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Local news for the people, by the people



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The Blizzard of 1888: The Great White Hurricane

By Sandie Gerken

This year's winter snowstorms, with major accumulations to our north, have made us weary. We might gain some perspective by comparing 2015's snows to the most paralyzing blizzard of the 19th century.

March 11, 1888 – March 14, 1888

A devastating winter storm, dubbed the "Great White Hurricane" came as a great surprise to the Eastern Seaboard. Weather had been unseasonably warm with the temperature hovering around 50 degrees. But, on Sunday evening, March 11, 1888, a steady rain began and turned to freezing sleet and snow as temperatures plummeted throughout the night. By Monday morning,

March 12, a blizzard with hurricane force winds had burst into full fury along the mid-Atlantic coast. This became a perfect storm, resulting from a cold, fast-moving low pressure system from the west colliding with a warm, moist storm moving up the coast from the Carolinas. Like a nor'easter, the relentless storm lasted three days!

In the late 19th century, we had yet to have the science and technology we have today to predict storms. The only warning system might well have been expert seamen, who noted the increasing heavy seas and winds. At the Delaware Breakwater, sailing ships, schooners, steamships, and barks all laden with cargo began to seek protec-

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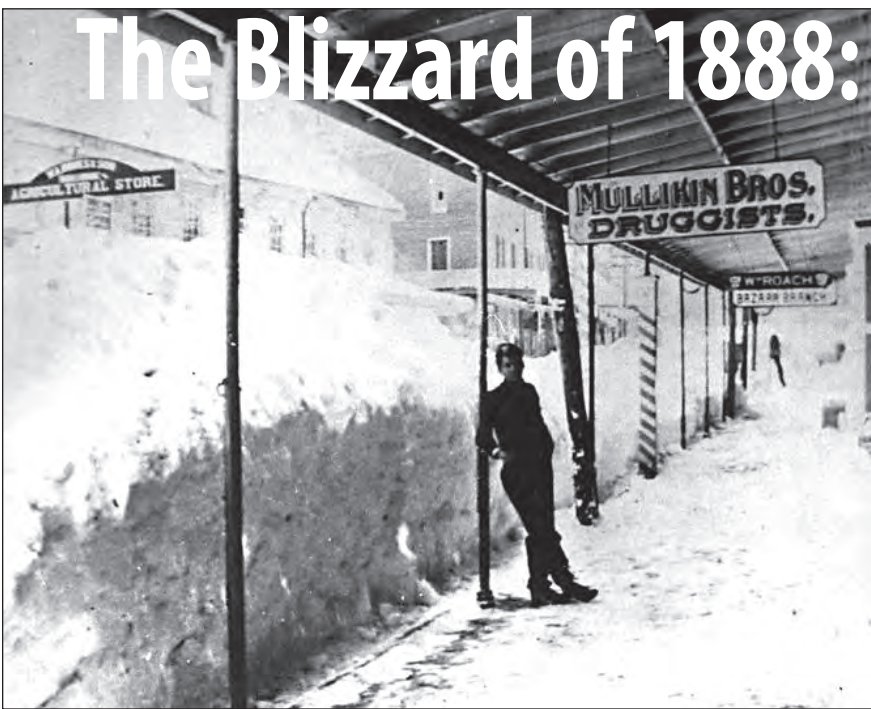


Photo: Courtesy of Delaware Archives/History of Milford Collection

TOPS: The Outreach Program for Soccer

TOPSoccer Coach Howard Gerken: Coaching Straight from the Heart

US Youth Soccer TOPSoccer (The Outreach Program for Soccer) is a community-based training and team placement program for young athletes with disabilities, organized by youth soccer association volunteers. The program is designed to bring the opportunity of learning and playing soccer to any boy or girl, who has a mental or physical disability. The goal is to enable the thousands of young athletes with disabilities to become valued and successful members of the US Youth Soccer family.

The Gerkens: Creating A True Comfort Zone for TOPS Players

Since the Fall 2005, Howard Gerken, Certified TOPSoccer Coach, has been dedicated to his TOPSoccer players. Howard and his wife, Sandie (also a TOPSoccer Certified Coach) started their involvement when their grandson, Josh Timmons needed an outlet for all of his energy but didn't find a place in local soccer programs. Howard started the TOPSoccer program at River Soccer Club located at The River Soccer Club Complex, 32221 Gum Road, Roxana, Delaware. The River Soccer Club is the only soccer club in Sussex County that offers TOPSoccer.

