

## Message to Readers

Well, here we are another week into this, all doing our best to stay healthy physically and mentally. At times, it can take a lot of effort not to go stir crazy. Despite this new reality, we're all doing our best to live **life as normal** as the circumstances allow. To that end, last Friday evening, my wife and I joined our friends in a virtual cocktail hour. It took a little time getting familiar with the technology but we did it. The nine of us, all at our homes, bantered back and forth, reminisced about previous experiences together and often asked someone to repeat what they had said. Many times, we talked over one another which forced our "host" to require us to raise our hands if we wanted to be heard.

I suspect our group's virtual gathering isn't unique, with many others doing the same thing to stay **in touch with family and friends**. It's not perfect but it certainly helps. And, you can remain in your pajamas.

**I want to let you know** of some things we're doing here at *The Courier* to assist in keeping people informed and giving readers a respite from virus updates and declarations.

**We continue to publish and home deliver in Ocean Pines.** Since last week, many folks reached out to us requesting free home delivery. We've added them to our list. Just a reminder that if you'd like to receive *The Courier* in your driveway, call me at 410-629-5906 or email me at [chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com](mailto:chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com) (write "DELIVERY" in the memo line) and we'll put you on our delivery list.

You can **pick up a copy** of the paper in news boxes at the following locations: Walmart, The Parke at Ocean Pines mail pavilion, Southside Deli on Nicholas Lane in Ocean Pines, White Horse Park across from the Ocean Pines Administration building, Food Lion at Pennington Commons and Food Lion Shopping Center on Route 611 (adjacent to Kozma Jewelers).

You can **read the paper online** at [www.delmarvacourier.com](http://www.delmarvacourier.com). A link to *The Courier* website is also on the homepage of [oceanpinesforum.com](http://oceanpinesforum.com). And **like us on Facebook** at *The Courier of Ocean Pines* where we're putting up articles, columns and restaurant ads on our Facebook page. Which brings up another point.

If you're a little tired of preparing meals yourself, be sure to support our local restaurants

*please see message on page 2*



Local company **Hardwire** is making protective gear for medical personnel.

## Local manufacturer makes face shields

Pocomoke company Hardwire, LLC, the leading manufacturer of protective armor used by the military, law enforcement and school systems, announced last Friday that the Company will immediately begin manufacturing protective face shields for medical personnel combatting the COVID-19 pandemic.

The addition of a separate Hardwire production line, accomplished in less than a week, answers the call from hospitals across the country, which face dwindling supplies of this vital piece of equipment.

"Enhancing the survivability of humans' has not only been Hardwire's mission statement since September 11, 2001, but is part of our DNA," said George Tunis, Hardwire's Chief Executive Officer. "We couldn't sit idly by while heroic doctors, nurses, and other emergency personnel battling this deadly virus don't have all the equipment they need."

The decision for Hardwire to join the COVID-19

fight was obvious. In the past few days and working with the infection control department and front-line doctors and nurses at Atlantic General Hospital, Hardwire designed, field-tested, optimized, and productionized a Face Shield for our nation's healthcare professionals. The Hardwire Face Shields are lightweight (weighing only two ounces), comfortable, anti-fog, and most importantly, available in large quantities.

"When George reached out to us, he presented the perfect opportunity to allow our front-line providers to collaborate on a product to fill the void for critically needed protective equipment for our industry," said Michael Franklin, president and CEO of Atlantic General Hospital. "Hardwire has allowed our caregivers to provide input to the development of a product that will allow caregivers everywhere to feel valued, safe and reassured that they have the

*please see shields page 4*



# Amenity facilities to remain closed

The Ocean Pines Sports Core Pool, Community Center, Racquet Center and Golf Club will remain closed until further notice because of the COVID-19 pandemic, per executive orders issued by Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan.

According to the executive orders, those facilities are to remain closed until termination of the state of emergency, or until the executive order is rescinded, superseded, amended, or revised by additional orders. There is no timeline yet for reopening.

“We are only at the beginning of this crisis, in our state, in the National Capital Region, and in America. As I have repeatedly stressed, we should continue to expect the number of cases to dramatically and rapidly rise,” Hogan said in a press release on Thursday.

The State of Maryland now has 580 confirmed cases of COVID-19 – an increase of 157 new cases, which is by far the largest one-day increase to date, according to Hogan’s office.

“This battle is going to be much harder, take much longer, and be much worse than almost anyone comprehends. We have never faced anything like this ever before, and I continue to urge the people of our state to stay in place at home and stay safe,” Hogan said. “I want Marylanders to know that if we continue to lead and work together—if we rely on and help each other—together we will get through this crisis.”

## Farmers Market and Yacht Club

The Ocean Pines Farmers Market remains open on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., and the Yacht Club is open for delivery and carryout, Wednesday through Sunday from 4-8 p.m.

### Golf Club

The Ocean Pines Golf Course and all practice ranges are closed, no exceptions. No one is permitted to walk and play the course until further notice.

### Aquatics and Racquet Sports

The Sports Core Pool will take calls related to Aquatics and Racquet Sports at 410-641-5255 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. The Aquatics Department’s Easter Egg Dive scheduled for April 10 was canceled.

Upon reopening, Director of Amenities and Operational Logistics Colby Phillips said staff would work with anyone who signed up and paid for canceled Aquatics classes.

### Recreation and Parks

Recreation and Parks staff will take calls at 410-641-7052 from Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Planned Easter events, included Breakfast with the Easter Bunny and the annual Easter celebration, have been canceled, along with coed softball, men’s basketball leagues, outdoor soccer, tee ball, and the spring flea market. Recreation and Parks will address cancelations and refunds as soon as possible.

Boat slip paperwork can be de-

*please see amenities on page 4*

# A Time To Remember

On this day in 1816, Jane Austen responded to a letter from the Prince Regent (the future King George IV) suggesting she write a historic romance, saying, “I could not sit down to write a serious romance under any other motive than to save my life.”

Austen’s correspondence with the Prince Regent, as well as literary figures of the day, was prompted by the success of her novels “Sense and Sensibility,” (1811) “Pride and Prejudice,” (1813) “Mansfield Park,” (1814) and “Emma” (1815). Two additional novels were published after her death. Her identity as the author was known to only a small circle; the general reading public only knew that “a lady” had written the books. Although enjoying the appreciation of such leading contemporary authors as Sir Walter Scott, Austen led a quiet, retiring life in the English country until she died at age 42.



# Schools to remain closed

State Superintendent of Schools Dr. Karen Salmon announced last week that Maryland public schools will remain closed through April 24, as the state activates a continuity of learning plan for students.

“With the challenges facing our state and our country, we have a responsibility to ensure the health and safety of our school communities and the community at-large,” said Dr. Salmon. “I am working in concert with all local school system superintendents, including multiple calls per week, in order to provide the continuity of learning to all of our students in every jurisdiction across the State of Maryland during this time. We plan to resume the continuity of learning next week, and we will be working closely with local superintendents, school administrators, and our teachers to activate that plan. I am so grateful to our educators and child care providers across the State for their commitment to our children and their school communities.”

Worcester County teachers reported to work remotely on Monday. Training and planning for educators is occurring during this week.

