



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

From left are Theresa Rainey, Benedictine occupational therapist; Clement "Clem" Hathaway, member of the Mid-Shore Community Foundation Board of Directors from Caroline County; Robbin Hill, MSCF chief program officer; Terry Mead, Caroline Foundation president; Lori Bennett, clinical coordinator of Benedictine Related Services; Scott Evans, Benedictine executive director; and Buck Duncan, MSCF president.

Community Foundation grant benefits Benedictine

EASTON — A recent grant award from the Mid-Shore Community Foundation is making a difference in the lives of children with developmental disabilities at the Benedictine School.

This past fall, MSCF awarded \$8,756 from the Frances Stevens Fund to Benedictine Programs and Services to purchase equipment for the Multi-Sensory Environment Center. A group of MSCF leaders recently toured the campus in Ridgely and were among the first visitors to see the newly designed center.

The Multi-Sensory Environment Center was created for Benedictine students who experience sensory processing disorders. SPD occurs when sensory signals are not detected or are not organized into appropriate responses by the brain. A person with SPD has difficulty processing and acting on information received through the senses. This presents challenges in performing everyday tasks and communicating with others.

The MSCF funds were used to buy and install new therapeutic equipment, such as interactive fiber optics, an illuminated marble panel, an interactive power cube, a Star Gazer and aroma diffuser. MSCF members who took the tour were excited to learn about the new center and equipment from

Lori Bennett, clinical coordinator of Benedictine Related Services.

"The addition of the new Multi-Sensory Environment greatly enhances our sensory-based interventions for our students with sensory processing disorders here at Benedictine," Bennett said. "This sensory room was designed in collaboration with Tom Marshall of Southpaw Inc. Essential items were added through the extraordinary generosity of the Mid-Shore Community Foundation. We can't thank that foundation enough for the ways our students at Benedictine will benefit from the use of this safe, interactive and calming setting."

Buck Duncan, MSCF president, said he was delighted to see the funds being put to good use.

"I am happy to support Benedictine's mission on behalf of the Mid-Shore Community Foundation," Duncan said. "At MSCF, we know what a great service Benedictine provides to the Mid-Shore. The care they offer to people with developmental disabilities is top notch, and has been for a long time."

Providing opportunities to live meaningful, productive lives in communities of choice, Benedictine helps children and adults with developmental disabilities reach their greatest potential without regard to race, religion, color, national origin or age.



Members of the Mid-Shore Community Foundation recently toured the Benedictine School in Ridgely, and were introduced to Benedictine's Multi-Sensory Environment Center, which was paid in part by a \$8,756 grant from the Frances Stevens Fund administered by MSCF. The Multi-Sensory Environment Center is designed to serve children with sensory processing disorders.

MID-SHORE CALENDAR

INFORMATION WELCOME

To submit information, please email community@stardem.com or fax 410-770-4019. Items may be mailed to *The Star Democrat*, P.O. Box 600, Easton, MD 21601. News from clubs, churches and nonprofit groups will be accepted. Meetings not open to the public will not be published. The deadline for items to appear is TWO WEEKS in advance of the event. Please include a phone number and contact email addresses. Events are published as space allows.

TODAY

COMMUNITY CAFE, Oxford Community Center. 9 a.m. Enjoy conversation with your community, share your stories make long-lasting friendships.

CAROLINE COUNTY AARP CHAPTER 915 MEETING, the Church of the Nazarene, Denton. Noon. There will be a covered dish luncheon, and Bob and Donna James will present an inspirational music program. New members are welcome. Info: 410-482-6039.

AARP MID-SHORE TAX AIDE, Caroline County Public Library, Federalsburg. Noon to 4:30 p.m. Every Monday through April 16. Appointment required. Info: 410-754-8397.

WATERCOLOR CLASS, Oxford Community Center. 1 to 3 p.m. Class runs for four weeks, and is designed for intermediate students. Taught by artist Linda Luke. Cost: \$100 per four-week session; \$35 for supplies, optional. Reservations required.

NEEDLEPOINT PROGRAM, Talbot County Free Library, Easton. 3 to 5 p.m. Patrons are invited to come and work on their favorite project with a group. Limited instruction will be available for beginners. Newcomers welcome. Free. Info: 410-822-1626, or visit www.tcfl.org.

