

Dual enrollment information night set

A free dual enrollment information session for current high school sophomores and juniors and their parents will be held on Wednesday, February 12, at 6 p.m., in Guerrieri Hall at Wor-Wic Community College in Salisbury.

Presentations will be given by a former dual enrollment student and parent. Wor-Wic employees will provide information about how high school students can earn college credits while they are juniors and seniors in high school. Participants will have the opportunity to start the enrollment process and go on a campus tour.

“Wor-Wic’s dual enrollment program is an excellent opportunity for high school students to begin their college education early at a highly-reduced cost,” said Bryan Newton, vice president for enrollment management and student services at Wor-Wic. “Students can start early on their college education, save thousands of dollars on college costs and begin to learn how to succeed in a college setting.”

For more information or to reserve a seat, email rwebster@worwic.edu or call 410-334-2895.

Public Works Yard resumes Saturday-only hours

The Ocean Pines Public Works yard ceased weekday hours effective Monday, February 3.

The yard, at 1 Firehouse Lane behind the south Fire Department, will continue to open to Ocean Pines residents and property owners on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Yard debris may also be dropped off Monday through Saturday during the month of May.

Only loose yard debris, such as leaves and limbs, is accepted. Debris may also be placed in paper bags. Plastic bags are not allowed.

Republic Services customers may place up to four additional bags of leaves or yard debris curbside for each scheduled pickup. Republic will also pick up branches if they are tied in bundles no longer than 4 feet and weighing no more than 50 pounds.

Trash collection days for residents south of Route 90 are Tuesday and Friday. For residents north of Route 90, the collection days are Monday and Thursday.

For more information, contact Public Works at 410-641-7425.



Bruce Young fixing a lamp at the Habitat for Humanity Restore

Young named volunteer of the month

The Habitat for Humanity ReStore has named Bruce Young as Volunteer of the Month for January. Young volunteers at the ReStore every week, taking charge of the lighting department, assisting customers, and helping with donation intake.

“Bruce makes everyone feel welcome,” says Linda Myers, ReStore Volunteer Coordinator. “He loves to talk to customers and is a super salesman.”

Originally from Washington, D.C., Young worked for 46 years in the commercial door and hardware industry and raised a family with his wife, Suzy, living Richmond and Kent Island before moving to Berlin in 2006.

An avid volunteer, Young spent six years volunteering at the Shepherd’s Crook Food at St. Paul’s by-the-Sea Episcopal Church, where he served in a leadership role. When Young saw an ad for the new ReStore, he reached out to Habitat for Humanity about getting involved. Young finds the ReStore to be a great fit for his personality, and en-

joys interacting with the customers and volunteers.

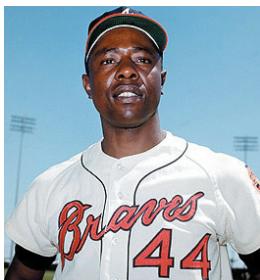
“The ReStore staff always has a good time when Bruce is here! He is so jovial and such a hard worker. He’s the life of the party, and the life of the ReStore when he is here volunteering!” says Myers.

Encouraging prospective volunteers to consider the ReStore as a place to serve the community, Young says, “The ReStore is a great place to give back for all that God has blessed you with.”

The ReStore is a nonprofit home improvement store and donation center that sells new and gently used furniture, appliances, home accessories, building materials, and more to the public at a fraction of the retail price. Proceeds are used to help build strength, stability, and self-reliance through shelter in Worcester County. Those interested in volunteering should email volunteer@habitat-worcester.org. The Habitat ReStore is located at 9026 Worcester Highway in Berlin, and is open Wednesday through Sunday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

A Time To Remember

On this day in 1934, Henry Louis Aaron Jr., the baseball slugger who broke Babe Ruth's legendary record of 714 homers, was born in Mobile, Alabama. When he retired in 1976, he left the game with 755 career home runs, a record that stood until August 7, 2007, when it was broken by Barry Bonds of the San Francisco Giants. Aaron still holds the records for most career runs batted in (2,297), most career total bases (6,856) and most career extra base hits (1,477). After retiring as a player, Aaron became one of baseball's first black executives, with the Atlanta Braves. He was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1982.



Chick-Fil-A to host Grace Center fundraiser

On Thursday, February 6 Chick-Fil-A in West Ocean City will host the opportunity for you to "Eat Out and Make a Difference" to benefit the Grace Center for Maternal and Women's Health. Please join the friends of the Center any time between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the restaurant located at 12901 Ocean Gateway.

On February 6 the Grace Center for Maternal and Women's Health will receive 20% of all sales logged between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. through the Chick-Fil-A app. Access to this app will be available on site during the fundraiser.

The Grace Center is a safe haven dedicated to improving the maternal health and well-being of women in the community. The Center offers assistance on many levels including, but not limited to: prenatal and post-partum group and individual classes, parenting and relationship skills, ultrasound examinations, support groups which include addictions and post-partum depression counseling, an avenue to earn a Maryland high school diploma and much more. The center provides a minimum of \$500 in services to each of our clients in the course of each year.

If you have any questions regarding this fundraiser or the services provided, contact 443-513-4124 or via email at info@gracematernalhealth.org.

Italian dinner returns

Tickets are now available for the return of the Authentic Italian Dinner, prepared by the Francesco Candeloro Family. The event will take place at St. Paul's by-the Sea Episcopal Church located at 302 N. Baltimore Ave. in Ocean City.

Everything is carefully made following old family recipes; beginning with the homemade salad dressing, the pasta, the memorable Bolognese Sauce, even the filling for the cannoli shells. Those attending last year's dinner gave rave reviews and couldn't wait for it to be held again.

The date is Sunday, February 16 from 1 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for adults; \$7.50 for children ages six to 12; children under five eat for free. Carry out is available

Advance tickets are recommended. For more information, call the church office at 410-289-3453 or by Email at office@stpaulsbythesea.org or call 410-641-8171.



Community Calendar

FEBRUARY

Monday

Ocean Pines Poker Club

Poker players wanted in Ocean Pines area for Monday evenings. Call 410-208-1928.

Delmarva Chorus

The Delmarva Chorus meets every Monday evening at 7PM at the Ocean Pines Community Center in Ocean Pines, Md. Women of all ages are invited to sing with us. Please contact CAROL at 410-641-6876.

Monday/Tuesday

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.

Tuesday

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.

Tuesday/Thursday

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.

Wednesday

Quilting Club

Quilters by the Sea meets most Wednesdays at the Ocean Pines Community Center. First Wednesday of the month is Volunteer Day, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., when the group sew or tie quilts for charity. The second and fourth Wednesdays are free sewing or workshops from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The third Wednesday of the month is the business meeting, followed by Show & Tell, from noon to 3 p.m. Open to the public.

