

The Courier

January 29, 2025 Volume 25 Number 18



After school fun - Students participate in the After-School Art Club at Buckingham Elementary. The program is taught by Carol Rydel. The Art Club is financially supported by the Art League of Ocean City and by a grant from the Worcester County Arts Council. The students made heart art in time for the February holiday.

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Goeller Excellence Award nominees sought

The Debbie Goeller Public Health Excellence Award was created to recognize exceptional performance by individuals identified by their peers for having excelled in public health with integrity and a strong commitment to the community and population health of Worcester County.

Debbie Goeller was Worcester County's Health Officer and trusted public health leader for over 25 years. Her vision and what she accomplished over her years of service, continue to shape the future of the Worcester County Health Department. Her persistent and focused leadership paved the way for new programs and specialty services that continue to be offered by the health department. She was a champion for public health services and her dedication to the citizens of Worcester County was unwavering.

Any current member of the Worcester County Health Department staff or community member can submit nominations. Self-nominations will be accepted and all nominations will be confidential. Nominations will be forwarded to the Office of the Health Officer and will be reviewed by the Excellence Award Review Committee.

The Excellence in Public Health Award recipient will have made a significant impact on public health in Worcester County through outstanding dedication, competence, exceptional performance, and excellent service. The nominee will have made important and/or significant contributions in public health, contributes and/or demonstrates a commitment to public health, demonstrates exceptional ability to foster collaboration, communication, and cooperation between the public/private sector, and/or consistently seeks to improve the quality of public health services.

Nominations will be accepted through February 28, 2025. All nominations must be submitted to worcester.health@maryland.gov. The Debbie Goeller Excellence in Public Health Award will be presented to one recipient on April 9, 2025.

For questions or more information, please call 410-632-1100 ext. 1120.

Boating course offered

The US Coast Guard Auxiliary is offering the Safe Boating Course at the Ocean Pines library, on February 11 and 12 between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. Students will take the online test on February 13. The cost is \$20 for all three evenings. Register or get more information by calling Barry Cohen at 410-935-4807, or Email: CGAUXOC@Gmail.com.

Water meter registers to be replaced

Worcester County Public Works Water and Wastewater (WWW) Division staff will be replacing touch pad water meter registers in Ocean Pines, Mystic Harbour, and Newark water service areas now through the end of 2025 during normal business hours.

Because water meter pits should always remain easily accessible, property owners in these areas are asked not to park over water meter pits, place mulch or any other covering over the lids, or erect yard decorations in areas that could block access to the meter pits.

This project is necessary to replace the existing touch-pad style water meters and associated reading equipment that are no longer supported or built by the manufacturer. WWW staff will be entering the yards of water users to access the meters.

For more information, call WWW at 410-641-5251, Monday – Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

RWWC to meet

The Republican Women of Worcester County will hold their February luncheon meeting on Thursday, February 27 at Sophia's Italian Restaurant at 115th Street in Ocean City. The speaker will be Michelle Talkington. Michele is a small business owner, serves on several non-profit boards and last year ran for congress in Maryland's fifth district. Doors open a 10:30 a.m. and the meeting will begin at 11 a.m. Cost of the meal and meeting is \$27 inclusive of tax and gratuity. Deadline for reservation is February 19. For more information, please email gopwomenofwc@gmail.com.



Weather program - Members of the Worcester County Garden Club were recently given an introduction to weather and climate by Walker Skeeter, Ph.D., whose doctoral degree is in Meteorology. Dr. Skeeter explained the causal continuum and fielded questions on climate change.

Above (l-r): **Dr. Walker Skeeter** and club president **Joan LaHayne**.

Americanism essay contest underway

By **Chip Bertino**

The founding documents that have guided the United States for more than two centuries are the focus of a student essay contest designed to engage the thoughts and perspectives of middle school children throughout Worcester County.

The Republican Women of Worcester County (RWWC) announced the second Annual Americanism Essay Contest which is organized by the group's Literacy Committee consisting of four members and chaired by Susan Ostrowski.

It was established to encourage young students and give them the opportunity to research, learn, appreciate and articulate what makes America the country that it is. Using the Amendments, students read and explain in their own terms what it means to them. This year, the theme is "We the People."

"Through volunteerism, RWWC wants to encourage students to remember the US Constitution, our Bill of Rights and all Amendments," said Ostrowski.

