

The Courier

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Centurions - Worcester Preparatory School celebrated reaching their 100th day of school on Friday, March 3. Pre-K through grade five students celebrated the milestone by dressing as 100-year-olds, as well as participating in a variety of educational and philanthropic activities throughout the day. Above are two "100-year-old first graders," **Deegan Adkins** and **Sasha Gerner**.

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Guerriero wears an artist coat of many colors

By **Elaine Bean**

Joan Guerriero is everywhere art is locally — leading paint nights, teaching art classes, designing holidays at her church, taking photographs of the scenery, and making her own art.

Born and raised in Baltimore, Guerriero lived in Westminster, MD for 33 years before moving to Ocean Pines with her husband in 2018. “We came to the Eastern Shore to have fun in the sun, of course,” she said. The artist received her Certificate in Interior Design from the Community College of Baltimore County, and said, “You might find me designing at my

at the Milton Theatre. Acrylic paint is my medium. After taking the five required classes in drawing, painting, and drafting, I decided that acrylic paint offered more flexibility. In my opinion, it’s the most fun, as it offers color intensity and an array of fabulous colors.”

Guerriero shares her skills as a designer and painter by teaching a wide variety of popular classes for the Art League of Ocean City at the Ocean City Center for the Arts on 94th St. and the Princess Royale Hotel on 91st St. She leads the bi-monthly “Paint Nights at the Princess” where friends and fami-

lies gather to create art together with step-by-step guidance from Guerriero. Everyone goes home that night with a finished masterpiece.

The artist also teaches an array of classes at the Arts Center including abstract acrylic painting and a trending technique called pour painting where students literally pour

paint onto the canvas to create abstract designs. She also teaches flower arranging with an upcoming class on mums and dahlias.

“I love sharing my talents with my students whether it’s painting, flower arranging, or creating classes using my interior design background,” Guerriero said. “My students keep me inspired, and I’m always looking for new ideas for my classes. I can capture some beautiful photographs of nature here on the Eastern Shore to share with them. I usually do a search of well-known artists’ works and reinvent them for my classes. I learn from them and strive to make realism come to life.”

Guerriero is an active member of the Art League and often displays her artwork in the monthly shows and participates as a vendor in art marketplaces. “Being able to work within this beautiful gallery is a joy for me,” she said. “I have participated as a student,

been a vendor at the arts shows, and celebrated on the First Friday events.”

“I once painted a scene looking down the coastline of the ocean near the surf for a different perspective and captured a few hotels in my painting. It was fun to see who could guess where I was.”

Guerriero said her two favorite communities on the Shore are the Art League of Ocean City and Holy Savior Church. “Art matters because everyone feels happy to make something

creative. I have really enjoyed being a member of the Art League. I’ve met so many nice people and made friends at the gallery. Everyone is so kind and encouraging.”

Guerriero will teach upcoming classes around town in March and April including paint nights at the Princess Royale and painting classes and floral arranging classes at the Ocean City Center for the Arts. More information about her classes is available at OCart.org/classes.

Spring and summer events announced in Ocean Pines

Mark your calendars! With the release of the spring/summer Activity Guide, Ocean Pines has announced dates and times for several major upcoming events.

All events in Ocean Pines are open to the public, unless otherwise noted.

The Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department will host Family Fun Nights, Wednesdays from June 21 through August 23 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Yacht Club Pool. The event will feature a live DJ, with family fun, games and prizes. Admission is \$3 for swim members, \$5 for residents, and \$7 for nonresidents. Only those swimming pay a fee.

Free Concerts in the Park are scheduled every Thursday from June 22 through August 24 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in White Horse Park. Food is available for sale and BYOB is permitted.

Bay Day, presented by Ocean Pines and the Maryland Coastal Bays Program, returns Sunday, May 7 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in White Horse Park. The event teaches local people how to “make a difference in your own backyard,” with free boat rides, hands-on activities, environmental exhibitors, and live animal demonstrations. Admission is free.

Ocean Pines Bike Ride Day is Saturday, May 13 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, email Patti Stevens of the Worcester County Bike & Pedestrian Coalition at patti59.stevens@gmail.com, or Recreation and Parks Director Debbie Donahue at ddonahue@oceanpines.org.

Teach a Kid to Fish Day is Saturday, June 17 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at

the South Gate Pond near the Sports Core Pool. The event includes a drawing for a free rod and reel. For more information, call John McFalls at 610-505-1697.

On July 4, the Recreation and Parks Department and OC Tri-Running will host the 11th Annual Freedom 5K starting at 8 a.m. at Veterans Memorial Park. Awards will be given for several age groups. Online preregistration is \$40.

Later that day, the department will host the annual July 4th Celebration and Fireworks. Enjoy carnival games, music, food and more from 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Veterans Memorial Park. Admission is free and wristbands are \$15. Fireworks are scheduled to launch just after dark. Attendees may bring lawn chairs and blankets.

The 27th Art Hansen Memorial Youth Fishing Contest is set for Saturday, July 15 from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the South Gate Pond near the Sports Core Pool. Trophies and prizes will be awarded for age groups of 4-7, 8-11 and 12-16. For more information, call John McFalls at 610-505-1697.

For the second year, the Recreation and Parks Department will host the Back to School Bash, scheduled for Saturday, August 26 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Veterans Memorial Park. The event will include moon bounces, games, food, music and more. Staff and volunteers will collect donations of backpacks and other school supplies for Worcester County G.O.L.D. Admission is \$10 per person.

Big Truck Day is scheduled Satur-



church, Holy Savior, for holidays or whenever they need me.”

These days, Guerriero is hyper-focused on painting and always collecting ideas. “I attend many art events and try to catch a show now and then



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OPA Board election process gets underway

The Ocean Pines Elections Committee has announced important dates for the 2023 election process, including filing and voting deadlines.

The seven-member volunteer board is the governing body of Ocean Pines. Terms for elected directors are three years.

This year, two seats on the Board of Directors will be up for election: those currently held by directors Doug Parks and Colette Horn. Both are currently serving the last year of two consecutive terms and cannot run again because of term limits.

The deadline to file is by 4 p.m. on Wednesday, May 10.

