

# The Courier

August 2, 2023 Volume 23 Number 41



**Donation** - The Delmarva Hand Dancing group recently dissolved their chapter and decided to close out their account by donating all remaining proceeds to the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation. Veterans Memorial Foundation President Marie Gilmore said the donation would help support education programs of the foundation. To donate to the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation, email Gilmore at [opmarie@aol.com](mailto:opmarie@aol.com) or visit [opvets.org](http://opvets.org).

Pictured, from left, are **Carol Lee Bell**, **Charlie Bell**, **Marie Gilmore**, and Delmarva Hand Dancing Secretary **Diane Denk**. Photo by Bob Gilmore.

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**Appreciation** - The Art League of Ocean City held a barbeque for their dedicated volunteers at the Ocean City Center for Arts on July 21 to thank them for their service to the nonprofit.

Above are **Barbara Miller, Sal and Lisa Guerriero and Carole Chamberlain.**

## Pines chamber schedules events

The Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce is planning multiple events for the next couple of months that will delight young and old.

A perpetual community favorite, the Flounder Tournament & Auction returns for the 16<sup>th</sup> year. The weigh-in and auction will be at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club on August 5 from noon to 4:30 pm. Last year, there were over 275 anglers and the winners split a purse of over \$8,000. "I have been with the Chamber for five years now and the flounder tournament and auction is everyone's favorite annual event. So many fish the event year after year, I recognize their names as the registrations come in! It really is a family and friend tradition" said Chamber President Kerrie Bunting.

The auction closes at 4:30 p.m. and will feature hotel stays, gift cards, fishing gear, jewelry, baskets of cheer, and much more. This year, the main event sponsor is TC Backer Construction. You can register until noon on August 4 online at [www.OceanPinesChamber.org](http://www.OceanPinesChamber.org).

If it's Labor Day weekend, it must be time for our annual Classic Car & Jeep Show at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Park. Weather permitting, it is expected that over one hundred vehicles will be shown from 9 a.m. to noon on September 2. There will be music, food trucks, vendors. Shine'er up and bring'er down, registration is only \$15

upon arrival.

Something new and exciting to annual calendar will be Oktoberfest in the Pines. A true cultural celebration, the event will highlight a Bavarian dance troupe called "Enzian Volkstanzgruppe." The "Enzian Volkstanzgruppe," or EVTG, is a Bavarian Volkstanz and Schuhplattler group founded in 1968. They will bring traditional German and Bavarian dances, music, costumes, and instruments to White Horse Park on Sunday, September 24 from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Food trucks, a beer garden, games for all ages and vendors will be on hand.

More information can be found on our website, [www.OceanPinesChamber.org](http://www.OceanPinesChamber.org), but feel free to call the office at (410) 641-5306 or email [info@oceanpineschamber.org](mailto:info@oceanpineschamber.org).



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## OPA annual meeting moved to Assateague Room

The Ocean Pines Association Annual Meeting has been moved to the Assateague Room of the Ocean Pines Community Center. The meeting is scheduled for Saturday, August 12 at 9 a.m.

As per Ocean Pines' governing documents, members will be checked in to verify voter eligibility.

Members are urged to arrive at least 30 minutes early to ensure the verification process is completed prior to the meeting's start time. Members will be required to provide a valid ID with a photo and name.

To make it easier for those who cannot attend in person, the Association will also allow hybrid participation during the annual meeting.

Online attendees must use their Ocean Pines property address as their login name.

After logging in, users will be asked to show a valid ID on camera, and staff will verify the user is eligible to vote.

Online check-in will begin at 8 a.m. No users will be checked in after 8:45 a.m.

Members may participate and/or vote as needed, and votes will be tracked by members of the Ocean Pines Elections Committee.

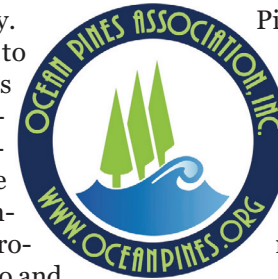
All property owners of the Ocean Pines Association are urged to attend the Annual Meeting.

However, only one owner of any numbered residential lot, condominium unit, or single-family attached dwelling, who is eligible, may cast a vote.

Members desiring to present any items of business requiring member action are reminded to use the "Unfinished" or "New Business" segments of the agenda.

If a homeowner wishes to place an item on the agenda under New Business, they may do so ahead of time by emailing [directors@oceanpines.org](mailto:directors@oceanpines.org) by Aug. 10.

For questions, call 410-641-7717 or email [info@oceanpines.org](mailto:info@oceanpines.org).



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## Ocean Pines Yacht Club voted 'Best Wedding Venue'

The Ocean Pines Yacht Club has once again secured the prestigious title of "Best Wedding Venue" in Worcester County, as declared by the readers of "Coastal Style" magazine.