Kiwanis Club Meeting

Weekly meetings at 8 a.m. on Wednesdays in the Ocean Pines Community Center. Doors open 7 a.m.

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.

Rotary Club

Ocean City/Berlin Rotary Club meetings are held at 5:45 p.m. at the Captains Table in Ocean City. Contact Stan.Kahn@carouselhotel.com.

Square Dancing

The Pinesteppers have introduction to square dancing at the OP Community Center at 7 p.m. Call Bruce Barrett at 410-208-6777.

AL-Anon/OP-West OC-Berlin

Wednesday Night Bayside Beginnings Al-Anon family meetings are held at the Ocean Pines Community Center at 7:30 p.m.

Second Wednesday

The Polish American Club of Delmarva meets at the Columbus Hall, behind St Luke's Church, 100th St & Coastal Hwy, Ocean City, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. the second Wednesday of the month. Come join us if you are of Polish or Slavic descent. No meetings.

June, July, August. Call Helen Sobkowiak 410-723-2639 or Maryann Lula 410-250-2548 for more information.

Thursday

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 or Kate at 410-524-0649 for more activities. BeachSingles.org.

Gamblers Anonymous

Group meets at 8 p.m. at the Atlantic Club, 11827 Ocean Gateway, West Ocean City. Call 888-424-3577 for help.

Friday

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.

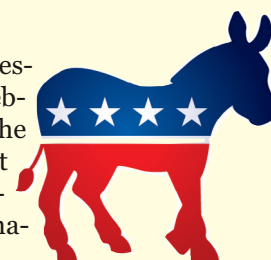
First Saturday

Creative Writing Forum

Every first Saturday of the month at 10 a.m. at the Berlin Library. Novice and established writers gather to share their fiction, non-fiction, and creative writing projects. Program includes critiques and appreciation, market leads, and writing exercises.

Central Committee to meet

The Democratic Central Committee of Worcester County meeting to be held on Saturday, February 8 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. The location is the Pocomoke library located at 301 Market Street in Pocomoke. All interested persons are welcome to attend. Phone 410-213-1956 for information.





Pictured front row from left: **Donna Nordstrom, Shannon Wright, Bethany Didriksen, Carol Jacobs, and Terri Westcott**; back row from left: **Nicole Selby, Caleb Miller, Amanda Kiesewetter, Chris Woodley, Barry Laws and Pam Marshall.**

GOLD Board elects new officers

Worcester County GOLD (Giving Other Lives Dignity), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, announced that its board of directors elected officers for 2020. Bethany Didriksen of Pedar B. Didriksen, DDS Family and Cosmetic Dentistry was elected President; Donna Nordstrom with Atlantic General Hospital was elected Vice President; Amanda Kiesewetter of Bergey & Company was re-elected to the role of Treasurer; and Shannon Wright, American Sign Language Interpreter, Orientation & Mobility Specialist, and Vision Rehabilitation Therapist continues in her role as Secretary.

GOLD's volunteer board members ensure effective fiscal management and accountability for the organization. Members share their expertise from diverse fields to ensure effective services and assist with fundraising activities. The dedication and work of this board

strengthens GOLD's ability to successfully provide services for Worcester County residents, who live in poverty circumstances, during times of critical need and crisis situations.

Additional board members include Roberta Baldwin, Worcester County Department of Social Services; Barry Laws, Pocomoke River Canoe Company; Pam Marshall, Community Leader; Caleb Miller, Bank of Ocean City; Nicole Selby, Worcester County Board of Education; Terri Westcott, Register of Wills for Worcester County; and Chris Woodley of Williams, Moore, Shockley & Harrison, LLP. Carol Jacobs, previous President, retired from the board after serving for more than eight years.

Drainage improvements near Borderlinks

Contractor Goody Hill Sand & Gravel, Inc. of Berlin this week began replacing culvert pipes under the road in the area of Borderlinks, Harborview Drive and Clipper Court in Ocean Pines.

The job should last several weeks and require some slight changes to traffic patterns.

According to Director of Amenities and Operational Logistics Colby Phillips, work will start in the Borderlinks area.

"The culvert pipes at Borderlinks will take a few days to a week and have a minor impact to traffic in and out of that area," she said.

Phillips said she notified the Borderlinks community.

"These culvert pipes are over 40 years old and deteriorating, and will be replaced with a poly pipe," she said. "This will help improve not only the drainage issues at Borderlinks and the golf course, but will help with the many sinkholes that have had to be patched in the roads in that area."

Goody Hill will also install a new culvert at Harborview Drive and Clipper Court.

Phillips said homeowner complaints and an engineering study by Showell firm Vista Design Inc. caused Ocean Pines to pursue the work, which is part of the fiscal year 2019/2020 budget.

"We received several complaints of drainage issues in that area and we feel that putting this in will help improve that," she said. "None of this will completely solve our drainage issues, but we are working hard to improve them."



Human Spaceflight Past & Future

A Presentation at the Ocean Pines Library

Thursday, February 6
7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Hosted by **Dr. Douglas Hemmick**

We are now entering a new era of exploration as human missions to space are expanding beyond the International Space Station.

Driven by entrepreneurs like Elon Musk and also by international rivalry, plans are in place to carry astronauts to lunar landing and perhaps venture forth to Mars.

In this meeting, we will view a video on spaceflight history and prospects and then hold a guided discussion.

All are welcome.

**The LORD will surely save me
So we will play my songs on
stringed instruments** Isaiah 38:20

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Sewage effluent on OPA Golf Course?

Commentary by **Joe Reynolds**
OceanPinesForum.com

It is official. The Worcester County Commissioners authorized the Ocean Pines Service Area Water & Wastewater Advisory Board to look into spraying treated sewage effluent from the Ocean Pines sewage treatment plant on to the Ocean Pines Golf course. The issue was brought before the County Commissioners during their meeting of January 7, 2020 by Worcester County Director of Public Works John Tustin.

OPA General Manager John Viola says he was approached by the county sometime prior to the holidays when Jack Collins, a member of the advisory board, requested a meeting with Viola to introduce Viola to John Ross, manager of the county's Ocean Pines water and sewage treatment facility. According to Viola, after the initial introductions, it was John Ross who immediately moved to discuss the possibility of spraying the sewage effluent on the Ocean Pines golf course.

We do not know if the initial impetus for this proposal came 100% internally from the advisory board members or with suggestive input to the advisory board members by county personnel. The advisory board was created by the county decades ago as a means to provide a watchful eye on

plans and operations and protect the interests of Ocean Pines residents. It is not clear if this proposal to spray sewage effluent is in the best interests of the residents of Ocean Pines.

