

# The Courier

December 23 2015 Volume 16 Number 17





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.



# Ocean Pines, Sandpiper reach agreement

The Ocean Pines Association (OPA) announced last Thursday that negotiations with Sandpiper Energy, a subsidiary of Chesapeake Utilities Corporation, have been successfully concluded. OPA General Manager Bob Thompson led the discussions with Steve Thompson, president of Sandpiper Energy (no relation) to develop

a comprehensive solution which was presented to the Board for consideration. OPA Board of Directors voted 5-2 on December 17, 2015 in favor of the proposed agreements with Sandpiper Energy that will facilitate the conversion of the Ocean Pines community from propane to natural gas service over the next few years. Bob Thomp-

son and Steve Thompson have been in discussions over the last 6 months with a mutual goal to negotiate a fair and balanced settlement package.

Sandpiper and OPA have entered into a mutually beneficial settlement that will offer an alternative solution for gas service to the residents of Ocean Pines. The settlement includes an agreement that provides Sandpiper with a perpetual, non-exclusive and uninterrupted easement and right-of-way for the purpose of the installation, operation and maintenance of the gas distribution system. Also included in the settlement are a land-lease agreement for a compressed natural gas injection facility and a services

agreement where OPA will provide certain communication and coordination services to Sandpiper in support of the conversion process. While Sandpiper will pay fees for the right-of-ways, the land lease and other services which OPA will provide, there will not be a monthly franchise fee paid by Sandpiper or billed to the Association or the residents. The next step will be to finalize the strategy for implementation, which will include public meetings planned for the first quarter of next year to discuss the conversion process for the Ocean Pines residents and OPA facilities. It is anticipated that the process will begin within the next 90 days.

## OPA board meets

By **Kelsey Reichenberg**

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

Thompson's report began with the discussion of current capital projects including St. Martin's Road drainage as well as bridge repair and replacement. In his discussion of the St. Martin's Road drainage project, Thompson stated that it is an unfunded and unbudgeted request. Over the past month, he met with the county to discuss utility concerns, and packages were provided to the Board of Directors. He also shared that final cost estimates for bridge repairs are being calculated, and efforts are underway to identify the type of bridges and final costs to complete each bridge replacement.

Thompson went on to discuss the budgets of the major amenities, golf, the Yacht Club and aquatics. Golf and aquatics both closed out the month ahead of budget while the Yacht Club finished the month below budget. However, each amenity shows increased profits when compared to last year's performance. Also in relation to budget, Thompson stated that budget books will be presented to the Board & Budget Finance Advisory Committee on January 4, and there will be a budget vote held on February 25.

Thompson announced that an agreement has been confirmed between OPA and Sandpiper Energy. Thompson said he worked directly with Sandpiper Energy to reach a fair, balanced, and comprehensive settlement package for bringing a natural gas solution to the community. The comprehensive settlement agreement includes ground lease, a services agreement, and a deed of easement.

The ground lease provides a site for the injection of compressed natural gas, stores temporary propane tanks and equipment during conversion and stores emergency repair equipment.

*please see opa on page 12*

*"On Christmas, we celebrate the birth of Christ with prayer, feasting, and great merriment. But, most of all, we experience it in our hearts. For, more than just a day, Christmas is a state of mind. It is found throughout the year whenever faith overcomes doubt, hope conquers despair, and love triumphs over hate. It is present when men of any creed bring love and understanding to the hearts of their fellow man. The feeling is seen in the wondrous faces of children and in the hopeful eyes of the aged. It overflows the hearts of cheerful givers and the souls."*

*Ronald Reagan  
Christmas Message 1981*



*Merry Christmas and Happy Hannukah!  
Happy New Year!*

**Republican Women of  
Worcester County**

# The Courier

Independently Owned

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Robert B. Adair 1938-2007

## 2012 Business of the Year

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She gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

<sup>8</sup> And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Luke 2, 7-12



## Santa's Workshop North Pole

**Dear Children,**

I was so happy to see so many of you at the Ocean Pines Tree Lighting and Breakfast with Santa and the pizza party at Ocean Pines Community Church this year. Mrs. Claus and I love to talk with you each year and to hear about what you've been doing over the past months. I know that most of you were doing good things at home and at school.

We've had a busy year here at the North Pole making toys and games and electronic gadgets. The elves are working very hard to prepare all of those things for you, if you've been good. Rudolph and the reindeer are practicing every day to master the art of pulling a fully loaded sleigh. Mrs. Claus is busy helping me with the naughty and nice list and keeping everyone well fed in preparation for our big night delivering presents all over the world.

