

The Courier

February 5, 2025 Volume 25 Number 19

Celebrating pizza

By **Elaine Bean**

Thin and crispy or thick and chewy. Supreme or simple. Meat lovers or veggie. No matter how you like your pizza, there's a day to celebrate one of America's all-time favorite foods on February 9, National Pizza Day.

This year, National Pizza Day coincides with Super Bowl Sunday, when pizza consumption is traditionally as big as the game. Americans consume on average 23 pounds of pizza per person per year and more than 3 billion pizzas are sold in the U.S. each year. That average goes up for Super Bowl. The American Pizza Community, a real organization, reports about 12.5 million pizzas are ordered, baked, and delivered to football fanatics on Super Bowl Sunday.

How and why National Pizza Day actually got started isn't known, but it probably began as a grassroots celebration among pizza lovers. Pizza itself has a rich history, with roots tracing back to ancient civilizations like the Greeks and Romans, who enjoyed flatbreads with various toppings. Today, 17% of all restaurants in the U.S. are pizzerias.

Locally, pizza enthusiasts have a variety of pizzerias to whet their appetites. Pizzas can't get any more Italian than Serpone's Pizzeria in Ocean Pines, owned and operated by Francesco Serpico, a native of Naples, Italy who came to America in 2006.

"In Napoli we're all about the food," Serpico said. "We're about the quality of our food. Fresh, high-quality ingredients. Most of all, it's about the gathering. So, I feel like pizza can always bring a group of people together to have a good time."

Serpone's pizza is unique in the area because of the special crust and sauce, according to the pizza maker. "I always feel like a mad scientist first thing in the morning when I get a batch of dough rolling," Serpico said. "We use the best cheese blend on the market so that also makes a difference. I use a couple different kinds of unbleached flours and oils for my dough. Salt and yeast. Very simple. Nothing too

*please see **pizza** on page 4*

Francesco Serpico, owner of Serpone's Pizzeria in Pines, with one of his creations



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Guest speakers - The Republican Women of Worcester County (RWWC) held their January luncheon meeting on January 16 at the Worcester County Technical High School. Guest speakers were David Stevenson and Tina Kelleher. Mr. Stevenson, leads the national effort opposing offshore wind and has served on President Trump's Environmental Protection Agency. He talked of the dangers, perils and costs of off shore wind development. Tina Kelleher is Director of Development at the Caesar Rodney Institute, an organization which is committed to protecting individual liberty. Pictured, left to right are; **Jean Delcher**, RWWC president, **David Stevenson**, **Tina Kelleher** and **Carol Frazier**, RWWC first vice-president.

'Good Neighbor' program to celebrate community spirit

The Ocean Pines Association invites residents and property owners to help celebrate community spirit by nominating outstanding neighbors for the new "Ocean Pines Good Neighbor" program.

Developed by the OPA Communications Committee, the initiative aims to foster an "attitude of gratitude" by highlighting those who inspire others and contribute to the betterment of Ocean Pines.

Examples of potential nominees include those who:

- Organize neighborhood clean-ups or block parties
- Lead food or clothing donation drives
- Assist neighbors who are physically unable to complete yard maintenance, dog walking, or other tasks
- Regularly pick up litter or beautify the community in other ways
- Volunteer with local organizations
- inspire others through acts of kindness and a commitment to the community

"This program is about celebrating the everyday heroes who make Ocean Pines a better place to live," Commit-

tee Chairperson Linda Yurche said. "Recognizing and honoring these efforts helps build a stronger and more connected community."

Nominations can be submitted by emailing OPgoodneighbors@gmail.com. Residents may nominate individuals personally known to them or those they observe performing good deeds in the community.

Each month, the Communications Committee will review nominations and recommend one recipient to the Board for recognition. Selected honorees will be announced and celebrated during a Board of Directors meeting, where they will receive a token of appreciation, such as a gift card or branded merchandise, and have their photo taken with the Board president.

Honorees will also be featured on Ocean Pines social media channels, and in the weekly "This Week in the Pines" email newsletter.

