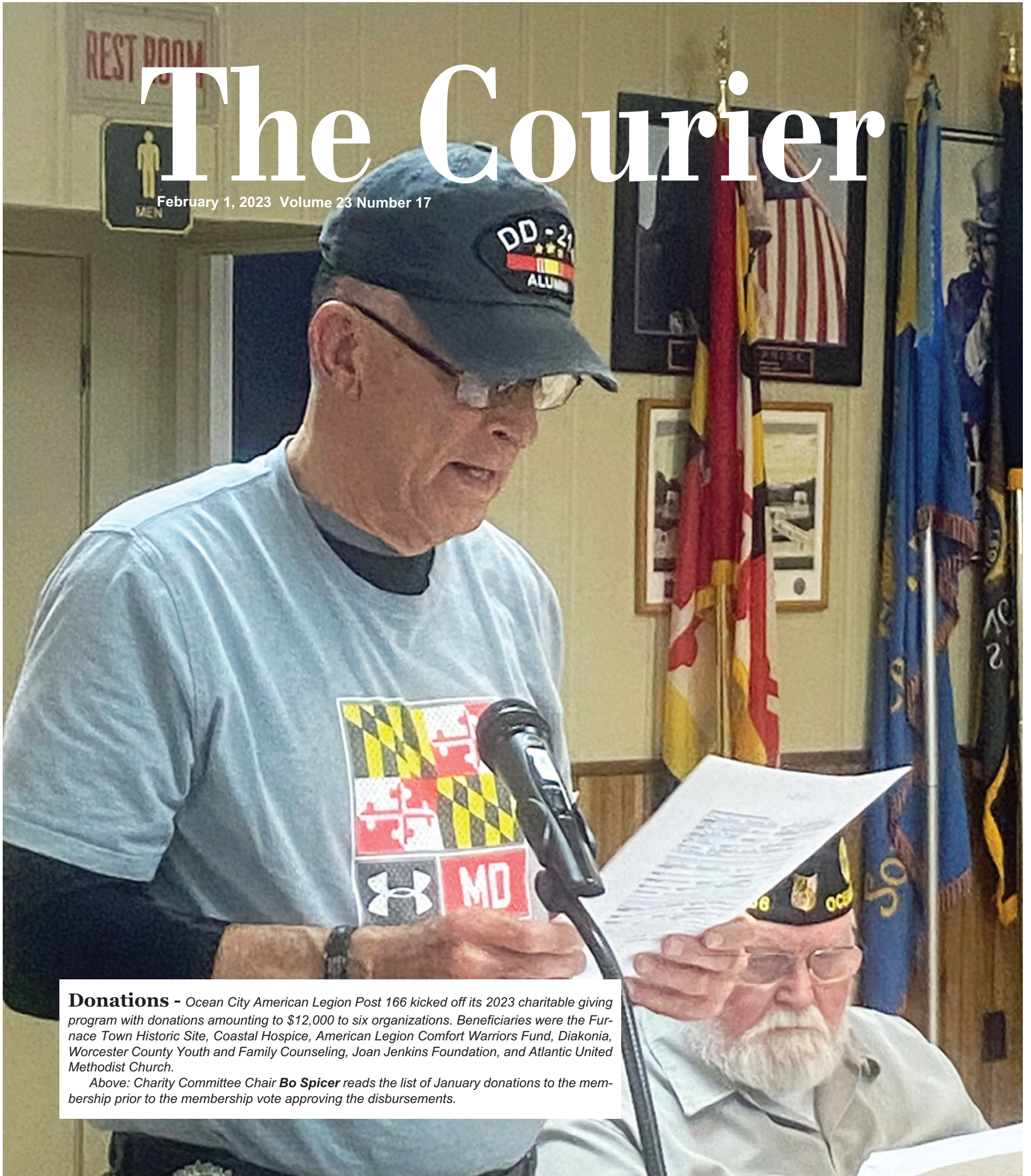


The Courier

February 1, 2023 Volume 23 Number 17



Donations - Ocean City American Legion Post 166 kicked off its 2023 charitable giving program with donations amounting to \$12,000 to six organizations. Beneficiaries were the Furnace Town Historic Site, Coastal Hospice, American Legion Comfort Warriors Fund, Diakonia, Worcester County Youth and Family Counseling, Joan Jenkins Foundation, and Atlantic United Methodist Church.

Above: Charity Committee Chair **Bo Spicer** reads the list of January donations to the membership prior to the membership vote approving the disbursements.

NEW! OCEAN PINES GOLF ACADEMY

WITH MATT RUGGIERE, PGA STARTING MARCH 7, 2023

Ocean Pines Golf Club is pleased to introduce Matt Ruggiere, PGA as the director of the new Golf Academy in Ocean Pines. Matt grew up playing golf in Ocean Pines and, after competing in golf tours across the Southeast, found his passion for helping others improve their golf games. He honed his professional skills at courses such as LPGA International in Daytona Beach, Florida and Indian Peaks Golf Course in Boulder, Colorado. He has been teaching golfers of all ages and skill levels for 8+ years and looks forward to helping those in the greater Ocean City area reach their golf goals.



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GM report focuses on open positions, Bainbridge Park one year later

General Manager John Viola on Saturday used his monthly report to the Ocean Pines Board to talk about the effect of open positions on the budget and associated financial reports.

Viola said the current budget favorability of just over \$1 million was “mainly due to revenue growth, reallocation and cost efficiencies.”

“But we also have open positions,” he added.

Viola said open staffing positions are often offset by a decrease in revenue, citing the Aquatics and Recreation and Parks departments as

examples.

Turning to Public Works, Viola said four open positions there have been more than offset by outsourced work, which currently equals about nine full-time equivalent (FTE) positions.

“There’s a lot of maintenance going on [and] there is a lot of renovation ... [and] we’re using outside contractors,” Viola said.

Viola said it was a “bold move” to outsource some of the work, and that eventually led to major savings for homeowners on initiatives including drainage, bulkheads, roads, and T-

dock replacement.

That also included several innovative projects, including new drainage pipe liners, that had never been done before.

“[It] was a little bit of a risk ... but we did what we had to do to be successful,” Viola said.

“[There has been] tremendous amount of savings. It is reflected in the open positions, but we have outsourced,” he continued. “The money is being spent somewhere else.”

On current initiatives, Viola said work to replace the Marina gas docks should start this week with fabrication of the new structure. Installation is slated for mid-March, with a total project cost of \$633,500. He said the gas docks should be ready before the busy season starts in May.

Viola said safety is a top priority, and noted the Association now has 19 automated external defibrillators installed across more than a dozen Ocean Pines facilities. He said an additional unit will be ordered for the outdoor portion of the Racquet Center.

Two years ago, a bartender and a manager at the Clubhouse Grille helped save a customer’s life using one of the AEDs. Viola said Aquatics Director Kathleen Cook helps to oversee the AED safety program.

Senior Executive Office Manager Linda Martin supplied an update on the Bainbridge Project, which wrapped up in Oct. 2021.

Martin said the project started in March 2021 and was partially funded

by grants, with Ocean Pines paying \$314,783 of the total cost of \$717,337.

“The main purpose of this project was filtration for better water quality out to the bay – it was not for flood control,” she said, adding the impact to area flooding was only minimal.

