

The Courier

September 14, 2022 Volume 23 Number 2



**Kelly Davis named
Crafter of the Month**

See story on page 6



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Scholarship recipient visits

Every year the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines- Ocean City awards scholarships to local graduating high school senior students. On Wednesday September 7, Mikayla Denault, who was a member of the Kiwanis sponsored Key Club at Stephen Decatur High School and served as treasurer, returned to speak to Kiwanis. She was awarded a scholarship by the club and is entering her junior year at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL where she is majoring in Journalism and Political Science.

Above are **Mikayla Denault** with club President **Tim Lund**.

Good Samaritans help after bicycle accident in Ocean Pines

Melanie Moulden, a resident of The Parke community in Ocean Pines, recently shared a story of two good Samaritans who came to her aid after a bicycle accident.

Moulden and her husband, Bob, were bike riding along Ocean Parkway on the south side of Ocean Pines last Friday, when her bike skidded on a patch of pine needles.

"I fell off the bike and hit the asphalt hard," she said. "I was lying face first on the parkway when a gentleman in a white truck stopped and helped my husband pick me up. He also rendered first aid to my knee, which I greatly appreciated."

She said a family in an SUV also stopped to help.

"They loaded my bike in the back of their car and drove me home, where my husband met me and took me to [the] Atlantic General Hospital emergency room," she said. "[AGH] did x-

rays on my knee and a CT scan on my head and, although I have bruises and abrasions from head to toe, there are no broken bones.



"I can't remember the names of any of the good Samaritans, but I wanted to thank them for their kindness and assistance. There are truly wonderful people in the world," Moulden added.

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Commentary

By Joe Reynolds
OceanPinesForum.com

Screwed again

Decades ago we were told Worcester County's Ocean Pines Water and Wastewater treatment facility was only for use of the Ocean Pines subdivision. County officials insisted the millions for expansion of the sewage treatment facility were only needed to support Ocean Pines. They lied. Many areas outside Ocean Pines are now sending their sewage to the plant in Ocean Pines.

Adding insult to injury, the plant was expensively expanded to the point where the capacity is perhaps two times what is needed to serve the Ocean Pines subdivision.

That excess capacity will, at some point, be used to allow intense future residential and commercial development in the immediate areas surrounding Ocean Pines.

A month or so ago we also discovered the sewage treatment facility in Riddle Farms was failing, and for a year or more a large measure of untreated sewage is now trucked from Riddle Farms and dumped into the Ocean Pines system. No one has an answer as to whether the

Riddle Farms service area is paying the Ocean Pines service area to treat their sewage.

During a Tuesday, September 7, 2022, County Commissioner meeting, Ocean Pines association members were again screwed by the Worcester County Commissioners to the tune of \$540,000.

According to Worcester County Public Works Director Dallas Baker, it seems an unknown county employee dropped a rake head into the sewage collection line and never told anyone. The system eventually developed problems. Last January a repair of problems and restart of the system saw microbe effectiveness decline in the cold weather.

Result? The plant-treated effluent discharge did not meet the state standard for nitrogen content related to Bay Restoration and every lot owner in the system is now forced to pay \$60 until the system meets state requirements. The \$540,000 will not be added to the rate-payer bills but taken from service area reserve funds, money already collected from ratepayers and now leaving the reserve rather low.

Eliminating that \$60 state payment is done on a yearly basis. Fortunately, Baker says the plant is now operating as needed to avoid the \$60 payment in the future. Time will tell. However, the plant lost the exception for the prior year. That rake head means the County service area rate payers will have to pay the state \$540,000.

On a motion by Commissioner Ted Elder, seconded by Commissioner Josh Nordstrom, and passed by a 5-2 vote with Commissioners Bertino and Bunting voting NO, the

county will take the \$540,000 out of the Ocean Pines current service area reserve amount of around \$690,000.

Elder and the other YES votes took the position that taxpayers across the county should not have to pay for a failure in Ocean Pines. At first blush, that might make sense.

However, Bertino then spoke eloquently in favor of protecting his constituents in Ocean Pines. Bertino said this was no natural event problem. He said the county should fund the \$540,000 from general funds because the problem was due to an irresponsible act of a county employee, an employee who then did not report what happened.

Bertino said it was not fair for only those in the service area to pay for a government screwup in running a multi-million-dollar system.

He said the government should be held responsible as it was grossly unfair to make service area members pay for an employee's negligence. He said if the employee had reported the problem when it happened, this additional cost could have been avoided.

"County government holds ratepayers responsible for charges related to water usage caused by leaks that occur on the homeowner's side of the meter regardless if the homeowner was at fault or not," Bertino added. "Consequently, ratepayers should expect the county government be held accountable when a problem is caused by employee gross negligence."

With the exception of Bunting, Bertino's plea to his fellow commissioners on behalf of Ocean Pines rate payers fell on deaf ears.

Courier Almanac

On September 14, 1814, Francis Scott Key penned a poem which is later set to music and in 1931 becomes America's national anthem, "The Star-Spangled Banner." The poem, originally titled "The Defence of Fort M'Henry," was written after Key witnessed the Maryland fort being bombarded by the British during the War of 1812. Key was inspired by the sight of a lone U.S. flag still flying over Fort McHenry at daybreak, as reflected in the now-famous words of the "Star-Spangled Banner": "And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air, Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there."

How old is "Take Me Out to the Ball Game?" Baseball fans likely know its familiar refrain by heart, and even non-fans can probably identify it the moment it begins playing. "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" has long been part of the fabric of American culture, but even the most ardent fans of America's pastime may be surprised to learn just how long the song has been around. According to the Library of Congress, the United States Copyright Office first received two copies of "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" on May 2, 1908. The song has proven so influential and popular over the years that legendary broadcaster and journalist Walter Winchell once asserted that it embodied the very popularity of the sport by painting the ballpark as an "island of innocent excitement in a world of wild despair."