Continuity for learning with students will begin in phases, as follows:

- Advanced Placement & dual enrollment classes began on Monday.
- All high school students will begin on Wednesday, April 1.
- Elementary and Middle school

students will begin on Monday, April 6

The rationale behind this phase-in is that high school students already have a laptop, and teachers at the high school level have already been delivering instruction using the Board of Education’s (BOE) online learning management system, Schoology, so the training needed for teachers is minimal.

## Board meeting to be held virtually

The Ocean Pines Board of Directors will hold a virtual meeting on Wednesday, April 1, starting at 7 p.m.

Board members will use Microsoft Teams to conduct the meeting.

To join the session, use the invite link: <https://tinyurl.com/rqkbe2q>. If prompted, use the web browser plug-in only and not the full client.

Public comments may be made during the meeting by using the Microsoft Teams chat feature, or by emailing comments ahead of time to [directors@oceanpines.org](mailto:directors@oceanpines.org).

Following the meeting, the video feed will be posted to the Association YouTube channel and links will be announced on the Ocean Pines website, [www.oceanpines.org](http://www.oceanpines.org).

To download a meeting packet for the April 1 regular Board meeting, visit <https://www.oceanpines.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/4-1-20-Board-Packet-WEB.pdf>.

### message

from page 1

such as **DeNovo’s** (410-208-2782) and **A Bagel And...** (410-208-0707).

For those who are looking for something else to do, in addition to our regular crossword puzzle, this week I’ve **added new features**, a Crypto Fun puzzle, and a Guess Who game. Let me what you think.

And, if you’d **like to share** with *Courier* readers how you’ve been spending your time during this new reality, email me your experiences at

[chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com](mailto:chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com).

Keep it to no more than 200 words and include your name and phone number. We won’t publish your phone number.

One last thing. If you know someone who is living alone consider giving them a call to chat a little. It will make a positive difference in their day and yours as well.

*The Courier* is committed to **servicing our readers, local business and our community**. Stay safe!



# Small business owners don't give up

By **Victor Fernandes**

It has been business as usual for local businesses in Ocean Pines and across the Eastern Shore, even as the ongoing coronavirus pandemic has made the lives of small business owners far from normal these past few weeks.

They're working nonstop, many seven days a week, to keep their livelihoods alive, even as the loss of customers in the name of public safety has sparked a substantial loss of income.

"We're here all the time, and then we just go home and crash and come back to work," said Linda DePietro, co-owner of **Paul and Vinny's Pizza** in Ocean Pines. "I'm just focusing right now on what we're doing here. We're just trying to get through this. (We) keep trucking."

Right now, she said, there is no way to know when the end to this health crisis will arrive, and how devastating of an impact it ultimately will have. Yet, small business owners may enjoy a reprieve - in the form of the federal government's highly anticipated \$2 trillion stimulus package, which President Donald Trump signed into law last Friday.

Published reports state the package will assist families, small businesses and large companies in hopes of revitalizing an economy in the midst of a sharp downward spiral as cases of COVID-19, or novel coronavirus, continue to soar.

Mary Jaeger, co-owner of **A Bagel And ...** in Ocean Pines, said her family has begun applying for their much-needed share of a reported \$377 billion in guaranteed loans for small businesses. These loans, reports indicate, would help owners cover monthly expenses, including payroll. Owners won't need to repay loans if they keep their staff intact.

Millions of Americans will receive checks of up to \$1,200 per person, with an additional \$500 per child for families, as well as enjoy expanded unemployment benefits. The federal government also has set aside \$500 billion to assist struggling larger companies. "It would enable us to stay open," Jaeger said of her family's business, "because right now we're honestly losing money every day that we stay open. We have the minimal amount of people working that we possibly can. ... I think it will help. People will have more money that

maybe they would not be so worried to spend."

Baek Lee, who owns **Ocean Pines Cleaners & Alt's** two locations in Ocean Pines, said he would look into applying for loans if business doesn't improve in the next month or two. Lee said his revenue has slipped five to 10 percent since the pandemic arose. "Right now it's OK," Lee said. "I don't know (when it will get better). Nobody knows. It's very tough."

DePietro said it's too early to determine how much the stimulus package will help small business owners. As hard as employees at Paul and Vinny's Pizza work," she said, "(business has) dropped off because we don't see people coming in as much. I

think everybody feels it. ... We're not seeing the regulars right now. Everyone is scared right now."

As of Saturday, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported more than 100,000 cases of coronavirus and nearly 1,700 deaths nationally. The number of cases in Maryland approached 1,000 last weekend, according to the state's Department of Health, with nine on the Lower Shore - six in Wicomico County, two in Worcester County and one in Somerset County. The Department of Health also reported 10 deaths, with the first on the Lower Shore on Saturday at Peninsula Regional Medical Center in Salisbury - a Wicomico County woman in her 60s with underlying medical

conditions. Older people, especially those with pre-existing conditions, are said to be among the high-risk group.

"We have a very older clientele," Jaeger said. "They're the ones being told to stay home. That's where we've lost a lot (of business). They're the ones that shouldn't go out, and I understand that."

Owners should learn more about how the stimulus package will help their businesses in the coming weeks.

Until then, they will continue working tirelessly to keep their businesses afloat. They have no other choice.

"We've done this for a long time. We can't just give up," Jaeger said. "Hopefully things will get better."

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# Coastal Community Church continues to move forward

By **Victor Fernandes**

The Coastal Community Church family, all 550 or so strong, are practicing what Pastor Bryan Pugner

other events, they believe that church is more than simply a structure.

“It’s an opportunity for us as a church to be able to show the confidence in our faith,” Pugner said, “but also to be able to be the hands of Jesus extended to people within our



**Pastor Bryan Pugner** has live-streamed services to congregants from a studio at the church since the coronavirus pandemic forced churches to close in March.

community who are afraid, who are struggling financially. I think God designed the church not to be inside of a building. ... I think God is getting us back to his original purpose.”

With Pugner leading the way, a congregation that draws families from Worcester, Wicomico and Sussex counties has, for example, partnered with guidance counselors at Showell Elementary School in Ocean Pines and

preaches, especially while the doors at the 1-year-old church on Ocean Gateway remain closed during the coronavirus pandemic.

As much as Pugner and his steadily evolving congregation miss walking into the 20,000 square-foot facility for midweek and Sunday services and

Ocean City Elementary School to provide weekday lunches to local students. Those ongoing efforts are an extension of the church’s Weekend Backpack program, which provides lunches to students when they’re not in school.

The need has grown critical since schools closed statewide on March 12 to help slow the spread of COVID-19, or novel coronavirus. Maryland Governor Larry Hogan announced last week that the closure would continue through April 24.

“We want to try to look after members of our congregation, see how we can help them,” Pugner said. “We’re really encouraging our members to go to their neighbors, reach out to elderly people they know, offer to pick up groceries and medical supplies. If all of us do that, we hope and pray the immediate need around us would alleviate a little bit.”

Commitment to the community

was a cornerstone when the church formerly known as Ocean City Worship Center resided a short drive to the west of its current location on Ocean Gateway. That commitment remains steadfast since Coastal Community Church opened the doors to its new home in late February 2019.

As services were held for the first time in the new church last year, Pugner and his staff spearheaded a clothing drive for a Bishopville family in their congregation, who reportedly lost their home and two pets in a fire. A contingent of roughly two dozen churchgoers made its now annual mission trip to the jungles of Ecuador in March. They worked with, and provided supplies donated by local businesses to, a girls home that assists 50-plus victims of abuse.