For more information about the Ocean Pines Good Neighbor program, or to nominate someone for their contributions, contact OPgoodneighbors@gmail.com.

OPA addresses concerns about dead wildfowl

State officials have collected several deceased wildfowl in Ocean Pines, which are scheduled to be tested for avian influenza (bird flu).

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) confirmed that USDA-APHIS personnel collected the deceased birds near South Gate Pond on Tuesday and Wednesday. The collected birds included:

- Eight domestic geese
- Four Canada geese
- One cormorant
- Two common mergansers
- One gull
- One grackle
- Two black vultures

While the birds have not yet been tested, the DNR emphasized that the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) virus, commonly known as bird flu, is endemic in wild bird populations.

Residents have been assured that outdoor activities remain safe, but DNR officials encouraged some precautions.

"Anyone who encounters sick or


dead birds in the wild should avoid handling or moving them and instead report the findings to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service by calling 1-877-463-6497," a DNR spokesperson said.

USDA Wildlife Services operators are available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding state holidays. Individuals calling from outside Maryland should dial 410-349-8055. Voicemails will be returned promptly.


For additional information, visit the DNR website: <https://news.maryland.gov/dnr/2025/01/17/marylander-hunters-and-birders-should-be-vigilant-against-avian-influenza/>

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OPPD provide updates on public safety

Ocean Pines Police Chief Tim Robinson delivered a public safety update during the Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors meeting on January 25, detailing recent law enforcement activity and expressing gratitude for community and agency support during a recent search for a missing child.

Robinson reported that since the previous Board meeting the department had conducted 132 traffic stops, including 38 for speeding and 23 for stop sign or traffic control violations.

Officers also made arrests for driving under the influence, driving with a suspended license, and operating a vehicle without insurance. Notably,

there were no reportable motor vehicle collisions during this period.

Officers responded to two incidents of vandalism, including one on-view arrest, and two domestic assaults, one of which required a re-arrest after a court order violation. Additionally, police handled two thefts by fraud and a business burglary at a tobacco store on Nicholas Lane.

Mental health calls also represented a significant focus for the department, with nine emergency petitions or mental health-related calls reported.

Robinson provided an update on a high-profile search last week for a missing 10-year-old boy, which captured widespread community attention. The boy was ultimately found safe in a garage after a coordinated effort involving multiple public safety agencies.

The search began shortly before 5 p.m. and quickly mobilized resources, including the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department, Maryland State Police, and Ocean City Police Department, among others. The search

included aerial support from the Maryland State Police helicopter and thermal imaging drones from Ocean City Police.

"I'm very pleased with the efforts of everyone involved," Robinson said, praising the swift response from local, state, and regional agencies. He highlighted the work of the Maryland State Police search manager, whose expertise was instrumental in the search effort.

Robinson expressed gratitude to

the Ocean Pines community for their support, noting the influx of text messages, social media posts, and volunteers who offered to assist in the search.

"This is a great community, and it warms my heart to see everyone come together in times like this," Robinson said.

For more information or to stay updated on public safety news in Ocean Pines, visit www.oceanpinespolice.com.

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pizza
from cover

doctored up. I don't use my dough any time before 48 hours of fermentation for a more chewy, airy, crispy, and easy-to-digest experience.

"I can guarantee nobody in the area uses the same blend of tomatoes we do for our sauce," Serpico continued. "We use a San Marzano tomato imported from Napoli that has a very distinct flavor being that it's only grown close to Mt. Vesuvius. That's why I always like to say that our pizza is a New York Style yet with a Neapolitan twist."

Mione's Pizza, a presence in the West Ocean City Outlets for 27 years, also has its roots in Italy. Tony Mione brought his favorite dishes with him from Sicily, which he served to loyal customers until he retired and Jerry Milite took over the business.