The song is still routinely played at ballparks across the country, and perhaps no park has become more synonymous with the song than Wrigley Field, home of the Chicago Cubs. During the seventh inning stretch of each game at Wrigley, fans are led by a celebrity and join in singing the song. That nightly sing-along is widely considered one of the most festive traditions in North American professional sports.

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Chip Bertino Publisher/Editor

Mary Adair Comptroller **Linda Knight** Advertising Representative

Contributing Writers

Dan Collins, Ron Fisher, Douglas Hemmick, Jean Marx
Robert B. Adair 1938-2007

98 Nottingham Lane Ocean Pines, MD 21811
410-629-5906

thecourier@delmarvacourier.com
www.delmarvacourier.com
[facebook@TheCourierOfOceanPines](https://www.facebook.com/TheCourierOfOceanPines)

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Trombone arm remedy

There was a time when reading glasses were not something of which I had to concern myself. That is no longer the case. I don't remember exactly when it happened, just that it happened suddenly.

I suspect it was more a gradual transition to which I didn't pay attention until one evening while in bed I opened a book to read and realized I had to prop it against the foot board in

other I had them all.

A liberating period occurred in my mid-40s when I didn't need glasses at all, not for reading or driving or anything else. But then, as I neared the big Five-O, it came to be that I developed trombone arm which wasn't a big deal initially until the day when I had to drop a magazine on the floor and stand on a step stool to read it. Carrying around a folding step stool wasn't very convenient. The first pair of reading glasses I had were prescription and cost more than I thought they should. It wasn't long before they were lost which brought back harrowing memories of the many lost retainers of my youth. Desperate not to pay for another pair of prescription glasses, I bought a three-pack of reading glasses at a dollar store for under ten dollars. They did the trick, enabling me to see just fine. The challenge was to have them handy when I needed them. Inevitably my glasses were in the family room when I was in the garage attempting to read how to assemble a new grill. The remedy was to purchase more three-packs

order to read the words while resting on my pillow, turning the pages with my toes.

Seemingly overnight I joined the many others who suffer from "trombone arm," holding a letter while adjusting my arm's length near and far to find the sweet spot that enabled me to successfully read the words on the page.

Growing up I didn't need glasses, which was one of the only few graces afforded me during my pubescent years. The solace of that reality was lost on me at the time as I dealt with the realities of braces ("brace face"), bad skin ("zit face") and a bulbous nose ("proboscis face"). Fortunately, the bulbous nose didn't attract as much attention as you might think as it was overshadowed by a uni-brow bushier than a woollybear caterpillar. So, I had that going for me.

Beginning in my early 20s, glasses became a necessity to drive, watch television and do a host of other things. In short, I was nearsighted. Whether the need for glasses was a natural progression of age or necessitated by working in front of a computer I know not. For about 20 years I wore multiple pairs of glasses that, looking back now, were not as much flattering as they were comical. Wire frames, wireless frames, tortoise shell frames, rounded frames, rectangular frames, transitional lenses, tinted lenses, big lenses, little lenses, at one time or an-

so I could strategically stage glasses at convenient and needed locations such as the coffee table, the end table, nightstand, garage work bench, kitchen counter, on the boat, in the truck, in my wife's car, my tackle box, my desk, the saddlebag of my motorcycle and in the breast pocket of various sports coats.

As good a plan as this has been, problems have arisen. There is the tendency for me to slip whatever glasses I'm wearing at the time into my pocket or to hang them from one of their folded arms on my shirt or sweater collar. When this happens, I wind up with a collection of five or six pairs of reading glasses on my bedroom bureau.

The awkward teenage years of me lamenting over smiling through braces and confronting blotchy skin are long gone. Gone too are the days when I enjoyed perfect vision. I'm okay with all of that. If only the bulbous nose could have been left in the past as well.



It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com



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Letter to the Editor

Sports Complex funding questioned

Editor:

The People For Fiscal Responsibility, a ballot issue committee, was formed to bring the Worcester County Sports Complex issue to the voters of our county. From the outset, we have maintained that we are not opposed to a sports complex, but we are opposed to the use of public funds to build and operate it. From its inception, we have seen flaws in the way this project unfolded and was approved by a slim majority of our County Commissioners. We are trying to shed light on the myriad of issues associated with this project.

Nearby is a letter sent to the Worcester County Attorney, with copies to each of our County Commissioners and to our Chief Administrative Officer. We are hopeful that you in the news media will see the importance of these matters and begin to ask the right questions for the benefit of all Worcester County residents.

We have tried to pin our county officials down to a realistic cost of this project. The bond bill itself is for just under \$11.2 million dollars. However, within the text we find \$14.56 million and \$15.58 million. We were initially told that \$15,584,381 was the total

cost to the county for the project; and yet, the Commission President signed a contract to purchase the land for \$7.15 million, raising the revised cost to over \$20.3 million. What is the real cost estimate?

We attempted to have a dollar figure put on the ballot question to give voters who might be unfamiliar with the project some idea of the cost but to no avail. The condensed statement on the ballot question is to read "The purpose of this question is to determine whether the County Commissioners may finance a portion of the costs of designing and constructing a Worcester County Sports Complex by issuing a bond." Why were we denied this reasonable request?

The public hearing held was to gauge the public's interest regarding the project. Public notices announced that a hearing would be held on the "proposed purchase of property" and that a portion of the bond proceeds would fund "acquisition". Yet, the Commission President signed the Contract of Sale one day before the first public notice was printed and two

weeks before the public hearing. Why?

We have also learned that not all the Commissioners had a chance to see the contract before it was signed by the Commission President. Why?

The Worcester County Sports Complex appeared in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for the very first time in the FY23-FY27 plan. It has never appeared in any CIP going back as far as 2010, and yet it suddenly appeared in the current one and it shows it as an FY23 project. Usually capital projects appear on a CIP well in advance of their scheduled funding. This project has the appearance of coming out of nowhere. According to an article in the *Maryland Coast Dispatch* dated 11/5/21, Commissioner Bertino indicated that the sports complex and a public safety building "...hadn't been reviewed or discussed by the commissioners prior to their inclusion in the CIP." Why?

