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OPA backs county effluent water proposal

Ocean Pines Board members on Wednesday unanimously endorsed a Worcester County proposal to install a new irrigation system and spray treated effluent on the Ocean Pines Golf Course.

All seven Board members agreed to send a letter of support to Worcester County, which was the next step in the process. Ocean Pines and Worcester County previously held a joint town hall on the topic, on September. 9.

Director Frank Daly brought up the subject again, on Wednesday night.

"Worcester County has proposed using effluent water from the Ocean Pines Treatment Facility to irrigate the Ocean Pines Golf Course," Daly said, adding that General Manager John Viola and staff have worked with the county on the proposal.

"The county did an excellent job at the town hall of presenting the proposal and answering questions. And they also have asked us at this point in time only to issue, as a Board, a letter of support for the proposal, so it can move forward," Daly said.

Daly said Viola released a FAQ fol-

lowing the town hall to address questions from the public, and he asked that the document be included in the meeting minutes from Wednesday.

He also said several new questions had come in. Those included the current state of the Golf Course irrigation system, the annual maintenance costs for that system, when the system was scheduled for replacement, and what the estimated cost would be.

Viola said the current system "functions," but much of the equipment is more than 50 years old.

"That tells you something," he said. "The pumping station, all the equipment there ... works. [But] it does need a lot of maintenance. We have done repairs there, but it's ready to be replaced."

He said there had been leaks near the 10th and 12th holes, which the Golf Maintenance staff was often called on to fix. He estimated that annual repairs cost between \$15,000 and \$20,000 in parts alone, not including labor.

Golf Course Superintendent Justin Hartshorne added the current system is run at "reduced rates" because of capacity constraints.

"We've been making a lot of adjustments to ... the way we water the golf course. We're trying to use less water as much as possible, because we are dealing with a lot of very old parts of the current system," he said.

If Ocean Pines installed a new irrigation system without county help, Viola said the cost was estimated to be roughly \$2.8 million.

In the county proposal, Ocean Pines rate payers would absorb the cost of a roughly \$3.2 million new system, which includes added pipelines and pumps to bring the treated effluent to the Golf Course.

During the September 9 town hall, Worcester County Public Works Deputy Director John Ross said the impact on water and sewer rate payers would

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Call 410-629-5906

be roughly \$4 to \$5 more each quarter. That includes an unrelated improvement at the county wastewater treatment plant estimated to cost \$3.5 million, minus the retirement of debt services from the construction of a plant addition in 2002, Ross said.

Ross also addressed the quality of the water that the county would spray on the course.

"We do use a biological process to treat that wastewater [that] is just charged out to the river, and it's very clean when it goes out to the river ... Our limit is three milligrams per liter of total nitrogen, which is extremely low," he said. "We're basically still discharging mostly everything that you have in your drinking water."

Viola said installation of a new irrigation system was tentatively planned for a November to March window, perhaps as soon as next year.

"That's the time of the year where there is not a lot of play," he said.

According to Association President Larry Perrone, county officials said similar efforts at several other area courses had caused "very little disruption."

"You may have a disruption on a hole for a day or two exactly, but ... the whole course would never be shut down," he said.

"We're talking about one or two holes for [perhaps] a day ... it doesn't concern me if it's done between November and March." Viola said.

Viola added that between 1,800 and 2,000 households in Ocean Pines use the Golf Course each year.

Daly said it seemed like a "nobrainer" to support the county proposal.

Perrone asked for a show of hands send a letter of support to Worcester County. All six Board members in attendance raised their hands, and Association Vice President Colette Horn, taking part by phone, also endorsed the proposal.

To view video of the meeting segment, visit https://youtu.be/joi-Daw9CFD8?t=3085.

To view video of the Sept. 9 town hall, visit https://youtu.be/aSt-TUWnT_go.

To download the FAQ prepared by Ocean Pines, visit https://www.ocean-pines.org/documents/10184/89280/Effluent+town+hall+questions.pdf.









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Art Matters

Hofman sees the artist as a salesman of beauty

By Elaine Bean

Randy Hofman believes every artist is a salesman.

"He or she says 'See there! See there!' - implying that it's beautiful to behold or worthy to consider," he said. "Art is something to share and connect us."

Hofman has been connecting art and beachgoers for 40 years with his large, intricate, religious-themed sand sculptures on the Boardwalk in front of the Plim Plaza Hotel at 2nd St. "I'm an artist and a minister," he said, "and I combine the two in the Biblical sand sculptures."

The artist has now branched out his mission to connect people with art, filling the Roland E. Powell Convention Center with more than 30 largesized paintings representing life at the resort. The paintings are on permanent display and open to the public for viewing.

"My paintings focus on the life that exists in the space between the land and the sea," Hofman said. "Here you can see the ages of life ... What we share is the love and care of our young ones, and the ones we grow old with. Like the waves on the beach, this cycle continues from generation to generation."

Hofman has also just completed a custom sand sculpture to promote the Art League of Ocean City's annual Sand Castle Home Tour, being held virtually this year from October 1 to 31. Attendees at the ArtX Fest at Northside Park in August enjoyed

My paintings focus on the life that exists in the space between the land and the sea

watching Hofman build the sand castle right before their eyes. "The Art League of Ocean City — and its home at the Ocean City Center for the Arts on 94th St. — is a hub of productivity and fellowship," Hofman said. "It helps artists network in the community. It helps to get feedback, criticism and encouragement."

Hofman, who currently lives in



Ocean Pines with his wife, Marilynne, was born in Washington, D.C. and spent his formative years in the countryside nearby before studying advertising design and visual communication at the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, NY. After spending every summer season in Ocean City since 1974, he moved to the resort permanently in 1978, when the town

was much different than it is today.

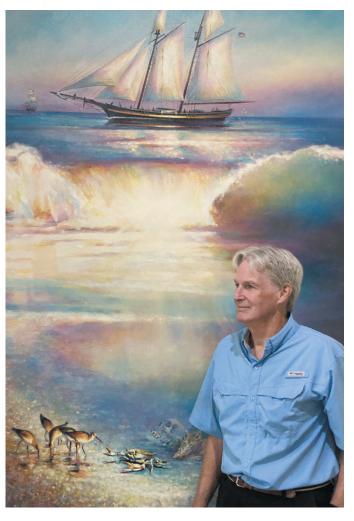
"The winter of '78-'79 was the coldest in memory," Hofman recalled. "That's when the Delaware Bay froze, and the ice drifted down the coast and ripped off the end of the amusement pier. The chunks of ice were as big as Volkswagen Beetles sitting on the beach until spring ... It took four summers to break through the barrier of remaining in Ocean City over the winter. Back in the '70s, the town flushed out on Labor Day until next spring. Slowly the off season developed. I'd go to Buck Mann Property Manage-

ment for any sign

and art work I could contract, and he would package projects just to get me through the winter."