“We encourage anyone who is thinking about running to do their homework, read up on the Association’s governing documents, attend the regular meetings, and volunteer,” Elections Committee Chairperson Tom Piatti said. “Volunteers have helped make this community what it is today, and there’s no better way to give back than to serve on

our Board of Directors.”

Applications are available at the administration building or on the Ocean Pines website at <https://www.oceanpines.org/documents/10184/53744/OPA+Board+candidate+registration+form.pdf>.

Important upcoming election dates include:

-Eligible Candidate Draw and Workshop (to determine ballot order and seating during candidate forums) – Friday, June 2 at 2 p.m. in the Blue Room of the Administration Building

-Voter eligibility deadline – Wednesday, July 6

-First Candidate Forum – TBD

-Second Candidate Forum – TBD

-Ballot deadline – Wednesday, August 9 by 4 p.m.

Ballots counted and vote totals announced – Friday, August 11

-Annual Meeting – Saturday, August 12

For questions about the election, contact elections@oceanpines.org.

Residential structure fire in Pines investigated

The Worcester County Fire Marshal’s Office investigated a residential structure fire which occurred at 13 Hickory Way in Ocean Pines on Wednesday evening, March 8.

The Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department was dispatched for a reported house fire at 4:49 p.m. Upon arrival, crews reported smoke showing from the two-story single-family dwelling and requested assistance from Ocean City, Showell, Berlin and Bishopville fire departments. Firefighters quickly brought the fire under

control which originated in second floor bedroom.

A joint investigation was conducted by the Worcester County Fire Marshal’s Office, Ocean Pines Police Department and the Worcester County Sheriff’s Office Criminal Enforcement Team.

The exact cause of the fire is considered accidental from improperly discarded smoking materials. Smoke alarms were present at the time of the fire and no injuries were reported.

Construction to temporarily close boat ramp, marina parking lot

Installation of new gas docks at the Ocean Pines Marina is expected to have some impact on parking and boat travel in that area.

Public Works Director Eddie Wells said new equipment is scheduled to be delivered using the Mumford’s Landing Boat Ramp and Marina Parking Lot on March 13 and March 20. Both areas will not be accessible during those times.

Wells said installation of the new gas docks would take about one month, weather permitting.

For questions, email info@oceanpines.org or call 410-641-7717.

Subtle heritage

Friday is St. Patrick's Day, a day of Irish pride enjoyed by those of Celtic descent and those who want to be, at least for the day.

Although I have an Italian last name I grew up in an American family

stays. The music of Tony Bennett, Dean Martin, Perry Como, Rosemary Clooney and Frank Sinatra, especially Sinatra, was the soundtrack of my youth. My grandfather would sometimes do his impersonation of Mario Lanza, "O sole mio!" Mario had nothing to worry about.

The first time I was aware that ancestral differences was a thing, I was about eight or nine when I overheard an older kid who didn't have a vowel-ending surname at the bus stop tell

a joke, or at least what he thought was a joke. "What happens when an Eytalian turns around? A day go." I had no idea why he and the person he told were laughing. It made no sense to me. When I got home from school I retold the joke to my mother who understood it but didn't find it funny.

There have been a number of vowel-ending Philadelphians who have risen to fame. In politics it was Frank Rizzo, the mayor often referred to as "paisan" and even Uncle Frank. I believe he got the votes of many if not all his Vowel-Crowd constituents each time he ran. There was "Rocky Balboa" an underdog Italian fighter portrayed by Sylvester Stallone. Others from Philadelphia include Frankie Avalon, Jim Croce, Buddy Greco, Al Martino and Vince Papale.

During the noon broadcast of Action News, there was a regular segment by the Green Grocer, Joe Carcione who talked about produce. When his face appeared on the screen, all talking stopped so that Gramps could hear what fruit or vegetable wisdom old Joe had to impart. It usually wasn't very long after that Joe's suggestions appeared on our dinner table.

Although it's fun to swell with pride about my heritage from time to time, I consider myself first and always an American ... who happens to be an Italian who loves pasta and watching The Godfather movies.

I also enjoy St. Patrick's Day. *Éire go Brách!*



It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

where the traditions of the "Old Country" were never a visible part of daily life. Aside from the vowel at the end of my last name, I didn't have an obvious connection with my European ancestors. If I've counted correctly, I am a third generation American; my parents and grandparents were born in the United States. It was my great-grandparents who emigrated from Italy and France, traveling steerage to come to the New World.

English was always spoken in our home and the homes of my grandparents and friends. Ethnicity was never an issue growing up. Looking back there could be a not-so-subtle reason for this, having grown up with friends who had last names such as Curcillo, Fardone, Armellini, Falcone, DeMarco, Buonomo, Covone and Mastracco. And although there was a sprinkling of McDermotts, McDades and Webers they were a definite minority.

We ate a lot of spaghetti and meatballs in my house as well as chicken cacciatore and eggplant parmesan, a dish made routinely by my grandmother and disliked intensely by my brother and me. Cannolis from Termini Brothers Bakery were a special treat sometimes brought to the house by my grandfather who lived in South Philly. Ravioli (not the Chef Boyardee kind) was a favorite as was Italian cream cake. Italian hoagies and pepper and egg sandwiches were main-



The fifth generation Bertino recently turned six month old

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Commentary

By Joe Reynolds
OceanPinesForum.com

Video needs improvement

Most things in OPA-Land are doing fairly well lately. One area, video of board meetings, is worse now than it was in 2004. Major improvement is needed. What passes these days for board video is somewhat of a joke.

The meeting a couple of months ago could be titled “The Many Faces of Frank Daly.” The following meeting - “The Many Faces of Stuart Lakernick.” Then every meeting since the election last September could be called “What Happened to Steve Jacobs, Colette Horn, and Frank Daly?” They rarely appear on the video when attending in person. Sometimes the most prominent part of the video is a twitching foot of an audience member.

There is only one way to describe the current OPA-produced board video — it is terrible. Some say a pic-

ture is worth a thousand words. Nearby is an example of what video viewers of the January 21, 2023 board meeting see for two hours on YouTube.

