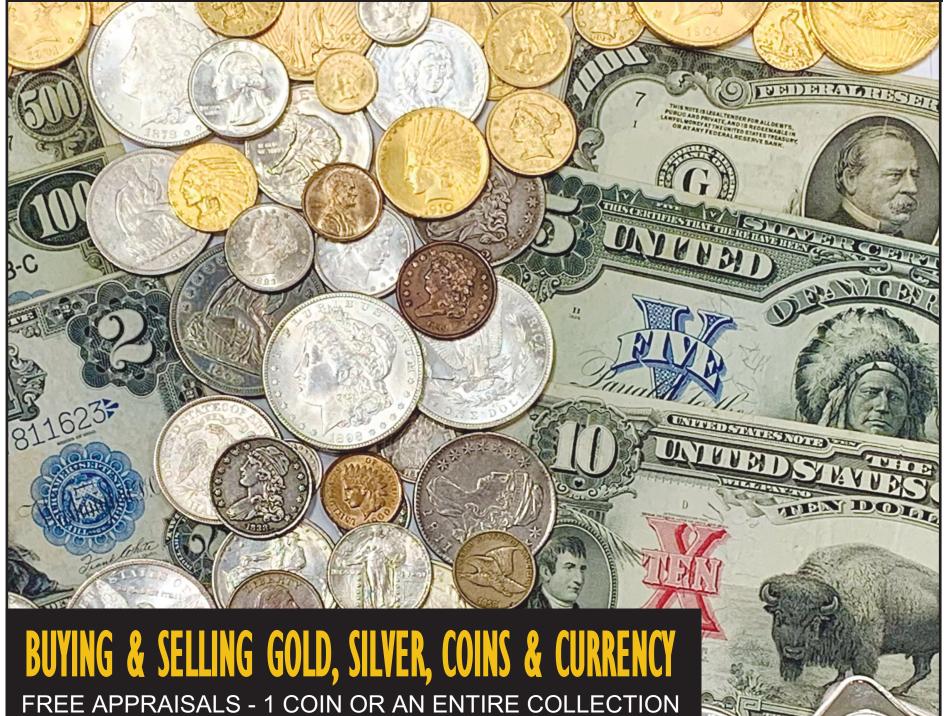


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Ocean City's annual Corporate Partner Juried Show, and will be on display in The Galleria of the Ocean City Center for the Arts until April 30.

"Over the years, I have used pencil, ink, oils, pastels, and markers," he said. "I once even used the car-

cass of a VW Beetle for a sculp-

me...THIS IS A PAINTING!"

Born and raised in Baltimore, Hartman graduated from Calvert Hall College High School and went on to study fine arts and photography at the Maryland Institute College of Art. A family illness prevented him from finishing his final semesters, so he began a career in construction, which became his lifelong vocation.

"We're following our long-time dream," Don Hartman said about relocating to Ocean Pines in 2019 from Colorado. "My sister and her husband owned a vacation house on a canal in Ocean City. They graciously let us use their pontoon whenever we visited. One day while boating along the St. Martin River, I introduced Cheryl, my soon to be wife, to Ocean Pines. As we cruised by the houses along the river, we became enchanted by the thought of retiring there. So right there and then, this became our dream."

"Three days a week, we do 15-mile bike rides throughout Ocean Pines, and that keeps us up to date on renovations and new houses being built. We enjoy reading all the local newspapers."

When the Hartmans retired and moved to Ocean Pines, Hartman discovered more time to paint. "My wife is my inspiration," he said. "She was the one who encouraged me to start painting again after a 20-year hiatus. She keeps me passionate about my work when she reminds me that I need to continue because it feeds my soul."

Hartman's paintings are bold and colorful and pure fun to look at. A new work recently won Honorable

Affordable housing champion now makes art in Ocean Pines

By Elaine Bean

ture way back in high school. Now I choose acrylic paints for my paintings. Although I love oil paints, I think acrylics are less toxic to the environment."

Hartman paints in his home studio in Ocean Pines, a skylit loft space he calls "glorious" that allows him to paint with natural light. "Art is the window to the soul of humanity; take a peek and maybe it will help understanding one another," he said.

"My early works were spontaneous, and I would start with a blank canvas and just let my emotions guide my brush. I progressed to painting in series with an intrigue of graffiti that covered buildings in neighborhoods where I worked [in affordable housing]. I continue to work in series, from ideas that pop into my head. Sometimes it's a word or a phrase that entices me. Once I have that series theme, I just start

He retired as Director of Housing Development for the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless.

"My career in affordable housing took us from Baltimore City to Phoenix, Az., Grand Junction, CO., and finally to Denver. I have developed over 500 units of affordable housing, ranging from row house renovations to single family homes, to developing midrise apartments."

"I think my crowning achievements were my last two projects in Denver," he continued. "I developed the first Community Health Center for the homeless which included 79 care rooms, a pharmacy, a dental office, and an optometry office all dedicated to both physical and mental health of the community. The fivestory building also has 72 apartments. I ended my career with a 101-unit building dedicated to housing former felons."

In the early 1990s, Hartman spent three years in Japan building "American style homes" that were marketed as affordable in Takamatsu on the southern island of Shikoku.

"I loved the Japanese culture and had the opportunity to travel throughout the country. From the Sakura Matsuri (cherry blossom festival) in Kyoto to the Yuki Matsuri (snow festival) in Sapporo, I felt the heart and soul of the people I met. One moment I will never forget: One night after work while in a Yakitori restaurant, I was having a few beers with fellow workers, when a Japanese man at a table next to us leaned over and said in English, 'Pearl Harbor, I am so sorry,' to which I replied, 'Hiroshima, I am sorry'."

The move to the water-rich Delmarva peninsula from the high desert of Colorado continues to feed Hartman's soul.