I'm looking over the list to see who's been naughty and who's been nice. It's good to see that so many children on the Eastern Shore are on the "nice" list again this year, and that so many paid attention to what I told you last year at this time. If, for some reason, you forgot my message, I'll remind you now. There's still time to get on the "nice" list

First, be respectful of everyone. No bullying. No fighting. No bad language. No talking back.

Listen to your teachers, parents, grandparents, and all other adults who help you each day. Older folks have a lot to teach you.

Say "Thank you" to everyone in a military uniform for fighting to keep you and our country free. Do the same for firefighters and police officers, and remember them in your prayers.

Always be kind to animals and treat them with care.

Most importantly, remember the real meaning of Christmas.

I'll see you all (but you won't see me because you'll be asleep) on Christmas Eve. I'm sure you'll be very happy when you wake up Christmas morning.

Rudolph and the other reindeer always appreciate a carrot or two, if you care to leave some out for them, and you all know how much I love cookies and a glass of milk or a mug of hot chocolate.

Well, I've got to stop writing and get back to the workshop now. I hope you'll continue to be good and be respectful and kind to everyone you meet. Remember, I'll be watching.

I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthful new year.

Love,  
**Santa**



# Believing in the spirit

Never have I glimpsed Santa's sleigh riding across a darkened sky. Yet, in this crazy, topsy-turvy world much can be gained if we allow ourselves to believe in the spirit embodied in a bright red suit and adorned with whiskers white as

despair and allow a little "Ho, ho, ho" to resonate in our hearts.

Santa Claus is alive and well. During this time of year he goes about his business as he has for centuries. Trends and fads concern him not, because what he has to offer is pure and unadulterated for those willing to believe. For you see the passage of time cannot alter or dull that which is timeless: the pure, honest emotions we feel when we embrace the ones we love, when we toast the health of those



**It's All About. . .**

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

snow. Hope and warmth is found when we keep ourselves open to a presence that embraces the best of who we are. Simply, I believe in Santa Claus and the older I get, the more I need to believe.

around us and remember those who are not. Opening our minds to what we don't fully understand but nonetheless believe is a lasting gift.

The good cheer Santa Claus spreads is worn handsomely by those who believe. It is as comfort-

able as a well warm sweater.

There's something wonderful about fairy tales, four leaf clovers and the magic of watching a child sit on Santa's knee for the first time. There's a lot of joy and happiness that can be shared by simply believing.



I believe in the attraction of mistletoe, the magic of a first snow and the whimsy of making a wish beside a well. I believe in these things and more, just because.

I believe in good cheer and good times and good friends. I believe in wonder and hope and fond memories yet to be held. And I believe in the charity of the man who rides in a red sleigh sharing joy.

I believe a child's smile, and ours as well, becomes more vibrant in the presence of Santa Claus. The spirit embodied by the twinkle in his eye is more powerful than a skeptic's glance. It's a spirit that soars upon the unfettered wings of who we'd like to be; it nourishes our souls, giving us strength to become our very best.

I believe in the attraction of mistletoe, the magic of a first snow and the whimsy of making a wish beside a well. I believe in these things and more, just because.

When we allow ourselves to believe in the spirit of Santa Claus we reveal the part of our soul that glows most brilliantly, most warmly and most honestly. It's the very best gift we can give to those around us.

I believe much is gained when we unfurl our imaginations, let go of

I believe.

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## Residents asked to select 'Light up the Pines' winner

Ocean Pines residents have the chance to vote for their favorite of 22 Ocean Pines homes that have been decked out, lit up and covered in holiday cheer for the community's annual "Light up the Pines" outdoor display contest.

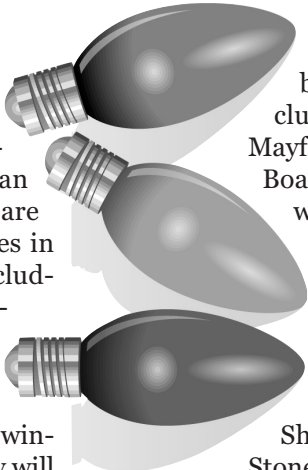
Participants in the contest, sponsored by Choptank Electric Cooperative and the Ocean Pines Association, are competing for prizes in four categories including "Top-Notch All-Around," "Most Creative," "Most Lights" and "People's Choice." The winner in each category will receive a \$50 gift certificate to The Cove at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club and a \$25 Choptank electric bill credit.

Guest judges from Choptank will be selecting the winners in the "Top-Notch All-Around," "Most Creative"

and "Most Lights" categories. Ocean Pines residents will select the "People's Choice" winner by emailing their choice to [info@oceanpines.org](mailto:info@oceanpines.org) or by posting it to the Ocean Pines Association Facebook page.