You will hear much about environmental benefits. Don't believe all you hear. You will hear how this is being done on other golf courses, and this is indeed the case. History proves Worcester County officials and department heads misled us in the past. Specifically, they said years ago, on a number of occasions, that the various expansions and related costs of the treatment capabilities of the Ocean Pines wastewater treatment facility were only needed to provide adequate capacity to meet the needs of the Ocean Pines subdivision. It was not true then and any similar claims are not true today.

Tustin said Ocean Pines currently used about 200,000 gallons of OPA well water per day on irrigation. "We'd be supplying 200,000 gallons per day (from sewage effluent), thus taking that out of the river and possibly expanding some excess capacity," he added.

The keywords from Tustin were "possibly expanding some excess capacity."

What you really need to know is that, like so many things, money is involved. By spraying effluent on the OPA golf course, based on 200,000 gallons per day the county could potentially add an additional 1000

Equivalent Dwelling Units (EDU) of capacity. An EDU is essentially the sewage capacity required to handle one single-family home. Commercial buildings may require more than one EDU. No additional capacity is needed in the Ocean Pines subdivision. While the expansion of "excess capacity" might be well under 1000 EDUs, any additional EDUs could be used to fuel development in the immediate area of Ocean Pines.

EDUs are more valuable than gold in Worcester County. Developers cannot build without EDUs to handle the new structures. While the county would perhaps not realize a gain of 1000 EDUs as a result of the spraying, consider that EDUs are worth in the range of \$13,000 each. Even at those costs, developers would gladly pay because the cost to have their effluent treated in the OPA treatment facility could be far less than building another county-approved facility.

That said, at this point we have no idea of how many "excess capacity" EDUs might result from spraying effluent on the golf course. Tustin never mentioned that critically important information. In fact, we have not been informed by the county as to how many EDUs are still available in the Ocean Pines plant to fuel development outside Ocean Pines, given no changes in the current operation.

In terms of protecting the environment, the Ocean Pines plant is perhaps the best in the entire state. The effluent is probably cleaner than the water in the St. Martins River at the discharge point. However, don't buy the already proposed selling point that by using spray irrigation the discharge in the river will be reduced. Not likely to happen. The county has a state permit to discharge a certain amount. Spraying the effluent on the golf course will not reduce the amount of allowed discharge. Initially, there may be a reduction in river discharge. However, over time, as development takes place, the discharge into the river will rise to the allowed maxi-

mum, and thus the spraying of effluent on the golf course will have no practical impact on the quality of water in the St. Martin River over time.

Another important aspect of all this is that John Tustin believes proceeding with spraying the effluent would require replacement or major work on the golf course sprinkler system. A replacement could cost up to \$3 million. A local newspaper quotes Tustin as saying OPA would have to pay for this. The reality is the county would probably pay for the work and add the costs to our sewage bills. Either way.... we pay. County law requires that all costs associated with the operation of a sanitary district must be paid by users in the sanitary district. No county general fund tax dollars can be used.

Berlin moved to spraying effluent on the ground. Word is the cost of doing so turned out to be much higher than expected.

Regardless of how safe the experts tell us the process is, question everything. For example, does Maryland or EPA require a buffer zone between residential properties and the sprayed area? If so, how would these golf course buffer zones be watered if necessary? One source claims the state allows spraying for only about half the year.

An EPA study on the impact of spraying effluent and impact on property values concluded, "The perception of potential hazards from pollution, whether real or imagined, is often an overriding factor adversely affecting property values." Indeed. Perception is important when buying or selling real estate.

Promoters say spraying will reduce the amount of water taken from the high-quality Pleistocene drinking water aquifer and sprayed on the golf course. This is true, but OPA has been doing so for 50 years. If that is truly a problem, OPA could drill a new well or wells into a deeper, less desirable

*please see **effluent** on page 14*



When shopping for auto insurance, drivers may be most concerned by the bottom lines on estimates they receive from potential providers. However, the Insurance Information Institute recommends that drivers also investigate a company's reputation and stability before purchasing an auto insurance policy. Rating companies like AM Best (www.ambest.com) and Standard & Poor's (www.standardandpoors.com/ratings) vet insurance companies in terms of their financial stability. In addition, government organizations may be able to provide potential policyholders with information regarding the history of consumer complaints filed against certain insurance providers. That history, coupled with information regarding a given firm's financial stability, can give drivers an accurate picture of insurance providers and whether they're trustworthy or simply the most affordable option on the market.



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Second choice

Harry Truman once opined that if you wanted a friend in the nation's capital, get a dog. Seems like pretty

next few nights on the sofa.

Back to my story. As I was writing, Chooch is very devoted to me except when my granddaughter is in proximity. When she's around he drops me like a bag of dirt. She is the princess and he is the devoted courtier, a relationship my granddaughter relishes. And why shouldn't she? If she's on the



It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

sage advice. Dogs have a way of making you feel that you are the most important person in the world; lavishing love, licks and enthusiasm without reservation. Just coming through the front door is enough to ignite their passion and rev their tail to full wag.

floor, he's lying next to her. If she's watching television, he's watching television. He watches her every move intensely. It's very nice but I'd be less than truthful if I didn't admit I'm a little jealous. He is after all, my dog.

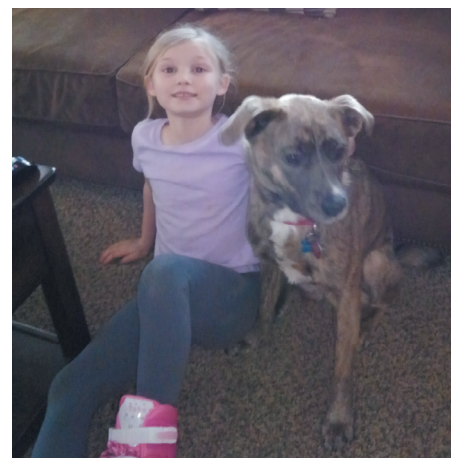
On one of the days leading up to Christmas vacation, my granddaughter's teacher went around the room asking each student what they were looking forward to during the holiday. When it was her turn, my granddaughter responded that she was looking forward to visiting Maryland to see her grandparents. Isn't that nice? But she wasn't done. She then went on to say that she was really looking forward to seeing Chooch because "he and I have a special relationship."

So how did this relationship begin? No idea. The two of them bonded the first time they met, a bond that has only strengthened with time.