Note that the video is just over two hours long. We never see more of the Board of Directors than the small, postage-stamp block in the upper right. The only board members visible are Doug Parks, Rick Farr, and Stuart Lakernick - but you would need a magnifying glass to identify them. Other board members are in the room. We hear them talking from time to time. We never see them. We do see the close-up of Frank Daly’s head - in various poses for two hours. The vast majority of the video screen is dominated by slides - two hours of slides with three tiny board members in the upper

right, with Frank Daly’s head beneath. For example, the “New Business” slide in the image is on the screen for well over an hour. Ridiculous.

How did really good video coverage of board meetings evolve into the current mess? First came the use of an iPhone a few years ago, then the current craze of meetings displayed live over the Internet via Microsoft Teams. What’s missing? A real person behind a real video camera with the capability to zoom in and out and pivot around on a tripod to focus on the entire board or just zoom in for a close shot of a speaking board member.

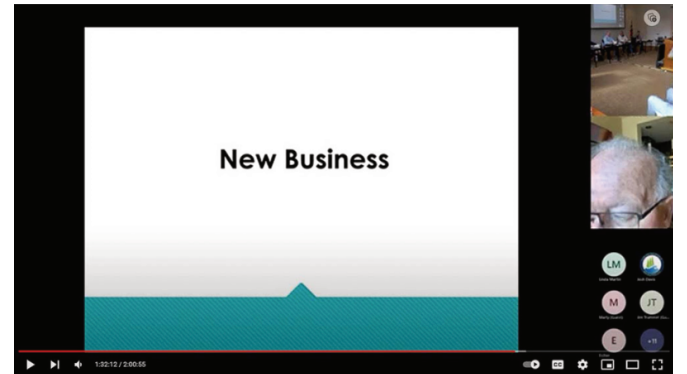
The Communications Committee obsesses with useless electronic signs and now perhaps spending money on drone video but ignores the most important communications tool available to association members and the Board of Directors — video of board meetings.

What should OPA do? For starters, dump the Microsoft Teams software for board meetings. Have board members attend the meeting in person, or call in on a telephone conference call as was the case for decades. Forget the unnecessary approach that the meetings must be broadcast live. Data provided by OPA indicates association members have relatively little interest in attending in person or watching a meeting live on the Internet via Microsoft Teams.

For the December board meeting,

17 individuals attended in person; 18 through Microsoft Teams. January – 15 in person; 18 through Microsoft Teams. February – 10 in person; 19 through Microsoft Teams. By the end of any meeting, very few of those attending via Teams are to be found. They become bored and log off. The primary source of interest for Teams attendees seems to be possible fireworks during public comments.

Consider that the potential au-



dience of association members is perhaps 15,000! The terrible video on YouTube, viewed after the meeting, often later the same day or the following day, is typically viewed by about 200 or more association members.

OPA should purchase something like the Sony FDR-AX700 camcorder for less than \$2,000, put a human behind it, and do the board video properly, as it was initially done beginning in 2004 and continued for a decade or more. Experienced advice is available. No one asks. Excellent automated systems, such as one used by Worcester County Commissioners, are also an option but require a fixed location for meetings and the OPA board is always changing meeting locations.

Courier Almanac

Julius Caesar, dictator of Rome, is stabbed to death in the Roman Senate house by 60 conspirators led by Marcus Junius Brutus and Gaius Cassius Longinus on March 15. The day later became infamous as the Ides of March.

Data from the National Center for Education Statistics indicates that business was the most popular bachelor’s degree conferred during the 2019-20 school year. NCES data indicates that 387,900 bachelor’s degrees in business were conferred during that school year. Business included programs such as management, marketing, and related support services, as well as culinary, entertainment, and personal services. Next up was health professions and related programs (257,300 degrees) and social sciences and history (161,200 degrees). Curiously, despite a growing emphasis on STEM in many secondary school curriculums, just 6 percent of bachelor’s degrees (128,300) were conferred in engineering.



St. Joseph’s Festival returns

On March 18 the 11th annual St. Joseph’s Festival will be open its doors in Ocean City. As in the past it will be held at St. Andrew’s Hall located on Sinepuxent Avenue and 144th St., from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is free. The festival is sponsored by the Ocean City Lodge of the Sons and Daughters of Italy and proceeds are used to fund scholarships and charitable causes.

Visitors will be greeted by the aroma of homecooked Italian foods, including pasta and meatballs and sausages, fried dough specialties, and baked goods,

*please see **festival** on page 9*

The
Courier

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Essayists - At the March 2 dinner meeting of the Ocean City-Berlin Optimist Club, winners of the organization's essay contest were hosted. Students read their essays. From left to right: **Kathy Cater**, Optimist member and chair of the essay contest, **Jude Damouni**, third place winner, **Marian Hanna**, second place winner and **Sydney Todrov**, first place winner.

'The Woods in Your Backyard' online course offered

Registration is now open for the spring 2023 session of "The Woods in Your Backyard" online course. Our self-directed, non-credit course runs 10 weeks from April 3 to June 13. The course will help landowners convert lawn to natural areas and enhance stewardship of existing natural areas. The course provides strategies to landowners of small parcels of land (-10 acres) that improve the stewardship of their property for personal enjoyment and environmental quality. It uses a hands-on learning approach to help participants develop and implement a plan for their property. Activities include how to map habitat areas, understand basic ecological principles about woodland and wildlife, choose and implement a few habitat management projects, and how to set a timetable and record your progress. Online discussion groups will allow participants to interact with others taking the course. A certificate of completion is awarded when all assignments are completed.

The course costs \$95 per person, which includes the 108-page "Woods in Your Backyard" guide, workbook, and a tree identification guide. The course is limited to 25 participants, so sign up now! Registration closes April 3 or when filled. Registration is through Eventbrite; go to <https://spring23.eventbrite.com>.

For more information, go to <https://go.umd.edu/3XUbhDb>, or

contact course coordinator Andrew Kling, University of Maryland Extension, akling1@umd.edu, 301-432-2767, extension 307.