This marks the third time in four years that the Yacht Club has received such recognition from "Coastal Style" readers. Ocean Pines' venues were also honored for four consecutive years, from 2015 to 2018.

The consistent recognition of excellence underscores the dedication of Ocean Pines to provide unmatched experiences for couples on their special day.

The Yacht Club features a spacious ballroom with draped ceilings, a private bar, bridal suite, and a stunning waterfront view of the Ocean City skyline, Katie Krynsky, general manager of the Yacht Club, said.

"We are so humbled and honored to be recognized as the best wedding

venue in Worcester County," events manager Lia Isel said. "Our chef and staff truly enjoy creating fantastic food and atmosphere, and providing great service for the perfect wedding day for each and every couple."

"From all of us at Ocean Pines Yacht Club, thank you again!" Krynsky added.

## OPA board honors outgoing directors

The Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors took a moment during their July 15 meeting to honor and express gratitude to three outgoing Board members for their service.

Vice President Rick Farr presented commemorative plaques to Doug Parks, Colette Horn, and Frank Daly, acknowledging their significant contributions to the community.

Doug Parks, the current board president, and Colette Horn, the past

*please see directors on page 8*



**Fishing contest** - The Ocean Pines Anglers Club hosted youths in three age categories from ages four to 16 along with parents and grandparents at the annual Art Hansen Memorial Youth Fishing Contest. The event was held July 15 at the South Pond in Ocean Pines. There were 69 youth registered and 94 fish were caught by the group.

Trophies were awarded for largest fish in each age category along with prizes for second and third place. Additional awards were given for the most fish caught, and two grand prize drawings for a Mike Vitak custom rod and a deep-sea fishing trip donated by the Angler in Ocean City.

All participants received a prize.

Above are first place winners by age group (L to R): Age 4-7 Largest, 13.25" Catfish, **Dominic Wasen**; Most fish, **Reid Landis**. Ages 8-11 Largest, 12" Bass, **Ben Briles**; Most fish, **Griffin Landis**. Age 12-16 Largest, 19.5" Bass, **Kylar Middleton**; Most fish, **Isabel Schoonyoung**.

## Blessing of the Combines is Saturday

For the 23<sup>rd</sup> year the Snow Hill Blessing of the Combines will be held in downtown Snow Hill on Saturday, August 5, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. This signature event brings the local farm community together along with locals and visitors from far and wide to honor the agricultural roots of the Snow Hill area.

Led by the Snow Hill Junior Reserve Officer's Training Corp (SHJROTC) Color Guard, antique tractors, the Shore Fun Garden Tractor club and the highly anticipated combines will parade through the downtown at 11 a.m. The larger-than-life Combines will then park along Green Street for spectators to view and even tour during the event.

A throttle thrust will signal the Master of Ceremonies to begin the program with a keynote address by MD Secretary of Agriculture Kevin Atticks, and will be followed by a musical entertainment line-up of the County Line Band and Carly Twigg. You won't want to miss all of

the food, activities and attractions that will fill the streets. Vendors, the Wheels that Heal Car Show, an antique tractor exhibit and more will be sure to fill your day with amusements. Kids of all ages will enjoy the petting zoo, free pony rides, a bounce house and gigantic corn maze, games, and other activities throughout the event. Local businesses will welcome visitors with sales and specials that will keep you coming back to Snow Hill for your shopping and dining needs.

The Snow Hill Blessing of the Combines is organized by a small private committee that has been led by the Payne Family since its inception. This committee is dedicated to promoting the heritage of the Snow Hill farming community and educating the public about the agriculture industry. If you would like to become a sponsor of the event or have any questions, please contact Becky Payne at 443-783-1715 or email at [blesscombines@gmail.com](mailto:blesscombines@gmail.com).



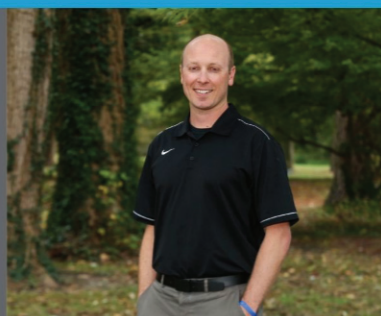
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# A \$2 apple pie

Walking through a supermarket recently I came across a display of Tastykake apple pies. Growing up these were a favorite treat. We didn't have them often but when we did, it was a good day.

Aside from the memories conjured up by the display, I was more

fact that there were occasions when we'd take cold showers because the expense of turning on the hot water heater was too much. I must tell you, at the time we thought nothing of it. We never viewed ourselves as poor or wanting, nothing of the sort. This was just something we were going through. It wasn't who we were. My mother made these times seem like an adventure. And although I now know those experiences were tough for her, my mother made the best of what we did have and used humor to get us through the rough patches. There was a lot of humor.