"My sign is Aquarius, and I was born in the year of the dragon, so it's a no-brainer that a water bearer needs to be near the water," he said. "I live on a canal in the Pines, so the water is there every morning to greet me when I wake up, and the ocean is just a short ride over the Rt. 90 bridge ... There is so much to love about the Eastern Shore — the wildlife, migrating birds, farms, trees, history of the area, and the gentle solitude my wife offers when she says, 'We are so blessed to live here'."



Commentary

\$7 million for firehouse

Commentary by Joe Reynolds OceanPinesForum.com

It looks like the Ocean Pines Association could soon have a referendum



requesting members to approve spending about \$4.5 million for a renovation/expansion of the southside firehouse.

With a total project cost of \$7 million, the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Depart-

ment (OPVFD) will receive a previously announced sum of \$1.35 million from the state. The department says it can possibly contribute about the same from savings. That leaves any balance coming primarily via Ocean Pines property owner assessments.

There may also be a scenario where an OPA referendum might not be reguired. Possible, perhaps, if the OPVFD can obtain a mortgage for the needed funds without OPA securing the loan. Then the yearly mortgage payments, perhaps \$300,000 or so, would be included as an addition to the OPA budget for the OPVFD. Likely? Perhaps. Perhaps not.

OPVFD is an independent non-profit corporation. OPA's governing documents require the association to provide fire protection. OPA has a contractual agreement with the OPVFD to provide that service. It essentially says OPA will cover OPVFD expenses over and above what OPVFD can obtain from other revenue sources. The agreement does not mandate any OPA payment but OPA has more or less covered additional funds needed for fire and EMS service for decades via funds collected as a part of the OPA annual budget. As a practical matter, the OPVFD submits a budget proposal to OPA each year, very much like OPA's own departments.

OPVFD provides a critically important service and does it extremely well.

The last large dollar referendum for the OPA was also about \$4.5 million. That was for the new Yacht Club and passed with strong support back in

In recent years the Town of Ocean City approved a new fire station at a cost of around \$5 million but costs came in closer to \$12 million, a number reduced later by around \$3 million. Ocean City also raised the issue of building ownership. OPA has not addressed that issue.

Note there is no mention of the unmanned northside fire station. At one point, the word was the fire department wanted OPA to buy that building for \$3 million. OPVFD says that is fake news.

OPVFD President David VanGasbeck said the project is part renovation and part new construction. The existing bays, where fire and EMS vehicles are housed, will remain intact.

"It is a renovation in the sense that we are retaining the existing three bays," he said. "We are adding a twostory building ... and we are going to add another bay and a work area."

VanGasbeck said the extra bay would house a third EMS vehicle, which currently stays at the north fire station. The two-story building would house the rest of the operation, which includes storage, office space, and living quar-

Given the recent construction cost of a brand-new facility in Ocean City, and this proposed project, keeping the existing vehicle bays while adding an additional ambulance bay, the obvious question is why a cost of \$7 million to primarily remove the existing living and office space and replace with a new two-story addition.

OPVFD will address these issues in an upcoming Town Hall meeting. The date is not yet set.



On April 20, 1986, the Chicago Bulls' Michael Jordan scored 63 points in an NBA playoff game against the Boston Celtics, setting a post-season scoring record. Despite Jordan's achievement, the Bulls lost to the Celtics in double overtime, 135-131. Boston swept the three-game series and went on to win the NBA championship.

A standout player at the University of North Carolina, Jordan was drafted by the Chicago Bulls in 1984, the third overall selection behind Hakeem Olajuwon, who went to the Houston Rockets, and Sam Bowie, who joined the Portland Trail Blazers. The 6'6" Jordan quickly established himself as a star in the NBA. He was named the league's Rookie of the Year and led the Bulls in scoring, assists, rebounding and steals. The Bulls made it to the playoffs that year, but lost to the Milwaukee Bucks. Jordan had to sit out much of his second season due to a broken foot; however, he returned in time to join his team in the playoffs.

Lower Shore Land Trust to host native plant sale

The 15th Annual Native Plant Sale is underway, hosted by the Lower Shore Land Trust (LSLT). Orders are being accepted until April 29 and will be filled and ready for pickup on May 6

There will be more than 125 varieties of native plants, shrubs, and trees – an offering of plants with blooming times from March through October. Native plants beautify landscapes and support a healthier environment. The populations of pollinators like bees, butterflies, dragonflies, etc., have been on a sharp decline over the past decade. Declines in pollinating insects and birds is a big problem because 1 out of every 3 bites of food requires pollination. Furthermore, more than 90% of all known flowering plants, and almost all fruits, vegetables and grains, require pollination to produce crops. This event seeks to celebrate pollinators and educate the public on their vital importance.

Orders for this event must be placed by Friday, April 29. The order form is available at www.lowershorelandtrust.org on the News and Events

If tomato-loving shoppers were tasked with sorting through each variety of tomato whenever they visited their local grocery store or farmers markets, then such trips could take a considerable amount of time. That's because there are thousands of varieties of tomato. The home gardening enthusiasts at Home Garden Vegetables

> (homegardenveg.com) note that there are at least 10,000 unique tomato varieties across the globe. Flavor could have a lot to do with that, as tomatoes are popular ingredients in dishes spanning the globe. Individuals who want their tomatoes to pack the most healthy punch possible may want to cook them in olive oil. Cooking tomatoes breaks down cell walls and releases the antioxidant lycopene, which has been linked to reduced risk for stroke, lower cholesterol and eye health. Consumer Reports also notes that lycopene is fat-soluble,

which means it's more effectively absorbed when eaten with some fat.

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Did You

Know...

The garden gene

Spring conjures up memories of watching my mother kneeling in front of one of her garden beds, her gloved hands working the soil, pulling weeds, removing dead leaves and making a hole into which to place one of the many flower

our mother's chagrin. Eventually we'd have to help load up the car trunk being careful not to break any of the flower stems. Once home, the process was reversed. Our mother would point to which garden bed we were to place each flower

flat. We boys couldn't wait to be liberated from these duties so we could jump on our bikes and go someplace, anyplace.