TOPS PLAYERS are paired with a BUDDY, (high school or middle school youth who volunteer and are trained to be TOPSoccer buddies). Special needs kids come to the River Soccer Club's TOPSoccer program from all over Sussex County and into Maryland. They look forward to soccer every

week. There are two sessions each year, Fall and Spring. Some of the PLAYERS have been with TOPSoccer, and Coach Howard since the beginning in 2005. This is their home, this is their team.

A Typical One Hour Soccer Session...

A typical one hour session starts at 12 noon... sometimes it starts on time, sometimes not. They start out with warm up activities with as many of the kids that are able to participate. Everyone has a ball. They do some dribbling, stretching, exercises, etc. Then each PLAYER is paired up with a "BUDDY" to work on a special skill or some type of activity that involves the soccer ball, a BUDDY, and the PLAYER. This year there is a large number of young PLAYERS. They do a lot of interacting with their BUDDY, which con-

sists of whatever the PLAYER can handle! At the end of each one hour session they

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(Left) Howard and Sandie Gerken have dedicated a large part of their retirement years to TOPSoccer and have enriched the lives of countless young athletes with disabilities and their BUDDIES. (Right) clockwise, 1. Josh Timmons, 2. Matt Hayes running through the Victory Arch, and 3. Coach Howard, Buddies (including Paige Troublefield, far right) and Players warming up with a parachute & soccer ball.



Photos: Courtesy of Sandie Gerken/Used with permission

The Blizzard of 1888 continued from page 1

tion that night by anchoring in the Lewes harbor to ride out the storm.

It is estimated that 40 to 50 inches of snow blanketed the east coast from Virginia to New England with record low temperatures, hovering around 9 daytime degrees. Sustained winds, upwards of 45 miles per hour, created walls of towering snowdrifts that paralyzed major cities like Philadelphia and New York. People were isolated in their homes, railroads and shipping were shut down, and telegraph poles were shattered...all literally cutting off supplies and communications. A total of 400 deaths and damages of approximately \$25 million (equivalent to over \$600 M. today) was reported. In Sussex County, "digging out" as quickly as possible was a necessity for farmers to care for livestock, for firemen, and life-saving personnel. With no snowplows available, we can imagine the backbreaking struggle to shovel tunnels through snow, to remove snow by horse and wagon. How long would it have taken to clear paths on a farm or streets in a town? Milford Historical Society notes show that Milford citizens reported snow drifts over ten feet and that residents could not travel by wagon, rail, or sail for over a week. Milford businessmen dug a tunnel through the snow from one side of the street to the other. In Milford, eight people lost their lives during the storm.

In Lewes, at the Delaware Breakwater, the devastation was unprecedented. The harbor with its stone breakwater was considered one of the safest along the Atlantic Coast. Of an estimated 50 ships having anchored there on Sunday night, nearly every vessel was sunk, wrecked, or adrift. These represented only a small number of those ships lost along the Atlantic coast due to the blizzard. At the Breakwater, some ships were blown onto the beach. Others broke away from their moorings and were battered to bits by surf, wind, or collision with other vessels. Eighteen men were found frozen to death, hanging in the

riggings of the ships where they had lashed themselves to keep from being swept overboard and drowning.

When the surfmen from the Lewes and Cape Henlopen Life Saving Stations braved the storm and arrived at the Breakwater on Monday, March 11, they found massive destruction. In addition to the ice covered wrecks, the the wooden Pennsylvania Railroad "Old Dominion" pier at Lewes Harbor was severed in three places, having been battered by ships crashing through it. The tugs, the Lizzie Crawford, the George G. Simpson, and the dredging steamer, the Tamesi had been tied to the pier. The Tamesi was totally destroyed, having been dashed through the pier. The Lizzie Crawford had beached itself with ruined masts and deck. Several crewmen of these vessels leapt to the pier and huddled together through the snowstorm until rescued. The George G. Simpson attempted to back away from the pier, but was swamped by high waves and sank. An article in the New York City newspaper, THE SUN on March 15, 1888 contained an interview with the rescued captain of the Simpson, Handy P. Holt.** Holt reported that his crew had been rescued by a nearby tugboat. Holt said that "when the waves were "as high as a three-story house", he abandoned ship. He knocked himself unconscious by hitting his head as he jumped, only regaining consciousness after his rescue. Reporting on the devastation, he stated:

"Two schooners were sunk, twenty vessels are ashore along the beach, and twenty-five are lying inside of the stone piles with signals of distress flying."