Their parting is always with bitter sorrow. She hugs him. He licks her. He watches her get in the car and leave. Then things return to normal



On several occasions in this space, I've written about my dog Chooch and this is another one of those times. Chooch is a most devoted albeit at times a pain in the neck companion. He often sticks to me like white on rice which can be endearing but it can also be a nuisance especially when I can't get up off the sofa because he's sprawled under my feet. He believes it's of the utmost importance that I know at all times where he is whether it's walking with me to the refrigerator or putting his head on my lap when I'm watching television or reading a book. He's never too far away. Don't get me wrong most of the time I enjoy this unabashed love and affection. At my stage in life it's nice to be the recipient of such unreserved fawning. Don't misunderstand, during many decades of being together, my wife still adores me. However, her unreserved fawning isn't expressed in tail wags or face licks. It's been a ... Wait. I just reread that last sentence and I think it could be construed in ways that are unintended. I might be spending the



and he's back at my side or under my feet. This scenario has played out multiple times and each time it does I am more and more convinced that my granddaughter and not me is Chooch's first love. Which more and more I'm coming to believe my wife and Chooch have something in common.



Celebrate
**Heart Month
 with Peninsula
 Regional!**



Join us at our OPEN HOUSE
3-5 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 6
Ocean Pines Health Pavilion
11101 Cathage Road, Berlin*

* Just outside the North Gate

**FREE food, giveaways, raffles,
 health information and more!**



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Natural Resources camp returns

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources invites high school students with an interest in forestry, fisheries, wildlife, or parks management to participate in a Natural Resources Careers Camp, July 19 to 25 at the Hickory Environmental Education Center in Garrett County.

A partnership with Allegany College of Maryland and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources offers high school students an opportunity to learn from industry professionals and develop contacts that could lead to future employment and a career in natural resources.

Students will participate in hands-on classroom and field activities in forestry, wildlife, ecology, fisheries, watershed management, natural resources management, and conserva-

tion. They will use Geographic Information System Mapping, Global Positioning Systems, computer simulation, and other field tools used in natural resources careers.

The camp is open to any student who will be entering grades nine through 12 next year, although space is limited to 42 students. Application deadline is March 31.

A \$450 Natural Resources Careers Camp tuition fee includes student lodging in the scenic mountains of Garrett County and meals for the entire week. Tuition assistance is available for in-state students through the local Maryland Forestry Board. Applications and more information can be found on the Maryland Association of Forest Conservancy District Boards website.

Winter Youth Waterfowl Hunt Day is Saturday

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources reminds hunters of all ages that February 8 is a Youth Waterfowl Hunt Day. This is a great chance for qualified mentors to take a young or aspiring waterfowler into the field to teach hunting skills, reinforce the safety lessons of hunter education classes, and to create memories that will last a lifetime.



tough conditions that challenge youth hunters, making this opportunity to harvest a bird all the more special because of those challenges," Wildlife and Heritage Service Director Paul Peditto said. "Few things are more gratifying than mentoring a new hunter and returning home with a stronger sense of conservation values."

Anyone 16 years of age or younger may hunt ducks, geese, mergansers, and coots on both public and private land when aided by an un-

"Mid-winter hunting may include *please see waterfowl on page 14*

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RTE. 589

Mankin Creek	O.P. South Gate Entrance
A Bagel and...	OCEAN PKWY

Southgate - Ocean Pines
(Mankin Creek & Ocean Pkwy)

New survey of Mason-Dixon Line to begin

The Maryland Geological Survey, a unit of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, will lead professional surveying societies of Maryland and Pennsylvania in a new survey of monuments along the Mason-Dixon Line. This will be the first complete survey in 40 years of the line, which was marked in a 1760s survey that defined the Maryland-Pennsylvania border.



Surveyors will document and photograph the remaining monuments to create a thorough collection, with the intent of entering the markers into the National Registry of Historic Places. The project is slated to begin in February and continue through August 2021.

Maryland Geological Survey is working with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Maryland Historical Trust, the Maryland Society of Surveyors, and the Pennsylvania Society of Land Surveyors on the effort. Field-

work will be conducted by the two professional societies at no cost.

The department is also asking for the public's help. People who own property within the survey zone are asked to allow access to the site, all surveyors will have identification and documentation from the Department of Natural Resources. Also, the surveyors would be interested to hear and document any stories people have about the monuments.

OPA Board to meet

The Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors will hold a regular meeting on Wednesday, February 5 in the Assateague Room of the Community Center.

Among the topics to be discussed include the proposed 2020-2021 budget, drainage, capital purchase requests including replacing shingles at the Sports Core Pool, lease agreement approval for the Pine'er Craft Club and appointments to several advisory committees.

The Boat Show That Works For Kids!

37th Annual Seaside

BOAT SHOW

Sponsored by the Ocean City - Berlin Optimist Club

FRI - SAT - SUN
FEBRUARY 14-16, 2020
at the Convention Center in Ocean City, MD

Friday	11 am - 7 pm
Saturday	10 am - 7 pm
Sunday	10 am - 5 pm

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visit us at ocboatshow.com

February IS FOR FUN

IN OCEAN PINES, MARYLAND!

OCEAN PINES FARMERS & ARTISANS MARKET
Open Saturdays 9am-1pm
White Horse Park
The area's largest farmers market is open year-round! Visit us during our special winter hours for fresh produce, artisan-crafted items & more.

KIDS' CLAY BEAD WORKSHOP
Sun, Feb 9 11am-1:15pm
OP Community Center
\$10 OP Residents | \$15 Public
Learn how to shape and form clay to make beads & create a bracelet!
Call 410-641-7052 to register.
For ages 6-12.

KIDS' VALENTINE'S BRACELET WORKSHOP
Sun, Feb 9 1:30-3pm
OP Community Center
\$10 OP Residents | \$15 Public
Kids ages 3-6 can string premade clay beads to make a bracelet.
Call 410-641-7052 to register.

CLAY BEAD MAKING FOR ADULTS
Tue, Feb 18 7-9:30pm
OP Community Center
\$15 OP Residents | \$20 Public
Learn how to shape and form clay to make beads & create a bracelet! Call 410-641-7052 to register.

VALENTINE'S FAMILY NIGHT OUT
Fri, Feb 14 6-8pm
Sports Core Pool
\$2 OP Swim Members
\$4 OP Residents | \$6 Public
Swimming & crafts! Pizza for sale; bring drinks (no glass).
Call 410-641-5255 for info.

INTRO TO PHOTOGRAPHY
Thu, Feb 27-Apr 16 7-8pm
OP Community Center
\$15 Per Person
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'Escape the Vape' summit scheduled

Tri-County Public Health and Education agencies are partnering for Escape the Vape, a Teen Tobacco Leadership Summit, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on March 20 at The University of Maryland Eastern Shore Ballroom, located at 11868 College Backbone Rd. in Somerset County, MD. The summit will seek to raise awareness about the dangers of tobacco, nicotine, and Electronic Smoking Devices (ESD)/vaping through an interactive educational presentations and activities. Guest presenter Sterlen Barr with the organization Rapping about Prevention plans to educate youth through a variety of different strategies. The Rapping About Prevention team delivers a high-energy presentation using facts, humor, personal experiences, teamwork exercises, audience participation, and a live rap and dance performance.