These days, Hofman creates art in his studio in Newark, Md. from source material he discovers out in the community. "The most pleasure is to paint on location," he said. "That way, for a few hours, you get a double reward. There's the joy of being a part of nature in real time, and the souvenir you materially create to later share. The next best thing is to go on a photo safari for source material to bring back to the studio to manufacture the finished piece. The studio is a workshop, a controlled environment needed to execute the concept. It may be a rainy day in the winter, but in my studio down in Newark which is seven miles west of and eight miles south of downtown Ocean City, I'm spending the day living the scene created in the painting being worked on."

Hofman's work can be described as regional, in that he celebrates what it means to live and play and work here. "There is a saying, 'All art is regional,' or to put it biblically, 'What you behold, you become.' And there is also another, 'As a man thinketh, so he is'," he said. "Our area by the



sea coast is disarmingly beautiful, and the culture of 'the good life' and 'the land of pleasant living' is savored by anyone who comes here from the metro belt. That's why so many drive long distances to refresh their souls here. It's the same as the artists of Paris going to the south of France to be inspired and paint."

As a natural and alternative way of showing his love of the land and the sea, Hofman is developing a flourishing gardening project at Mariner's Country Down in Berlin. Reggie Mariner had hired him to build a five-foot tall concrete castle in his formal garden that led to Hofman planting a permaculture fig, elderberry, and fruit tree orchard on the property. "It's an ongoing 'art is life project' for me," Hofman said, as he continues to make beautiful things

Farr lawsuit amended

Commentary by **Joe Reynolds** *OceanPinesForum.com*

Most members of the Ocean Pines Association are aware board candidate Rick Farr is suing the OPA Board of



Directors as a result of OPA Corporate Secretary Camilla Rogers declaring Farr an ineligible candidate in the midst of the board election. The initial court filing also included a reference to

a class action for those who had voted for Farr. After a recent hearing, where Farr's request for some sort of an injunction was refused, the court scheduled another hearing on September 27th.

Toward the end of the week of September 5th, Farr's attorney Bruce Bright filed some amendments in the case. Bright dropped the class action item but then added some 40 or more individual Ocean Pines property owners as actual plaintiffs in addition to Farr. At that point over 40 lot owners were suing OPA.

After the names of the new individual plaintiffs, a matter of public record, were published on Ocean-PinesForum.com, Farr wrote on Esther Diller's Facebook page to association member Amy Peck, "What Joe Reynolds listed to you specifically on the OP Forum with names/addresses is disgraceful and meddling in legal proceedings. My counsel will be sending a letter." Peck claims Farr's post was subsequently removed. Why it is somehow "meddling in legal proceedings" to post the names of plaintiffs in a case was never explained. Association members have a right to

know who is suing their Board of Directors.

However, Farr's lawyer did write a letter-to-the-editors of local newspapers, and both Farr and Esther Diller posted Bright's letter on OceanPines-Forum.com. It was subsequently published in widely circulated local Ocean City newspapers. Bright's letter included the following, "My sincere hope is that none of the Co-Plaintiffs will be criticized, castigated, singled out, unfairly judged, or impugned for taking an active stance in what is an important matter of public interest in Ocean Pines; and that commentary in the public domain - about them and toward them - will be fair, reasonable, accurate, and responsible."

Bright also offered an opinion, writing, "Unfortunately, on certain 'blogs' and perhaps elsewhere in the public domain (for example, the blog known as 'Ocean Pines Forum'), there has been what in my opinion is incorrect and irresponsible commentary about the adding of the Co-Plaintiffs to the case, which either criticizes them or baits/invites criticism and judgment of them."

Daria Uhlig, a member of *Ocean-PinesForum.com*, replied to Esther Diller, "I sincerely hope Mr. Bright has offered the same advice to the people (in) your (Facebook) group who have spent months engaging in histrionic, conspiracy-laden vitriol targeted at specific, named board members."

Asked about what she meant, Uhlig said, "People were calling board members very nasty names, saying they were power-hungry scoundrels willing to do anything to stay in power. They were talking of overthrowing the board — as in kicking them out, not voting them out, with one member

suggesting a Zoom call to strategize. The only thing missing was a guy in a Viking suit."

Strangely, some of these new plaintiffs Bright is now representing in the case are claiming they never agreed to be plaintiffs.

For example, Forum member Mary Tress wrote, "We have requested our name be removed from this case as we did not agree to any lawsuit. Our name and address and email address were provided only to get more information as to what was being proposed. We never received any correspondence and did not agree to become a plaintiff in any case. We do however believe the election needed to be redone once a final decision was made by the judge regarding eligibility."

Amy Peck replied to her, "I am sorry you were put in this position. If it is any consolation, you are not the only Plaintiff that was not told you were going to be a Plaintiff suing OP and accusing Board members of wrong

doing. How ironic that this was done by a candidate that said he was going to be transparent. My suggestion to you is to follow up to make sure you are actually removed from the case. Others who requested to be removed have not been and fear they won't be until the September 27 hearing for optic purposes."

Mary LaSpada wrote, "I withdrew my name this morning after corresponding with Mr. Farr. I understand the point that he is making and I support his right to bring this suit. I think he is an honorable man who has much to contribute to our community, and I would still vote for him."

Forum member Mark Mitchell also replied to Esther Diller, "It sounds to me like many of these people did not choose to 'take an active position' nor did they knowingly 'join the case." Growing evidence seems to support Mitchell's opinion.

please see commentary on page 8

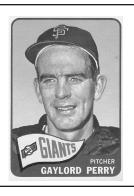
A Courier Amonac

On September 22, 1994, the television sitcom Friends, about six young adults living in New York City, debuted on NBC. The show, which featured a group of relatively unknown actors, went on to become a huge hit and air for 10 seasons. It also propelled the cast-Jennifer Aniston, Courteney Cox, Lisa Kudrow, Matt LeBlanc, Matthew Perry and David Schwimmer-to varying degrees of stardom and success in Hollywood.



In 1963, major league baseball pitcher Gaylord Perry was quoted as saying "They'll put a man on the moon before I hit a home run." On July 20, 1969, one hour after Neil Armstrong set foot on the moon, Perry hit is first, and only, home run of his career.