Martin said Viola gave regular updates on the project from April to Oct. of 2021.

Viola reiterated that the project focused on improving filtration.

“It’s a great project ... but a lot of people [were under the impression] that this would solve drainage,” he said. “I truly believe that the drainage is better, but it depends on any given day and where you live.”

Viola added that several other projects, including ditch maintenance and new drainage pipes and pipe liners, probably did more to help improve drainage in that area.

To view video of the presentation, visit https://youtu.be/zkr_Vlwbjy8?t=162.

‘Four Old Broads’ set to hit stage

Riding the wave of a sold-out hit performance of Rodgers & Hammerstein’s “A Grand Night for Singing” last November, the Ocean Pines Players (OPP) is poised to get you rolling in the aisles with laughter. The 2022-2023 season is somewhat of a comeback season for the Players. Like many community groups, the recent pandemic limited any face-to-face rehearsals and cancelled more than one event. Recovery has been slow but steadfast, and the current Board of Directors and roster of new members are energized and focused with a three-year strategic plan.

The next production, “Four Old Broads” by Leslie Kimbell and directed by Ed Guinan, is a hysterical mystery. Only a few weeks into rehearsal, the cast itself is still laughing from the quips and hijinks of these ladies. A mystery unfolds with laughter as the denizens of Magnolia Place Assisted

Living try to outsmart the evil Nurse Jones and make it to the Sassy Seniors Caribbean Cruise.


Performances are March 10, 11, 17, 18 at 7:30 pm at St. Peter’s Lutheran Church located at 10301 coastal Highway, Ocean City. Tickets are available at: <https://oceanpinesplayers.org>. All tickets are reserved seating so it’s best to buy early and ensure you get the seats you want.

Ocean Pines Players is a local all-volunteer 501-(c)(3) charitable organization. For general information about OPP, visit oceanpinesplayers.org or follow us on Facebook [Facebook.com/oceanpinesplayers](https://www.facebook.com/oceanpinesplayers).

“Four Old Broads” is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com

Kiwanis pancake breakfast returns

It’s been since February 2020 that the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City could do one of its traditional fundraisers. Celebrate St. Patrick’s Day early. The traditional Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast returns Saturday, March 4 at the Ocean Pines Community Center Assateague Room between 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. The cost is \$9, children under age four are free. Tickets are available from Kiwanians or you can pay at the door. For more information see www.kiwanisofopoc.org. Proceeds benefit local youth.



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Offseason marketplace features plenty to do and see

Winters in Ocean Pines can be chilly, but Saturday mornings are warm and welcoming at the Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market.



Market Manager David Bean said many make it a habit to bundle up and gather with family and friends at the market each week.

“Winter market warrior’ is a title the market shares with its shoppers and merchants alike, and the number of those who brave the elements of a winter morning have grown significantly over the years,” Bean said. “We have a steady and growing winter artisan participation that is beginning to match the number of

participating green market merchants.”

The marketplace will celebrate its 12th anniversary this year, and the 11th year for the offseason market.

“It’s rewarding to see the embrace of the community supporting all those who participate. Our merchants saw the desire for a year-round marketplace, and we are hoping this love for the offseason market will only continue to grow stronger over the coming years,” Bean said.

For Ocean Pines shoppers, the winter marketplace provides a source for locally grown winter crops and other products from area producers.

Story Hill Farm from Frankford, Delaware brings their grass-fed beef, pork and poultry, while Brightman Farm sells fresh eggs by the dozen.

Bean said shoppers visit the winter market to stock up on local ingredients, perfect for cozy cooking like locally grown sweet and crunchy carrots, buttery potatoes, and winter radishes.

This year, customers of produce merchant D. J. David can enjoy locally grown winter varieties of radishes, along with Brussel sprouts and frost-kissed cabbages. Brandon Brady at Stag Run Farm helps fill customers’ salad bowls with artisan lettuces grown at his farm’s greenhouses.

Many treat themselves to hand-crafted pastries and baked goods from the market’s bakers. John DelVecchio, owner and baker at DelVecchio’s Bakery, works through the night to bring fresh baked goods to his Saturday morning customers. His bread selections are popular with his customers, and few can pass on his Danishes, cookies and scones.

“The winter market also features several other bakeries, including those that specialize in gluten free and plant-based baked goods, as well as homestyle baked goods like grandma made,” Bean said.

Other items found at the winter market include spices, honey, jams and jellies, spirits, seafood, and kettle corn.

Bean said the winter merchants also have more time to directly interact with their customers.

“The offseason market gives many shoppers the opportunity to really get to know the merchants,

since the merchants have more time to stop and chat during the colder, slower months,” he said.

That’s also true for the many community organizations and groups that participate.

“We are so lucky to have such stellar businesses and organizations that help make our winter market season a success and a joy for the community,” Bean said. “Bundle up and enjoy your market this winter!”

The market will celebrate Valentine’s Day with a sweetheart market on Saturday, Feb. 11, featuring special activities and all the necessary ingredients for a special Valentine’s dinner.

The Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market is open Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon in White Horse Park. In-season hours return on March 4, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information, visit www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/farmers-artisans-market.

Rearview Mirror / Chip Bertino

Dan Collins of Ocean Pines and author of “Future Victories” on his 1969 black MGB as told to Chip Bertino

Shortly after college graduation, I bought my first car. It was a new 1969 black MGB and it was a dream and a nightmare. Don’t get me wrong. It was not a love/hate relationship. It was a love and ‘I’ll-work-around-your-idiosyncrasies’ relationship. Sort of like a groom finding out that his bride snores.

I’ve probably had a dozen or so vehicles since and, quite frankly, they have just been automobiles. None have captured the coveted exhilaration of the British roadster – a two-seater with 4 on the floor, rack and pinion steering and spoke wheels.

However, my fond memories, and there are many, are in competition for the nightmare of terrible postwar British quality control. The MGB engineering design was as inspiring as the British Spitfire fighter but British Motor Corporation’s manufacturing standards were dismal.

In seven years, I had to replace five mufflers, two speedometer cables, both sun visors and the drive shaft. I can see now how dependent England was on US manufacturing during WWII.

I also had to live with stress cracks around the door handles and an inaudible radio but the biggest hardship was the canvass roof. To put it down you had to first peel off the canvass to reveal the metal frame. Then you had to disassemble the frame into two sections and store all three pieces in the itty-bitty boot (trunk). Ugly! As a practice, I used to put it down in April and back up in November and used a tonto over the seating compartment for eight or nine months. When it rained, I drove faster.

Anyway, I’ve never forgotten her. She was my alpha but in retirement I just bought a brand new 2022 Miata. This one has six on the floor and a canvass top that works! She is my omega.



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EOE

An old course to adventure

Watching television isn't what it used to be. There's nothing that can change things back to the way they once were. Technology has made it so we can now watch programming when we want, on our timeline. That's

cause we realized we were watching less and less "regular" television programming. Yes, we had dozens and dozens of channels (most of which we never watched), but it was harder and harder to justify the monthly cost.



It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

rather nice I admit. Yet, if you don't subscribe to the service on which the show everyone is talking about streams, then you're out of luck.