The contest is open to all Worcester County Eighth graders. Students from Stephen Decatur Middle, Snow Hill Middle, Pocomoke Middle, Most Blessed Sacrament, Seaside Christian

and Worcester Prep are encouraged to participate. Contact persons at each school have been identified and posters and flyers have been delivered. The contest begins February 1 and runs the month of February with essays due to the committee by February 28.

"RWWC wants our future graduates to experience how great this country is and how it was founded by our forefathers," said Ostrowski.

The committee has established a rubric and will use this to determine this year's three winners. The awards will be presented at the RWWC meeting in March.

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Superintendent Lou Taylor to retire

Worcester County Public Schools' (WCPS) Superintendent Lou Taylor announced last week his intent to retire from leading the school system effective June 30, 2025.

During the regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting, Taylor was overcome with emotion and gratitude for the school system of which he has been a part since entering school as a kindergartener.

"My entire life has been intertwined with this school system since its start," Taylor said. "I proudly attended these schools as a student, and since beginning my career as a teacher way back in 1983, I have loved every single position I have held along the way."

Taylor was named superintendent in 2016. Prior to the superintendency, Taylor's storied experience in the school system includes teaching phys-



ical education and coaching athletics, assistant principalship, leading Stephen Decatur High School as principal for 17 years, and serving as Chief Operating Officer. During his tenure, Taylor established the Worcester County Education Foundation, a non-profit foundation

which has donated nearly \$250,000 to the school system, as well as served on a variety of community organizations and boards.

Taylor also shared his proudest accomplishments during his time as superintendent. "Despite the challenges that have come our way, I truly believe

that we have made such positive progress," he said before detailing the school system's outstanding performance on state accountability measures, the technological transformation WCPS has undergone, and the school system's continued investment in its teachers and staff.

While non-committal about his future beyond retirement, Taylor thanked the Board for its support and wished them well in the upcoming search process.

"I have every confidence that this Board will select a leader, who will – like I did – face the formidable challenge of pushing this already successful school system to great new heights, and they will not only meet those expectations, but exceed them," Taylor said.

The Board is expected to announce the next steps in the national search process for the next superintendent of Worcester County Public Schools in the near future. However, the Board expressed its gratitude for Taylor's leadership.

"Mr. Taylor has dedicated his entire 41-year career to this school sys-

tem and has left an indelible mark," Board of Education President Todd Ferrante said. "He has led this school system through trials and challenges that no superintendent before him has ever faced. From successfully navigating our students and staff through the pandemic to advocating for and implementing the resources to help our staff support our students as they experience growing mental health challenges because of the pandemic, we are deeply grateful for Taylor's outstanding service but feel confident that whatever his next journey is, that he will continue to support Worcester County Public Schools."

"While Lou and his leadership will be greatly missed, his dedication to and unwavering pride in the school system will be a big part of Lou's legacy," said Board of Education Vice President Bill Buchanan. "Moving forward, we will search for the qualities necessary to keep WCPS on its positive trajectory. It won't be an easy task, but our future generations are depending on the decisions that this board will make. We take that responsibility very seriously."

Board of Education News Briefs

-Superintendent of Schools Lou Taylor announced his retirement from the school system, effective June 30, 2025.

-During its annual reorganization, the Board of Education re-elected President Todd Ferrante and Vice President Bill Buchanan to their leadership posts.

-The Board voted unanimously to approve a one-time waiver for semester one high school final exams, except those culminating in a state required assessment.