"We are very excited about hosting this year's 2nd Annual Tri-County Teen Tobacco Leadership Summit. Vaping

and the utilization of ESDs continues to rise among our youth," said Sharon Lynch, Prevention Director at the Somerset County Health Department. "We want to make sure that both youth and parents are aware and know the dangers of these devices and the health consequences that could be the result of using nicotine or tobacco related products at such a young age. Our hope is the students will take back the information gained from this summit to educate their peers."

This event is sponsored by Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester County's Health Departments and Boards of Education. This interactive, educational event includes speakers, activities, and giveaways. Breakfast and lunch will be served. Approximately 200 students from schools in the Tri-County region (grades 8-11) are invited to attend the summit. Sign-ups will take place through each school and transportation will be provided. The goal of this event is to educate youth on the dangers of Electronic Smoking Devices (ESD's) and how to become advocates and leaders in their school to stand against nicotine and tobacco use. Funding for this event is being made possible through the Maryland Cigarette Restitution Fund (CRF).

For more information, please contact the Somerset County Health Department at 443-523-1700.

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Center for the Arts hosts First Friday show

Five new art shows open on First Friday, February 7 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Ocean City Center for the Arts. The public is invited to the free reception to meet the artists and enjoy complimentary hors d'oeuvres sponsored by Ocean Downs Casino and PKS Investments.

Brian Robertson of Parsonsburg occupies the Thaler Gallery in February with a show entitled "Public." Born in 1980 in Baltimore, he moved to Ocean City with his family in 1987 and graduated from Salisbury University in 2002 with a concentration in graphic design and illustration. His paintings can be described as nostalgic, iconic, and minimalist, resulting in bold imagery that can be identified from a distance. The subject matter of each painting provokes thought and relies on the viewer to sift through the possible themes and complete the story.

A group show themed "Light & Shadow" will fill The Galleria in February, exhibiting work in all media by members of the Art League of Ocean

City.

Lola Panco of Fenwick Island displays her paintings in Studio E. Born in Minsk, Belarus in 1989, Panco is a contemporary figurative realist painter working mainly in oils and pastels. She also creates drawings in the Russian dry brush technique. Panco's work has been published in the *Washington Post* and "Metropolitan Magazine" and is in the permanent collection of Salisbury University.

Joanne Guilfoil of Selbyville is February's Spotlight artist. Raised in New York and Maryland, she trained as a painter and art teacher in Lexington, Kentucky. Guilfoil retired as Professor Emeritus from Eastern Kentucky University in 2009 after 20 years of service. She moved to Selbyville in 2014 and teaches painting and exhibits her work in Ocean City while devoting her time to large and small writing projects about things, people, and places on the Shore.

Jewelry maker Kathy Huegel of

please see arts page 14

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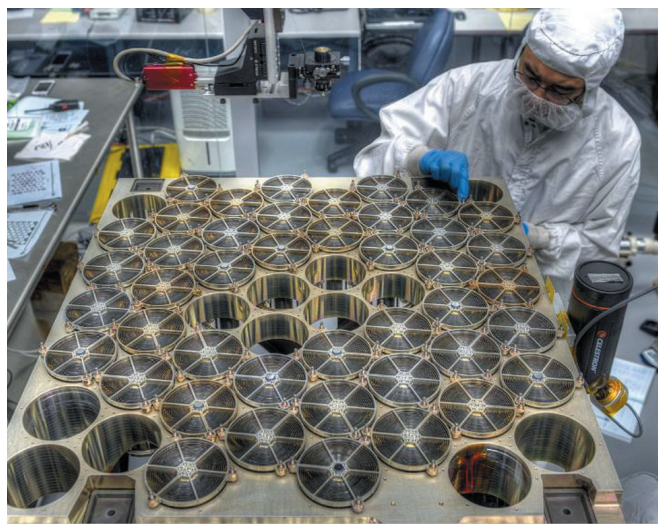
Astronomy & Spaceflight

By Douglas Hemmick, Ph.D.



A Neutron Star seen in X-rays

The astronomy topic for February is research into neutron stars and pulsars. Pulsars get their name from periodic bursts of radiation they emit. NASA's research telescope known as the "Neutron star Interior Composition Explorer Telescope" (or NICER) was launched aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket on June 3, 2017. Days later, when NICER arrived at the International Space Station, installation was completed by the station's robotic arm. After initial calibrations and testing, the NICER telescope received its "first light" x-ray observations on July 17, 2017. This opens a new chapter into the fascinating neutron stars, giving more accurate information than ever before. Dr Paul Hertz, NASA's Astrophysics Division Director said: "From its perch on the space station, NICER is revolutionizing our understanding of pulsars."



NICER's array of 56 X-ray photon detectors

Astronomy fans may already know how neutron stars and pulsars are formed. Briefly reviewing: when the "life" of an average-size star comes to an end it will collapse into a "white dwarf" star. However, for stars of very high mass, when their fuel is used up, the collapse continues until their entire core becomes like one enormous nucleus. The neutron star's rapid rotation creates a powerful magnetic field, as well as bursts of radio pulses resulting in the characteristic lighthouse effect. This pulsing was first seen by radio telescopes in the 1960s. The effect gives neutron stars the name "pulsars."

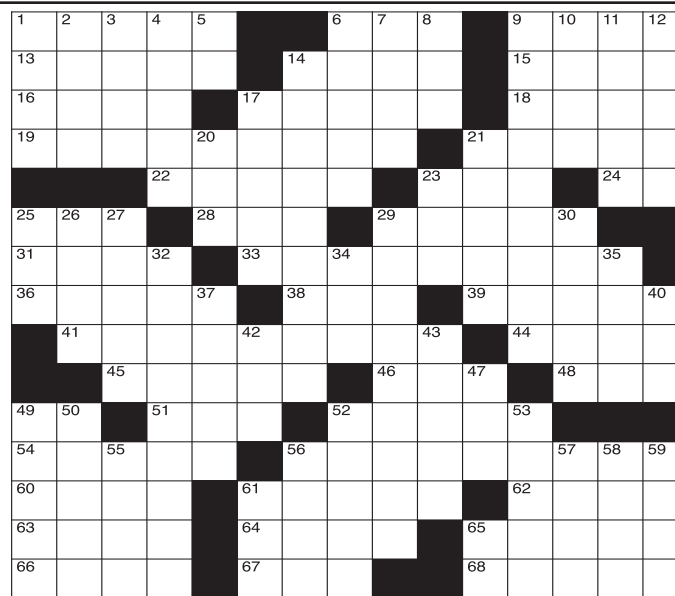
In December 2019 NASA produced their best ever precision measurements and surface map of the pulsar "J0030," located in the constellation

Pisces. While measuring the pulsar's mass and proportions, NICER's x-ray observations have revealed the shapes and locations of "hot spots" on the pul-

sar's surface. According to their prior model, astrophysicists theorized that neutron stars should have two hot spots - one near their northern polar region (where the rotation axis meets the surface) and one near their southern polar region. Results from the NICER telescope's observations of J0030 have not confirmed that theory. Instead, there are several hot spots, all located near the southern pole. Different scientific groups interpret the raw data using various models. Some groups see two oval shaped hot spots, others see three spots as well as a sharply curved crescent shape.