It gets expensive signing up for the ever-growing number of streaming services available. There was a time, back in the day, when there was only Netflix which wasn't too expensive relative to the monthly cable or satellite bills. Now, it's very easy to spend as much or more on streaming services per month than the basic cable bill.

How many choices do we need before we become overloaded with options that we spend more time switching among streaming services and scrolling through programming menus than actually watching something, anything? I fall into this rabbit hole more times than I care to admit, spending way too much time searching for a movie or series that attracts my attention.

There was a time in the not-too-distant past when all we had to do was thumb through *TV Guide* to know what was on and when. There was something comforting about knowing when specific shows aired. Our days and weeks revolved around when our favorite programs would be on. There were only three, later four, broadcast television networks: NBC, CBS, ABC and Fox. Additionally, there was PBS which was good for Sesame Street and Ken Burns' documentaries.

It's been, I can't remember when, since the last time I watched a network television show, years I guess. We left the cable service about a year ago be-

cause we realized we were watching less and less "regular" television programming. Yes, we had dozens and dozens of channels (most of which we never watched), but it was harder and harder to justify the monthly cost. There are only so many times a rerun of "Law & Order SVU" is a must see. Unfortunately, the cable company was unable to package just the ten or so channels in which we were interested. Even their basic package included too many channels we flipped past to

be cost justified. *Snip!*

Binge watching a show on a streaming network is very nice. But once you watch all ten episodes over a weekend, then what? You have to wait a year or more for the next installments to be available. So, it's back to searching.

Time was when you could plan your week around the primetime television schedule. Sunday night: "60 Minutes" and "Movie of the Week"; Monday: "Little House on the Prairie" and "Monday Night Football"; Tuesday: "Happy Days," "Laverne & Shirley," "Three's Company," "Soap" and "Starsky & Hutch;" Wednesday: "Eight Is Enough," "Charlie's Angels" and "Vegas;" Thursday: "The Waltons," "Hawaii Five-O" and "Barnaby Jones;" Friday: "Donny and Marie," "Dukes of Hazzard" and "Dallas;" and, Saturday: "All in the Family," "The Jefferson's," "Mary Tyler Moore," "Bob Newhart" and "The Carol Burnett Show." Those were the days.

The appeal of first cable television and then streaming networks was that it offered viewers hundreds, thousands, millions of viewing options. But there's a part of me that yearns for the era when I knew that when, on Saturday nights, I turned the dial to ABC at 9 p.m. I would hear Jack Jones sing to a disco beat the "Love Boat" theme while that episode's guest stars smiled through the credits, expecting us to "come aboard for something exciting and new." Or to hear once again at about seven minutes to ten on Thursday nights, "Book 'em Dano!"

That's a course for adventure I wouldn't mind travelling again.





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Letter to the Editor

Age 50 is still young

Editor:

Inasmuch as I appreciate your new found interest in our senior citizens with your latest edition "Living 50 plus" (January 25, 2023), I think a more appropriate age would have been 65+. If you ask any 65-85 year old senior citizen I bet you will find that they would never have considered themselves senior citizens at the ripe old age of 50. At 50 most of us were still working and building up our careers, as well as preparing for our children to graduate from college or get married and start their families, not thinking about what retirement

groups they can join. I think the emphasis on an appropriate age of 65+ (the age for Medicare and most retirement ages) would be more appropriate. Of course when I was 50 my 60 and 70 year old friends told me I was just a baby, now that I am 70+ those same friends, those who are still with us, still call me a baby. I think all of us so called senior citizens in our so called "Golden Years" would love to have the health, mental and physical shape of the average 50-year-old. Just a thought.

Linda M. Hess
Ocean Pines

Anglers to meet

The Ocean Pines Anglers Club will meet on Saturday, February 11 at 9:30 a.m. in the Ocean Pines library. The speaker will be commercial fisherman and member of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Captain Sonny Gwin, who fishes out of Ocean City Harbor on his vessel *Skilligalee*. Sonny will share with the club the good and the bad about the life of a waterman as well as fishing industry issues. All are welcome.

Church to hold service

The Church of the Holy Spirit, at 100th St. and Coastal Highway in Ocean City, will have a single service at 9 a.m. on Sunday, February 5. The service will be followed by a pancake breakfast. Call the church at 410-723-1973 for more information.

Garden Club to meet

The Ocean Pines Garden Club will meet on Thursday, February 9, at 10 a.m. in the OP Community Center. The speaker will be Ginny Rosenkranz from the University of Maryland Extension Program. Ginny will speak on plant propagation by seeds and cuttings. New members and guests are welcome.



Life plan - The Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines- Ocean City welcomed Warren Rosenfeld to their January 25 weekly meeting. Dubbed "The Cornbeef and Cold Cut King of the Eastern Shore," Warren talked about how others decisions decide one's life.

As a child, Warren worked with his father, an immigrant who escaped Nazi Germany, in their restaurant. This was his first exposure to the restaurant industry. He later earned a degree in economics from the University of Maryland. His professor told him his economics degree would only qualify him to be a cab driver and advised him to go to law school. He graduated from George Washington University with his law degree. While working toward his degree, Warren worked in a law office, thinking there would be an opening for him. There wasn't. So, he went to work in another law firm. This decision changed his life's direction.

Warren went on to have a very successful career as an attorney and CEO of his technology company. He retired in 2011 to Ocean Pines, but "un"retired in 2013 when he opened Rosenfeld's Jewish Deli in Ocean City. He expanded to seven additional locations. Warren said he wouldn't have gotten to where he is today if the decisions of others hadn't affected his life. So, "Plan your life in pencil, not pen," Warren told the Kiwanis audience.

Pictured (L-R) Kiwanis Club President **Bob Wolfing** and **Warren Rosenfeld**.

Courier Almanac

February 1, 1978: Antislavery crusader and Civil War veteran Harriet Tubman became the first African American woman to appear on a U.S. postage stamp, the first in the Post Office's Black Heritage Series. Tubman's appearance on stamps was emblematic both of the progress made in recognizing African Americans' contributions to American history and of the ongoing effort to put abolitionists on equal footing with slaveowners in the nation's historical canon.

High school students are undoubtedly familiar with the belief that extracurricular activities can help separate applicants when seeking admissions to competitive colleges and universities. But research has long indicated that extracurriculars are more than mere zero-sum-padding activities. A 2019 study published in *The Excellence in Education Journal* found that students who participated in extracurricular activities earned a significantly higher grade point average than those who did not engage in such activities. The value of that participation has been evident for decades, as the National Center for Education Statistics notes that a 1992 study found that more than 30 percent of students who participated in extracurricular activities had a GPA of 3.0 or higher, while just under 11 percent of non-participants performed that well academically. The potential impact that extracurriculars can have on students' academic performance underscores just how valuable such activities can be and how much students should consider getting more involved at school as their academic careers unfold.



The Courier

Chip Bertino Publisher/Editor

Mary Adair Comptroller

Linda Knight Advertising Representative

Contributors

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

98 Nottingham Lane Ocean Pines, MD 21811
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Heart health events schedule for February

As part of American Heart Month and Go Red for Women, Worcester Health and Atlantic General Hospital have collaborated to bring the county a variety of free events for the betterment of residents' heart health. The goal of American Heart Month and Go Red for Women is to raise awareness among women about heart disease, risk factors, and steps that can be taken to reduce the risk of developing heart disease. These events focus on encouraging residents to get more physical activity and getting screened to keep their hearts healthy. Residents can participate in any of the free events throughout the month of February.