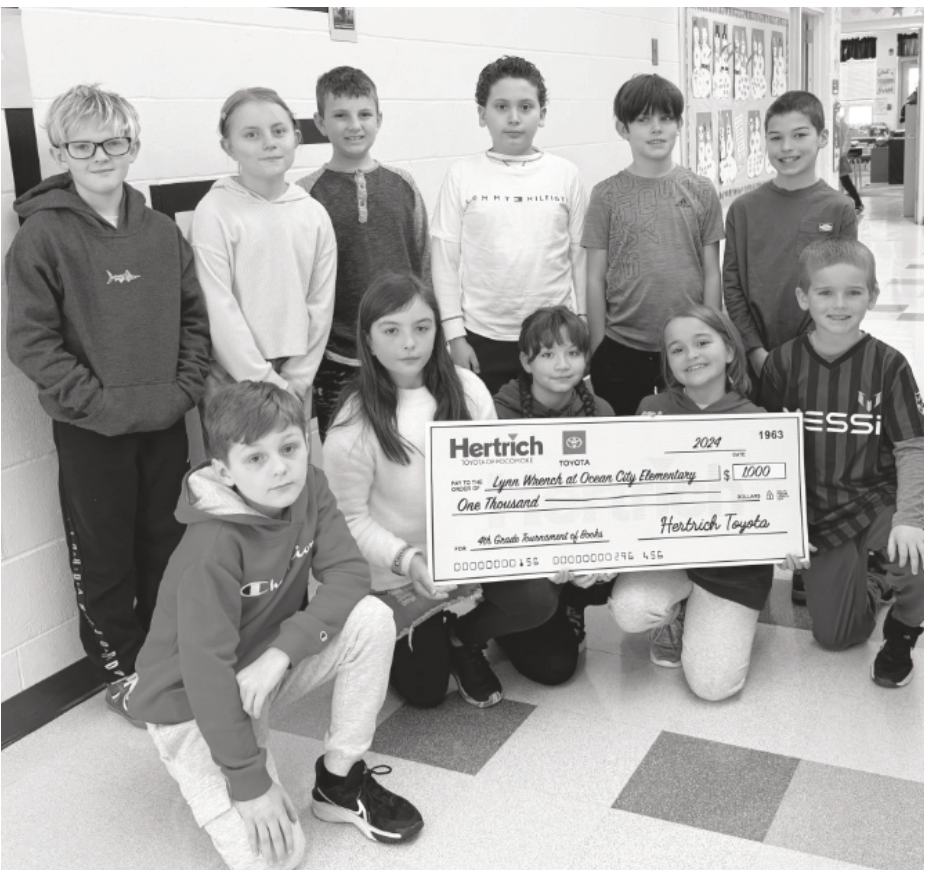
-The Board voted unanimously to reauthorize the superintendent to utilize virtual instruction under the presented revision to the Virtual Day Instruction Plan. Under the new plan, students will access virtual instruction utilizing personal devices unless they already bring them home nightly, which is the case for high school and select middle school students. Additionally, synchronous instruction will be delivered through Schoology's conferencing tool, making accessibility for students and staff much easier.

-The Board adopted a modification to the 2024-2025 school system calendar (current year) to recoup the two days of instruction lost to closure due to inclement weather. In addition to using the three days built in for inclement weather in June, spring break has been reduced by two days to include only state-mandated holidays of Good Friday and Easter Monday. The school system intends not to close moving forward but instead use virtual learning for any future inclement weather through the rest of the school year, making June 17, 2025, the last day of school.

-The Board approved two safety contracts, one of which was approved in closed session so as not to publicly disclose the safety measures being implemented, and the other a cybersecurity contract.

-The WCBOE honored the stellar accomplishments of its fall student athletes, including the three teams to bring home the state title: Pocomoke High School's field hockey team and Stephen Decatur High School's football and unified tennis teams.

-The WCBOE proclaimed the week of February 3 - 7 School Counselors Week.



Book tournament - Fourth grade students at Ocean City Elementary School are participating in their annual Tournament of Books. Students will read sixteen books and vote on their favorite in March. At the end of the tournament, each fourth grader will receive a copy of the winning book thanks to the Hertrich Cash for Class Program.

Farmers & Artisans Market announces calendar

The Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market has released its 2025 calendar, featuring a variety of seasonal events and activities at the White Horse Park Marketplace.

Visitors can expect weekly opportunities to shop for fresh produce, baked goods, handcrafted items, and more.

The following events are scheduled:

March

-March 15: Celebrating the Green – St. Patrick’s Day Market
A themed market with festive items.

April

-April 19: Easter Magic
Featuring Easter baked goods, early spring produce, and flowers.

May

-May 10: Blooms & Bouquets
A Mother’s Day-themed market with flowers, décor, and garden items.
-May 24: Memorial Day Weekend Market
Offering ingredients for holiday meals, including fresh produce, meats, and baked goods.

June

-June 21: Berries & Wine Festival
A market featuring berries, wine, and other specialty items.

July

-July 5: Fourth Weekend Market
Includes live music, food trucks, and artisan goods.
-July 12: Tomato Festival
A market focused on tomato-themed products and activities.

August

-August 2: National Farmers Market Week
A celebration of the market’s vendors and community.
-August 30: Labor Day Weekend Market
Items for end-of-summer gatherings.

September

-September 20: Books & Authors Jamboree
An event featuring local authors and book-related activities.

October

-October 18: Harvest & Flannel Market
A fall-themed market with family activities.
-October 25: Halloween Market
Marketplace items with Halloween-inspired elements. Costumes encouraged.