Every once in a while, to get out of the house, my mother would take my brother, sister and me to the buffet restaurant in Neshaminy Mall. This was always a treat. We'd go down the line, pushing our one tray, seeing all the food and desserts. It was exciting. We'd get the fried chicken platter which came with four pieces of chicken, mashed potatoes (a lot of potatoes) and a vegetable, usually green beans if memory serves. My mother would get a cup of hot water and we kids would each get a carton of milk, if we were lucky, chocolate milk.

We'd find a booth and settle in. We'd each get a piece of chicken and share the potatoes and vegetable. My mother would take from her a purse a tea bag brought from home and steep it in the hot water. Sometimes, we'd each be able to go back through the line to get a dessert. Those were wonderful times. And I have to tell you, we thought we were living large. And in a very real way we were. As tough as it was for her to make ends meet, my mother never once complained or made my brother, sister or me feel like we were missing out on anything. We developed survival skills, a sense of humor about life's setbacks and an appreciation for those around us.

Time went on. My mother rose through the corporate ranks. Money loosened up. We grew up. I married and had a family.

Who knew the sight of a two-dollar Tastykake apple pie could resurrect so many happy memories? Although I still think \$2 is a lot for an apple pie.



## It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

than a little taken aback when I noticed each pie cost \$2. Thinking it was a mistake, I moved closer to the price tag believing, hoping, the \$2 was for multiple pies along the line of four for \$2. It wasn't. The price was \$2 for one pie. The realization of this fact prompted one of those, "I remember when" moments. I'm at that age when I can remember a past that doesn't seem so long ago to me, but in reality, actually is, at least in terms of Tastykake apple pie prices.

As a kid growing up in Philadelphia, the price of Tastykake pies was two for twenty-five cents. When I could, I'd get an apple and cherry pie. I'd also get a pack of Topps baseball cards for fifteen cents. Then I'd sit on the curb outside the 7-11 eating my pies while unwrapping my baseball cards with the bubble gum scent. I'd flip through the cards hoping to get a Phillies player or two. After finishing the pies and shoving the cards in my pocket and the gum in my mouth, I'd hop on my bike to head home.

With so much talk about inflation and the sticker shock that comes with it, it's unsettling to be old enough to remember when gas was 60 cents, the Philadelphia Daily News was 15 cents and a Hershey bar cost 20 cents. It won't be long before you'll hear me mumbling in the check-out line, questioning what this world is coming that a loaf of bread costs \$2.99?

All this talk about "remember when" reminds me of other memories of my youth. Cue the harp music, we're going back in time.

There were periods growing up when money was extremely tight. I mean tight, very tight. So tight in

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# Commentary

By Joe Reynolds  
OceanPinesForum.com

## Ballot battles

When OPA decided to hire a firm across the country in Washington State to handle the 2023 Board of Directors election, including printing, mailing, and counting of election ballots, association members had valid concerns over mailing times and other issues. The Board of Directors ignored those concerns.

Association members Sherrie Clifford and Amy Peck, representing a Facebook group known as ROC, were outspoken in their opposition. Some of their concerns were certainly valid - cross-country mail delivery problems, no in-person supervision of the process by the Election Committee, no in-person observation by association members, elimination of a ballot dropbox at the police station, much higher costs, etc.

OPA's contract with Election Trust called for all ballots to be in the mail to association members by July 11. Around July 17, Dave Walter and other members of *OceanPinesForum.com* began asking why no ballots had been received. We now know the answer - Election Trust did not mail the ballots until July 18, a week later than stipulated in their contract. OPA has offered no explanation as to why the contractor mailed a week late.

On July 24, Clifford and Peck released a podcast focusing on their concerns about the OPA election process.

Peck sarcastically posted on Facebook, "At this point, the board majority should just handpick their drinking buddies and save us some money."

Clifford posted to *OceanPinesForum.com*, "WOW - one SCREW UP after another with this election!!! No more secrecy as your ballot is returned to an office building location (no longer to a secure PO BOX) and can also now be tampered with based on

your name and who you voted for... Not OK."

Peck also wrote, "It's difficult to trust this election or have confidence in the contractor. There is no reason whatsoever to have my name on the envelope unless you want to make it easier to lose my envelope or mark it late.... Are certain homeowners (sic) envelopes going to go missing? Be marked late?"

Such comments from Clifford, Peck, and others smack of paranoia. Interestingly, Amy Peck was a board member and a candidate last year when OPA experienced its worst election process on record, with an unknown number of valid votes, enough to potentially change the resultant board majority and current corporate officers, not even counted.