Wear Red Day: On February 3 everyone is encouraged to wear, share and rock their red! All who participate can send photos to Worcester Health at crystal.bell1@maryland.gov

Free Vascular Health & Wellness Screenings - Join Worcester Health, Atlantic General Hospital, and

the Heart Health Foundation for free screenings, education, and giveaways! This event will be held on February 4, 2023 from 8am-2pm, at the Ocean Pines Branch of the Worcester County Library.

Go Red for Women Scavenger Hunt: A walk scavenger hunt is scheduled to take place February 18-19, 2023. Residents can walk through any of the parks listed below and find the Go Red Wellness Rocks. Snap a photo and report the number of wellness rocks found to be entered into a free raffle to win a Fitbit! Send photos to crystal.bell@maryland.gov

Register through Eventbrite; for more information call 410-632-1100 Ext. 1108. Residents can get in their steps and find the rocks from 8am-5pm at one of the following park locations:

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

For more information on places to please see **schedule** on page 12



From left to right: **Steven Tyson**, AGH donor relations officer; **Toni Keiser**, AGH vice president of public relations; **John H. 'Jack' Burbage, Jr.**, CEO of Blue Water Development; **Don Owrey**, AGH president/CEO; **Steven Green**, AGH Foundation board chair; **Charlotte Cathell**, AGH Board of Trustees chair.

Burbage donates to cancer center

John H. 'Jack' Burbage, Jr. has been a member of the Atlantic General Hospital Board of Trustees since 2007. He has been an integral part of the Board during this time and served as chairman from 2011 to 2014.

Burbage has been generous in sharing his time and expertise with Atlantic General Hospital. Through the years, he has proven to be sincerely dedicated to AGH's mission in providing accessible, high-quality care to residents and visitors of the Eastern Shore community. He co-chaired the highly successful "Campaign for the Future," which secured funding for multiple projects including the John H. 'Jack' Burbage, Jr. Regional Cancer Care Center, named in his honor for his personal and philanthropic support for Atlantic General. At the opening in July of 2018, he said, "The cancer center is something near and dear to me, as my mother died when I was a young boy of breast cancer and it was really tough growing up because my dad worked all the time. If I can do something that would help prevent another child in our community from having to go through that, it will be well worth it."

He continues to support the Burbage Regional Cancer Care Center and, most recently, presented a gen-

erous donation of \$100,000 for equipment. This equipment includes wire-free localization technology, which allows radiologists to mark lesions for removal, and an LF-DP portable tracheal intubation fiberoptic that will be used for head and neck cancer patients, which is ideal for emergency procedures where intubation of the trachea is required. This will assure that the center has the necessary tools to maintain its standing as a state-of-the-art facility.

The Burbage Regional Cancer Care Center provides one centrally-located, convenient facility for the care and treatment of individuals with cancer and blood disorders. In addition to medical oncology, chemotherapy infusion services and integrative therapies, the center also offers radiation oncology, PET/CT imaging, laboratory services, community education and support facilities. Telemedicine technology is also available, allowing patients and their physicians to consult with other cancer care experts at the University of Maryland Greenebaum Cancer Center, preventing unnecessary travel for consultation and follow up care for patients who may require more intensive cancer care services.

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Local student performance outperforms majority of state

The Maryland State Department of Education recently released statewide performance data with Worcester County Public Schools outperforming the majority of school systems in the State across content areas.

During the State Board of Education meeting on January 24, State Superintendent Mohammed Choudhury and staff provided an update on student performance on state assessments administered in spring 2022 in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics. These results reflect the new assessment and standard setting that the state has completed over the past year.

Statewide, student performance in ELA demonstrated a return to pre-pandemic performance. In Worcester County, student performance on the spring ELA assessments in grades 3-8 topped all other school systems in Maryland with 64 percent of students scoring as proficient or higher, 20 percentage points above the state average. A particular highlight in the early grades is Ocean City Elementary School, at which 94 percent of third graders scored proficient or higher, 74.8 percentage points above the state average, and 87.6 percent of fourth graders reached proficiency, nearly 79 percentage points above the state average.

At the high school level, 72 percent of Worcester County students taking the English 10 assessment scored proficient, topping the state average by 19 percentage points, and landing second overall in the state, with only three percentage points separating Worcester and Calvert counties. Snow Hill High School shined on the assessment with 80.2 percent of students reaching proficiency, nearly 27 percentage points above the state average.

In Mathematics, students statewide fell short of returning to pre-pandemic levels; however, Worcester County once again topped the state by 15 percentage points, with 37 percent of students reaching proficiency. Snow Hill Elementary School's third graders bucked statewide trends by showing marked improvement from their pre-pandemic performance with 65.1% of students reaching proficiency in math. Students in eighth

grade math across the county also saw improvement from their pre-pandemic performance; in particular, 42 percent of students at Stephen Decatur Middle School reached proficiency, over 35 percentage points above the state average for that assessment.

Similar to scores in earlier grades, student performance statewide in Algebra I experienced a decline, and while Worcester County scores also indicate some decline from pre-pandemic levels, school system performance was still second in the state, behind only Howard County.

"[The] results were encouraging," Superintendent of Schools Lou Taylor said. "We know we still have work to do, but there is a lot to celebrate in Worcester's performance on these assessments. I am incredibly proud of the hard work and determination of our students, teachers, and leaders, all of whom contributed to Worcester consistently topping the state in student performance."



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My Backyard... sponsored by Maureen Kennedy

Types of bird feed for backyard feeders

Birding is a wildly popular hobby. According to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, about 45 million Americans are birders, while data from the popular bird observation app eBird indicates that submissions from Canadian birders increased by 34 percent in 2020.

It's not uncommon for birding enthusiasts to travel great distances to see beautiful birds in serene settings. But individuals also can entice beautiful birds to come to them. Bird feeders beckon birds to millions of backyards every day, making them an ideal addition to properties owned by people with an affinity for avians. After choosing a bird feeder, novices may not know which food to fill it with. This breakdown, courtesy of the National Wildlife Federation, can help anyone find the right food for their feeders.

Nectar: Individuals who want to attract hummingbirds can do so with nectar, which is pure sugar water. Do not add red to the water. Mix four parts water and one part white sugar. Heat until sugar is dissolved. Once cooled it is ready to put out. More sugar does not bring more birds to your feeders and in fact it can harm hummingbirds' livers or kidneys and can even cause death. You should change the nectar every two to three days as it will grow bacteria and again, be harmful to the birds.

Black-oil sunflower: The NWF notes that black-oil sunflower is the most popular bird seed. Black-oil sunflower attracts an array of birds, including blue jays, cardinals, chickadees, and sparrows. Novices may like that black-oil sunflower seed can even be found at many grocery stores, which can appeal to individu-

als who live in remote locations without specialty bird stores nearby.