The beach was littered with debris from the wrecks. Two Delaware pilot boats, the E.W. Tunell and the Enoch Turley were stranded on the beach. The surfmen of the Lewes and Cape Henlopen Lifesaving Stations were able to brave the storm on Monday and worked tirelessly all day to save the schooner Allie

H. Belden and crew. Ironically, this schooner was carrying a cargo of ice from Maine. Waves were swamping the schooner that was stuck aground 800 hundred yards from shore. They were able to save several sailors, but many others froze to death or drowned.

Damage to the Belden was irreparable. After over ten hours of strenuous work on this wreck, the lifesaving crews went on to rescue a total of 178 sailors from wrecks in the harbor.

Certainly by now, we have experienced storms as furious as the Blizzard of 1888. But, this storm was deemed the worst Atlantic coastal snowstorm in history to that date. Arriving with little warning, the storm paralyzed transportation, created isolation, food shortages, panic and destroyed what minimal means of communication and technology available. It became "the big one" against which future storms were to be compared. It certainly emphasized the need to improve methods of weather prediction and showed us the power of Mother Nature and how fragile even our modern technology can be in the face of a powerful weather event. As for Sussex County, Delaware, this blizzard may well be the most unforgettable, devastating storm, second only in our memory to the Great March Storm of 1962. Both storms were peculiar, meteorological events with the merge of weather fronts that made them "perfect storms".

**NOTE: Captain Handy Prettyman Holt was a Sussex County native from the Clarks-ville/Millville area. He was born in 1851, married a local Sussex girl, Jennie Murray in Philadelphia in 1877. They had 7 children, but only 2 lived past childhood. Captain Holt farmed chickens after his retirement from the



Author, **Sandie Gerken** lives in Dagsboro, DE. As a native Sussex Countian, local history is one of her passions. Retired now, she devotes her time to genealogy research (her greatest passion since 1978), watercolor painting, grandchildren, soccer for kids with disabilities, books, and things creative and historical. She recently authored the book *Memories of the Clayton Theatre* as a fundraiser to help the Clayton go digital. She is now exploring her writing skills with local history articles for *High Tide News*.

boats and died in 1944. He and most of his family are buried in St. George's Cemetery, Clarksville, Delaware.

Sources: Shipwrecks, Sea Stories & Legends of the Delaware Coast, David J. Seibold and Charles J. Adams, c. 1989.

"The Blizzard of March 1888", George M. and Suzanne B. Hurley, Ocean City Life-Saving Museum website, 1984.

"Disaster off Lewes, Del", The Sun Newspaper, New York, New York, March 15, 1888

"Shipwrecks of the 1888's Great white Hurricane", www.shipsontheshore.wordpress.com, June 6, 2006

"The Great Blizzard of 1888", www.milfordlive.com, Feb 14, 2012

Research on Holt Family, Ancestry.com

TOPSoccer Coaches Howard & Sandie Gerken

continued from page 1

play what they call the "Big Game" Everyone can play along with their BUDDY in the big game. The final score doesn't matter, but everyone gets to make as many scores as they are able to. They love to score goals!

Dribble the ball, pass the ball, and SCORE!

The hour session builds confidence, communication, socialization skills, interaction skills with their BUDDY and most of all, FUN.

The players develop a sense of this is "our team".

Before a buddy becomes a BUDDY they go through a training session that teaches them to understand and feel comfortable with the PLAYERS and once they under-

stand and realize the importance of being a BUDDY it forges a relationship between the PLAYER and the BUDDY that is totally rewarding and everlasting for both.

BUDDIES Needed!

Most of the BUDDIES are high school soccer players either for their individual high school teams or a travel team. But what happens is, they are involved with other activities...games, proms, band, etc.... and have other commitments and activities that they have to attend and often can't make it to be a Buddy for their Player, especially when they reach their Senior year in High School.

TOPSoccer is looking for support from other service groups in seeking BUDDIES for their PLAYERS. TOPSoccer provides a real

positive opportunity for young people to get service hours and develop relationships that are lifelong...It is wonderful to watch the BUDDIES and PLAYERS interact each time they get together. And Coach Howard says that the BUDDIES that have been involved in the past have been outstanding in their commitment. As they are filling out their college applications, some of the BUDDIES have written that being a TOPSoccer BUDDY has been a life changing event.