Now sources say Sherrie Clifford, listed as a "Group Expert" on Facebook ROC, recently wrote, "Anyone going to Banbridge (sic) Island Washington to be present during the Ballot Counting process?"

Former board member Josette Wheatley responded, "Sherrie I believe there is a large gathering planning on it. Discussion among many is under an IM. Call you later if you want to book with the crew."

While the OPA Board of Directors' decision to utilize a contractor in Washington State has not gone as smoothly as planned and may have been an unfortunate knee-jerk decision, over-the-top accusations, conspiracy theories, and sarcasm are not helpful.

Clearly, there are OPA political battles at work here. This is especially obvious as there is no chance the coming election will cause any change in control of the Board of Directors. The only question is whether or not the election results in a five-member or six-

member majority supported by the Get Involved Facebook group - a significant achievement in the annals of OPA politics. Peck and Wheatly both lost bids for election to the board last year to candidates supported by Get Involved.

Regardless of the political battles, here are some of the issues of concern:

1. Ballots were mailed a week late. Who at OPA was watching the store?
2. The included announcement of the annual meeting said it would be in the golf clubhouse. Not so.
3. Owner name on return envelope. Not necessary.
4. No mention of the police station ballot dropbox option.
5. Incorrect ballot due date in the voting instructions. Should have been August 9 per Resolution M-06.
6. No in-person supervision of ballot counting by the Election Committee, or in-person observation by association members.

On July 24 OPA issued a press re-

lease, acknowledging "the recent delay in members receiving their election ballots" and the immediate implementation of a ballot dropbox at the police station.

On July 26 OPA issued a press release stating, "The Ocean Pines Association Annual Meeting has been moved to the Assateague Room of the Ocean Pines Community Center on 235 Ocean Parkway. The meeting is scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 12 at 9 a.m." Doug Parks wrote to an association member saying the ballot package letter referencing the annual meeting at the golf clubhouse was a mistake. Interestingly, the ballot package meeting notice letter was signed by Parks. The bylaws say that the announcement should come from the corporate Secretary, currently Stuart Lakernick.


Hopefully, all eligible voters had a ballot in hand by the end of the week of July 23. Do not delay voting after

please see **commentary** on page 15

## Courier Almanac

On August 2, 1776, members of Congress affixed their signatures to an enlarged copy of the Declaration of Independence.

Fifty-six congressional delegates in total signed the document, including some who were not present at the vote approving the declaration. The delegates signed by state from North to South, beginning with Josiah Bartlett of New Hampshire and ending with George Walton of Georgia. John Dickinson of Pennsylvania and James Duane, Robert Livingston and John Jay of New York refused to sign. Carter Braxton of Virginia; Robert Morris of Pennsylvania; George Reed of Delaware; and Edward Rutledge of South Carolina opposed the document but signed in order to give the impression of a unanimous Congress. Five delegates were absent: Generals George Washington, John Sullivan, James Clinton and Christopher Gadsden and Virginia Governor Patrick Henry.



Obesity affects children across North America. The Government of Canada estimates that 30 percent of Canadian children and adolescents between the ages of five and 17 are overweight or obese, while the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports the prevalence of obesity was 19.7 percent among children ages two to 19 in the United States between the years of 2017 and 2020. Overall, millions of children are diagnosed as overweight or obese and may need assistance in getting their weight on track. Parents and doctors can work together to help children maintain a healthy weight or lose weight if they are currently overweight or obese.

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# Numbness or tingling? Rebuilder can help

By **Cara Konlian**, MSPT, CEO

Lower extremity pain, numbness, and tingling can be incredibly disruptive, causing individuals to lose sleep and reduce their physical activity.



**Cara Konlian**

One common cause of these symptoms is peripheral neuropathy, which occurs when the nerves in the feet and hands become

damaged by consistently high blood sugar levels, often seen in individuals

with diabetes.

Aquacare understands how debilitating this condition can be, which is why they offer treatment using a cutting-edge device called the Rebuilder. The Rebuilder is a remarkable machine that replicates the waveform and frequency of a healthy peripheral nerve signal.

By delivering this precise stimulation to the affected areas, it helps alleviate the painful symptoms associated with conditions like diabetic peripheral neuropathy, chemo-

therapy-induced neuropathy, multiple sclerosis (MS), and idiopathic neuropathy. The best part? It's easy to use and requires just 30 minutes per day of soothing treatment.

Patients simply sit back and relax in one of the comfortable chairs as they enjoy their Rebuilder session at the office. And since there are no side effects to worry about, the treatment is completely safe for anyone experiencing lower extremity neuropathic symptoms.

When starting on Rebuilder, it is

recommended for once-a-week or twice-a-week sessions until symptoms subside. Then, patients can continue using the Rebuilder as needed whenever they feel the symptoms returning or becoming aggravated.