Each year, congregants pay \$2,000 apiece and take a week off from work

*please see church on page 13*

**amenities**  
from page 2

Boat slip paperwork can be deposited in the 24-hour drop box available in the Administration Building lobby, located on 239 Ocean Parkway.

All Ocean Pines parks and playgrounds, including the skate park and basketball courts, remain closed because of state mandates.

“We are looking out for the families and friends and, as much as we would like to see all the children

having fun, it just is not safe at this time,” Recreation and Parks Manager Debbie Donahue said. “We miss our Ocean Pines family and friends that join us at the Rec Department every day. Stay safe and healthy, and we will be seeing you all soon.”

For more COVID-19 news and information, visit [www.ocean-pines.org/opa-news/covid-19](http://www.ocean-pines.org/opa-news/covid-19).

**shields**  
from page 1


necessary protection to provide care to their patients and community.”

Hardwire has fielded over a hundred initial prototypes within the week, fifty of which went to Atlantic General Hospital. The company is scaling to a production capacity of approximately 6,000 units per day as quickly as next week, according to Tunis. Viable production goals are set

at closer to 60,000 units per day as national demand may dictate that need.

“This virus is simple and clever,” said Tunis. “We must also be the same, but much faster. The speed in Hardwire’s case comes from the efficient design and carefully selected supply chain partners. Our defense work has taught us that speed matters and you should listen to your troops, or in this case, our nurses and doctors. We will do everything we can to supply what they need.”

- a bear has 42 teeth
- an ostrich’s eye is bigger than its brain
- rabbits like licorice
- a lobster’s blood is colorless but when exposed to oxygen it turns blue
- armadillos have 4 babies at a time and are all the same sex
- reindeer like bananas
- the longest recorded flight of a chicken was 13 seconds
- birds need gravity to swallow-
- a cat has 32 muscles in each ear
- goldfish can see both infrared and ultraviolet light
- cats spend 66% of their life asleep
- macadamia nuts are toxic to dogs
- spiders are arachnids and not insects
- Koalas sleep around 18 hours a day
- all insects have 6 legs
- African Grey Parrots have vocabularies of over 200 words
- a giraffe can clean its ears with its 21-inch tongue
- cats have over 100 vocal chords
- camel’s milk doesn’t curdle
- elephants sleep between 4 - 5 hours in 24 period





# When the going gets tough

Navigating the Covid-19 restrictions, distancing mandates, work from home requirements, kids home from school, is there any bread on the shelves, I'm getting tired of this, I just wish my spouse would shut-up, is there another bottle of wine in the cabinet blues is taking a lot out of all of us.

double what we normally pay. Fortunately for me, she placed the order without blinking. Her decision was based on equal parts concern for my welfare and her not wanting to hear me complain each morning I didn't have my tea. She knows me so well.

I read recently that in about three weeks, we'll be able to determine what everyone's real hair color is because barber shops and hair salons are closed for the duration. My hair color hasn't been a secret for quite some time so I'm not worried about that. What

has bothered me is not being able to get my hair cut. Just as the interval between haircuts elapsed the governor ordered shops closed, leaving me follicle challenged. There is a point when my hair grows infinitesimally too long and thereafter becomes a huge dis-



## It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

Unlike the greatest generation that endured, in consecutive decades, the Great Depression and World War II, many of us are unprepared and lack the ready skills to do without and ration what we have. We're learning though. We're learning. Battling this virus has put all of us in the fight, no more so than health providers. They are heroes, and so are their families who must deal with the consequences of this invisible combatant in ways that many of us do not. We should keep a good thought for all of them. The reality of the situation is that we're all sharing uncertainties, deprivations and frustrations.

We had a near catastrophic situation at my house last week when my stock of tea bags, Red Rose tea bags specifically, got low. There is much I can do without but not my Red Rose tea. It's been a habit for 50 years and watching the bag numbers dwindle in the cannister was disheartening. Normally this would not even be a concern but the world right now is a different place. Walmart stopped carrying Red Rose tea about six or seven months ago. I

was told it was not a big seller. That was okay because Food Lion carried it. So, remaining at a healthy distance from other shoppers I headed for the coffee and tea aisle only to discover they were out. They were out! **THEY WERE OUT!**

I immediately went into conserve mode, ensuring each remaining tea bag was used to its utmost. Not perfect but we do what we have to do in distressing situations. Recognizing my agony, my wife searched online and found a source, even though it was



Photo of **Vincenza and Antonio Bertino** taken by V.S. Bellino, Royal Photographer, 1126 S. Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA.

traction. My sideburns are too long, I can feel the hair brushing the back of my neck and wisps of hair scrape my ears. In short it drives me crazy. I don't think I'm the only guy dealing with this discomfort.

Barbering was a family tradition just a couple generations back. My great-grandfather Antonio Bertino, who emigrated from Villofranca Sapouara Messina in Sicily in 1913 aboard the *Stampale* with his wife

please see *it's all about* page 14

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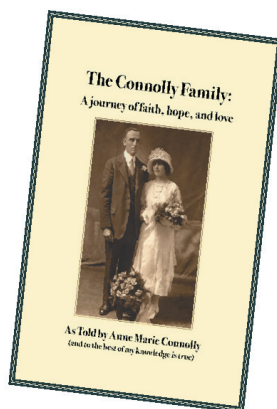
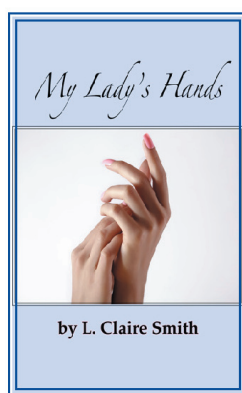


## It's a perfect time to become an author.

Whether it is compiling your life story into a memoir; assistance with editing, organizing, and then capturing your treasured memories into book form; or assistance in publishing your novel or short story, the adventure awaits you. TimeFlys will develop a strategy to meet your goals and will work with you to carry out the project to your full satisfaction.

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Addison McDaniel (right) with Dr. Ben Carson during last year's scholarship ceremony.

## Local Carson Scholars announced

Four Worcester County Public School student have been recognized as 2020 Carson Scholars. The Carson Scholarship is a \$1,000 college scholarship awarded to students who serve their community and excel academically. Recipients of this scholarship are also awarded with a trophy and an olympic sized medal. Previous winners of Carson Scholarships are eligible to reapply for Carson Scholar Recognition annually.

This year, four students from Worcester County Public Schools have been recognized as 2020 Carson Scholars:

-Craig Birkhead-Morton, 12th

grader at Snow Hill High School, five-time winner

-Lindsay Birkhead-Morton, 10th grader at Snow Hill High School, seven-time winner

-Natalie Canham, 9th grader at Stephen Decatur High School, five time-winner

-Addison McDaniel 8th grader at Stephen Decatur Middle School, four-time winner

To be considered for this award, the student must be nominated by their teachers. To apply, nominees must have a minimum GPA of 3.75, community service hours and submit a lengthy essay.

## Help protect Republic Services staff from potential contamination

To help protect trash collectors during the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic, Republic Services is asking Ocean Pines residents to take extra care to not place any materials outside of Republic collection containers.

According to Dominic Fulginiti, a municipal sales manager for Republic Services, anticipated impacts of COVID-19 on trash services include increased contamination of recycled materials as excess waste finds its way into recycling containers.

