is the accompanist. As an added attraction, guest musicians will include Mary Collins playing clarinet, Sally Hendon playing flute, Tom Baione playing string bass, and Ted Nichols on drums.

The concert is titled “A Crazy and Classical Christmas” and offers a festive variety of selections. Fans of show tunes may recognize holiday songs

from “Auntie Mame” and from “Babes in Toyland”. The “Jazz Gloria” has a bongo beat which may encourage toe-tapping. The song “Fruitcake” offers an amusing musical recipe.

Classical selections will feature Mary and the baby in the manger, angels on high, and shepherds in the fields. The concert finale will be Handel’s “Hallelujah Chorus.”

Admission is free and an offering will be received. After the concert, people may enjoy refreshments in the church social hall. The Pine Tones Chorus has been entertaining local audiences in the Ocean Pines and Ocean City areas since 1984. For additional information call the Chorus president, Pat Beisler, at 410-208-2682 or June Todd at 410-289-7373.

Sponsors sought for birding weekends

Organizers for two 2016 Delmarva birding weekends are seeking sponsors for both events. Due to the popularity of the annual Delmarva birding weekend, sponsors of the popular event will now benefit from two of the celebrated birding extravaganzas in both January and April.

“We enjoy such a big difference in bird species in winter and spring, it just made sense to open up two weekends,” said Worcester County Tourism Director Lisa Challenger. Now duck, raptor, and shorebird lovers can get a winter taste of Delmarva, January 29 through 31 during the first Delmarva birding weekend of 2016.

Boasting expert guides, the new winter trips will feature a near-shore maritime boat trip to enjoy pelagic and arctic migrants, eagle-watching trips,

and jaunts in Delaware and Maryland through some of the most pristine habitats on the East Coast.

“If participants thought the April weekend was spectacular, wait ‘til they see what winter has to offer,” said guide and organizer Jim Rapp. “The sheer number of bald eagles and ducks will blow people away.”

Registration is now open at www.delmarvabirding.com for the winter Delmarva Birding Weekend. The April event, which celebrates the migration of the spring suite of warblers, shorebirds, waterfowl and raptors, will open for registration soon.

The Delmarva Peninsula is one of the country’s premier birding areas, thanks to an extensive variety of habi-

*please see **birding** on page 11*



American Legion and SDHS assemble packages

American Legion Post #166 Commander **Sarge Garlitz**, back row far right, and other American Legion members join Stephen Decatur High School (SDHS) club representatives during the 3rd annual presentation of Packages for our Troops. SDHS students and faculty members collected various toiletries and other amenities for our military and presented them on Veterans Day.

Worcester GOLD seeks help to brighten holidays

Worcester County GOLD is seeking sponsors for the annual Helping Hands for the Holidays program. This program served more than 900 needy people in Worcester County last holiday season. This year there are an abundance of children and senior citizens who need toys, clothing, and food for the holidays. Willing community sponsors are matched with families or individuals in need. It is a great opportunity for families, businesses, service clubs, churches, and youth groups to give back to their neighbors living in poverty.

For those who do not have time to do extra shopping during this busy season, monetary or gift card donations are also needed to provide for those who are not matched directly with a sponsor. Donations can be made through PayPal at worcestergold.org or sent directly to Worcester County GOLD, PO Box 39, Snow Hill, Maryland 21863. All donations are used to serve low-income Worcester County residents. Anyone interested

in sponsoring a child or senior can call GOLD at 410-677-6830 or sign up using the electronic form on GOLD's homepage, worcestergold.org.

Early Deadline Notice

Because of the Christmas holiday, the advertising and editorial deadline for the December 30 edition of The Courier will be Friday, December

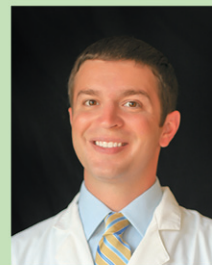


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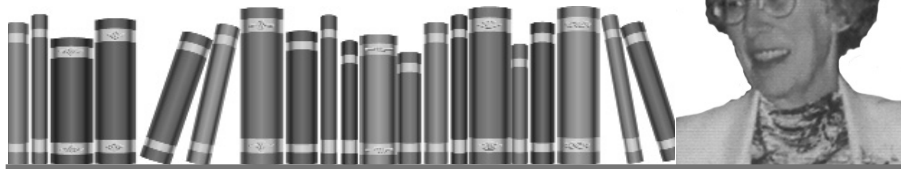
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Courier Bookshelf

by Dolores E. Pike



Stella Bain

by Anita Shreve

Anita Shreve has always been a favorite author of mine. Each time I place myself in her hands I am rewarded with a pleasant reading experience. When I saw her latest novel, "Stella Bain," on the Ocean Pines library shelves I immediately snatched it up.

