

The Courier

March 13, 2024 Volume 24 Number 25



Honored - Ocean City Elementary School fourth grader Maisie Gill was recently honored by the Worcester County Garden Club for her Youth Sculpture Contest Entry. This year's theme, Encouraging Youth to Keep our Planet Green encouraged students in grades four through eight to get involved with saving the environment. The task was to create a sculpture of recyclable, reused and reduced materials. Maisie created an octopus out of a coffee container and two egg cartons, both things that were going to be thrown away. Her octopus is now a decoration in her bedroom.

Maisie Gill receiving her award from **Joanne Kirby** of the Worcester County Garden Club.

AGH CEO to host Q&A

On Thursday, March 21, Atlantic General Hospital and Health System President & CEO Don Owrey, MBA, FACHE, will provide a community update and host a Q&A.

Join Owrey at the Ocean Pines Community Center from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. as he discusses the organization's plan for the future and its current state. Following the presentation, Owrey will open the floor and take questions from participants. This is a free event and all are encouraged to attend.

Free health fair offered

Atlantic General Hospital, the Town of Ocean City, and Ocean City AARP Chapter #1917 are co-sponsoring a free health fair for the community. The event will take place Tuesday, April 2, from 8 a.m. to noon at the Roland E. Powell Convention Center in Ocean City.

The health fair is free and open to the public. Free health screenings will be offered including carotid, respiratory, bone density, hearing, blood pressure, skin cancer, medicine review by AGHRx RediScripts pharmacists, lipid panel, blood glucose (a 12-hour fast is required) and more.

At 8:30 a.m., Dr. Edwin Castañeda of Atlantic General Internal Medicine will discuss antibiotic stewardship, followed by a presentation on vaccines by AGHRx RediScripts pharmacist Jordan Hines at 9:30 a.m. The final speaker of the morning is Dr. Michael DiClemente of Atlantic General Women's Health, who will discuss a wide range of topics related to women's health at 10:30 a.m.

Annual cornhole tourney returns

The Worcester County Chamber of Commerce in Ocean Pines announces the date for its fourth Annual Cornhole Tournament. Teams will battle it out for cash prizes on Saturday, March 23, beginning at 10 a.m. at the Ocean Pines Community Center in White Horse Park.

In conjunction with Delaware Cornhole, the chamber will have DJ Caleb Miller providing entertainment, and will sell beverage and food. Teams of two are \$50 per team, there is a \$5 spectator fee. Go to WorcesterCountyChamber.org to register before March 22.

Annual native plant sale underway

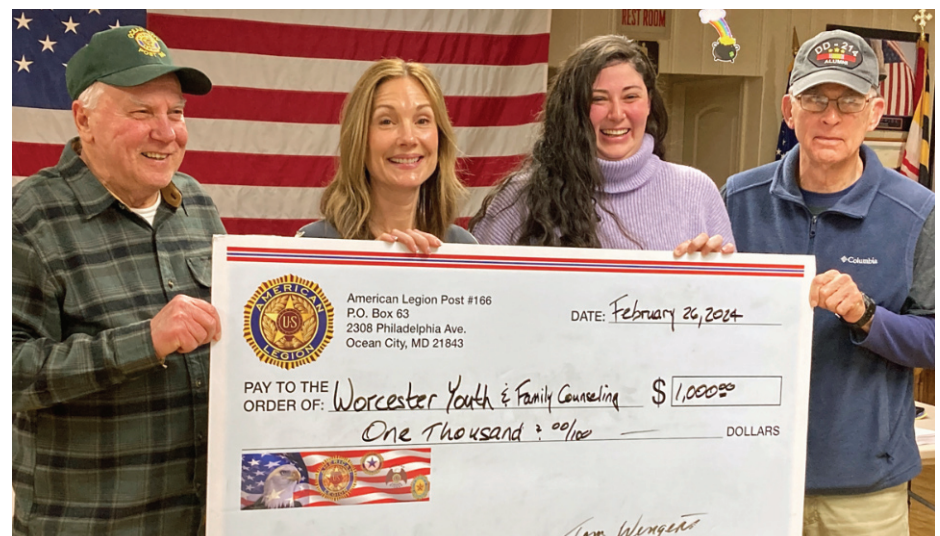
Lower Shore Land Trust announces the opening of their highly popular 17th Annual Native Plant Sale. A wide selection of carefully curated native plants, trees and shrubs is available for purchase at www.lowershorelandtrust.org. Limited time only, inventory sells quickly. Plant pickup will be Friday, May 3 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Saturday, May 4 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Land Trust office at 100 River Street in Snow Hill. Every native plant, tree or shrub purchased goes to help the Land Trust create or preserve more pollinator habitat for bees, birds, butterflies, and bats.