Additionally, Fulginiti said yard waste and bulk collection routes are pulling key resources away from residential routes that need extra support.

"Republic Services garbage and recycling crews are working diligently to continue to serve Ocean Pines residents with curbside collection services while experiencing an increase in volume of house-

hold setouts," Fulginiti. "To protect garbage and recycling staff during this time, we ask that you do the following:"

-Fill Municipal Solid Waste containers with waste materials (trash) only

-Fill recycling containers with recyclable materials only

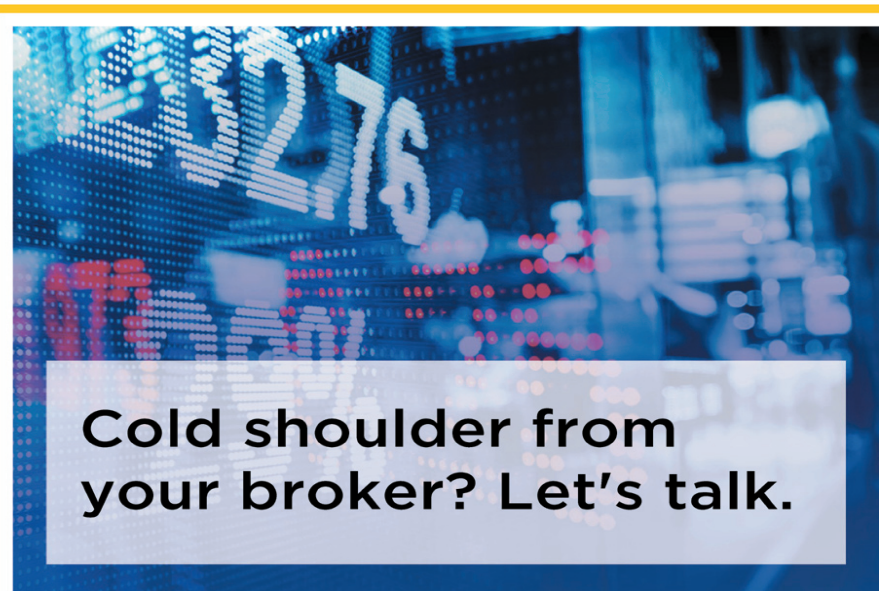
-Avoid placing loose bags of waste or recyclables of any kind on the ground

-Suspend Yard Waste Collection (during the COVID-19 Pandemic only)

-Suspend Bulk Waste Collection (during the COVID-19 Pandemic only)

"We greatly appreciate you considering these extra measures to ensure the safety of our solid waste and recycling collectors and the community," Fulginiti said.

For questions or further information, contact Republic Services at 800-762-8888.



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**The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has quickly changed our daily lives.**

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## Pines residents can fill out Census online, by phone or by mail

Ocean Pines is urging homeowners and residents to take part in the 2020 U.S. Census, which helps determine the level of funding that state governments and local communities receive from the federal government for the next decade.

Worcester County was among the lowest response rates in Maryland in 2010, with just 33.2% self-responding, compared to a 69.5% statewide average, according to <https://2020census.gov/en/response-rates.html>.

This year, to date, the self-response rate in Worcester County is just 11.8% percent, compared to a statewide average of 23.8% percent.

Filling out the Census can be done online and generally takes about 10 minutes. To fill out the Census, visit [www.my2020census.gov](http://www.my2020census.gov).

According to Census.gov, "The census provides critical data that lawmakers, business owners, teachers, and many others use to provide daily services, products, and support for you and your community."

Each year, \$675 billion dollars in federal funding go to hospitals, health care fire departments, schools, roads, and other resources, all based on census data.

"The results of the census also determine the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives, and they are used to draw congressional and state legislative districts," the site said.

Kelly Henry, Worcester County's Complete Count Coordinator, said it's important for everyone to respond to the census survey. Not doing so could cause an area to lose

out on important resources.

"If they receive a survey at the second/vacation home, they should enter the code on the Census form and, when asked if that is the location at which they live most of the time, state 'no,'" Henry said. "They need to make sure that they in fact complete the entire survey at their primary residence. If the census survey code mailed to second/vacation homes are not inputted into the system and responded to properly, those numbers count against the county relative to response rates."

The 2020 Census marks the 24th time the country has counted its population, since 1790.

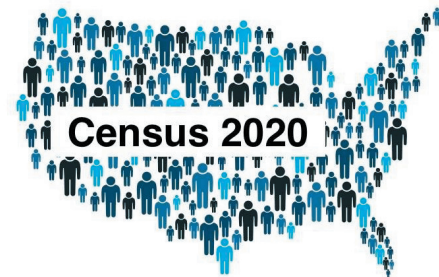
Information gathered by the Census Bureau is bounded by U.S. Code to keep confidential any information it collects from residents.

According to Census.gov, "The Census Bureau cannot release any identifiable information about you, your home, or your business, even to law enforcement agencies. The law ensures that your private data is protected and that your answers cannot be used against you by any government agency or court."

"The answers you provide are used only to produce statistics. You are kept anonymous: The Census Bureau is not permitted to publicly release your responses in any way that could identify you or anyone else in your home."

"The Census survey is easy, important and safe," Henry added.

Visit [www.2020census.gov](http://www.2020census.gov) for more information.



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MWD106188-18 (1018-8X9S) (2/19)

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### Free online service to preview mail

To help reduce traffic at community mailboxes, Ocean Pines is recommending residents use a free, online tool available through the U.S. Postal Service.

"Informed Delivery" allows users to digitally preview mail and manage packages scheduled to arrive soon.

According to the Postal Service, the platform "allows you to view greyscale images of the exterior, address side of letter-sized mailpieces and track packages in one convenient location."

For more information, visit <https://informedelivery.usps.com>.



## AGH reminds public of COVID-19 screening options

As Worcester County and the surrounding area begins to see their first confirmed cases of COVID-19, Atlantic General Hospital would like to remind the community of what individuals should do if experiencing signs or symptoms of the illness.

If you have symptoms or you have been exposed to the virus through direct contact with someone who has tested positive, you should contact your health care provider to determine whether you should be screened and how best to isolate yourself from others and for how long.

If you live in Worcester County you can also contact the Worcester County Health Department hotline at 410-632-1100 (select option #8), Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., to determine if you are a candidate for COVID-19 screening.

If your health care provider or the health department determines that you need to be screened, Atlantic General's COVID-19 screening clinic at Atlantic ImmediCare, located on 10<sup>th</sup> Street in Ocean City, is available to provide this service by appointment only. If you do not have a primary care provider or do not live in Worcester County, you can call 410-289-0065 to determine if you are a candidate for screening.

"We would like to stress that this clinic is only for those individuals who have been recommended for further screening," said Dr. Sally Dowling, vice president of medical affairs at Atlantic General Hospital. "It's important to understand that most people do not need testing. Thus far, only

### Assateague Island National Seashore closes

Assateague Island National Seashore announced additional modifications to operations in response to guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, NPS Office of Public Health, US Public Health Service and the Worcester County Health Department. Effective March 28, Assateague Island National Seashore closed to all park visitors until further notice. The park will notify the public when it resumes full operations and will provide updates on its website [www.nps.gov/asis](http://www.nps.gov/asis) and Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @AssateagueNPS.

Updates about NPS operations will be posted on [www.nps.gov/coronavirus](http://www.nps.gov/coronavirus).

about 10-20% of those individuals who have been tested in Maryland are testing positive."

