



The Courier

December 16, 2015 Volume 16 Number 16

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AGH provides flu shots

Atlantic General Hospital/Health System still has a small supply of this year's flu vaccine on hand and will be administering flu shots by appointment as a service to the community.

Individuals can request an appointment for vaccination by calling the Infection Control Department at Atlantic General Hospital at 410-641-9190, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

You must be at least 13 years old to receive the vaccine. Donations are accepted.

Influenza and complications resulting from the virus kill an estimated 20,000 people each year, according to the CDC. Although rates of influenza vaccinations have increased in recent years, health surveys indicate that less than half of the high-risk population receives a yearly vaccine.

Those at an increased risk for influenza related complications:

- persons 65 years and older
- nursing home residents and other chronic care facilities
- adults and children with chronic disorders of the pulmonary or cardiovascular systems, including children with asthma
- people with metabolic diseases such as diabetes
- those with blood diseases like sickle cell anemia, or impaired immunity.

Children and teenagers on long-term aspirin therapy and anyone working or living with someone in a high-risk category should also get a flu shot every year.

Since flu viruses mutate often, vaccines should be repeated each year.

MCBP 'spokescat' contest underway

Maryland Coastal Bays Program (MCBP) is excited to launch our spokescat campaign this month to raise awareness on the importance of keeping your feline companion inside.

We are looking for a charismatic and photogenic cat to be our spokescat to use in promotional literature. The winning cat will have a photo session with photographer Tina Wales. Artist Ralph Hastings will take one photo and stretch it on canvas for the owner to proudly display. The winning cat must give MCBP the rights to use the photos from the photography session.

If you think your cat's cuteness can do the job,

*please see **mcbp** on page 6*



Tis the season - Kindergarteners at Showell Elementary are learning about two-dimensional shapes. In Mrs. VanKlompberg's class, **Trey McCabe**, **Callie Cutlip** and **Christian Pino** drew, cut and decorated shape ornaments to make a holiday tree.



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.





Winners - The Ocean Pines Anglers Club recognized and presented awards to the 2015 tournament winners which included 12 categories of fish caught throughout the year. Shown in photo left to right are; **Tom Nelson** (30" Black Drum). **Frank Watkins** (22" Black Sea Bass and 14" Croaker). **John McFalls**, (34" Bluefish). **Rich Patschorke**, (44" Tuna). **Budd Heim**, (31-3/4" Red Drum and 17" Tautog). **Walt Boge**, 1(5" fresh water Trout) [tie]. Not shown were; Greg Donahue, (44 1/2" Striped Bass and 26 5/8" Flounder). Eric Bruder, (20 1/2" Large Mouth Bass). John Jewer, (15" fresh water Trout) [tie].

WCHS presents '12 Strays of Christmas'

The Worcester County Humane Society (WCHS) is holding a holiday adoption initiative, "12 Strays of Christmas," designed to highlight some of the shelter's many adoptable cats. The twelve cats that have been chosen for this cat campaign will have a reduced adoption fee of \$25. All the cats are spayed/neutered and up to date on vaccinations. The "12 Strays of Christmas" campaign will run through to January 5. Every day leading up to Christmas Day, the shelter will highlight one of the "12 Strays" on Facebook and Instagram.

"We have so many wonderful cats that continually get overlooked at the shelter," said Sandy Summers, WCHS board member and volunteer. "We are trying to get a little more creative with getting more cats adopted and giving them the exposure they deserve."

The Worcester County Humane Society is a private, non-profit, no kill animal shelter located on Eagle's Nest Road just off Stephen Decatur Highway. The shelter is open 11a.m. to 5 p.m. every day except Mondays.

For more information on available pets or questions about adoption visit the shelter website www.worcestercountychumanesociety.org or call 410-213-0146. Follow the shelter on Facebook and Instagram for event updates and available pets.

Recreation and Parks to host winter bus trips

Leave the driving to Ocean Pines with several bus trips planned by the Recreation and Parks Department this winter.

Take a trip to Washington to watch "Matilda the Musical" at The Kennedy Center on Saturday, Jan. 9. The cost to attend this magical performance, based on the Roald Dahl classic, is \$120 per person, which includes a ticket to the show and transportation.

Head back to The Kennedy Center on Saturday, Jan. 23 for "A Gentleman's Guide to Love & Murder." The fee to take in this Tony Award-winning musical is \$95 per person, which includes show ticket and transportation.

NASA's Wallops Flight Facility will be the featured destination for a trip on Feb. 16. Tour companion Steve Habeger, a

former employee at Wallops, will provide additional information during the facility tour. The cost is \$35 per person. Additional trips are scheduled for March 22 and April 19.

The buses for these trips, which are open to the public, will depart from the Ocean Pines Community Center, located at 235 Ocean Parkway in Ocean Pines. Reservations are required. Refunds will not be issued for cancellations unless vacant seats can be filled.

For more information or to register, call the Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department at 410-641-7052. Information regarding additional recreational programs, including an online version of the Ocean Pines Activity Guide, is available at OceanPines.org.

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Robert B. Adair 1938-2007

2012 Business of the Year

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Celtic and Teutonic peoples had long considered mistletoe to have magic powers. It was said to have the ability to heal wounds and increase fertility. Celts hung mistletoe in their homes in order to bring themselves good luck and ward off evil spirits. During holidays in the Victorian era, the English would hang sprigs of mistletoe from ceilings and in doorways. If someone was found standing under the mistletoe, they would be kissed by someone else in the room, behavior not usually demonstrated in Victorian society.



Christmas Traditions ...