If you're currently struggling with lower extremity neuropathy, all you need is a referral from your doctor to schedule an appointment with at 410-548-7600 or schedule at any of the locations online: [www.aquacare-physicaltherapy.com](http://www.aquacare-physicaltherapy.com).

*directors*  
from page 4

## Anglers to meet

The Ocean Pines Anglers Club will meet on Saturday, August 12 at 9:30 a.m. in the Ocean Pines library. The speaker will be charter boat Captain Bill Duncan who has been plying Ocean City waters for more than thirty years and has seen and experienced it all aboard his *Islander* and *Islander II*. Also, there will be updates on fishing regulations and planned fishing trips. All are welcome.

president, will be stepping down from their positions in August because of term limits. Frank Daly, the former Vice President, resigned in June following a relocation to Florida.

Collectively, they have dedicated nearly two decades of time and effort to the OPA Board, with Parks serving for seven years, Horn for six years, and Daly for five years.

"On behalf of the current Board

and the members of our Association, I would like to present you with this plaque in recognition for your outstanding dedication to our OPA community as a director, president, committee member, and liaison. Your dedication to service is recognized and truly appreciated. Thank you," Farr said.

Farr emphasized the importance of recognizing the contributions made by volunteers, and he expressed his gratitude to the honorees for their service to Ocean Pines.

"I think it important to recognize

Doug, Colette, and Frank for taking the time for the countless hours in volunteering their service to our OPA community. Volunteering in this capacity allows Colette, Doug, and Frank to have a sense of purpose and to connect to the community and make it a better place. Moving forward, this current board and future boards will ensure that we recognize those that voluntarily serve our community in the capacity as a director or committee member."



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# The different ways to repair a driveway

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

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

project is unique.

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

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

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



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

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

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# Carozza named to Apprenticeship 2030 Commission

Senator Mary Beth Carozza (R-District 38) has accepted an appointment made by Senator President Bill Ferguson to serve on the Apprenticeship 2030 Commission.

The purpose of the commission, established by passage of Senate Bill 104

in the 2023 Maryland General Assembly Session, is to examine and make recommendations to reduce skill shortages in high-demand occupations and provide affordable training for career pathways for young people.

“I constantly hear about the short-

age of skilled and trained employees, and this appointment will allow me to continue to work with local industry, students and community leaders with an apprenticeship focus to meet the needs of the employers while keeping our young talent right here on the

Shore,” said Carozza who has worked on this general priority with Shore employers, local technology high schools, Wor-Wic Community College, and the Tri-County Council since she was elected as a Delegate in 2014.

Carozza noted workforce shortages in all the major industries, and that the work on the Apprenticeship Commission will be focused on expanding registered apprenticeships to 60,000 by 2030 and reaching the goal for 45 percent of high school graduates to complete the high school level of a registered apprenticeship.

Other Maryland Senators appointed to the Commission include Senate President Pro Tem Malcolm Augustine (D- District 47, Prince Georges); Senate Budget Committee Vice Chair Jim Rosapepe (D-District 21, Prince Georges and Anne Arundel); and Senator Arthur Ellis (D-District 28, Charles County).

The Commission will report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 1, 2023.

## Register for ‘The Woods in Your Backyard’ online course

Registration is now open for the fall 2023 session of “The Woods in Your Backyard” online course from the University of Maryland Extension. The self-directed, non-credit course runs 10 weeks from September 5 to November 14, 2023, and allows you to access the content at your convenience; no need to attend evening classes or weekend workshops.

The course will help landowners of small parcels of land (1-10 acres) improve the stewardship of their property for personal enjoyment and environmental quality by converting lawn to natural areas and enhancing their stewardship of existing natural areas. 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

*please see course page 14*

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# Cowbird

The Brown-headed Cowbird is a stocky blackbird with a fascinating approach to raising its young. Females forgo building nests and instead put all their energy into producing eggs, sometimes more than three dozen a summer. These they lay in the nests of other birds, abandoning their young to foster parents, usually at the expense of at least some of the host's own chicks. Once confined to the open grasslands of middle North America, cowbirds have surged in numbers and range as humans built towns and

there.

Social relationships are difficult to figure out in birds that do not build nests, but male and female Brown-headed Cowbirds are not monogamous. Genetic analyses show that males and females have several different mates within a single season.

Brown-headed Cowbird lay eggs in the nests of more than 220 species of birds. Recent genetic analyses have shown that most individual females specialize on one particular host species.



Some birds, such as the Yellow Warbler, can recognize cowbird eggs but are too small to get the eggs out of their nests. Instead, they build a new nest over the top of the old one and hope cowbirds don't come back. Some larger species puncture or grab cowbird eggs and throw them out of the nest. But the majority of hosts don't recognize cowbird eggs at all.

