

The Courier

February 8, 2023 Volume 23 Number 18



Cartoon Day - Ocean City Elementary celebrated Disney/Cartoon Spirit Day on Friday, January 20. Pictured are fourth grade students **Dallas Kennedy** and **Nikol Petkova**.

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Honorary member welcomed

Brian Morrison, founder and CEO of the Believe in Tomorrow Children's Foundation, was installed as an honorary member of the First State Detachment of the Marine Corps League at the organization's January meeting. The First State Detachment is a financial supporter of the foundation that provides respite housing facilities for families with children undergoing treatment for life-threatening illnesses.

In the Ocean City area, the foundation operates the House by the Sea, the House by the Bay, and the House on Fenwick Island. At all three getaways, families with critically ill children can relax, and reconnect together in the midst of the child's treatment and recovery.

The First State Detachment has designated Believe in Tomorrow as one of its primary charities, along with the Semper Fi & America's Fund that provides care for our nation's critically wounded, ill, and injured service members, veterans, and military families.

First State Detachment members provide monetary and manpower support to many local community events throughout the region. The Men in Red recently packed food in the Mountaire Farms Food for the holidays program, supported the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program, helped at the most recent Bethany Beach Arts Festival, and at many of the events at the Ocean City Convention Center.

Above: Officers of the First State Detachment welcome **Brian Morrison** into the Detachment, as he receives an Honorary Membership plaque from Commandant **Bob Broderick**.

Women's Club to award scholarships

The Women's Club of Ocean Pines (WCOP) will award scholarships in June to promising students who are full-time residents of Ocean Pines. These students must graduate from high school in good standing with a minimum grade point average of 2.5 and plan to attend an accredited institution for further education. These awards may be used by the recipient to help defray post-high school expenses at any approved degree, certificate-granting college or university, technical or vocational school.

The WCOP Scholarship committee will consider the applicant's needs, goals, scholarship, citizenship, community service, extra-curricular activities and motivation.

The club adheres to a non-discrimination policy on the basis of race, gender, religion, national origin or family status.

Applications for these scholarships may be found on the Naviance website. All completed applications must be returned to a senior counselor at Stephen Decatur High School by March 22. Qualifying applicants who do not attend Stephen Decatur High School are asked to call 410-641-8046 for information and/or an application.

If you live in Ocean Pines and would like home delivery of *The Courier*, call 410-629-5906.

Male mentors sought for local youth

Mentoring is a great way to give back to your community as well as a fun way to spend your free time. Worcester Connects, a program of Worcester Youth & Family Counseling Services, Inc. (WCYFS), is currently seeking male mentors in Worcester County. The program has a large number of male students ranging from age six to sixteen in need of a positive male presence in their life. Students are typically referred to the program due to struggling with the challenges of life whether at home, school or in the community. The male students on the waitlist are kids who simply need a male mentor to believe in them. By offering unconditional support and fun outlets, students thrive because of the mentoring relationship.

While being a mentor may seem like a big task, it is easier and more enjoyable than you may think. WYFCS trains and supports all mentors during the one-year process and carefully

matches mentors to students to increase the chance for success. Mentors are asked to see their mentee at least twice per month and WCYFS offers free monthly group activities. Many current mentors enjoy talking with their mentees as they go to the boardwalk, take art classes at the Art League, participate in monthly free events or play sports. With a little bit of imagination and a big heart, you can make the difference in a child or teen's life.

Mentors must be 18 years and older, have a valid driver's license, pass the screening process and criminal background check, and complete an easy online training.

If you or someone you know are interested in giving back to a child/teen from your community, contact Kayla Figueroa at kaylaf@gowoyo.org or call 410-641-4598 to learn more. Be the mentor you needed growing up.

Library offers Doo Wop ice cream social

Looking for a sweet date on Valentine's Day? Enjoy a free ice cream sundae at the Ocean Pines Branch of the Worcester County Library on Tuesday, February 14, starting at 2 p.m. Both singles and couples are welcome!

Dino Fradelos, otherwise known as the "Dean of Doo Wop," and his DJ partner, The Paulman, will be on hand to play the hits of the 1950s. Fradelos hosts "Doo Wop with The Dean," on Ocean City's WEES-FM 107.9.

"We wanted a fun program for Valentine's Day, for couples and friends to get together, be social, and meet their neighbors," said library associate Chelsea West, who helped plan the event. "And of course, ice cream makes everything great."

The Doo Wop Ice Cream Social is sponsored by the Friends of the Ocean Pines Library. For information on all Worcester County Library programs, please visit worcestercountylibrary.org.

Now Available



Each week for more than two decades, Chip Bertino has written his column, *It's All About...* which is published weekly in *The Courier*. *Some of My Favorites* is a collection of Chip's favorite columns in book form.

To purchase a copy call **410-629-5906** or email chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

Arts Council offers scholarships

The Worcester County Arts Council's Student Arts Scholarship award program is underway. The scholarship awards range from \$500 to \$2,000 for qualifying high school seniors who are Worcester County residents interested in majoring in the arts. Scholarships are also available to college art majors wishing to continue their education in the arts. In 2022, a total of \$10,000, including the John Sisson family's contribution, was awarded to five students pursuing an arts education.

The Worcester County Arts Council's Student Arts Scholarship program is designed to identify, recognize, and encourage talented students who demonstrate excellence in creative writing, culinary arts, dance, music,

theater or visual arts. This is a merit scholarship and award decisions are based on the evaluation of talent, dedication, and potential not financial need. The number and amount of the award are based on the funds' availability. Funds are provided for tuition costs and fees and are paid directly to the applicant's school.