German traditions have global reach

Rather than say this or that Christmas tradition is uniquely German it is more appropriate in most cases to say it originated in that country but the same event takes place in a dozen other nations, albeit perhaps with a slightly different twist.

Over the centuries the German people have exported their Christmas traditions and enthusiasm for the season around the world, which is evident when the various aspects of the German Christmas season are examined.

Reference to the "German people" is not limited to those within the present-day geopolitical boundaries. When referring to the area where these German traditions began it would be more accurate to picture the territory populated by the old culture of northern and central Europe around the middle of the second millennium.

The German Christmas celebration begins at the end of November and runs for a full month and a half to mid-January. However, preparations for this gala season actually start as early as July when mothers begin baking some of the treats that will be found in homes during Christmas. Obviously many of these early samples will be consumed before the holidays because of quality control testing.

Tracing the holiday calendar enables one to see how some of the traditions and legends fit into the Christmas scene.

November 30 is Saint Andrew's Night when all the young girls are supposed to have a vision of the man they will marry and have his identity revealed.

December 1 or the First Sunday of Advent is the day the first Advent Candle is lit. An additional candle is lit each Sunday leading up to Christmas. This is also the day children begin opening the little doors on the Advent calendar.

Saint Barbara's Day is December 4. On this day the early-budding cherry branches are cut and put in water near the stove so they will bloom by Christmas. The Christkindlmarkt in Nuremberg usually opens on this date. Saint Barbara is also the patron saint of all artillerymen.

December 6 is Saint Nicholas Day. This is the day St. Nicholas and some of his cohorts visit the children. All the youngsters hope for gifts from St. Nicholas, but he is not the jovial fellow like Santa Claus. He carries two bags, one with gifts for those deserving a reward, the other with switches for those who have been naughty. It is also the date when several additional Christkindlmarts open.

The Christkindlmarts are fairs similar to those described in last week's



Courier article about Christmas in Italy. However, the German version is unique in that only Christmas goodies, ornaments and toys are sold regardless of the region or specific community. Christkindlmarts can be found in Munich, Hamburg, Bremen, Frankfurt, Augsburg and several other cities.

Nuremberg fair is the largest and most publicized of all the Christkindlmarts. It is held in the oldest section of the city. This neighborhood, known as the Altstadt, was destroyed during World War II. It has been completely restored to its medieval grandeur.

On December 13, as part of the festivities associated with the Christkindlmarkt, thousands of Nuremberg children carry lanterns with candles in a procession through the streets of the city to the Nuremberg castle where they sing carols and enact the scene of the Nativity.

Saint Thomas' Day falls on December 21. This is the day when rich fruitcake is baked and dances continue into the late hours of the evening.

December 23 is called the "Eve of the Eve." The belief is the Virgin Mary and a host of angels fly over the country bringing word of Christ's birth. This is the last full workday before Christmas.

Any discussion of German Christmas traditions must include the Christmas tree.

The family Christmas tree is brought into the house almost in a clandestine manner a few days before Christmas. On Christmas Eve the tree is decorated, with all available hands helping with the decorations.

This has been a tradition in some parts of Germany for centuries, but it was not until the 1800s that southern Germany adopted the tradition. As the story goes Hessian soldiers serving as mercenaries for the British in the American Revolution introduced the Christmas tree to the Colonies. It was just a little over a century ago the tradition found its way from America to southern Germany.

Legends abound concerning how the Christmas tree became associated with the Christ child. One tells the story of Saint Boniface, an English monk, who brought the faith to France and Germany in the middle of the eighth century. Supposedly he came upon a group of worshipers in the middle of a great forest on Christmas Eve who had gathered around a great oak tree to sacrifice the son of their chief, Little Prince Asulf, who was being offered to the god Thor. Saint Boniface stopped the execution and fell the great oak with a blow from his fist. When the oak fell to the ground a small fir tree sprang up in its place. Saint Boniface told the spectators that it was the tree of life, representing Christ.

According to another German fir tree legend it was Martin Luther who had been dazzled by the starlight while walking through the forest. To replicate the beauty he witnessed for his family Martin Luther cut down a fir tree, brought it into his home and put lighted candles on its boughs.

Christmas Eve is when work stops and does not begin again until December 27. The different regions of the country hold a variety of celebrations.

In Westphalia the children leave "gimme" notes on windowsills for the Christ child, who comes undetected during the night and leaves candy, cake and other sweets.

In the Lorraine region the Yule Log is ignited and burns for three days.

Northern Germany is the scene of "Star of Seven" processions containing hundreds of individuals carrying lit seven-stem candlesticks across the

please see traditions on page 12

Moving furniture, holiday gathering

As it's been for a number of years, our home was the center of activity on Thanksgiving. Family and friends joined us for a dinner prepared by my wife who spent much time in the kitchen to ensure no one would be

room for those who wanted to play a video game. And, most importantly, there was plenty of seating around the table for the dinner guests. It should be noted that the dining room table was extended with two folding tables. Adding folding chairs to our set of eight dining room chairs rounded out the seating. There, nothing to it!

Dinner went without a hitch. There were no arguments and plenty of sausage stuffing and turkey. Following dinner the men folk adjourned to the piazza outside. The weather was mild and the fire pit was ablaze. With adult beverages in hand my two oldest nephews, their father and I settled into our seats around the fire. As the conversation geared up, cigars were lit. This was setting up to be a good time. And it was.

Because of proximity or a lack thereof, I don't see my nephews very often; maybe three or four times a year if that. My oldest nephew seems to be doing well. His younger brother is in graduate school and, he too seems to be doing well. Their father is justified in his pride.