NASA has allowed data access to different groups to calculate the mass and size of this neutron star. Scientists at University of Amsterdam have arrived at a mass of 1.3 times the mass of the sun and a diameter of about 15.8 miles. A University of Maryland team, led by astronomy professor Cole Miller, calculated the mass at 1.4 solar and the diameter at 16.2 miles. Scientists consider these results as being in excellent agreement. Anyone might be

please see x-rays on page 15

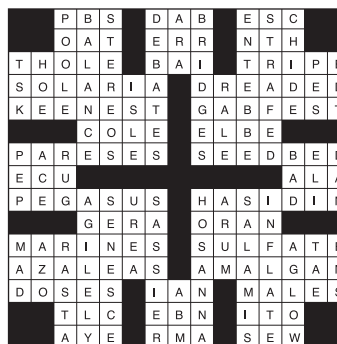


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Indicates number of days
- 6. When you hope to get there
- 9. Hairstyle
- 13. Black (Spanish)
- 14. Expresses pleasure
- 15. Away from wind
- 16. Tech pros organization
- 17. Wile E. Coyote is familiar with it
- 18. Clean
- 19. Saints' signal caller
- 21. A way to hunt
- 22. Poetries
- 23. Automobile
- 24. Secondary school (abbr.)
- 25. Indicates before
- 28. Male parent
- 29. Short-billed rails
- 31. It pays to keep yours
- 33. On occasion
- 36. David __, US playwright
- 38. Slang for cigarette
- 39. Vaccine developer
- 41. Returned to health
- 44. Toni Morrison novel
- 45. Period between eclipses
- 46. Veterans battleground
- 48. Gang
- 49. A radio band
- 51. Jaws of a voracious animal
- 52. Elaborate garments
- 54. Chinese province
- 56. Checks
- 60. Horizontal passage
- 61. Steep hillsides
- 62. Fertility god
- 63. Dried-up
- 64. Signs a name
- 65. __ Winger, actress
- 66. German river
- 67. Gov't lawyers
- 68. Take something somewhere

CLUES DOWN

- 1. __ Blyton, children's author
- 2. Colleague
- 3. "The African Queen" writer
- 4. Crater on the moon
- 5. Toward
- 6. Overhang
- 7. Identifies something close at hand
- 8. Sign language
- 9. Unbroken views
- 10. Ancient Greek City
- 11. Stretch out to grasp
- 12. Alcohols that are unfit for drinking
- 14. Humorous stories
- 17. Long song for a solo
- 20. Barrels per day (abbr.)
- 21. City of Lights
- 23. A place to sleep
- 25. Advanced degree (abbr.)
- 26. The back
- 27. Furniture-makers Charles and "Ray"
- 29. Songs to a lover
- 30. Gland secretion
- 32. 10 meters
- 34. Disfigure
- 35. Stores grain
- 37. Sacred book of Judaism
- 40. Catch
- 42. Promise
- 43. Challenges
- 47. Russian space station
- 49. Banking giant
- 50. Served as an omen
- 52. Drenches
- 53. Type of sword
- 55. Minor planet
- 56. Messenger ribonucleic acid
- 57. Japanese ankle sock
- 58. Obtain in return for services
- 59. Waste matter
- 61. A proposal to buy at a specified price
- 65. Unit of loudness



Answers for January 29

What's the purpose behind a leap year?

February is known for many things, one of which is being the shortest month of the year.

Many people do not give much thought to whether or not February has 28 or 29 days. But February bears the unique distinction of being the only month on the calendar that does not always have the same number of days.

Known as a "leap day," the 29th day of February helps to synchronize the calendar to Earth's orbit.

According to EarthSky, which reports on astronomy and other cosmos-related information, Earth's orbit around the sun takes approximately 365.25 days. That extra .25 creates a need for a leap year every four years; otherwise, the calendar, which is faster than the actual solar year, would drift from what is actually occurring with the orbit. After four years, it would be off by one day,

or 25 days after 100 years.

If no corrections were made to the calendar, the seasons might become misaligned. After 300 years, January 1 would arrive in autumn.

Julius Caesar, at the advice of Sosigenes, an Alexandrian astronomer, was responsible for adding a leap day to February to compensate for Earth's rotation after the original Roman calendar kept slipping out of alignment. During his reign, Caesar first implemented a 445-day calendar year in 46 BCE to bring the calendar back into alignment. Roman officials called it annus confusionis. To limit future headaches, the work-around was to simply add a leap day to February once every four years. The Julian calendar wasn't exact to the solar year, but it was much closer than the previous Roman calendar.

The Gregorian calendar, revised by Pope Gregory XIII in 1582, further adapted the calendar and the leap days. All leap years are divisible by four. That is why 2020 will include a leap day on February 29.

People can utilize the extra day in 2020 (yes, 2020 is a leap year) in

various fun ways. In addition to learning more about leap years and astronomy, try these entertaining ideas.

Take a day off of work and spend it relaxing or engaging in a favorite hobby.

Be reminded that leap years also coincide with U.S. Presidential elections, and it will soon be time to vote.

Check out the celebrities who were born on February 29 and only get a true birthday every four years. Rapper Ja Rule, motivational speaker Tony Robbins, actor Antonio Sabato, Jr., swimmer Jessica Long, and football player Eric Kendricks are some of the notable people born on February 29.

Buy a gift for yourself or others on leap day and make it a tradition of going the extra mile to love and pamper.

Realign your life like the calendar is being realigned by focusing on organization or personal finances.

Leap year has arrived, and that extra day can be put to good use in various ways.