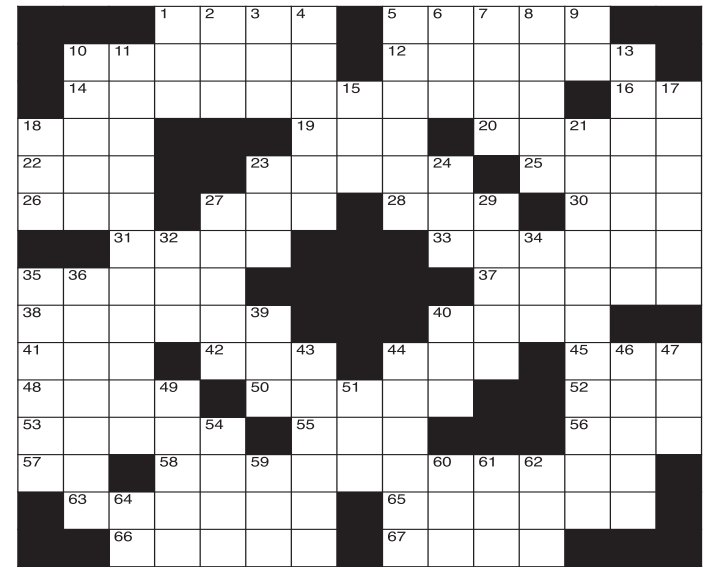
Mixes: Seed mixes also can be found at your local bird store and appeal to a variety of birds. Wherever you purchase your seed, read the ingredients label. Avoid mixed seed that has red millet and milo in it. These seeds do feed wild birds, but not the songbirds you want to attract and tends to grow weed in your yard.

The NWF indicates that these mixes have been de-hulled, which means there won't be as big a pile of unwanted seeds beneath the feeder. That tends to be the case with regular mixes that birds pick through as they choose which seeds they want and discard the others, often dropping them to the ground beneath the feeder. The NWF reports that mixes tend to attract ground-feeding birds, such as doves and sparrows.

Suet: Suet is sought after in winter by bird lovers who want to help birds stay healthy and strong during times of year when food sources are scarce. Suet requires a suet feeder, which is unlike most bird feeders. Suet comes in squares and isn't in seed form, though seeds are typically mixed in to the gelatinous cake. Despite its appearance, which can seem like a square block of fat, suet is an excellent source of protein for birds in winter.

Thistle or nyjer: The NWF notes that goldfinches love this small, high-quality seed. Because thistle or nyjer is something of a specialty seed, birders who want to put it out will need to purchase a finch feeder.

Birding has millions of devotees across the globe. Knowing what to feed birds can be a great way for birding enthusiasts to attract these beautiful creatures to their own backyards.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Shed tears
- 5. Luxury jewelry designer
- 10. Goddess of wisdom
- 12. Convert into a particular form
- 14. Working-class people
- 16. It borders Canada (abbr.)
- 18. A princess can detect its presence
- 19. Red-brown sea bream
- 20. Defunct retail empire
- 22. Vase
- 23. Demeter's equivalent
- 25. Monetary unit of the Maldives
- 26. French and Belgian river
- 27. Small amount
- 28. High schoolers' test
- 30. Animal's foot
- 31. Some is red
- 33. Per ___: each
- 35. Swedish jazz pop duo
- 37. Plate for Eucharist
- 38. Train line
- 40. Russian pop duo
- 41. Stake
- 42. Plant by scattering
- 44. Female sibling
- 45. City of Angels hoopsters (abbr.)
- 48. Popular cookie brand
- 50. Group of Niger-Congo languages
- 52. A team's best pitcher
- 53. Vomits
- 55. 19th letter of Greek alphabet
- 56. Men's fashion accessory
- 57. Its capital is Pierre (abbr.)
- 58. Expensive cut of steak
- 63. Popular James Cameron film
- 65. A ___: relating to knowledge gleaned from deduction
- 66. Kids' snow toys
- 67. Flip side to yin

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Global public health agency
- 2. Snake-like fish
- 3. Midway between northeast and east
- 4. Dabbed
- 5. TV show
- 6. Folk singer DiFranco
- 7. Canadian flyers
- 8. Of the dowry
- 9. Commercial
- 10. The act of imitating
- 11. Equipment used to broadcast radio or TV signals
- 13. Lands of an emir
- 15. Swiss river
- 17. Island
- 18. Monetary unit of Afghanistan
- 21. One who surrenders under agreed conditions
- 23. Garfield is one
- 24. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
- 27. Small boats used in the Black Sea
- 29. Small savory Spanish dishes
- 32. Body part
- 34. Touch lightly
- 35. Popular grilled foods on a stick
- 36. ___ Hess: oil company
- 39. Antelope with a reddish coat
- 40. Pharaoh of Lower Egypt
- 43. Pink Floyd's Roger
- 44. Short and thick
- 46. Small, sac-like cavities
- 47. Performer ___-Lo
- 49. Entrails of animal used as food
- 51. ___ King Cole, musician
- 54. Where construction is done
- 59. Chap
- 60. Investment vehicle
- 61. Often mixed with tonic
- 62. Holiday beverage egg ___
- 64. Against



We're all about the birds and more!

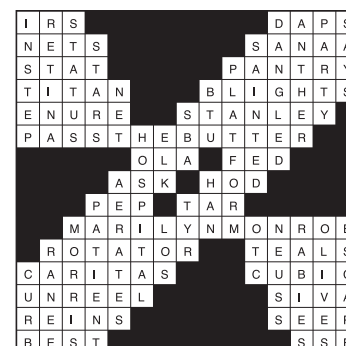
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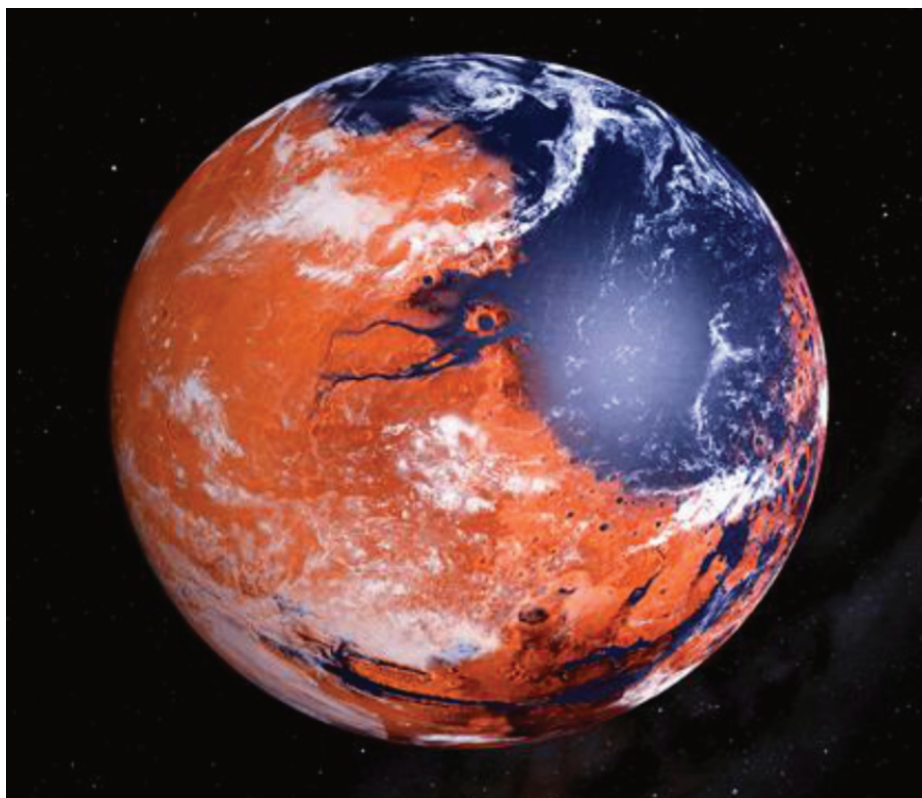
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Answers for January 25

Astronomy & Spaceflight

By Douglas Hemmick, Ph.D.