Application and Scholarship Guidelines are available on the Arts Council's website: www.worcester-countyartsCouncil.org

All applications must be received by May 2, 2023.

For further information, please contact Anna Mullis Executive Director: anna@worcestercountyartsCouncil.org.

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New Sgt-at-Arms sworn in

Navy Veteran Chuck Schaub of Ocean View, DE, has been sworn in as Sgt.-at-Arms of the First State Detachment of the Marine Corps League. Schaub recently was named 2022 Associate of the Year for the organization.

Schaub served aboard the destroyer USS Mullinnix in 1969 and 1970, and received a Letter of Meritorious Service from his Commanding Officer for his performance while on the gun line in Vietnam.

In addition to its work supporting veterans, the Detachment is involved in community service activities throughout the local region. Membership is open to men and women who have served in the U.S. Marine Corps. Individuals who served in other branches of the U.S. Armed Forces, can join as Associate Members.

More information on the First State Detachment and the Marine Corps League can be found at www.firststatemarines.org

The accompanying photo shows Commandant **Chuck Schwab**, (L) taking the oath of office for Sgt.-at-Arms from former Detachment Commander **Frank Del Piano**.

Rearview Mirror / Chip Bertino

Doug Hemmick of Ocean Pines on his 1977 Pontiac as told to Chip Bertino.

My first car was a 1977 Pontiac Phoenix which was the Pontiac answer to the Chevy Nova. It was sky blue. I bought it used in about 1982 when I graduated high school. I can't remember now what I paid for it – too much water under the bridge since then.

I used it to drive to college as a commuter. It had a smooth ride and seemed like a dream come true. When I decided to go to New Jersey and attend school there, it was an element of familiarity in the strange new home up there. I enjoyed taking my faithful ride on the new adventure and trying to become accustomed to the New Jersey Turnpike and Garden State Parkway and other roads which were slightly different from the good old Baltimore beltway. My fellow students never said no when I decided to point the Pontiac towards the Jersey beaches on weekends.



Advertising Sales Professionals

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EOE

The List

If you're a husband, raise your hand if you've ever told your wife she was wrong because of something she's said or done. Okay, now keep your hand up if, when you told your wife she was wrong, she concurred. That's

replied as I continued placing beside the dinner plates the knives and forks on the just folded paper napkins.

A confused look crossed her face. Admittedly, rarely, if ever, does my wife overlook something on The List.

But this time, she had. Yet, she didn't quite admit it. "Oh," was all she responded.

Fortunately, we had enough parmesan to get through the most enjoyable meal. I never gave the parmesan or The List a second thought. My wife on

the other hand, well, she thought about it.

The following evening as we prepared for bed, my wife said, out of the blue, "It wasn't on the list."

"What?" I responded as I slid the pajama top over my head.

"The List. You didn't write grated cheese on The List."

It took me a moment to focus. "I didn't? How do you know?" That's the moment when I underestimated, not for the first time, my wife's tenacity to protect her reputation and the lengths to which she'll go to prove she had not made a mistake.

"Look on the bureau," she told me. I must admit I was a little hesitant to look.

There on the bureau was an uncrumpled scrap of paper – The List.

Glancing over it, clearly not written were the words, "grated cheese."

I looked from the list to my wife. "I told you it wasn't on The List."

"I can see that," I said. "Are you telling me you scavenged for this little piece of paper and smoothed it out just so you could prove me wrong?" The question was unnecessary. Of course she had. We've been together too long for me not to know that before she'll admit to an error, every other possibility, including that I may actually being right, has to be debunked. And so it was with the grated cheese and The List.

So, if you're a husband, raise your hand if your wife has admitted that you were right and she was... not right. That's what I thought. I don't see any hands.



It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

what I thought. I don't see any remaining raised hands.

It's a reality of nature that wives rarely, if ever, freely admit to errors whether large or small. In fact, the insignificance of the error is inversely proportional to the stubbornness wives exhibit to admitting an error. And to top it off, it is highly probable that after all is said (by the wife) and done (by the wife) that the husband will wind up convinced *he* was wrong in the first place. I know of whence I speak.

It started innocently enough one evening when my wife and I were getting dinner on the table. The menu was linguine and sausage with homemade sauce, one of my favorites. While setting the table, I went to the fridge for the grated cheese. Finding a nearly empty jar, I asked, innocently enough, whether my wife had purchased another jar during a recent food shopping run. The reply was very matter-of-fact: "No. Did you put it on *The List*."

The tone in which the words, "The List" were expressed by my wife imbued it with such import that you'd think The List was written in calligraphy on sacred parchment resplendent with a majestic seal instead of scribbled on a sticky-note torn from a Wor-Wic Community College pad many years old.

"Yes, I did put it on the list," I



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A water filtration project?

It is a tale typical of Ocean Pines. Accusations, lawyers, investigations, misinformation, intrigue, propaganda, extensive news coverage, internal management squabbles, government funds, resignations, poor planning... you name it.

tion of area flooding “was only minimal.”

A filtration project, not a flood control project? Pure propaganda.

The project was conceived and sold as a flood control project. The July 30, 2020 edition of the *Bayside Gazette*

solve the flooding below Bainbridge. Working closely with Worcester County Director of Environmental Programs Bob Mitchell, Phillips and OPA hired Vista Design, Inc. to design the project. Plans were completed for a project that would involve an expensive reworking of Bainbridge Pond, culvert and ditch modifications, and the extremely crucial part of the project — running the water out of Ocean Pines into a stormwater management pond a developer would be creating on the old Bay Shore Golf property.