-oddee.com



NOTICE

The Courier will be on hiatus next week and will return with the October 6 edition.

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Dogged pursuits

They're big. They're small. Some are in between. Some are fluffy and some are smooth. They can be white. They can be brown. They can be white and brown,



It's All About. . . By Chip Bertino

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

white and black, black and tan, brown with a spot of white and so many other color combinations. Some have long snouts and others have a pushed-in snout. But none of this matters because each dog is special in its own way, especially the one or ones to which we've become attached. No two are like.

Whether they come from a breeder or the local humane society, dogs hold a special place in the hearts of many, a reality confirmed by the many bumper stickers touting canine specialness. "My Yorkshire is smarter than your honor student." "I love my grand dogs."

There's no denying dogs are a bonus to any household they join. They are always happy to welcome you home, whether you were gone all day or just went outside to retrieve the newspaper. They become delirious with excitement. Dogs never seem to have a bad day and are always in the moment. They don't hold grudges and don't fret about the future. How better off we humans would be if we had the same qualities.

Through the years, a number of dogs have been part of my family. Currently my wife and I have two dogs. One is older and one is younger. One is a cross between a collie and a golden retriever. The other is a little bit of this, a little bit of that and a little bit of something else. Both are rescues. Their personalities are totally different. The older one, the collie/golden, is a senior citizen who prefers to take things easy. From the time we brought her home when she was a threemonth-old fur ball, she's always been a gentle soul, calm and pleasant. She spends many of her days laying around the house except when there's a thunder storm. When that occurs, she becomes anxious and attempts to climb into our laps, hop on our bed or get into the bath tub. Efforts through the years to calm her during these periods have met with little to no success. We just do our best to see her through.

Our other dog fears nothing and is always ready to party. He has a frustrating habit when he sees or smells a dog walking outside. He jumps up at the window

and barks to inform all within earshot that Chooch is in the house. If I were to project human qualities on him, I'd say he'd be the smooth, suave type always ready for a little fun. He'd be sporting Ray Ban sunglasses and wearing a Hawaiian shirt. "Hey baby,

whatchadoin'?" While Baily is trembling during a thunder storm, Chooch mixes himself a second martini.

Dogs pick us, not the other way around. The best dog relationships I've had are the ones when the dog picked me. I'm not aware of any scientific evidence to prove or disprove my belief, personal experience is my guide. How do I know that a dog has chosen me? I just know. It's a feeling that can't be quantified.

The opposite has also occurred when I've picked a dog and the dog didn't pick me. Those were unpleasant experiences that often resulted in a parting of the ways.

Often people have a bias toward or against certain breeds. Growing up we had a miniature poodle. She wasn't anymore than 20 pounds. She was cute. She was adorable. She was also the nastiest dog I've ever encountered. Years later, we had a Dobermann pinscher. He was big. He was mean looking. He was also the biggest baby, couch potato you'd ever meet. See, appearances can be deceiving.

There are people wary of certain breeds. One that comes to mind is the American Staffordshire terrier, known commonly as the pit bull. My impressions of pit bulls were formed by watching Petey in the old "Our Gang" comedies. The little rascals were all over that dog and he just took it all in stride.

Dogs, like people, have individual personalities irrespective of breed. A dog's personality is the culmination of experiences. Unfortunately, some dogs have had excruciating experiences and their personalities are forever scarred, just like some people.

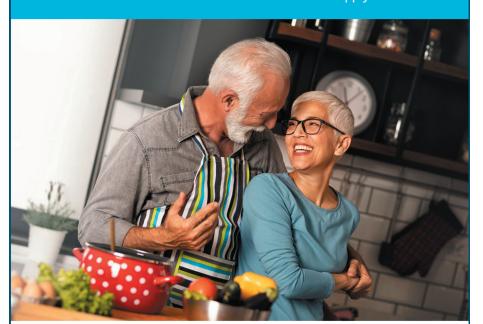
What's my favorite dog? A particular breed doesn't come to mind as much as certain preferred characteristics such as being behaved and loving. As I write these final sentences, Chooch is laying under my desk, his head resting on my feet. That about sums up what I prefer in a canine companion.

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Carozza calls vote 'A Major Overreach'

Senator Mary Beth Carozza joined with her Senate Republican colleagues in calling last week's legislative vote "a major overreach by the State Board of Education, usurping the will of local elected school boards." She has opposed mandated student school masks and mandated vaccines, and supports the below statement of her Senate GOP members on the Joint of Committee Administrative. Executive and Legislative Review who disapproved and voted against the State Board of Education vote for mask mandates.

"We are disappointed by today's vote approving the Maryland State Board of Education's Emergency Regulation to institute a statewide mask mandate in every Maryland Public School.

This regulation is an overreach and political power grab by an unelected and unaccountable bureaucracy. It usurps the authority of elected local

school boards who made their plans to safely return children to school by listening to parents and following the latest health and safety guidelines. It is a one-size-fits-all approach that does not account for the variation in educational settings and COVID-19 metrics found throughout the state or allow for local flexibility to act and react quickly to changing metrics. It is an inappropriate overreach for the State Board of Education to reverse a local board's decision and then require that local board to enforce a mandate or risk their funding.

This is much more than a mask requirement. This regulation presents many compliance questions that will negatively impact the classroom and learning environment as local boards and educators struggle enforcement."

Senator Carozza is a member of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee.

Education Foundation announces rebranding

Worcester County Education Foundation (WCEF), a local nonprofit supporting Worcester County Public School students, announced that it has completed a major rebranding. Founded in 2013, WCEF is a motivated group of community members committed to preparing students for

success, whose primary focus was equal access to technology. After reaching million-dollar mark and with all WCPS students having their own Apple devices, the time has come to rebrand and expand the focus of the foundation.



When the foundation was formed, it was clear that the future was digital, so the emphasis was on preparing Worcester County Public Schools (WCPS) students to succeed in a digital world. "Now, the possibilities are limitless, and we understand the value of ensuring that all students have equitable access to and benefit from highquality education," says Olivia

Momme, Manager of Operations & Community Relations. "We believe that the Worcester County Education Foundation is well positioned to utilize innovation, partnerships, and resources to bring programs to WCPS that build the necessary skills to produce self-sustaining graduates who are

> committed to both life-long learning and our community."

WCEF put a significant amount of time and research into this process. They developed a strategic plan with direct involvement

from the Worcester County Education Foundation stakeholders, including parents, WCPS employees, donors, educators, community members, and the Board of Directors. Through this process the foundation has updated their branding, mission, focus, and values.