Ancient Mars with ocean in northern hemisphere

An ancient tsunami on Mars

Many astronomy fans are aware of the special geological features of the planet Mars, namely “Olympus Mons,” the largest volcano in the solar system and “Valles Marineris” the huge 2,500-mile Mars canyon, five times longer and four times deeper than the Grand Canyon. Now joining these well-known features is evidence of an ancient asteroid impact and tsunami which changed the Martian landscape for a region of hundreds of miles wide, an area which includes the site where NASA Viking- 1 landed.

About 3.4 billion years ago, when Mars was warm and wet, an asteroid several miles wide crashed with enormous force into a Martian seabed. This impact created an enormous tsunami which traveled hundreds of miles into surrounding lands, depositing a hundred-foot-thick layer of sea sediment there.

In December 2022, researchers from the Planetary Science Institute in Tuscon, AZ published their discovery

and analysis of the historic tsunami, in “Nature Scientific Reports.” The report identified a 68-mile-wide Martian crater, named “Pohl” as the asteroid’s impact site. Based on the size of the Pohl crater, the team’s analysis suggests an asteroid as large as 5.6 miles wide, slammed into the red planet with an energy of about 13 million megatons of TNT. Reports have described this powerful event as producing a megatsunami, about 800 feet high. Calculations indicate that the

giant wave carried rock and debris as far as 930 miles from the impact crater. Viking-1 touched down about 560 miles from the Pohl crater, well within the affected region.

The lead investigator of the research team, Alexis Rodriguez, said, “Our investigation provides a new solution – that a megatsunami washed ashore, emplacing sediments on which, about 3.4 billion years later, the Viking-1 lander touched down.”

Also, the scientists’ analysis has been found to be consistent with data from satellite probes in orbit about Mars. The topography as measured from such satellites as Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter, Mars Odyssey, Mars Orbiter and the Mars Global Surveyor matches up quite closely with the new findings. After Viking-1 landed in 1976, scientists were a bit surprised by the flat terrain strewn with boulders. The source of these features was a mystery to them. Now the recent analysis has helped resolve those questions, and the topography can be understood as the result of the ancient asteroidal impact and cataclysmic ocean wave.

Scientists searching for life on Mars are also encouraged. Prior to this analysis, it was thought that ancient life could have flourished only in regions where past water also existed. Yet as the tsunami wave swept ashore and traveled far inland, the possibilities for finding signs of ancient Martian life are thereby increased.

At 6 p.m., on the evening of January 24, local space fans were able to enjoy the launch of Rocket Lab’s Electron rocket. The rocket rose from the southern horizon and for several

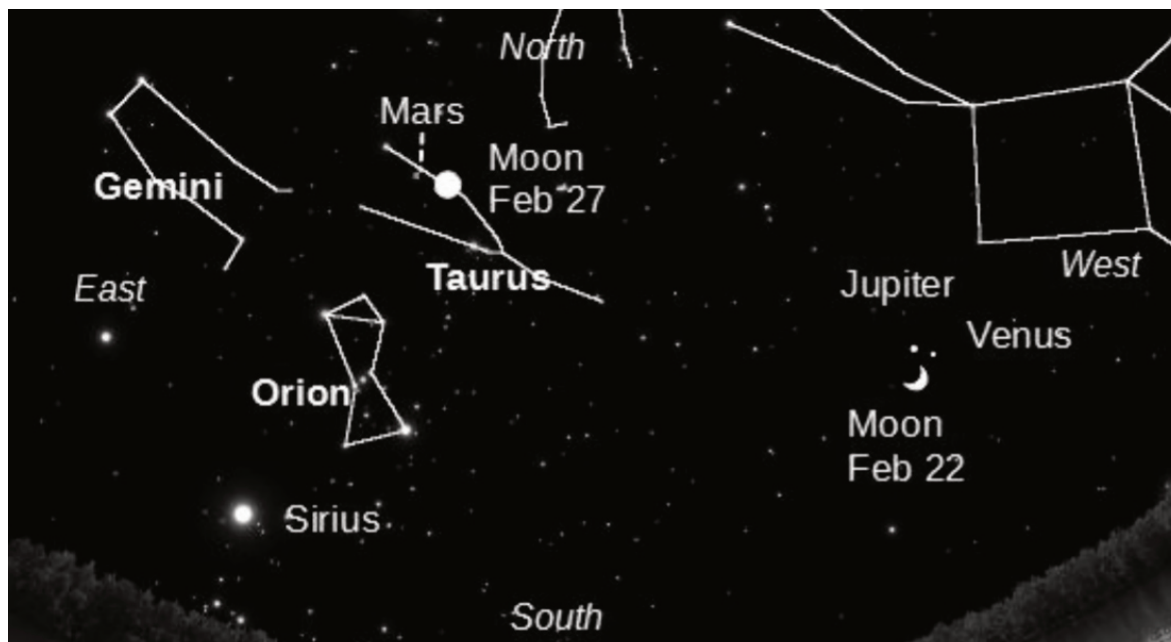
minutes its bright orange and red trail was seen climbing high into the sky. This marked the company’s first launch on US soil, and locals are proud that it occurred at Wallops Island. Rocket lab previously launched a number of similar missions at its New Zealand facilities. The mission deployed three radio-frequency analytical satellites into an orbit 340 miles high. By comparison, the International Space Station is flying at 248 miles above the Earth.

February’s stargazing begins early with Venus and Jupiter appearing at 5:30 p.m. This month Venus will extend its presence until about 6:45 p.m. Jupiter appears higher in the sky, and doesn’t set until almost 10 p.m.

The full wintertime display appears at 7 p.m., including Orion the Hunter, Taurus the Bull, and Gemini the Twins. Orion is perhaps the most famous and most easily spotted of all constellations. Stargazers can see the man-like figure complete with two stars at the “shoulders,” two at the “knees” as well as three stars making up the “belt.” At the upper left shoulder of Orion, the star “Betelgeuse” appears, with its slightly red hue.

Late in February the moon will highlight a few celestial companions. On February 22, watch for the crescent moon, one degree south of Jupiter, with the dazzling bright Venus nearby. On February 27, at first quarter phase, the moon appears in Taurus, just one-half degree to the west of Mars.

Wishing good luck and clear skies to all stargazers.



Senator Carozza updates district

Governor Wes Moore proposed \$63.1 billion for the Fiscal Year 2024 State Budget on January 20, 2023, including \$8.8 billion in K-12 education for Maryland public schools with \$500 million specifically targeted for implementation of the Kirwan Education Blueprint, \$1.4 billion for mental health and substance use programs, \$122 million in aid to local police departments, and \$500 million to support transportation projects.