For more information visit www.lowershorelandtrust.org or contact the Land Trust office at 443-234-5587 or info@lowershorelandtrust.org.

Palm Sunday service scheduled

A Palm Sunday Worship Service will be held March 24 at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary at Bethany United Methodist Church located at 8648 Stephen Decatur Hwy. in Berlin. Also, live streamed with access through the church website at bethanyberlin.org. For more information, contact 410-641-2186 or bethany21811@gmail.com.

If your organization has an event to promote,
send your press release to *The Courier* at
thecourier@delmarvacourier.com



Post 166 donates to Youth and Family Counseling

At its most recent meeting, American Legion Post 166 presented a \$1,000 check to the Worcester County Youth and Family Counseling Services. Receiving the donation was Clinical Psychologist **Jennifer Leggour, Psy.D.**, and **Kayla Figueroa**, director of Worcester Connects, the organization's youth mentoring program for students in grades one to 12. The check was presented by **Ben Dawson** and **George Spicer**, who serve on the Post's Donations Committee.

AGH to host caregiver support group

Atlantic General Hospital announced its new Caregiver Support Group. This monthly support group, facilitated by Atlantic General Hospital Palliative Social Worker Nicole Fry, LBSW, is a safe place for families, partners and other caregivers who share similar challenges and rewards of providing care for adults who have a serious illness.

The Caregiver Support Group provides members the opportunity to talk about the concerns, feelings and stressors they have in the caregiver role. Participants benefit from sharing similar life situations with empathy, support and understanding.

The first session will be held April 3 from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Burbage Regional Cancer Care Center, with subsequent meetings taking place the first Wednesday of each month.

No RSVP is necessary, and all who are interested are highly encouraged to attend. Light refreshments will be served.

For more information, contact Nicole at nfry@atlanticgeneral.org or 410-641-2626.



Advertising Sales Professionals

The Courier, a weekly community newspaper seeks experienced advertising sales individuals with strong interpersonal skills to build advertising relationships and assist in publication growth.

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Chip Bertino at
chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

EOE

Fallen Heroes bill clears committee

The Senate Budget and Taxation Committee voted unanimously in favor of Senate Bill 897 sponsored by Senator Mary Beth Carozza (R-District 38) last Thursday. The purpose of the bill is to relieve the tax liability on the death benefits of the families of first responders who died in the line of duty. The legislation (HB 1064) also has been introduced in the House of Delegates by Delegate Wayne Hartman (District 38-C).

“Death benefits paid to the families of our fallen heroes are intended to relieve the immediate financial burden caused by their loss,” said Senator Mary Beth Carozza, who represents Worcester, Wicomico, and Somerset counties. “However, under the current tax law, these death benefits are required to be reported as taxable income, meaning that these families cannot use the full benefit granted to them.”

On the evening of June 12, 2022, Corporal Glenn Hilliard, a 16-year veteran of the Wicomico County Sheriff's Office, was shot and killed in the line

of duty by a suspect who was wanted on multiple felony warrants. One June 14, 2022, the Wicomico County Council, pursuant to a Collective Bargaining Agreement, authorized payment of a death benefit to his spouse in the amount of \$500,000. In the process of preparing the 2022 tax return, Mrs. Tashica Hilliard learned that the death benefit had to be reported as taxable income resulting in a \$182,000 tax liability.

The current law requires that death benefits received by the families of law enforcement and firefighters be reported as taxable income and that these families have been paying taxes on these death benefits. Senate Bill 897 and House Bill 1064 eliminates this tax requirement specifically on the death benefits of law enforcement and firefighters who died in the line of duty.