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From Senator Mary Beth Carozza

Maryland General Assembly Update

Senator Carozza, retired firefighter Steve Mizell and retired Chief Bob Phillips with the Maryland State Firemen's Association testified in strong support of Senate Bill 823, which would create a discount for law enforcement officers and first responders on the annual State Park pass.



Senator
Mary Beth
Carozza

The Maryland Park Service passport allows for unlimited day-use admission to Maryland's state parks and facilities, unlimited boat launching at all applicable state park facilities and a ten percent discount on state-operated concession items and boat rentals. The pass currently costs \$75 for a Maryland resident, and this legislation would create a \$40 discount for law enforcement officers and first responders, including firefighters, paramedics, emergency medical technicians, and 911 specialists who are Maryland residents.

"We learned during the COVID-19 pandemic that access to the outdoors is essential for health and wellbeing," said Senator Mary Beth Carozza, who represents Worcester, Wicomico, and Somerset counties. "Our first responders and law enforcement officers are on the front lines every day protecting our communities in high-stress environments. Giving our emergency responders their own discount is a simple, meaningful way to not only thank them for their service but to promote the health and well-being of our first responders."

Commission to Study Trauma Center Funding

Senator Carozza, Steve Leonard with TidalHealth Regional Peninsula, and Zachary Arciaga with Johns Hopkins Medicine testified in strong support of Senate Bill 493, which would establish a task force to study the adequacy of trauma funding across Maryland for operating, capital, and workforce costs. Trauma centers often require significant resources to operate effectively as they specialize in swiftly treating life-threatening conditions and promptly providing resuscitative care.

In 2003, the Maryland General As-

sembly created the Maryland Trauma Physician Services Fund to aid Maryland's trauma system by reimbursing trauma physicians for uncompensated care losses and by raising Medicaid payments to 100 percent of the Medicare rate when a Medicaid patient receives trauma care at a designated trauma center. In the 20 years that have passed, there has been no comprehensive review of this Fund despite the industry growing and evolving.

"Unfortunately, the reason this legislation is necessary is because we know the Fund is not effective anymore," said Carozza. "TidalHealth Peninsula Regional is the Eastern Shore's only trauma center, a lynchpin in Maryland's Trauma Center System, and it is critically underfunded. At last estimate, the Fund provides less than 10% of the total cost that TidalHealth requires to keep its doors open."

Senator Carozza also has been in discussions with Governor Wes Moore's administration to provide TidalHealth emergency operating funding in one of the Governor's FY '24 supplemental budgets. "TidalHealth officials have told me that the trauma program is at a critical juncture," said Senator Carozza. "Without this funding, the Eastern Shore's only trauma center could be in jeopardy."

Sunday Hunting

Senator Carozza, with a panel of expert witnesses on hunting and the impact of deer populations in rural areas, testified in strong support of Senate Bills 824 and 796, which enable Sunday hunting for game birds (not migratory birds) and game mammals in Worcester and Wicomico counties, respectively.

"This legislation would give Wicomico and Worcester County families more time to hunt during a limited season for game bird and game mammals and simply provide our hunters the same benefits of several other counties in the State," said Carozza. "Populations of white-tail deer have risen dramatically in response to a lack of natural predators and protective game laws, leading to a severe loss in forest diversity, more vehicular accidents, and crop damage."

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation there are between 1-2 million animal collisions a year, resulting in 200 human deaths, tens of

thousands of injuries, and more than \$8 billion in vehicle damages. In 2018, an estimated 11,184 deer were killed by cars in just Maryland alone. These types of accidents are more likely to occur specifically with white-tail deer on long stretches of busy rural roads. Crop damage also is a major economic concern for our farmers on the Eastern Shore, with damage estimated to cost nearly \$50 per acre.

The Sunday hunting bills are supported by the Wicomico County Council, the Worcester County Commission, the Maryland Farm Bureau, the Maryland Grain Producers, the Maryland Forest Association, the Maryland Bowhunter Society, and local hunting clubs.

Ocean City Promoter's Bill

The full Senate voted unanimously on March 10 in support of Senate Bill 135, which would establish an Ocean City promoter's license in Worcester County. The bill also authorizes the Worcester County Board of License Commissioners to issue the license to a for-profit organization to sell beer, wine, and liquor at entertainment events within the town limits of Ocean City.

"We want to attract first-class performances and festivals while maintaining the safest possible service and sale of alcohol at these events," said Senator Carozza. "This bill would encourage a longer tourism season, leading to more full-time jobs, more investment, and more economic growth."

Senate Bill 135 is now moving to the House of Delegates for consideration.

Gun and abortion bills on the Senate floor

Senate Bill 1 was voted out of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee despite serious opposition and brought to the full Senate for debate this week. Senate Bill 1, the Gun Safety Act of 2023, would greatly restrict where those who have been issued a carry permit can wear, carry, or transport a firearm.

"This bill places unnecessary regulations on our constitutional right to keep and bear arms," said Carozza. "I am greatly disappointed that my colleagues across the aisle are pushing for

such ineffective gun control measures; the focus should be on repeat, violent offenders using guns, not law-abiding citizens who have had extensive training before being approved for a gun carry permit."

Carozza also spoke against Senate Bill 290 which would give prosecutorial authority to the Attorney General with respect to cases involving police officer shootings resulting in the death of a suspect. This new authority granted to the Maryland Attorney General circumvents the authority of the State's Attorneys in Maryland's 23 counties and Baltimore City.

"Here we are on the Senate Floor debating a bill that goes after our law enforcement the very morning after a Maryland State Trooper, my constituent, was shot in Wicomico County," said Senator Carozza, noting that the suspect had been convicted of previous gun charges and was out on probation.

"The Senate should be taking action on crime bills that go after the repeat, violent offenders, not on legislation that takes away the authority of our elected State's Attorneys" said Carozza, who shared the following testimony of Wicomico County State's Attorney Jamie Dykes. "Prosecutors convict the guilty and protect the innocent. They do the right thing for the right reason every day. They are not motivated by political agendas and make decisions, sometimes unpopular ones, based on the law and the facts. They are accountable to their electorate and their communities. Removing this power is a message to the people that they can't be trusted to do the job they were elected to do."