This year's contestants, who will each receive two LED light-bulbs courtesy of Choptank, include 122 Camelot Circle, 11 Mayflower Court, 24 Offshore Lane, 17 Boatswain Drive, 259 Ocean Parkway, 5 Oxford Court, 28 Moonshell Drive, 76 Ocean Parkway, 13 Sloop Lane, 4 Martinique Circle, 63 Boston Drive, 29 Liberty Street, 2 Wareham Court, 110 Windjammer Road, 6 Brookton Lane, 71 Seafarer Lane, 5 High Sheriff Trail, 23 Harlan Trace, 11 Stonemeadow Court, 10 Leigh Drive, 38 Boatswain Drive and 33 Whaler Lane.

The deadline for voting is Thursday, Dec. 31. A map marked with the contest entries may be found at [OceanPines.org](http://OceanPines.org).



## HELP WANTED

**Worcester County Developmental Center**, a non-profit organization that provides opportunities to adults with disabilities has the following full-time openings:

### **Food Services Instructor/Driver**

Serve as instructor in the kitchen, provide supervision and training to the individuals, manage all menus, order foodstuff and prepare meals for the day program alongside the individuals. Must have cooking experience and a clean and valid driver's license.

### **Residential Coordinator**

Serve as lead staff person in the home, responsible for planning and supporting the individuals in their daily activities. Must have a clean and valid driver's license and experience in DDA field.

To apply, submit resume to Nicole at [dobelstein@wcdcservices.org](mailto:dobelstein@wcdcservices.org)

Or mail to  
WCDC  
Attn: Human Resources  
PO Box 70,  
Newark, MD 21841

Or drop it off at our day program  
8545 Newark Rd, Newark, MD 21841

EOE



**Holiday gathering** - Ladies of "Books by the Bay" book club enjoy their holiday luncheon at the Inn on the Ocean on the boardwalk in Ocean City.

## 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, Maryland. 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](mailto: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.



## Community tree

Members of the Pine'er Craft Club participated in The Home-town Christmas Celebration sponsored by Ocean Pines Association by decorating a tree in front of their Craft & Gift Shop in White Horse Park. The tree was decorated in a red and white theme with pine cones and flowers attached to red ribbons and wooden spoons depicting a Santa face. Pictured are (L-R) **Margaret Lamphier, Linda Brindley, Luz Castillo, Nancy Walsh, and Janet Rosensteel.**

# The story of the birth of Jesus

Christmas traditions focus on several different aspects of family and spiritual life. While many stories are shared around Christmastime, perhaps none bears more significance than the origin of the Christmas celebration. Sharing the Christmas story is an integral part of holiday gatherings, reminding families that faith is foremost during this festive time of year.

## The Conception of Jesus

Mary was a woman living in the Galilee area of Nazareth. She was engaged to a Jewish carpenter named Joseph. An angel visited the Virgin Mary and told her that she would conceive a child, a son, by the power of the Holy Spirit. When the son was born, she would name him Jesus. Mary questioned the angel, who reassured her that anything was possible by God and that Jesus would be God's own son.



Joseph was troubled when he found out Mary was with child and even considered breaking their engagement, which was allowed under Jewish law. But God soon sent another angel, this time to Joseph, in a dream. The angel reassured Joseph that his marriage to Mary and the birth of this child were His will. Joseph awoke from his dream and took Mary as his wife soon after, ready and willing to raise the child despite the public humiliation he may experience.

## The Census

During this time the Romans had control over many parts of the world, including where Joseph and Mary resided. Ruler Caesar Augustus decreed that every person living under Roman rule had to return to his town of origin to participate in a census so everyone could be taxed accordingly. Joseph, hailing from Bethlehem, had to return to this town with his very pregnant bride.

They traveled for many days and, upon arriving in Bethlehem, found that the inns were full and there was no available lodging. Mary and Joseph took shelter in a stable and prepared to welcome their son.

## Jesus' Arrival

According to the Gospel of Luke, Mary gave birth to her firstborn, a son, while in the stable. She wrapped him in cloth and placed him in a manger because there was no guest room available for them.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you;

he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

*please see birth on page 8*

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# Maryland Rural Health Award recipients recognized

This fall, the Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA) recognized two of Worcester County's most dedicated community members for their efforts to improve health on the shore. State Senator Jim Mathias was honored as the MRHA's Outstanding Rural Health Legislator for 2015 while Warren "Ed" Montgomery received the award for Outstanding Rural Health Volunteer. Debbie Goeller, Health Officer for Worcester County, nominated both award recipients due to their long histories of involvement in numerous local health projects, campaigns and committees and tireless dedication towards helping others.