The new logo showcases the growth that comes from education and

please see foundation on page 14



State and local elected officials joined the college board of trustees, major donors, college foundation members, the campaign steering committee, employees, students, alumni and other friends of the college at a groundbreaking ceremony for a new applied technology building on campus.

Wor-Wic kicks off fundraising campaign at groundbreaking

Community College, announced the start of the public phase of a \$10 million fundraising campaign called "Preparing for a Stronger Tomorrow" at a groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of a new applied technology building that will begin on campus this

The groundbreaking ceremony was attended by more than 100 people, including members of the college board of trustees, state and local dignitaries, major donors, college foundation members, the campaign steering committee, employees, students, alumni and other friends of the college.

Marty Neat, a member of Wor-Wic's board of trustees who is chairing the campaign, said that gifts and pledges totaling \$8 million have been received to date. During the silent phase of the campaign, the college was able to obtain two leadership gifts of \$2 million each, from the Patricia and Alan Guerrieri Charitable Fund and the Richard A. Henson Foundation.

In recognition of the \$2 million gift from Alan Guerrieri, the new applied technology building will be named the Patricia and Alan Guerrieri Technology Center. Private donations designated for technology (up to the first \$500,000) are eligible for Henson Foundation and the State of Maryland

Dr. Ray Hoy, president of Wor-Wic matching funds, while each additional dollar designated for scholarships or technology (up to \$1.5 million) is eligible for the Henson Foundation matching funds.

> Neat explained that the campaign is broken down into three major areas of need - \$2.5 million for high-tech, state-of-the-art equipment for the new building; \$3.5 million for technology across campus that will be used to implement, update and sustain relevant cutting-edge technology across the institution; and \$4 million to support students who are in need but not eligible for other sources of financial aid.

> Neat thanked the donors, saying that "they recognize that the best social program in the world is a job and the best way for a community to progress is to educate and train its greatest resource - its people."

> Hoy reminded those assembled that 90% of Wor-Wic's students stay, live and work in the community, even after they go on and earn advanced degrees. "Our graduates provide the quality trained workforce to meet the needs of our business community."

> The 50,000 square foot building will be located on the south side of the campus on the site of the former soccer field and will support credit programs in the college's occupational

please see groundbreaking on page 14

MCBP to celebrate anniversary

The Maryland Coastal Bays Program (MCBP) is a program dedicated to protecting the five coastal bays located behind Ocean City and Assateague Island through restoration, monitoring, education, and outreach programs.

For twenty-five years MCBP has partnered with a myriad of organizations from the federal level of the Environmental Protection Agency, environmental organizations, businesses, and community members to state and local government agencies coordinating programs to protect and conserve the coastal bays and its inhabitants.

This year MCBP partnered with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Wildlife and Heritage Service,

Church to hold crab feast

The Church of the Holy Spirit at 100th St. and Coastal Highway in Ocean City will be having a fundraising crab feast on October 3 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Food will be served until 4:30 p.m.

The dine-in menu will include crabs, fried chicken, corn on the cob, hush puppies, lemonade, iced tea, soda and desserts. To ensure the safety of others, for those who are not vaccinated or for those who prefer to take a dinner and eat it elsewhere, carry-out will also be available. The carry-out meal will include six crabs, two pieces of chicken, corn on the cob, hush puppies, dessert and a drink.

Crabs are medium large/large and will come from Rippon's Seafood. The chicken is being provided by Higgins Crab House.

In addition to the food, there will be a chance auction and a 50/50 drawing.

The cost for adults is \$45; for children ages 6 to 10, it's \$20; children under 6 eat free.

Tickets are available now, by contacting the Church office at 410-723-1973 or by calling Monica at 443-235-8942. There will be a very limited number of tickets at the door, but pre-sales are strongly encouraged.

Proceeds will benefit the Church of the Holy Spirit and its outreach programs. Refunds will be provided only in the event that the crab feast must be canceled.

Bring your own mallet.

and Audubon Mid-Atlantic on an initiative to research and monitor efforts to preserve three of Maryland's state endangered colonial nesting waterbirds the common tern, royal tern, and black skimmer.

Due to shoreline erosion and sea level rise in the coastal bays, populations of certain colonial nesting bird species have declined by a staggering 90-95% since the mid-80's. These species typically nest on islands in small colonies on barren beaches. The lack of suitable nesting area on these eroding islands has resulted in a loss of sufficient nesting areas for these populations to flourish.

This pilot project – based on similar initiatives in the U.S., Canada and

Europe - involved creating an artificial nesting platform (island) which imitates the characteristics of an ideal nesting beach.

Local wood artisans John Collins and Todd Peterson helped to design and construct platforms that were loaded with crushed clam shell for the birds to nest on and anchored in an undisclosed location in the coastal bays. Local community groups constructed chick shelters and decoys which were placed to attract common terns and black skimmers to this new nesting ground.

The nesting platforms have been monitored throughout the season. If this project is successful, then consideration will be given to launch more in the following years to preserve our diminishing colonial waterbird population. Roman Jesien, of the Maryland Coastal Bays Program states that, "we hope that these nesting platforms work in the short-term while we continue our efforts to restore and conserve our natural islands for the long-term."

This collaborative effort between non-profits, the community, and state government is one of many successful initiatives the program has partaken. MCBP is a consensus non-profit, which means they work with the community on solutions to preserve our precious resources.

The 25th Anniversary Celebration at

please see mcbp on page 14





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Feeling off balance?

By Jennifer Hamilton, DPT, CHT force your body to rely more heavily

Have you noticed that you don't feel as stable on your feet as you use to? Or even worse, have you fallen? I



Jennifer Hamilton several

want to take a minute to briefly explain the 3 systems in your body that control balance, and how physical therapy can help.

Your body needs several different types of feedback and information to

function properly in your everchanging environment. The 3 specific systems in your body that influence balance are Vision, Vestibular, and Proprioception. I want to give a brief and easy to understand description of each. The vision system is just that, what your eyes can see. Your eyes provide a variety of information such as distance, depth, and allows you to plan for upcoming obstacles that you will be walking on or around. So you can understand how any vision deficit will force your body to rely more heavily on the other 2 systems to maintain you balance. Now physical therapy cannot directly make your vision better. But we can help by showing you some visual exercises to help train your eyes to focus more quickly, thus providing better visual feedback to your brain for balance.