“Corporal Glenn Hilliard served Wicomico County and Maryland with integrity and was taken from his wife, his three children, and his community way too soon due to the evil actions of

a violent criminal,” said Carozza. “This legislation would ensure that the families of these fallen heroes receive these full death benefits as intended, and the legislation is retroactive to ensure that the Hilliard family and all Maryland families of fallen heroes are relieved from paying taxes on these needed death benefits.”

The members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee fully supported the fallen heroes legislation and joined as cosponsors of SB 897, which is expected to be heard on the Senate Floor this week.

Tashica Hilliard, the widow of Corporal Glenn Hilliard, and Wicomico County Sheriff Mike Lewis gave powerful testimony during the hearing on February 21. “I want to thank Sheriff Lewis, County Executive Julie Gior-dano, and the Wicomico County Council for ensuring the Hilliard family received the death benefit payment in swift fashion, and I especially want to recognize and thank Tashica Hilliard for her leadership in advocating for all the families of Maryland's fallen heroes. You continue to inspire us all,” said Carozza.

Election process gets underway

The Ocean Pines Elections Committee has announced important dates for the 2024 election process, including filing and voting deadlines.

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

This year, two seats on the Board of Directors will be up for election: those currently held by directors Rick Farr

and Jeff Heavner.

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

“We encourage anyone who is thinking about running to do their homework, read up on the Association's governing documents, attend the regular meetings, and volunteer,” Elections Committee Chairperson Tom Piatti said. “Volunteers have

*please see **election** on page 4*



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Chair no longer
available for purchase -
discontinued.

An Irish tale

By Carol Ann Ellis

Toward the end of the first quarter of the last century, Avoca in County Wicklow, Ireland, was a sleepy little village where everybody knew each other. Most of the townspeople were hardworking farmers and their families, who got along with each other fairly well.

One undeniable characteristic of this village was that everyone knew everyone else's business. Sometimes this was a disadvantage because gossip abounded, some of it patently untrue. However, it had the advantage that when anyone was sick or needed help, someone was always there to provide assistance. While there were the usual rivalries and jealousies, they genuinely cared about each other's welfare.

The one thing they all agreed on was that they absolutely could not tolerate the Chief Governor and Representative of the Crown, James Albert Edward Hamilton, 3rd Duke of Abercorn. His emissary, Michael Wickham, visited the village for a week or two every year. All of the villagers' dislike for the Governor was transferred to the person of Michael Wickham. They didn't trust his Protestant leanings, his loyalty to the King, and his personal air of superiority over the villagers whom he considered common.

One year when Wickham had made a particular "arse" of himself, two brothers, Brian and Sean O'Leary, decided to take matters into their own hands. They knew the footpath that Wickham took to get back to his lodgings at night. They had observed that he came through a secluded glen around 6 o'clock every evening.

So, they planned to hide in the bushes, waylay the "bloody eejit" when he came along, and give him a shellaghying that he would not forget. Maybe the next year he would skip Avoca and pester some other village.

The men arrived at their hiding place about quarter of six and waited for the hated emissary to come along. Six o'clock came: no Wickham; 6:15: no sign of Wickham; then 6:30: still no sign of him. At 7:00, the brothers, disgusted, decided to call it a night. Walking home, they considered what might have happened that Wickham did not come at his usual hour: Had he been called back to London? Had someone tipped him off? Had he gone home another way? Finally, Brian said, with some concern, "Ye don't suppose he's been taken ill, do ye?"



Toys for Tots thanks AL Post 166

When it comes to veterans' interests in the Ocean City region, American Legion Post 166 Commandant **Tom Wengert** wears several hats. One of these is as an associate member of the First State Detachment of the Marine Corps League. At the detachment's recent membership meeting Wengert was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for the American Legion's participation in the 2023 Toys for Tots campaign. Presenting the award was **Sharon Ruest** of the FSD, who also is the local coordinator for the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program.

Artists offer free talk to celebrate Women's History Month

The Art League of Ocean invites the public to a free artists' talk on Tuesday, March 19, 6 p.m., at the Ocean City Center for the Arts, 502 94th St. bay-side. Complimentary refreshments will be served.

