

The Courier

July 5, 2023 Volume 23 Number 37



Kiwanians of the Month

At the June 28 Kiwanis meeting awards were bestowed on Lynne McAllorum for her ability to provide outstanding guest speakers every week and Kitty Wrench for co-chairing the numerous year-long concessions.

Above are (L to R) Lynne McAllorum, Kitty Wrench and President Bob Wolfing.

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Ocean Pines restores historic gazebo at Golf Club

Ocean Pines announced the successful restoration and reinstallation of a gazebo at the Golf Club, breathing new life into a structure with almost four decades of history.

Under the guidance of General Manager John Viola, the gazebo's restoration initiative took shape in response to feedback from the Golf Advisory Committee.

The restoration efforts were further fueled by committee member Don McMullen, a devoted golf member since the 1970s, who shared the gazebo's origins tracing back to the inaugural Calvin B. Taylor Bank golf tournament that started 39 years ago.

"The tournament was born out of a desire to honor our fallen golf members. It began as a memorial golf tournament, with Calvin B. Taylor Bank assuming the role of the pioneering sponsor, a position they have proudly held since," McMullen said.



McMullen said the original tournament was held in 1984 and was organized by Hunt Crosby, the second golf professional in Ocean Pines. The gazebo came about thanks to a partnership between the bank and the Ocean Pines Board of Golf Directors.

Calvin B. Taylor Bank would become Taylor Bank in 1985.

Today, the Taylor Bank Scramble continues the tournament tradition, channeling funds towards junior golf programs and scholarships for local high school students. Notably, the annual event has raised nearly \$60,000 in scholarship funds over the past eight years alone.

When the gazebo fell into disrepair, Public Works Director Eddie Wells and his team stepped in to assess its condition.

"We were able to lift and load it on our trailer without it falling apart, and once we got it to our shop, we checked it over and found that the main structure was still good," Wells said. "We removed the roof and repaired all the rafters that were badly damaged, and we did repairs to the railing and steps, as well

as timbers replaced under the structure."

Additionally, Public Works procured a new cupola for the gazebo's crown and replaced missing or rusted screws. The structure also underwent a power wash to help restore its original appearance.

Once the restoration process was complete, the gazebo was loaded onto a trailer and returned to the Golf Club, with input from Golf Superintendent Justin Hartshorne regarding its new placement.

According to Viola, the restoration of the gazebo helps to honor the community's heritage, the Golf Club's legacy, and the decades of philanthropy associated with the Taylor Bank tournament.

"We recognize the importance of preserving Ocean Pines' history and honoring the enduring contributions made through the Taylor Bank tournament. The exceptional work carried out by Public Works, in collaboration with Don and the Golf Committee, exemplifies our commitment to this vision," Viola said.

The Taylor Bank Scramble is scheduled for Wednesday, July 12 this year. The deadline for players and sponsors is Monday, July 10.

Auxiliary to hold carryout fundraiser

On Saturday, July 15 the Bishopville Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary will hold a chicken salad carryout from noon to 2 p.m. at the main station. The cost is \$8 per pint. Please call 619-922-9950 by July 10 for a guaranteed preorder.



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DNR purchases former golf course to preserve open space

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources, in partnership with Lower Shore Land Trust, announced last week the purchase of the former Bay Club near Berlin, from Carl M. Freeman Companies. Formerly a golf club, this purchase will help conserve 672 acres in the headwaters of the Pocomoke River watershed with the objectives of restoring wetlands, reforestation, and providing public access.

“The purchase of this property will provide significant water quality and habitat benefits in addition to public recreational opportunities,” said Department of Natural Resources Land Acquisition and Planning Director Hilary Bell. “The department is grateful to our partners at the Lower Shore Land Trust for their work, and to the Carl M. Freeman Companies for their commitment to conservation.”

The Department of Natural Resources will coordinate on watershed restoration projects that meet departmental goals for bay restoration and climate resiliency. Portions of the property may provide pollinator habitat demonstration areas, forest management, and fulfill goals for meeting Maryland’s 5 Million Trees Initiative. Through this acquisition, the Maryland Forest Service will add significant acres of new pine and mixed hardwood forest to

the Chesapeake Forest Lands. “The opportunity for recreational trails was a major motivation to support this project,” said Executive Director of Lower Shore Land Trust Kate Patton.

The Bay Club was purchased using funds from Maryland’s Program Open Space. The seller recognized the conservation value of the property and worked diligently with Lower Shore Land Trust to meet the requirements of the State.

“We are delighted to have been part of preserving such a critical resource in the Chesapeake Bay watershed and have appreciated our partnership with the Lower Shore Land Trust and the State of Maryland,” said CEO of the Carl M. Freeman Companies Michelle Freeman.

The Chesapeake Forest Lands comprise 76,000 acres in Caroline, Dorchester, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester counties.

Pancake breakfast is Saturday

The Kiwanis Club will host a Patriotic Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, July 8 between 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. at the Ocean Pines Community Center. The cost is \$9. Children under age 10 are free.