Former Governor Hogan left his successor with a \$5 billion surplus, and the new Governor noted in his budget letter to the Maryland General Assembly leaders that “We are in a fortunate financial position to craft this budget with significant positive General Fund cash balances.”

“Governor Moore has promised to deploy the surplus intentionally and strategically, and to Leave No One Behind,” said Senator Carozza who represents Worcester, Wicomico and Somerset. “We in the Eastern Shore Delegation will work even harder to ensure that the new Governor and his Administration do not leave behind our key Shore constituencies like our farmers, watermen, and small business job creators and entrepreneurs.”

Somerset County Budget Highlights:

- \$19.4 million, Eastern Correctional Institution for building upgrades and perimeter security
- \$12.6 million, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, new Agricultural Research Center
- \$3 million, Somers Cove Marina Bulkhead Replacement, Phase 3
- \$1,245,000, University of Maryland, Campus Utilities & Site Improvements
- \$825, 830, Smith Island Clean Water Project
- \$400,000, Janes Island State Park Water Distribution, Sewer Collection & Electric Upgrade

| Tides for Ocean City Inlet | | |
|----------------------------|------------|-----------|
| Day | High / Low | Tide Time |
| Th 2 | High | 5:43 AM |
| | Low | 12:09 PM |
| | High | 5:48 PM |
| | Low | 11:40 PM |
| F 3 | High | 6:26 AM |
| | Low | 12:47 PM |
| | High | 6:31 PM |
| Sa 4 | Low | 12:23 AM |
| | High | 7:07 AM |
| | Low | 1:21 PM |
| | High | 7:12 PM |
| Su 5 | Low | 1:04 AM |
| | High | 7:46 AM |
| | Low | 1:54 PM |
| | High | 7:53 PM |
| M 6 | Low | 1:43 AM |
| | High | 8:24 AM |
| | Low | 2:28 PM |
| | High | 8:33 PM |
| Tu 7 | Low | 2:21 AM |
| | High | 9:00 AM |
| | Low | 3:01 PM |
| | High | 9:12 PM |
| W 8 | Low | 3:00 AM |
| | High | 9:36 AM |
| | Low | 3:36 PM |
| | High | 9:50 PM |

Wicomico County Budget Highlights:

- \$7 million, Mardela Middle/High School
- \$4.5 million, Town of Hebron Wastewater Treatment Plant Replacement
- \$2.2 million, Salisbury University, Blackwell Hall Renovation

Health Acquisition

- \$325,000 Assateague State Park, Rackliffe House Parking Lot
- \$200,000, Milburn Boat Ramp Replacement
- \$200,000 Snow Hill-Public Land-ing Retaining Wall and Rip Rap
- \$150,000 Pocomoke City Boat Ramp Improvements \$59,500, Snow Hill Middle School/Cedar Chapel Special School
- \$4,177, Pocomoke City Volunteer Fire Company Rescue Safety Equipment

Worcester County Budget Highlights:

- \$3.8 million, Berlin Police Barrack, New Barrack Forensic Lab and Garage
- \$2.2 million, New Pocomoke Library
- \$2 million, Ocean City Beach Replenishment Program
- \$2 million, Pocomoke River State Park, New Elevated Boardwalk Trail
- \$1.4 million, Shad Landing Marina and Boat Ramp Replacement
- \$1.4 million, Buckingham Elementary School
- \$844,306, Pocomoke City Market Street Water Main Relining
- \$519,883, Three Lower Counties Community Services – Chesapeake

schedule
from page 8

walk in Worcester, or to join Just Walk, visit JustWalkWorcester.org or call 410-632-1100 ext. 1108

Atlantic General Hospital Virtual Walk with a Doc: A virtual walk sponsored by Atlantic General Hospital featuring Diabetes Educator and Registered Dietician, Darlene Jameson. The topic will be heart health. The virtual walk is scheduled to take place on February 18, 2023 at 9 am. For more information, please visit <https://rb.gy/rzw8tn> or contact Tina Simmons, at 410-629 6409.

“Walking continues to be one of the easiest forms of physical activity and it’s free to everyone. There are many reasons to walk. There are also various health benefits that can be gained from simply just walking,” said Crystal Bell, Chronic Disease and Tobacco Supervisor.

Heart disease is the leading cause of death throughout the United States. Worcester Health and Atlantic General Hospital are helping to reduce residents’ risk of heart disease by providing resources that make living a healthy lifestyle accessible to everyone.

Thank you to the town of Snow Hill, Pocomoke, Berlin, and Worcester County Recreation and Parks for their continued support and their efforts to keep our parks beautiful and accessible.

For more information, visit our website worcesterhealth.org or call 410-632-1100 ext. 1108.

Additional budget news includes the Board of Public Works approval on January 25 of \$250,000 for the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department for the South Station facility. Both Senator Carozza and Delegate Hartman made this a local priority bond project last session.

529 Prepaid College Trust Briefing

The Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee held a hearing last Tuesday which focused on the current challenges facing the Maryland 529 Prepaid College Trust Plan. The problem came to light when Prepaid College Trust Plan account holders who tried to withdraw their accrued interest that they were promised to pay for college expenses were unable to do so due to an interest calculation problem. The Maryland College Investment Plan accounts were not affected.

Prior to the hearing, Carozza joined with a group of Senators in a letter which urged Maryland college and university presidents to delay billing for the 2023 Spring semester and/or give families the opportunity to set up delayed payment plans. The Maryland Association of Community Colleges, which includes Wor-Wic Community College located in Salisbury, agreed with the Senators and the Maryland colleges and university have delayed billing or provided payment options for the 2023 Spring Semester.

529 Officials have developed and implemented a “temporary” manual process for account holders who have submitted a Request for Account Support form until Maryland 529 can move to an automated process.

“As a member of the committee



Donation - From left, **Dr. Ray Hoy**, president of Wor-Wic Community College, and **Stefanie K. Rider**, executive director of the foundation and director of development, accept a pledge of \$60,000 for the college's "Preparing for a Stronger Tomorrow" campaign from **Joseph Gast**, president of Avery W. Hall Insurance Agency, and **Maureen Cody**, commercial lines account executive.

update
from page 12

with oversight of education, I joined with my colleagues in pressing the 529 officials for specific recommendations on how to fast track fixing and resolving this problem for all those who in good faith set up these accounts years ago to help pay for their children's college expenses," said Senator Carozza.

Eastern Shore of Maryland Education Consortium

Highlights from last week's Eastern Shore Delegation zoom included a key presentation by the members of the Eastern Shore of Maryland Educational Consortium, including Worcester Superintendent Lou Taylor, Somerset Superintendent John Gaddis, and a Wicomico representative for Superintendent Micah Stauffer of Wicomico County.

The following 2023 Legislative Initiatives are supported by all nine Eastern Shore Superintendents:

- Provide funding for internet broadband connectivity in ALL rural areas;
- Sustain state education funding as outlined in the Blueprint for Maryland's future;
- Encourage Maryland's Institutions of Higher Education to support students pursuing a teaching degree;
- Support local flexibility in the implementation of the Blueprint for

Maryland's future; and
-Support the FY 2024 Capital Budget Requests for the Eastern Shore.