November

-November 22 and 25: Thanksgiving Festival
Markets will provide items for Thanksgiving celebrations, with a special pre-holiday market on November 25 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

December

-December 6, 13, 20: Hometown Holiday Marketplace
Markets featuring holiday items, decorations, and seasonal goods.

The Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market is open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at White Horse Park in Ocean Pines. For more information, visit <https://www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/farmers-artisans-market>.



Festival Co-Chair **Vito Potenza** (standing) at the final planning meeting for the festival.

Annual St. Joseph’s Day festival plans underway

One of Ocean City’s most popular ethnic celebrations, the St. Joseph’s Day Festival, will open its doors this year on March 22. Hosted by the Ocean City Lodge of the Sons and Daughters of Italy, the day-long fest of home-cooked food, music, games, basket raffles, and a silent auction, will be held at its usual location, St. Andrew’s Hall on 144th Street and Sinepuxent Avenue.

As always, admission is free. Doors open at 11 a.m. and the festival runs all day until 5:30 p.m. Italian delicacies like ravioli, meatballs, sausage, breads, zeppole, fresh-filled cannoli and baked goods will be on the menu. Wine, beer, and non-alcoholic soft drinks will be available. Italian-themed music will be played for patrons throughout the day.

As festival goers move around the floor they will find tables of Ital-

ian-themed merchandise for sale. Stuffed gift baskets and baskets of joy filled with wine and spirits will be raffled off. Silent auctions will be held for a variety of packages, including sports packages and leisure activities. For the more adventurous, the Pick Six-wheel game will return, and tickets can be purchased for the 50-50 drawing.

The Ocean City Lodge of the Sons and Daughters of Italy was started in 1980 and today has almost 200 members. Its mission includes increasing awareness of the Italian culture and contributions of Italian Americans to the United States, providing scholarships for high school students of Italian descent and a tradition of charitable giving to support local organizations.

Festival Co-Chair Vito Potenza (standing) at the final planning meeting for the festival.

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Good car-ma

With the recent snow and resultant salted roads, my blue pick-up truck was anything but blue as kicked-up road salt encased the entire vehicle. It looked as if it had ventured through an



It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

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arctic maelstrom. A trip to the car wash was necessary.

Since the time of my youth, which is cascading further and further into the past, a trip to the car wash has always been an enjoyable excursion. I like watching my car or truck glide through each cleaning station at Berlin Car Wash where I've gone for years when I don't have the time or the desire to wash my vehicle by hand in the driveway. During this time of year, the auto wash is the only option.

The car wash kindles memories of when I accompanied my grandfather when he took, on those rare occasions, his car to the wash. We stayed in the car watching the process from the inside. Experiencing from inside foamy car soap envelop us was like being on an amusement ride at Hunt's Pier. We'd ride through the large twirling brushes on either side of us. The rinse cycle followed. Then we watched water droplets scurry off the hood and windshield driven off by blow driers blasting hurricane force heat streams.

When we exited the tunnel, inevitably my grandfather pulled off to the side apron, got out and walked around the car to inspect for possible damage. None occurred, at least the times I was with him. Then again, how would he know? The twelve-year-old '65 Plymouth Barracuda by that time was in pretty rough shape.

Summer is optimum car washing season. It's the time when taking an afternoon to wash and wax my car is therapeutic, even meditative, for me. It's my version of yoga. There's a process I follow starting with vacuuming the inside, getting into the nooks and crannies as best as possible with the crevice tool attachment. Then I pull and scrub the floor mats leaving them to dry in the sun.

After washing and drying the car but before waxing, I like to lower the windows and turn on the Willie Nelson Pandora station so I can listen to some "Willie country" during "wax on, wax off" time. The process takes about two hours which may seem like a lot of time yet the end result is so worth it. There's a tremendous satisfaction gained when my car's paint gleams in the sunlight and is silky to the touch. Oh, what a feeling.

The year was 1983 when I got my first car, a four-door 1977 Plymouth Volare, white with a gold vinyl top. It was a high school gift from my grandparents. A quick side note. My grandmother gave me the choice of the car or a trip to France. What young man would turn down a car? Looking back though, I've had many cars. I've never been to France.

During my first summer with that car, I washed and waxed it so many times someone advised me to be careful not to remove the paint. Ah, first love.