"We all grew up in the same neighborhood in Pennsylvania, and we all moved down here 27 years ago," Milite said. "The Miones asked me to work for them, and slowly I partnered

cheese, make their own sauce, and every morning make their own dough. But the pizzeria has continued to innovate, and now serves several unique pizzas including a salad pizza, a Buffalo wing pizza, and a shrimp Marguerita pizza.

"We saute' the shrimp, add some oil and vinegar, put on some tomatoes and light sauce and garlic and cheese," Milite said. "And we squeeze a lime over it. That's the Marguerita part."

For Super Bowl Sunday, the pizzeria is doing a large pizza and wing deal, but they'll be closing at 7 p.m. so the staff can watch the game. Milite is a big Philadelphia Eagles fan.



Pop's Kitchen in downtown Berlin was a concept inspired by Robert and Kelli Beck in 2013 after years of success at their first restaurant location, DeNovo's Trattoria in Ocean Pines, to take their most popular items and develop a quick-serve restaurant. Pop's website states they are a "quick serve, eat in, carry out, delivery hot spot ... where we have the Power of Pizza."

Pop's makes their pizza dough and sauces fresh daily on premise, along with soups. While the traditional cheese-and-pepperoni pizza is the bestseller, Pop's offers a large variety of specialty pizzas. "The most popular is the Philly Cheese Steak Pizza that has steak, green peppers, fried onions, American and provolone cheeses, and sauce. It is delish!" Kelli Beck said.



with them, and then bought out the rest when they retired." (The Mione family continues to operate the pizzeria on 67th St in Ocean City.)

Mione's serves the same pizza recipes Tony Mione brought over from Sicily. They shred their own

The curve of a fender

From the first time a horse-drawn buggy yielded to its motorized cousin, the automobile has fascinated young and old alike. Why? The curve of the fender? The

AMC Pacer.

Youthful car memories abound. A friend recently shared with me that a favorite car of hers was her mother's 1965 Mustang. I think she said it was yellow. As a teenager, she raced a girl-friend who also had a Mustang - a convertible - along the backroads of Worcester County. My friend is accomplished, highly respected, a grandmother and drives a minivan; yet, I can envision

her at 16 behind the wheel of that yellow Mustang, intent on victory.

The favorite cars of my youth included Fred Flintstone's open-air, foot-propelled chariot, the Munster Koach that transported the Munster family, Jed Clampett's 1921 Oldsmobile truck, Speed Racer's Mach 5, the Scooby Doo Mystery Machine, the Monkeemobile and last but not least, the original Batmobile.

During my teenage years, I projected mystical powers on desired cars believing they would make me cool when I drove through the gates of the high school parking lot. The *right car* I believed would make people look beyond my braces, big nose, zits, unibrow, pocket protector and polyester floods. The *right car* would also persuade actress Valerie Bertinelli to accept my invitation to prom.

The cars of my teenage desire were probably not much different than other teenagers. Bandit's Firebird (with Sally Field riding shotgun). James Bond's Aston Martin DB5 (with ejection seat). Although I wasn't a big Starsky and Hutch fan, I would have settled for the red Ford Torino with white stripe. The General Lee, a 1969 Dodge Charger, would have been fine too.

But hands down and without hesitation, my dream car of all time was and still is, Jim Rockford's 1978 gold Pontiac Firebird. For me, that was and is *the car*. Why? Several reasons I suppose. I liked the way Jim Rockford handled himself and how he executed those reverse J-turns to escape being tailed or captured by the bad guys. The car reminds me of the "Rockford Files" theme song which is a favorite. The

car attracted beautiful attorney Beth Davenport, giving me hope that with that car Valerie would have accepted my prom invitation.

Reality sprayed cold water over my car fantasies. Monthly insurance premiums, fuel costs and maintenance expenses all but extinguished the warm glow of auto desire. My first car was a used four-door Plymouth Volare (without the Corinthian leather). Truth be told, I loved that Volare. I was 16 and that car was freedom on wheels. I think you know what I mean. In time

1980.