River Soccer Club has many programs for all. You can learn more about the club at www.riversoccerclub.com.

If you would like to learn more about being a BUDDY for a TOPSoccer PLAYER contact Coach Howard or Sandie Gerken at 302-732-6835 or email hgerken@verizon.net.

High Tide News

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Selbyville's *Doyle's Restaurant* is Honored to receive a Delaware Public Archives Historic Marker Commemorating

WOODY'S – SILK CITY DINER "5092"



Submitted by M. Brandon Doyle, Michael Oates, Jeanne Covert

Woody's Diner and the Eastern Shore Poultry Growers Exchange

In early 1952, poultry men on the Delmarva Peninsula had a problem. Too many of them were either not being paid fairly for their chickens — and sometimes they didn't get paid at all. Growers, feed suppliers and buyers would gather at Woody's Diner on the DuPont Highway in Selbyville to commiserate and talk business. One grower, I. B. Hudson, had lived in Texas for a while and had seen how they auctioned onions there. He suggested the group establish a poultry auction that would give the local poultry businessmen more control over the industry, and hold outside buyers more accountable. Out of those "diner" discussions was "hatched" the Eastern Shore Poultry Growers Exchange (ESPGE)—and the Poultry

Auction—which began in mid-June of that year, operating out of a building just north of Woody's on the DuPont Highway. On their first day, the ESPGE auctioned 350,000 birds, followed by second day sales of 325,000. This led the group to decide to operate the auction five days a week. Enormously successful, the Exchange furthered the growth of Delmarva's poultry industry and operated until 1969.

"Silk City Diner 5092"

The dining car that is now part of our restaurant is an important historic landmark for the town of Selbyville and all of Delaware. The diner is one of about 1500 diners manufactured between 1926 and 1966 by the Paterson Vehicle Company, located in Paterson, New Jersey. These structures, which were originally

built as dining cars, were called "Sink City Diners" because Paterson was known as the "Silk city" because of the many weaving mills that once produced silk there. Each Silk City Diner has a unique number, which denotes its production number and the year it was manufactured. Our diner's number is "5092", which means it was the 92nd diner produced in the year 1950. The plaque with this number is located above the sliding door entrance located in the middle of the diner. Originally called Woody's Diner, the building was brought here in 1950 by Woody Sturgis, and quickly became a popular eatery frequented by local residents and travelers. In 1983, our family purchased the diner, renamed it Doyle's Restaurant, and added the addition on the north side of the building. Recognizing the importance of this piece of local history, we've chosen to keep the diner as "original" as possible, and made only a few changes to its 1950's décor. We invite you to step back in time and enjoy a meal in the historic atmosphere of one of Delaware's treasured landmarks.



The Historical Marker Dedication Ceremony took place on March 21, 2015. The Doyle family purchased Woody's Diner in 1983 and renamed it "Doyle's Family Restaurant". Michael Doyle (left) and M. Brandon Doyle (right) take pride in owning the *oldest operating and best-preserved Silk City Diner Car in Delaware*.

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WHAT THE HECK?

By Ron Ferrell

Have you ever wondered how accurate and fair surveys are? I am thinking about a survey taken by the State Of Delaware and the Delaware Sea Grant Program. There was 1508 Delaware residents polled in a climate change and ocean rising survey and I found the results of the survey very questionable. Here are some of the results from the State Of Delaware and the Delaware Sea Grant Program climate change and ocean rising survey: 72% polled were in favor of increasing funding for more climate change research. 70% polled were in favor of more spending by local and state governments on construction projects to withstand ocean level change. 77% polled were in favor of more restrictions and government involvement on building codes in or near an area that could be effected by ocean level change. 72% want immediate action for sea level raise. 53% have experienced climate change and 28% have experienced sea level rise.

I guess I've been lucky so far. I have not experienced any sea level rise or climate change yet. I am not sure who the 1508 Delaware residents that were polled were but I was surprised to learn that 7 out of 10 Delaware residents would be in favor of spending more taxes on anything, let alone spending more taxes on global warming and sea level change research.