Thank you for your interest in these matters.

Vincent dePaul Gisriel, Jr.
Chairperson

People For Fiscal Responsibility

Gisriel letter to County Attorney

Dear Mr. Leslie,

Pursuant to Section 3 of the Contract of Sale for the purchase of 95.521 acres next to Stephen Decatur High School for the purpose of a Sports Complex, the County Commissioners should choose "...not to proceed to settlement...", and the Commissioners should "...notify Seller in writing before the expiration of the Study Period...", thus terminating the Contract. Once it was determined that Bond Bill 22-8, even if approved by the voters on 11/8/22, cannot be used for land acquisition, I believe that a separate legislative action was required to enable the purchase of land.

I can find no specific enabling legislation, resolution or bill that has been introduced, adopted or voted upon by the County Commissioners to purchase the land, nor to even enter into a contract of sale. I submit that a simple voice vote by the majority of Commissioners on the evening of the public hearing on 4/19/22, without a signed document such as a resolution

does not constitute a valid, official action. In retrospect, there should have been two separate motions and two separate votes, one of each for the land purchase and one of each for the Bond Bill.

The acquisition of the land was not properly introduced as a pending legislative action by the Commissioners. While it may have been un-

County Response to Gisriel

Dear Mr. Gisriel:

Thank you for your continued interest in the County's ongoing sports complex project. Your letter contains a discussion of many legal issues, five specific factual questions, and a request that I respond accordingly.

As County Attorney, I represent the County Commissioners in their capacity as a corporate body. I am unable to render general legal advice or opinions to individuals.

But I can confirm facts that have happened during this ongoing process:

Agreement: An agreement granting the Commissioners the option to purchase the property was negotiated and executed before the April 19, 2022 public hearing.

To prevent a speculative buyer from taking advantage of a government's interest in a particular property, it is standard practice for public bodies

*please see **response** on page 8*

intentional, the advanced notices of the public hearing were misleading to the public. The notices appearing in *OC Today* on 4/8/22 and 4/15/22 under the heading, "NOTICE OF PROPOSED PURCHASE OF PROPERTY FOR WORCESTER COUNTY

*please see **letter** on page 8*

Davis named Crafter of the Month

The Pine'er Craft Club of Ocean Pines is pleased to announce Kelly Davis as the September Crafter of the Month.

Davis and her husband, Greg, are new to the community, having purchased a home on Manklin Creek Road last spring. The couple lives in Southern New Jersey, but hopes to eventually relocate to the Pines full-time.

A paper crafter, Davis makes handmade photo albums, journals, cards, frames, canvases, banners, figures and more.

Davis started scrapbooking when her son was about five years old. She had a shoebox filled with memories that grew into a prolific hobby. It led her to classes and a convention with nationally known instructors. She even opened a scrapbook supply shop almost a decade ago.

While her career, family, and other life changes interrupted her hobby from time to time, Davis said she always comes back to her love for scrap-

booking, returning with new techniques and products. She does accept custom requests and has additional papercrafts for sale in her Etsy shop, www.craftyscrapsbykel.com.

View Davis's projects and other handmade items at the Artisan Gift Shop in White Horse Park, on 239 Ocean Parkway in Ocean Pines. The shop is open every Saturday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, visit <https://www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/artisan-gift-shop>.

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response
from page 8

to enter option agreements before a final decision to close on a property is made. The agreement had no cost and allows for termination for any reason before closing.

Real estate values have been rising recently unpredictably. As a result, the appraised price of the property was higher than projected in the CIP (a non-binding planning document).

-Public Hearing: On April 19, 2022 and after a large public hearing at which many citizens expressed their opinions, the County Commissioners voted to pro-

ceed with the purchase. The public comments and the vote results were memorialized in the Commissioners' meeting minutes that were unanimously approved at their next meeting.

-Vote on Motion to Cancel Agreement: At their July 5, 2022 meeting, the Commissioners declined to vote to cancel the agreement to purchase the property.

-Due Diligence Items: As discussed at the April 19 hearing, staff has since been proceeding with the following due diligence items required before the Commissioners finally decide to close on the property:

-John D. Hynes & Associates, Inc. was engaged for an environmental study

on May 26, 2022 for \$2,970.

-Wallace Montgomery was approved to be engaged for a traffic access evaluation on August 2, 2022 for \$28,523.62.

In Fiscal Year 2017, the Commissioners appropriated \$400,000 for such costs. These funds are being used to pay for the Hynes environmental and Wallace Montgomery traffic studies. There has been no discussion of bond reimbursement for these cost.

-Funding Source: At their August 2, 2022 meeting, staff advised the Commissioners that a funding source needed to be identified to move forward with the project.

The current sports complex devel-

opment has been an ongoing County project for approximately 5 years. The decision to move forward with the property was made after an advertised and large public hearing. The Commissioners have twice voted in open session to approve the purchase and have subsequently approved due diligence needed to consummate the purchase. Finally, the funding source for the purchase must be determined at a future County Commissioner meeting.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,
Roscoe R. Leslie

letter
from page 6

SPORTS COMPLEX...", state in part, "The Worcester County Commissioners will host a public hearing on a proposal to purchase property to develop a sports complex using a portion of the proceeds from general obligation bond funds of \$11,198,830 in FY23 to fund acquisition, design, and development costs..."

Furthermore, the notices appearing in *OC Today* on 5/6/22, 5/13/22 and 5/20/22 announcing the passage of Bond Bill 22-8 did not correct the fact that the bond proceeds cannot be used for land acquisition.