Senate Bills 341 and 798 also were brought to the full Senate for debate this week. Senate Bill 341 would require Public Higher Education Institutions to develop and implement a reproductive health services plan, which shall include 24-hour access to over-the-counter contraception through the student health center, retail establishments on campus, or vending machines.

Senator Carozza presented three amendments on the Senate floor on March 10th to require public institutions of higher education to have pol-

events

from page 3

day, September 16 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the field between the Sports Core Pool and Veterans Memorial Park. Children can interact with fire trucks, tow trucks, dump trucks, tractor trailers and more. Admission is free.

Visit www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/recreation-parks for more information on Recreation and Parks events.

The Pine'eer Craft Club will present the 45th Annual Indoor/Outdoor Arts & Crafts Festival on Saturday, August 5 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Ocean Pines Community Center and White Horse Park. Admission is free.

Visit www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/artisan-gift-shop for more information on Pine'eer Craft Club events.

The Fall Indoor/Outdoor Flea Market is scheduled Saturday, September 23 from 8 a.m. to noon in the Community Center Gym and White Horse Park. Vendor spaces are available. Call 410-641-7052 for more information.

The Ocean Pines Racquet Center will host a men's and women's doubles competition, the Doubles Challenge, on Saturday, Aug. 19. Entry is free for tennis members and \$15 for nonmembers.

The center will also host the USTA NTRP Singles Tournament on September 23-24. The entry fee is \$30 per player, and players must be USTA members.

Ocean Pines Pickleball will host several big events this year. That includes the 2023 Summer Classic on June 2 to 4. Email danoble54@gmail.com for more information.

The Ocean Pines Pickleball Club Championship is scheduled August 26 to 27. Entry is limited to club members.

The Oktoberfest Pickleball Tournament returns September 29 to October 1. Registration is \$40. To register, email danoble54@gmail.com or search "Tournaments" on app.pickleballden.com.

The club will also host the annual Pink Ribbon Classic on Friday, October 13, with proceeds benefiting the American Cancer Society. Entry is \$40 per player. Email rcoltferguson@gmail.com for more information.

mation.

For more information on Racquet Sports events, visit www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/racquet-sports.

The Ocean Pines Aquatics Department will host the annual Doggie Swim to benefit the Worcester County Humane Society on Saturday, September 9 at the Mumford's Landing Pool. Times are 10 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. for dogs under 20 pounds, and 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. for dogs of all sizes. The fee is \$8 per dog. Human companions are free. All dog handlers must be 18 or older.

The department will also offer life-guard certification classes April 21-23, with the fee waived for anyone hired as an Ocean Pines lifeguard. Call 410-641-5255 for more information.

For more information on Aquatics events, visit www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/aquatics.

Former Stephen Decatur High School standout Matt Ruggiere will return to lead private and group instruction through the new Golf Academy at the Ocean Pines Golf Club. Visit www.ruggiergolf.com for more information and scheduling.

For more information on Golf events, visit www.oceanpinesgolf.org.

The Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market runs Saturdays in White Horse Park, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., through October. Winter hours start in November. For more information, including a schedule of market events, visit www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/farmers-artisans-market.

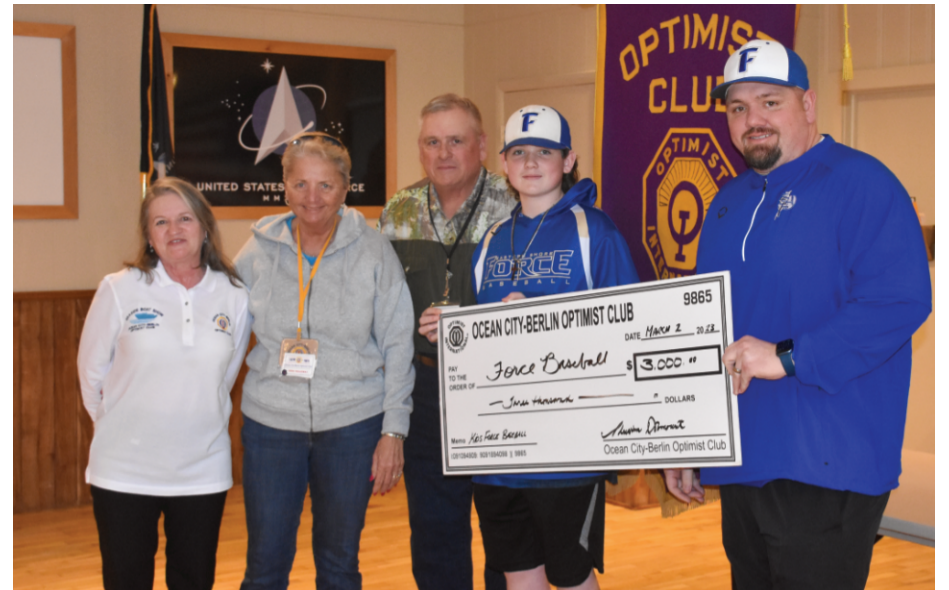
Live entertainment is scheduled to return to the Ocean Pines Yacht Club patio this May. For more information, visit www.opyachtclub.com.

festival

from page 6

bread, cakes, muffins and more.

Food may be the essence of this this annual celebration, but it is not the only attraction. The St. Joseph's Festival will feature raffles for over-stuffed gift baskets, silent auctions with local bargains from restaurants, local stores and grocery stores, the sale of specialty Italian items, and St. Joseph religious articles for sale. Also available to bid on will be tickets from professional sports teams, as well as team-themed gift baskets. All of this will come with a backdrop of Italian music.



Donation - At the March 2 dinner meeting of the Ocean City-Berlin Optimist Club a check was presented for \$3,000 to Force Baseball. Pictured left to right are **Chris Dolomount-Brown**, president of the Ocean City-Berlin Optimist Club, **Dena Holloway**, **Lee Holloway**, **Cayden Holloway** and **Chris Holloway**.

Why St. Joseph's Day is celebrated

Italian Americans hold St. Joseph's Day with a special importance, especially those whose families are from Sicily, "where St. Joseph is as important as St. Patrick is in Ireland." The Irish wear their green on St. Patrick's Day, traditionally, Italians wear red on St. Joseph's Day.