The second system is referred to as the Vestibular System. This system is located in your inner ear and provides your brain with information such as where and how your body is positioned in relation to gravity. So, if you are suffering from a Vestibular issue such as Vertigo, you could have a difficult time with simple tasks such as standing due to feeling dizzy or like the "room is spinning". You may not know that we can also treat this in physical therapy. There are very specific hands on treatments that can correct many Vestibular issues, sometimes in just 1 or 2 treatments. Once that is corrected, we can begin with more interactive treatments to help improve your vestibular systems ability

commentary from page 4

Amy Peck wrote, "I have reached out to a number of the Plaintiffs. Not one of them realized they were going to be a named Plaintiff. They were asked if they would sign an affidavit of support. I have also been contacted by other homeowners that were asked if they would sign an affidavit and they declined."

Robert Bauersmith was asked if he knew he was now a plaintiff in the case and wrote, "I did agree to testify if called and assist in any way I could, no, I didn't sign anything. Just my personal opinion but I think the entire episode is a joke and OPA looks to be playing the fool."

Tom Piatti wrote, "I would think an attorney must confirm potential plaintiffs in advance and not from a list of donors or from Facebook comments."

Some association members wonder if these new plaintiffs have actually read the charges brought against OPA board members in the name of the plaintiffs. Accusations such as the following in the court filings:

"Upon information and belief, in its decision-making as alleged above, the Secretary and/or certain (majority) members of the Board acted to disqualify Plaintiff Farr's candidacy as they did, in the midst of the already underway election, to preserve their majority 'voting block' on the Board, i.e., for self-interested political reasons"

Amy Peck saw these charges made by the plaintiffs and wrote, "This is sad. Residents of OP suing OP over a conspiracy theory for a volunteer Board position...and how many of the 43 didn't even realize that is what they were doing. Being a Plaintiff against your Community is not something to take lightly."

Quite plainly, the case has turned ugly and is apparently now far beyond what should be a simple legal question of whether Farr's interest in a family Trust that owns the property qualified him as an eligible board candidate on January 1, 2021.

If you live in Ocean Pines, be sure to contact The Courier if you want the paper each week in your driveway.

Call 410-629-5906

to respond to changes in your body's position. These treatments are also 1 on 1 with the therapist in direct contact with you ensuring safe performance of all training.

The third system is called Proprioception. Simply put, this system uses receptors in your joints and muscles to relay information to your brain so that the brain can respond to help you maintain your balance. For example, when walking up an incline like a handicap ramp, your ankle will bend upwards. This motion at the foot and ankle is sent to your brain so that it can respond by making your body lean forward so that you don't fall backwards. In physical therapy, we will assess the motion at all of the joints in both legs and design a plan to address any restrictions. The most common range of motion limitation that I see in patients with balance issues is the lack of Dorsiflexion (ability to bend the ankle up). Your physical therapist will be able to teach you several ways to stretch the appropriate muscles that can help improve your ankle dorsiflexion. This is just one simple example of how we can identify an issue and design a plan to address it. But more than range of motion, physical therapy will address your muscles response and reaction time through various tasks and activities. These tasks are all guided directly by the PT and performed in a challenging but safe manner.

If you're experiencing even just the slightest balance issue, physical therapy can truly help. A good balance treatment program will be sure to address all 3 systems and custom tailor a treatment plan. Give us a call or stop by our Ocean Pines clinic for more details!

Jennifer Hamilton is owner of Hamilton Physical Therapy. She can be reached at 410-208-3300.

Bertino to host town meeting

Worcester County Commissioner Chip Bertino will host a town meeting on Thursday, September 23 at 6 p.m. at the Ocean Pines library. This will be Commissioner Bertino's first community meeting since before the pandemic. "I'm pleased to restart these meetings," he said. "It will be nice to once again meet personally with residents."

Commissioner Bertino's guest speakers are Rebecca Jones, Worcester County Health Officer, Lou Taylor, Superintendent of Worcester County Schools and Senator Mary Beth Carozza.

"The two areas about which I re-

ceived the most questions during the pandemic related to health issues and our schools. I'm glad Mrs. Jones and Superintendent Taylor will be joining me. They were a big help to me as I worked with constituents who contacted me with questions related to COVID testing sites, vaccination appointments and remote learning issues."

Senator Carozza will provide information on state issues that could impact the Ocean Pines community.

Commissioner Jim Bunting will join the meeting as well.





Heroes - Heroes come from all parts of society and this group of heroes comes from Ocean Pines and Ocean City. They are the captains and mates who provide hours of fun and relaxation for families of Believe in Tomorrow who have children with life threatening illnesses. Believe in Tomorrow and The Children's House by the Sea and its director, Wayne Littleton, and many community volunteers, provide respite housing for the families throughout the summer season along with daily activities.

The Ocean Pines Anglers and the Atlantic Coast Sport Fishing Assoc. sponsors one of these activities which includes, boating, fishing, and sightseeing excursions in our coastal bays. Program Director Budd Heim notes that these trips provide hope and inspiration for the current and future health of these children and their families.

This program has been in existence for approximately eighteen years with hundreds of trips made possible by the captains. This year of the 42 families scheduled 32 trips were completed while weather, illness, and schedule conflicts were a cause of the cancellations. Shown in photo L to R; Steve Fingles, Carl Brown, John Dilworth, John O'Dell, Joan O'Dell, Chuck Elder, Paul Fohner, Ken Thompson, Scott Carstairs, Jimmy Atchison, Mary Ann Atchison. Captains missing from photo; Ricky Kerrigan, John Nowak, Jack Tellman, Fred Stiehl, Claude Lewis.

If you would be interested in participating in this program please call: 410-726-1968. Ask for Elliot.

Boating course offered

Early fall is the best time for boating - less boats on the water leads to a more tranquil and relaxing experience. It is also one of the best times to take the safe boating course and build on your boating knowledge. The new requirement to use an engine cut-off switch, "kill switch" when operating a boat under 26 feet went into effect this year. Learn more by taking the Maryland Safe Boating Course offered October 5, 6, and 7 at the Ocean Pines library between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m.

The Maryland Boating Safety Education Act requires that anyone born after July 1, 1972 must possess a Mary-

land Basic Boating Safety Certificate to operate a boat in the state of Maryland. Those attending the class, and passing the test will receive a Maryland Boating Certificate which is NAS-BLA approved and valid in all states.

A fee of \$20.00 covers the cost of the course and materials. Checks should be made payable to: USGCAUX 12-05 and mailed to: USCGAUX 12-05, PO Box 1682, Berlin, MD 21811.

