First day to walk in the park
Unseasonably warm temperatures on New Year’s Day made the sixth annual First Day Hike at James Island State Park a popular event, with some 60 people (and several dogs) taking part. The guided two-mile hike starting along the Daugherty Creek Canal (which was frozen last year) and through the woods was just one of 36 hikes offered across the state. Also inviting were Shad Landing and Assateague state parks. The Department of Natural Resources reports that participation was nearly triple over 2018 and miles hiked were more than double the record set in 2017.

Hotel conference center tops Greater Crisfield’s agenda
Will take years but it’s a cornerstone piece to help economy grow

By Richard Crumbacker
Crisfield-Somerset County Times

CRISFIELD — The Greater Crisfield Action Coalition believes a hotel conference center can become a reality and has enlisted the expertise of an Ocean City developer to help formalize this vision.

With city, county and state leaders in attendance, GCAC President Charlotte Scott introduced Peck Miller who said with the right set of circumstances a small hotel built so it could be expanded in phases may be possible in three to five years.

Mr. Miller said he sees such a facility near Somers Cove Marina, with an adjacent park. Together they would provide an anchor for long-term visitor stays, with construction of a perimeter boardwalk along the waterfront that benefits guests as well as day-trippers.

Meeting last Friday at the Crisfield Library, Mr. Miller told the over 30 people in attendance that it will take “everybody” to get this accomplished — from city zoning approvals to gaining county and state tax incentives to help ensure the project is a success. What holds back private investment is the lack of more than 50 percent occupancy year-round.

“We need the catalyst,” he said, and something like this will add to the economy. It won’t be the single magic improvement for Crisfield, but it will provide employment and help lift all businesses. “When the town is doing well, everybody benefits,” he said. “It may take five to 10 years, or it may take an entire generation for it to work” but the goal is make Crisfield “a better place to live.”

See Hotel Center — Page 5