It was the Holy Grail of flooding solutions for that area of Ocean Pines. There were many sore shoulders from an overabundance of backslapping.

Smooth sailing was expected. Then came the August 18, 2020 meeting of the Worcester County Commissioners. That was when Commissioner Bunting asked if the OPA might have difficulty obtaining drainage right-of-way easements on the former old Pine Shore Golf Course property located north of Beauchamp Road.

Mitchell said the project plan did not originally factor in land costs! Ooops.

“It was to be done through a cooperative easement with the developer,” he said. “If we have to purchase an easement, that was not anticipated before we might have to go another route.”

In other words, OPA had designed a \$2.3 million drainage project to dump flood waters on someone else’s property with no agreement from the property owner to do so. There was

talk the developer wanted \$500,000. Eventually, the developer said “no” to any plan to take OPA’s water.

What about the state grant money? Mitchell said, “We could do something totally different than what it was originally applied for.”

Meantime, then OPA president Larry Perrone raised the issue of a possible referendum on the project if the project costs soared beyond the initially projected \$2.3 million. As a sidebar, early in 2021, Phillips filed a complaint against Perrone alleging he had violated Board Resolution B-08, which addressed director and officer ethics and misconduct. Some of the charges apparently stemmed from how Phillips claimed Perrone spoke to her in discussions about the project. A review of the charges by a lawyer concluded Perrone did nothing inappropriate. It seems Perrone was the only individual asking serious questions about the project. Unwelcome questions.

Eventually, the project proceeded, but without any location to dump flood waters. 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, not the original \$2.3 million. It was billed as “Phase 1” of the initial overall project. Phase 2, getting rid of the flood waters, would come later - we were told.

Later could be a very long time. The only apparent solution is a large underground drainage pipe to run

please see commentary on page 12



Commentary

By Joe Reynolds
OceanPinesForum.com

The time for a deep-dive look at the Bainbridge Pond Drainage Project is long past. Fortunately, at least one association member was paying attention and brought the issue to public attention at the December 2022 board meeting when former OPA board member Tom Janasek rose to make public comments.

Janasek said, “We spent a lot of money on Bainbridge Park for drainage. Our first major water event [since completion] was last week. Did it satisfy our needs when it came to flooding in that area?”

An interesting question. No one answered it. The question itself must have hit a few nerves, as it was subsequently addressed during the January board meeting. So, what was OPA’s answer to Janasek’s question of - “Did it satisfy our needs when it came to flooding in that area?”

An official OPA news release said, “The main purpose of this project was filtration for better water quality out to the bay – it was not for flood control.” The news release also says the reduc-

tion contains the following line in an article about the project: “Altogether, \$549,000 was awarded to the community by DNR, which worked through the Chesapeake & Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund to help cover the cost of reducing flooding in Bainbridge Park by retrofitting Bainbridge Pond.”


Some history:

Flooding below the Bainbridge Park Pond area of Ocean Pines is a long-term problem. Some years ago, Worcester County Commissioner Jim Bunting came to the rescue of Ocean Pines by brokering a deal with River Run to divert a large volume of the flood waters into a pond on their property. Cost to OPA? Zero. Still, the volume of water leaving that area of Ocean Pines was more than the River Run diversion could handle. Flooding continued, but not as bad as in the past.

In late 2019 or early 2020, then OPA Director of Amenities and Operational Logistics Colby Phillips put together a drainage project to finally

Courier Almanac

A classic "Nor'easter" storm that brought a severe blizzard to New England finally subsided on February 8, 1978, and the region begins to dig out from under several feet of snow. Over the previous 72 hours, some areas of Rhode Island and Massachusetts had received as many as 55 inches of snow.



Barbie figures to make headlines in the summer of 2023, as a big budget Hollywood film focusing on the popular doll is set for release in July. Introduced in 1959, the Barbie doll has become a global icon and even inspired a painting by famed artist Andy Warhol in the 1980s. Though the precise number of Barbie dolls sold since 1959 is hard to determine, according to Mattel, which manufactures the doll, roughly 58 million Barbie dolls are sold every year. That equates to around 100 Barbie dolls sold every minute. That means Barbie has not only proven an enduring icon, but also a lucrative one. And her popularity doesn't figure to wane any time soon, as Mattel reports Barbie has more than 14 million fans on Facebook and in excess of 1.2 million followers on Instagram.

The Courier

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NEW! GOLF ACADEMY AT OCEAN PINES GOLF CLUB

WITH MATT RUGGIERE, PGA STARTING MARCH 7, 2023

Ocean Pines Golf Club is pleased to introduce Matt Ruggiere, PGA as the director of instruction at 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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Pell Grant increase may give low-income students a boost

Paying for college just got a little easier for low-income students. The latest federal spending plan raises the maximum value of Pell Grants to nearly \$7,400 for the 2023 fiscal year.

More than 6 million college students received the Pell Grant in the 2020-21 academic year, according to the Department of Education. Unlike student loans, federal Pell Grants do not need to be repaid in most cases. Not everyone will qualify, and not everyone will receive the maximum amount — that is determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form.