A couple years ago, I purchased a Dodge Challenger, black like my hair once was. Shortly after, my wife and I were cruising along a



marriage and childrearing dictated multiple car choices - sedans, station wagons and a minivan. I'm not complaining.

I have yet to own a '78 Firebird. I never went to my prom. The braces are long removed from my teeth. Polyester pants have been banned from my wardrobe since

back county road on a warm day, windows open, Willie Nelson playing through the speakers when I commented how much different my high school experience could have been had I owned a car like this then - the girls I could have attracted, the parking lot respect I could have earned. Without missing a beat, she turned toward me and stated plainly but with affection, "You would still have been a nerd but with a black car."

I know she's right but I wonder what Ms. Bertinelli would have thought?



It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

length of the hood? The guttural throb of the engine? The embodiment of freedom? Maybe it's all of the above and even more that enflames a passion of desire. For most, the car in our dreams and the car in our driveway are not the same. Reality being what it is, personal circumstances weigh heavy on the impulse of desire. A two-seat roadster is probably not the best choice for a family of five.

If you were to ask random people, "What's your favorite car?" I suspect many would harken back to their youths for an answer. It's in our youth when, especially as our sixteenth birthday and the prospect



of getting a driver's license approach, cars are viewed as an extension of personal identity. In the high school student parking lot would you rather emerge from an AMC Pacer or a Chevy Camaro? Most of us don't have a choice. Our ride depends on what's available, what's affordable and whether our mother will let us drive her car to school.

My first experience driving onto the parking lot of Archbishop Ryan High School for Boys, saw me behind the wheel of my mother's 1972 Volkswagen 411. The 411 was not cool - unique - but not cool. I didn't care. I was happy I didn't have to ride the bus. At least it wasn't an

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Commentary

Police need tools to do their jobs

An ill-conceived bill making its way through the Maryland General Assembly will further restrict law enforcement officials throughout the state from doing their jobs in order to advance progressive objectives aimed at condemning police officers as a societal threat.

Senate Bill 292 sponsored by Senator Charles Sydnor III (D – Baltimore County) reclassifies multiple primary traffic violations, for which police can pull a driver over, to secondary violations. Included in this category are driving without functioning headlights or taillights, driving without a mirror, window tint, throwing litter from a car and failure to illuminate a license plate among other violations. Under the bill, citations can be written for these violations but only as secondary offenses. Officers would be required to stop vehicles for other, primary, reasons.

So, who is responsible if a car without functioning headlights, ignored by police, causes a fatal accident? How about a situation where a road officer makes a traffic stop and is unable to see inside the vehicle because the windows are too dark? What if the driver, hidden behind very dark tinted win-

dows, has a weapon aimed at the officer walking alongside the vehicle? And, what if, heaven forbid, the officer is shot as a result? Will the supporters of this bill, should it become law, be held accountable?

This is yet another attempt by Annapolis lawmakers to take away law enforcement tools necessary to protect our communities.

The mindset of individuals attempting to water down the effectiveness of sworn officers working to protect and serve our communities is as frustrating to law enforcement as it is dangerous to the citizens they are sworn to serve.

Admittedly law enforcement has a responsibility to labor without malice toward any individual or group. But just as important is the responsibility of citizens to obey the law, a concept that some people fail to appreciate and accept.

This is a bad bill that's wasting the time of Annapolis legislators who have much more important issues to resolve for the people of this state. The multi-billion dollar deficit comes to mind.

Chip Bertino
Worcester County
Commissioner

Lower Shore Land Trust seeks volunteers to preserve natural beauty

The Lower Shore Land Trust (LSLT) is calling on nature enthusiasts and community-minded individuals to step forward and help preserve the iconic landscapes of the Lower Eastern Shore. On February 21, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., LSLT will host a Stewardship Training session at the Snow Hill library located at 307 N. Washington St., offering a unique opportunity for volunteers to make a lasting impact on the region's natural environment.

Frank Deuter, stewardship coordinator at LSLT, emphasizes the critical role
please see trust on page 14

Courier Almanac

On February 5, 1934, Henry Louis Aaron Jr., the baseball slugger who broke Babe Ruth's legendary record of 714 homers, is born in Mobile, Alabama.