Many of the cars that came after didn't receive the same level of devoted attention. Admittedly, during the years our children were growing up, whether the car was washed depended on a steady rainfall. Now that the kids are on their own, my attention often returns to how my car looks. Oddly, my driving experience improves when my car is clean inside and out. I feel better when my car looks better.

I end with this corny quote I once read, "a car wash is the foundation of good car-ma."



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Healthcare specialties trend helps patients

By **William “Billy” Hamilton**,
DPT, CHT



Billy Hamilton

In recent years, the healthcare industry has been undergoing a significant shift toward specialization. This trend is evident across various medical fields as professionals refine their skills and focus on specific areas of care. The goal is to deliver more targeted, effective treatments that meet the unique needs of patients. This movement toward specialization is not limited to physicians or surgeons; it has also become increasingly prevalent in allied health professions, including physical therapy.

Traditionally, physical therapy practices have offered a broad range of services to address general musculoskeletal and functional impairments. However, as medical knowledge and technologies advance, the demand for specialized care has grown. Patients now seek out providers with deep expertise in addressing specific conditions or parts of the body. This is particularly true in the realm of upper extremity rehabilitation—a highly complex area requiring advanced training and experience.

Orthopedic surgical groups have long recognized the benefits of specialization. Many now focus exclusively on certain joints or body regions, such as knees, spines, or hands. A growing number of these practices are adopting names that reflect their specialized focus, such as “Hand to Shoulder” clinics, emphasizing their dedication to treating the intricate structures of the upper extremity. This same trend is taking hold in the physical therapy world, where practices are rebranding to align with their specialized services.

The upper extremity, which includes the hand, wrist, elbow, and

shoulder, plays a critical role in daily activities. Injuries or conditions affecting this region can significantly impact a person’s quality of life, limiting their ability to perform tasks at work, home, or recreationally. Rehabilitation for these areas requires a nuanced understanding of anatomy, biomechanics, and therapeutic techniques. Certified Hand Therapists (CHTs) are physical or occupational therapists who have undergone extensive training, passed a rigorous certification exam, and accrued thousands of hours of hands-on experience in treating upper extremity conditions. Their expertise makes them uniquely qualified to address the complex needs of patients recovering from injuries, surgeries, or chronic conditions affecting the hand to shoulder region.

Locally, the Ocean Pines community has witnessed this specialization trend firsthand. Practices such as Hamilton Physical Therapy have embraced the “Hand to Shoulder” name to highlight their focus on upper extremity care. This change reflects not just a shift in branding but a commitment to delivering advanced, specialized care to the residents of the Eastern Shore.

Why is specialization important in physical therapy? First and foremost, it leads to better patient outcomes. A therapist who dedicates his practice to a specific area develops a deeper understanding of the intricacies involved. This knowledge enables them to create tailored treatment plans that address the root causes of a patient’s issues, rather than offering generic solutions. For example, treating a hand injury involves more than just addressing pain and swelling. It requires detailed knowledge of fine motor skills, grip strength, and the intricate interplay of tendons, ligaments, and nerves.

Furthermore, specialization fosters collaboration within the healthcare community. Orthopedic surgeons, primary care physicians, and other medical professionals are more likely

to refer patients to a specialized physical therapist because they trust that these experts have the skills needed to optimize recovery. This team-based approach ensures that patients receive comprehensive, coordinated care throughout their treatment journey.

For patients, choosing a specialized provider can make a significant difference in their rehabilitation experience. They benefit from targeted assessments, evidence-based interventions, and a therapist’s deep understanding of their condition. Specialized practices often invest in advanced technologies and therapies designed specifically for their focus area, further enhancing the quality of care.

In addition to improving clinical outcomes, specialization helps to raise awareness about the unique needs of different patient populations. Upper extremity conditions, for example, are often misunderstood or overlooked. By focusing on this area, specialized practices can educate the community about the importance of early

intervention, proper ergonomics, and preventive care. They can also advocate for patients who might otherwise struggle to find appropriate resources or support.

The shift toward specialization in physical therapy aligns with broader trends in healthcare. As the industry continues to evolve, patients and providers alike recognize the value of expertise and focused care. For communities like Ocean Pines, having access to specialized services means that residents no longer need to travel far for high-quality treatment. Instead, they can receive the care they need from local providers who are deeply invested in their health and well-being.

While Hamilton Hand to Shoulder is just one example of this trend, it underscores a larger movement within the profession. By adopting a name that reflects their specialization, practices can better communicate their expertise to patients and medical professionals. This clarity helps

*please see **healthcare** on page 8*

Courier Almanac

American folk trio Peter, Paul and Mary take a decisive step on their path to success on January 29, 1962, when they sign their first recording contract with Warner Bros.