Kiwanis sells chances

Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines - Ocean City is selling their 2024 Lottery Raffle chances at the Ocean Pines Farmers Market on Saturdays from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. The cost is \$20 for a chance to win every day in 2024 with only one ticket. Winners are based on the daily Evening Maryland Pick 3 drawing. Proceeds help to support the club’s scholarships any Youth Programs. Look for the table every week. Pictured (L-R) are Kiwanis member **Mark Page** and Lottery Raffle co-chair **Tom Southwell**

Short films sought

The Ocean City Film Festival presents the 6th Annual Ocean City Film Challenge to filmmakers and aspiring filmmakers across Delmarva and beyond. Registration is free and now open at www.OCMDFilmFestival.com. The challenge is for filmmakers to

produce an original short film about Ocean City that is no longer than 15 minutes and made between July 1 and July 31, 2023. Any artist who wishes tell a story about the resort, preferably suitable for viewing by all ages, may enter. Films must be shot in Ocean City or be about Ocean City and follow a cinematic narrative. Films also must include a specific line of dialogue and prop, which will be emailed to registrants on July 1, 2023. The deadline to register for the challenge is July 22, 2023.

“A film can be produced in Ocean City, in a way that is visible within the film,” B.L. Strang-Moya, creative director of the OC Film Festival, said. “Or the film can be shot outside of Ocean City, but Ocean City has to be central to the premise of the film. The film must tell an actual story in the form of a fiction narrative. We cannot accept any vacation footage, music videos, or any such media that would not be considered traditional cinema.”

Final cuts are due on Aug. 13, 2023, and submitted online along with

please see films on page 12

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Here fishy fishy

I enjoy fishing but don't fancy myself any great angler. Certainly, I like to catch a fish or two, but if I don't, I'm not disappointed because as the saying goes, "even a bad day of fishing is better than a good day doing anything else." And the older I get, the more I agree. Being on the water is the re-

wait for the water to lift the boat so we could walk it to deeper water and then climb aboard. Once aboard, Gramps lowered and cranked up the engine. The roar of the engine, breaking the silence of the morning, thrilled me to the core. To this day, I still get a thrill to the core when the engine on my goat roars to life.



It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

ward.

Not long ago my dog Chooch and I headed out in the early morning hours in hopes of catching something, anything - a flounder, a croaker, a crab, half a clam shell or even seaweed. Chooch is always excited to be on the boat and couldn't care a hoot about whether any fish are reeled in. It wasn't long after my second or third cast that I felt a tug and then another. So sensitive is my rod that even a minnow-size fish creates a lot of rod action. This felt like no minnow, nor did it feel like a keeper, but nonetheless there was satisfaction reeling it in. As the rig became visible so too did a small croaker. This scene played out about a dozen times or so that morning. I enjoyed it. Chooch got bored and climbed up on the front seat and laid down, hardly lifting his head each time I told him I hooked something.

Kodachrome images pasted in albums not opened since long ago are the only memories I have of my first fishing experience. In a somewhat faded picture in which I was about two or three, I'm standing on the beach wearing a Mae West life jacket. My grandfather's boat, *Jo-Lin*, is anchored behind me. I'm holding two very small sand sharks.

Growing up there were many fishing trips with my grandfather who lived on the shores of the Delaware Bay in Villas, NJ. At low tide sandbars stretched out about a half mile to the waterline. At high tide the waves smacked the bulkhead. We'd sometimes head out at dawn. Those trips were the most fun for me: the excitement of walking across the bars to the boat during the stillness of predawn, the sweet aroma of salt air accentuating the scene. We'd load the boat and

Gramps and I would head out to various fishing locations. Looking back, I don't know that there was rhyme or reason to his chosen destinations. I didn't care. Sometimes we'd head to Bug Light. Other times

we'd head to the Rips just off the Cape May coast. We'd make our way, gliding over flat reflective water, the morning sun brightening the horizon as the blue of the night embraced the gold of the day.

The results of those fishing trips were mixed. Sometimes the fish bit and sometimes they didn't. Weakfish were common. Catch limits and size minimums were never an issue either because they didn't exist or they concerned Gramps not at all. We kept just about anything we reeled in with the exception of oyster crackers and small sand sharks. The only bait we used was squid which Gramps cut into strips. There were a couple times when we'd bring out minnows that my brother and I had netted the evening before.

In the quiet morning, waves lapping lazy on the side of the boat, our lines in the water, Gramps would often chant, as if singing a lullaby, "Here fishy fishy. Here fishy fishy." And when fortune smiled and a fish grabbed his bait, he'd reel it in all the while making sure I understood that fish were attracted to his voice. As a kid I glommed onto his pronouncement. It was only later when it dawned on me, if fish were attracted to his voice, why was it there were trips when we experienced nary a bite. But those sorts of thoughts never crossed my mind in the moment. Anyhow, I'm sure he would have had an explanation.