Unless you are suffering a medical emergency, please do not show up unannounced at an emergency room or other medical facility. If you are not experiencing a medical emergency you should speak with your healthcare provider, who can direct you to the appropriate facility. If you are ill and have a mask, please wear it to your appointment.

For more information on COVID-19 or to access available resources in Worcester County, please visit [worcesterhealth.org](http://worcesterhealth.org). State information can be found at [coronavirus.maryland.gov](http://coronavirus.maryland.gov). Basic human needs resources including physical and mental health resources, work support, access to services in non-English languages, support for older Americans, and persons with disabilities, children, youth and family can be obtained by calling 211 or visiting [www.211md.org](http://www.211md.org).

Atlantic General Hospital specific COVID-19 updates can be found at [www.agh.care/covid-19](http://www.agh.care/covid-19).

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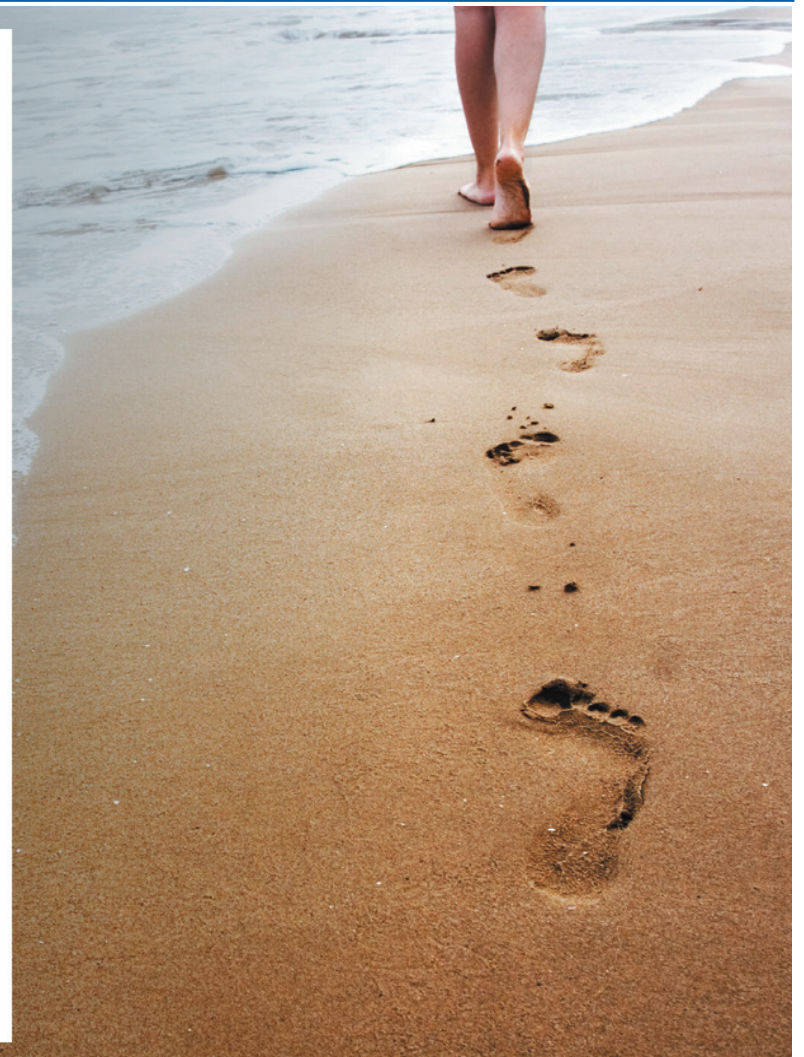
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# Astronomy & Spaceflight

By Douglas Hemmick, Ph.D.



## A renegade star escaping the Milky Way

The topic for April is a newly discovered star which will one day leave the Milky Way galaxy.

The star is moving with a record-setting speed which it achieved after a close encounter with the Milky Way's gargantuan central black hole.

In November 2019, an international team of astronomers, led by the Australian National University, announced the discovery of the outward bound star labelled as "S5-HVS1" (S5). This star is moving at a speed greater than 3.7 million miles per hour - enough to break free of the Milky Way's gravitational bonds. The group's lead astronomer, Gary da Costa of ANU said: "We traced this star's journey back to the center of our galaxy, which is pretty exciting. This

star is travelling at record-breaking speed, 10 times faster than most stars in the Milky Way, including our Sun."

The discovery was made at Siding Spring Observatory in New South Wales by Australia's largest optical telescope, a 3.9-meter reflector. The speeding S5-HVS1 star was found during research focusing on small galaxies orbiting the Milky Way.

The astronomers on the research team are elated. Sergey Koposov of Carnegie Mellon University said: "This is super exciting, as we have long suspected that black holes can eject stars at high velocities. However, we never had an unambiguous association of such a fast star with the galactic center."

*please see eyes on page 11*

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A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

## CRYPTO FUN

☽ ☾ ♁ ♃ ♅ ♆ ♇ ♈ ♉ ♊ ♋ ♌ ♍ ♎ ♏ ♐ ♑ ♒ ♓ ♔ ♕ ♖ ♗ ♘ ♙ ♚ ♛ ♜ ♝ ♞ ♟ ♠ ♡ ♢ ♣ ♤ ♥ ♦ ♧ ♨ ♩ ♪ ♫ ♬ ♭ ♮ ♯ ♺ ♻ ♼ ♽ ♾ ♿

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to customers.  
Each number corresponds to a letter.  
(Hint: 6 = e)

**A. 25 20 21 9 26 4**

*Clue: Gives financial support*

**B. 9 6 21 20 22 8**

*Clue: Sale of goods*

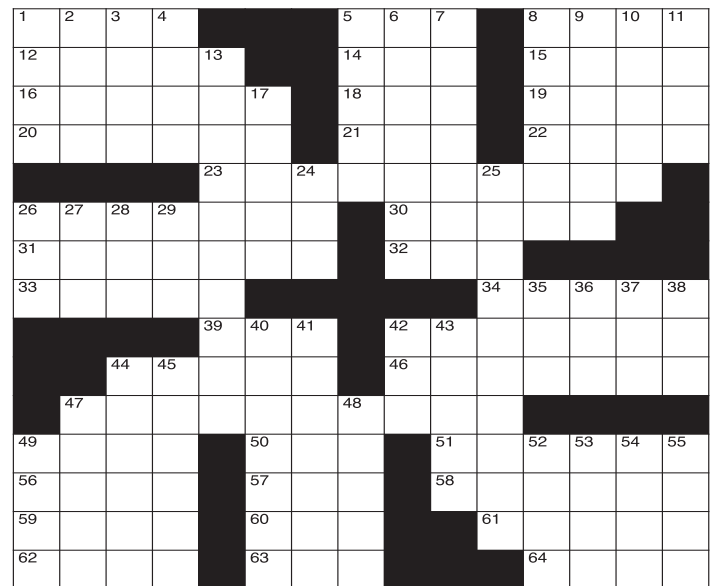
**C. 25 18 9 5 11 20 24 6**

*Clue: Buy something*

**D. 5 8 22 6 4 21**

*Clue: Person using services of another*

Answers: A. patron B. retail C. purchase D. client

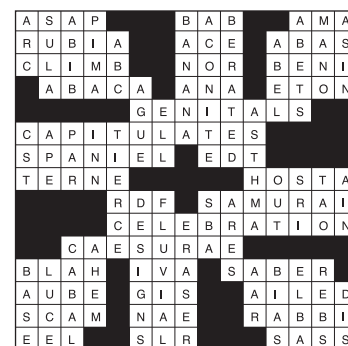


### CLUES ACROSS

- Bond villain Mikkelsen
- A team's best pitcher
- French river
- Mountain nymph (Greek)
- City of Angels airport
- Military force
- Scrawny
- Value
- One billionth of a second (abbr.)
- Highly seasoned sausage
- Trouble
- Prong
- Showing varying colors
- Cloaked
- Renters sign one
- Acquires
- Type of language (abbr.)
- Partner to pains
- Third portion of the small intestine
- Excessively theatrical actor
- Infraction
- Classical music for the stage
- Slogged
- One who terminates
- Breakfast is an important one
- Moved earth
- Medical procedures
- Genus of clams
- Not well
- Comparative figure of speech
- Covered thinly with gold
- Principle underlying the universe
- A parent's sisters
- Professional engineering group
- Coniferous tree
- Impudence