It is 1916 and American Stella Bain,

near collapse on a London street, is taken in to the home of Dr. and Mrs. Bridge. They and their staff of servants over the space of weeks nurse her back to physical health. But her mental health is another story. She is suffering from what those of WWI determined to be shell shock, then later in WWII as battle fatigue, but now familiarly known as PTSD, as finally recognized in 1980 by the American Psychiatric Association. She had been a medical volunteer and served in the Marne in France where after surviving an explosion she is brought to a field hospital in a coma. Upon awakening she has no memory other than she believes her name to be Stella Bain (it is not), she remembers how to drive an ambulance and that she feels a need to get to London to the British Admiralty. She believes the clue to her lost identity lies therein.

Dr. Bridge, interested in the burgeoning field of psychoanalysis, begins a series of sessions with Stella. He also takes her on visits to the Admiralty where she is finally recognized. As a man calls out the name, Etna Bliss, she is awash with the tragic memories that her mind has closed off from remembrance.

PTSD, originally thought to be suffered mostly by veterans (and usually men), has since been determined as more likely to be suffered by women of all walks of life because of domestic violence. And this is certainly relevant to the case of Stella/Etna as readers are reminded of her past history.

As I recalled the captivating plots of previous books written by Ms. Shreve I was rather taken aback at the simplistic beginnings of this book. Taking a seriously ill stranger in off the streets and nursing her back to health? Preposterous. Rather more like the start of a fairy tale from childhood. I struggled, unimpressed, through the first 50 pages of the book vowing to put it down. (I have friends who will give a book no more than that.) But as I read on I began to recognize familiar scraps from a past book by Ms. Shreve, "All He Ever Wanted." I had read and reviewed the book summer a year ago; a book I had plucked from the library's honor carousel on my way out of town to visit family.

When interviewed and questioned as to the source of the main character in "Stella Bain" Ms. Shreve admitted that Stella/Etna was from a previous novel where the story was told from a

man's point of view. She felt that Etna "had not been able to tell her side of the story. I wanted to let her do that, and when I realized that the time frame was 1915-1920, I immediately thought WWI."

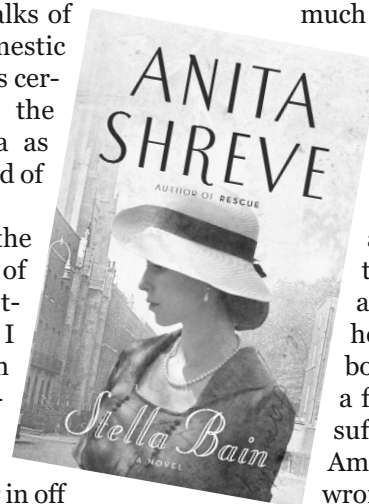
Ms. Shreve presents the conditions and practices of the field hospitals during WWI Europe, complete with the experiences of battlefield doctors and nurses. It is well-researched in this regard. She presents the facts but does not dwell on the horror of war as

much as to make readers aware of the sufferings of soldiers and the biases of passers-by as veterans return home.

And who does not enjoy the fast-paced dialog and proceedings as a court trial unfolds on the pages of a book? The author rivets her audience later in the book with the presentation of a family trial that Etna must suffer upon her return to America in order to right past wrongs.

"Stella Bain" is the most recent of those filling the shelf of 17 books that Ms. Shreve has penned. Among the stand-outs, in my opinion, being such novels as "The Weight of Water" and "Light in Snow." Her position as author of note was cemented in place years ago when Oprah Winfrey's recommended reading list included "The Pilot's Wife," which was later produced for television.

The more I became engrossed in "Stella Bain" and familiar characters and situations appeared the more I was once again at Ms. Shreve's mercy. Not an all-time great novel but entertaining for me and a fast read at only 261 pages. And it does stand on its own without the necessity of reading the book featuring the back-story.