My mother was and is always most relaxed when she is in her garden among her plants. She takes great pride

in creating and sculpting her gardens, reinventing them whenever the muse inspires her. When she was making her way up the corporate ladder, her gardening time was limited. Since retiring for the second time a few years ago her gar-



It's All About...
By Chip Bertino
chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

plants sitting in a tray beside her. She would spend as much time as she could in one garden or another. In creating and sculpting her gardens, rewould spend as much time as she could inventing them whenever the muse inspires her. When she was making her

I remember a lot of marigolds, begonias and geraniums. There were other flowers too, but the names are lost to

time. My mother would attempt to entice my brother and me to assist her in cleaning the winter debris from the garden beds. If memory serves, she paid us a dollar for each Hefty bag we filled. Most of the times we weren't as industrious as she thought we should be, and would tell us so. Her anger flared when she found that we only partially filled a bag. For us

to get paid, the bags had to be filled to the point of exploding.

My mother's passion for gardening came from her grandmother, Jeanne, a French immigrant who emigrated to this country in April 1912. Family lore tells that she missed passage on the *Titanic* from Cherbourg, France and thus sailed to the New World aboard another vessel. Don't know definitively if that's true, but that's the lore.

Through the years my mother has told of Jeanne's gardening prowess and her passion for roses, at times creating her own hybrids. My mother certainly picked up the family gardening gene and made it her own.

My mother had a couple of select gardening shops and nurseries she would frequent. Some come to mind more quickly than others such as Gaudio's on Roosevelt Boulevard. There was another one off Red Lion Road (I think) and another one in Feasterville. Mom would walk around looking at different plants, sometimes talking to one of the associates. My brother and I lagged behind her enthusiastically stomping in mud puddles between the plant tables, much to



den time is unlimited, just the way she likes it. The results have been breathtaking.

For as much as we resisted and hated raking leaves, digging holes for new shrubbery and going back and forth to this and that nursery, my brother and I too found that we have the garden gene, maybe not in the same way as our mother, but it's there. My brother attractively landscaped part of his backyard with different species of shrubs and trees. He can discuss the names and characteristics of what he's planted and why he planted them where he did. Me? That red flower looks nice so I think I'll plant it over there.

Several years ago, frustrated because grass would not grow in the backyard, I purchased and planted some discounted shrubs and plants. The plants rooted in the soil and a passion for gardening rooted in me. I spend what time I can in my garden, on my knees, my gloved hands working the soil, plant flats at my side. There's something calming, even tranquil, about spending time in the garden, interacting with nature, being one with nature. Ahhh.



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AGH announces new president, CEO

Atlantic General Hospital and Health System is set to welcome a new leader who is excited to become a part of

the AGH family and the community.



Donald Owrev

The Board of Trustees has selected Donald Owrey, MBA., FACHE, to serve as the next President and CEO for Atlantic General Hospital and Health System beginning June 1,

2022. The Board described Don as the ideal choice from an extensive pool of candidates provided by the national search company, WittKieffer. They noted that his credentials, background, and personal philosophy are a perfect fit for the organization's mission, vision and values.

Don brings over 30 years of health care experience and leading regional health care strategy to AGH. He has spent the past 20 years in various leadership roles with the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC). Most recently, in addition to his role as President of UPMC Williamsport, he served as the COO for UPMC's northern region, which was comprised of 6 rural and community hospitals, a 450provider medical group, and over 5,000 employees. While there, Don was directly responsible for establishing the strategic direction and providing operational leadership for the systems hospitals and providers resulting in consistent operating margin improvements, year over year advances in Press Ganey patient experience scores and notable gains in patient safety and quality, and impressive employee engagement ratings. In this position, Don led the development of a fully accredited Level 2 trauma center at UPMC Williamsport and oversaw \$90 million in capital improvement projects, including a cancer center expansion, a 30-bed inpatient rehabilitation unit, and numerous other program expansion and infrastructure projects.

The Board described Don as a transformational leader with excellent organizational skills and a proven track record of success in hospital progression, clinical program development, improved patient experience and quality outcomes, employee and physician engagement,

revenue growth and care model redesign.

Prior to his role in Williamsport, PA, Don served 11 years as President of 3 UPMC hospitals in Western Pennsylvania. His career with UPMC also includes leadership positions with UPMC Health Plan and UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh.—

Don graduated from Thiel College, Greenville, and earned a master's degree in business administration from Robert Morris University, Pittsburgh

He calls it a privilege to join the AGH family, care givers, strong leadership team and medical staff.

"Don's appointment is the result of an extensive process lead by our search committee chair, Charlotte Cathell and our search committee members comprised of board members, former board members, hospital leadership and staff, medical staff providers and community leaders," said Greg Shockley, Chair of the Atlantic General Hospital Board of Trustees. "We are extremely excited to welcome Don to the AGH family and look forward to working with him as our new leader."

In his previous community, Don served in various civic roles including local and regional Chambers of Commerce, Economic Development Corporations, Thiel College, community college and area school boards, the United Way, YMCA, and Young Life organizations.

"I am incredibly honored to join Atlantic General Hospital and excited for my wife and I to become part of the community. From my very first interactions with the board and then throughout the discussions and interactions I had with the medical staff, employees, and community leaders, I was struck by their deep appreciation for the hospital and its commitment to the community," said Owrey. "The values are in perfect alignment with my own. Even with all its complexities, health care is local and remains deeply personal where relationships and trust matter the most. It's such an honor for me to join the outstanding team at AGH and to ensure that residents from across the region have access to quality care that is compassionate, coordinated and personalized for the patient."

Don and his wife, Kelly, have 3 grown children and enjoy outdoor activities, the beach and biking.



Winners announced

The Worcester County Arts Council announced the winners of the juried art competition: "Down to Earth. Entries in this competition are featured in the exhibit at the Arts Council's Gallery and include twenty-eight pieces of artwork submitted by eighteen established and emerging artists with work in all media.