It's been many years, too many, since I've enjoyed fishing with Gramps. To this day, I find myself occasionally singing his little song. "Here fishy fishy." Chooch just rolls his eyes and turns his head. He's not that gullible.



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Commentary

By Joe Reynolds
OceanPinesForum.com

Restoring trust in elections

The yearly OPA Board of Directors election ritual is upon us. An election of individuals to run one of the largest HOAs in Maryland is important, but last year only 37% of eligible lots cast a vote, not counting the 700 or more lots that were ineligible.

This year, three of seven board seats are open. Four candidates will vie to fill the three seats. Two candidates will win three-year terms to replace outgoing directors Doug Parks and Colette Horn. The third-place candidate wins a one-year term to replace Frank Daly who recently resigned from the board.

The candidates are John Latham, Jerry Murphy, Elaine Brady, and Jeff Heavner. Local papers covered the recent Candidates Forum held by OPA. At this time, the event video on YouTube has been viewed 190 times. There is no way to know if those 190 views represent 190 different eligible lot owners, or whether each viewer watched 10 seconds or the entire one-hour video.

Approximately 4,000 votes will be cast in the upcoming election. How will those voters make a decision? General consensus is most decisions are based on the biographical information and answers to three questions provided by each candidate in the election package mailed to every eligible lot owner.

The prior two elections were chaotic, to say the least. Last year a position on the board and majority control of the board was decided by 13 votes but, due to Election Committee fumbles, not all valid votes were counted, perhaps hundreds. In the election prior to that, OPA ended up losing a brutal court fight and it was many months after the election date before the winners were confirmed.

This year, the board charged the

Election Committee with restoring confidence and trust in the election process. That process to restore confidence involves paper ballots, mailed from a contractor in Washington State and return-mailed to Washington State. The ballots will also be counted in Washington State, with association members "observing" and the Election Committee "supervising" the counting process in the golf Clubhouse via an Internet video connection at 5 p.m. on August 10th

Election Trust, OPA's new election contractor in Washington State, will mail about 7,800 ballots via the US Postal Service to eligible Owners of Record the week of July 11. Return ballots must be received by Election Trust by Tuesday, August 8, 2023. In past elections, ballots could also be returned at any time to a box in the police station. This year, apparently due to the company in Washington State handling the entire election process, the police station box will only be in place beginning August 5th and ballots will be collected on August 8th at 4 p.m. for overnight express mail to Election Trust by 5 p.m.

Based on comments during a recent board meeting, the board does not even intend to advertise the police mailbox availability. Anyone looking to drop their ballot at the police station prior to August 5th will be advised to place their ballot in the United States mail, apparently with no information provided that the box would be available on the 5th. This looks like a betrayal of the electorate by the Board of Directors. Think about it. The board says mail your ballot to Washington State on August 4th and if it is not there by August 8th your ballot will not be counted. Shameful.

please see trust on page 12

Carozza urges action now to repeal gas tax increase

With the gas tax having spiked by 40 percent on July 1, Senator Mary Beth Carozza (R-District 38) is calling for the Governor to convene a Special Session now to reverse the exorbitant automatic increase in Maryland's gas tax.

Carozza, joining with the Maryland Joint Republican Caucus on this request, noted Governor Wes Moore's recent announcement supporting legislative action to address the automatic gas increase next session.

"The Maryland General Assembly should take action now, this summer, to reverse this dramatic and automatic gas tax increase," said Carozza. "There is absolutely no reason we should wait until 2024."

In 2013, the O'Malley Administration and Democratic majorities in both houses of the Maryland General Assembly enacted a bill which provided for annual automatic gas tax increases tied to the rate of inflation or the Con-

sumer Price Index (CPI). This year, the gas tax automatically will increase by more than 10 percent, bringing Maryland's total gas tax to 47 cents per gallon.

Each year since being elected in 2014, Carozza and other members of the Maryland General Assembly have tried to repeal these annual automatic increases. "Putting tax increases on auto-pilot is contrary to representative government and contrary to how government ought to work," said Carozza.

"This huge gas tax spike hurts working families and hits them hard at a time when other costs are increasing across the board," said Carozza. "Many Marylanders work hard all year to save and take a short vacation, and this dramatic gas increase hits them hard right now as many will be on the road traveling to Independence Day celebrations."

please see tax on page 12

Courier Almanac

On July 5, 1946, French designer Louis Réard unveiled a daring two-piece swimsuit at the Piscine Molitor, a popular swimming pool in Paris. Parisian showgirl Micheline Bernardini modeled the new fashion, which Réard dubbed "bikini," inspired by a news-making U.S. atomic test that took place off the Bikini Atoll in the Pacific Ocean earlier that week.