Readers Comments Concerning bills filed in Annapolis

Editor:

It's that time of year again - the Maryland General Assembly is in session and bills are being filed by the dozens.

There are a few that are of particular interest to us here on the Lower Shore.

First and foremost is Fairness in Girls' Sports HB156) sponsored by many Republican members of the General Assembly. The name of the legislation speaks for itself, of course, but basically it will give schools the right to designate certain sports as female only and will protect the institutions from retaliation for taking these actions. Please let your Legislators know your thoughts on this bill.


A bill of concern is HB0093/SB0234- Housing and Community Development - Homeless Shelter Certification Program - Establishment. This legislation would establish a new program in the Dept. of Housing and Community Development and would require the Dept. to develop certain operational and building standards for homeless shelters and minimum standards for the protection of the rights of the shelter residents and would require the operator of a shelter to participate in a Homeless Management Information System.

As with most legislation, this would appear on the surface to be rather harmless and even beneficial. After all, the government is "here to help." I have volunteered at the Ocean City Cold Weather Shelter for several years and in my opinion, this legislation is not only NOT NEEDED, it could definitely interfere with the goals of the churches and nonprofits that operate the shelters. There may be some homeless shelters that would benefit from government oversight, but there is no need to create a whole new government program and subject all homeless shelters to government control. Frankly, the very idea is scary.

Finally, our very own Senator Mary Beth Carozza has sponsored legislation concerning setting standards for evaluators in child custody dispute cases (SB0025) which would make sure that those who have the power and responsibility to evaluate who should get custody in child abuse cases are qualified to do so.

I hope readers will take the time to familiarize themselves with these important pieces of proposed legislation and to take appropriate action. The text and status of the bills and the contact information for Senators and Delegates is at mgaleg.maryland.gov.

Carol Frazier
Ocean Pines



Glaucoma is an umbrella term used to characterize a group of eye diseases that can gradually diminish individuals' vision and eventually lead to blindness. The National Eye Institute says the symptoms are a result of damage to the optic nerve due to increased intraocular pressure. Treatments designed to reduce eye pressure can help to prevent further damage but will not reverse what already has occurred. Glaucoma can occur at any age, but it is much more common in older adults. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicates all people over the age of 60 have a higher risk of developing glaucoma. Glaucoma also is more common among Black people over the age of 40. The American Academy of Ophthalmology recommends a more frequent eye exam schedule as individuals age to increase chances of early detection. People 65 and older should see an eye professional every two years, if not every year.

OPVFD issues safety reminders, thanks community for support

The Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department issued a series of winter safety reminders and expressed gratitude to the community for its support during a recent missing child incident.

OPVFD President Joe Enste addressed these topics during the Ocean Pines Association Board meeting on January 25.

Enste began his remarks by cautioning residents to stay vigilant during the winter months, especially as colder weather persists.

“We could still get another polar vortex,” Enste said. “Please be smart when we’re heating our homes.”

He emphasized the importance of having working carbon monoxide detectors in homes with gas-burning or wood-burning appliances, citing a recent call where OPVFD responded to a home with carbon monoxide levels nearing 100 parts per million due to a leaking hot water heater.

“Thankfully, we were able to turn everything off and secure it but, if they didn’t have a CO detector, they wouldn’t have known about it,” he said.

Enste also urged residents to avoid

unsafe practices, such as bringing generators indoors or improperly using space heaters.

“With space heaters, you should only have them on if you’re in the room and paying attention to them,” he said. “If you go to bed at night, don’t leave them on. If you leave your house, don’t leave them on. These are how accidents happen.”

In addition to safety reminders, Enste provided updates on the Fire Department’s fundraising efforts.

“We’re still doing our Queen of Hearts game,” he said, adding that new fundraisers will launch in the coming weeks and months.

Enste also took time to thank the community for its overwhelming support during a search for a missing 10-year-old child on January 21.