A Maryland native born and raised, Senator Mathias' political service began in 1987 as a member of Ocean

City's Board of Zoning Appeals. Over the past three decades, he has served as Ocean City's mayor, a member of the Maryland House of Delegates, and as Democratic State Senator for District 38, an office he continues to fill today. As a legislator, Senator Mathias has shown himself to be a passionate advocate for increasing access to quality healthcare in rural areas. He played a critical role in the passage of the Kathleen A. Mathias Oral Chemotherapy Act, named in honor of his late wife, which requires insurance companies to provide equal coverage to oral and intravenous chemotherapy.

When it became clear that heroin and opioid abuse have become epidemic in Maryland, the senator endorsed recent legislation establishing the state's new Overdose Response Program via the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. He also supports legislation that makes life-saving overdose prevention drugs like naloxone and relevant training more available. Senator Mathias' volunteerism and work ethic match his efforts as an outstanding health legislator. Since the first local "Out of the Darkness" Suicide Prevention Walk in 2011, he has volunteered his time every year as an event speaker and voice for suicide prevention education. The annual walk has raised over \$100,000 and draws hundreds of participants to Ocean City every fall, leading to an increase in awareness about suicide, an issue that can disproportionately affect rural areas.

For more than a decade, Mr. Mont-

gomery has volunteered for various public health campaigns including the Mental Health: Know the Facts, No Stigma campaign, the Out of the Dark-

paings to which he dedicates countless hours every year. His willingness to become personally involved in events sets a high-benchmark and he is always ready to roll up his sleeves and jump into any task before him whether that being cleaning up or offering an impoverished member of the public a ride to a Community Resource Day.

The Worcester County Health Department is proud to see the rural public health efforts of Senator Mathias and Mr. Montgomery recognized by MRHA. The Maryland Rural Health Association is a non-profit organization whose mission is to educate and advocate for the optimal health of rural communities and their residents and is made up of rural community members and organizations. Nominations were solicited from across the rural regions of the state and selected by a diverse committee of rural health leaders.



Senator Jim Mathias with Debbie Goeller, Worcester County Health Officer, receiving his award for Outstanding Rural Legislator.

ness Suicide Prevention Walk, the Homeless Resource Committee and Homeless Alliance for the Lower Shore, among others. He has served as part-time director and supervisor of the county's Local Management Board (LMB) and co-chair of the Worcester County Homeless Committee. Homelessness prevention and awareness have been special priorities for Mr. Montgomery, who has also volunteered through his work in the faith-based community, including serving as chair for the "Atlantic United Methodist Church Helping Hands," financial assistance and support program for 10 years.

Mr. Montgomery's service extends beyond planning committees. He has shown a consistent desire to make connections with his community to attract vendors, sponsors, participants and additional volunteers to the cam-

*birth*  
from page 7

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

- Luke Chapter 2

Many people visited the baby Jesus, including three wise men from the East who traveled by following a guiding star to bestow gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh on the baby king.

When Joseph and Mary had performed all the things necessary according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Nazareth with Jesus, who was growing strong in spirit and filled with wisdom and the grace of God.

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# A child's question resonates through history

By **Chip Bertino**

**D**uring the 19th century, newspapers were the predominant news media.

Newspapers published numerous editions each day that were sold by scores of newsboys hawking them on street corners. Newspapers played a critical role in forming public opinion. The power of newspapers across the United States was unsurpassed as they held sway over politicians and readers alike.

So it was in 1897, when the *New York Sun* received a rather unique letter from a young reader, Virginia O'Hanlon, wanting to know whether or not there was a Santa Claus.

The letter ended up on the desk of veteran editor Francis P. Church. Mr. Church was the son of a Baptist minister. He had covered the Civil War for the *New York Times* and had worked for the *New York Sun* for 20 years becoming the paper's anonymous editorial writer. Mr. Church realized neither he nor the paper could ignore the child's question. He must answer it and answer it truthfully. His response became one of the most memorable editorials in newspaper history.

Again this holiday season, *The Courier* thought it would be interesting to step back in time when things seemed a little simpler and the answer to a child's question could captivate and resonate through time.

**Editor:**

*I am eight years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says "If you see it in The Sun it's so." Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?*

**Virginia O'Hanlon.**

**Virginia,**

*Your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except what they see. They think nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intel-*

*ligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.*

*Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus.*

*He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy.*

*Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus!*

*It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no ro-*

*mance to make tolerable this existence. We should have not enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The external light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.*

*Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies. You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if you did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can con-*

*ceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.*

*You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived could tear apart. Only faith, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernatural beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.*