An assortment of variables will dictate just how long a home's siding will last, including the amount of sun a home receives and the location of the home. The life expectancy of siding also will depend on the siding material. According to Sunshine Contracting, vinyl siding lasts between 20 and 40 years. It's a popular choice because of how long it lasts and the minimal upkeep it requires. Wood siding, another traditional favorite, is more expensive, but it also boasts impressive longevity, according to BobVila.com. With proper maintenance, which includes cleaning and refinishing, wood siding may last for decades. The coating on aluminum siding typically begins to fade after about 15 years. Fiber cement siding is affordable, durable and low maintenance, and it may actually last as long as the home itself. It needs to be repainted occasionally. Sunshine Contracting says stone veneer siding will last between 20 and 75 years, depending on the stone that is used.

The different ways to repair a driveway

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

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

project is unique.

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

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

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



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

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

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Golf Club issues friendly reminder about course access and respect for property

The Ocean Pines Golf Club, a premier destination for golf enthusiasts, is releasing a friendly reminder to the community about course access and the importance of respecting the property.

The reminder aims to ensure the safety of registered golfers, preserve the course's integrity, and minimize any potential damage or liability issues.

To help maintain a safe and enjoyable environment for all golfers, it is crucial that the public, including non-registered individuals, refrain from accessing the course. Instances of unauthorized access pose risks such as accidents, property damage, vandalism, and interference with ongoing play.

To prevent such incidents and ensure the well-being of all participants, the Ocean Pines Golf Club would like to reinforce the following guidelines:

Restricted access: The golf course is exclusively designated

for registered golfers at all times. No walking, biking, dog walking, or any other activities are permitted on the course.

Safety and liability: Unauthorized access to the course can result in potential hazards and liability issues. It is imperative that community members and their children understand and respect these regulations to ensure the well-being of everyone involved.

Property respect: The Ocean Pines Golf Club requests that individuals who disregard the access guidelines remain mindful and respectful of the course and its property. Engaging in any activities that may cause damage or disrupt play is strictly prohibited.

Golf Director Bob Beckelman expressed concern about frequent incidents involving damage caused by some individuals who access the course without authorization. He said these actions not only compromise the course's quality, but also hinder the enjoyment of golf for registered players.

"We kindly ask the community to cooperate and respect our regulations to ensure the safety and satisfaction of all our registered golfers. The golf course is a big asset within our community, and by adhering to the access guidelines we can continue to provide an exceptional golfing experience for everyone," Beckelman said.

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

Kiwanis meets during the summer

Each Wednesday the Kiwanis Club meets in the Ocean Pines library this summer through August 25. Doors open 7:30 a.m. The meeting begins at 8 a.m. Third Wednesday meetings are offsite and will be updated monthly. Guests are encouraged to visit and learn about what the club is and does. See www.kiwanisofopoc.org and Facebook for more information. Kiwanis is a volunteer organization dedicated to helping children and families in Worcester County.



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My Backyard... sponsored by Maureen Kennedy

A guide to buying and setting up a bird bath

Warm weather means more opportunities to spend time outdoors while at home. Whether your favorite form of outdoor recreation includes sitting on the patio reading or digging in the garden, there's a good chance that you will be sharing the space with local wildlife. Optimizing opportunities to view and interact with backyard wildlife can make the great outdoors even more enjoyable.

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology indicates that there are around 2,059 bird species on the continent of North America. Red-winged blackbirds, yellow-rumped warblers, American robins, and chipping sparrows are among the most commonly seen birds in North America.

Making a backyard hospitable to birds can increase the chances for sightings and hearing their sweet songs. Installing a bird bath can be a step in the right direction.

Bird baths can make yards more attractive to birds. Birds require a supply of fresh, clean water for drinking and bathing. By setting up a bath, homeowners can attract not only seed-loving birds, but those that don't eat seeds and wouldn't normally congregate around feeders, indicates All About Birds. Experts surmise that birds may bathe to maintain their feathers.

Not all bird baths are constructed the in the same fashion. Many bird baths sold in stores are better suited

for decoration than for serving as functional baths. There are four general types of bird bath: standing pedestal, hanging bath, deck-mounted, and ground-level. In general, the lower a bird bath is to the ground, the more likely birds are to use it. Most natural sources of water birds use are on or near the ground. Therefore, ground-level bird baths may be the best investments.

It is important to keep the water in a bird bath shallow (around two inches of water or less). This enables birds to splash around safely and wade in.