The FAFSA is free to fill out and may be completed online at www.studentaid.gov. It requires some tax information and other financial data. Here's what you need to gather before starting to fill it out:

- Social security number
- Alien registration number (if you're not a U.S. citizen)
- 2021 federal income tax returns, W-2s, and other records of money

earned (You may be able to transfer your federal tax return information into your FAFSA form using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool)

- Bank statements and records of investments (if applicable)

- Records of untaxed income (if applicable)

- If you are a dependent student, then you'll also need the above information for your parent(s).

The FAFSA can be daunting to those who have never filled it out, so Wor-Wic Community College in Salisbury is hosting a free financial aid information session to help parents and students complete it. The session will be held on Saturday, Feb. 11, from 9:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wor-Wic's financial aid counselors will help anyone who needs assistance in filling out the form — bring the above-mentioned information to complete it on the spot. Visit the www.worwic.edu for more information.

Council features student art

During the month of February, the Worcester County Arts Council will present an exhibit featuring entries submitted by local high school students for the annual art competition sponsored by the Berlin/Ocean City Optimist Club.

The goal of this competition is to

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 gopwomenofworchester.org.

encourage, recognize, and honor the artistic expression of talented art students in Worcester County as well as to emphasize the importance and support of quality art programs.

The competition offers a total of \$1,350 in cash prizes to the student artists. The selection of artwork entered for this contest will be judged by artist and former educator, Sandy Glassman. Monetary awards and ribbons will be presented to students on Friday, February 10.

Visitors to the exhibit will have an opportunity to vote for the "People's Choice" award. Voting will begin on February 1 and end on February 9.

Help celebrate the artistic young talent in our community.

The exhibit will be on display from February 1 – February 27, 2023. The Gallery hours are Tuesday thru Sunday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

If you live in Ocean Pines and would like home delivery of *The Courier*, call 410-629-5906



Donations - At the February 2 meeting of the Ocean City-Berlin Optimist Club two donations were made to local schools.

The top picture shows **Dr. Amy Gallagher**, principal of Berlin Intermediate School (BIS), presenting the club with a T-shirt from the BIS "Seahawks on the Move" program. Optimist vice president **George Solyak**, center, is presenting a check for \$2,000 to **Dr. David Gell**, assistant principal of BIS, in support of this program.

The bottom picture shows **Cheryl Wheatly**, center, accepting a \$2,000 check from the club in support of the Kindness 365 program at Stephen Decatur Middle School. Club member **Roger Pacella** is shown at left with vice president **George Solyak** on the right.

The **Courier**

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Homegrown talent to lead new Golf Academy at Ocean Pines

Ten years ago, a junior golfer named Matt Ruggiere could be found at the Ocean Pines Golf Club most mornings, his car headlights pointed at the driving range as he practiced chipping just before class.

This March, Ruggiere will return home to lead a new Golf Academy at Ocean Pines, offering lessons to

orado.

After suffering from a nagging wrist injury several years ago, Ruggiere decided it was time to transition from playing to teaching.

“Through playing, the competition, and some of the networks and friends I made, I really found my passion in teaching and coaching,” he said. “I got the ball rolling with that and kept pursuing it.”

Ruggiere created the www.ruggieregolf.com website that helped brand his teaching program. A few months ago, he messaged Ocean Pines Golf Director Bob Beckelman about bringing that program to the community where he grew up.

“For me, it was perfect timing,” he said. “I already had the back-

bone of the website ready to go, and I

*please see **talent** on page 12*



players of all ages and skill levels.

Ruggiere grew up in the South Gate area of Ocean Pines and played golf for Stephen Decatur High School. He also toured the Mid-Atlantic region on junior golf teams.

He said the Ocean Pines Golf Club is still a favorite, because of the Robert Trent Jones design.

“Ocean Pines was always my home course. The design is just spectacular,” Ruggiere said. “I do think it’s one of the most challenging in the area, so being a competitive junior and having a place to play and practice, I felt like I always had an edge over kids that came from other courses. That helped me a lot when I started competing.”

Right after high school, Ruggiere moved to Colorado to teach snowboarding.

“I think being up there and away from golf for a couple of months was what really drove me to realize my passion for golf,” he said.

He moved back to Ocean Pines the next summer to refocus on golf, and then went to Florida for five years to tour the southeastern United States and West Coast as a competitive golfer. He played in several U.S. Open qualifying rounds and built up his professional resume working at courses like the LPGA International in Daytona Beach, Florida, and the Indian Peaks Golf Course in Boulder, Col-

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Visiting

Cape Town, South Africa

By **Kurt and Jean Marx**

Cape Town is a beautiful and fun city to visit and you should put it on your South African itinerary.

The Cape Town airport is relatively simple to navigate and we found the people to be friendly and easy to work with. There are numerous ATMs at the airport and we recommend getting some cash there. In general, you can use your credit cards throughout South Africa, and that is the best and safest thing to do; however, there will probably be times when you will need cash and you want to use an ATM that is inside (in a bank, in your hotel, etc).

Since South Africa has a tipping culture, tipping is a key part of many employees' compensation. Think of it as similar to when you go to a restaurant in the USA. There is no law that says you have to tip, but most servers make a low wage and depend on tips to make a living. (The South African minimum wage is 20 Rand per hour).

We stayed at the Southern Sun Cullinan Hotel. The hotel is well-appointed, the staff is friendly and helpful, and the hotel is conveniently located to many of the major activities in Cape Town. Additionally, the breakfast has a number of delicious choices.