*No Santa Claus? Thank God he lives and lives forever. A thousand*

*please see question on page 15*



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\$1, \$2, \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50 & \$100 Bills (1966 & Older) Confederate	..... Up To	\$200
U.S. Paper Money Small Size Bills	..... Up To	\$500
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Fractional Currency	..... Up To	\$100
Currency With Bank Names	..... Up To	\$500
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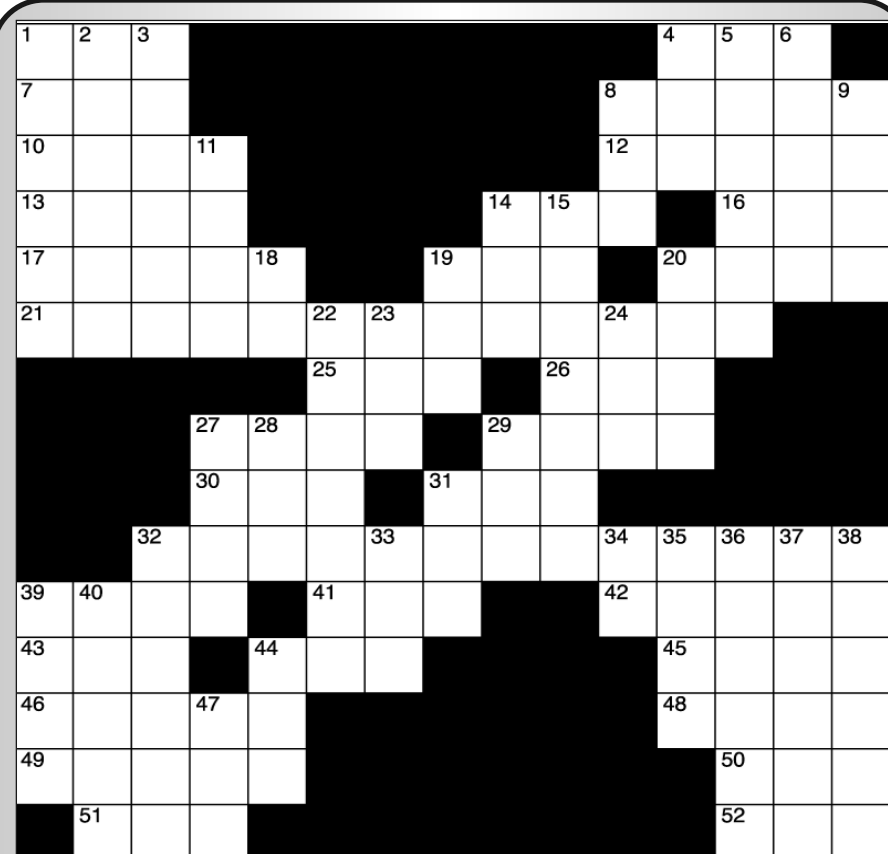
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 14. Made up of 50 states  
 16. Not or  
 17. Given a monetary penalty  
 19. Un-nilpentium  
 20. ISU town  
 21. Equality for everyone  
 25. A lyric poem with complex stanza forms  
 26. Actress Farrow  
 27. Scottish caps  
 29. Gobblers  
 30. \_\_ Lilly, drug com-pany  
 31. Process an animal hide  
 32. Describe in perfect detail  
 39. 1000 calories  
 41. American National Bank (abbr.)  
 42. MN 55121  
 43. Everyone  
 44. Substitute  
 45. Rubber, marching or head  
 46. Dance Latin rhythm  
 48. Inside of  
 49. A way to let know  
 50. Morning moisture  
 51. Point midway between S and SE  
 52. Sales messages

**DOWN**

1. Duty  
 2. Whatchamacallit  
 3. A citizen of Yemen  
 4. \_\_  
 Dhabi, Arabian capital  
 5. Nick-name  
 6. One seeded fruit (alt. sp.)  
 8. Fiddler crabs  
 9. Troughs of bricks  
 11. Exploiter  
 14. Atomic #104  
 15. Italian ice-cream  
 18. Algerian dinar  
 19. Consume  
 20. Macaws  
 22. Insignificantly small  
 23. Tooth caregiver  
 24. Direct toward  
 27. Bluish green  
 28. Caliph  
 29. Faucet  
 31. The bill in a restaurant  
 32. Capital of Tocantins, Brazil  
 33. Explosive  
 34. The most abundant of the rare-earth group  
 35. Japanese sock  
 36. Kampala is the capital  
 37. Raged  
 38. Provides with property  
 39. Miniature racing vehicle  
 40. Signs  
 44. Express pleasure  
 47. Bridge-building degree



Answers for Dec 16

For Art's Sake ...