The FY 2024 Capital Improvement Project State Funding Requests from the local Superintendents are:

- For Wicomico are:*
- \$54,935,000 for Mardela Middle and High Schools
 - \$36,986,000 for Fruitland Primary School
 - \$11,692,000 for Parkside High School

- For Worcester are:*
- \$17,182,000 for Buckingham Elementary School
 - \$1,926,000 for Snow Hill Middle/Cedar Chapel Special Design Funding Request

"I am extremely concerned about the many bureaucratic and funding challenges that our local school superintendents are facing with the required mandates under the Kirwan Blueprint education bill," said Senator Carozza. "After hearing that our school leaders and teachers are spending so much time and energy on meeting unrealistic Kirwan timelines, we as members of the Eastern Shore Delegation will push for maximum flexibility on timelines and overall implementation of the Blueprint."

RWWC to meet

The Republican Women of Worcester County will host their February General Meeting and Luncheon at Worcester Technical High School on Saturday, February 25. The guest speakers will be Julie Giordano, Wicomico County executive and Patrick Kerr, president, Salisbury University College Republicans. Doors open at 10:30 a.m. and the meeting will begin at 11 a.m. Cost of the luncheon is \$23.50 per person, tax and gratuity included. Deadline for reservation is February 16, 2023. Seating is limited. The location of the high school is 6290 Worcester Highway (Rte. 113), Newark.

For more information contact by email@gopwomenofwc@gmail.com or to submit reservations, go to the website gopwomenofworcester.org.

'Ready, Set, FAFSA!' to be held

Wor-Wic Community College is inviting prospective students and their families to learn more about applying for financial aid and how to submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on Saturday, February 11, from 9:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. in room 103 of Fulton-Owen Hall at the college campus on the corner of Route 50 and Walston Switch Road in Salisbury.

Doughnuts and coffee will be available, and Wor-Wic's financial aid staff will offer hands-on FAFSA assistance, with sponsorship from the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore, Horizons Delmarva, Junior Achievement of the Eastern Shore and United Way of the Lower Eastern Shore.

Visit the events section of www.worwic.edu for more information or to register.

Locals in Annapolis

Several local officials were in Annapolis for the Maryland Association of Counties Legislative meeting including Wicomico County Executive Julie Giordano, Wicomico Administrator Bunky Luffman, and Worcester County Administrator Weston Young. Also, local Chamber of Commerce Executive Directors Amy Thompson, Ocean City, and Kerrie Bunting, Ocean Pines, were in Annapolis for Maryland Chamber of Commerce meetings.

Preview

The Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee will hold a hearing on Senate Bill 13 sponsored by Senator Carozza who served on the Workgroup to Study Child Custody Proceedings Involving Child Abuse or Domestic Violence Allegations from 2019-2020. This bill aims to establish training

and qualifications for Custody Evaluators who play an important role in assisting family law courts in determining custody outcomes in some of the most sensitive and difficult cases involving allegations of domestic violence and child abuse. The hearing will be held on Tuesday, January 31st at 1:00 pm in the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee.

"I have heard from parents, advocates, and legal child custody experts for years that there is no consistent training for custody evaluators, whose recommendations are given heavy weight by judges," said Carozza. "These child custody cases involving allegations of domestic violence and child abuse are among the most sensitive and traumatic issues which underscores the need to ensure adequate training and qualifications for these important custody evaluators."

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Some things to think about

Gathered from the internet by **Jack Barnes**



Why don't the 99% of us who aren't offended by everything quit catering to the 1% who are

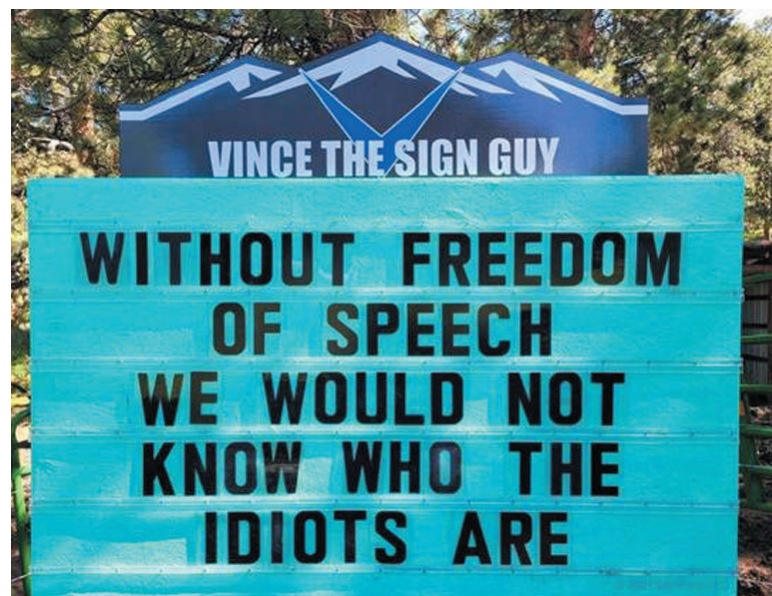


The fitness trainer asked me, "What kind of a squat are you accustomed to doing?" I said, "Diddly."

Picked up a hitch-hiker. Seemed like a nice guy. After a few miles, he asked me if I wasn't afraid that he might be a serial killer? I told him that the odds of two serial killers being in the same car were extremely unlikely

I never thought I'd be the type of person who would get up early in the morning to exercise. I was right.

there should be a calorie refund for things that didn't taste as good as you expected



"Siri, why am I so bad at relationships with women?"

"This is Alexa."

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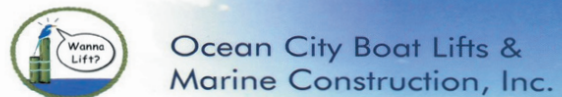


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II: \$44 swim members, \$54 OP residents, \$61 public 410.641.5255

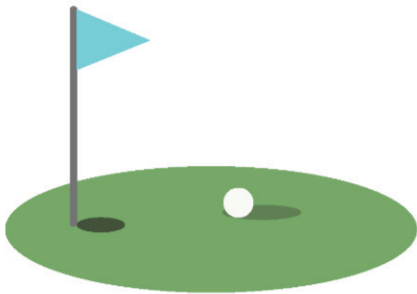


**THURSDAYS
FEB 16-
APR 13**

MEN'S 4V4 BASKETBALL LEAGUE

OP COMMUNITY CENTER | 6:45PM

\$400/team. Free agents welcome!
Register: 410.641.7052



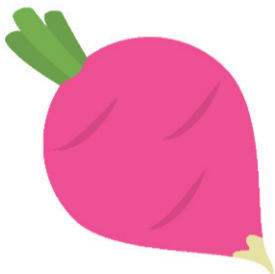
**WINTER
RATES**

OCEAN PINES GOLF CLUB

\$30 OP RESIDENTS* | \$35-\$45 PUBLIC

Tee times: 410.641.6057 or oceanpinesgolf.org

*With Ocean Pines Resident ID Card



**EVERY
SAT**

FARMERS & ARTISANS MARKET

WHITE HORSE PARK | 9AM-NOON

Fresh produce, artisan items, baked goods & more
Info: 410.641.7052 or oceanpines.org

DISCOVER MORE: OCEANPINES.ORG | 410.641.7717