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Free concert to benefit Coastal Hospice

Country music artist and Ocean City native Jimmy Charles returns for a second year to perform his annual benefit concert for Coastal Hospice. The free "I'll Be Home for Christmas" concert will be held on Thursday, December 17 from 6 to 10 p.m. at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club.



Jimmy Charles

Local singer Sara Ann will open the show. The event will include a Chinese auction, a 50/50 raffle and a special appearance by Santa.

Reservations at the Yacht Club are suggested and may be made by calling 410-641-7501. Doors open at 5 p.m. The concert is free to the public, but donations are encouraged to benefit Coastal Hospice.

Last year, Coastal Hospice provided more than \$650,000 in charity care to patients who had no ability to pay. Donations made at the concert will help fund the hospice's charity care and also honor the donor's loved one whose name will be printed on an angel ornament and hung on a Coastal Hospice Angel Tree.

Charles chose Coastal Hospice for the benefit because the local non-profit cared for his grandmother. The musician, who was born James Charles Krabbe, grew up in Ocean City and graduated from Stephen

Decatur High School and Towson University.

"I wanted to target an organization that was local to my home on the Eastern Shore," Charles said. "It takes some really special people to do what Coastal Hospice does. They were a blessing to us, and now it is time that I give back to them. And, for me, there's nothing like the love and support you feel from your own hometown crowd."

Charles, who lives in Nashville and is actively involved in charity work, is a national CMT/GAC recording artist just off a national tour promoting his hit single, "Superman," a song he wrote that spreads awareness about prostate cancer.

Charles had an impressive beginning to his professional music career as a Season 9 contestant on the TV show "American Idol" where he earned a golden ticket to Hollywood. He has worked with some of the biggest names in country music, including Lady Antebellum, Montgomery Gentry, Kip Moore and Kacey Musgraves.

Democratic Women's Club to hold food bank

On Sunday Dec 20 from 1 to 3 p.m., the Democratic Women's Club of Worcester County will collect non-perishable food, toiletries and paper products at the South Fire Station, located on Ocean Parkway (South Gate). Supplies will be shared with a local food ministry. Call 410-641-8553 for additional information.

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2 Shows! 5pm & 7pm
Free Movie & Popcorn!
Buffet for children & adults with fun dinner offerings. Kids have seating close to screen. Bring mats or blankets to lay on. Chairs & tables for others to sit & dine while watching movie. Bar open.



Thurs, DEC 17
Jimmy Charles

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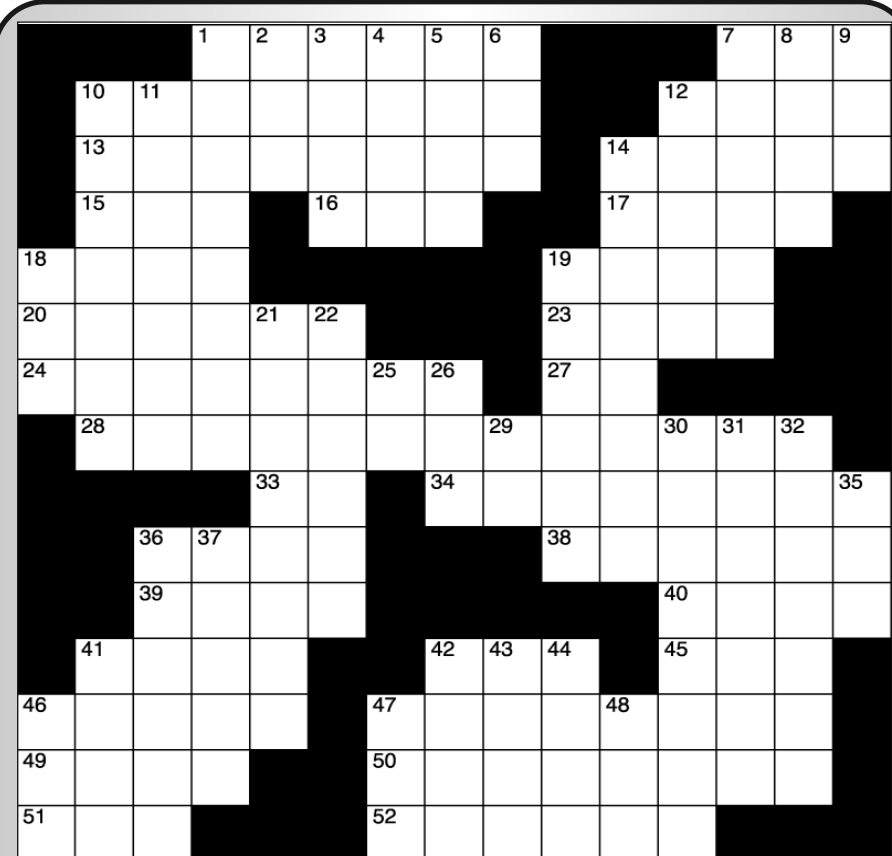
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ACROSS