From the outset, the public was led to believe that part of the bond proceeds would be used to purchase the land. It has been reported as such in at least sixteen newspaper articles following the public hearing on 4/19/22. The Amended FY23-FY27 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), which has never been formally adopted by Resolution, shows \$2,385,451 for land acquisition for the Sports Complex. Why did the Commission President enter into a contract to buy the land for \$7,150,000, an increase of \$4,764,549? Why did he sign the contract two weeks before the public hearing?

While there may have been a closed session vote authorizing the Commission President to purchase the land prior to the public hearing, I have been told that not all of the Commissioners saw the Contract of Sale prior to its signing by the President on 4/6/22.

Section CG 4-201 (g) of the Worcester County Code titled "Supplementary appropriations" requires "The Board of County Commissioners, in order to meet emergency and unanticipated requirements, may, by res-

olution, make supplementary appropriations. The County Commissioners shall designate the source of funds for such supplementary appropriations." No resolution to specifically purchase the land has been formally adopted, nor has a funding source been identified.

Section CG 4-202 (a) may also be applicable since the Commissioners essentially waived the bidding process on the purchase of the land. The section reads, in part, "Any single purchase or contract involving an expenditure of more than \$25,000 of County funds shall be made from or let by bids or proposals after public notice for such period of time and in such manner as may be prescribed by law or as may be determined by the County Commissioners; provided, however, that where it is determined by a five-sevenths vote of the County Commissioners that bidding would be impractical or not in the best interest of the County Govern-

ment, bidding requirements may be waived." (Emphasis underlined)

As required by U.S Treasury Regulations, in order for Worcester County to spend money on a bonded project in advance of the Bond Issuance with the intention to reimburse their initial funding source with proceeds from the bond, the Commissioners must first adopt a Declaration of Official Intent Resolution. On 4/5/22, the Commissioners passed such a resolution to do so. At some point, the county hired John D. Hynes & Associates to do an environmental study. In a letter from the Hynes firm, dated 7/28/22, which accompanied their findings/report, it states, in part, "The services were performed in accordance with our proposal dated March 23, 2022." Was the Hynes firm contracted before the Declaration of Official Intent Resolution? I can find no record of a vote to proceed with the environmental study, nor even the cost of the study. When did

the Commissioners appropriate that expenditure?

Later, the Commissioners authorized \$28,524 to hire Wallace, Montgomery & Associates to do a study regarding ingress and egress off Route 50. Does the county plan to reimburse the fund source for these two projects from Bond proceeds? Moreover, can they do it since the Bond Bill is not in effect while the outcome of the ballot question is pending. At the very least, the Commissioners should not be spending any money on site work, engineering, designing, etc. on the Sports Complex until the voters decide on the Bond Issuance.

I would appreciate your looking into these matters and responding accordingly. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Vincent dePaul Gisriel, Jr.
Chairperson
People For Fiscal Responsibility



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Registration is open for fall youth leagues

Registration is open for Worcester County Recreation & Parks fall youth leagues.

The Youth Outdoor Soccer League and Youth Field Hockey League will kick-off in September. The Soccer League is open to children ages 3 through 8th grade, while Field Hockey is open to children in kindergarten through eighth grade.

The soccer league will be divided into four age divisions (age 3-4, grades K-1, grades 2-4, and grades 5-8), and all divisions are co-ed. The league will begin on September 17. Ages 3-4 and grades K-1 will play games on Saturdays. Grades 2-4 will play games Monday evenings and Saturday. The grades 5-8 division will play on Wednesdays evenings and early Saturday afternoons. Teams from each town will be formed and will travel to the three following locations: John Walter Smith Park in Snow Hill, Newtown Park in Pocomoke, and Northern Worcester Athletic Complex in Berlin. For more information about the soccer league, contact Derek Jarmon at 410-632-2144 x2509 or djarmon@marylandscoast.org.

The field hockey league will consist of co-ed youth participants. The field hockey league will be divided into three age divisions, grades k-2 (clinics), grades 3-5, and grades 6-8. The league will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. from September 13 to October 20. The league will meet at the Northern Worcester Athletic Complex in Berlin. Players are asked to bring their own mouth guards, shin guards and field hockey goggles. A limited supply of field hockey sticks will be available to use. For more information about field hockey, contact Kelly Buchanan at 410-632-2144 x2503 or kbuchanan@marylandscoast.org.

The registration deadlines have passed for both programs, but registrations are still being accepted. The cost for each program is \$40 per player (\$35 for each additional child) and financial aid is available for those who have demonstrated need. Proof of eligibility is required. Sign up today for these fun-filled programs at www.playmarylandscoast.org.



Digit comparison - Students in Kara Wolf's third grade class at Ocean City Elementary used base ten blocks to compare three-digit numbers during Math. Pictured from left to right: **Jaidee Vitjathorn, Liam Savage, Sarah Wall and Kaleigh Wessman.**

RWWC mobile headquarters announced

Visit the Republican Women of Worcester County mobile headquarters on site at The Worcester County Fair Saturday, September 17 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Byrd Park in Snow Hill

Information on Republican candidates and campaign signs and materials will be available.

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Why tides?

We all have experienced the highs and lows of tides and the currents that they create; and with this practical working knowledge, we have developed the skills to find the fish and to successfully navigate our waters. But have you ever wondered why the tides are not always the same height or why they keep shifting in time? Take a moment and look at this week’s tide chart that is published here in *The Courier*.

The answer is best summarized by that underrated 20th century philosopher, Yogi Berra, who insightfully observed, “Even if the world was perfect, it wouldn’t be.” In reality, the earth isn’t round. It’s pear shaped. And the moon’s path around the earth and the earth’s path around the sun aren’t circles. They are ellipses. And the other planets orbiting our sun are constantly changing their relative positions. Let’s look at how these Yogi imperfections explain the different tides.

First, tides are primarily caused by gravitational or attractive forces. Every chunk of matter exerts an attractive force on every other chunk of matter as defined by the equation:

$$F=G \frac{M \times m}{r^2}$$

where the magnitude of the gravitational force is a function of the magnitude of the two chunks of mass (M and m) and the distance between them (r). The ‘G’ is just a constant.