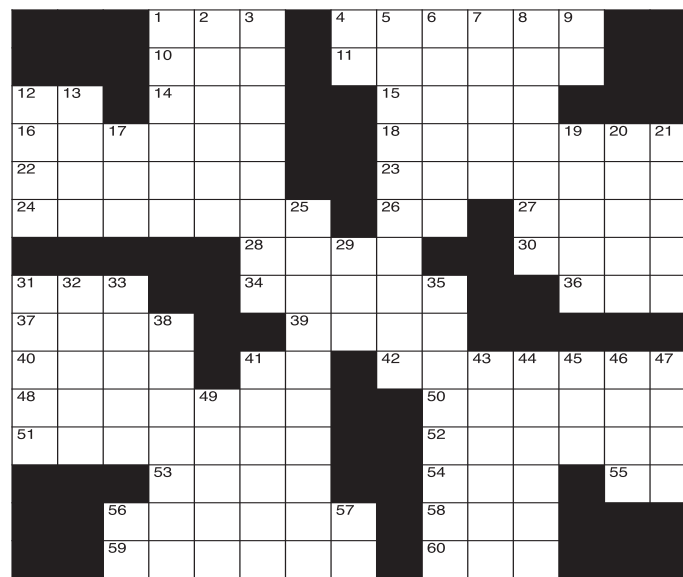
Birds do not want to slide around, so a material that is coated and slippery, like glazed ceramic or glass, may not be too popular. Rough stone or a bird bath modified with pea gravel or rocks can give birds steady footing.

Place the bird bath in the shade if possible to ensure the water is cool and fresh. Locate it by a

tree so the birds can hop up to a branch and preen afterwards. All About Birds also says that a bird bath is more attractive if it has a dripping or moving water feature, as this is often irresistible to birds.

Another way to ensure the bath will be used is to keep it clean and maintained. Change the water every day or two. Rinse off the bath to remove droppings, bugs and other debris.

Once birds learn there is a comfortable bath nearby, they may be more apt to visit a yard and may even become frequent guests.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Small Eurasian deer
- 4. Irish county
- 10. A major division of geological time
- 11. Broadway actor Lane
- 12. Canadian province
- 14. It causes fainting (abbr.)
- 15. Two
- 16. A notable one is blue
- 18. Utter repeatedly
- 22. Rings
- 23. Sullies
- 24. Occurs
- 26. Publicity
- 27. Near
- 28. Tools of a trade
- 30. Offer in good faith
- 31. "American Idol" network
- 34. Garments
- 36. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 37. Retired NFL DC Dean
- 39. Hot meal
- 40. A type of gin
- 41. Percussion instrument
- 42. A \$10 bill
- 48. About ground
- 50. Medicine man
- 51. Seedless raisin
- 52. National capital of Albania
- 53. Appendage
- 54. OJ trial judge
- 55. By the way
- 56. Bicycle parts
- 58. Barbie's friend
- 59. In a way, stretched
- 60. Commercials

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Make up for
- 2. American songbird
- 3. Pay
- 4. International organization
- 5. Engravers
- 6. Declared as fact
- 7. Criminal
- 8. Jewelry
- 9. Hospital worker (abbr.)
- 12. Nonsense (slang)
- 13. Town in Galilee
- 17. Value
- 19. Another name
- 20. Sheep in second year before shearing
- 21. Town in Surrey, England
- 25. Appropriate during a time of year
- 29. Creative output
- 31. Recesses
- 32. District in N. Germany
- 33. Rider of Rohan
- 35. The official emblem of the German Third Reich
- 38. One who puts down roots
- 41. Scribe
- 43. Painted a bright color
- 44. Tycoons
- 45. Actress Thurman
- 46. Walking accessory
- 47. Crest of a hill
- 49. Member of a North American people
- 56. Type of computer
- 57. U.S. State (abbr.)



Answers for June 28



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Annual Ocean Pines-Taylor Bank Golf Scramble returns

The Ocean Pines Golf Members' Council will host the 39th annual Ocean Pines-Taylor Bank Golf Scramble at the Ocean Pines Golf Club on Wednesday, July 12 with a 9 a.m. shotgun start.

Players and sponsors are still needed, and the deadline for both is July 10.

The annual tournament benefits junior golf in the area by supporting junior golf clinics and an annual tournament for junior golfers.

The scramble also raises funds for scholarships for local high school seniors who have shown an interest in golf. In the last eight years, the Golf Members' Council has raised almost

\$60,000 for local scholarships.

The public entry fee is \$120 per person, which includes greens fee, cart, team prizes, men's and ladies' closest-to-the-pin prizes, door prizes, continental breakfast, on-course refreshments and lunch at the Clubhouse Bar and Grille following the tournament.

Players may sign up individually or as a foursome. Individuals or incomplete teams will be paired.

Taylor Bank is the longtime event Title Sponsor. Platinum, Gold, and Silver level sponsorships are still available.

Tee sponsorships are available for \$50 for businesses and nonmembers,

\$40 for golf members, and \$35 for members with existing signs. The deadline for tee signs is July 5.

Entry and sponsorship forms may be picked up at the Ocean Pines Golf Club. Fees may be mailed to Ocean Pines Golf Members' Council, PO Box

1356, Berlin, Maryland 21811. Checks should be made payable to "Ocean Pines Golf Members' Council."

For more information, contact Steve Howse at 571-239-8469 or stevehowse75@gmail.com, or Bob Long at 410-208-0606 or rmlong@aol.com.