1. Red wine
7. Best nurse-patient aid
10. Footwear closure
12. Chinese dynasty 1122-221 BC
13. Persuade to one's side
14. Advocate
15. Manda's party
16. A woolen cap of Scottish origin
17. About aviation
18. Shallowest of the Greats
19. Sheathe
20. Frightened
23. Brews
24. Relates
27. Atomic #52
28. Up the ante
33. The OK-ing's initials
34. Lepton
36. Cornmeal mush (British)
38. One who analyzes syntactically
39. Algo-

nquian tribe into 3
40. Systems, doctrines, theories
41. Herb __, San Francisco columnist
42. Informed about the latest trends
45. Seven
46. Morocco's capital
47. What a doctor practices
49. Beaks
50. In a way, extends
51. A number or amount not specified
52. Gambling

8. Crazy (Spanish)
9. Billiards stick
10. More deficient
11. Solomon Islands capital
12. Larval crabs
14. Malta capital
18. Clairvoyance
19. Tomato condiment
21. Alleviation
22. French seaport
25. New Testament
26. Shortened (abbr.)
29. Employee (abbr.)
30. Opposite

31. Lip locking
32. Foes
35. Many not ands
36. Covered with healing scrapes
37. Regions
41. Abel's brother (Bible)
42. Greek Queen of the gods
43. Esau's descendants (Bible)
44. *Canarium ovatum*
46. Ribonucleic acid
47. Gas usage measurement
48. An oppositional argument

DOWN

1. Composition for orchestra and soloists
2. Bulgarian monetary unit
3. Settled upon
4. Common frog genus
5. Electronic counter-countermeasures
6. Golf ball supporter
7. Divided



Answers for Dec 2

That's how my garden grows...



By Betty McDermott

Hello Fellow Gardeners,

It has been a glorious fall season. We were all blessed with mild temperatures and let's hope that the rest of the season continues with mild temperatures. It sure does save on those heating bills.

With Thanksgiving behind us and Christmas coming up fast, my column will be on a variety of indoor holiday plants with tips and pointers on their care. So let's begin.

Poinsettias – These colorful plants are everywhere this time of year and there is such a wide variety from which to choose. They make such lovely and thoughtful gifts. When buying them, keep in mind the following tips. Choose a plant with tightly clustered flowers and crisp foliage down to the soil. Protect the plant from cold winds and temperatures while you are transporting it home. Remember, it came from a warm region or greenhouse. Remove the foil wrapping around the plant or cut away the foil so water can drain out of the plant. Place it in a fixed position in a south facing window or room where it will get natural light but not direct sunlight. These plants enjoy inside temperatures of about 72 degrees during the day and 60 to 65 degrees at night. These plants are known to be very good air purifiers. However, they have poisonous foliage, so alert youngsters and watch your pets around them. Keep the soil moist but not drenched after the plant flowers. Be careful not to overwater as

you may kill it. If you manage to keep the plant healthy, you can plant it outside the middle of May, after the danger of frost is over. It will grow quite large with beautiful foliage but probably will not flower. Plant it in an area of semi shade and allow plenty of room for it to grow as it may double its size. Good luck!