Wouldn't it be great to receive a state grant to study sea level change? All that would be

required is 1 beach chair, sun tan lotion and a tape measure. Place your chair in the same spot at the beach each day, then measure from chair to water and take notes. Do this every day for the entire summer. Then put your notes in an envelope and send to the State Of Delaware so they can determine how much to increase the budget of the climate change and sea level change research debts.

I continue to hear that the global warming debate is over. Then why is more research needed? I will know when the ocean is rising when ocean front property starts losing value. I will know when the earth is getting warmer when I can have a palm tree outside in my yard all year in Sussex County. The predictions about the ocean level rise and earth's temperature rise is so small that you or your grandchildren or their children could never notice.

This is why their survey that concludes that we want them to give them more of our taxes seems inaccurate to me. High Tide News is asking their eleven thousand readers to please go to High Tide News.com and take the 1 question survey. Click yes if you want more taxes spent on climate change research, and click no if you don't want more taxes spent on climate change research. Results will be published in May's paper. If you do not take the survey you will be counted as an *I don't care about climate change* vote.

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Cathy Lynch - Owner: *"I love making people feel better and I also love fashion and style. While I was living in Texas I went to a Barber Shop that had a cowboy in the front window cutting hair. This intrigued me, I went inside and by the time I walked out I was signed up to do a fashion show for their shop. My hairdresser at the time, Odele Rachel, told me I should go to school. So I came back to Delaware, lived in Smyrna (down the street from Grandma) and signed up at Kelly's Beauty in Dover. I've been hair styling, and hair consulting for over 23 years as well as practicing the Aveda Philosophy for over 17 years. Being with Aveda has changed my life. If there was no Aveda I'd quit to do something more meaningful! Certifications: Aveda Trained. Graduated from Beauty School in Dover, DE. Specialties: Hair Consultant, Stylist, Nails, Waxing, Facials"*

The History of All About U!

From "Future Homemakers of America" in high school to owning All About U! Salon & Spa, Cathy has been in business for over 27 years. Before "All About U!, her

business was called "CathyLynn Studio". In 2007 Cathy opened *All About U!*.

"Head to Toes"

Cathy has expanded the business so she can do makeovers from "Head to Toes." Going to Hair Shows, meeting the people in this industry has been very exciting, from big name people like Jan Goodall, Sister Sledge, Deepak Chopra and Andrew Weihl!

The best was being in the same room with Leonard Lauder (owner of Aveda and Estee Laude) and he told his story of being a little boy coming home from school while his mother (Estee) made lipstick out of her kitchen with her clients! Cathy has had 19 years of education from Aveda, and has received many certificates including "Behind the Scenes" and "Six Days of Makeup" with Jon Rayman.

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The staff at All About U! has a combined 85 years of experience with hair, nails, massage and aromatology, they offer a healthy alternative to other chemical beauty products. Cathy hopes to expand her massage and facial area and possibly offer Yoga.

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The Core Staff (clockwise from far left) Will - Front Desk; Karey - Front Desk; Sarah - Stylist; Rebecca - Stylist; Jen - Stylist; Cathy Lynch - Owner, Precious - Stylist. Not pictured: Lilly - Massage Tech and Melissa - Front Desk.

of a higher art: helping make their clients not only look beautiful, but feel beautiful. This selfless quest to bring out the beauty in their client through genuine care, differs from beauty industry norms.

If you haven't experienced the personal professional care that is given at All About U! Salon and Spa, make sure you call for an appointment at your earliest convenience and let the professional staff make you look and feel beautiful. Make your appointment today!



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Peninsula Home Care Receives Recognition from the Sussex County Council as it Celebrates 30 Years of Service to Patients and Caregivers

New Website is a "Gift to the Community"

SEAFORD, DE – This week, in between seeing patients, coordinating with caregivers and managing caseloads with local hospitals, award-winning home care company Peninsula Home Care (PHC) will celebrate a major milestone: 30 years of service on the Lower Shore.

"Thirty years is a very important anniversary for us," said Robyn Coughenour, Interim Director and Director of Clinical Operations for PHC in Delaware. "So many people have placed their health care in our hands; it is both a gratifying and a humbling experience to be responsible for a patient's care in their own home. We are thankful to be the choice of so many patients, their families and their doctors, and we are working hard to continue to provide the best care available – here or anywhere."

Home grown and locally operated, the company, founded in 1985, started as Peninsula Regional Home Care. Through the years, the agency has helped more than 42,000 patients recover from illness and injury, surgery and stroke. PHC's practice includes skilled nursing and medical social work; physical, occupational and speech therapy; and certified nursing assistants and home health aides.