Rebekah Simonds won first place for her mixed media painting "Luminescence." Kathy Gibson placed second for "Eye of the Storm," mixed media. Jason Giusti won third place for his glass sculpture, "Freyr."

Honorable mention awards were presented to Dee Brua, Gail Stern, and Martha Pileggi.

The winning artwork was selected by accomplished local artist, Doris Glovier.

Winners were honored at the opening reception held on April 8 at the Arts Council Gallery located at 6 Jefferson Street in downtown Berlin.

The exhibit will continue to be on display through April 30. The Gallery hours are Tuesday - Sunday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m..

Eco-therapy camps teach coping skills

"My son is a different child after his week at camp, more confident in his overall demeanor, and is more self-assured. The change is remarkable."

This was one of many comments from parents and campers following the Eco-Therapy Adventure Camps in the COVID summer of 2021. This summer's camps will welcome more campers, and give more kids the tools to learn coping skills through a week of outdoor activities that are challenging and fun.

Three five-day camps are scheduled, beginning in late July and extending through mid-August. A variety of activities, from surfing and paddleboard lessons to hiking and boating our back bays offer different challenges every day. All are outdoors, in Worcester County. The first camp is for kids ages 12 to 15, the second for boys and girls from 8 to 11, and the third for campers ages 8 to 14. All ses-

sions are hosted by locals experienced in providing safe outdoor activities.

The brainstorm of a social worker and a family therapist, both of whom have worked extensively with young children and adolescents, Eco-Therapy Adventure Camps recognize that young people face unprecedented stress, made more difficult because of the isolation imposed upon them by the pandemic. "The mission of our camps is to provide the healing powers of nature, the challenges of adventure-based therapy, and the wisdom of eco-therapy practices to increase our children's ability to live well in today's world," said camp organizer Tiffany Barry.

Each camp is limited to 15 participants, and registration is open. To learn more about Eco-Therapy Adventure Camp, and to register young people, visit https://brightbaywellness.com/summer-camps, or call 302-259-1093.



NAACP president addresses Kiwanis

On April 13, Worcester County NAACP President Ivory Smith addressed the Kiwanis club. Smith is also the President of the Worcester County Education Support Personnel Association, an Ocean City Elementary School educator and was recently elected as a National Education Association Support Personnel Director at Large. He spoke of the progress made by the NAACP in Worcester County, especially in education.

Sun, June 19

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Pictured (R-L) Kiwanis Club President Tim Lund and Ivory Smith.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle takes center stage at Bay Day

The Maryland Coastal Bays Program (MCBP) and Ocean Pines Association will host the third annual Bay Day on Sunday, May 15 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at White Horse Park in Ocean Pines. The mission of Bay Day is to educate residents on how they can make a positive impact in our Coastal Bays. Each year at Bay Day a method of watershed protection is highlighted. This year the focus is on reusing and recycling!

Did you know that only plastics with the #1 and #2 symbols are recyclable in Worcester County (and some #5 soap bottles, but no PP!)? This means plastic grocery/shopping bags and bottle caps are NOT recyclable in our county. But don't worry they are recyclable!! At Bay Day, MCBP will be collecting these items and more to be properly recycled. Community members are encouraged to save plastic bags, bottle caps, and household batteries leading up to May 15th. On the big day they can drop them off at the dedicated recycling station.

Some of the Bay Day exhibitors will also be getting in on the fun! Go Green OC will collect compostable items during Bay Day. Individuals should freeze their food waste and bring it to the Go Green OC exhibit booth on May 15th. Examples of acceptable food waste include fruit rinds, coffee grounds, eggshells, meat bones, fish, etc. If you can eat it, Go Green OC will take it. Also, Caprichos Books, a local mobile book shop, will hold a secondhand book collection and exchange in the recycling

Bay Day is a collaborative effort between Maryland Coastal Bays Program and Ocean Pines Association to offer the community a free opportunity to learn about the environmental efforts happening in the area and inspire individuals to care for the watershed right from their backyards.

For more information on the Bay Day event, or if you are interested in participating as an exhibitor, contact Liz Wist at lwist@mdcoastalbays.org or 410-213-2297 ext. 110, or visit mdcoastalbays.org. If you are interested in volunteering at Bay Day, please email kkavanagh@mdcoastalbays.org.

\$45/person ages 18+for 7 weeks



Health Dept. awarded re-accreditation

Worcester County Health Department has earned The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval for Behavioral Health Care and Human Services Re-Accreditation by demonstrating continuous compliance with its performance standards. The Gold Seal is a symbol of quality that reflects a health care organization's commitment to providing safe and quality patient care.

Worcester County Health Department underwent a rigorous, unannounced onsite review on February 7. During the visit, a team of Joint Commission reviewers evaluated compliance with Behavioral Health standards spanning several areas including emergency management, environment of care, infection prevention and control, leadership, medication management, treatment and care, and quality improvement.

The Joint Commission's standards are developed in consultation with health care experts and providers, measurement experts and patients. They are informed by scientific literature and expert consensus to help health care organizations measure, assess and improve performance. The surveyors also conducted onsite observations and interviews.

"As a private accreditor, The Joint Commission surveys health care organizations to protect the public by identifying deficiencies in care and working with those organizations to correct them as quickly and sustainably as possible," says Mark Pelletier, RN, MS, chief oper-

ating officer, Accreditation and Certification Operations, and chief nursing executive, The Joint Commission. "We commend Worcester County Health Department for its continuous quality improvement efforts in patient safety and quality of care."

"We are proud to once again be accredited by the Joint Commission. Despite the challenges of the last two years, our staff has continued to improve plans and processes and will continue these efforts to provide quality care to Worcester County citizens. This re-accreditation would not be possible without the dedication and hard work of our staff. I am grateful to work with such an amazing team to provide exceptional services for our community," says Rebecca Jones, Health Officer, Worcester County Health Department.