### CLUES DOWN

- Female parents
- Region
- Transaction
- Heroic tale
- Of algae
- Luminous intensity unit
- Uncovers
- French commune name
- Poisonous gas
- Pearl Jam's bassist
- Horse groom in India
- Destroyed
- A way to alter
- Promotional materials
- American state
- Extinct flightless bird of New Zealand
- "Modern Family" network
- Last or greatest in an indefinitely large series
- Exercise system \_\_\_-bo
- Type of bulb
- Opposite of beginning
- Utilize
- Type of student
- Deficiency of moisture
- Areas of the eye
- Select
- Sheets of floating ice
- Priests who act as mediums
- Roof of the mouth
- Unnatural
- Illuminated
- There are three famous ones
- Large, fast Australian birds
- "Dracula" heroine Harker
- Substitutes (abbr.)
- Tax



Answers for March 25



eyes  
from page 10

The force which accelerated S5 was first theorized in 1988 by astronomer Jack Hills. According to the "Hills Mechanism" the process begins with a binary star system straying too close to a black hole. The black hole effectively "pulls away" one member of the stellar pair, into a new orbit. In response, the second member of the binary finds itself ejected from the pair and propelled outwards at a very high rate of speed. "This is the first clear demonstration of the Hills Mechanism in action," said Ting Li of Princeton University.

Astronomers have known for decades that the Milky Way's central region features a supermassive black hole, with a mass about 4 million

times greater than the sun. Observations in infrared reveal the central region stars are moving at high speeds under the influence of the black hole's enormous gravity. X-ray flares have been spotted, and these are due to material falling into the black hole.

Because S5-HVS1 is passing within 29,000 light years of the Earth (quite close by cosmic measures) astronomers were able to precisely determine the star's trajectory. They estimated it was ejected from the galaxy's central region about 5 million years ago, and predicted the star's future exit from the Milky Way, some 100 million years from now.

An encounter with a black hole is not the only means of accelerating a



**Siding Spring Observatory  
New South Wales, Australia**

star. Astronomers have observed other hyper-velocity stars which were boosted by supernovae explosions.

In April, stargazing begins about 7:30 p.m. as the sun is setting, when the dazzling planet Venus emerges in the west, and remains visible until

*please see eyes on page 15*



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- 6 Apr** The SECURE Act  
10:00 - 11:00 am

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- 13 Apr** Elder Law Series, *Part 1*  
10:00 - 11:30 am

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- 20 Apr** Elder Law Series, *Part 2*  
10:00 - 11:30 am

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- 27 Apr** Elder Law Series, *Part 3*  
10:00 - 11:30 am

---

- 4 May** Professional Education  
Estate Administration  
8:30 am - 12:30 pm

*For more information about these individual events, please visit our website.*

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# Food, cash benefits available to vulnerable Marylanders

To further support Marylanders during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS) has taken a number of steps to expedite services for their customers to lessen the burden of this unprecedented public health emergency.

Most recently, the Department's request to extend certification periods and adjust reporting requirements for Maryland's SNAP benefit recipients was successfully granted approval by the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) helps low-income households buy the food they need for good health. To receive these benefits, individuals must meet certain federal requirements, including resource and income limits.

"Like the rest of the world, Marylanders are feeling the effects of this pandemic," said Department of Human Services Secretary, Lourdes R. Padilla. "However, for Marylanders in need of food, these times can be acutely stressful as they try to navigate these uncharted waters. The actions taken by Governor Larry Hogan and our agency provide timely reassurance to our most vulnerable citizens that their needs will continue to be met."

Having successfully obtained the waiver, the state agency extended certification periods for SNAP households that were scheduled to expire in March, April, and May, for six months, until September, October and November 2020 respectively. This adjustment includes households with earned income that, by regulation, cannot normally be certified for more than a six-month period.

In line with the SNAP waiver, the Department of Human Services also extended the redetermination requirements for those Marylanders receiving cash benefits, such as Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) and Temporary Disability Assistance (TDAP), for an additional six months.

Additionally, the Department waived work requirements across all eligibility programs, including TCA and SNAP, and is using emergency assistance to address the needs of residents who may be ineligible for the aforementioned assistance programs.

"Our agency is aggressively taking every action within our control to ensure this health crisis does not become a food security crisis," said Netsanet Kibret, Executive Director of the Family Investment Administration for DHS. "We are aware of the trust that Maryland's most vulnerable put in us, and DHS will be with them every step of the way."

Marylanders can get information, apply for DHS programs and services, and check the status of applications online at [mydhrbenefits.dhr.state.md.us/dashboardClient/#/home](http://mydhrbenefits.dhr.state.md.us/dashboardClient/#/home), and by calling the DHS Call Center at 1-800-332-6347 (TTY 1-800-735-2258), available from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday-Friday. A paper application may also be mailed or faxed to the resident's local Department of Social Services Office.

Tides for Ocean City Inlet				
Day		High /Low	Tide Time	Sunrise /Sunset
Th	2	High	3:18 AM	6:43 AM
	2	Low	9:36 AM	7:25 PM
	2	High	3:45 PM	
	2	Low	9:38 PM	
F	3	High	4:23 AM	6:41 AM
	3	Low	10:36 AM	7:26 PM
	3	High	4:49 PM	
	3	Low	10:43 PM	
Sa	4	High	5:24 AM	6:40 AM
	4	Low	11:34 AM	7:27 PM
	4	High	5:47 PM	
	4	Low	11:45 PM	
Su	5	High	6:20 AM	6:38 AM
	5	Low	12:27 PM	7:28 PM
	5	High	6:42 PM	
M	6	Low	12:44 AM	6:37 AM
	6	High	7:12 AM	7:29 PM
	6	Low	1:17 PM	
	6	High	7:34 PM	
Tu	7	Low	1:39 AM	6:35 AM
	7	High	8:03 AM	7:30 PM
	7	Low	2:04 PM	
	7	High	8:25 PM	
W	8	Low	2:33 AM	6:34 AM
	8	High	8:54 AM	7:31 PM
	8	Low	2:50 PM	
	8	High	9:16 PM	

# Endoscopy center closed temporarily

In accordance with Maryland Governor Hogan's directive to cease all elective and non-urgent procedures, the Peninsula Regional Health System (PRHS) officially temporarily suspended operations of its Delmarva Endoscopy Center in the Ocean Pines Health Pavilion.