The talk is being given by the three women artists currently exhibiting their work in the Thaler Gallery during March to coincide with Women's History Month. The "Women in the Arts: Nature, Nurture, Change" exhibition features new works by female artists from Worcester and Wicomico Counties: Jeri Alexander, Sue Bromm, and Lisa Tossey.

The Art League previously awarded \$1,500 to each artist to create a body of work from concept to fruition, with funds provided by a grant from the Women's Fund of the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore.

"The Women's Fund is proud to be able to support this opportunity to elevate local women artists and provide them with the resources necessary to bring their vision to fruition," Erica Joseph, president of the Community Foundation, said.

Jeri Alexander of Delmar created

and exhibits an installation entitled "Thirty," exploring the artist's experience turning 30 years old, a milestone that brought anticipation and dread in the face of societal expectations. Her artwork is rife with symbolism, using sculpture and video to relate to the passage of time and unconventional materials as clothing.

Sue Bromm of Hebron created and exhibits a series, "Embracing Uncertainty," using raw plant pigment dyes and natural fibers along with hand-stitched details in her art. The unique process of eco-printing brings awareness to our connection with nature and the concept of impermanence and change.

Lisa Tossey of Berlin highlights the effects of climate change on local habitats, through 360-degree imagery and ceramics. The images and pieces in this series show places and species in peril across the heart of Delmarva – from the Atlantic Coast of Assateague Island to old growth forests in Wicomico County to the marshes and ghost forests of Dorchester County.

More information is available at OCart.org or by calling 410-524-9433.



Subtle heritage

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

Although I have an Italian last name I grew up in an American fam-

about.

The first time I was aware that ancestral differences was a thing, I was about eight or nine when I overheard an older kid who didn't have a vowel-ending surname at the bus stop tell a joke, or at least what he thought was a joke. "What happens when an *Eye*-talian turns around? A day go." I had no idea why he and the person he told were laughing. It made no sense to me. When I got home from school I retold the joke to my mother who understood it but didn't find it funny.

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

During the noon broadcast of Channel 6 Action News, there was a regular segment by the Green Grocer, Joe Carcione, who talked about produce. When his face appeared on the screen, all talking stopped abruptly so that Gramps could hear what fruit or vegetable wisdom old Joe had to impart. It usually wasn't very long after that Joe's suggestions appeared on our dinner table.

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

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

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

Call 410-629-5906



It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

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

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

We ate a lot of spaghetti and meatballs in my house as well as chicken cacciatore and eggplant parmesan, a dish made routinely by my grandmother and disliked intensely by my brother and me. Canolis from Termini Brothers Bakery were a special treat sometimes brought to the house by my grandfather who lived in South Philly. Ravioli (not the Chef Boyardee kind) was a favorite as was Italian cream cake. Italian hoagies and pepper and egg sandwiches were mainstays. The music of Tony Bennett, Dean Martin, Perry Como, Rosemary Clooney and Frank Sinatra, especially Sinatra, was the soundtrack of my youth. My grandfather would sometimes do his impersonation of Mario Lanza, "O sole mio!" Mario had nothing to worry

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Partnership to restore important nesting islands

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Maryland Coastal Bays Program, and Audubon Mid-Atlantic are teaming up to restore important bird nesting islands beginning with Reedy Island this spring.

Reedy Island, located just to the west of Macky's Restaurant in Ocean City, has been an important nesting area for colonial nesting birds in our Coastal Bays for decades. Of late it is the only nesting island in Maryland for Laughing Gulls and Royal Terns, a state-listed endangered bird species.

The island has been rapidly eroding. Currently, there is just a small ring of vegetation around an ever-expanding tidal pond in the center of the island. Unfortunately, most of the islands historically used by colonial nesting birds in the Coastal Bays have

either eroded away or are now too small to support these birds.

Island loss is a phenomenon that is occurring all along the Atlantic Coast in response to sea level rise, increased storminess, and development. Birds such as Royal Terns, Common Terns, and Black Skimmers lay their eggs on bare sand, and use islands since they lack mammalian predators, such as foxes, raccoons, dogs, cats, and humans. Due to significant island loss, the breeding populations of these species are dramatically declining and are nearly eliminated from coastal Maryland.