Worcester County Health Department earned esteemed Joint Commission re-accreditation by demonstrating compliance with The Joint Commission's national standards for health care quality and safety in behavioral health care and human services. Achieving accreditation from the Joint Commission is a team effort that brings confidence to patients and provides a framework for the best care possible.

For more information, please visit The Joint Commission website. For more information about all the programs offered by the health department, please visit worcesterhealth.org and follow us on social media @worcesterhealth.



Changing seasons - Kathy Huyett's PM PreK-4 class at Ocean City Elementary recently read the story, When Spring Comes by Kevin Henkes and learned about some of the things that happen when the seasons change. Their favorite part of the day was the April Showers Bring May Flowers culminating activity.



DAR officers honored

Four Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Chapters on the Eastern Shore recently honored their respective members serving as officers of the Maryland State Society DAR during a combined tea at the Poplar Hill Mansion in Salisbury. General Perry Benson Chapter honored State Treasurer Libby Hinson, Great Choptank Parish Chapter honored State Registrar Sue Brenchley, Samuel Chase Chapter honored State Curator Lee Ellen Griffith, and General Levin Winder Chapter honored State Editor Pat Arata. The four state officers were installed in July 2021 and serve a term of three years.

The DAR is a women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and securing America's future through better education. For more information, visit www.dar.org or http://GeneralLevinWinder.marylanddar.org.

Photo (L-R): General Perry Benson Chapter Regent Jerry Seiler, State Treasurer Libby Hinson, State Registrar Sue Brenchley, Great Choptank Parish Chapter Regent Robin Herman, Maryland DAR State Regent Mernie Crane, State Curator Lee Ellen Griffith, Samuel Chase Chapter Regent Marion Robinette, State Editor Pat Arata and General Levin Winder Chapter Regent Gail Weldin.





Wor-Wic students inducted into PTK

Nine Wor-Wic Community College students participated in an induction ceremony for the Alpha Nu Omicron chapter of Phi Theta Kappa at the college campus on the corner of Route 50 and Walston Switch Road in Salisbury.

Advisors of the chapter include Dr. Dana Burnside, professor of communication studies, Dr. Pamela G. Budd, assistant professor of nursing, and Amanda Messatzzia, associate dean of enrollment management and student services.

Phi Theta Kappa is an international honor society for community college students. The Alpha Nu Omicron chapter was chartered at Wor-Wic in September of 1987.

Students from Worcester County recently inducted into the Alpha Nu Omicron chapter of Phi Theta Kappa at Wor-Wic Community College are shown, from left, **Nathaniel Elko** of Ocean City, **Svetlana Sadakbaeva** of Pocomoke City, **Morgan Schroeder** of Ocean City and **Verne' Shaw-Johnson** of Newark.



GOLD announces new board president, members

Worcester County GOLD (Giving Other Lives Dignity) announced the appointment of a new Board President, Shannon Wright, and five new Board Members, Stephen Martin, Victoria O'Neill, Dawn Wagner, Tracey L. White, and Robin L. Gribble.

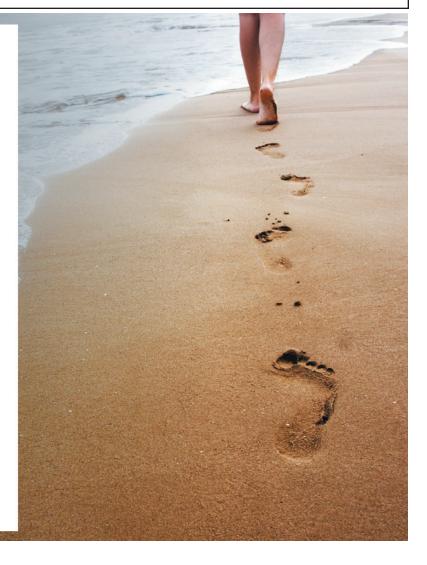
"GOLD, as an organization, fills a very unique and specific gap. Individuals cannot predict when circumstances will arise that will affect their ability to maintain housing and utilities, provide food for their families, pay medical bills, etc. GOLD's mission directly correlates to such time and provides an undeniable impact on the lives of those individuals and their families." Said Wright. "I'm thrilled to have been given the opportunity to step into the role of Board President and join fellow Board Members in supporting GOLD's mission."

Wright is an American Sign Language Interpreter, Orientation & Mobility Specialist, and Vision Rehabilitation Therapist. She joined GOLD in 2015 as a volunteer and was

Using natural gas in your home or at your business can reduce your carbon footprint.









It's that time of year to start thinking about boating safety

Having been boating for most of my life and like you I have seen many boaters who don't practice safety or good boating manners on the water or while docking. We have all seen many boats aground speeding in no wake zones, having boats pull a stern asking what the markers mean or how to get back to where they started from. Also, I ran out of gas and don't have an anchor, or I ran aground, etc.

Important statistics from the United States Coast Guard:

According to the United States Coast Guard in 2020 there were 5,265 boating accidents that resulted in 767 deaths, 3,191 injuries and approximately \$62.5 million dollars of damage to property as a result of recreational boating accidents.

Where cause of death was known, 75% of fatal boating accident victims drowned and of those drowning victims 86% were not wearing a life jacket.

77% of deaths occurred on boats where the operator did not receive boating safety instruction.

There were 247 accidents in which at least one person was struck by a propeller. Collectively, these accidents resulted in 39 deaths and 241 injuries.

Alcohol use was listed as the leading factor in 18% of the deaths.

Twenty-two children under age thirteen lost their lives while boating in 2015. Twelve or 55% died from drowning. Only two children (17%) were wearing a life jacket.

Eight out of every ten boaters who drowned were using vessels less than 21 feet in length.

Operator inattention, operator inexperience, improper lookout, excessive speed, and machinery failure rank as the top five primary contributing factors in accidents.