The conversation and the fire crackled. While the conversation ranged from silly and stupid to at times a little more weighty, I couldn't help being impressed by these young men. Although I've known them all their lives, it wasn't until that evening that I got to know them in a way that will sound strange: in a new light. Their humor and perspectives on topics and issues, and even family dynamics, were perceptive, insightful and mature. It seems the next generation will be okay.

The fire eventually died out and everyone said their goodbyes and left. When the front door closed my wife and I were satisfied that it had been a good day and that our home had once again been an enjoyable gathering place.

Then we turned around and realized the piano, the sofas, the chairs and tables had to put back in place. Ugh!

Whose idea was it to play host anyway?



It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

disappointed. No one was or at least no one admitted as much.

In addition to preparing dinner for a large gathering, it was necessary to prepare our house as well. Our dining room is not large enough to accommodate more than eight people comfortably. (Some may say that eight people is a tight squeeze.) Moving furniture was required. Now try to follow along.

The dining room table was moved into the family room. The family room furniture, including the sofa, end tables, a coffee table and recliner were moved into the living room. To make room for this, the baby grand piano was wheeled into the dining room. Are you with me so far? We're almost there.

Now, the recliner that was in the living room was moved down the hall into what had been our grandkids' room when they were living with us. The room is now pretty much empty save for a bureau. The large television in the family room that as you will recall was transformed into the dining room, was disconnected and carried into the living room (all the better to watch the game). The smaller television in the living room was moved into what had been the kids' bedroom and placed atop the bureau. Additionally, a chair from the sun room was moved into this room as well. The what-used-to-be-the-kids'-room was for the day a game room where those who were so interested could play Madden Football on Play Station.

Now, let's review. When all the moving was done, there was a room with a large television and plenty of seating for those who wanted to watch the game. There was a game



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Millers donate to education

Peck and Patti Miller have called Ocean City home for over 37 years. During that time, they opened and ran multiple businesses while bringing up three daughters. Their daughters were educated in the Worcester County Public School system. Today, the Miller girls enjoy successful careers in NYC, Charleston, SC and San Francisco, CA. As Patti Miller explains, “We contribute much of our girls’ suc-

cess to the excellent education they received in the Worcester County Schools. We are grateful for their education and we’ve finally found a way to give back to the fantastic teachers and schools that have played a part in their success.” The Millers have become the latest “Champions of Education” with a \$10,000 donation to the Worcester County Education Foundation.

Patti Miller is also an active member and one of the founders of the Worcester County Education Foundation (WCEF). The WCEF was formed by a group of concerned parents and business leaders who believe that in order for Worcester County students to graduate fully prepared to function in the new digital college environment or to compete for the jobs of tomorrow, as WCEF Board Member, Greg Shockley explains, “we must provide the necessary learning tools, today.” The 501(c) 3 Foundation’s goals include soliciting private funds that can be used to offset budgetary gaps during lean economic times. In addition, funds will be used to accelerate the purchase and distribution of appropriate digital devices so that every student in Worcester County K-12 will have equal access to a World Class Education. Funding will also be used for financial assistance for students who are less fortunate and finally, teacher’s grants will be available on an annual basis, for the purchase of innovative programs and teaching tools. The WCEF will also fund an endowment that will grow and become a perpetual funding source for future needs of Worcester County students and teachers.

The Foundation is asking community organizations, businesses, offices and individuals to consider becoming a Champion of Education over the next five years, with an annual charitable gift, helping them meet their 5 million dollar goal. All proceeds will go directly to support the digital conversion of our schools, to offer financial assistance (covering fees for students who are less fortunate), to offer annual teacher grants so they may purchase their own innovative learning tools, as well as fund an endowment which creates a perpetual resource that can be used to fill funding gaps for the future needs of student and teachers.

Peck Miller added, “Looking back at the level of excellence our girls experienced, the teachers, the administration, and the safe, healthy school environment, we know that all of these things contributed to the success and happiness that our girls enjoy today. Our hope is that our investment today will help perpetuate great education and success for others in our county.”



L to R: WCEF Chairman, **Todd Ferrante**, Superintendent Worcester County Schools, **Dr. Jerry Wilson**, Coldwell Banker Realtor, **Peck Miller** and wife, **Patti Miller**, WCEF Vice-Chair, **Greg Shockley** and Assistant Superintendent Worcester County Schools, **Lou Taylor**



Atlantic General Hospital Foundation gives thanks

At its annual Thanks for Giving Donor Reception held at Ruth’s Chris Steakhouse, the Atlantic General Hospital Foundation presented a check for its 2015 fiscal year contribution in the amount of \$1,353,587.41 to the hospital in support of the programs, services and master facility plans as associated with both current and future strategic initiatives. During the event, hospital and foundation representatives recognized the generous support of the 2,171 donors who contributed 4,083 gifts towards the total contribution.

Pictured (L-R): AGH President/CEO **Michael Franklin**, AGH Foundation Board Members: **Michael Guerrieri**, **Phil Houck**, **Kathy Drew**, Chairman **Todd Ferrante**, **Aaron Finney**, **Michelle Fager**, **Gail Whaley**, County Commissioner **Bud Church**, and Chairman of the AGH Board of Trustees **Lou Taylor**.

Patterson passes AAP exam

Raymond M. Thompson, president and CEO of Calvin B. Taylor Banking Company in Berlin has announced that Connie Patterson has passed the Accredited Automated Clearing House Professional exam and now holds the prestigious certification of an Accredited ACH Professional.