This year is Phase 1 of a larger Reedy Island restoration project that is designed to restore marsh and bird habitat. Restoration is starting this spring with enhancement of the beach

nesting habitat with crushed clam shell to raise the beach above storm driven high tides so the birds can successfully nest and raise their young.

Future work at Reedy Island will ultimately result in a nature-based restoration that will provide protection for nearby waterfront residences and businesses as well as the tidal marshes that lie to the east of the island. Plans are underway for additional island restorations in our Coastal Bays. According to Dave Brinker of Maryland DNR's Wildlife and Heritage Service, who has been monitoring birds in the

Coastal Bays for almost 40 years, "If we do not act quickly, disappearance of small islands in the coastal bays that were formerly used by breeding terns and skimmers is a crisis that will lead to extirpation of these iconic birds in the bays behind Ocean City. Restoring the micro beach at Reedy Island and ultimately the entire island is an important first big step in retaining breeding terns, and possibly skimmers, in the Coastal Bays."

For more information contact Dr. Roman Jesien at rjesien@mdcoastalbays.org.

Ravens Roost seeks sponsors, participants for tournament

Ocean City Ravens Roost #44 will hold their 27th Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament on Friday, May 31 at the Ocean Pines Golf Club, a Robert Trent Jones designed course.

Tournament organizers are seeking players and sponsors for the event.

All tournament proceeds will fund college scholarships to three local high schools: Indian River High School, Stephen Decatur High School, and Worcester Preparatory School.

Event committee member Don McMullen said scholarship funding this year would at least match the 2023 totals, which tied a record donation by the nonprofit.

"Due to successful fundraising by our members and the continued sup-

port by our local business community, Ravens Roost #44 is proud to announce that we will award a minimum of \$15,000 to our local students graduating in 2024. This will take our total awards to \$258,900 to local students since the inception of our grant giving," he said.

"We welcome participation in our event as golfers and tee sign sponsors. Merchandise and gift certificates for our silent auction are also needed for this event," McMullen continued. "Please inquire to a Ravens Roost #44 golf committee member if your business would like to become either a Signature or Major Sponsor. These types

*please see **roost** on page 8*

Courier Almanac

In and of itself, one man leaving one band in the middle of the 1960s might warrant little more than a historical footnote. But what makes the departure of Eric Clapton from the Yardbirds on March 13, 1965, more significant is the long and complicated game of musical chairs it set off within the world of British blues rock. When Clapton walked out on the Yardbirds, he did more than just change the course of his own career. He also set in motion a chain of events that would see not just one, but two more guitar giants pass through the Yardbirds on their way toward significant futures of their own. And through the various groups they would later form, influence, join and quit, these three guitar heroes - Eric Clapton, Jeff Beck and Jimmy Page - would shape more than a decade's worth of rock and roll.

Snakes play a significant role in the legend of St. Patrick, the primary patron saint of Ireland and the man who inspired a wildly popular mid-March holiday. Though the notion of St. Patrick bravely banishing snakes from Ireland certainly supports his worthiness to be the island's patron saint, historians note this particular portion of the legend of St. Patrick is a myth. A 2012 report in National Geographic News noted that post-glacial Ireland never had snakes, as the most recent ice age made the island too cold for reptiles until the period ended 10,000 years ago. By that point, Ireland was surrounded by seas, which scientists and historians believe kept snakes from colonizing the island. Though the precise dates of St. Patrick's life remain unknown, it's likely he was an active missionary in Ireland during the fifth century, at which time natural history experts in Ireland attest there were no snakes on the Emerald Isle.



Ireland during the fifth century, at which time natural history experts in Ireland attest there were no snakes on the Emerald Isle.

election from page 3

helped make this community what it is today, and there's no better way to give back than to serve on our Board of Directors."

Applications are available at the administration building.

Important upcoming election dates include:

-Eligible Candidate Draw and Workshop (to determine ballot order

and seating during the candidate forum) - Friday, June 7

-Voter eligibility deadline - Tuesday, July 2

-Candidate Forum - TBD

-Ballot deadline - Tuesday, Aug. 6 by 4 p.m.

-Ballots counted and vote totals announced - Thursday, Aug 8

-Annual Meeting - Saturday, Aug. 10

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

**The
Courier**

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‘Easter Magic’ returns to Ocean Pines Farmers Market

The annual Easter Magic celebration returns to the Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market on Saturday, March 30, featuring decadent baked goods, early spring produce and blooming spring flowers.