Tides for Ocean City Inlet					
Day		High /Low	Tide Time	Height Feet	Sunrise /Sunset
Th	6	High	5:19 AM	2.5	7:01 AM
	6	Low	11:33 AM	0.1	5:28 PM
	6	High	5:34 PM	1.9	
F	7	Low	11:27 PM	-0.3	
	7	High	6:10 AM	2.7	7:00 AM
	7	Low	12:24 PM	-0.1	5:29 PM
Sa	7	High	6:26 PM	2.0	
	8	Low	12:20 AM	-0.6	6:59 AM
	8	High	7:01 AM	2.9	5:30 PM
Su	8	Low	1:13 PM	-0.4	
	8	High	7:17 PM	2.1	
	9	Low	1:11 AM	-0.8	6:58 AM
M	9	High	7:50 AM	2.9	5:31 PM
	9	Low	2:00 PM	-0.6	
	9	High	8:07 PM	2.3	
Tu	10	Low	2:02 AM	-1.0	6:57 AM
	10	High	8:39 AM	2.9	5:32 PM
	10	Low	2:46 PM	-0.7	
W	10	High	8:58 PM	2.3	
	11	Low	2:53 AM	-1.0	6:56 AM
	11	High	9:28 AM	2.9	5:34 PM
Th	11	Low	3:33 PM	-0.7	
	11	High	9:49 PM	2.4	
	12	Low	3:47 AM	-0.9	6:55 AM
F	12	High	10:16 AM	2.7	5:35 PM
	12	Low	4:21 PM	-0.7	
	12	High	10:40 PM	2.5	

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What's your story?



Kiwanis Club and 'Cool Kids Campaign'

Recently, the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City learned about the Cool Kids Campaign when their Director of Philanthropy, Renee Wooding, explained that the mission of the campaign is to improve the quality of life for pediatric oncology patients and their families by focusing on academic, social and emotional needs brought on by a cancer diagnosis.

Kiwanis donated \$1,800 to the campaign which will support a full year of free tutoring for a local high school student.

This is the first assistance for the "Cool Kids Campaign" on the Eastern Shore. Information about the "Cool Kids Campaign" can be found at www.coolkidscampaign.org. There's an important need and the opportunity to help.

Above: **Renee Wooding** with Kiwanis Club President **Roy Foreman**.

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Suffrage Group

As a part of the fourth annual Women's March on January 18, the Suffrage Centennial Celebration Committee joined nearly 200 women, men, and children on Ocean City's Boardwalk to celebrate women's rights, to advocate for policies that protect women and families, and to register people to vote. The centennial group was formed last year to plan commemorative events leading up to August 26, 2020, marking the 100th year anniversary of passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, proclaiming women's right to vote. Throughout the year, the group will be honoring the suffragist pioneers whose brave fight and severe sacrifices brought about this landmark moment in our Country's history.

Left to right are **Melissa Kelly** representing Senator Chris Van Hollen, **Susan Buyer**, **Rosie Bean**, **Toby Perkins**, **Linda Linzey**, **Vicky Wallace** and **Debbie Gousha**.

The rise of telehealth services

Getting sick once meant traveling to a physician's office only to sit in a waiting room with fellow under-the-weather individuals. Few if any people like leaving home when they are feeling ill, and thanks to technology, many no longer need to do so.

Telehealth services, which the Massachusetts Medical Society defines as the delivery and facilitation of health and health-related services including medical care, provider and patient education, health information services, and self-care via telecommunications and digital communication technologies, are revolutionizing the healthcare industry. In many instances, patients need not leave the comfort of their beds or sofas to be diagnosed and treated. The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology says telehealth, which is a broader scope of remote healthcare services than telemedicine, can utilize everything from videoconferencing, the internet, store-and-forward imaging, streaming media, and terrestrial and wireless phone communications.

Many providers and insurance companies now offer some method of telehealth services. Consider some of these statistics.

The American Telemedicine Association says more than one-half of all hospitals in the United States have a telehealth program.

Forty-eight states require payers to cover telehealth, says the Center for Connected Health Policy.

BBC Research indicates that telehealth makes up roughly one-quarter of the healthcare-related technology market.

The American Medical Association says nearly 75 percent of all doctor, urgent care and emergency room visits could be handled safely and effectively over the phone or via video.

Beckers Hospital Review says 82 percent of millennial patients surveyed would rather have a telemedi-

cine visit than an in-person consultation.

Around seven million people use telehealth services across the globe, according to eVisit.



Telehealth can connect rural providers and their patients to services at other sites and promote patient-centered health care. With a shortage of some medical specialties in rural areas, telehealth can play an important role in ensuring all patients get

please see **health** page 14



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Fried Shrimp Platter, served with FF & cole slaw and a choice of a soup or salad...\$14.75

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Craft Club reopens Saturday

The Pine'eer Craft Club Artisan Gift Shop is scheduled to reopen in its new location on Saturday, February 8.

The brand-new building is adjacent to White Horse Park, near the site of the weekly farmer's market.

Ocean Pines crafters formed the club in 1974 and the original shop opened two years later, at the time located between the community center and administration building.

Once the move to the new building is complete, the old site will be demolished to add more parking spaces.

Ocean Tower Construction built the new shop, with Ocean Pines Public Works adding some finishing touches to the interior.

"Public works has been so incredibly helpful to us over the years, but particularly with our move," Craft Club member Carol Quinto said. "[Recreation and Parks Manager]

Debbie Donahue has also just been fabulous. If it wasn't for her, I'm not sure we'd have a new building."

Quinto said the shop carries a wide variety of handmade merchandise, including woodworking, candles, pottery, jewelry, home décor, and all manner of sewn, crocheted and knitted items. All items are made locally, and most are made in Ocean Pines.

"Everything is handmade, and we always have something for everyone. We have a wide range of items that continually meet people's needs," she said, adding the shop also showcases local artists like Helen Smith and Jim Adcock.

Craft Club President Sharon Puser said the shop regularly gets new items.

"It's continually changing. As we get new members we get different things, so it's always a different selection," she said. "It's not the same merchandise all of the time, and it's because it's hand crafted it's always

one-of-a-kind."

Puser said profits from the shop are donated back to the Ocean Pines community. To date, the club has provided more than \$160,000 in donations for Ocean Pines Police, Fire Department, Recreation and Parks and Public Works, as well as the local library and neighborhood watch, and the Worcester County Veterans Memorial.

"It's a community effort, and



we're proud to be a part of this and to be able to give back to the community. That's our whole purpose," she said.

Along with a new location, the shop will also have expanded hours, open Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday hours will be 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. starting on March 7, to coincide with the farmer's market.

"We've waited a long time for this and we're all very excited," Puser said of the reopening. "We're going to fill it with fresh new things, and we're close to the Farmer's Market, so we encourage everyone to stop by."

The Pine'eer Craft Club plans to host an official grand opening for the new shop on April 4.