If there were no other forces, all matter would eventually converge into one massive chunk and our universe would collapse into what would amount to a black hole. However, there are other forces in play, specifically - motion. Mass in motion has kinetic energy and momentum and, if otherwise unaffected, will travel in a straight line (Newton’s First Law, Inertia). When its straight-line force competes with a gravitational force of a much larger body, the smaller body will be deflected toward the larger and if the forces are just balanced, the

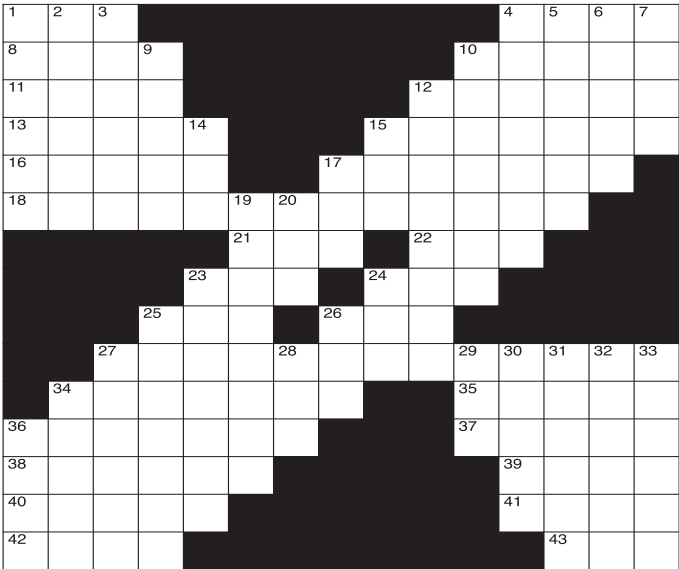
smaller body will find itself orbiting the larger one. So that’s why the moon orbits the larger earth and the earth orbits the larger sun.

Now picture the larger body being made up exclusively of a liquid – sort of like a water balloon. The molecules on the side closest to the attracting smaller chunk of mass (the moon) would experience more gravitational force than the ones on the far side. The result would be that the round water balloon would become elongated, an ellipsoid, like a football but with rounded ends. The long axis of the ellipsoid would be pointed directly at the attracting chunk (the moon).

Now think of the earth’s oceans as a giant water balloon with a rock in the middle. The rock is terra firma. Although the rock feels the gravitational pull of the moon, it is a solid and does

please see knots on page 11

Tides for Ocean City Inlet			
Day		High /Low	Tide Time
Th 15	Low	5:43 AM	
	High	12:15 PM	
	Low	6:33 PM	
F 16	High	12:33 AM	
	Low	6:29 AM	
	High	1:04 PM	
	Low	7:28 PM	
Sa 17	High	1:22 AM	
	Low	7:19 AM	
	High	1:58 PM	
	Low	8:27 PM	
Su 18	High	2:18 AM	
	Low	8:13 AM	
	High	3:00 PM	
	Low	9:27 PM	
M 19	High	3:21 AM	
	Low	9:10 AM	
	High	4:04 PM	
	Low	10:28 PM	
Tu 20	High	4:24 AM	
	Low	10:08 AM	
	High	5:03 PM	
	Low	11:21 PM	
W 21	High	5:19 AM	
	Low	11:04 AM	
	High	5:52 PM	



CLUES ACROSS

1. Autonomic nervous system

4. Kids love it in summer

8. Dashes

10. Polynesian sarong

11. Chapter of the Koran

12. Evildoer

13. Japanese commercial city

15. A way of binding

16. Early Christianity French historian

17. Kids’ term for bugs

18. Beloved family holiday activity

21. Work unit

22. Bundle

23. A number or amount not specified
24. Military official (abbr.)

25. Queens ballplayer

26. Type of gibbon

27. Norma Jean’s stage name

34. Places

35. Bluish greens

36. Argued publicly

37. Having the shape of a cube

38. They star at weddings

39. Indian god associated with reproduction

40. Ocean sunfishes

41. Slowly leak through

42. Plant part

43. Midway between south and southeast

CLUES DOWN

1. Accumulate on the surface of

2. Not a good feeling

3. Got smaller

4. Helped a golfer get around

5. Military forces

6. Partner to ways

7. Low, one-horse sleigh

9. Japanese seaport

10. Inclined to favor

12. Avid reader

14. Lead singer of Heart

15. Pigeon sound

17. Vital part

19. People who are not Jewish
20. Shed tears

23. Pokes holes in the ground

24. Beverage receptacle

25. Stone used to surface roads

26. French-Belgian river

27. Type of phone

28. Long-lasting light bulb

29. Type of medication (abbr.)

30. German city

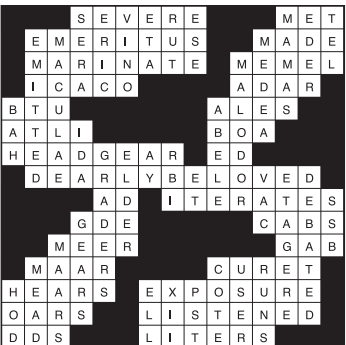
31. Animal disease

32. They’re in martinis

33. Get away from

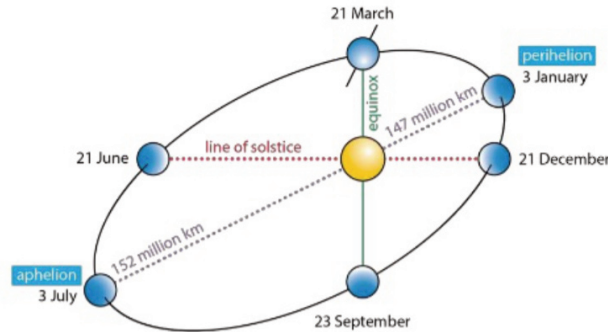
34. Dormouse

36. Database management system



Answers for September 7

Elliptical Orbit of Earth



The magnitude of the tides and the period between high tides is affected by its relative location on its path around the sun. Earth's oceans are closest to the sun, perihelion, on 3 January (actually, 4 January in 2022) when they experience the strongest gravitational pull and therefore produce the largest effect by the sun. The time between high tides is also the longest because the earth is traveling at its fastest speed. Source of the artwork is the internet.

knots

from page 10

not appreciably deform like a fluid. As the earth rotates one full revolution per day, every location on the earth passes by the two ends of the elongated water balloon each day. That's the moment of the high tides and since one is closer to the moon than the other, one tide is always higher than the other.