Market Manager David Bean said the event will showcase the abundance of local bakeries at the marketplace.

“Shoppers should check with their favorite market bakeries for menu options and ordering deadlines,” he said.

John DelVecchio of DelVecchio’s Bakery will have Easter egg-clairs, traditional Easter breads, hot cross buns, and Easter scones, along with his usual offerings of cookies, cupcakes, and pies.

Belinda White of Pies Etcetera will once again offer handmade chocolate-dipped peanut butter Easter eggs. White will make many dozens of these seasonal treats for market shoppers, but special orders are suggested as supplies go quickly.

Bean said those with special dietary concerns can visit Vivian’s House, which offers vegan, gluten free and other special diet options for market shoppers.

“Vivian encourages customers to reach out with suggestions and requests for modified baked goods that meet their dietary concerns,” Bean said. “Many of her regular offerings have come from these special requests from her customers.”

Maureen Meushaw, owner of Pocket Farm, will bring farm fresh eggs from her flock of pasture-raised laying hens.

“Meushaw will be busy this spring raising new baby peeps that will soon be joining her other hens laying eggs for her new Ocean Pines market customers,” Bean said.

Among the new merchants, Micalene Dorrak of Fika Coffee will offer several varieties of roasted coffee beans for shoppers. Dorrak is extremely knowledgeable about her product and the roasting process, and she enjoys answering questions from her customers, Bean said.

Salt Marsh Dry Goods is another new arrival to the market.

“Owner Michelle Kemp creates reusable products for the kitchen and home,” Bean said. “For those looking to replace the paper options for cook-

ing and cleaning, Salt Marsh Dry Goods has sustainable options. Their home-sewn sustainable items include a reusable replacement for paper towels, napkins, baby wipes, makeup removers, coasters, trivets, and crocheted dish cleaners.”

For shoppers looking for unique Easter basket ideas, Dandy Treats owner Michelle Miller takes candies, snack foods, fruits and vegetables, and freeze dries them for a totally new taste experience.

“Everyone is talking about the

unique products found at this green market stand,” Bean said. “Those Easter marshmallow peeps we all remember as a kid turn into something new and delightful after Miller freeze dries them. It’s easy to spend a lot of time at this market business discovering the many goodies to take along home.”

Snyder’s Produce and Beautiful Things returns to the marketplace on Saturday, March 23 with spring bed-

*please see **market** on page 10*

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Batteries

Winter is winding down and St. Paddy’s Day is on the radar screen. It won’t be long before we can take the covers off the boat and get’er ready for the 2024 season.

This year I need to take a close look at my batteries because they are seven years old. The question is do they have eighth or ninth year in them? Conventional wisdom says ‘no.’ Six or seven years is about the limit; but, like college athletes who got an extra year of eligibility because of the pandemic, maybe I can get another year or two out of my batteries. They didn’t work too hard in 2021 or 2022.

Conflicted by a fleeting twinkle of optimistic parsimony, I reminded myself of the old adage, “pay me now or pay me later.” Likewise, Clint Eastwood’s great line, “Do you feel lucky today?” has given me pause. So, I did

a little research and this is what I came up with:

First off, there is more depth to the subject than one can do justice to in a newspaper column. I’ll leave the intricacies of battery chemistry, marine grade components, sizing solar panels and trickle charger design for another day.

Batteries make electric energy by siphoning off free electrons that are the product of certain chemical reactions.

We are all familiar with the Type AAA, AA, C and D disposable alkaline batteries that are sold in those impenetrable, adult proof plastic packs next to the cashier’s counter. After you do extricate them and install two fresh size D batteries in your flashlight, wait six months. The light will already be dimming. Wait two years and the light

will not come on and at least one of the batteries will have leaked corrosive acid. At this point, the chemical reaction has run its course and the alkaline battery is dead.

Although very economical for some applications, this technology is under siege from rechargeable batteries. Today, rechargeable batteries are an indispensable part of our lives. Where would we be without 12-volt car batteries and the lithium-ion batteries that power our cell phones and electronic toys?