Connie Patterson

By achieving this certification, Connie possesses a comprehensive knowledge of all areas of automated electronic payments, a deep understanding of and experience in one or more specific ACH subjects and a broad knowledge of concepts that relate to the electronic payment system as a whole. This credential is governed by National Automated Clearing House Association, the nationally recognized electronic payments association.

mcbp

from page 1

you can register it on our website, www.mdcoastalbays.org. And then have friends and family vote for their favorite cat.

Outdoor and feral cats worldwide are credited with killing over a billion birds each year and are partially responsible for the extinction of at least 33 avian species. In the U.S. and U.K., studies have shown that feral and outdoor cats can make upwards of 10 kills a month of local birds and small mammals. And according to researchers, that number is probably on

the low side.

The Maryland coastal bays host 360 types of birds. Our watershed provides a significant passageway for winter migratory birds. Those with the good intention of feeding our winter visitors with bird feeders provide our outdoor cats easy access to an unsuspecting visitor.

Allowing your cat to roam outdoors is not only harmful to our birds; it can significantly shorten your cat’s life. Potentially deadly dangers—parasites, catching diseases from other cats, being hit by cars, stolen by strangers, attacked by predators, or just plain getting lost—are

constant threats to an outdoor cat.

Obviously, due to large feral colonies, keeping domestic cats indoors doesn’t solve the problem, but it’s a start.

The MCBP is a non-profit dedicated to protecting the five coastal bays behind Ocean City and Assateague Island through restoration, preservation and education. Visit our website for more information on how you can help protect our bays. For more information on the contest or other MCBP programs please contact Sandi at sandis@mdcoastalbays.org or 410-213-2297 ext 106.

Local Toys for Tots campaign in full swing

By **Dan Collins**

It is the holiday season. The radio music is Christmassy. Santa is busy having his picture taken with little ones sitting on his lap. The malls are packed and the UPS drivers are working overtime. "Miracle on 34th Street" and "White Christmas" and a dozen more seasonal movies are popping up on the television. It is a time to be

thankful, to be joyous and to care about those less fortunate.

One way is to participate in the Toys for Tots Program. For almost 70 years the US Marine Corp Reserves has been collecting new, unwrapped toys to help foster the Christmas spirit. Their primary goal is "to deliver, through a new toy at Christmas, a message of hope to less fortunate

youngsters that will assist them into becoming responsible, productive, patriotic citizens." During its life span, the Marine Toys for Tots Program has distributed over 494 million toys to over 230 million less fortunate children, primarily between the ages of 0 to 12 years old.

Local campaigns are conducted annually in over 700 communities covering all 50 states. Here in Worcester County the effort is led by retired Marine Richard Hyson of Ocean Pines

and is assisted by other organizations such as the United States Coast Guard and the USCG Auxiliary. Toy drop off locations include: Farmer Bank of Willard (West Ocean City, Rte 50 Willards and Pemberton Drive Salisbury), Staples West Ocean City and Walmart in Berlin.

To request a toy for your child, please go to the following website and follow the directions: www.toysfortots.org/request_toys/Default.aspx



United States Coast Guardsmen and USCG Auxiliarists gather around a Toys for Tots box that has been filled and refilled twice already this season at the USCG Station – Ocean City. Last day for drop offs this year is December 17.



Buckingham students display math skills

Buckingham Elementary students **Jackson Steele, Marlow Maxa, Sincere Briddell, Sydnie Harrington and Trybe Wise** in Mrs. Amanda Hammond's 3rd grade class, showed their knowledge of multiplication by creating a city skyline. They placed the building windows into arrays and then described how the arrays represented various multiplication problems.

Local recipes sought for cookbook

Calling on all cooks, chefs, and foodies: the Worcester County Health Department and Tri-County Go Red Planning Committee are seeking recipes from residents of the shore for inclusion in a new community cookbook. The collection of recipes will be part of the 12th Annual Go Red event with a cookbook given out to everyone who attends.

The purpose of the Tri-County Go Red event is to raise awareness among women about heart disease including risk factors, signs/symptoms, and prevention. The cookbook will be part of that effort by showcasing local culinary favorites. Residents are encouraged to bring out their best holiday, or any special, recipe and submit it. Don't worry if the recipe is not healthy; every original dish will be included in the cookbook along with tips on how to change heartier recipes into a healthier version.

The 12th Annual Tri-County Go Red event will be held on Thursday, February 4 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Peninsular Regional Medical Center, 100 East Carroll Street, Salisbury,

please see **recipes** on page 8

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Eastern Shore tourism partners take home state awards

Worcester County Tourism, along with area partners working together to promote Maryland's Eastern Shore as a tourism destination, took home five awards at the 35th annual Maryland Tourism & Travel Summit in late October.

The *Best Media & Public Relations Campaign Award* went to Tourism, Art and Downtown Development (TADD) for Eat, Drink, Buy Art on Maryland's Eastern Shore. An alliance of Eastern Shore businesses, Main Street groups, arts organizations, tourism and economic development offices formed TADD to create an "art drive" campaign that promotes the ease and accessibility of visiting eateries, artists and galleries in historic towns that are seemingly a world away

from the everyday: Berlin, Cambridge, Chestertown, Easton, Elkton, Denton, Ocean City, Princess Anne, Salisbury and Snow Hill. Learn more about the campaign at www.eatdrinkbuyart.com.

The *Best Destination Guide Award* went to WCT for producing the Beach & Beyond Visitor's Guide. This high-quality, visually stunning guide includes sections about eateries, lodging and activities that set each town apart, arts and entertainment, museums, destination weddings, parks and camping, golf, miles of white sand beaches in Ocean City, the ponies of Assateague Island, area breweries, and touts national awards bestowed on the towns and beaches.