Compared to 2019, the number of accidents increased 26.3%, the number of deaths increased 25.1% and the number of injuries increased 24.7%.

Where data was known, the most common vessel types involved in reported accidents were open motorboats

(46%), personal watercraft (22%), and cabin motorboats (13%).

Where data was known, the vessel types with the highest percentage of deaths were open motorboats (50%), Kayaks (15%), and pontoons (9%)

As you are quite aware we had a number of boating accidents here in the local bays with at least two involving propellers.

According to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources a typical three-blade propeller running at 3,200 rpm can inflict up to 160 impacts in one second and a typical recreational prop can travel from head to toe on an average person in less than one tenth of a second.

We owe a great deal of credit to the Coast Guard and Department of Natural Resources Police for the great job they do policing our waterways and if you spend any time on the water during the summer months you should be aware that they are always busy.

What can you do to prevent propeller

Never permit passengers to ride on the bow, gunwale, transom, seat backs, or other locations where they might fall overboard.

Consider taking a safe boating course offered by the Coast Guard Auxiliary or the Power Squadron. Only 12% of boating deaths occurred on vessels where the operator had received a nationally-approved boating safety education certificate. I took this course myself and it is well worth the time. Most of these courses are advertised locally.

You can also take a certified online course offered by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources at www.boated.com/maryland. Cost \$39.95

Boating safety is very important as many accidents can be prevented if you know the rules of safe boating. Do yourself a favor and take a course you will be surprised at what you don't know about safe boating.

> Remember to take a kid fishing Capt. Ron

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44						45	46	47						
48						49								
50						51								
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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. A woman of refinement
- 7. Body part
- 10. One who imitates
- 12. Tropical Asian starlings
- 13. A type of delivery 14. W. Australian capital
- 15. Many wombs
- 16. Wings
- 17. Expression of amusement
- 18. Brews
- 19. Mild yellow Dutch cheese
- 21. Mild expression 22. Solitary
- 27. Distance to top
- 28. The rebirth of a soul in a new

- 33. Police who investigate police (abbr.)
- 34. Begrudged
- 36. Popular sports league
- 37. Autonomous republic of Russia
- 38. Double-headed drum
- 39. Type of light bulb
- 40. Czech River
- 41. Male servants (Span.)
- 44. Previously
- 48. Metrical foot
- 49. Days that follow Mondays
- 50. Small European viper
- 51. News shows have one

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Inspiration
- 2. Resembling wings
- 3. Form of Persian
- 5. Extinct flightless bird of New Zealand
- 6. Sea eagle
- 7. Jaguarundis
- 8. Poker stake
- 9. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
- 10. South American nation
- 11. A colorless, odorless gas
- 12. Disturbance
- 14. Artist's tool
- 17. Polish peninsula
- 18. Ottoman military leaders
- 23. Drinking glass 24. Central Florida city
- 20. Bird-like dinosaur

- 25. One's mother
- 26. To do it is human
- 30. Used to write
- 31. The branch of medicine concerned with the ear
- 32. Adversaries
- 35. Have already done
- 36. One of conspicuous wealth
- 38. It flies over sporting events
- 40. Geological times
- 41. Net
- 42. Musical phrase
- 43. Chadic dialect
- 44. Private Internet Access (abbr.)
- 45. Lizard genus
- 46. Woman of the church
- 47. Having ten

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Answers for April 13



Contest - The Ocean City-Berlin Optimist Club held its oratorical contest March 29 and 31 at Stephen Decatur Middle School. Pictured (from left to right) are **Lily Sperry** (3rd place finish); **Jessica Beck** (1st place); **Sharon Sorrentino** (Optimist Club member who coordinated the contest); **Saylor Amos** (2nd place); **Jonah Ridgely** (4th place).

Historical Society dinner returns

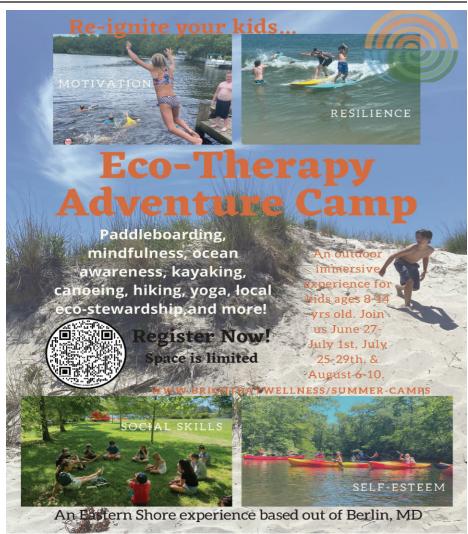
The Worcester County Historical Society will hold its annual spring dinner meeting at the Pocomoke Community Center on Market Street, Friday, May 6. Dinner guests will learn about Worcester County's past from Dr. Ray Thompson, retired history professor at Salisbury University while enjoying a delicious meal of chicken and dumplings with all the fixings prepared by the Ladies Auxiliary.

Dr. Thompson will speak to the members and guests about the early history of Worcester County. Dr. Thompson said that the Eastern Shore has been fortunate to have the oldest continuous records in British-speaking America starting in 1632 to help people understand who the earliest settlers were. He called them hearty men and women who lived in the frontier environment away from civilization. His talk will look into who they were and their lifestyles and how they transformed the Eastern Shore. He will trace the

movements of the settlers up the peninsula of Virginia into Maryland's Eastern Shore and into Delaware. Their economic, political, cultural, and religious societies led to the fundamentals of America today. He also plans a power point to supplement his discussion.

Dr. Thompson, along with Sylvia Bradley, was the co-founder of the Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture at Salisbury University in 1983. His 45-year career at the university included teaching history and serving as chair of the history department. Today he continues speaking and doing research in local history.

Doors will open for the event at 5 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$25 per person and can be purchased by sending a check to Robert Fisher, WCHS Treasurer, 230 South Washington St., Snow Hill, MD 21863. The deadline for reservations for the dinner, which is open to the public, is April 29.