Christmas Cactus – This is another beautiful holiday plant, a very colorful succulent. These plants need bright light where they will get at least two hours of direct sunlight during their blossoming period. Water when the top half of the soil is dry, making sure all water drains from the pot. Keep potted plants away from drafty windows, exterior doors and heat sources. Remember, this plant is a succulent, so don't overwater it or it will die. Christmas cactus flowers best when slightly pot-bound. This plant does not need re-potting often. It is suggested that you repot once every three years at the very most and do this when it is no longer blooming. To get your cactus blooming, it is suggested that you try keeping it in uninterrupted darkness for 14 hours. Alan Cunningham was the first botanist to collect and document Christmas Cactus during an expedition to Brazil in the early 1800s. With proper care, Christmas cacti can live for decades. A Montana family passed down the same cactus for over 145 years. These plants can

please see gardening on page 13

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., December 10	6:24 a.m. 6:38 p.m.	12:01 a.m. 12:47 p.m.	7:06 a.m.	4:40 p.m.
Fri., December 11	7:06 a.m. 7:21 p.m.	12:42 a.m. 1:29 p.m.	7:07 a.m.	4:40 p.m.
Sat., December 12	7:48 a.m. 8:05 p.m.	1:24 a.m. 2:11 p.m.	7:08 a.m.	4:40 p.m.
Sun., December 13	8:32 a.m. 8:50 p.m.	2:07 a.m. 2:55 p.m.	7:08 a.m.	4:40 p.m.
Mon., December 14	9:16 a.m. 9:37 p.m.	2:51 a.m. 3:41 p.m.	7:09 a.m.	4:41 p.m.
Tues., December 15	10:02 a.m. 10:26 p.m.	3:40 a.m. 4:29 p.m.	7:10 a.m.	4:41 p.m.
Wed., December 16	10:50 a.m. 11:19 p.m.	4:33 a.m. 5:20 p.m.	7:11 a.m.	4:41 p.m.

WINE about it

by Jean Marx

Nestled on a bluff overlooking Cheat Lake in Morgantown, West Virginia, you will find the Forks of Cheat Winery. Visiting this locale amid the fall foliage, we spent a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon tasting a variety of their two dozen wines. Nearly half of the wines are made from fruits grown and harvested on their 16 acres of beautiful countryside.

Twenty-eight years ago, Jerry Deal began his winemaking enterprise. How he came up with the idea of starting his own winery is very entertaining. As a kid, he stole a handful of grapes from his neighbor's vine that had grown onto his property. The neighbor caught him in the act and in chastising him, she remarked, "Why don't you plant your own grapes?" And that is just what he did. Today the winery is run by Jerry, his wife Susan, their son Eric and his wife Ivy, as well as a host of talented staff.

The growing season starts in late March. The grape harvesting begins in the last week of August and lasts into the first week of October, while the fruit harvesting often lasts through the month of November. Our host for the wine tasting was Sales Room Manager,

Bob Budden. He described that the winery's acreage is quite conducive to growing grapes and producing excellent wines even with the snowy winters. Bob pointed out, however, that last year's bitter cold streak did cause them to lose 20% of their grapes. Because the fruit trees are even heartier than the grapevines, last year the winery planted two additional acres of fruit trees.

There are four white wines offered at Forks of Cheat Winery. The first is a French hybrid varietal called Seyval Blanc that tastes similar to a Pinot Grigio. Next in line is the Schwarzer Bar, which is a semi-dry wine that we found to be deliciously light and fruity. Airmail Jones is a semi-sweet varietal made from the Vidal Blanc grape, and the Niagara is made from none other than the Niagara grape. The Schwarzer Bar and the Airmail Jones wines have terrific labels. Schwarzer Bar is German for "Black Bear" and features a dancing black bear on the label. The Airmail Jones label shows a leaping Dalmatian that represents Eric's beloved pet of 21 years.

The winery has a fully-automated bottling line that enables them to bot-

birds" he said.

Rapp added that none of the trips were physically taxing and that either event provides a rare opportunity to tally 100 species in a day in places that are normally inaccessible to birders.

The media attention given to the Delmarva birding weekends makes them particularly attractive to advertisers who want to promote both their business and conservation at the same time. To become a sponsor or for registration information, contact Jim Rapp at dlitedirector@comcast.net, 443 614 0261 or Dave Wilson at marshhawk67@gmail.com, 443 523 2201.

Additional sponsor and registration information, field trip descriptions and other resources for Delmarva Birding are available at www.delmarvabirding.com. The Delmarva Birding Weekend is organized by Conservation Community Consulting in cooperation with Worcester County Tourism.

tle their wines once a week. Annually, the winery bottles 20,000 gallons of wine, the equivalent of 100,000 bottles. The winery also produces approximately 2,500-3,000 bottles of distilled spirits, including brandies from the fruits that are harvested. This year will be the first time the winery will be selling "Big Deal Rye" whiskey, marking their foray into grain-based distillation.