AARP MID-SHORE TAX AIDE, Caroline County Public Library, Denton. 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. Every Monday through April 16. Appointment required. Info: 410-479-1343.

DOCUMENTARY SCREENING, Talbot County Free Library, Easton. 6 p.m. A free showing of "Miles of Smiles: The Years of Struggle," which tells the story of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, which, under the leadership of A. Philip Randolph, became the first black union to win major concessions in wages and working conditions from an American corporation. Free. Info: 410-822-1626 or www.tcfl.org.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEETING, Queen Anne's County Board of Education building, Centreville. 7 p.m. The Centreville High School Alumni Association will meet.

TUESDAY, MARCH 13
TAI CHI, Oxford Community Center. 8 a.m. Led by Nathan Spivey, a certified Bow Sim Mark Tai Chi Arts Association affiliate instructor with 40 years experience. Cost: \$75 per month, \$10 per class drop-in.

AARP MID-SHORE TAX AIDE, Grasonville Senior Center. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Every Tuesday through April 10. Appointment required. Info: 410-827-6010.

STORY TIME, Talbot County Free Library, Easton. 10 and 11 a.m. For children ages 5 and younger accompanied by an adult. Free. Info: 410-822-1626 or www.tcfl.org.

PARTY BRIDGE, Talbot Senior

Center, Easton. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Every Tuesday. All levels welcome.

STEADY AND STRONG CLASS, Oxford Community Center. 10:30 a.m. A 45-minute class for adults who seek enhanced core and muscle strength as well as better balance. Class led by Janet Pfeffer. Cost: \$8 per class, \$50 for 10 classes.

ADVANCE HEALTH CARE PLANNING SESSION, Talbot Hospice, Easton. 11 a.m. The Second Tuesday of each month. Get help from staff and trained volunteers in understanding your health care options at the end of life, and navigating advance directive paperwork.

FRIVOLOUS FIBERS, Yarn Boutique, Easton. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Knitting group. Meets every Tuesday. Info: www.fiberartcenter.com.

AARP MID-SHORE TAX AIDE, Caroline County Public Library, Denton. Noon to 3 p.m. Every Tuesday through April 10. Appointment required. Info: 410-479-1343.

TALBOT COUNTY WOMEN'S CLUB MEETING, TCWC clubhouse, Easton. 12:30 p.m. Guest speaker: Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, assistant chief of staff to Gov. Larry Hogan. Pizza, salad, drinks and dessert will be provided. After lunch, a brief business meeting will be held. Info: 410-476-3898.

OXFORD TOWN TALK, Oxford Community Center. 1 p.m. Gene Feher will present information about the Vietnam Traveling Wall Project coming to Easton. Find out how you can become involved. Free.

FOOD SHOPPING FOR HEALTH, Giant Foods, Easton. 1:30 p.m. Fun, free grocery store tour that teaches how to shop and plan meals for optimal health. Tour led by Karen Hollis, registered diabetes educator, University of Maryland Center for Diabetes and Endocrinology. Open to the public. RSVP required. Info: 410-822-1000, ext. 5188.

KIDS CLUB, Chick-fil-A, Easton. 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Join Chick-fil-A Kids Club as it crafts visors and name tags, learning to take guests' orders and becoming members of the Chick-fil-A team. Free. Info: 410-820-6522.

WING NIGHT, VFW Post 7464, Grasonville. 4 to 7 p.m. Second Tuesday of each month. Other food items will be available. Cost: Six wings with your choice of sauce for \$4. Info: 410-827-8194.

YOUTH CHESS CLUB, Talbot County Free Library, Easton. 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Every Tuesday. Led by Wala-Neh Labala. For ages 6 to 16. Participants in the program will learn to play and excel at chess. Snacks will be served. Free. Info: 410-822-1626 or www.tcfl.org.

TAI CHI CLASS, Oxford Community Center. 5:45 p.m. Led by Nathan Spivey, a certified Bow Sim Mark Tai Chi Arts Association affiliate instructor with 40 years experience. Cost: \$10 drop in, \$37.50 per month.