Art center offers summer activities

The Ocean City Center for the Arts on 94th St. bayside is inviting the public to two free art activities on summer weekends. The events tie in with the Town of Ocean City's initiative to offer free and fun family activities throughout the resort on summer weekends.

On summer Saturdays from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m.,

the Arts Center will host free children's craft projects with unique new themes every week. The projects will be outside in the Arts Center's tented waterfront courtyard overlooking the bay, weather permitting, and will move indoors on rainy days. All ages are welcome, but an adult must accompany a child.

"This is make-and-take event," Rina Thaler, executive director of the Art League of Ocean City, said. "It's a fun opportunity for children to engage their creative sides and make something special they can take home and be proud of with a special memory of Ocean City. We supply the materials and some creative ideas, and let the children take it from there."

On summer Sundays at 1 p.m., the Arts Center's staff docents are guiding gallery tours free of charge, discussing the art exhibitions and other offerings at the center. Tours last approximately 15 minutes. The docents will guide guests through the main Thaler Gallery, the Sisson Galleria on the balcony, the Spotlight Gallery, Studio E, the Staircase Gallery, the studios of the artists-in-residence, and the in-center gift shop.

The docents will also highlight the

multitude of classes offered at the Arts Center - painting, drawing, pottery, collage, book making and more - that allow artists to hone their skills and non-artists to discover their hidden talents.

"Whenever I go to an art gallery or museum, I love to take tours so I can learn the stories and ideas behind the art," Thaler continued. "Our docent tours will introduce you to some of our most prolific and talented artists, and answer questions you may have about what you see on our walls and in our galleries."

More information about the free weekend art projects is available by calling the Arts Center at 410-524-9433 or at OCart.org.



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Casey selected to lead Wor-Wic

The board of trustees of Wor-Wic Community College has named Dr. Deborah Casey, current vice president of student affairs at Green River College in Auburn, Wash., as the new president of the college, effective August 14.



Deborah Casey

Casey will replace Dr. Ray Hoy, who will retire after serving as the college's president for 23 years. She will become just the third president to lead Wor-Wic in its 48-year history. Hoy will remain at the college until Casey's term begins.

"It is an honor to be selected by the board of trustees as the third president of Wor-Wic Community College," Casey said. "Wor-Wic's legacy of commitment

to excellence in education and training, alongside the enormous regional economic impact is a testament to the extraordinary leadership both past and present. I look forward to leading this vanguard institution into the future, fostering deep rooted relationships within our community and celebrating the successful outcomes we can achieve together to positively impact the lives of our diverse students, communities and workforce on the Lower Eastern Shore."

She has 25 years of experience in higher education, and also worked in various administrative positions as interim vice president of human resources and instruction, dean, and in teaching roles at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton and the University of Florida in Gainesville. She earned her doctorate in educational leadership and research

methodology from Florida Atlantic University.

"We are delighted to welcome a leader and scholar of this caliber to lead Wor-Wic," said Kimberly C. Gillis, chairperson of the board of trustees. "We are confident that Dr. Casey will be committed to ensuring that Wor-Wic continues to fulfill its goal of developing a world-class workforce and delivering excellence in education and training."

Casey was chosen by the board of trustees after a national search by a community college executive search firm, Gold Hill Associates, working in concert with a selection committee comprised of the college's faculty, staff and administrators; a student representative; members of the board of trustees and the foundation; community leaders; and county elected officials.



Wor-Wic bids farewell to employees

Wor-Wic Community College recently held a reception for employees who retired after many years of dedicated service to the college. **Dr. Ray Hoy**, president of Wor-Wic, left, is retiring in August with 23 years of service. Next to Hoy is **Dr. Dornell L. Woolford**, evening and weekend administrator, 23 years; **Dixie J. Solazzo**, assistant professor of nursing, 23 years; and **Ruth F. Gill**, chief information officer, 11 years. Hoy and Gill were given honorary emeritus titles in recognition of their service. Not pictured are Deborah M. Long, CEWD registration specialist, 23 years; Fred Howard, director of veterans services, 16 years; Dr. Lucinda Stanley, professor of business and office technology, 15 years; and Teresa Tyndall, CEWD director of allied health, 10 years. Also honored was the late Edmond J. O'Brien, assistant professor of criminal justice, who worked at Wor-Wic for 18 years.

trust
from page 6

Roughly a little more than three-week or so time frame, and lots of questionable processes. Restore trust? What could go wrong?

When it comes to the actual voting, what do association members know about candidates' opinions on issues? Not much, based on the Candidates Forum or the candidate information coming in the ballot package. All the candidates pay the perennial homage to fixing drainage problems, maintaining infrastructure, DR enforcement, yada, yada, yada.

Perhaps the best gauge of candidate opinions was found in the most recent edition of the *Ocean Pines Progress* where all candidates answered a number of questions asked by publisher Tom Stauss.