Cape Town reminded us of San Francisco – hilly with micro climates. We set off from the hotel to see the Bo-Kaap area of the city. The Bo-Kaap area is known for its narrow cobblestone streets and colorful houses. It is an area associated with the Cape Malays. The Cape Malays are descendants of slaves who had been brought to South Africa by the Dutch from what are now the countries of Indonesia and Malaysia. We recommend going to the Iziko Bo-Kaap Museum to learn more about the area and the history of the Cape Malays. The museum is small but very interesting. Across the street is a fun coffee shop, bazaar and furniture store called Love, Coffee. Their Chai Tea is fabulous!

We attempted to visit both the South African Jewish Museum and the Iziko South African Museum because we heard they were excellent. Unfortunately, we were unable to visit either of them due to load shedding. Since South Africa's demand

for electricity exceeds its ability to generate electricity, the government imposes temporary blackouts to areas throughout the country on a rotating basis. The majority of resorts and hotels have their own generators so you shouldn't be inconvenienced by load shedding. However, it is a good idea to check the load shedding schedule and plan accordingly.

When you are in Cape Town, you must try a "Gatsby" sandwich. They are available almost everywhere. We went to Mariam's Kitchen for one. The sandwich is enormous – the rule of thumb is 1/4 Gatsby per person, and it's just delicious. Mariam's has numerous sauces and we encourage you to try them all.

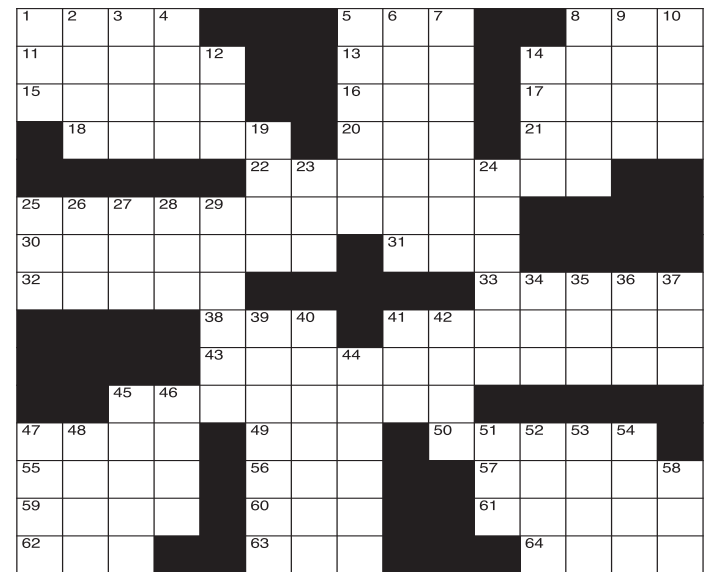
When we travel, we like to walk around the city to experience the vibe and see the people. In South Africa, this is fine during the day; however, at night you need to be extremely careful. Due to the potential for crime and the lack of streetlights, we did not walk around Cape Town at night. Many hotels have their own shuttle buses, and Ubers are inexpensive (\$2 - \$5 per trip).

We went to the V&A Waterfront for dinner every night we were in Cape Town. The area is touristy, but we found the shops, attractions and restaurants to be top-notch. On our first night we went to Baia, a seafood restaurant with beautiful views of the harbor and the ocean. The ceviche was outstanding. We agreed it was one of the best we had ever had. We also enjoyed the Kingklip fish, langoustines, and lobsters. Baia is an excellent restaurant and you can expect to spend about \$50 per person including entree, drinks and tip. We think you will find the combination of food, service, and ambiance to be well worth it.

In our next article we will share more about Cape Town and a day of touring we experienced around the southern tip of South Africa.

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

Call 410-629-5906

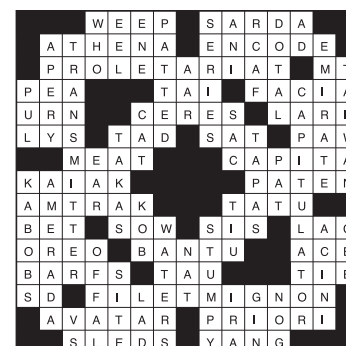


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Functions
- 5. Records electric currents associated with contractions of the heart
- 8. Trigonometric function (abbr.)
- 11. Secret political clique
- 13. Type of gibbon
- 14. Nocturnal S. American rodent
- 15. Famed American playwright
- 16. Mesopotamian goddess
- 17. Abba __, Israeli politician
- 18. Long ridge of gravel and sediment
- 20. A place to stay
- 21. Actor Idris
- 22. One who behaves in a rebellious way
- 25. A way to measure movement
- 30. Distinguish oneself
- 31. Type of drug (abbr.)
- 32. Basketball great Baylor
- 33. Masses of salivary matter
- 38. Calls balls and strikes
- 41. Plant that grows along the ground
- 43. A recreational activity in the air
- 45. Consumes too much
- 47. Island nation
- 49. Pistol
- 50. Mixtures of soul and calypso
- 55. Ancient Greek City
- 56. Similar
- 57. Roughly trimmed tree trunk used in a Scottish game
- 59. Semitic fertility god
- 60. Born of
- 61. Frogs, toads, tree toads
- 62. School in the northeast (abbr.)
- 63. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 64. "__ the Man" Musical, baseball player