"The most innovative feature is that we don't call it a Worcester County visitor's guide," Tourism Director Lisa Challenger said. "Since most people don't travel knowing what county they are traveling to, we branded it as 'Maryland's Beach and Beyond.' This way, the visitor knows exactly what part of Maryland we are located in." The guide is available in print and also for download at www.visitworcester.org.

The *Cooperative Partnership Award* was presented to Eastern Shore Destination Marketing Organizations (DMO) that formed a marketing alliance to create the Eastern Shore Visitor's Guide and website www.visitmarylandeasternshore.com. All Eastern Shore tourism directors contributed equal funding to create this piece which promotes Maryland's Eastern Shore as a travel destination. DMO partners include Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's, Talbot, Caroline, Dorchester, Wicomico, Somerset and Worcester Counties, and Ocean City.



Lisa Challenger, director of Worcester County tourism center

The *Visionary Impact Award* went to Ann Hillyer, OceanCity.com, Ocean City Hotel-Motel-Restaurant Association, and WCT for www.ShoreCraftBeer.com. This collaborative effort promotes the ever-expanding craft beer industry here on the shore. The effort launched successful marketing, overnight hotel packages and events that promote the county and the surrounding region as a craft beer destination and serve to enhance tourism, particularly in the shoulder and off-seasons.

The *Maryland Office of Tourism Partnership Award* went to the Town of Ocean City and Wicomico and Worcester Counties for their sports marketing partnership, the Mid-Atlantic Amateur Sports Alliance (MAASA). "These are exciting times," Worcester County Recreation and Parks Director Paige Hurley said. "This sports alliance partnership will allow us to bring in larger events to

this area. We are looking forward to offering these "play-cations," where teams and families can play here and then extend their time into a vacation."

"MAASA delivers world-class sporting events designed to spur Maryland's economy," said Kristen Goller, Director of Marketing and Public Relations for Wicomico County Recreation, Parks and Tourism. "The formal sports-marketing partnership is the first of its kind in the nation. Since its inception, the region has successfully hosted two national girls' softball tournaments and the ISSA Eastern Shore senior softball championship. These three MAASA events combined for a total of more than 25,000 hotel room nights booked and \$40 million in estimated economic impact."

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recipe
from page 7

MD. All recipes should be submitted by January 1 and sent to Kathy Wool, registered dietitian, Worcester County Health Department, P.O. Box 249, Snow Hill, Maryland 21863. Recipes can also be sent by email to kathy.wool@maryland.gov or by fax, 410-632-0080.

For additional information about the cookbook or the Tri County Go Red event please call the Worcester County Health Department at 410-632-0056.

In the Rear View Mirror...

What ever happened to Packard ?

By **Bruce Palmer**

When the Packard Motor Company began building automobiles, a new century was on the horizon. It was 1899 and the two Packard Brothers from Ohio had teamed-up with their friend George Weiss who owned the Winton Automotive Company. The Packards believed they could help Weiss build a superior car and by the last year of the 19th Century, the first example rolled off the line.



From the very start, Packard's directive was one of innovation and incomparable luxury. While auto-builders such as the Dodge Brothers, Rambler and the fledgling Ford Motor Company were focusing on volume, Packard set its sights on the more-affluent and discerning buyer—eventually becoming a part of the 3-*Ps* of American Motordom Royalty: Packard, Peerless and Pierce-Arrow.

It took Packard only four years to build its first 400 cars; a remarkable accomplishment for the time. One of

the bigger challenges was getting Packard into parts of the country that were distant from major metropolitan areas. As the story goes, it was from that struggle that the company's long-standing slogan came into being.

One day, a correspondence came into James Ward Packard's Detroit office from a prospective buyer who lived in a remote town. His secretary said the man was curious for more info on the motorcar and was asking for company-issued paperwork by which he could familiarize himself with the car. With no such sales literature yet available, JW was said to blurt out, "Just tell him to ask the man who owns one."

From the 1910s through the 1930s,

Packard was often the first to bring new technology to the ever-expanding network of U.S. roads. They were the first to move away from the "tiller" to a modern steering wheel, the first to introduce the powerful V-12 engine, "Econo-Drive" (a forerunner to the modern-day overdrive system of gas-saving) and even the first to make factory-installed air-conditioning available. Whatever it took to accentuate the comfort and convenience for its well-to-do customer, Packard worked hard to oblige.

When America was plunged into

WWII, Packard was among the first U.S. auto manufacturing companies to convert their entire facilities for the war-effort. By early 1942, the Packard assembly line was turning out V-1650 engines for the P-51 Mustang Fighters and 1500-horsepower V-12 powerplants for the PT Boats. Nearly 60,000 war-time engines had been constructed by the time that peace was at hand in '45.

With the dawn of the post-war era, Packard seemed poised for great days to come. But, fate had other plans. Management at Packard decided to "switch gears" (forgive the pun) and re-focus corporate effort on the middle-class buyer. Reasoning that the pent-up demand for cars after four years of war had created a huge market of "everyday man" buyers, the post-war designs were rapidly tailored to a more-common style and quickly



became less-distinguishable from the competition.