Answers to Stauss' questions reveal there is little to any difference on issues. They all seem to support Inter-

net voting for board members. They all seem to support changes to the Declarations of Restrictions allowing the Board of Directors to impose fines on all lots in the original Boise Cascade sections of Ocean Pines. Yet none of the candidates support any potential changes allowing an elected board to ban disorderly, abusive, intoxicated association members from OPA amenities.

Election procedures are too important an issue for any four association members to decide. Every association member should insist the board enshrine Internet voting or disallow it via a referendum bylaws change. A prior Election Committee even recommended the board allow voting via telephone. What's next? Text message voting? Let the voters decide if elections should be restricted to only paper ballots or not. Perhaps, as former board member Slobodan Trendic did to limit board spending limits without a referendum, someone will

bypass the board and bring Internet voting to referendum via a petition.

Finally, all the candidates are surely qualified, by virtue of meeting bylaw requirements as well as their life experience. Make your choice, but fully realize it is impossible for the election results to change the current OPA board majority, a group supported by the "Get Involved" Facebook site. At least three of the four candidates are more or less in the camp of three returning members of the current board majority - Rick Farr, Stuart Lakernick, and Monica Rakowski. Thus, the board majority after the election will increase from a four-member majority to either a five or six-member majority.

One positive result is the likelihood of less drama and animosity among board members and fewer political battles to pit association members against each other. For many, this represents quite a welcome change from recent years.

tax
from page 6

While the gas tax goes up with inflation, it does not go down with deflation. Neither the Governor nor the Board of Public Works can take emergency action during the Interim (which is the period after the Maryland General Session adjourned on April 10, 2023, and before it convenes on January 10, 2024). If Marylanders are to see relief before summer ends, Governor Wes Moore must call for a Special Session to convene in Annapolis.

"Lifting the gas tax would have such a positive impact on rural communities that depend on transportation for their day-to-day livelihoods as well as the thousands of Marylanders who make the trip to Ocean City every summer," said Carozza, noting that Ocean City becomes the second largest city in Maryland during the season with approximately 300,000 people visiting on busy summer weekends.

Governor Moore recently joined the Republican's call to address the automatic gas tax increase, but has yet to call for a Special Session. "If my mom, when she was working multiple jobs and out of nowhere she watched her gas tax increase - for many people that's not a big deal, but that would've been a big deal for my mom, and I just feel like we've got to do better for working families in the state of Maryland," said Governor Moore from June 29 *Baltimore Sun* article.

films
from page 4

other deliverables. The winning films will premiere on Saturday, Aug. 19, 2023, 7 p.m. at the Ocean City Center for the Arts and will also be screened at the Ocean City Film Festival in March 2024.

Prizes include an Ocean City hotel stay, swag bag, and two all-access passes during the 2024 OC Film Festival.

"Ocean City is a beautiful landscape, and there's so much that artists can take advantage of right here in town," said Strang-Moya. "There are many ways to tell a story through motion picture, and the challenge pushes filmmakers to explore these boundaries."

Contact the Film Festival at OceanCityFilmFest@gmail.com with questions.

The Ocean City Film Festival is a program of the Art League of Ocean City.

Astronomy & Spaceflight

By Douglas Hemmick, Ph.D.



Seismic studies of Martian interior

The study of the planet Mars has brought us a wealth of information over several decades, as we've learned about the red planet's atmosphere and temperatures as well as intricate details of its surface composition and properties. One question that has only been studied since late 2018 is that of the inner structure of Mars, i.e., the layers of rock and molten material deep within. On April 24, 2023 a paper was published in "Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences" with results on the size and composition of the Martian inner core.

The NASA "InSight" lander, which touched down on Mars in November 2018, was not designed to photograph the surface or scrutinize Mars' chemical composition but to detect seismic disturbances on the surface. Many people know the concept of seismic vibrations since they occur every time an earthquake takes place, making the ground tremble and occasionally leading to great havoc. Seismographic recorders serve to measure these shakings and gauge their magnitude. The "Richter Scale" is a classic means of assessing the strength of earthquakes via their seismic vibrations.

But the sensitivity of the NASA technology sent to Mars is well beyond the usual instruments used here on Earth: Principal InSight investigator Bruce Banerdt said "Sensitive is really an understatement. It's an exquisitely sensitive device for measuring the motion of the ground. And when we

Anglers to meet

The Ocean Pines Anglers Club will meet on Saturday, July 8 at 9:30 a.m. in the Ocean Pines library. The speaker will be Carter Drab, a 17-year-old native of Annapolis and avid hunter and waterman who has been bow fishing the Delmarva area for snakeheads, rays and skates for over three years and will share his thrill of the hunt with attendees.

Also, members will share updates on any fishing regulations and trips. All are welcome.

talk about motion, we're talking about vibrations that have an amplitude comparable to the size of an atom." This technology has been used to monitor more than 1,300 "Marsquakes" on the red planet.

Having used the InSight probe to analyze Martian seismic waves, scientists have at last been able to get a peek into the interior. The speed and direction of seismic waves as they pass through a planet reveals information on the materials they traverse as well as the location of boundaries separating various layers.