Congratulations have begun pouring in to Peninsula from local, state and Federal sources. To start the week, Tuesday, March 3 will be proclaimed "Peninsula Home Care Day" in Wicomico County by the Wicomico County Council. On Tuesday, March 10, Peninsula Home Care will receive 30th Anniversary proclamations from the Sussex and Somerset County Councils. Additional announcements will be made as further recognitions are received.

Peninsulahomecare.com: A Gift to the Community

In recognition of the milestone, Peninsula has completely renovated its website (www.peninsulahomecare.com). The site provides access to healthcare resources, educational materials and the full scope of skilled services provided by Peninsula Home Care.

The new "Live Well" section is packed with resources and information for patients, caregivers, physicians and medical practices. Content includes informa-



tion, checklists and resources on a wide range of topics, from cancer to heart conditions, immunizations for the elderly to stroke awareness. A new calendar showcases health fairs, seminars for seniors and other health-related activities on the peninsula.

"As we developed the website it was exciting to review the scope of services we provide and continue to expand to our patients on Delmarva," said Robyn Coughenour, Interim Director and Director of Clinical Operations for PHC in Delaware. "It really put things into perspective because it offered an opportunity to look back at our successes and plan ahead for the years to come."

Peninsulahomecare.com also offers information about the company, its team of leaders, new technologies, insight on state (DE and MD) health systems, Medicare and insurance. Visitors will also find resources for physicians and caregivers and employment opportunities within the company. Numerous testimonials, from patients, staff and caregivers attest the company's impact on the health of the community they serve.

Firsts in Home Care

PHC's approach to home care blends locally based, highly personalized care with a commitment to bringing cutting edge technology to Delmarva. This 'hi-tech/hi-touch' strategy has resulted in PHC being the first to bring many advances to the region.

During the last five years, PHC has been the first to introduce several techniques and services to in-home care across the region:

- 2014 – Became the first in the State of Maryland to offer in-home Wound Care e-STIM (electronic stimulation), a process that helps chronic wounds heal up to 40% faster than with traditional wound care alone.
- 2014 – Launched the Maryland Eastern Shore's first Community Health Workers program in partnership with Peninsula

Regional Medical Center. The program, free to seniors ages 65 and older, adds an additional level of care by serving as a liaison between healthcare, social services/resources and the community.

- 2014 - Introduced Saebo Neurological Orthotic Devices to Delmarva. The devices help reprogram the brain after a stroke or traumatic brain injury to help patients recover their health more quickly and to recover more control over their lives.
- 2012 – Became the first home care on the Lower Eastern Shore to offer in-home chemotherapy treatment for breast and colon cancer.
- 2010 - Launched the region's first Point of Care electronic medical records program for home care, allowing all professionals working with a patient to update records in real time.
- 2010 – Introduced the area's first home care-based e-STIM physical therapy program, offering electronic muscle stimulation to help with pain prevention and mitigation, muscle spasm relaxation and

start-up had a single office and a handful of staff. Known for its homegrown approach of "neighbor serving neighbor," AVNA was purchased by Peninsula Regional Medical Center (PRMC) in 1999. After assimilating the business, PRMC sought a partner that could lead home health care in the new millennium. In 2004, PHC became a joint venture between Peninsula Regional Medical Center (PRMC) and CHMG Solutions of North Carolina.

Carol West, vice president of Home Health for CHMG recalls that "from the beginning there was something special about the people of PHC. Everyone was dedicated to remaining on the cutting edge of home health care without losing our commitment to providing highly personalized service. It's been a unique and satisfying partnership."

About Peninsula Home Care

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PHC receiving a proclamation from Sussex County Council in recognition of their 30th Anniversary. From left to right: Robyn Coughenour, Peninsula Home Care Director of Clinical Operations and Acting Delaware Branch Director is presented a proclamation recognizing PHC's 30th Anniversary by Michael Vincent, President of Sussex County Council.

muscle toning.

Locally Founded – Locally Operated

PHC has two offices in Maryland (Salisbury and Ocean Pines) and one in Delaware (Seaford.) The company employs 50 people on staff in Maryland and 21 employees in Delaware.