Bad Cat is the winery's top selling wine. It is a semi-sweet red wine made from the Catawba grape and is one of the top 10 wines sold throughout West Virginia. The Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Burgundy and Chambourcin are red wine grape varietals on the dry end of the spectrum. Like the Niagara, the Chambourcin thrives in the Morgantown climate; it has 0% residual sugar added and is un-oaked. The RedBud semi-dry red wine is very smooth with light flavors of flowers and herbs.

There are 11 different fruit wines to choose from at Forks of Cheat Winery. All use 100% fruit that blend to form sweet and tangy tastes depending on what you may be in the mood for. The fruit wine choices are blackberry, blueberry, raspberry, pomegranate, plum, pear, peach, apple, spice, spiced apple and a cocoa-infused fruit wine called Mon Doux. We sampled the blackberry and pomegranate wines. The blackberry was our favorite and tasted just like fresh blackberries. The pomegranate was a little less sweet and had a wonderful floral aroma. We also tried their "Black Jewel" tawny port in celebration of the winery earning the "Double Gold" award in Indianapolis

this year. This delicious port also took a gold award at the Finger Lakes competition a month ago.

You can try the wines at our very own "Wine on the Beach" festival each fall in Ocean City, by contacting the winery to place an order, or by taking a fun excursion to Morgantown. The winery offers a gorgeous view anytime of the year but a spectacular one in the fall months. The impressive array of delicious wines may just have you humming the tune to John Denver's ballad.



Catholic school receives scholarship award

Dr. Bela Gulyas (r) is shown presenting a donation of \$10,000 to Mark Record, principal of Most Blessed Sacrament School in continuance of Dr. Gulyas' philanthropy to benefit the school's scholarship fund. This bequest is given in memory of Mr. Gulyas' wife, Patricia A. Gulyas, who passed away in 2014.

agh

from page 6

night's sleep. The goal is to make the experience as simple and easy as possible for the patient.

"We provide education before testing to make sure our patients know how to set up the equipment. A sleep tech actually sits down with the patients when they come in to pick it up," says Director of Imaging, Maria Phillips. Other providers of home sleep studies send the equipment through the mail with a set of instructions.

There are four basic components to the setup, which takes about 10 minutes at home: a belt around the waist, a belt around the chest, a pulse and oxygen reader that clips to the finger, and a sensor that is placed beneath the nose.

The studies are covered by most insurance companies and Medicare. Diagnosis is the same as a traditional sleep study. The results are read by a pulmonologist certified in sleep medicine and shared with a patient's doctor.

If you or a loved one thinks they may have sleep apnea, please to talk to your doctor about having a sleep study. For more information please visit <http://www.atlanticgeneral.org/Our-Services/Sleep-Disorders-Diagnostic-Center.aspx>.

birding

from page 6

tat protected by our coastal parks, refuges and wildlife management areas. More than 400 bird species have been recorded in the region. In 2015, 168 species were tallied during spring Delmarva birding weekend alone.

"It's our vast shallow bays and large tracts of protected marshes and baldcypress forests that make the Delmarva Peninsula one of the finest birding regions in the nation," said Rapp. "During the Weekend, our guests will hike on private farmland and woodland that are normally off-limits to birders, and our waterborne trips go where the birds are. In late April we will see more brightly colored warblers and wading birds either here to breed or moving north. In the winter we are overwhelmed by an incredible diversity of ducks, shorebirds, and raptors by the hundreds of thousands, and winter will get you great looks at larger

italy
from page 4

gion with lit candles. Some played the part of Mary and Joseph. Others held lanterns and candles. During the festivities several working shepherds heard the music and came in from the fields. While friars sang the traditional hymns, Francis celebrated Mass under the stars and narrated the story of the birth of Christ.

Francis died in 1226. He was declared a saint two years later and was eventually named the patron saint of Italy. His small group of monks was the beginning of the Franciscan Order of the Roman Catholic Church.