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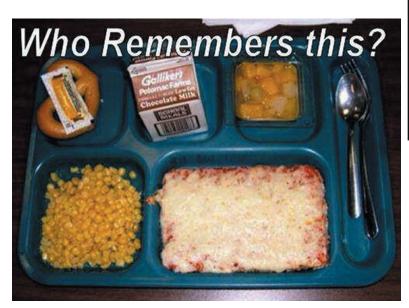


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Some things to think about

Gathered from the internet by **Jack Barnes**



Last Night, My Neighbor
Came Home Drunk &
Banged On His Own
Door For Like 5 Mins.
Problem Is, He Lives
Alone, So I Went
Outside And Told Him
He Wasn't There & He
Left!!!

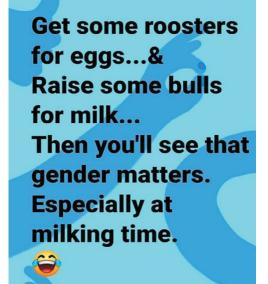








A huge stack of toilet rolls fell on me in the supermarket. I'm ok though, just soft tissue damage.







Spring emergent, Spring radiant

Spring arrived, officially, on March 20. Of course, the emerging season does not appear in full bloom, but unfolds largely as weather conditions dictate. The new season, hand in hand with lengthening days, develops slowly. Yet even now, signs of the season are on display. Plants are clearly among the first to respond to the arrival of Spring. What may be visible to the casual, but observant Walker? Let's have a look . . .

High in the tree tops, the Walker can spy flowers. Maples bloom very early. Maple blossoms are individually small, and in aggregate form dull red puffs at the ends of maple branches. Occasionally, a maple tree will display light tan flowers, but most trees sport red inflorescences. Occasionally, small branches covered with maple blossoms drop to the street. Curiously, the end of the branch is sharply cut. What is doing here? Why, a squirrel has nipped the branch off, and is drinking the sweet maple sap from the cut branch, high in the tree! There are no sugar maples in our warmish region, but all maples

do possess sap that is more or less sweet. Red buds, with branches festooned and coated with small purplish – red flowers are coming slowly into flower. A redbud in full bloom is a fountain of subtle fire. Later in the season, oaks, then, our pines, will bloom, and release clouds of pollen, in turn. These

two tree species are wind pollinated. Surely, you recall your suddenly yellow automobile in the driveway? Stay tuned!

> The green holly tree was a steady winter sentinel Festooned with

bright red berries.

The berries were
devoured by birds

In one day, as
Winter departed in
a bluster.

The trees now in flower are yet leafless.

This fact allows sunlight to stream to the ground.

M a n y p l a n t s burst forth in flower in response to higher temperatures and this increase in ground

crease in ground level sunlight. If one looks carefully, just past the Spring Equinox, a Spring bouquet of tiny flowers appears. Along the roadside. along a hundred feet of so of pavement, in the still short grass of Winter. one can see vellow buttercups, vellow flowers of a wild strawberry relative, the ubiquitous dandelion, tiny white flowers displayed in scepter like clusters, the star shaped white flowers of chickweed close to the ground, the small purple blossoms of a wild geranium, glorious patches of a tiny plant with blue and white flowers, and the raspberry flower heads of henbit. Henbit sports a square stem! Elsewhere, on a more open, sunny field, there are drifts of a viola with small white pansy like blooms. These are so thick as to suggest snow. Now here is an amazing discovery . . . There is a small tuft of dark green spikey foliage, maybe the size of a quarter. At the ends of several invisible stalks are some white flowers, the size of pin heads. The flowers rest on the ground . . . these blooms are likely pollinated by ants. Totally unexpected, totally amazing, a tiny glory in the warming sunshine! In turn, royal purple, and white - with - bluish blush on the center of the flower, violets will peek

A gentle rain weeps from a grey sky.

Tiny drops fall, unvexed by wind, onto bare branches.

The branches are now coated with sparkling jewels.

These gems glow against the grey sky.

As things warm, ever different flowers will appear, in turn. Yet, a while ago, Spring was put on hold. There were night temps below freezing, very low daytime temps, and stiff winds. The Walker paused excursions for a couple of days: severe wind chill ... Outdoors life hunkered down a bit, and survived. Warmer, balmy weather did finally replace a parting icy breath of Winter. The advance of the Spring brings a continuing march of blossoms as a feast for the eye.

Brown, dry beech leaves Held tight to branches all Winter Rustle in a gentle breeze. A wind chime whispers softly.

On warm days, especially with a radiant Sun to warm the ground, various

insects peek out. There were several small black hunting spiders scurrying about on the leaf litter from last Fall. Similarly, clouds of tiny fliers lurched into the air. These insects, no more than an eighth inch overall, had feathery antennae, perhaps to detect the presence of others in the Spring mating dance. Indeed, the Walker noticed these tiny denizens lightly touching the surface of a water puddle to deposit eggs for a next generation. Another arachnid, the tick, appeared, on the Walker's leg, just the other day. The tick was dispatched easily, and the message was to avoid any grassy area where these vampires lay in wait for the passing meal.

Meals come in all shapes and sizes. There are a couple of ponds in our area, and these are home to bass. Indeed, on summer, the Walker chatted with someone who had caught a six pound bass from a rather small, non-descript pond. Well, in the early Spring, the bass, like the tiny flying insects mentioned above, spawn. Soon, schools of tiny fish appear in the shallow areas of the pond. Here, the tiny fish easily avoid becoming a meal.

On a day of dead calm, The pond is like a sheet of glass. A single mallard duck swims, Cleaving the water into an expanding 'V'.