The next question is: Since the earth rotates exactly one rotation per day, why aren't the high and low tides at the same time every day? The answer is that the moon is also in orbit and traveling around the earth. If it were not, then the tides would be exactly every 12 hours but since the moon is moving along its orbiting path, the earth has to continue to rotate another 50 minutes or so to where the earth and moon are directly inline like they were 24 hours earlier.

But still, how come the lag time is not exactly 50 minutes every day? There are two primary reasons: the elliptical paths of both the moon around the earth and the earth around the sun and their phases – their relative alignments.

Let's look at the effects of the sun. Again, if the earth's orbit was perfectly round, the additional rotation would be constant but the earth's orbital path is a slight ellipse and the sun is not directly in the middle. Therefore, its contribution is less when the earth is near the far end of its elliptical orbit on July 3 and it is actually traveling slower. Likewise, it is traveling somewhat faster to keep it in orbit when it is closest to the sun (perihelion) on January 3.

Besides affecting timing, the magnitude of the tides is also affected. Extreme high and low tides occur when the sun and the moon align during the De-

cember and January months. That's when the earth is the closest distance to the sun and the 'r' in the above equation is smallest making the solar gravitational force the largest and distending the 'water balloon' ellipsoid to its maximum.

That's basically why tides happen roughly twice a day, why their intensity varies, and why their schedule varies. There are other less influential factors but the sun and the moon's gravitational pull are the most influential factors to take into consideration when calculating a tide chart. However, there is a wildcard, weather.

Winds and storm surge cannot be forecasted years in advance. A good mariner knows that his NOAA charts are based on a 19 year 'epoch' period when all the significant celestial bodies have aligned at least once. NOAA typically calculates depth based on the average of the lower of the two low tides that are measured each day for 19 years but NOAA cannot predict when a Nor'easter will pass by or when a flash flood will inundate the bay. Such events can affect the high and low water depths and also their timing because bodies of water can slosh and surge during a storm.

I hope you found this rather dry dissertation a little more tolerable than TV insurance commercials. It was intended to give you a little insight into how the tide charts and depth charts are calculated and also give you an appreciation of the inherent danger of taking them verbatim. In the words of the infamous pirate, Captain Barbarossa, "It is more what you'd call guidelines."

Stay safe. Stay dry.

Dan Collins can be reached for comment at dancollins.oceanpines@gmail.com

Arts Council offers local grants

The Worcester County Arts Council Grants Review Committee is seeking applicants for local art events and projects to be held in Worcester County for the period of January 1 – June 30, 2023.

The Worcester County Arts Council's Community Arts Development Grants program is designed to assist local, non-profit community-based groups in producing and presenting art projects and activities in Worcester County and is funded and supported by the Maryland State Arts Council. This program aims to foster excellence, diversity, and vitality in arts offerings for Worcester County residents and to broaden opportunities for Worcester County audiences, artists, and arts organizations.

The deadline for application sub-

mission is October 15, 2022.

Grant projects are evaluated based on the overall quality of cultural excellence, community outreach and public impact, and financial/administrative merit.

In the first 6-month grant cycle, the Worcester County Arts Council has awarded \$23,440 in the Community Arts Development Grants program to 12 art projects and events to be presented by local nonprofit organizations in Worcester County.

The grant application form and Guidelines are available on the Arts Council's website: www.worcester-countyartscouncil.org

For grant technical assistance, please contact Anna Mullis, Executive Director: anna@worcestercountyartscouncil.org

River Rally to Celebrate World Rivers Day

The Lower Shore Land Trust announces River Rally on Sunday, September 25, from 9 a.m. until noon at Ayers Creek Adventures located at 8628 Grey Fox Lane in Berlin. The event is a celebration of World Rivers Day when millions of people in more than 100 countries celebrate World Rivers Day on the fourth Sunday in September.

Begin at 9 a.m. for coffee and pastries then explore Ayers Creek by kayak or on a paddle board. The \$20 registration fee includes launch if you bring your own boat or enjoy discount rates for rentals available on the registration site. Registration fee also includes a shirt.

At 11 a.m., Chrissy Ehrhart of Zenna Wellness Studio will lead a yoga practice to give thanks to the waters that flow. All paddlers participating in River Rally during World Rivers Day are welcome. Bring your mat or a towel and join fellow paddlers to offer sun salutations in gratitude. At will donations accepted.

Participants are welcome to paddle past 11 a.m. for an additional boat rental fee.

Register at <https://lower-shore-land-trust.networkforgood.com/events/47436-river-rally-2022>. For more information contact info@lowershorelandtrust.org or 443-234-5587



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Some things to think about

Gathered from the internet by **Jack Barnes**



A middle school in Dallas organized a "Breakfast with Dads" event and then realized some students lacked father figures. So, the school made a Facebook post asking for 50 volunteers. The next morning, 600 men showed up to help out.

Photo courtesy of Stephanie Drenka weird-facts.org



In 2013, a homeless man named Billy Ray Harris found a \$4,000 engagement ring in his beggar's cup. A woman had accidentally dropped it while giving him some change. She returned two days later, and he gave the ring back. In thanks, she set up a fund with the goal of raising \$4,000 for him. It ended up making over \$185,000.

weird-facts.org @factsweird



A group of women called "The 9 Nanas" kept a secret for decades that not even their husbands knew. For 30 years, they met at 4 am and anonymously paid bills and bought clothes for people in need. Each care package came with a homemade pound cake and a note that read "Somebody loves you."

weird-facts.org @factsweird



Mr. Rogers personally answered his fan mail. A 5-year-old blind girl once wrote him and asked him to say when he was feeding his fish because she was worried about them and couldn't see. From that moment on, every time he fed the fish, he said it out loud.