That in stark contrast to when the company began 30 years ago as Atlantic Visiting Nurses Association (AVNA). The small

nity to maintain their independence in the home. The agency has served more than 42,000 patients on Delmarva and has been named to the "Home Health Care Elite" three times in six years. For more information, visit www.peninsulahomecare.com.

The new Peninsula Home Care website was written and designed by a team from a.s.a.p.r. integrated marketing, Two Rider Design and Spotlight Web, all of Salisbury, MD.

Submitted by Jenni Pastusak



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It's Official: *The Worst Winter That Massachusetts Has Ever Seen*

By Vincent Paez

As many of my readers know, I have resided in West Palm Beach, Florida and own property in Ocean City, MD. Very recently, the corporation for which I work asked (dare I say, strongly requested) me to move to Massachusetts to work in the home office. As a good (dare I say, a great) corporate citizen, I complied and moved to Massachusetts around Thanksgiving. In the first several weeks, the weather was delightful with sunshine and temperatures of about sixty-five degrees every day. Until the third week hit, and all heck broke loose. The polar vortex easily found Boston in its cross hairs, and the snow started to fall...and fall...and fall.

Author, **Vincent Paez** is a chemist and international businessman. He has a B.S. in Chemistry from Stony Brook University and an M.B.A. from UCLA. He speaks five languages and has lived/worked on four continents for three Fortune 500 companies. He is also a passionate musician and loves the music scene, especially in the Ocean City area. He lives in Massachusetts and spends much time in Ocean City. He has two sons attending Florida State University. ... "Go 'Noles!"



Never had I seen so much snow fall at one time. At first, I thought it was just me, being from Florida. I thought perhaps I was the Southern wimp, who couldn't take a good New England winter. But no. Every New Englander I met expressed the same amazement at the amount of snow. Ladies and gentlemen, this year was one for the record books.

So, what are some of the amazing things about a historical record snow year? Well, for starters, the plowers don't know where to put all the snow. What an amusing site to see a plow truck driver in the middle of a parking lot get out of his truck and scratch his head wondering where the heck he is going to put the snow. The city of Boston decided to truck the snow to the harbor (pronounced hah-bah) and dump it in the bay. That sparked a round of fear of dangerous chemicals polluting the harbor. However, there was no other option, as all of New England was piled high and deep in snow. It just didn't make economic sense to truck the snow all the way down to Florida. Many car owners try to save their parking spaces in the street by putting old lawn chairs or large garbage bins in the spot to prevent anyone else from parking in the spot. Street space truly becomes a premium as most of it is taken up by Mother Nature's snow.

Other interesting dynamics take place in such long periods of record snowfalls.

Tensions rise and people's patience wears thin. Out of necessity, some people need to throw their snow in their neighbors' yards, and that has induced neighbors to violently turn on each other. Two-way streets become one-way streets, inviting accidents and road rage. Oftentimes, stop signs are covered in snow, and it's difficult to understand the traffic pattern and who has the right of way.

The biggest tragedy as a result of so many inches of the white stuff is the negative effect on the local economy. Revenues in small shops and restaurants are at about half of what they should be in normal winters. On the bright side, the snow plowers have made a killing this winter. There are stories of busy snow plowers investing in land and new homes in a state, where real estate prices are already sky high. It's good to see someone benefiting from the crazy weather.

Spring is here. Hard to believe as it snowed three inches on the first day of Spring. Still, everyone is anxiously awaiting the warmer weather. Nobody is more anxious than I am. I oftentimes reflect on the good ole days at the beach in Florida and how every day was sunny. People in Massachusetts tell me that the summers are fantastic in New England. They say I should save up all my vacation time for then. I look forward to reporting again to give contrast to the news of wild winter weather.

LIFE & LEADERSHIP

Once upon a time

By Eunice Carpitella

One day when I was nine, I was walking along the sidewalk and ran into my friend, Loretta who said, "I am sorry to hear about your grandfather." Confused, I responded, "What do you mean?" My friend said, "My mom told me that your grandfather died of a heart attack yesterday." Shocked, I don't recall what happened next other than becoming embarrassed, ashamed and really angry that my mom hadn't told me and that I was seemingly the last to know. I had lost my best friend in the whole world, pop-pop. When I arrived at school the next day even my third grade teacher expressed her condolences. More salt to the wound. I thought to myself, "Everyone knew except for me."

For more than 40 years, I resented her for not telling me. Endlessly I asked myself how she could have done that to me. Why hadn't she told me? I concluded that once again, it was an attempt to shelter and protect me which eased the pain but still, I rationed, it wasn't right.