San Giuseppe (St. Joseph), Father of Jesus, is Sicily's most important saint. Sicilians credit San Giuseppe with preventing famine in Sicily and, as a result, the day, March 19, is commonly commemorated with a festival and special feast. Parades and processions are also held in Italy on March 19. This ancient tradition goes back to the Middle Ages, at a time, of an exceptionally severe drought in Sicily. No rain fell for an extended period, no crops would grow, and countless people died of famine. The peasants

prayed to God for rain, and they also prayed to St. Joseph to intercede with God on their behalf. They promised that if God caused it to rain, they would have a special feast honoring God and St. Joseph.

Although most Italian-Americans serve special dishes/foods for St. Joseph's Day, these foods vary among Italian-American communities. Nevertheless, these dishes include the traditional ingredients of fava beans, fennel, cauliflower, chickpeas, flat and broad home-made pasta noodles. The consistency ranges from a pasta and vegetable soup to a pasta dish with a little broth, to pasta in a thick paste – variations of minestrone. Instead of cheese, many people service this dish with "poor man's cheese" – bread

please see **celebration** on page 10

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A Bagel and...

Tortoise and Hare Dare returns

Welcome back spring with the 26th Annual Tortoise & Hare Dare 5K walk/run. The 5k will take place at the Pocomoke River State Park-Shad Landing in Snow Hill on Saturday, April 15. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and the walk/run will begin at 9:15 a.m. This is a free event and is pet friendly. The first 100 runners/walkers to register for the event will receive a free commemorative T-shirt. This 5k is sponsored by The Worcester County Health Department, Worcester County Department of Recreation and Parks and Pocomoke River State Park.

“The 26th Annual Tortoise and Hare Dare 5k is the perfect opportunity to get out and get active in our county and explore the lovely Shad

Landing,” said Mimi Dean, Director of Prevention Services for Worcester County Health Department. “Whether you walk or run, this event is a fun, accessible way to welcome spring back to Worcester.”

After the walk, participants are encouraged to visit local health, recreation, and community vendors. This is a great opportunity to enjoy the outdoors while getting some physical activity with friends, family, and other community residents. Pre-registration is encouraged. Participants can register through Eventbrite or call 410-632-1100 ext. 1108 for more information.

You can also register for the free Just Walk program at any time, by visiting justwalkworchester.org/.

GOP to host author

The Worcester County Republican Central Committee presents “Character Matters” with guest speaker former USMC Lt. Col. Stuart Sheller, who served in Afghanistan, and is the author of “Crisis of Command: How We Lost Trust and Confidence in America’s Generals and Politicians.” The event will be held Saturday, April 29, between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. at the

Ocean City Golf Club located at 11401 Country Club Drive in Berlin. Tickets are \$50 and includes a Happy Hour Buffet/Cash Bar. Tickets will be sold for a Two-day Concealed Carry training raffle, a \$1500 value. Seating is limited. Send checks to WCRCC, P.O. Box 1432, Berlin, MD 21811. Or contact WorCoRcc@gmail.com or 443-668-8864.

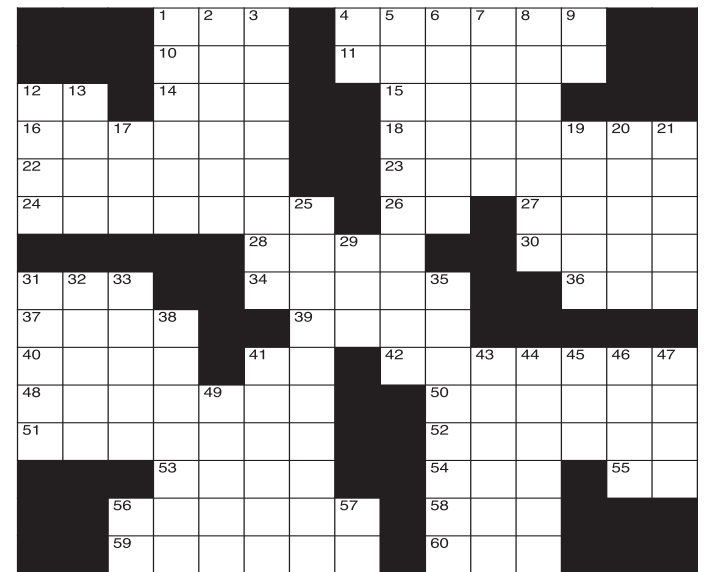
celebration
from page 9

crumbs, which symbolize the sawdust of St. Joseph the Carpenter. Besides the pasta, other dishes may include fish, shellfish and, of course, bread. Traditionally no meat is served since the feast falls during Lent.

For those who still have room left, there is always dessert and St. Joseph’s Day means the famous Zeppole di San Giuseppe. Zeppole are basically “Italian doughnuts” (sfinge) simply dusted with sugar, cinnamon and honey or (as usually found on the East coast) filled with yellow cream and covered with whipped cream. In some regions, Pignolatta (pronounced bin-u-latha) is more popular than Zeppole. Pignolatta is a pyramid of little fried pastry balls covered in honey, nuts, and chocolate bits, symbolic of a pinecone. Those of Neapolitan descent and some other parts of Italy will know this dessert as Struffoli.

Pope Pius IX proclaimed Saint Joseph the patron of the Universal Church in 1870, the unofficial patron against doubt and hesitation, as well as the patron saint of fighting communism, and of a happy death. Having died in the “arms of Jesus and Mary, according to Catholic tradition, he is considered a model of the pious believer who receives grace at the moment of death, and prays especially for families, fathers, expectant mothers, travelers, immigrants, house sellers and buyers, craftsmen, engineers, and working people in general.

March 19, St. Joseph’s Day, has been the principal feast day of St. Joseph in Western Christianity since the tenth century, and Catholics, Anglicans, many Lutherans and other denominations celebrate this feast day.