Other birds vie for attention as the Spring advances. Winter's juncos are gone up north. Tinv olive-green birds with a yellow breast and belly have appeared. One day, a couple of vultures were sunning in the chilly morning. The vultures perched, wings half stretched, warming, with backs turned to the rising Sun. Similarly, early another day, the Walker heard a noise like two baseball bats clashing. Wonder of wonders, a pileated woodpecker was chipping away high up in a tree . . . wood chips flew, and the racket spelled 'eats' for this amazing crow sized woodpecker with a great red crest on its head.

Spring emerges, slowly, but steadily. New observations, new discoveries are visible on a daily basis. It is very pleasant to just walk about, to just have a look. Tomorrow...

Robert Pellenbarg
Ocean Pines

Wor-Wic's fall dean's list announced

A total of 366 Wor-Wic Community College students have been recognized for superior performance by being named to the dean's list for the recently completed fall term.

Worcester County students who maintained a grade point average of 3.5 or higher while taking six or more credit hours during the fall term include:

Berlin: Lance Adams, Jimmy Barrios-Hernandez, Jurgita Blake, Christopher Boston, Rumina Bowers, Nicole Braun, Michael Brittingham, Kirsten Brown, Nicholas Burak, Addison Cook, Christopher Cooke, Benjamin Cooper, Alexander Cushwa, Darrian Day, Kierstyn Dietrich, Robert Dixon, Sawyer Ellis-Gaal, Jonathan Franklin, Ramona Gray, Jarrett Humphress, Juliana Jaeger, Allison Johnston, Amanda Jones, Salina Kc, Sophia Kokkinos, Tetiana Kovaliuk, Claire Merritt, Wendi Mikulski, Nadia Motaal, Riley Moyer, Conor Perry, Connor Plumley, Philip Rittersbacher, Gabrielle Schwendeman, Celina Scott,

Tides for Ocean City Inlet **Tide** High Time /Low Th 21 High 12:01 AM Low 6:24 AM High 12:26 PM Low 6:19 PM 21 22 High 12:59 AM Low 7:27 AM 22 High 1:26 PM 22 Low 7:23 PM High 2:03 AM Sa 23 23 Low 8:31 AM High 2:34 PM 23 Low 8:30 PM Su 24 High 3:13 AM 24 Low 9:36 AM High 3:47 PM 24 Low 9:39 PM M 25 High 4:23 AM 25 Low 10:38 AM High 4:55 PM 25 Low 10:47 PM Tu 26 High 5:25 AM 26 Low 11:32 AM High 5:52 PM 26 Low 11:50 PM High 6:17 AM W 27 27 Low 12:20 PM High 6:40 PM

Leslie Shaffer, Michael Sidell, Sarah Stephan, Abigail Stone, Caroline Taylor, Madison Thumma, Emily Timmons, Michael Todd, Jamie Wilkinson, Kory Williams and Mackenzie Williams

Bishopville: Megan Fitzgerald and Sommer Smith

Girdletree: Maci Barron

Ocean City: Jillian Alascio, Ella Ames, Lorelei Auker, Piper Bandorick, Megan Card, Michael Clubb, Jordyn Duerr, Nathaniel Elko, Shelby Evans, Kaitlyn Ewing, Kathleen Ewing, Jordan Ferguson, Logan Figgs, Trista Fink, Antonio Franco-Loosemore, Chelsea Hale, Nolan Kilchenstein, Devon Kramer, Tiffany McClain, Kara Mihavetz, Hannah Mourlas, Kevin Murillo, Robert Pellegrin III, Rachel Peretz, Nadiia Petrova, Matthew Porada, Morgan Schroeder, Brenda Smith, Nicole Sparagana, Emily Staley and Ian Todd

Pocomoke City: Amber Bloomfield, Brian Butler, Tuan Doan, Patrick Giordano, Kimberly Hayes, Gary Hillard Jr., Mason Kagan, Kacy Lynch, Svetlana Sadakbaeva and Bridget Stevens

Showell: Emily Stitely

Snow Hill: Dylan Bissman, Matthew Gravenor, Aaron Schmucki and Samantha Stewart

Stockton: Christina Burkhead and Rachael Northam



Kiwanian of the Month

President Tim Lund recognized member Jim Maratea as Kiwanian of the Month for March. Jim is a relatively new member who quietly works at most Kiwanis events. (L-R) President **Tim Lund** presents the Appreciation award to **Jim Maratea** at the April 13 meeting.

gold

from page 9

appointed to the Board of Directors in 2017.

Stephen Martin is a Physical Therapist and owner of Martin Physical Therapy in Snow Hill. Martin Physical Therapy provides outpatient rehabilitation services for a variety of orthopedic, sports medicine, neurologic and geriatric conditions.

Victoria O'Neill is an Associate Attorney with Ayres, Jenkins, Gordy & Almand, P.A.. She assists members of the Eastern Shore Community with a variety of legal assistance, including family law, estate planning, estate administration, real estate transactions, and landlord-tenant law.

Dawn Wagner is Vice President -

Business Development Officer with The Bank of Delmarva. She works with business clients to help them improve cash flow, obtain financing and grow their business. Wagner seeks to be a partner in their business to help them succeed in any way that she can.

Tracey L. White is a 4th Grade Math & Reading Title I Interventionist at Pocomoke Middle School. She tracks and monitors 4th grade Reading & Math students who haven't mastered reading and math skills. She develops lesson plans and works with at-risk students, in small groups, and in the classroom, to help them master reading, language, and math skills.

Robin L. Gribble is the Branch Manager at the Bank of Ocean City Ocean Pines office. She grew up spending her summers in Ocean City and made the Eastern Shore her home. Gribble joined the Bank of Ocean City in July of 2020 and was quickly promoted to the Branch Manager position. Prior to joining the Bank of Ocean City, she had 25-plus years of management experience along with a strong background in workforce development training.

GOLD's 12 volunteer board members are charged with overseeing operations and making critical decisions regarding strategic planning, revenue, programs, and services. If you are interested in joining our mission by serving on GOLD's Board of Directors, please email contact@worcestergold.org.

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