Elective endoscopy services at Peninsula Regional Medical Center were suspended earlier this week. Emergency procedures meeting the

criteria from the Maryland Secretary of Health can be supported at Peninsula Regional as those needs arise.

PRHS is committed to a return to normal endoscopy business when the emergency measures are lifted. Affected patients will be rescheduled.

COVID-19 questions may be directed to the PRMC/Wicomico County Health Department COVID-19 Hotline at 410-912-6889.

# Art League announces online "art-a-day" exhibits

The Art League of Ocean City announced they will continue their mission of bringing art to the community during the shutdown of the Ocean City Center for the Arts with a series of daily social media posts and e-mails designed to inspire and encourage.

"We can't welcome visitors to the Arts Center for a class or an exhibit right now, but we can still keep our mission alive and well through on-line communication," Rina Thaler, executive director of the Art League, said. "The Art League is more than a building anyway. The Art League is artists and members and staff and boards and donors and volunteers. And we're going to keep art at the beach going until we can once again open our doors."

Each week, the Art League will e-mail art-related and artist-created stories and exhibits to their members and e-mail guests. Anyone wishing to receive these e-mails who is not an Art League member can sign up for free at [www.ArtLeagueOfOceanCity.org](http://www.ArtLeagueOfOceanCity.org) in the "Join E-News" box at the bottom of the homepage. Memberships are also available on the website.

Every day, the Art League will post to Facebook a fun, creative message

designed to inspire, and the topics are new each day of the week. "Artist-of-the-Week Mondays" will tell personal stories of Art League artists as they share how they work and what inspires them. "Look-What-I-Made Tuesdays" is an exhibition of art created in the classrooms of the Arts Center or at home during the shutdown. In the "Weekly Wednesday Blog," Art League staff members share their personal stories and challenge readers to keep making art.

"Throwback Thursdays" will recap inspirational past exhibits. "Kreative Kids Fridays" posts projects and art-related ideas to keep children occupied while schools are closed. "Gallery Saturdays" will feature artwork by artists scheduled to be featured during the monthly exhibitions. "Studio Tour Sundays" will take viewers on a virtual tour of the Arts Center or an artist's studio.

# College scholarship applications deadline extended

The Art League of Ocean City is offering \$1,000 scholarships to high school seniors who plan to pursue a college degree in the visual or performing arts and has extended the deadline to apply to May 8.

Graduating seniors who attend public or private high schools in Worcester County as well as home-schoolers are eligible to apply. Also eligible are past recipients of Art League scholarships who are continuing to

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



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*Guess Who?*

I am a comic actress born in Texas on April 26, 1933. I once lived in a boarding house for women pursuing careers in acting. I have earned a Tony, Emmy and Golden Globe for my work in various genres.

*Answer: Carol Burnett*



**church**  
from page 4

and school to build classrooms, kitchens and playing fields, among other tasks. Pugner said his daughter, Brooklynn, a junior at Stephen Decatur High School, may return to Ecuador for a month in July, and possibly for a year or two before, during or after college.

“Every trip is different. Every time we go it’s a needed adventure,” said Bryan Pugner, which this time included eating large flying ants alongside local villagers. “You meet people you’ve never met. You work like an absolute dog, get your hands dirty,



Local musicians and congregants **Brooke and Jeremiah Coyne** perform during a recent church live streamed on Coastal Community Church’s Facebook page.

and come home and think to yourself, “That was one of the best weeks of my life.”

The church remains closed, with no set reopening date. But midweek and weekend services continue, in a makeshift studio that can be viewed through live streams held on the church’s website and Facebook page. They aren’t traditional services congregants have grown accustomed to in the past year, with Pugner sharing sermons in front of an empty room. The church also hosts events, such as having congregants and local musicians Brooke Coyne and Jeremiah Coyne perform during a Facebook Live broadcast.

“We’re not trying to do the same service as we do on a Sunday morning,” Pugner said. “We don’t feel it translates really well speaking to an empty congregation. (It’s) a little more informal, which seems to be working for us right now.”

These online services provide a sense of community at a time when congregants are staying home to

minimize the risk of being infected with the highly contagious coronavirus. Other local churches also are offering online services, such as the Community Church at Ocean Pines and Berlin First Baptist Church.

Still, congregants look forward to churches reopening. That day will be extra special, said Doris Horner, a congregant at Coastal Community Church for five years. “Oh my goodness, it will be wonderful. It will be like homecoming,” she said. “I certainly miss going to church. It seems like the week isn’t the same without that. That’s what keeps us grounded.”

Pugner is excited for the day services and programs resume at Coastal Community Church. A strong buzz throughout the community led to 100 to 150 new members in the church’s first year. He said more than a 1,000 people attended Easter services last year. Pugner plans to add a third service to the weekly schedule after Easter next month.

He never imagined such strong numbers when he joined the church and its roughly 125 congregants 16 years ago.

“I remember thinking, ‘if our church ever got to 400 people, that would be a good size,’” Pugner said. “Now some Sundays we’ll have 600 people. I’m really overwhelmed with gratitude to God that he would use us in that capacity.”

Pugner and his staff already have discussed adding space at the church to better serve the Eastern Shore community.

“Of course, we have to pay the debt and mortgage we have now before we worry about (expanding),” said Pugner of a decade-long project, which reportedly cost \$4.5 million and replaced the church’s former 9,000 square-foot facility. “But if things continue (progressing) we certainly will (consider expansion).”

Coastal Community Church always continues moving forward.

“There are just a lot of things we would not have been able to do in our other facility now,” Pugner said. “Now that we have it, we’re really seeing the potential of how we can impact our community.”

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# Bright lights, empty rooms and not using the phone

By **Chip Bertino**

*Publisher's Note: This was a column I wrote in 2003. With children across the country home from school for an extended period, I thought many could relate.*

The television is on and the lights are on yet no one is in the room. The hallway light is on but no one is there. The radio in the bedroom is blaring but there's no one listening to it.

*it's all about*  
from page 5

Vincenza, barbered in South Philadelphia during the early twentieth century. His son, my grandfather, was also a barber. The family business did not pass on to subsequent generations. This was on my mind this weekend as more and more the length of my hair drove me nuts and made me itchy. If only I had learned the family trade. If only!

By Sunday morning I had had enough. Come what may, regardless of the results, I was determined to cut my hair. From deep within a cabinet drawer I retrieved the sheers and scissors my wife used to give summer crew cuts to our sons when they were too young to complain. With a bath towel draped around my shoulders and the clippers in my left hand I stared into the mirror for several minutes manning up, giving myself the confidence to proceed. With my right hand I slowly raked my fingers through my hair, raised the scissors and clipped. A clump of silver strands fluttered into the sink. I had taken the first step. In for a penny, in for a pound. I continued raking and clipping, raking and clipping. Even though I was mentally prepared to accept a mistake or two or three by wearing a cap for a week or so, I still took my time. With each clip of the scissors my confidence grew. Only when I tried to cut the hair on the back of my head did I ask for my wife's assistance. She was a little reluctant at first but she did it.

When the final hairs settled in the sink, the result I saw in the mirror wasn't all that bad, not great, but not bad. I've had worse haircuts I've paid for through the years. I don't know whether Antonio would have approved but I'd like to think he'd give me credit for trying.