Basically, a rechargeable battery’s chemical reaction is reversible. The reaction produces electrons that go down the wire as electricity to meet demand just like the disposable alkaline batteries but when a higher voltage is impressed onto the battery, electrons flow back into the battery and the chemical reaction is reversed.

The most common reversible chemical process in use is the lead-acid reaction. The plates that collect



Here’s an indication that my seven-year-old battery is starting to fail. I fully charged it up to 12.7 VOLTS. Then the following day, I tested it and it was already down to 12.6 VOLTS. It may not hold a charge all summer.

the electrons are made of lead and the solution they are immersed in is 65% sulfuric acid and 35% pure water. This technology is sometimes referred to as

*please see **batteries** on page 9*

roost
from page 6





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of sponsorships help underwrite the cost of the banquet or merchandise given to participating golfers.

“Again, we appreciate your continuing support of our local students by providing them with education assistance to better their future,” he said.

Ravens Roost #44, Inc. is an IRS 501(C)(7) nonprofit organization.

The following sponsorship levels are available:

Signature Sponsor: \$2,000 – Includes two team entries, four tee signs, recognition at the tournament banquet, and business recognition on the tournament banner. Signature Sponsors without team entries will cost \$1,400.

Major Sponsor: \$1,000 – Includes a team entry, two tee signs, recognition at the tournament banquet, and business recognition on the tournament banner. Major Sponsors without team entries will cost \$700.

Tee Sign Sponsor: \$100

For more information, contact Scholarship Golf Committee members Don McMullen at 443-388-2941, Gary Miller 443-618-9972, Bob Rose 410-926-2558, or Anita Satterfield at 443-743-6359.

For more information about tournaments and other events at the Ocean Pines Golf Club, visit www.oceanpines-golf.org.

batteries
from page 8

“flooded marine battery.”

The term “12-volt battery” can be misleading. A “12-volt battery” is full charged at 12.7 volts and is down to half capacity at 12.2 volts. You should not let the battery drop below 50%. Below 12.2 volts and you are at risk of damaging the battery. To replenish the battery, a charger will deliver 13.8 volts or better until it senses the battery is back to 12.7 volts. Older batteries may not be able to get back to 12.7 volts – an indication that they are failing.

Let me focus on the most popular recreation boat battery configuration – one or two 12-volt batteries. Since many modern marine motors, especially the larger ones, lack the ability to start with yesteryear’s pull cord, a battery is essential and a second battery for redundancy prudent.

There is a subtle point caused by the nature of the power demand that can influence your battery configuration decision. One needs significant cranking power to start an engine. That requires a battery design that can produce a large slug of energy for a relatively short period of time (75

to 400 amps for 5-15 seconds) and then recover quickly for the next demand like a car battery.

Contrarily, the running of accessories (lights, navigation instruments, stereos, marine radios, etc.) does not require a high current burst (even when you are listening to Bruce Springsteen) but rather a continuous low-level output of energy for hours while fishing, swimming and sunbathing with the engine off.

This leads to a two 12-volt battery solutions. The ‘starter’ battery is dedicated to cranking the motor and the deep cycle ‘house’ battery is optimized for continuous slow discharge to operate the ancillary loads.

The easiest implementation is to install two batteries – one of each – and a battery selector switch. Always select, start, and run your engine on the engine ‘starter’ battery. It is designed with thinner and more numerous lead plates to provide more surface area and therefore generate a higher amperage burst of electricity.

When it’s time to drift fish with your GPS, chart recorder, fish finder and stereo turned on and your engine turned off, switch to the deep cycle ‘house’ battery that has thicker plates

to withstand deeper discharges. Properly maintained, a deep cycle ‘house’ battery is capable of hundreds of recharging cycles of a nearly dead battery while a ‘starter’ battery can be permanently damaged with only a handful of 100% discharged events.

In a pinch, either battery can perform the other’s primary tasks but if you prefer to have identical batteries, a “dual-purpose battery” design is also available that, with some minor compromises, is the best of both worlds; and, in fact, it’s the best choice if you only have one battery.

But I’m still wondering about my seven-year-old batteries because batteries, even well maintained batteries, do wear out. Here are some practices that will extend a battery’s life cycle:

Store and operate batteries in a clean, cool and dry environment.