SKIPJACK VOLUNTEER TRAINING SESSION, Alan Wheatley Hall behind Christ Episcopal Church, 601 Church St., Cambridge. 6 to 8 p.m. *The Nathan of Dorchester* is a 24-year-old traditional skipjack maintained and sailed exclusively by volunteers. Learn to sail a skipjack, dredge for oysters and educate passengers about the vanishing skipjack heritage and the ecology of the Eastern Shore. No experience is required. Info: micheledrostin@gmail.com or Pat Johnson at drpatriciajohnson31@gmail.com.

AL-ANON MEETING, Presbyterian Church of Easton. 8 to 9 p.m. Every Tuesday. Al-Anon is open to anyone who feels their life has been affected by someone else's drinking, either currently or in the past. Meeting participants share their experiences, strength and hope in order to solve their common problems. Info: 1-888-425-2666.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14

COMMUNITY CAFE, Oxford Community Center. 9 a.m. Enjoy conversation with your community, share your stories make long-lasting friendships.

YARN AND NEEDLE GROUP, Talbot County Senior Center, Easton. 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Every Wednesday. Some help given for knitting and crocheting. Open to members of the center at no cost. Info: 410-822-2869.

ELDER LAW CLINIC, Kent County Senior Center, Chestertown. 10 a.m. to noon. Mid-Shore Pro Bono offers free legal advice on a broad range of civil legal issues. Meet with a volunteer attorney to review your legal issues and receive advice on how to proceed in order to resolve those issues. Appointment required. Info: 410-690-8128.

LEGION GRILL, American Legion Post 70, Easton. 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Corned beef and cabbage special for St. Patrick's Day. Specials and carryout available. Info: 410-822-9138.

CLIMATE PROGRAM, Oxford Community Center. 11:15 a.m. The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore will present "Changing Climate: Stories from the Eastern Shore" with Mike Roman, director, Horn Point Laboratory, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. Learn about changes in climate that are affecting lives on the Eastern Shore, including higher tides, warmer winters, early springs and more intense rains.

BAY HUNDRED CHESS, St. Michaels library. 1 to 3 p.m. Learn and play the strategic game of chess. Beginners are welcome. For all ages. Free. Info: 410-745-5877 or www.tcfl.org.

COMMUNITY FOOD DISTRIBUTION, at St. Michaels Community Center. 1 to 3 p.m. Every Monday and Wednesday. Food is transferred from the St. Vincent de Paul Food Bank and available to anyone in need. Limited to one visit per week, per family. Includes meats, dairy, fresh fruit, vegetables, bread and desserts.

AARP MID-SHORE TAX AIDE, Caroline County Public Library, Greensboro. 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. Every Wednesday through April 11. Appointment required. Info: 410-482-2173.

DINNER, VFW Post 5118, Easton. 5 to 7 p.m. Serving corned beef, cabbage and potatoes. Carryout available. Info: 410-822-8619.

ACTIVITIES SINGLES KLUB, Denny's, Easton. 6 p.m. A calendar of activities will be available at the meeting. Single, widowed, divorced and separated individuals are invited to attend. Info: 410-490-9177.

AL-ANON MEETING, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Preston. 7 to 8 p.m. Every Wednesday. Al-Anon is open to anyone who feels their life has been affected by someone else's drinking, either currently or in the past. Meeting participants share their experiences, strength and hope in order to solve their common problems. Info: 1-888-425-2666.

Arts in Education

Through partnerships with various community art organizations and Talbot County Public Schools, students are exposed to numerous artistic adventures throughout the school year!

RECENTLY THE DUO SPARKY & RHONDA (RUCKER) VISITED

St. Michaels Elementary School

AND 5TH GRADE STUDENTS SHARED THEIR REVIEW OF THE EXPERIENCE

Pictured L to R: 5th graders Emmah Lewis, Abrianna Henry and Kelly Kriete with performers Rhonda and Sparky Rucker

“Sparky & Rhonda were enthusiastic and they played some pretty cool songs. They talked about the history of several instruments and gave lots of funny quotes. I liked hearing about Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman and Peg Leg Joe.” — Emmah Lewis

“My favorite part was when they sang 'Swing low, sweet chariot.' This song had a secret code that slaves would use to escape. This was a great assembly for Black History Month. I wish we could have another one like this...” — Abrianna Henry

“The folk tellers and historians Sparky & Rhonda sang many songs that slaves used to communicate. My favorite was when they talked about the cultural exchange where everyone would go to share music. I'm glad I saw this assembly because I learned a lot...” — Kelly Kriete

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