Further, in an effort to rapidly build volume in the aftermath of the no-production war years, Packard decided to enter the fleet market, selling taxi-cabs. But they were never able to mount a serious threat to the big three (GM, Ford and Chrysler) who could supply the industry far more-quickly. This major shift from building fewer, more-profitable cars to building for the masses had a dramatically nega-

*please see **packard** on page 11*

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ACROSS

1. Characters in one inch of tape
4. In a hold
9. Jewish mystic
14. A way to souse
15. A small sharp knife
16. Frogs, toads, tree toads
17. Brew
18. Rowdy carouser
20. Poetries
22. ___ salts, remedy
23. Expect eagerly
24. Obstructing the view of something
28. Denotes three
29. Expression of uncertainty
30. Greek portico
31. Bureau
33. Electric battery
37. Vapor density
38. Radioactivity unit
39. Strive to equal or match
41. Cologne
42. Carrier's invention
43. Highest in degree or quality

44. Female horses
46. Serbian
49. Publicity
50. Actress
51. Supporting structures
55. Jobs
58. Indian founder of Sikhism
59. Capital of Zimbabwe
60. Woman of charm and good looks
64. Order
65. Draft animal in desert regions
66. Unaccented syllable verse
67. Fail to keep pace
68. Sheath or shirtwaist
69. Moss stalks
70. ___ Lilly, drug company

DOWN

1. Exclamation of praise
2. 200 island
Pacific nation (alt. sp.)
3. Repeated
4. Hungers
5. School of Business, UCB
6. Bobby ___, NHL champ
7. Lease

8. More parched
9. Medieval merchant guild
10. Negative ions
11. Top
12. One of the Gershwins
13. Dekalitre
19. Imitate
21. Gentlemen
24. Dawn
25. A citizen of Chile
26. Bright stars
27. Codfish genus
31. Extremely unrefined
32. Diacritical mark
34. Correspondences
35. Indicates position
36. Small cup
40. 12th Greek letter

41. Capable of being eliminated
45. 12th Jewish month
47. Rechristen
48. In a way, imputes
52. Hydroxyls + 2C
53. Follows sigma
54. Vegetable shrubs
56. South African village
57. Monetary unit of D.R. Congo
59. First Chinese dynasty
60. Divides evenly into (Math)
61. Household god (Roman)
62. Pakistani rupee
63. American time

Answers for Dec 9

Captain Ron's

Fish Tales

By Ron Fisher

Sponsored by Peninsula Rehab and Sport Medicine



Fishing Report: December is here and although the temperature has been mild there has not been much activity for striper fishing. They seem to be holding in the New Jersey area and are just starting to migrate in our direction. There have been some good size blues being caught within the three mile limit and some nice tog along the jetties from the Second to the Fourth Street bulkhead on crab and sand fleas. Also there are a few reports of small rock and blues being caught from the surf at Ocean City and Assateague on cut bunker and mullet. No one can predict this fishing from day to day; you just need to go fishing and hope for good luck. Offshore fishing is hot with limits of sea bass being caught when the weather cooperates. Let's hope for some continued mild and calm weather? That being said it is time to think about going crappie fishing.

Let's go Crappie Fishing: It's this time of year I like to start crappie fishing. In our area we have white and black crappie. Many times they are the same colors and most can't tell them apart. Black crappie have seven or eight dorsal spines and white only six. They also have many different names such as Calico Bass, White Perch, Croppie, and Papermouth to name a few. They grow 3-5" their first year and to 7-8" their second year. Most crappie caught are in the range of one half to one pound.

Where to go? One area I found to be a hot spot is the Pocomoke River at Shad Landing just off Route 113. You will need a Maryland Freshwater Fishing License to fish this area. Check the current regulations but usually there is no closed season and no size requirement. Also you are allowed 15 fish per day or 30 possession in aggregate.

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

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

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



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Coastal Bays releases report card

The Maryland Coastal Bays Program has unveiled the 2014 Report Card, a detailed assessment on the health of the bays behind Ocean City and Assateague.

The aim of this report card is to provide a transparent and geographically detailed assessment of the 2014 Coastal Bay's health. The Coastal Bay's health is defined as the progress of four water quality indicators and two biotic (living) indicators toward scientifically derived ecological thresholds or goals. The six indicators are combined into one Coastal Bay health index presented as a report card score.

The first collaborative effort of a report card which gave Maryland's coastal bays a C+ grade was launched in 2008, finding sea grasses rebounding but still at levels little more than half of those seen earlier in the decade. Last year's report card grade was a C+. Overall, for 2014, the Coastal Bays received a grade of C+, the same as 2013. Improvements in Newport and Sinepuxent Bays were offset by declines in Assawoman Bay, while the other regions remained stable.

The report card is a scientific collaborative effort between the Maryland Coastal Bays Program (MCBP), University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science – Integration and Application Network, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the National Park Service.

Hundreds of volunteers work with MCBP, including local residents and visitors, to support environmental initiatives to protect, promote, and pre-

serve our coastal bays. They volunteer to count horseshoe crabs, terrapins, and birds, collect water samples, clear neighborhoods, wetlands, and dunes of trash, monitor seals and assist in many other activities.

Part of the National Estuary Program, the Maryland Coastal Bays Program is a non-profit partnership between the towns of Ocean City and Berlin, the National Park Service, Worcester County, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Maryland Departments of Natural Resources, Agriculture, Environment, & Planning. One of only 28 such programs nationwide, the goal of the Maryland Coastal Bays Program is to protect and enhance the 175-square mile watershed, which includes Ocean City, Ocean Pines and Berlin, and Assateague Island National Seashore.

The 2014 Report Card is available online at mdcoastalbays.org. If you would like further information please contact Sandi Smith at sandis@mdcoastalbays.org or call 410-213-2297 ext. 106.



SDHS students attend Columbia University

Stephen Decatur High School newspaper students attended the 76th Annual Columbia Scholastic Press Association Fall Conference held at Columbia University in New York City in early November. The conference participants learned techniques and strategies in news reporting, broadcast journalism, and publishing.