Cowbird eggs hatch faster than other species eggs, giving cowbird nestlings a head start in getting food from the parents. Young cowbirds also develop at a faster pace than their nest mates, and they sometimes toss out eggs and young nestlings or smother them in the bottom of the nest.

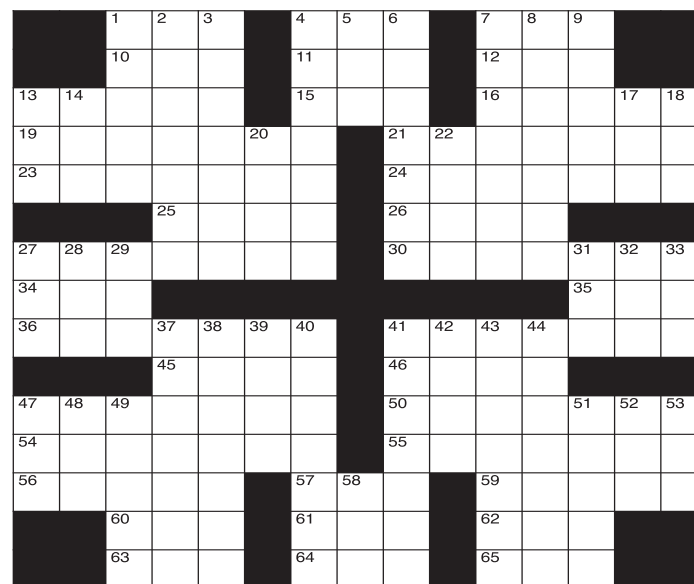
In winter, Brown-headed Cowbirds may join huge roosts with several blackbird species. One such mixed roost in Kentucky contained more than five million birds.

The oldest recorded Brown-headed Cowbird was a male, and at least 16 years 11 months old when it was recaptured and rereleased during banding operations in Wisconsin.

*The Cornell Lab*

cleared woods.

Even though Brown-headed Cowbirds are native to North America, many people consider them a nuisance bird, since they destroy the eggs and young of smaller songbirds and have been implicated in the decline of several endangered species, including Kirtland' Warbler and Black-capped Vireo. Cowbirds often flock with other species of blackbirds, and they may come to your yard if it contains open ground or lawn, or if you scatter grain for ground birds. If your yard is large enough to keep livestock, there's a good chance you will find cowbirds

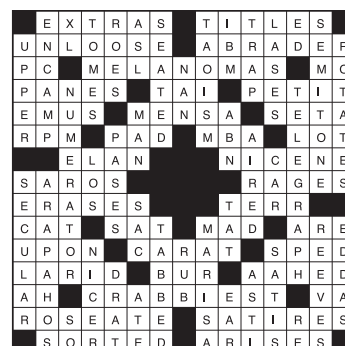


### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Indicates tire pressure
- 4. Request
- 7. Clairvoyance
- 10. 007's creator
- 11. Adult male
- 12. Scandinavian god of battle
- 13. Cloths spread on a coffin
- 15. Breeze through
- 16. Ladyfish genus
- 19. It's good to take them
- 21. Noble-governed territory
- 23. Members of U.S. Navy
- 24. Card game resembling rummy
- 25. Affected by injury
- 26. Member of a Semitic people
- 27. Left
- 30. Woman's cloak
- 34. S. American plant
- 35. Prohibit
- 36. Offense
- 41. Dish soap brand
- 45. Ottoman military commanders
- 46. Ancient Greek City
- 47. Makes unhappy
- 50. Discuss again
- 54. Medical instrument
- 55. Promote
- 56. A beloved carb
- 57. Tag the base runner to get him out
- 59. Prehistoric people
- 60. Large African antelope
- 61. Vehicle
- 62. Georgia rockers
- 63. Scientific instrument (abbr.)
- 64. A major division of geological time
- 65. Attempt

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Plant of the nettle family
- 2. Fit to be sold
- 3. Rather
- 4. Collected
- 5. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
- 6. Patella
- 7. Ageless
- 8. Lists of course requirements
- 9. Pokes at
- 13. TV network
- 14. They \_\_\_
- 17. Cooking hardware
- 18. U.S. Army title
- 20. Iron-containing compound
- 22. Swiss river (alt. spelling)
- 27. Former French coin
- 28. Electronic countermeasures
- 29. Taxi
- 31. Helps little firms
- 32. Woeful
- 33. Midway between northeast and east
- 37. Glowing
- 38. Tasks which should be done
- 39. An informal body of friends
- 40. Intrinsic nature
- 41. Neural structures
- 42. Brews
- 43. Where ships unload cargo
- 44. Singer
- 47. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
- 48. Southwest Scotland town
- 49. Most worthless parts
- 51. Viscous
- 52. Put to work
- 53. Old world, new
- 58. Swiss river



Answers for July 26



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# Astronomy & Spaceflight

By Douglas Hemmick, Ph.D.