Home renovations are wildly popular, and that popularity can be traced to a number of factors. Some homeowners renovate their homes with their own comfort in mind, while others do so to improve the resale value of the property. For those in the latter group, a recognition of renovations that yield the



highest return on investment may help them decide which projects to pursue. According to the housing market research and analytics firm Zonda Media, a garage door replacement offered the highest return on investment in the American real estate market in 2024, earning a whopping 194 percent return on homeowners’ initial investment. An entry door replacement with steel door offered the second best ROI at 188 percent of homeowners’ initial investment, while replacing siding with stone veneer was third on the list with an average ROI of 153 percent.

**The
Courier**

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Coastal Bays seeks input on management plan proposal

Maryland Coastal Bays Program (MCBP), along with all National Estuary Programs, is required by the EPA to develop and implement a ten-year Comprehensive Conservation & Management Plan (CCMP) as the roadmap for success for the program and its partners. EPA requires the CCMP to be revised every 10 years to reflect changing conditions, challenges, and opportunities.

After two years of effort, thanks to the input from MCBP staff, our collaborative partners and stakeholders, and the public, we are pleased to present the final draft of our revised Comprehensive Conservation & Management Plan (CCMP) for public review and comment.

The draft Plan can be found on their website (<https://mdcoastalbays.org/ccmp-draft-review/>) you can review it on the website or download it to your computer.

Interested members of the public are being asked to review the draft document and provide individual comments - both general and spe-

cific - to the program no later than the close of business on Friday, February 28. Specific comments should reference the page number, section and specific location in the text that is being addressed (e.g., page 13/second paragraph/third line; or Theme 3/Goal 2/Action2.1.)

All comments should be sent as a Word attachment (preferred) or in the body of an email to Steve Farr at sfarr@mdcoastalbays.org. If you have any questions about the review procedure, please also direct them via email to him.

Contact Steve Farr at sfarr@mdcoastalbays.org for more information or any questions you may have.

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Advanced Practice Providers

Expanding much-needed access to primary and specialty care

By **Sally Dowling, MD**

According to many sources, the US will continue to experience a significant shortfall of primary care providers over the next decade. This is due to a number of factors including a medical education system that is not keeping up with demand, large-scale retirement of an aging physician workforce and the increasing medical needs of baby boomers, currently the second largest generation, as they reach their 70s and beyond.

The shortage is felt even more intensely on rural Delmarva, where several counties have been federally designated as medically underserved for decades.

Atlantic General Hospital and Health System continues to recruit both primary care providers and needed specialists as part of our mission-driven work to improve the health of the communities we serve.

Part of this strategy includes attracting talented nurse practitioners and physician assistants to our growing medical staff. These ad-

vanced practice providers (APPs) have come to play a critical national role in providing timely access to high-quality care alongside their physician counterparts.

Both nurse practitioners and physician assistants receive comprehensive medical education after earning their bachelor's degree and undergo rigorous clinical training. They examine, diagnose and treat patients in primary care and a variety of medical specialties. APPs can order and interpret tests, develop a plan of care, and write prescriptions for needed medication.

A nurse practitioner earns a bachelor's degree in nursing, followed by a master's or doctoral degree program to obtain their nurse practitioner degree. This education includes hands-on clinical rotations in various primary care and/or specialty settings – they can be inpatient and outpatient. In 21 states, including Maryland and Delaware, nurse practitioners can practice medicine independently meaning they do not need physician supervi-

sion. In Virginia, nurse practitioners can practice independently, provided they have at least three years of clinical experience.

A physician assistant must obtain a bachelor's degree, followed by a master's degree program that includes hand-on experience during more than 2,000 hours of clinical rotations, to receive their physician assistant degree. Physician assistants currently require the supervision of a physician in Maryland, Delaware and Virginia.

If you need a primary care provider, you should consider APPs when making your decision. If you have questions regarding education and experience, feel free to ask. They are more than willing to answer your questions so you can

make an informed choice.

Chances are, you will be able to find an APP whose bedside manner and care style are just what you're looking for. And, you might just get in to be seen sooner.