Payment via PayPAL is also accepted. For more information or to register please contact Barry Cohen at 410-935-4807 or E-mail CGAUXOC@Gmail.com.

Holiday craft fair scheduled

The Pine'eer Craft Club will host the 10th annual Winter Wonderland Holiday Craft Fair on Saturday, November 6 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Ocean Pines Community Center.

The event is free and open to the public.

"We are excited to host the event this year after having to cancel in 2020, because of the COVID-19 pandemic," Nancy Burkett, the event chairperson, said.

Local crafters and many Craft Club members will be there to display and sell their wares.

"We have a wide variety of items, many with a holiday theme, including jewelry, pottery, paintings, soap and bath products, pet products, American doll

please see fair page 14





First week - Students in Danielle Marshall's first grade class celebrated the end of their first week back to school with a fun activity that helped them get to know each other. Each student brought in a bag of items that represented things that are important to them. They took turns speaking in front of and listening to their peers. Pictured from left to right: Hanan Ramadan, Charlie Poulin, Yali Cohen, Benjamin Staley, Adam Ramadan, Ariyah Hayward, Miles Horsey, Anna Gjikuria, Ama Agyei-Mensah, Lia Lugasi and Jesse Perez.

Development program to offer free resume assistance

and Women's Health's, ("Grace Center"), Raising Independent Skilled Employees (R.I.S.E.) workforce development program will offer free assistance with resume development as part of the Grace Center's "Family Fun Day" community resource event. The event is being held on Saturday, September 25, at Stephen Decatur Park, in Berlin, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The R.I.S.E. program's Career Advancement Coordinators will assist interested attendees with resume templates, resume development and career brainstorming. Members of the public between the ages of 16 and 24 who are currently not in school and who are looking to get back in school or find work, will be invited to follow-up meetings with staff where they can learn about the R.I.S.E. workforce development program and available resources. Wor-Wic Community college will also be in attendance to offer enrollment assistance and talk to the public about support and services offered.

The R.I.S.E. program is run in conjunction with the Lower Shore Workforce Alliance (LSWA) in the tricounty area - Somerset, Wicomico

The Grace Center for Maternal and Worcester. The R.I.S.E. team is committed to assisting young adults, ages 16-24, who may find themselves out of work or underemployed, and who may face multiple barriers to their individual success. Participants who enroll in the program are assigned a Career Advancement Coordinator, or "career coach," who works with them to design a plan tailored to match their individual skill level and career goals.

> The R.I.S.E. program also works with local employers to provide valuable, skill-developing internships that can be initially funded by grant stipends for qualified participants. Employers interested should contact, R.I.S.E. Program Manager, Leikia Hallett,

lhallett@gracematernalhealth.org

In addition to featuring the R.I.S.E. program, the Grace Center's Family Fun Day event will include vendors, kid's crafts, games and activities, community resources and entertainment. Admission to the event is free and all are welcome. The Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore is a sponsor of this community event.

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56					57				58					
59					60					61				
62					63						64			

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. One of the four Vedas
- 5. Part of (abbr.)
- 8. At the peak
- 12. African antelope
- 14. Expression of satisfaction
- 15. Yankees' ace
- 16. Belittled
- 18. A baglike structure
- 19. Utah Jazz coach Snyder
- 20. Actress Tomei
- 21. Explosive
- 22. Formal for "on"
- 23. Cruelties
- 26. Country singer Brad
- 30. Make very happy
- 31. Binary compound of hydrogen 61. W. Indian trees with a metal
- 32. Albanian currency
- 33. Subatomic particle

50. Legendary Notre Dame coach 51. Not wide

34. Type of salt

39. 007's creator

44. Railroad flare

42. Emerging

46. Observed

56. An embarrassing mistake

47. Capable of reproduction

49. Indicates adjacent to

- 57 Pearl Jam's debut album 58. Denotes passerine birds
- 59 Stumble
- 60. Midway between east and
- southeast
- 62. You
- 63. Pigpen 64. Be aware of

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Crease
- 2. "Honey" actress Jessica
- 3. Broad volcanic crater
- 4. Product safety watchdog 5. Southern Colombian city
- 6. Part of a church
- 7. Perceptible by touch
- 8. Pronounce not guilty of criminal charges
- 9. Hairpiece
- 10. Variety acts
- 11. "Mystic River" actor Sean
- 13. Remove salt
- 17. Went out with
- 24. Type of bread
- 25. Popular Eagles song
- 26. Philosophy degree
- 27. Yes vote

- 29 No seats available
- 35. Pounds per square inch
- 36. A way to launch an attack on
- 37. The lowest cardinal number
- 38. Popular Miller beer
- 40. Pokes holes in 41. Closest to
- 42. Folk singer DiFranco 43. Rivne's former name
- 44. Flat ruler
- 45. Lacking the means to
- do something
- 47. Cockatoo
- 48. Dred Scott decision deliverer
- 49. Explosion exclamation
- 52. Canadian flyers
- 53. Houston university
- 54. At some prior time
- 28. Passports and licenses are two 55. Red, swollen mark

Answers for September 15

Festa Piccola to feature homemade Italian foods

The Sons and Daughters of Italy Lodge in Ocean City is well-known for its annual St. Joseph's Festival in the spring, where traditional home-made Italian foods were sold for 10 consecutive years, until Covid hit. The Festival held to raise money for lodge charities and high school scholarships, had to be canceled because of COVID concerns.

Not willing to concede to the pandemic, the Lodge has planned a mini festival for October 9. Festa Piccola will offer many of the traditional foods and bakery items that Lodge members have cooked and sold at the St. Joseph's Festival, but for carry out only.

Mark your calendar. Festa Piccola will open its doors at the St. Andrews Parish Hall at 14401 Sinepuxent Avenue, a block of Coastal Highway at a 11 a.m. and serve hot foods until 6 p.m.

The carry-out menu will have ravioli and meat balls, Italian subs, hearty minestrone soup. New items will be homemade meatballs to be purchased separately and homemade tomato sauce. No Italian meal will be complete without baked goods and delicious desserts, and

Last call for Spirit Awards nominations

There's still time to nominate county residents, organizations, and businesses whose volunteer efforts make our community great for the 2021 Volunteer Spirit of Worcester County awards. The nomination deadline has been extended through September 30.

Nominations will be accepted in each of the following nine categories: paramedic response champion, emerging leader, faith-based, lifetime achievement, veteran, local business, group/team, individual, and nonprofit volunteer program.