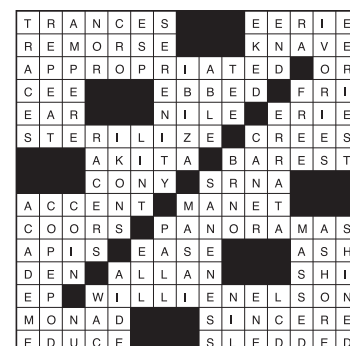


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Belonging to a thing
- 4. Pass or go by
- 10. Partner to cheese
- 11. Subjects
- 12. U.S. State (abbr.)
- 14. Bits per inch
- 15. Forest-dwelling deer
- 16. Illinois city
- 18. A salt or ester of acetic acid
- 22. Wholly unharmed
- 23. Cuddled
- 24. Bane
- 26. Global investment bank (abbr.)
- 27. Oh my gosh!
- 28. Arrive
- 30. Famed Spanish artist
- 31. Home of “Frontline”
- 34. Group of quill feathers
- 36. Keyboard key
- 37. Army training group
- 39. Detail
- 40. Pole with flat blade
- 41. Football play
- 42. Makes unhappy
- 48. Island in Hawaii
- 50. Back in business
- 51. Of an individual
- 52. Painful chest condition
- 53. Tropical American monkey
- 54. Matchstick game
- 55. For instance
- 56. Even again
- 58. Popular beverage
- 59. Evaluate
- 60. Time units (abbr.)

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Stain one’s hands
- 2. Nocturnal hoofed animals
- 3. Back condition
- 4. Popular movie alien
- 5. City of Angels
- 6. Peaks
- 7. Infantry weapons
- 8. Left
- 9. Atomic #99
- 12. Told a good yarn
- 13. Vale
- 17. Resistance unit
- 19. Aquatic plant
- 20. Bluish greens
- 21. About some Norse poems
- 25. Reinforces
- 29. Egyptian mythological goddess
- 31. Supportive material
- 32. Subatomic particle
- 33. Expired bread
- 35. Cereal grain
- 38. Goes against
- 41. Walkie ___
- 43. One who does not accept
- 44. Beliefs
- 45. Indicates near
- 46. Brazilian NBA star
- 47. Grab quickly
- 49. Romantic poet
- 56. College dorm worker
- 57. Set of data



Answers for March 8

update
from page 8

icies in place to prohibit abortion coercion and to require basic information about mental health services be provided to students who may be struggling with reproductive health issues.

Senate Bill 798 proposes an amendment to the Maryland Constitution declaring that every person has the fundamental right to reproductive freedom as a central component of their individual rights to liberty and equality. If the bill is passed by three-fifths of all members of both the House of Delegates and Senate, the proposed amendment would be decided on by voters as a ballot question in the 2024 elections. "Maryland is becoming known as an abortion destination, rather than a tourist destination," said Senator Carozza, who represents Maryland's Coast region.

"Maryland already has one of the most liberal abortion laws in the country, and now the Democrat super progressive majority is moving legislation to enshrine the right to abortion in Maryland's Constitution," said Carozza. "This is completely unnecessary as last year Maryland passed legislation dramatically expanding abortion by allowing non physicians to perform abortions and using taxpayer funds to pay for their training. It was astounding to me that when Senate Republicans offered a simple amendment to add the word "safely" to the Constitutional Amendment that the Democrats rejected that commonsense amendment."

Committee hearings on offshore wind

The Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee heard testimony on Senate Bill 781 on Wednesday. This legislation requires the Public Service Commission (PSC) to conduct an analysis of offshore wind transmission system expansion options and the Maryland Department of General Services must issue an invitation for bids and may enter into at least one long-term contract for a power purchase agreement (PPA) to procure between 1.0 million and 8.0 million megawatt-hours annually of offshore wind energy and associated renewable energy credits (RECs) from one or more qualified offshore wind projects.

During the hearing, Senator Carozza raised numerous issues about the proposed bill including the lack of action to address Ocean City's concerns going back to 2017 opposing industrial scale offshore wind development within view of the shoreline; the poorly installed cable land-

falls on Block Island that ended up exposing the beach resulting in beach closures, power outages, and cable repairs at cost of \$31 million to Rhode Island utility customers; and the failure to recognize the true cost to both Maryland ratepayers and taxpayers.

Locals in Annapolis/ Red Scarf Day

Senior Pastor Zach Wheeler of Bethesda United Methodist Church in Salisbury, joined by his two daughters Madison and Cassidy, was the guest Senate chaplain on Tuesday.

Several other local officials visited Annapolis this week to testify including Wicomico County Council Member James Winn and his father Danny Winn; Worcester County Commissioner Caryn Abbott; Wicomico County Executive and Administrator Julie Giordano and Bunky Luffman; and retired firefighter Steve Mizell, who shared his idea about a State Park pass discount for first responders with Senator Carozza which led to the introduction of Senate Bill 823.

Members of the Maryland Federation of Republican Women visited Annapolis on Tuesday for Red Scarf Day, including Wendy Anspacher, Kelly Kennet, Liz Mumford, Beth Rodier, Marge Matturo, Jana Hobbs, and Rebecca Tittermary. Senator Carozza as the only female Republican in the Senate announced them on the Senate floor.

Dr. Sherry Maykrantz of Salisbury University brought several of her public health students to Annapolis for a full day experience of the legislative process.

Upcoming

The Senate Finance Committee will hold hearings on Senate Bills 673 and 674, known as the Physician Assistant Modernization and Parity Acts, which would update the laws regarding the working relationship between Physicians and Physician Assistants to better reflect current practices in the post COVID-19 pandemic world.

The Maryland General Assembly Crossover Deadline is Monday, March 20 as the Floor schedule and committee schedules for both the Senate and House of Delegates dramatically pick up to pass bills and cross over to the other respective chamber. After March 20 if a bill passes the Senate, it would have to pass an additional hurdle of passing out of the House Rules Committee before being sent to the appropriate House committee, and vice versa for the House of Delegates. "Buckle up," quipped Senator Carozza.



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Health Watch

Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month: What are your screening options?