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Fiddler crabs
- 2. Discount
- 3. Partner to "flows"
- 4. Ethnic group of Laos
- 5. Beloved "Seinfeld" character
- 6. Book of tickets
- 7. The last name of "Hermione"
- 8. Type of TV package
- 9. Helps to heal a cut
- 10. Town in Galilee
- 12. Actor Horsley
- 14. "Hocus Pocus 2" actor Ed
- 19. Bird-loving group (abbr.)
- 23. They respond when someone is sick
- 24. Emerged
- 25. Midway between south and southeast
- 26. Monetary unit of Afghanistan
- 27. Unit of work or energy
- 28. Indicates near
- 29. Famed river
- 34. For each
- 35. News organization
- 36. CNN's founder
- 37. They __
- 39. Areas off to the side
- 40. Satisfies
- 41. A spare bed
- 42. Legendary singer Diana
- 44. Frothy mass of bubbles
- 45. A kind of sorcery
- 46. River in South Africa
- 47. Philippine Island
- 48. County in China
- 51. S. American plant
- 52. Beverage containers
- 53. Edge
- 54. Protein-rich liquids
- 58. Moved quickly on foot



Answers for February 8

From Senator Mary Beth Carozza

Maryland General Assembly Update

Senator Mary Beth Carozza attended Governor Wes Moore's first State of the State Address on Wednesday in front of a special joint session of the Maryland General Assembly.



Senator Mary Beth Carozza

"After listening to Governor Moore's State of State and meeting many of his cabinet secretary nominees, I believe both parties will find common ground on shared priorities like supporting our veterans and reducing their retirement taxes, but I also will be urging the Governor and the majority in the Maryland General Assembly to take action on crime bills that go after repeat, violent offenders, and we as Senate Republicans will push back against bills and regulations that hurt our small business operators, farmers, and watermen," said Senator Mary Beth Carozza, who represents Worcester, Wicomico and Somerset.

Governor Moore recently released his \$63.1 billion spending plan for the 2024 fiscal year, including a one-time increase of \$500 million into the Blueprint for Maryland's Future Trust Fund, \$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.

"I will keep working to ensure that Governor Moore's budget is fair for the Shore," said Carozza. "Governor Moore repeatedly has said that 'no one is left behind' and that should include farmers, watermen, small business op-

erators, and retirees."

Hearing held on Carozza's Child Custody Evaluators Bill

Senator Carozza, with a panel of witnesses with expertise in child custody cases dealing with allegations of child abuse and domestic violence, testified on Tuesday in strong support of Senate Bill 13 before the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee. Senate Bill 13 establishes training and qualifications for child custody evaluators who play an important role in determining child custody outcomes. These requirements would help ensure the safety and well-being of children involved in the most sensitive and difficult custody cases.

"I have heard from many parents and child advocacy groups who have shared numerous stories and cases where qualifications and training of the child custody evaluators would have made all the difference in the child's life," said Carozza, who served on the Workgroup to Study Child Custody Court Proceedings Involving Child Abuse or Domestic Violence Allegations. "This bill is all about putting the child first."

Courts follow the recommendations of the Custody Evaluators in over 90 percent of custody cases. Last year, the General Assembly supported a bill requiring training for judges and magistrates presiding over child custody cases involving child abuse or domestic violence. "It only makes sense that child custody evaluators be trained along the same lines as the judges who rely so heavily on their recommendations," said Carozza.

Hearing held on Carozza's Special Death Benefits Bill

Senator Carozza, Somerset County Commissioner Darryl Webster, and Lena Williams, the widow of Correctional Officer Gregory Collins, testified in strong support of Senate Bill 244. The purpose of the bill is to ensure that Lena Williams is allowed to apply for the special death benefits established in Senate Bill 198, which passed unanimously out of both chambers in 2022.

Senate Bill 198 ensured that a death benefit of \$125,000 would be paid to the surviving spouse, child, dependent parent, or estate of a public safety officer who was killed as a result of their job responsibilities and duties. However, there was also a time restriction, which left Ms. Williams unable to apply.

Correctional Officer Gregory Collins was killed the night of June 4, 2001, and his killer was not identified, arrested, and convicted for another 18 years. No one at the time understood that a hit had been put out on him by a former inmate and gang member.

"Lena Williams and her family have suffered from the brutal murder of her husband, Correctional Officer Greg Collins who served our State with honor in a dangerous job and ended up making the ultimate sacrifice," said Carozza. "We have an obligation to Ms. Williams and her family to ensure that this special death benefit is available to this family."

Eastern Shore Delegation: Higher Education and Delmarva Chicken Association

Highlights from this week's Eastern Shore Delegation zoom included a key presentation by the presidents of the universities and community colleges on Maryland's Eastern Shore including Dr. Heidi Anderson, University of Maryland Eastern Shore President; Carolyn Lepre, Salisbury University President, and Dr. Ray Hoy, Wor-Wic Community College President.

Carozza directed her questions about the role of higher education in-

please see update on page 12





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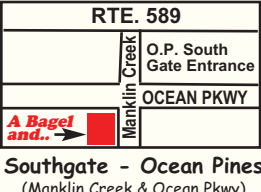
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update
from page 11

stitutions in addressing the severe workforce shortage to Dr. Ray Hoy who is slated to retire later this year after 41 years of service. Carozza said, "Dr. Hoy, you have played a tremendous role in providing key programs for local students to meet the needs of our local employers, and we'd like to hear more about the specific success stories at Wor-Wic."

Hoy focused his comments on being responsive to the specific needs of employers like Chesapeake Shipbuilding, Choptank, health care providers, and others, and pointed to the new Applied Technology Center under construction as a new, cutting-edge facility to prepare and train local students for careers on the Shore.