Nomination forms may be filled out and submitted online at www.worcestervolunteer.org. Once there, click on "News." Hard copies will also be available at all five branch libraries, the County Administration Office in the Worcester County Government Center in Snow Hill, or by contacting Human Resources Director Stacey Norton at 410-632-0090 or snorton@co.worcester.md.us.

these will be available also.

Admission to Festa Piccola is free. The only cost is the food purchased,

The Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America has been in existence in the U.S. since 1905. The Ocean City lodge was started by Italian businessmen and women in May of 1980. Its goals include increasing awareness of the Italian culture and contributions of Italian Americans to the progress of the United States, helping the community through charitable contributions, and promoting Americanism based on absolute loyalty to the Constitution.

Today Ocean City Lodge 2474, with more than 200 members living in Worcester County MD and Sussex County DE, is active throughout the local area, donating to many charitable organizations. The lodge also provides scholarships to young Italian American high school students and helps support the many young men and women who travel from Italy every summer to work in Ocean City and the surrounding resort areas.

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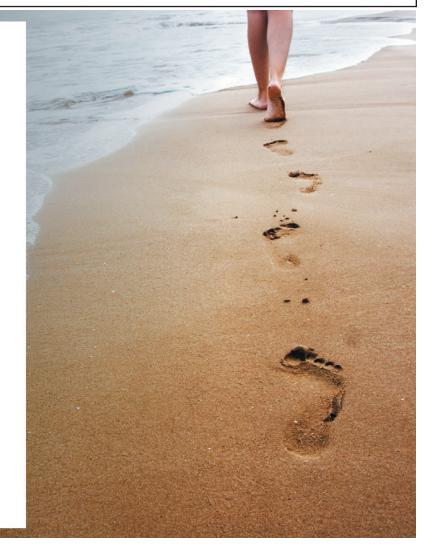
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carbon footprint.





Some things to think about

Gathered from the internet by Jack Barnes

CORONA PRECAUTIONS

I went to the bathroom at a restaurant.

I washed my hands.

Opened the door with my elbow.

Raised the toilet seat with my foot.

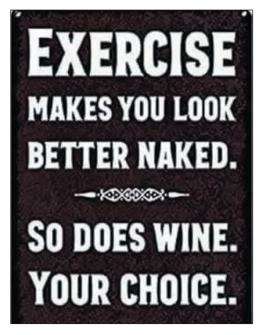
I switched on the water faucet with a tissue.

Opened the bathroom door to leave with my elbow.

And when i returned to my table I realized.... I forgot to pull up my pants!!!'

"I find, these days, that most of my conversations start out with: Did I tell you this already? or What was I going to say?"

The adult version of "head, shoulders, knees and toes" is "wallet, glasses, keys and phone."



I see people around my age mountain climbing, I feel good getting my leg through my underwear with out losing my balance

Did some
financial planning
and it looks like I can
retire at 62 and live
comfortably for
eleven
minutes.

YOU KNOW YOU'RE
GETTING OLD
WHEN A RECLINER
AND A HEATING
PAD IS YOUR IDEA
OF A HOT DATE

PRETTY WILD
HOW WE USED
TO EAT CAKE
AFTER SOMEONE
HAD BLOWN ON IT...
GOOD TIMES...

https://www.facebook.com/ItalyFoodMagazine

Maybe I was raised wrong, but I was taught if you wanted something you worked for it.





Presentation - Jared Parks, a Lands Program Manager with the Lower Shore Land Trust, recently gave a presentation on Invasive Species in Our Gardens to the Worcester County Garden Club. He identified the top ten invasive species and how to combat them. Members were also briefed on efforts of the Lower Eastern Shore - Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (LES-PRISM). ndividuals interested in learning more about Worcester County Garden Club can contact the membership chair at WorCtyGardenClub@gmail.com.

Above are club President Deb Young and Jared Parks.

Annual SHEro award nominations sought

The Art League of Ocean City is seeking nominations for the fourth Annual SHEro Awards 2021, honoring Delmarva women who have shown courage in facing adversity and turned that around into something positive. The deadline for nominations is October 8 at 4 p.m.

Candidates for the SHEro Awards must be 18 years or older and residents of Delmarva, but they do not have to be related to the arts. Nomination forms are available at ArtLeagueOfOceanCity.org.

Past SHEros have included women who are mothers, teachers, volunteers, community organizers, caregivers, nurturers, and business leaders. Some have faced health challenges or worked three jobs to support their families. Some have

volunteered their time and talents or championed a worthy cause.

"We all know someone who is a SHEro. We are asking you to help us find them," Rina Thaler, executive director of the Art League, said. "By sharing the stories of women who do so much, we hope to inspire others. And we want to simply acknowledge everything that women do in their lives that often goes unnoticed."

The Art League will present the SHEro Awards at the Ocean City Center for the Arts, 502 94th St. bayside, on Friday, October 29, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. The public is invited to the free event. The SHEro Awards are part of the Arts Centers' October exhibition celebrating diversity, entitled "I am."



Longtime residents to share Ocean Pines history

As part of Worcester County History Week, Ocean Pines will host a live "History Panel" discussion about the early days of the community, on Sunday, Oct. 10 from 2-4 p.m. at the Community Center.

Guest speakers are scheduled to include longtime Ocean Pines residents Sue Adkins, Jack Barnes, Sharyn O'Hare, Gloria Richards, Alta Weiss, and Ed Moran.

The event, organized by the Ocean Pines Public Relations Department, will expand upon the history section of the Ocean Pines Academy, a virtual, selfpaced civic education course about the Association.

Jenny Cropper Rines, who previously chaired the 50th Anniversary Committee, will moderate the panel discussion.

"We hosted a similar panel as part of the yearlong 50th anniversary celebration and it was very well received. However, there was no video of that event and several of our key speakers have since passed away," she said. "With this new History Panel, we hope to give the live audience a fun and informative view of the early history of Ocean Pines, where they can hear from our guest speakers, but also interact and ask questions."

For those who cannot attend, the History Panel will be recorded and will become a permanent part of the Ocean Pines Academy.

The Public Relations Department also recently produced a new Academy video, "Early History of Ocean Pines, with Marlene Ott and John Talbott."

Ott and Talbott were involved in the real estate business when the community was first developed by Boise Cascade in the late 1960s. To view the video, visit https://youtu.be/IyFQ3jfoL8o.

For more information on the Ocean Pines Academy, visit www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/ocean-pinesacademy.

For more information on Worcester County History Week, visit www.facebook.com/WorcesterCountyHistory-Week.