Visit the Pine'eer Craft Club Artisan Gift Shop at 239 Ocean Parkway in Ocean Pines. For more information, email opcrafterclub@aol.com or call Puser at 410-208-3032.

arts
from page 9

South Bethany Beach is the artisan in residence for February. After 25 years of teaching art in Wicomico County, Huegel retired and enjoys working in a mixed media approach as she responds to the environment around her. Her earrings are constructed of hand-painted paper for an artistic and fashionable touch.

Admission is always free to the Ocean

health
from page 13

access to care they need. But the benefits do not only extend to rural patients. Individuals who are elderly and/or those who have mobility issues and cannot travel easily can benefit from telehealth services. Furthermore, any patient with a rare condition may no longer have to travel long distances to consult with specialists in that field.

Telehealth applications and programs on smartphones, tablets or laptops can

waterfowl
from page 6

armed adult at least 21 years old. All junior hunters and their adult mentors must possess Maryland hunting licenses or be license-exempt. Youth hunters, including those possessing an apprentice license, must purchase a Maryland Migratory Game Bird Stamp, but do not need to purchase a federal duck stamp if under 16 years of age.

The bag limits for the hunting days are the same as the regular seasons except:

-Two black ducks may be taken

effluent
from page 4

aquifer.

Short of any validated information to the contrary, this proposal to spray sewage effluent on the Ocean Pines golf course should be rejected by the Ocean Pines Board of Directors and the Ocean Pines community in general. There is absolutely no benefit to residents of Ocean Pines and has the potential of increasing our water and wastewater bills, and even subsidizing development outside of Ocean Pines on the backs of current Ocean Pines ratepayers.

What the county and the advisory group should be concentrating on is curing the devastating environmental issues that have existed for decades, including groundwater intrusion during heavy rainfall or tidal surges that cause absolutely raw, untreated sewage to overflow from holding tanks on lots of association members and eventually into area waterways. This is a serious, hidden, unaddressed health issue.

Finally, the county should make operational the red warning lights on pedestals supposed to be located at holding tanks so homeowners know when the tank is ready to overflow or overflowing.

City Center for the Arts at 502 94th Street, home of the Art League of Ocean City, a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing the visual arts to the community through education, exhibits, scholarship, programs, and community art projects. Financial support comes primarily through membership dues from individuals and corporate sponsors.

More information is available at 410-524-9433 or ArtLeagueOfOceanCity.org.

make it easy for people to monitor their health. These apps can enable patients to do things like track health measurements, share information with clinicians, manage chronic illnesses, and set medication or appointment reminders. Patients also can communicate with providers to get health information through patient portals or to refill prescriptions effortlessly.

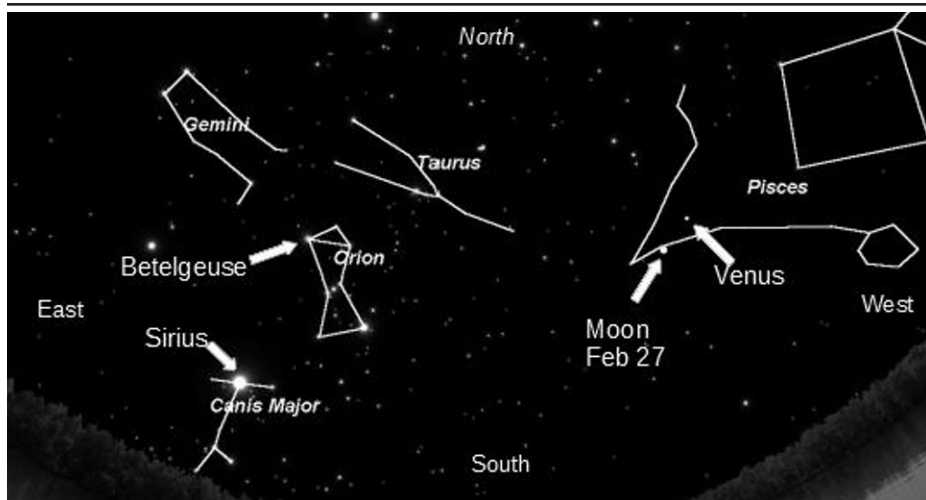
Telehealth is changing the face of medicine and utilizing technology in unique ways.

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Licenses, stamps, and permits may be purchased online by phone at 855-855-3906, at a Natural Resources Service Center or at any one of the more than 250 Sport License Agents statewide.

Hunters with questions may contact the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Wildlife and Heritage Service at 410-260-8540.



x-rays
from page 10

astounded that a neutron star's mass, being greater than the sun, could be compressed into a 16-mile diameter. For comparison, white dwarf stars are about one-half a solar mass and 8,000 miles diameter.

Other measurements of J0030 show its hot spots are incredibly scorching at three million-degrees, and its rotational speed is amazing, at 205

times per second.

Another achievement by NICER was the announcement in January 2018 proving that pulsars can function as a celestial GPS. The neutron x-ray telescope demonstrated how spacecraft could triangulate their location, using signals from distant pulsars. Keith Gendreau, NASA's astrophysicist at Goddard Space Flight Center, said: "It's a great way to apply some of our astrophysics to exploration goals that include going into the outer Solar System

and beyond."

The capabilities of NICER extend beyond pulsars to include observing x-ray flareups, transient sources, and supernova remnants. In the future, this x-ray telescope is expected to continue providing deeper insights on neutron stars and other strange celestial objects.

February stargazers can begin observing early, as Venus appears at about 5:30 p.m., just as the sun sets. Venus is now in "full bloom" and may be easily spotted over the western horizon for about three hours.

The full wintertime display arrives about 7:00 p.m. Constellations include Orion the Hunter, Taurus the Bull, and Gemini the Twins. Sirius is located to the east of Orion, and slightly south. Orion is perhaps the most famous of all constellations. Stargazers can see its man-shaped figure with two stars at the "shoulders," two at the "knees" as well as three stars making up the "belt."

The constellation Pisces - home of J0030 - is an elusive target, as it contains no bright stars.

The planet Venus will be in con-

junction, five degrees northwest of the moon on February 27.

Wishing good luck and clear skies to all stargazers.

Poet's reading to be held

The public is invited to attend a poetry reading with Cameron Barnett on Friday, February 7, at 7 p.m., in Room 302 of the Hazel Center at Wor-Wic Community College in Salisbury.

Barnett is the author of "The Drowning Boy's Guide to Water," winner of the Autumn House Press 2017 Rising Writer Contest. He holds a bachelor's degree in English from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pa., and a master of fine arts degree from the University of Pittsburgh. He teaches middle school language arts and social studies at the Falk Laboratory School in Pittsburgh and is also an editor of the "Pittsburgh Poetry Journal." For more information, email atavel@worwic.edu or call 410-334-2866.

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