# A captivating young girl

By **Stasia Heubeck**

"The Girl with a Pearl Earring," a painting by the Dutch artist, Johannes Vermeer, has become familiar to art lovers around the world. Although painted in 1665, this young girl has fascinated viewers, especially since the publication of the novel of the same name in 2001, followed by a film in 2003 starring Scarlett Johansson, and a play adapted by David Joss Buckley, in 2008. Although there is no documentation, art critics have guessed the model was Vermeer's eldest daughter Maria, or possibly Magdalena Van Ruijven, daughter of Vermeer's patron. Tracy Chevalier, the author of the novel, portrayed the girl in the painting as the fictional Griet, a maid in Vermeer's service.



fell into debt during a downturn in the Dutch economy. He died at the age of 43 in 1675. Vermeer's fame has risen in recent years, partly because of the novel and film, but also because of the many exhibitions around the world. His paintings can be seen in museums in Kyoto, Frankfurt, Boston and in the Queen's Gallery in Buckingham Palace.

Considered one of the most famous Dutch artists of all time, along with Rembrandt and Frans Hals, Vermeer's techniques have come under scrutiny in a 2013 documentary, titled "Tim's Vermeer." In this film, Tim Jenison, an inventor who became successful developing video software, seeks to prove that Vermeer used a tool similar to the camera obscura. This device allows light to pass through a hole in a room or box and produce an image. With lenses and mirrors, the artist could then copy the image and colors exactly. Over a period of eight years, Jenison recreated the room seen in six of Vermeer's paintings, taught himself how to use oil paints, and with the aid of optical devices, painted a "Vermeer." Although critics generally applauded the research, controversy arose. Do these findings diminish the imagination and talent of the great 17th century artist, or do they add to the fascinating history of art?

Tide and Sun Chart				
* tide is for Ocean City Fishing Pier. Add two hours for Isle of Wight tide				
DATE	HIGH TIDE	LOW TIDE	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Thur., December 24	6:09 a.m. 6:25 p.m.	12:40 p.m.	7:15 a.m.	4:45 p.m.
Fri., December 25	6:59 a.m. 7:15 p.m.	12:35 a.m. 1:29 p.m.	7:15 a.m.	4:46 p.m.
Sat., December 26	7:47 a.m. 8:04 p.m.	1:23 a.m. 2:15 p.m.	7:16 a.m.	4:46 p.m.
Sun., December 27	8:33 a.m. 8:51 p.m.	2:10 a.m. 3:00 p.m.	7:16 a.m.	4:47 p.m.
Mon., December 28	9:18 a.m. 9:36 p.m.	2:56 a.m. 3:44 p.m.	7:16 a.m.	4:47 p.m.
Tues., December 29	10:01 a.m. 10:22 p.m.	3:42 a.m. 4:29 p.m.	7:17 a.m.	4:48 p.m.
Wed., December 30	10:45 a.m. 11:09 p.m.	4:30 a.m. 5:13 p.m.	7:17 a.m.	4:49 p.m.

# *Twas the night before Christmas*

*This poem was written by a Marine stationed overseas.*

He lived all alone,  
In a one bedroom house made of plaster and stone.

I had come down the chimney  
With presents to give,  
And to see just who in this home did live.

I looked all about,  
A strange sight I did see,  
No tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.

No stocking by mantle,  
Just boots filled with sand,  
On the wall hung pictures of far distant lands.

With medals and badges,  
Awards of all kinds,  
A sober thought came through my mind.

For this house was different,  
It was dark and dreary,  
I found the home of a soldier, once I could see clearly.

The soldier lay sleeping,  
Silent, alone,  
Curled up on the floor in this one bedroom home.

The face was so gentle,  
The room in such disorder,  
Not how I pictured a United States soldier.

Was this the hero  
Of whom I'd just read?  
Curled up on a poncho, the floor for a bed?

I realized the families  
That I saw this night,  
Owed their lives to these soldiers who were willing to fight.

Soon round the world,  
The children would play,  
And grownups would celebrate a bright Christmas Day.

They enjoyed freedom  
Each month of the year,  
Because of the soldiers, like the one lying here.

I couldn't help wonder  
How many lay alone,  
On a cold Christmas Eve in a land far from home.

The very thought  
Brought a tear to my eye,  
I dropped to my knees and started to cry.

The soldier awakened  
And I heard a rough voice,  
"Santa don't cry, this life is my choice;

I fight for freedom,  
I don't ask for more,  
My life is my God, my country, my corps."

The soldier rolled over  
And drifted to sleep,  
I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.

I kept watch for hours,  
So silent and still  
And we both shivered from the cold night's chill.

I didn't want to leave  
On that cold, dark night,  
This guardian of honor so willing to fight.

Then the soldier rolled over,  
With a voice soft and pure,  
Whispered, "Carry on Santa, it's Christmas Day, all is secure."



One look at my watch,  
And I knew he was right.  
"Merry Christmas my friend, and to all a good night."

May you and your family cherish the wonderful memories of love, care and hope.  
May you live life in joy and peace.

*Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!*

*Mary Beth Carozza*  
Maryland State Delegate 38 C



# Former Commissioner Gulyas passes away

The Worcester County Commissioners and staff bid a fond farewell to our dear friend and former County Commissioner Louise L. Gulyas, who passed away Thursday morning, December 17, 2015.



Louise Gulyas

Gulyas, 81, was elected as a County Commissioner to represent the Ocean City District - District Seven in 1998. She was the second woman ever to be elected as a County Commissioner, and she served four consecutive terms until retiring in 2014.

"Louise loved people, and everyone she met became an instant friend," Commission President Jim Bunting said. "She championed the needs of her district and the interests of the entire county as a whole."

"Louise was one of the most dedicated public servants I've ever known," Commissioner Bud Church said. "She referred to Ocean City as 'My Ocean City' in almost every conversation I ever had with her."

Worcester County and Ocean City lost a true public servant."

Throughout her time in office, Commissioner Gulyas acted as a strong voice for senior citizens and the disabled. She served the Board of County Commissioners as vice president for three years and president for one year.

At the local level, Commissioner Gulyas represented the County Commissioners on the Worcester County Commission on Aging Board of Directors and the Wor-Wic Community College Board of Trustees. Regionally, she served as a member of the Gray Shore Committee Task Force and former chair of the Tri-County Council Health Care Committee and MAC, Inc. (Maintaining Active Citizens). Commissioner Gulyas also chaired the State Commission on Aging where she received the Governor's Leadership in Aging Award for her advocacy efforts and support of senior citizens. In 2015, she was named to the Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame.

At the federal level, she was appointed as a delegate to the White House Conference on Aging.

## 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.



opa  
from page 3

The terms that accompany the ground leasing part of the comprehensive settlement agreement include a ten-year contract with a monthly fee of \$1,350.

The services agreement declares that OPA shall provide access on the association website, newsletter and to the marketing staff for purposes of providing direction communication with the residents. It also assures that OPA shall assist Sandpiper in coordination of the process of converting customers from propane to natural gas and that space will be available for community meetings. The terms of the agreement include a 5-year contract with a monthly fee of \$500.

Lastly, the deed of easement portion of the comprehensive settlement agreement guarantees perpetual, non-exclusive easement across, in and under all roads and common areas located within Ocean Pines. The terms include a one-time fee of \$41,000 for road easement and another of \$93,000 for common areas easement. Payments for the agreement begin in 30 days and work begins within 90 days. The transition's total value to OPA is \$394,750.

Three CPI violations were discussed including 105 Sandyhook Road where there is trash in the yard, 15 Castle Drive where maintenance is needed and there is a fence without a permit, and 79 Boston Drive where there is a deck with no permit. The board voted for sending the violations to the OPA attorney for action, and all were approved.

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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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.choosetoliveinmaryland.org](http://www.choosetoliveinmaryland.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](http://www.firststatemarines.org).



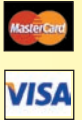


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# A special Christmas poem



By **Bob Lassahn**

*T'was the night before Christmas  
and the stockings weren't hung,  
The presents weren't wrapped  
and the cookies weren't done.  
The floor was all covered with  
paper and tape,  
A swath of destruction was left in  
the wake.*

*The lights weren't working and  
the tree took a lean,  
There was so much to do I just  
wanted to scream.*

*Christmas was coming, of that I  
was sure,  
But I wondered if I'd have the  
strength to endure.*

*And just as my spirit had sunk to  
a low,*

**question**  
from page 9

*years from now, Virginia, nay 10  
times 10,000 years from now, he  
will continue to make glad the  
heart of childhood.*

*Merry Christmas and a Happy  
New Year!!!*

Mr. Church's editorial was an immediate sensation and was published every year until the paper folded in 1949. Mr. Church married shortly after the editorial appeared. He died in April 1906, leaving no children.

Virginia O'Hanlon went on to graduate from Hunter College with a Bachelor of Arts Degree at the age of 21. The following year she received a Master's degree from Columbia. In 1912 she began teaching in the New York school system and later became a principal. After 47 years as an educator she retired. Throughout her life she received a steady stream of mail about her Santa Claus letter. Virginia O'Hanlon Douglass died in 1971 at the age of 81 in a nursing home in Valatie, NY.