Am I in the twilight zone? Did I step into another dimension? No, I'm in my own home.

My children seem to believe they cannot function unless the rooms they enter have enough light in them to attract the attention of the Hubble Space Telescope.

It's not uncommon for one of them to leave the television on when they decide to leave the room. It's as if televisions, radios and lights only have "on" switches and their power source

is infinite and free.

In my day we had one candle the entire family shared. If you weren't in the same room as the candle you were literally left in the dark.

I'm exaggerating I realize but I do remember during the energy crisis being reminded of the importance of using low wattage light bulbs and making sure to turn lights off when I left a room to conserve energy. It was my patriotic duty to learn to live like a bat.

Today my kids turn the lights on to walk from one end of the hallway to another, a distance of no more than 16 feet. No doubt they'd lose their way if the path weren't illuminated.

Children have no idea what things cost. As a group they are oblivious to such concerns. I was the same way when I was young.

I remember not being allowed to use the telephone because my grandmother, whom I lived with at the time, was concerned about the phone bill. I was only allowed to use the phone between 1 a.m. and 3 a.m. Sunday mornings when the rates were lowest. There were not many people interested in talking with me at that hour. Those who were required a credit card number to continue the conversation.

It must have been the generation in which my grandmother grew up that using the phone was not something to take for granted. It was to be used only when absolutely, positively necessary. With my grandmother an

emergency call to the fire department may or may not qualify depending on whose house was ablaze.

There was a greater chance of it snowing in July than my grandmother making a long-distance phone call to say hello to extended family. I remember her and my grandfather doing the "let the phone ring three times" trick to let my mother know they got home safely after leaving our house.

They would call our house and we were instructed to let the phone ring three times before answering it. They would hang up after the third ring. This would let us know they got home safely and they would not have to pay for the call. I think they saved twenty-five cents.

One time I answered the phone on the second ring. My grandmother was none too happy. As result she deducted the twenty-five cents from the money she sent in my birthday card that year.

I guess as a result of being "phone deprived" when I was younger, I don't think twice about the cost of picking up the phone now to call where ever the person I want to talk with happens to be.

I guess each generation has its pet peeves that succeeding generations find odd.

No doubt when my kids grow up they'll feel no compunction about installing stadium lighting to illuminate the hallways in their homes.



*My grandfather giving me my first haircut in his shop at 16th & Porter in South Philadelphia. Circa 1966.*



*Giving myself my first haircut. Circa Sunday morning.*

## **scholarships**

from page 12

pursue an arts degree at an accredited college and have achieved a 3.0 or higher grade point average.

The Art League will award up to ten \$1,000 visual and performing arts scholarships based on talent, recommendations, citizenship, scholarship, academic awards, extracurricular activities, motivation and skill.

Applications are available for download at [www.artleagueofoceancity.org/scholarship](http://www.artleagueofoceancity.org/scholarship). Students should complete the written application, and include three digital images of their artwork, two letters of recommendation, and an official school transcript. The Worcester Co. Board of Education assures students they will have access to school records

during the shutdown.

Students may submit their application packets by mail before May 8, with digital images on a CD or flash drive, to: Art League of Ocean City, PO Box 3503, Ocean City, MD 21843. The application packet may also be submitted electronically by e-mailing it to [katie@artleagueofoceancity.org](mailto:katie@artleagueofoceancity.org).

The Art League has been awarding scholarships since 1991 to local students seeking a college degree in visual and performing arts. The scholarships are funded by contributions from the Art League as well as from the Katherine Ellen Brown Fund administered by the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore.

Questions on applications may be sent to [katie@artleagueofoceancity.org](mailto:katie@artleagueofoceancity.org).



eyes  
from age 11

about 11 p.m.. As the sky becomes dark around 8:30 p.m., Leo the Lion is riding high, above the eastern horizon. Just as Orion is the most familiar constellation of winter, Leo plays this role

for springtime. Leo resembles a reclining lion, with its characteristic backward question mark shape representing the head and mane, and an elongated triangle delineating the hind legs.

After about 9:30 p.m., the northeast sky reveals the kite-shaped con-

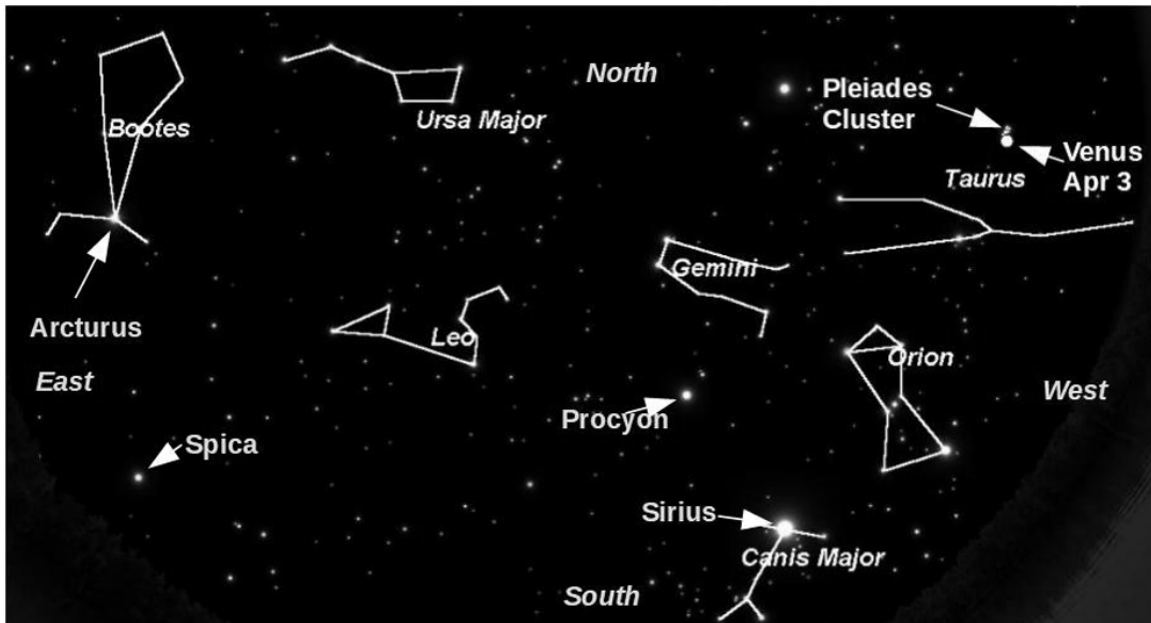
stellation Bootes (boh-OH-teez) the Herdsman. Bootes features the bright orange star Arcturus at its southern tip. After about 10 p.m., the brilliant winter star Sirius will begin to sink lower towards the horizon, and will set just after midnight.

Early in the month, Venus enters a conjunction with the Pleiades cluster. Stargazers may enjoy this event from April 1 to April 6, as Venus slowly waltzes past the Pleiades within two degrees. The closest conjunction occurs April 3, when Venus passes about 1/4 degree from the cluster.

The Lyrid meteor shower will be visible between April 20

and 22, with a peak on the evening of the 21st and continuing into the wee hours of April 22. The meteors will appear to streak outwards from the "radiant" point near the star Vega. Moonlight will not interfere with this shower and dedicated observers could see as many as 10 "shooting stars" per hour. This meteor shower is suitable for "night owls" since the best views take place after about 1:30 a.m.

Wishing good luck and clear skies to all stargazers.



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