## Ancient supermassive black hole discovered

One of the most fascinating topics in astronomy is the so-called supermassive black hole, generally found at the center of every large galaxy. Researchers led by Steven Finkelstein and Rebecca Larson of the University of Texas at Austin, have uncovered the most distant supermassive black hole ever seen. The research team: “Cosmic Evolution Early Release Science” (CEERS) also includes representatives from the University of Connecticut, Rochester Institute of Technology, and others. Last month the team published their discoveries in the *Astrophysical Journal Letters*.

The discovery of this early black hole was dependent upon the advanced capabilities of the new James Webb Space Telescope. “Until now, research about objects in the early universe was largely theoretical,” lead researcher Finkelstein says. “With Webb, not only can we see black holes and galaxies at extreme distances, we can now start to accurately measure them. That’s the tremendous power of this telescope.”

Located within a galaxy which has been designated “CEERS 1019,” the black hole is dated just over 570 million years following the Big Bang. This was the infant stage when the universe was just 4 percent of its current age. The black hole itself weighs in at around nine million times the sun’s mass.

The power of the Webb telescope and its spectroscopic analysis led to some interesting further measurements. These included the amount of infalling gas entering the black hole and the rate of star formation in the galaxy, which was found to be unusually high.

Because Webb’s infrared image reveals several distinct “blobs” composing the galaxy, astronomers speculate that it may well be a merger, i.e., two or more galaxies undergoing collision. Researcher Jeyhan Kartaltepe of the Rochester Institute of Technology

said: “We’re not used to seeing so much structure in images at these distances. A galaxy merger could be partly responsible for fueling the activity in this galaxy’s black hole, and that could also lead to increased star formation.”

The Webb telescope is giving researchers massive amounts of data to comb through, and they quickly identified two additional supermassive black holes in young galaxies in the distant and early universe.

One of the challenges of observing such remote targets is that they appear with “red shifted” wavelengths, i.e., their light does not appear with precisely the same colors it had when emitted. Due to the cosmic doppler effect and the expansion of the universe such light will be changed in that its wavelengths will appear longer.

The Webb operates in infrared wavelengths, making it ideal to pick up

such red shifted light from the early universe. The instrument includes both “near” and “mid-infrared” detectors as its primary tools. In addition to seeing early galaxies, Webb’s infrared also makes it more suitable to observe cooler objects such as planets and exoplanets. This remarkable new telescope can detect objects up to 100 times fainter than the Hubble telescope.

We seem to live in a remarkable age as galaxies and stars can be observed and carefully studied, even near the very “edge,” when our universe was in its cradle.

bright red star Antares. To the east appears Sagittarius, the Archer with its “teapot” shape. High overhead are Bootes (boh OH teez) and Hercules the Hero.

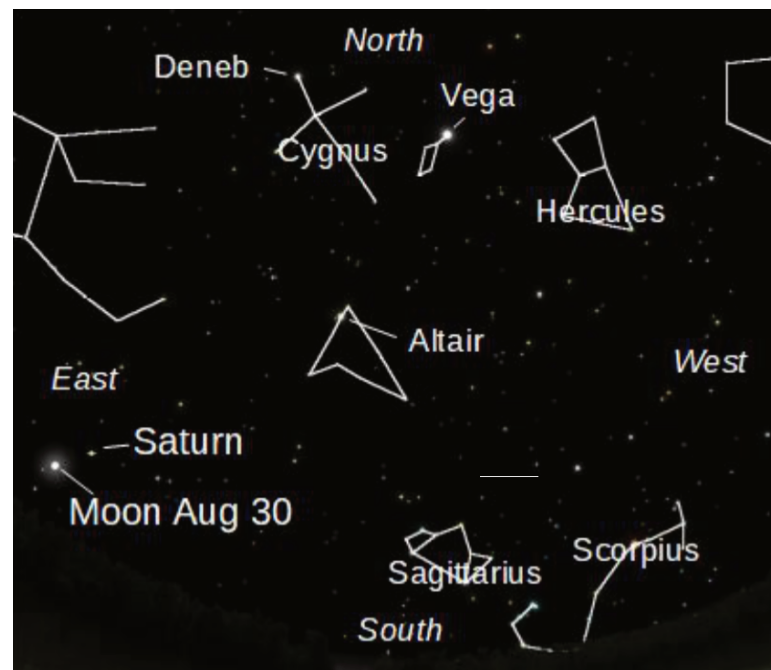
Many stargazers are aware of the Summer Triangle featuring three prominent stars Deneb, Vega and Altair.