Officials from the Delmarva Chicken Association, a 1,600-member trade association representing the meat-chicken growers, processing companies, and allied business members on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, the Eastern Shore of Virginia, and Delaware, also presented to the Eastern Shore Delegation.

Carozza, who serves on the Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee, brought up Delmarva

Chicken Association's opposition to Senate Bill 158 which would prohibit the Maryland Department of Agriculture from registering any pesticides for use for mosquitos by 2024 and for any other pesticide by 2026 unless the distributor of the pesticide submits testing of PFAS to the department. The bill hearing was held on Thursday in Carozza's committee.

On behalf of DCA, Holly Porter testified that "...there is no approved methods for testing. This could effectively ban all pesticides from being registered in Maryland, which would have a devastating impact on all aspects of agriculture."

The Maryland Farm Bureau, the Maryland Grain Producers Association, and the Maryland Turfgrass Council also opposes SB 158.

Carozza's First Executive Nominations Hearing

Senator Carozza was humbled and honored to introduce and support the nomination of Judge Cathi Coates to serve as Worcester County District Court Judge. She is the first woman in State history to serve on that court. Prior to the appointment, she served as domestic and juvenile magistrate for Worcester County handling juvenile delinquency cases and civil matters.

"My appointment to Executive Nominations will allow me to highlight our Shore priorities with the new Governor's cabinet-level nominees and senior appointments requiring Senate confirmation on the very front end of the new Administration, and that is beneficial to my constituents," said Carozza who

commentary
from page 6

down the south side of Beauchamp Road at a cost of potentially \$10 million, depending on the design storm severity.

The sad kicker in all this? It seems OPA had an opportunity to buy the entire old Pine Shore Golf Course property for \$1.8 million, or something just under the referendum limit, back around 2012.

Former OPA Director Marty Clarke, a prominent opponent of such a purchase, wrote in March 2021, "This boondoggle [to purchase Pine Shore Golf property] was exposed in a conversation at the bar at BJ's on the Water in Ocean City."

Association member Tom Hemmick replied, "Thanks for bringing up that fiasco. And a BIG YES. That's the kind of expenditure where the board

served as a Deputy Chief of Staff during Governor Bob Ehrlich's Administration.

The Senate Executive Nominations Committee voted unanimously after the Monday hearing to confirm Judge Coates and the other judges who had been nominated by Governor Larry Hogan earlier this year. The full Senate will vote on Tuesday.

Locals in Annapolis

Several local officials visited Annapolis this week, including Judge Cathi Coates of Worcester County District 2 Court; local bankers attending the Maryland Bankers Association conference; local forestry industry officials attending Forestry Day in Annapolis; Lena Williams, widow of slain Correctional Officer Gregory Collins; Somerset County Commissioner and retired Maryland Division of Corrections employee with 30 years of service Darryl Webster; retired Deputy Warren of Eastern Correctional Institute Ronnie Dryd, and his

talent
from page 9

couldn't wait to get started in Ocean Pines."

Ruggiere's name was brought up during recent budget meetings, and the Association started heavily advertising the new golf academy this month.

"My family's been telling me there's a little bit of buzz around town, which great to hear. My aunt and uncle in Virginia were even sending me pictures!" he said. "My finance, Lindsey, has also been super supportive.

powers need to be limited."

Clarke added, "I won't waste any more time commenting on the ridiculous notion that this property could solve our drainage issues because it doesn't." Never mind that engineering firm Vista Design, Inc. designed a project to do exactly that.

OPA never bought the property. So, here we are wrapping up yet another episode of the ongoing OPA Soap Opera.

In summary — OPA completes a flood control project for about \$800,000, with no place to send the flood waters. The initially proposed location to take those waters is not available. OPA could have purchased the entire initial site for \$1.8 million or less, but a short-sighted decision not to do so then now means the only viable means of getting rid of flood waters could cost \$10 million.... and we get no land with the expenditure.

wife Jayne with 31 years as a procurement officer at ECI; Jerrod Johnson of Somerset County Emergency Services and Stockton Fire Department; Dr. Mark Zockoll, Jenny Rice, Gwen Cordner, and students Camdyn Chute and Genevieve Hilbert of Seaside Christian Academy in West Ocean City; Matthew George, Connor Chance, and Joshua Hall of Faith Baptist School in Salisbury; and Michele Keyser, Tara Luzader, and Jessica Hamilton of the Maryland Coalition of Families.

Senator Carozza also welcomed Gavin McIntyre, a senior at Washington Academy and High School who participated in the Maryland General Assembly Page Program this week, to the Senate Floor. He is a member of the National Honor Society, the National Technical Honor Society, and the Student Advisory Committee. He currently is enrolled in 4 AP/Dual Enrollment classes with a 4.6 GPA.

"It's just really exciting to be able to go back and be the face of the instruction program, because I have great memories of growing up and playing in Ocean Pines," Ruggiere continued. "Hopefully, I get some juniors who have the same passion that I did, and I can help them grow and pursue their goals."

The academy officially starts on March 7, but players can start booking private and group lessons now.

That includes an eight-week spring and summer program for juniors and women, and a spring break clinic for junior golfers on April 6-7.

"I think the game of golf has so much to offer. It's a sport where you can always push yourself, whether you're a junior just learning to play, or whether you're 80 or 90 years old," Ruggiere said. "It's also just a great way to get outside, enjoy nature, and spend time with family and friends."

Ocean Pines General Manager John Viola said he's excited to welcome Ruggiere back.