Pictured in the back row: Stephen Decatur High School students **Tifanee Mask**, teacher **Ellen Masters**, newspaper adviser **Brittany Tracy**, **Rebecca Evans**, **Tyler Van-Sice**, and **Emily Cook**. In the front row: **Allie Hastings**, **Elizabeth Masters**, **Caroline Hammond**, and **Serena Wisner**.

Tea Party to meet

The Worcester County Tea Party will meet Thursday, December 17 for its "Celebrating Our Successes" Christmas Party. Pastor John Abent of Faith Baptist Church is the guest speaker. The event will take place in the Ocean Pines library beginning at 6:30 p.m.

The event is free and open to the public. If possible, bring a dessert to share and canned food for our local food pantry. For more information email WCTPPatriots@gmail.com or call 443-614-7214.

packard

from page 9

tive effect on the company's fortunes. Lower-spending buyers could not replace the high-end customers Packard was losing quickly-enough.

In a foreshadow of their decaying market position, Cadillac outsold Packard, taking the top of the luxury field for the first time in 1947. Sales that still reached more than 116,000 in 1949 would be cut in half by the mid-1950s with no sign of a rebound in sight. Dramatic redesigns to a more-contemporary style during the 50s would turn out to be "too little, too late." By '56, Packard had dropped to third in the luxury automobile segment...now trailing Lincoln and only narrowly ahead of Chrysler Corporation's Imperial line.

As post-war supply finally caught-up with demand, pressure from the Big-3 began forcing mergers among the smaller, independent companies trying to remain afloat. For Packard, that came with a buy-out of the Studebaker Corporation in '56. But, Studebaker was in worse financial shape than Packard and it would be the death knell for both. The year 1958 saw the final Packard roll off the combined Studebaker-Packard assembly line, a year which saw barely over 2,600 Packards built.

Much like the small group of luxury-minded car-buyers that Packard first courted well over 100 years ago...Collectible Packard owners today are a proud few that continue to extol the virtues of their cars. And, folks will ask about the quality of their vehicles. Yes, you can still "ask the man who owns one."

Letters sent to The Courier for publication consideration must be signed and include



a telephone number where the author can be reached to verify authenticity, if necessary. Let-

ters are not corrected for spelling or grammar and priority will be given to letters of 300 words or less. Letters must be received by Friday at 5 p.m. They can be e-mailed to:

thecourier@delmarvacourier.com

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 17	11:42 a.m.	5:31 a.m. 6:14 p.m.	7:11 a.m.	4:42 p.m.
Fri., December 18	12:17 a.m. 12:39 p.m.	6:33 a.m. 7:08 p.m.	7:12 a.m.	4:42 p.m.
Sat., December 19	1:19 a.m. 1:40 p.m.	7:37 a.m. 8:04 p.m.	7:12 a.m.	4:42 p.m.
Sun., December 20	2:24 a.m. 2:43 p.m.	8:42 a.m. 9:00 p.m.	7:13 a.m.	4:43 p.m.
Mon., December 21	3:26 a.m. 3:43 p.m.	9:48 a.m. 9:57 p.m.	7:14 a.m.	4:43 p.m.
Tues., December 22	4:23 a.m. 4:40 p.m.	10:50 a.m. 10:52 p.m.	7:14 a.m.	4:44 p.m.
Wed., December 23	5:18 a.m. 5:34 p.m.	11:48 a.m. 11:45 p.m.	7:14 a.m.	4:44 p.m.

traditions
from page 4

fields.

In Berchtesgaden, located in the German Alps, over 1,000 members of the local shooting clubs will don the ancient costumes and climb the mountains carrying antique weapons. At the stroke of midnight many volleys are fired. In the olden days it was thought this noise would scare away any evil spirits. This event occurs again on New Year's Eve.

Christmas Day finds many Catholic and Lutheran families attending church services. It is truly a day for the family. Dinner will probably be goose. In fact, the following is a typical menu for Christmas dinner:

Champignon Schmitte (mushroom-cheese bread); Koniginpasten (meat-filled pastries); Rote Rubensalat (pickled beets); Ganserbraten (roast goose with apple-prune stuffing); Bayerisches Kraut (Bavarian red cabbage); Spatzle (noodle dumplings); Kartoffelsalat (potato salad); Pfeffernnusse (gingerbread cookies); Swarzwälder Kirschtorte (Black Forest cherry pie) and appropriate wine.

December 26, the day after Christmas is Saint Stephen's Day. He is the patron saint of horsemen and many communities conduct mounted processions in his honor.

Holy Innocents' Day falls on December 28. It celebrates the slaughter of children by King Herod. Tradition dic-

tates that children carry switches and pretend to use them on adults as a way of squaring the account. The adults placate the young with gifts.

On New Year's Eve all the restaurants serve carp. Carp is thought to be lucky. Most communities will hold church services in the early evening, leaving the rest of the night for making merry. The New Year is announced throughout the country by the tolling of the bells.

January 6 has many names. It is called the Epiphany, the Twelfth Night or the Festival of the Three Kings. It is the time for gala parties and a host of other events.

In southern and western Germany salt and chalk are consecrated. The salt is for the animals to lick. The chalk is to write the names of the Three Kings, Gaspar, Melchior and Balthazar, who visited the infant Jesus. The participants ask the Three Kings for protection from fire and flood throughout the year.

January 13, the Octave of the Epiphany, is celebrated in many towns by a procession of four boys, one carrying a star and the other three dressed as the Three Kings. They walk through the town, sometimes taking a crib to a needy family. This officially ends the Christmas season in Germany.

Froliche Weinachten.