Keep them fully charged. A lead-acid battery can lose 6% of its stored charge per month. So you should recharge your batteries periodically over the winter or put them on a good trickle charger that will sense the voltage level in the battery and stop replenishing electrons when it is at full capacity to avoid damaging the

battery but is prepared to turn back on when the battery’s natural losses are detected.

Avoid discharging below 50% capacity (i.e. 12.2 volts) or allowing the battery to go completely dead (i.e. < 10.5 volts).

Never mix old and new batteries in the same charging system. The old ones will keep the new ones from achieving full capacity and eventually reduce the new battery’s potential.

Monitor the liquid levels in the lead-acid battery and replenish when necessary with distilled water. Part of the chemical process is the creation of hydrogen gas from water. This part of the process does not reverse. Therefore, over time, liquid levels will fall and adding distilled water is needed.

Even with playing nice with King Neptune, batteries will wear out because the plates naturally build up lead sulfate over time and lose their effectiveness. So with that said, I think I may be in the market for a couple new batteries this spring.

Stay safe. Stay dry.

Dan Collins can be reached for comment at dancollins.ocean-pines@gmail.com

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Annual Tortoise and Hare Dare 5K returns

The Worcester County Health Department, Worcester County Department of Recreation and Parks, and Pocomoke River State Park encourage residents to welcome back spring with the 27th Annual Tortoise & Hare Dare 5K walk/run. The 5K will take place at Pocomoke River State Park-Shad Landing located at 3461 Worcester Highway in Snow Hill, on Saturday, April 13. Registration/check-in starts at 8:30 a.m. and the walk/run will begin at 9 a.m. This is a free event and is pet friendly. The first 100 individuals to pre-register for the event will receive a commemorative T-shirt.

"The 27th Annual Tortoise and Hare Dare 5K is the perfect opportunity to get out and get active in our county and explore the lovely Shad Landing," said

Mimi Dean, Director of Prevention Services for Worcester County Health Department. "Whether you walk or run, this event is a fun way to join others and welcome spring back to Worcester."

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

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

market
from page 7

ding plants and potted Easter flowers. They will also be at the Easter Magic event.

"Owner Debbie Synder brings a bountiful selection of patio planters, and she will custom plant any containers that shoppers bring in," Bean said.

Brandon Brady of Stag Run Farm has been busy growing pansies and other bedding plants over the winter months. Brady is known for his hanging baskets with flowering plants and greens.

Additionally, floral artisan and gardener Terry Jordan of Longridge Gardens will bring fresh-cut spring floral arrangements to the market.

"On market day, you don't find many market baskets without Jordans blooms sticking above the baskets rim," Bean said. "An amazing variety of daffodils from Jordan's homestead gardens are complimented by early spring blooming flowers from her greenhouse. Jordan also harvests flowering twigs, like forsythia and pussy willow, forcing their blooms long before the natural spring blooms are found in the landscape."

For fresh, local produce options, D. J. David Greengrocer will offer spring sta-

ples like asparagus, spinach, fennel, scalions, and watercress.

Co-owners David Joseph Deacon (D.J.) and Bean have been greeting shoppers at the Ocean Pines market for the past 13 years. Their regular market stand carries the finest fruits, vegetables, local honey, eggs, dried fruits, and nuts.

Last year, more than 150 merchants, along with dozens of community partners, participated at the Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market. Bean said nearly all those businesses will return this year.

"We are seeing tremendous growth in the number of new businesses," he said. "We know our shoppers are always looking for the new, unique, and different products for their market basket. Throughout the year, our market team seeks out merchants from near and far to present the most remarkable shopping experience for shoppers each Saturday day, year-round."

The Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market is open Saturdays from 8 a.m. to noon in White Horse Park, next to the Ocean Pines Administration Building and Police Department.

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



Oath

The First State Detachment of the Marine Corps League has a new Junior Vice Commandant, the third-ranking officer of the unit. Marine veteran **Joe Novello** of Ocean View was sworn into his new position by Detachment Commandant **Al Soto** at the recent members meeting held at American Legion Post 166 in Ocean City. Novello served in Vietnam as a mechanic. He left the Corps in 1970.



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Some things to think about

Gathered from the internet
by **Jack Barnes**

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