By **Connie Collins, RN**
*Atlantic General Endoscopy
 and Urology Center*

March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. Colorectal cancer (CRC) is the second deadliest cancer in the United States, and 1 in 24 people will be diagnosed with CRC in their lifetime. During March, time is taken to make everyone aware of the importance of screening. In the past 10 years, there has been an increase of younger Americans being diagnosed with colon cancer. The reason for this increase has not been deter-

mined, so the recommendation has been changed to begin screening at the age of 45. But, if there is a family history of CRC, first-time screening needs to be determined by your primary care physician. Colon cancers begin as small growths/polyps that do not produce any symptoms, and if they are identified and removed early, the diagnosis of CRC is significantly reduced.

The gold standard for CRC screening is a colonoscopy. It only needs to be done once every 10 years for people of average risk. Other screening tests include:

fecal immunochemical test and stool DNA which has a 92% detection rate

guaiac-based fecal occult blood test

flexible sigmoidoscopy

CT colonography (Virtual Colonoscopy)

Each of these tests have different frequency requirements. Please keep in mind, positive results from any of these tests will require a follow up colonoscopy. If a polyp is discovered during the follow up colonoscopy, future stool exams are not acceptable screening tests.

Which one is right for me? Each test has advantages and disadvantages, so to determine which test is right for you will require a conversation with your primary care physician. Together, you and your physician will determine which screening modality is appropriate. No matter what age, if you experience a sudden change in bowel habits, notice blood in your stool, have new onset of abdominal pain or a family member has been diagnosed with CRC, you need to seek medical advice immediately. Screening saves lives!

Warning signs a child is being abused

No one wants to imagine the idea of a child being abused, but child abuse is a significant issue across the globe. A 2016 review of population-based surveys on the prevalence of past-year violence against children published in the journal *Pediatrics* concluded that as many as one billion children between the ages of two and

17 experienced physical, sexual or emotional violence in the past year. Though that analysis was conducted years ago and it would be unfounded to suggest the prevalence of child abuse has remained that high, the findings reflect a global issue that demands attention.

As the 2016 analysis illustrates, child abuse is an umbrella term that encompasses various forms of maltreatment. The Mayo Clinic notes that the many forms of child abuse include physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, medical abuse, and neglect. Though there are certain red flags that indicate abuse but not necessarily a particular form of abuse, the Mayo Clinic indicates each type of abuse can produce its own specific signs and symptoms.

Physical abuse. Physical abuse refers to any instance when a child is intentionally physically injured or put at risk of harm by another person. Unexplained injuries like bruises, broken bones or burns are some manifestations of physical abuse of a child. The Mayo Clinic notes that a sign of child abuse is an injury that does not match up with the given explanation or one that is not compatible with the child's developmental ability.

Sexual abuse. The Mayo Clinic notes that any sexual activity with a child qualifies as sexual abuse. Sexual contact with a child and noncontact sexual abuse, such as exposing a child to sexual activity or pornography, are some additional examples of sexual abuse.

Signs of child sexual abuse include sexual behavior or knowledge that's inappropriate for a child's age; pregnancy or a sexually transmitted infection; genital or anal pain, bleeding or injury; and inappropriate sexual behavior with other children. Statements by a child indicating the child was sexually abused also indicate sexual abuse and should be taken seriously.

Emotional abuse. Emotional abuse includes actions that injure a child's self-esteem and emotional well-being. Verbal assault, which the Mayo Clinic notes can include repeated belittling or berating of a child, is considered emotional abuse. Isolating, ignoring or rejecting a child also falls under the umbrella of emotional child abuse.

Signs a child is a victim of emotional abuse include delayed or inappropriate emotional development; loss of self-confidence or self-esteem; social withdrawal or a loss of interest or enthusiasm; depression; avoidance of certain situations, such as refusing to go to school or ride the school bus; desperate attempts to garner attention; loss of interest in school or de-

crease in academic performance; and a loss of previously acquired developmental skills.

Neglect. Neglect occurs when a child is not provided with adequate food, clothing, shelter, clean living conditions, affection, supervision, education, or medical care.

Poor growth; poor personal cleanliness; lack of clothing or supplies to meet physical needs; hoarding or stealing food; poor record of school attendance; and a lack of appropriate



Tides for Ocean City Inlet

Day	High / Low	Tide Time
Th 16	High	3:36 AM
	Low	9:58 AM
	High	4:01 PM
	Low	9:55 PM
F 17	High	4:46 AM
	Low	11:04 AM
	High	5:08 PM
	Low	11:02 PM
Sa 18	High	5:50 AM
	Low	12:05 PM
	High	6:09 PM
Su 19	Low	12:07 AM
	High	6:47 AM
	Low	12:58 PM
	High	7:05 PM
M 20	Low	1:06 AM
	High	7:39 AM
	Low	1:45 PM
	High	7:57 PM
Tu 21	Low	2:00 AM
	High	8:28 AM
	Low	2:30 PM
	High	8:47 PM
W 22	Low	2:51 AM
	High	9:15 AM
	Low	3:12 PM
	High	9:35 PM

medical concerns, including psychological problems, are some signs of neglect.

Child abuse takes place in every corner of the globe. Learning to spot signs of child abuse can help protect children in your community. More information about child abuse and its effects can be found at mayoclinic.org.

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Some things to think about

Gathered from the internet by **Jack Barnes**



sun-gazing.com
INFINITY

IF A COOKIE FALLS ON THE FLOOR AND YOU PICK IT UP...

THAT'S A SQUAT, RIGHT?



If you notice cows sleeping in a field, does that mean it's pasture bedtime?

THE BEAUTY OF THE SECOND AMENDMENT IS THAT IT WILL NOT BE NEEDED UNTIL THEY TRY AND TAKE IT.

- Thomas Jefferson

The oldest computer was owned by Adam and Eve. 😊

It was an Apple with very limited memory. 😊

Just 1 byte and everything crashed! 😊

Across all countries, cultures and class we share one thing. This drawer.

I just ordered a life alert bracelet so if I get a life, I'll be notified immediately.



My doctor has given me three days to give up drinking. I've picked the 5th of June, July 17th and October 9th!!

(FIRST DAY AS A PILOT...)

CONTROL
TOWER: Can you give me your position?

ME: I'm next to a cloud that looks like a lion.

CONTROL
TOWER: Can you be more specific?

ME: Simba.

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