Photo courtesy of The Fred Rogers Company @factsweird



Alabama husband saved wife's life by donating kidney after spending a year dieting and exercising to get his blood pressure low enough for surgery.

Photo courtesy of Daily Mail @factsweird



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OPMGA announces 2022 tournament winners

The Ocean Pines Golf Club recently hosted two major tournaments of the Ocean Pines Men's Golf Association: the Match Play Championship and the Senior Championship.

After nine rounds of play, the 2022 OPMGA double elimination Match Play Championship concluded when Bob Long beat Bill Stafford 4-3 on Sunday, August 21. Stafford defeated Long 1-0 in the eighth round, forcing the final match.

The field of 28 players began match play in late May. That number was cut in half after three rounds of play and was then halved again after the fifth round, when only seven players remained.

Long eliminated Dave Hanna in round six, while third-place finishers Darin Stuiber and Larry Perrone defeated Mark Watts and Bob Kessler, respectively. Hanna, Watts and Kessler will share fifth-place prize money.

Flea Market returns to Ocean Pines

Treasure seekers are encouraged to hunt for bargains at Ocean Pines' semi-annual Indoor/Outdoor Flea Market on Saturday, September 17 from 8 a.m. to noon at the Ocean Pines Community Center and White Horse Park.

Gently used clothing, children's items, household items, collectibles and more will be for sale.

Flea market vendor spaces are still available. Indoor spaces at the Community Center at 235 Ocean Parkway are \$15 for Ocean Pines residents and \$20 for non-residents and include an eight-foot table and a chair.

Outdoor spaces at White Horse Park, located next to the Community Center, are \$12 for Ocean Pines residents and \$15 for non-residents and include an 8-ft. table. Outdoor vendors will need to provide their own chairs.

Admission is free and open to the public. Free parking is available at the Community Center.

Shoppers may also stop by the Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market for fresh produce, baked goods, gourmet pantry items and artisan crafts. The market is held every Saturday from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. in White Horse Park.

For more information or to inquire about participating as a vendor, contact the Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department at 410-641-7052.

The 2022 OPMGA Match Play Championship winners were:

- First place: Bob Long
- Second place: Bill Stafford
- Third place (tie): Darin Stuiber and Larry Perrone
- Fifth place (tie): Mark Watts, Dave Hanna and Bob Kessler

The OPMGA held its Senior Championships on Saturday, August 13.

Participants in the event were assigned flights by age. The Super Senior Division for those 80 and older played from the red tee boxes, while the Senior Division played from the traditional gold tees.

In all, 44 OPMGA members participated, including eight from the Super Senior Division.

Of the Super Seniors, both Tom Cronin and Bud Humphries carded gross scores of 78 that were tops in that age group. Cronin was awarded Super Senior Champion based on a match of cards, while Humphries received the award for low net with a net score of 71.

Bill Stafford was the closest to the

pin winner for the Super Seniors. That contest happened on the 16th hole.

In the Senior Division, Scott Kimmel shot one under par 35 on the front nine on the way to a gross score of 77 to win the OPMGA Senior Championship. Bob Long was one stroke behind with a 78 and took home the overall senior low net award with a net score of 67.

Craig Binetti won the seniors' prize for closest to the pin, playing on the seventh hole.

Senior Championship flight winners included:

- Flight A (ages 80 and up): Bill Stafford (low gross) and Joe Pantone (low net)
- Flight B (ages 74-79): Walt Lischak (low gross) and Ron Sieka (low net)
- Flight C (ages 68-73): Fritz Lahner (low gross) and Bill Dixon (low net)
- Flight D (ages 50-67): Craig Binetti (low gross) and Darin Stuiber (low net)

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OPA releases Racquet Sports amenity survey

The Ocean Pines Association has released a short customer satisfaction survey about the Racquet Sports amenity.

The survey should take about three minutes to complete.

This is the latest of several surveys planned for Ocean Pines amenities, to gather input on the development of a strategic plan for Ocean Pines. Individual responses will be kept confidential and anonymous.

To take the survey, visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8Y6K3SN>.

Basic geocaching class offered

Worcester County Recreation and Parks is bringing a new program to their recreational lineup, Basic Geocaching. This class will teach participants what geocaches are, their history, and how to get started finding them.

The class will meet on Saturday, September 24, from 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. at the Worcester County Recreation Center, which is located at 6030 Public Landing Road in Snow Hill.

Instructors and local geocachers Bob and Prudy Robertson will teach the class. The price for a family of four is \$35 or \$20 per individual. All adventure seekers are invited to register.

For more information contact Trudy Gebhardt at 410-632-2144 x2514 or tgebhardt@marylandscoast.org. To view more upcoming programs and special events visit, www.playmarylandscoast.org.

Yard sale scheduled

The Church of the Holy Spirit will hold an indoor yard sale on September 24 from 7 a.m. till noon. The church is located at Coastal Highway and 100th St. Call the church office at 410-723-1973 for more information.



Helping a veteran - The Community Church at Ocean Pines youth group just before starting out on their project to help a local veteran make his home more accessible. The effort was coordinated through the Chesapeake Housing Mission.

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Worcester Health to offer fall rabies vaccination clinic

The Worcester County Health Department is sponsoring a Rabies vaccination clinic on Wednesday, September 21. The health department encourages residents with unvaccinated pets, or pets whose vaccinations have lapsed and need a booster, to attend the low-cost clinics and to avoid contact with wild animals, particularly those who are acting sick or in an unusual manner.