Sally Dowling, MD cares for patients at Atlantic General Primary Care, in Selbyville, Del., and serves as the vice president of medical affairs for Atlantic General Hospital and Health System. For additional information about the education and training advanced practice providers receive, visit the American Association of Nurse Practitioners at www.aanp.org or the American Academy of Physician Associates at www.aapa.org. For a list of providers accepting new patients, visit www.agh.care/APP.

healthcare
from page 6

patients make informed choices about their care and ensures that they receive treatment from providers with the highest level of training and experience.

The healthcare field's move toward specialization is a positive development for patients and providers alike. By focusing on specific areas, such as the upper extremity, physical therapy practices can offer more precise, effective treatments that address the unique needs of their patients. For residents of Ocean Pines and the surrounding areas, this trend represents an exciting opportunity to access top-tier care close to home. As the healthcare landscape continues to evolve, one thing is clear: specialization is here to stay,

and it's transforming the way we approach rehabilitation and recovery.

Although Hamilton Hand to Shoulder emphasizes specialized care for the upper extremity, the office remains committed to treating a wide range of conditions and providing comprehensive physical therapy services to meet the diverse needs of our community.

William "Billy" Hamilton, DPT, CHT is owner of Hamilton Hand to Shoulder. He can be reached at 410.208.3300 or via email at Billy@Hamiltonhand.com.

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We The People

Sponsored by The Republican Women of Worcester County

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- 3rd Place -\$50

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• Coordinated by the Literacy Chair, Susan Ostrowski, four judges and the contacts at each school.

• Contest period January 31st 2025 - February 28th 2025. Winners announced in March.

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Slithering comments – Ocean Pines resident Russell Lederman, known to some as the Snake Whisperer or Snake Wrangler, gave a very interesting and informative presentation about local snakes during a recent meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Ocean Pines – Ocean City.

Lederman shared that there are no rattlesnakes or water moccasins on the Eastern Shore. There are however poisonous copperheads in Ocean Pines. Russell is an inventor by trade, but he has always been an outdoorsman and became interested in snakes because they are often misunderstood.

They are actually good for the environment, eating bugs and critters that can be pests. Rather than killing them, which is illegal in Maryland unless you have a permit to do so, Russell captures and relocates them, but not farther than three to five miles from where they are caught because that area is where they are indigenous and need to stay. They do not return to where they were caught. He charges a nominal fee to cover gas costs and accepts tips. He did say that if he has to go into a crawl space, the cost is \$60 because he hates spiders.

Above are (L-R) **Russell Lederman** and Kiwanis Club President **Tom Southwell**.

Coastal Bays seeks input on management plan proposal

Maryland Coastal Bays Program (MCBP), along with all National Estuary Programs, is required by the EPA to develop and implement a ten-year Comprehensive Conservation & Management Plan (CCMP) as the roadmap for success for the program and its partners. EPA requires the CCMP to be revised every 10 years to reflect changing conditions, challenges, and opportunities.

After two years of effort, thanks to the input from MCBP staff, our collaborative partners and stakeholders, and the public, we are pleased to present the final draft of our revised Comprehensive Conservation & Management Plan (CCMP) for public review and comment.

The draft Plan can be found on their website (<https://mdcoastalbays.org/ccmp-draft-review/>) you can review it on the website or down-

load it to your computer.

Interested members of the public are being asked to review the draft document and provide individual comments - both general and specific - to the program no later than the close of business on Friday, February 28. Specific comments should reference the page number, section and specific location in the text that is being addressed (e.g., page 13/second paragraph/third line; or Theme 3/Goal 2/Action2.1.)

All comments should be sent as a Word attachment (preferred) or in the body of an email to Steve Farr at sfarr@mdcoastalbays.org . If you have any questions about the review procedure, please also direct them via email to him.

Contact Steve Farr at sfarr@mdcoastalbays.org for more information or any questions you may have.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. This regulates cortisol production (abbr.)

5. People of northern Vietnam

8. Employee stock ownership plan

12. Regions

14. The center of a city

15. Hindu serpentine deity

16. Roared

18. Sun up in New York

19. "Sir" in Malaysian

20. Shrimp dish

21. Muckraker Tarbell

22. Apex

23. Harmonic effects

26. One of Babe Ruth's nicknames

30. Groups in organic chemistry

31. More pleasant-tasting

32. Spring forward

33. Noted writer
34. Building occupied by monks

39. "The world's most famous arena"

42. Colorless liquid hydrocarbon

44. Long or fast speech

46. Things you can eat

47. Substance in which magnetic moments are not aligned

49. Actor Idris

50. I (German)

51. Taxes

56. Indonesian island

57. Nuisance (slang)

58. Shawl

59. Digits

60. Moved on foot quickly

61. "For goodness ____"