-By **Bob Adair**

This feature was originally published in 2003.

capt. ron
from page 10

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

Russell Pope's Texas Crappie — This recipe uses the whole fish cleaned and scaled.

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

Roll in mixture of salt, pepper and corn meal

Deep fry or skillet fry till light brown

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

Douglas Sharp's Crappie Recipe — Uses fillets.

Fillet your catch the way you like them.

Take equal parts of yellow corn meal and Parmesan cheese.

Add a tablespoon of dill weed (freeze-dried or fresh).

Salt and pepper to taste.

Mix the above according to amount needed to cover your fillets.

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

Northern Searobin: Here is another unusual fish you might

catch in the bay. It is a very unusual looking fish with large pectoral fins and many confuse them with flying fish. They have a reddish brown back and whitish belly with three finger like pectoral rays and large pectoral fins, a flat, bony head and bright blue eyes. They usually grow up to 12 inches. They feed on crabs, shrimp and other fishes such as your bait. In spite of their ugly appearance a fillet off the side of the sea robin fished as strip bait is great flounder bait.

You asked for it: Since I mentioned the Northern Stargazer in my column last month I have had several requests for a picture. Here it is.



Happy Holidays and remember to take a kid fishing.

Capt. Ron

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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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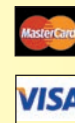
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Keep poinsettias looking great through the holidays

Along with the fragrant evergreens and twinkling lights synonymous with the holiday season, poinsettias make up a key component of holiday decorating.

Unlike holly and some of the other greenery that is commonly associated with the holidays, poinsettias do not naturally thrive in the colder temperatures. These plants originate in southern Mexico and were considered an exotic plant when first introduced to the United States by Joel Robert Poinsett, the first American ambassador to Mexico.

Poinsettias can be fickle plants and ones that gardening novices may find challenging to maintain. The plants are comprised of green foliage, colorful (often red) flower bracts, and the actual flowers of the plants, which are the red or green buttonlike parts nestled in the center of the bracts.

Because they are a tropical plant, poinsettias can be damaged by exposure to low temperatures, even if they are only exposed for short periods of time. They should be wrapped and protected against the elements when

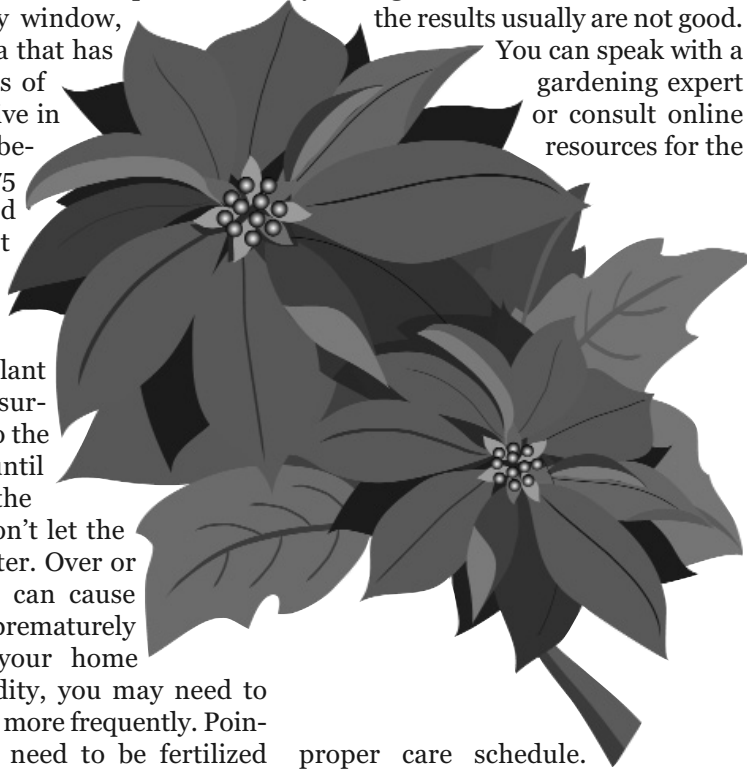
brought home. For maximum plant life, poinsettias need to be placed near a warm, sunny window, or another area that has ample amounts of light. They thrive in temperatures between 60 and 75 degrees and should be kept away from warm or cold drafts.

Water the plant whenever the surface feels dry to the touch. Water until it drains out the bottom, but don't let the plant sit in water. Over or underwatering can cause leaves to drop prematurely and wilt. If your home lacks in humidity, you may need to water the plant more frequently. Poinsettias do not need to be fertilized while the plant is in bloom.

The Ohio State University Extension says poinsettias can be reflowered

the following Christmas, but unless a yearlong schedule of care is observed, the results usually are not good.

You can speak with a gardening expert or consult online resources for the



proper care schedule. Caring for a poinsettia year-round involves gradually drying out the plant and storing it in a cool lo-

cation. The plant later will be moved outdoors and then back inside and pruned to keep a full shape.

Poinsettias are short-day plants, which means they flower about 10 weeks after the daylight shortens to about 12 hours or less. Therefore, to have the plant in full flower by Christmas, it will have to be kept in complete darkness between 5 p.m. and 8 a.m. from the first part of October until Thanksgiving. Many people find the affordability of poinsettias makes it more convenient to buy new ones each year than try to foster regrowth.

Contrary to popular belief, poinsettias are not poisonous to humans or animals, but they should not be ingested due to the potential for allergic reactions. Poinsettias can help remove pollutants from indoor air, which is advantageous during the winter months when doors and windows are typically kept closed.

Select plants that have dark green foliage and no low or damaged leaves. This ensures the best success for keeping poinsettias looking healthy and vibrant throughout the holiday season.

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