While raccoons are the most frequent carriers of rabies, a deadly viral disease, in Maryland, domestic pets are also at risk. Cats are the number one domestic animal species most likely to be unvaccinated and are at a higher risk of exposure to rabid wildlife while outdoors.

Worcester Health offers the following tips for avoiding contact with rabies:

- Have your dogs, cats, and ferrets vaccinated regularly and keep those vaccinations current in accordance with the law. (Especially outdoor cats).

- Do not let your pets roam free - they are more likely to have contact with a rabid wild animal.

- Avoid feeding your animals outside; this draws stray and wild animals to your doorstep. (If you must feed outdoors, do not leave the food out overnight and be sure to

clean up any spillage.) Cover your garbage cans securely.

- Avoid sick animals and those acting in an unusual manner and teach your

children not to approach wild animals and animals they don't know.

- If your pet has contact with a wild animal, avoid touching your pet with bare hands (wear gloves) and do not touch the wild animal. Report the incident immediately to the Health

Department or your local police in order to arrange testing of the wild animal, if available, and consult your veterinarian.

At the clinics, all dogs must be leashed and under the control of an adult while all cats and ferrets must be in a carrier or box with air holes. For further information regarding the clinics and to schedule an appointment, please call 410-352-3234. The cost is \$5.00 for Worcester County Residents with proof of residency (driver's license, utility bill, etc.) or \$10.00 for Non-County Residents. We only accept cash. For more information on rabies visit www.worcesterhealth.org.



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The different ways to repair a driveway

Asphalt driveways do not last forever. Over time, weather and general usage can degrade the driveway surface, resulting in cracks, pitting and more. Ultraviolet rays, salt and automotive fluids also can affect the appearance and functionality of a driveway. An unsightly driveway can adversely affect curb appeal and resale potential.

Homeowners have to consider various factors when it comes to repairing driveways. They may have the option of getting the driveway resurfaced, resealed or repaved, and each

project is unique.

Resurfacing. According to the home improvement price comparison site Kompare It, resurfacing is simpler and faster than installing a new asphalt driveway. With resurfacing, any cracks are filled in to create an even base. Then a new layer of asphalt is applied over the existing one. That new layer can range in thickness from 1.5 to 3 inches. A heavy rolling machine will then smooth and flatten the layers together. If the driveway has minor pitting or cracking, then resurfacing can be a cost-effective strategy, as it may be a \$3,000 to \$6,000 job as opposed to \$5,000 to \$10,000 with repaving.

Resealing. Resealing a driveway, also called sealcoating, is another repair strategy. HGTV says resealing can be a do-it-yourself project. Resealing helps the driveway last longer.

The driveway needs to be clean and dry, with holes and cracks filled prior to sealcoating. Start at the far edge of the driveway and seal that area by "cutting-in" by hand for a neat edge. Afterward the rest of the driveway can be sealed using a squeegee or broom. This project can be completed within two or three days if no precipitation is forecast.



Repaving. A project best left to professionals, repaving typically involves the removal of an existing driveway and the installation of a new one. The sub-grade layer is essential in the process for a smooth look. Contractors also will assess soil and grading when doing work. The construction blog Main Infrastructure says the new asphalt driveway can vary in thickness between two and six inches, depending on budget and need. The contractor also can advise if full-depth asphalt application or an aggregate base is practical.

Assessing the condition of driveway can give homeowners a better idea about which type of repair project best suits their property.

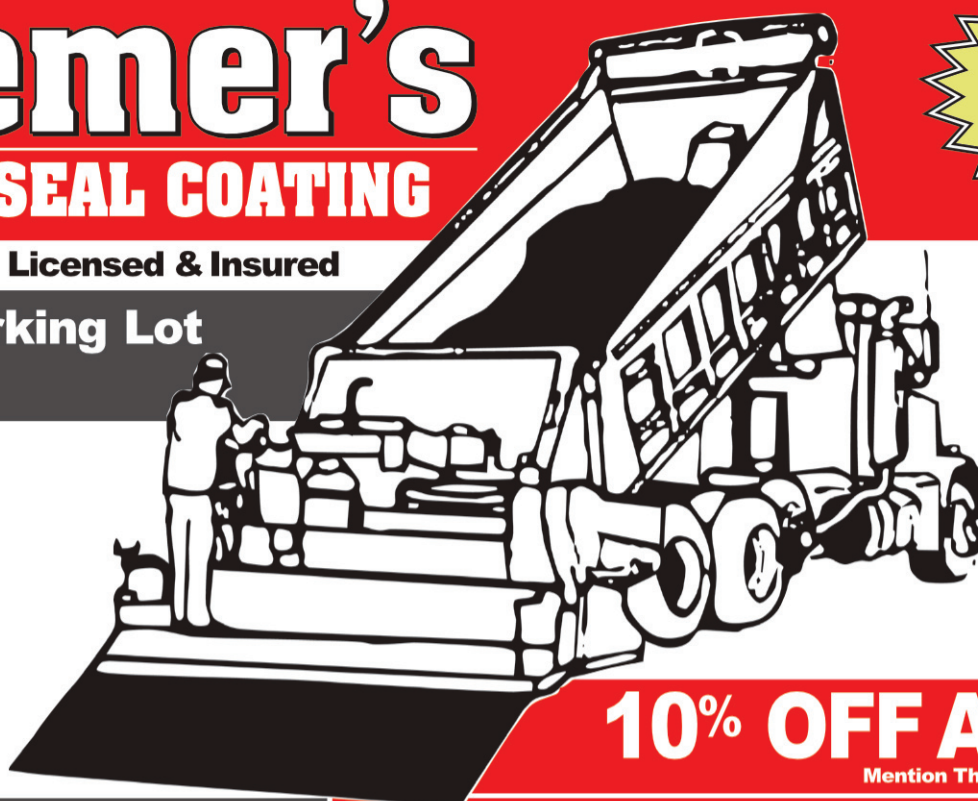


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