62. Facial body part

63. Russian river

64. Urinates

CLUES DOWN

1. Partner to "oohs"

2. Scaly water dweller

3. Pueblo people of New Mexico

4. Music producer Teo

5. Greek mythological goddess

6. Got together to discuss

7. Acquires

8. Involve

9. Some are tomato-based

10. Old Irish alphabets

11. A sheet of glass in a window or door

13. Blood poisoning

17. A moon of Saturn

24. Neither

25. Sums

26. They follow "A"

27. Satisfaction

28. People of southeastern Burma
29. Small amount

35. Guy (slang)

36. Sound unit

37. Midway between northeast and east

38. Affirmative

40. Almost at the top

41. Extremely slow

42. Pearl Jam's debut album

43. Influential mid-century playwright

44. Martens

45. Approval

47. Dallas-adjacent Texas city

48. African nation

49. Dark brown or black

52. A place to get caught

53. Large-headed, elongated fish

54. Type of sword

55. Scottish tax or levy

A	C	T	H					T	H	O		E	S	O	P
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Answers for January 22

Some things to think about

Gathered from the internet
by **Jack Barnes**

Apparently you can reheat pizza by turning your toaster on its side... your welcome



Osdokians (Winston Churchill loved them) are figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected and is frequently humorous.

- Where there's a will, I want to be in it.
- The last thing I want to do is hurt you ... but it's still on my list.
- Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

Potatoes make french fries, chips, and vodka. It's like the other vegetables aren't even trying.

- If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.

- We never really grow up — we only learn how to act in public.

- War does not determine who is right, only who is left.

- Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.

- To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.

Never ever, ever, ever go to the horse auction after 4 margaritas
Lesson learned.



- I didn't say it was your fault. I said I was blaming you.

- In filling out an application, where it says, "In case of emergency, notify..." I answered "a doctor."

- Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street with a bald head and a beer gut, and still think they are sexy.

- You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice.

- I used to be indecisive, but now I'm not so sure.

- To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target.

- Going to church doesn't make you a Christian, any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.

- You're never too old to learn something stupid.

- I'm supposed to respect my elders, but it's getting harder and harder for me to find one now.

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Registration Deadline March 19, 2025
Registration opens at 9 AM
Tournament begins at 10 AM
Includes light breakfast and lunch
National Mah-Jongg rules apply (2024 card)

REGISTRATION INFORMATION
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For more information, text Donna at 443-834-3783

American Cancer Society
Proceeds benefit the American Cancer Society

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☐ I will be East and bring my set.

☐ I will donate a themed basket for our raffle.

☐ I have a family member or friend who has had cancer.

☐ I will sponsor a game. (\$100 donation)

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DSS appoints new chair

The Worcester County Department of Social Services (DSS) Advisory Board recently elected Voncelia Brown to serve as the new chair.

“I hope to foster continued cooperation across disciplines in order to increase access to services for all those who are living in Worcester County,” Brown said.

The DSS Advisory Board currently includes nine members representing all of Worcester County. The three -year appointments are made by County Commissioners. The advisory board meets monthly and has a mission to “strive to provide timely services to enhance the quality of life for individuals and families.”

Board activities include systematic review of relevant statistics, providing support for staff activities, keeping informed of new legislation that impacts DSS, and educating the community about the mission of DSS. In April 2024 the Advisory Board hosted a community resources gathering in order to bring together a variety of local stakeholders. This gathering allowed agencies to share their missions and highlight available resources. Participants reported the opportunity to network with other agencies was

useful. Key areas of concern included mental health services, transportation, decent and affordable housing and unmet needs of the growing senior population.

The origins of Groundhog Day

Groundhog Day, celebrated this Sunday, is a lighthearted tradition that millions of people enjoy each February, and the custom may have much older roots than celebrants realize. The American Folklife Center & Veterans History Project notes that folklorist Don Yoder, in his 2003 book *Groundhog Day*, traced the origins of the holiday to pre-Christian festivals that also led to holidays like Halloween. Yoder asserted the timing of the festival that is now celebrated as the holiday Groundhog Day, which falls in between the winter solstice and the spring equinox, symbolizes how significant and anticipated changes in the seasons were within pre-Christian society. That’s one reason why the festival that served as a precursor to Groundhog Day survived when western European societies became Christianized.

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