This past weekend, I received the opportunity to rewrite the story. A friend expressed how mad he had become at age 14 when he discovered his grandfather had died and that his mom hadn't told him until later. Astounded, I said "me too." He said when he asked his mom why, she claimed she couldn't bear the thought of telling him knowing how close he and his grandfather had been.

The moral of the story is three-fold. First, give the benefit of doubt by asking for an explanation, I never did. I was too invested in my story. Secondly, there is always more than one interpretation. Choose an empowering one. Lastly, empathy rules the day. Do your best to wonder what it must be like for the other person. Granted, I had limited capacity for this skill at age of 9 but as an adult, in the interest of forging great relationships, it's imperative to try to understand another's world. It never occurred to me that it was too painful for my Mom in the moment. Not only was she dealing with the loss of her father, she too could not bear the pain of telling her daughter that she had lost her closest ally and best friend. She did her best to protect her children at ALL costs; doing what she believed was the right thing.

The new story is that once upon a time my mom was too sad and simply could not bear the pain of having to share the worst news ever. I am sorry for your loss Mom. I forgive you.

Let's be grateful for the ability to re-write our stories and to choose interpretations that are loving and compassionate.

Eunice Carpitella Founder, Leadership Consultant and Executive Coach, Transformative Dynamics, LLC., Fenwick Island, DE. *Transformative Dynamics* develops great leaders, builds new futures and creates extraordinary results. We partner with executives of Fortune 1000 companies, middle market businesses, entrepreneurs, women in business and MBA students with University of Pennsylvania's, The Wharton School. Services include leadership development consulting and executive coaching. Check us out at: www.transformativedynamics.com



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NEWS from the Indian River High School ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Submitted by Ruth Ann Marvel, IRHSAA, PR Rep.

Happy Spring! So many exciting upcoming events and projects for our group! Our main focus at this point is our 3rd Annual IRHSAA FUNraiser being held at the Frankford Fire Co Banquet Hall on Saturday, April 18th! The event is from 6pm - 10pm and will be full of FOOD, FUN & FRIENDS! Wonderful food by the "Tribbitt Sisters", beer, wine and DJ! Live auction by Robert Kauffman....and a Chinese Auction with lots of GREAT items! PLEASE BRING DONATIONS (NON-PERISHABLES &/OR PET FOOD & SUPPLIES for our local pantries) AND YOU CAN RECEIVE UP TO 3 FREE CHINESE AUCTION TICKETS!!! Cornhole games....and your chance to bid on YOUR IRHSAA LICENSE PLATE! There are still MANY great numbers available....one could be yours for as little as \$25 (one time fee!!!!) We hope you will show your support to us and IRHS by attending....ALL ARE WELCOME!!!

We are happy to report that our Fall projects/events were a success (Football Games, "Meet & Greet Social" and of course our new sign)! We are moving on to other projects now to support our school! The IRHS Hall of Fame has a new display wall (thanks to our school's woodworking department) and we look forward to funding a new display cabinet for our alumni memorabilia. Another project being considered is a back entrance sign for the school.

With the success of last year's FUNraiser, we are continuing our I.R. PRIDE SCHOLARSHIPS....with the addition of a new one! The new scholarship is intended for an alumnus who is continuing their post-secondary education...no matter what age! This opens the opportunity to so many more....and we hope you will help us get the word out!

On that note, some of our fundraising will allow us to give our Seniors (soon to be alumni) a small token upon Graduation this year! We want them to remember IRHS! We are excited to present this small gift to the IRHS Class of 2015!

We are now accepting nominations for our 2015 IRHS Hall of Fame! Please take the time to nominate a deserving IRHS graduate. They will be honored and inducted at the Senior Awards program on May 20th at the high school.

Applications and information for the I.R. PRIDE SCHOLARSHIPS and the IRHS HALL OF FAME nominations, as well as the LICENSE PLATE BIDS are available online at www.IRHSAlumni.com.

We are always looking for new members....you can join online and please consider attending our monthly meetings! Thank you.

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Submitted by Christine Phillips

Delaware Facts and Trivia

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By Sandie Gerken

The Town of Milton derived its name in 1807 from English poet, John Milton.

§

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§

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§

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John F. Kennedy's Inaugural Address, January 20, 1961

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