The music associated with Christmas in Italy is rather unique. Historians believe the first church bells were used in a religious service in Italy when they rang on Christmas Eve about 1,650 years ago. Bishop Paulinus of Nola in the province of Campania is said to be the creator of this custom of using church bells. Prior to the introduction of the bells a person walked through the village ringing a hand bell to summon the townspeople to Mass.

Perhaps even more famous than the Italian church bells is the bagpipes. Most people associate the bagpipes with the Scottish. This instrument has a history that touches many countries. The bagpipes were played in ancient Rome. Legend has it that bagpipes

were played to entertain Mary and the Christ child in Bethlehem.

At Christmas the zampognari (shepherds) come down from the high mountain valleys dressed in traditional garb that includes shaggy sheepskin vests, leather breeches or sheepskin leggings. In some regions they are joined by pifferari (flutists), while in places such as Sicily the violinist and cellist join in to entertain the population

Christmas markets are not unique to Italy. They are found in many of the large population centers of Europe. None, however, outdo those found in Italy.

For example, the Christmas market in Milan's huge Sant' Ambrogio Fair has booths selling mangers, tree ornaments, clothes, food, candy and many more items of that nature. At the same time a visitor can find old doorknobs, books, maps and even some well-used sewing machines and typewriters for sale.

Another famous Christmas market is the one located in Rome's historic Piazza Navona. Florist booths overflow with poinsettias, azaleas, cyclamens and many more colorful species. There is no shortage of food.

Butchers sell pigs, rabbits, capons, turkeys and hams. Shoppers can snack on a variety of food while browsing through the market. A favorite snack is a sandwich made with a slice of Porchetta. This is a whole pigskin, in-

cluding the head that is stuffed with meat and roasted over an open fire.

Just a few days before Christmas large wholesale fish markets appear in Venice, Florence and Rome where people will stand in line quietly until the opening ceremonies are over then frantically compete for the different varieties of fish and seafood available.

Without a doubt the most unique aspect of the Italian Christmas has to do with the location of a city within a city.

Christmas in Vatican City is spectacular. The crowds visiting the Vatican during the Christmas ceremonies are immense. For example, when Pope John Paul II celebrated his first Christmas as Pope in 1978, more than 50,000 children who were there to take part in the special ceremony for children greeted him.

The highlight of the Christmas celebrations in the Vatican is midnight Mass. It would take a separate article to describe the sights and emotions involved with this Christian gathering. St. Peter's Church is arrayed in lights and filled with music. The cardinals of the church, the Swiss Guard and the bishops enter just prior to the arrival of the Pontiff. Thousands cram the



Zampognari

church and the courtyard in order to be part of the ceremony.

In Italy, like so many other countries Christmas Eve and Christmas day are family oriented. The frantic pace of preparing for Christmas is over and the celebrations for New Years Eve are still a few days away.

Buon Natale!

-By **Bob Adair**

This feature was originally published in 2003.

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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: jeanduck47@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@delmarvahand-dancing.com.

Rotary Club

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

Square Dancing

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

AL-Anon/OP-West OC-Berlin

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

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 **AI-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.

gardening

from page 10

tolerate cool indoor temperatures but require at least 50 degrees Fahrenheit

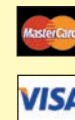
Amaryllis – If you remembered to start your amaryllis plant in early November and it is very close to blossoming, you did everything right. These plants are everywhere for sale in November but many gardeners save them from year to year with much luck. I am not one of these; I just buy a new plant each fall and follow the direction on the box. If you are new at growing them, just follow the directions on the packaging. The blossoms may become so heavy, you may have to stake and tie them. They will bring much color to your home for the holidays. When your amaryllis has finished blooming, cut off the spent blossoms and grow the plant in a bright, sunny window. They enjoy temperatures around 65 degrees. When the soil feels dry to the touch, water but do not over water.

Not to change the subject but are you looking for Christmas gift ideas for your favorite gardener? If so, here are some ideas. For the older gardener who has trouble kneeling and getting back up, there is a terrific bench seat kneeler that is collapsible. The gardener can kneel on the padded kneeler section and use the bar handles on each side to help themselves up or down. Or they can turn the bench upside down and sit on the padded seat. How about some new pruning shears? Fiskars makes a wide variety of excellent pruners. Perhaps a new trowel or spade would be welcome. Don't forget gardening gloves are always welcome; just be sure of the right size. A gardener can't have too many pairs of gloves.