The beautiful ringed planet Saturn makes a “peep” late in the month as it appears just three degrees north of the full moon on August 30th. Look for the pair over the eastern horizon after about 9:30 p.m. This full moon is special and will be a so-called “super-moon” since it occurs at the same time the moon is at “perigee,” its closest approach to Earth. Saturn will make itself visible at earlier, more convenient hours during the month of September.

August features the Perseid meteor shower, with 1:30 a.m. as its earliest clear viewing time. The shower’s peak activity occurs on the night of August 11 from 3 a.m. to 5 a.m. (technically the morning of August 12). With a cloud-free sky, as many as a dozen meteors per hour may be seen. Look halfway

between the northeastern horizon and the zenith.

Wishing good luck and clear skies to all stargazers.



During the month of August, the full stellar show arrives at about 9:15 PM, including Scorpius the Scorpion near the southern horizon, with its

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# Some things to think about

Gathered from the internet by **Jack Barnes**

## Think about this

1. If a bottle of poison reaches its expiration date, is it more poisonous or is it no longer poisonous?
2. Which letter is silent in the word "Scent," the S or the C?
3. Do twins ever realize that one of them is unplanned?
4. Every time you clean something, you just make something else dirty.
5. The word "swims" upside-down is still "swims".
6. Over 100 years ago, everyone owned a horse and only the rich had cars. Today everyone has cars and only the rich own horses.
7. If people evolved from monkeys, why are monkeys still around?
8. Why is there a 'D' in fridge, but not in refrigerator?
9. As I've grown older, I've learned that pleasing everyone is impossible, but pissing everyone off is a piece of cake!
10. I'm responsible for what I say, not for what you understand.
11. Common sense is like deodorant. The people who need it the most never use it.
12. My tolerance for idiots is extremely low these days. I used to have some immunity built up, but obviously, there's a new strain out there.
13. It's not my age that bothers me - it's the side effects.
14. I'm not saying I'm old and worn out, but I make sure I'm nowhere near the curb on trash day.

15. As I watch this generation try and rewrite our history, I'm sure of one thing: it will be misspelled and have no punctuation.
16. As I've gotten older, people think I've become lazy. The truth is I'm just being more energy-efficient.
17. I haven't gotten anything done today. I've been in the Produce Department trying to open this stupid plastic bag.
18. If you find yourself feeling useless, remember: it took 20 years, trillions of dollars, thousands of lives and four presidents to replace the Taliban with the Taliban.
19. Turns out that being a "senior" is mostly just googling how to do stuff.
20. I want to be 18 again and ruin my life differently. I have new ideas
21. I'm on two simultaneous diets. I wasn't getting enough food on one.
22. I put my scale in the bathroom corner and that's where the little liar will stay until it apologizes.
23. My mind is like an internet browser. At least 18 open tabs, 3 of them are frozen, and I have no clue where the music is coming from.
24. Hard to believe I once had a phone attached to a wall, and when it rang, I picked it up without knowing who was calling.
25. My wife says I keep pushing her buttons. If that were true, I would have found mute by now.
26. There is no such thing as a grouchy old person. The truth is that once you get old, you stop being polite and start being honest.



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course from page 10

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 \$95.00 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 September 5 or when filled. Registration is through Eventbrite; go to <https://wiyb-fall23.eventbrite.com>.

For more information, go to [https://go.umd.edu/the\\_course](https://go.umd.edu/the_course), or contact course coordinator Andrew Kling, University of Maryland Extension, [akling1@umd.edu](mailto:akling1@umd.edu), 301-432-2767, extension 307.

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**I can't believe I forgot to go to the gym today. That's 7 years in a row now.**



commentary from page 6

your ballot is in hand. If returning via mail, your ballot must be in Washington State by August 8. For the OPA police department dropbox, no later than 4 pm on August 8.

OPA vice-president Rick Farr is the board liaison to the Elections Committee. Farr responded to Sherrie Clifford

on *OceanPinesForum.com* with, "As you know, any new process has minor hiccups; this is no more no less than that, and will be worked out."

To a certain extent, Farr is correct. However, ramifications of the late mailing are unknown until after the election, especially invalidated late return ballots. Regardless, some of these issues, minor hiccups or not, should be addressed.

Post-election, OPA must take a serious look at how our elections are handled. We need a quick return to a process similar to what worked for decades until the fiascos of the last few years as a result of misguided attempts to improve on what worked. Some bylaws revisions may be in order.

The answer is not in Washington State. Perhaps an ad hoc blue-ribbon

committee of some sort, with participation by OPA legal counsel, meeting only in public, with full transparency and association member input with final recommendations before end-of-year.

One thing is painfully obvious, the board's goal of restoring association member confidence in OPA's election process this year failed miserably.

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