"This young man is a homegrown talent, and I remember seeing him play as a junior golfer and being very impressed," Viola said. "It's just a great story, and we think Matt is going to be a fantastic addition to our team and to our Golf program."

For more information and scheduling for the Golf Academy at Ocean Pines, visit www.ruggieregolf.com, or call 386-846-3505 or email mruggiere54@gmail.com.

For more information on the Ocean Pines Golf Club, visit www.oceanpinesgolf.org.

Tides for Ocean City Inlet

Day	High /Low	Tide Time
Th 9	Low	3:41 AM
	High	10:12 AM
	Low	4:11 PM
	High	10:29 PM
F 10	Low	4:25 AM
	High	10:49 AM
	Low	4:49 PM
	High	11:10 PM
Sa 11	Low	5:12 AM
	High	11:28 AM
	Low	5:29 PM
	High	11:55 PM
Su 12	Low	6:06 AM
	High	12:13 PM
	Low	6:15 PM
M 13	High	12:48 AM
	Low	7:04 AM
	High	1:06 PM
	Low	7:08 PM
Tu 14	High	1:49 AM
	Low	8:08 AM
	High	2:09 PM
	Low	8:07 PM
W 15	High	2:56 AM
	Low	9:15 AM
	High	3:17 PM
	Low	9:10 PM



Leadership - On January 7, five members of the Republican Women of Worcester County (RWWC) Board attended a Maryland Federation of Republican Women Leadership Conference that was held at the Renditions Golf Club in Davidsonville, MD. Pictured, left to right are: **Sandy Zitzer**, RWWC president, **Gina Shaffer**, legislative chair, **Jean Delcher**, treasurer, **Carol Frazier**, campaign activities chair and **Liz Mumford**, first vice president



First State Detachment welcomes new members

The First State detachment of the Marine Corps League swore in six new members of the veteran's organization at its January meeting.

Becoming members were Charles Choate, Victor Freeman Sr., Mike Sepety, Akram Ayoub, Camillo Dibiaso, Harry Kolodner, and Gil Hageman

Full membership in the Detachment is open to men and women who have served in the US Marine Corps. Individuals who have served in other branches of the service can become associate members.

In addition to its work supporting veterans, the Detachment is involved in community service activities throughout the local region.

More information on the First State Detachment and the Marine Corps League can be found at www.firststatemarines.org

Above: The accompanying photo shows Commandant **Bob Broderick** (center) with the newly sworn in members, along with Junior Vice Commandant **Al Soto** on the right.

What to do after an auto accident

Car accidents occur every day. According to data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, there are more than five million car accidents in the United States every year. Forty-three percent of car accidents resulted in injuries in 2020.

No one wants to get into an automobile accident, which can be stressful and even fatal. Even accidents that do not result in any major injuries can be traumatizing. Knowing what to do in the immediate aftermath of an accident may make such instances less stressful.

Assess the situation. Experts advise individuals involved in an accident to first determine if any of the involved parties suffered an injury. If you are injured, stay put. If not, check on the condition of the other driver. At this point do not admit any fault or reveal any policy limits.

Next, make a call to emergency services to request assistance from the police and an ambulance, if necessary.

Move your vehicle. If possible, pull the vehicle over to a safe, well-lit public location. This is especially important if you believe you were the victim of a staged accident, says the Insurance Information Institute. If the car will cause another road hazard, it is best to move it over to the side and use flashers to alert oncoming traffic. It is important that you don't leave the scene, according to American Property Casualty Insurance Association.

Gather evidence. Have the police write up an accident report. You should take pictures of the damage to

your vehicle, the other vehicle, if possible, and the scene of the accident, including any skid marks, debris and/or property damage. If there are any witnesses to the accident, get their names and contact information. You'll need this information when filing an insurance claim.

Exchange information. Collect the names, phone numbers, addresses and email addresses of other drivers and vehicle occupants and exchange insurance information with all drivers involved. That includes the insurance company name, policy number and the name of the insured.

Notify a friend or family member. Even if the accident is not serious, you may want to call a friend or family member to provide emotional support. If you've been injured, a friend or family member can meet you at the hospital and/or arrange to have your vehicle towed or returned home while you get the care you need.

Automotive accidents can be nerve-racking. Knowing the steps to take can alleviate some stress.

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.

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Some things to think about

Gathered from the internet by Jack Barnes

How the rednecks in the south were watching for the Chinese balloon:



Doctor says I have to cut out drinking.



I am responsible for what I say, not what you understand.

I wonder if clouds ever look down on us and say "Hey look. That one is shaped like an idiot"

You may think this is a corner of lettuce, but it's really just the tip of the iceberg.



I JUST POSTED A SELFIE AND PEOPLE TOLD ME TO GET WELL SOON!

They said bring a dessert and a game to the party...

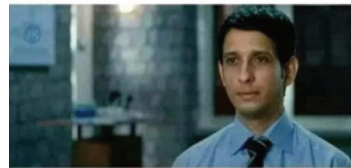


Nailed it!

Interview in an IT company

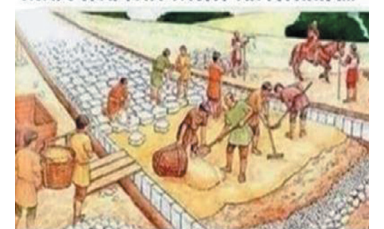


So, what makes you suitable for this job?



I hacked your computer and invited myself for this interview

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