Well, Happy Holidays to all of my readers and I will see you next year.

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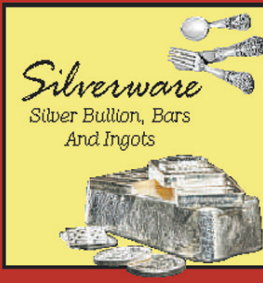
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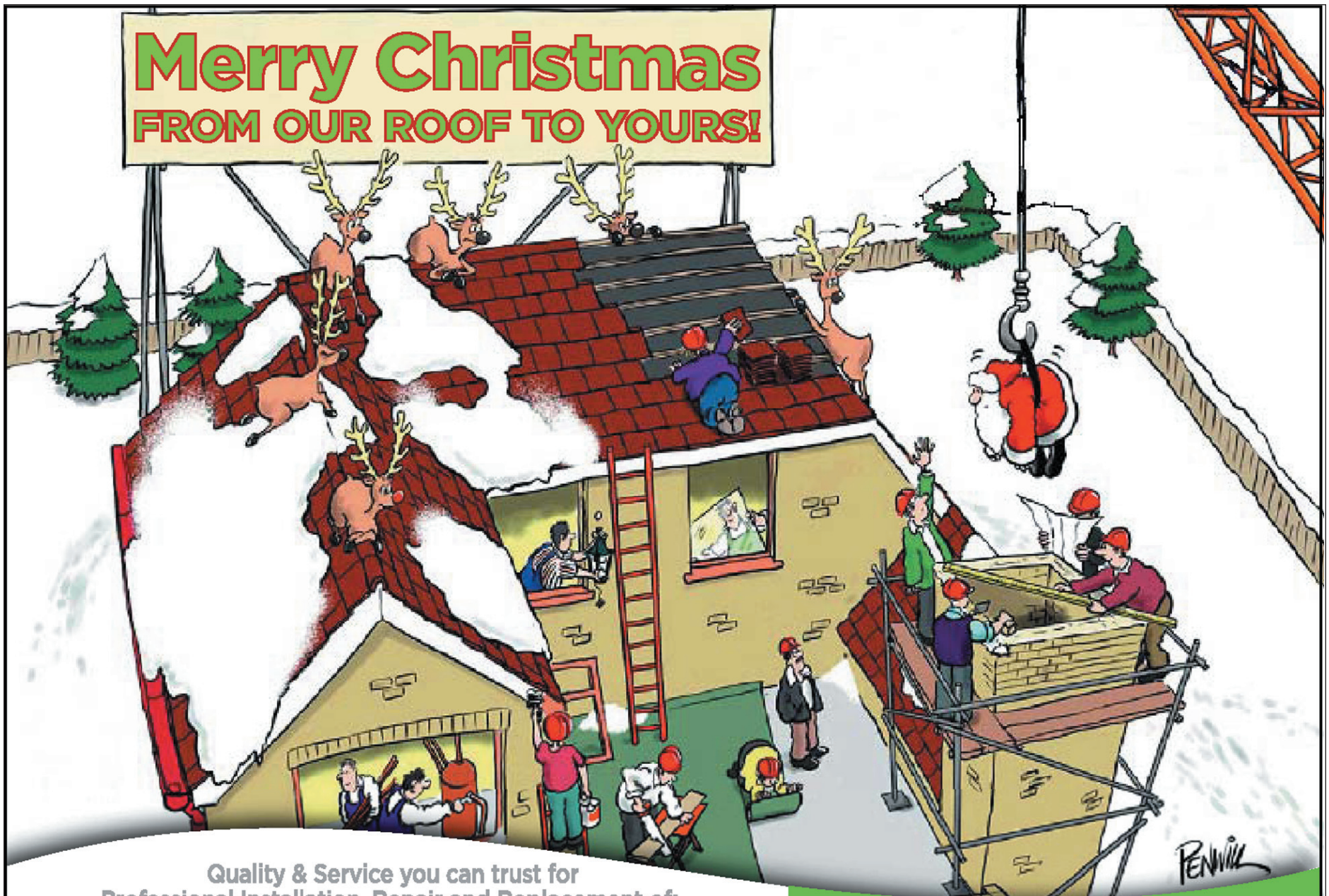

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