*The tree lights blinked on and it  
started to snow.  
As I gazed through the window  
came a sight so serene,  
For out on the lawn was a small  
manger scene.*

*I came to my senses as I took in  
the sight,  
And I remembered the reason for  
this most holy night.  
Decorations and presents and  
turkeys and hams,  
Cannot hold a candle to God's gift  
to man.*

*I remembered the story of that  
first Christmas night,  
The birthday of Jesus and the  
star that shone bright.  
The gifts of the Magi, and a poor  
Shepherd boy,  
And instead of despair, my heart  
filled with joy.*

*I stood there a moment and gave  
it some thought,  
That the meaning of Christmas is  
easily lost.  
How Santa and reindeer and  
presents of toys,  
Overpower the true reason for  
Christmas joy.*

*I knew at that moment that all  
was all right,  
I'd finish my chores and get  
through that night.  
My list was long; I knew that was  
true,*

*But to it I added one more thing  
to do.*

*There was one more present I still  
had to send,  
A prayer for peace and good will  
to all men.*

*And a special prayer on this  
Christmas day,  
For those who defend us in lands  
far away.*

This poem was originally published in 2003.

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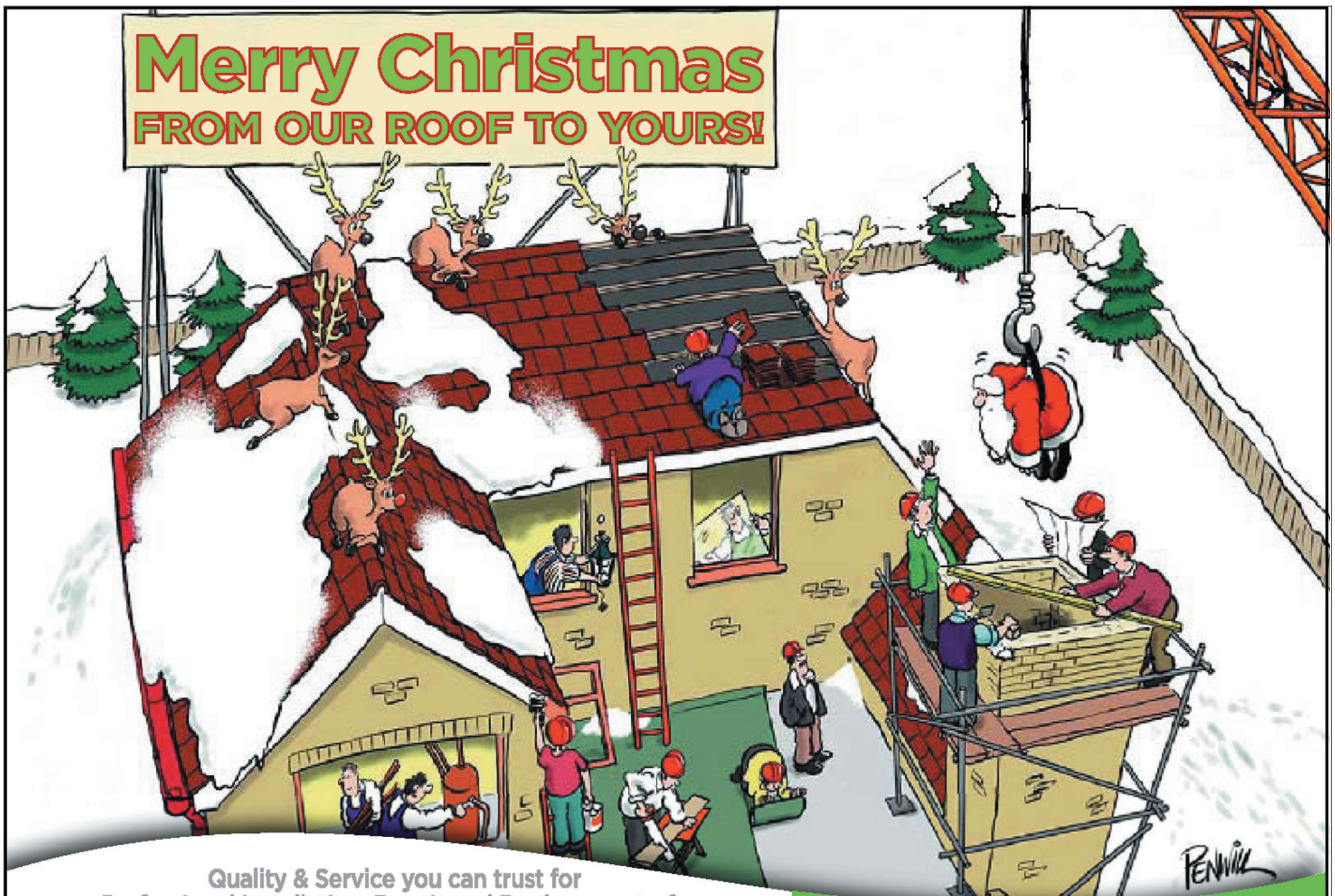
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*As you celebrate the miracle of this special season, may your heart be filled with joy and peace. May these holiday blessings linger in your home and stay with you throughout the year.*

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