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Walk Maryland Day scheduled

Day on October 6, the Worcester County Health Department is excited to invite you to walk or move your way and join us for a self-directed Just Walk Scavenger Hunt. Residents can get in their steps from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at one of the following parks:

- -Byrd Park, Snow Hill, Maryland
- -Cypress Park, Pocomoke, Maryland
- -Stephen Decatur Park, Berlin

Residents are encouraged to walk through the park and look for *Just Walk* wellness pumpkins. Those who report the number of wellness pumpkins found, along with a photo taken at one of the parks will be entered into a raffle drawing for a chance to win a free prize.

In celebration of Walk Maryland Submissions should be emailed to crystal.bell1@maryland.gov. This is a great event for anyone and a way to increase physical activity by walking and participating in a scavenger hunt.

> "Walking is the state's official exercise and continues to be one of the easiest forms of physical activity and it's free to everyone. There are many reasons to walk. There are also various health benefits that can be gained from simply walking," said Crystal Bell, Chronic Disease and Tobacco Supervi-

> Register at Eventbrite or visit worcesterhealth.org. For more information, please call 410-632-1100, Ext.

from page 7

Windmill Creek Vineyard and Winery, Thursday, September 30, beginning at 4:30 p.m.

This outdoor celebration will feature a big screen showing of "The Biggest Little Farm" with an introduction from the creators, live music, a silent auction, demo food & drink!

This family-friendly event is \$20 for adults & free for children! Visit www.mdcoastalbays.org for advanced ticket purchases.

For more details on this event or on current MCBP projects contact Sandi Smith at sandis@mdcoastalbays.org or by calling 410-213-2297, ext. 106.

clothes, candles, stained glass, pillows, and cross-stitched items," Burkett said. "All items are handcrafted and make wonderful gifts for the holidays.

fair

from page 9

"We'll also have some unusual, one-of-a-kind things," she continbooths, kid's activities, and delicious ued. "We'll have fabric decorated plates, quilted items, gourd houses. wood-carved ducks and birds, and so much more."

> The event will also feature local artists like Jim Adcock, who is well known for painting landscape scenes of Ocean Pines, Berlin, Ocean City and other surrounding areas.

> Burkett recommended that shoppers come early, as many items sell out quickly.

> "This is a popular event, so the earlier the better," she said. "We'll also have a bake sale of all homemade goodies. The bake sale is usually sold out by noon!"

> Additionally, breakfast and lunch items will be available for sale by the Kiwanis Club.

> The Pine'eer Craft Club will donate proceeds from the Winter Wonderland Holiday Craft Fair back to the Ocean Pines community. Active since 1974, the Craft Club has donated more than \$170,000 to groups like Ocean Pines' Recreation and Parks, Police and Fire departments, and the Worcester County Veterans Memorial in Ocean Pines.

> For more information on the Pine'eer Craft Club, https://www.oceanpines.org/web/p ages/artisan-craft-shop.

foundation

from page 4

creativity, while reflecting the colors of the WCPS branding. While the logo is the most eye-catching update, the expansion of the focus area to include science, engineering, art, and mathematics to the existing technology focus will be the most impactful.

"The foundation has so much to

Tides for Ocean City Inlet

Day	High Tide /Low Time
Th 23	Low 3:45 AM
23	High 10:09 AM
23	Low 4:12 PM
23	High 10:29 PM
F 24	Low 4:21 AM
24	High 10:49 AM
24	Low 4:55 PM
24	High 11:08 PM
Sa 25	Low 4:58 AM
25	High 11:29 AM
25	Low 5:40 PM
25	High 11:48 PM
Su 26	Low 5:38 AM
26	High 12:12 PM
26	Low 6:28 PM
M 27	High 12:31 AM
27	Low 6:22 AM
27	High 12:59 PM
27	Low 7:20 PM
Tu 28	High 1:19 AM
28	Low 7:11 AM
28	High 1:53 PM
28	Low 8:15 PM
W 29	High 2:15 AM
29	Low 8:06 AM
29	High 2:53 PM
29	Low 9:13 PM

celebrate by surpassing our first million dollars raised. We want to keep the excitement going while best supporting our students," says Momme. "The impact to-date is impressive, but the new changes will certainly help to nurture future growth."

To date, WCEF has given over \$210,000 to WCPS to support needs within the school system. These requests included computer cases, carts of Chromebooks, iPads, mobile hotspots with service, and a robot for home/hospital distance learning. Through the WCEF Teacher Grant program, over \$22,000 has been awarded to teachers to bring innovative new programs to WCPS classrooms. This has directly impacted over 7,600 students. Additionally, over \$500,000 has been placed in an endowment to help fund future endeavors and continue the foundation's work towards their vision while maintaining sustainability.

Visit weed.foundation to explore the new website, brand, and see how you can get involved.

Worcester County Education Foundation is committed to supporting WCPS students. While Worcester County Public Schools has over 46% of students coming from homes of poverty, with an additional 30% on the verge, according to the 2020 ALICE Report, WCPS receives the second lowest funding per student from the WCEF strives to enhance achievement, both inside and outside of the classroom, and prepare each Worcester County Public School student, for current and future success through the effective utilization of innovation, relationships, and resources.

groundbreaking

from page 6

education division, with an emphasis on applied and emerging technologies such as industrial technology, supply chain management and alternative energy, as well as current and additional workforce development courses in the areas of transportation and industrial trades.

The building will also include a makerspace multipurpose laboratory where students and community members can gather to create. invent and learn. Several specialized industrial laboratories, a computer laboratory, classrooms, student study spaces, a conference room and offices to accommodate credit and non-credit employees to support these programs will also be housed in the new building.

In addition to the building, the project includes new roadways and an expanded parking lot in front of Brunkhorst Hall. The parking lot expansion will provide additional parking spaces for visitors who are seeking registration and/or financial aid services. The entrance roadway and Brunkhorst parking lot enhancements will also improve the flow of traffic and pedestrian safety throughout the campus.

Scheduled for completion before the fall of 2023, the \$36 million building project is funded by the State of Maryland and Wicomico and Worcester counties. The Becker Morgan Group won the bid for architectural services, with Whiting-Turner as the construction management firm.

Anyone interested in making a donation to the campaign can send a check made payable to the Wor-Wic Foundation, 32000 Campus Dr., Salisbury, MD 21804, with "Stronger Tomorrow" written on the memo portion. Or, click the "Donate" link at the top right of the college website and designate your gift for the "Preparing for a Stronger Tomorrow" campaign.

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- Policy numbers for any other insurance