According to the InSight results, Mars is similar to Earth with a liquid iron core, half the size of the planet itself (making it about 1,800 kilometers in radius). However, the density of the core is only about half that of the Earth, and contains some lighter elements such as Sulfur, Oxygen, Carbon and Hydrogen.

These results offer some hints regarding the nature of the red planet as well as its ability to sustain life. University of Maryland Associate Professor of Geology Nicholas Schmerr, another co-author of the paper, explained, "You can think of it this way; the properties of a planet's core can serve as a summary about how the planet formed and how it evolved dynamically over time. The end result of the formation and evolution processes can be either the generation or absence of life-sustaining conditions. The uniqueness of Earth's core allows it to generate a magnetic field that protects us from solar winds, allowing us to keep water. Mars' core does not generate this protective shield, and so the planet's surface conditions are hostile to life."

The InSight probe is no longer operating, and it sent its last broadcast to Earth in December 2022. Before its demise the mission offered vital new knowledge on the red planet, giving new scientific clues into the history of the red planet.

In July the bright planet Venus continues to "rule the evening" and stargazers may spot it over the

western horizon as early as 8:30 p.m. This special sight can be seen for a long time, up until about 10:00 PM.

The full stellar vista arrives at about 9:45 p.m. Scorpius the Scorpion appears near the southern horizon and high overhead lies the kite-shaped Bootes (Boh OH teez) the Herdsman.

Many stargazers know the three stars of the "Summer Triangle," Deneb, Vega and Altair, which appear to the east of Bootes.

Mars can still be seen well over towards the western horizon, just east of Venus. But the window to view the red planet is relatively short, since it

first becomes visible only with the other stars around 9:45 PM but sinks low to the horizon after about 10:30 PM.

The planet Mercury makes an appearance this month. The planet is known for the speed at which it traverses the sky as days pass. Mercury appears just four degrees south of the crescent moon on the 19th. On the 26th, stargazers may see it five degrees to the north of Venus. Viewers are reminded that binoculars are almost always needed for this dim planet.

Wishing good luck and clear skies to all stargazers.



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Some things to think about

Gathered from the internet by **Jack Barnes**

**THE OLDER I GET ...
THE MORE I FIND
MYSELF LOOKING AT
PEOPLE LIKE THIS ...**



One day you'll find someone that is obsessed with you. It's probably going to be a dog, but it is what it is.



Mother-in-law came for dinner and said, "Why does the dog keep looking at me?" I said, "Because you're using his plate!"



THERE WAS A FLY. I GOT IT.



Save it Susan.. I heard you be telling every dog they're a good boy



Art center offers summer activities

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More information about the free weekend art projects is available by calling the Arts Center at 410-524-9433 or at OCart.org.

Chorus to host anniversary show

The Delmarva Chorus, a chapter of Sweet Adelines International and directed by Carol Ludwig, will hold its annual chorus show on Saturday, July 15, at 7 p.m., in the Ocean Pines Community Center. The theme this year is the "Roaring Twenties," in celebration of the organization's 20th anniversary. Come and join the fun with familiar tunes, homemade desserts, door prizes, a 50/50 raffle and more. Tickets are \$10. For more information, call Jeanette at 410-726-3279.

Youth fishing contest scheduled

The Ocean Pines Anglers Club will host the annual Art Hansen Memorial Youth Fishing Contest on Saturday, July 15 at the South Gate Pond at Veterans Park in Ocean Pines. Registration is from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and the contest will be from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Youths should bring their own fishing rod and reel. Bait is provided. There will be three age groups; 4-7, 8-11, 12-16. A trophy will be awarded for the biggest fish in each age group with special awards for the top three. A drawing will be held for two grand prizes. Children younger than age four can fish but will not be eligible for a trophy. This is a free event. All registrants will receive a prize. Funding support provided by the Anglers Club, the Ocean City/Berlin Optimist Club, Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Dept. and the Atlantic Coast Sportfishing Association. For information call John McFalls at (610) 505-1697.

Local author to sign books

Relive the Ocean City experience from the '50s to the '70s. Mark Landry, author of Beach Patrol: Lifeguarding in Ocean City, MD 1966-1974, spent summers growing up in unincorporated north Ocean City. In 1965, Ocean City expanded to the Delaware line increasing the need for guard services. Landry responded and served through high school, college, and medical school. He will present his perspective of that time capsule and share stories from his recent book, and sign purchased copies, at the Ocean Pines library at 2 p.m. on Thursday, July 6, and at the Ocean City library at 100th and Coastal Hwy. at 9 a.m. on Friday, July 7. In addition, he will be at Pam's Hallmark Store on Route 50 at 11 a.m. on July 6 and the Buzzed Word Bookstore at 118th and Coastal Hwy at 1 p.m. on July 7. Finally, he will be signing books at the Coast Guard Lifesaving Museum on the Boardwalk Saturday July 8 at 10 a.m.

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