The Fire Department, in a release on January 22, said more than 135 concerned citizens reported to the South Station to assist, braving snow and sub-20°F temperatures.

The child, who is autistic, was reported missing at approximately 5:40 p.m. and was located safely by 8:07

p.m. after a coordinated search involving over 50 fire and EMS personnel, more than 50 law enforcement officers, and numerous emergency services staff.

“Last night truly highlighted the strength and compassion of our community,” Enste said in the release. “We are deeply grateful to everyone who played a role in this successful outcome – on-duty, off-duty, volunteer, and retired first responders, as well as every citizen who stepped up to help.”

Enste echoed that gratitude on Saturday, thanking the community and the Ocean Pines Police Department for their partnership during the search effort. “Thank you to everybody that did that,” he said.

The Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department continues to serve the community and urges residents to prioritize safety as winter continues.

For more information on fire safety and upcoming fundraisers, visit opvfd.com.

Gather Alfajores Bakery joins Farmers & Artisans Market

Gather Alfajores, an artisanal bakery based in Lewes, Delaware, has joined the Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market, bringing their specialty treats to the community.

Starting Saturday, Feb. 1, customers can find Gather Alfajores bi-weekly at the Green Market.

Founded in 2022, Gather Alfajores is owned and operated by Isabel and Matthew Walsh, skilled bakers who craft their products from scratch in small batches.

The bakery specializes in alfajores, a traditional dessert from South and Central America that features two melt-in-your-mouth shortbread cookies filled with dulce de leche. In addition to alfajores, Gather offers shortbread cookies

please see market page 14

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Coastal Bays to remove turtle nesting sanctuary

The Maryland Coastal Bays Program (MCBP) turtle nesting sanctuary located at Northside Park will be dismantled as the site is no longer seeing activity and cannot be efficiently maintained due to unforeseen issues.

Several years ago, MCBP hosted a Chesapeake Conservation Corp member Maddie Talnagi whose capstone project was to design and install terrapin nesting sanctuaries at North Side Park-and-the Assateague State Park Living Shoreline.

Terrapin nesting sanctuaries aim to provide a protected space for terrapins to safely nest. Both sanctuaries consisted of 22 tons of sand and marsh vegetation, strategically shaped into a shallow mound with gentle slopes to replicate the terrapin's natural nesting habitat. The goal of the project was to encourage terrapins to nest in the sanctuary rather than the developed and unsuitable areas.

At first, both sanctuaries provided successful results with several reports of terrapins nesting. As these projects required a lot of maintenance, MCBP recruited an amazing group of volunteers who worked tirelessly to at-

tempt to maintain the gardens.

Unfortunately, the site at Northside Park has become increasingly more difficult to maintain throughout the past few years due to vegetation growth on the marsh side of the project. Additionally, in the last two years, bees have burrowed into the sand of the terrapin sanctuary, making it unsafe for volunteers to maintain the site. This growth has created a blockage for turtles to access and making it virtually impossible for volunteers to be able to keep up with the maintenance. "Northside Park is such a pristine and beautiful park, we felt this garden was becoming an eyesore and since it wasn't providing any opportunities for our terrapins, it was time to take it down," explained MCBP Outreach Coordinator Sandi Smith, "fortunately the sanctuary at Assateague State Park is still functioning, but mother nature put a halt to this effort at Northside Park.

"Not all projects are going to be as successful as we hope, but we truly learn and grow from these projects to continue to provide undertakings to help preserve our watershed and com-

munity."

MCBP will continue monitoring the Assateague project, as well as work with partners on other terrapin projects from a mid-Atlantic survey program to a turtle cage initiative to protect nests.

Contact Sandi Smith at sandis@mdcoastalbays.org for more information or any questions you may have.

How breed affects dogs' trainability

Every dog lover has a different set of criteria for what they look for in a dog. Some make size a priority, preferring a pooch who is small enough to be a constant companion. Others seek a dog that has shorter fur for less grooming upkeep. Still, some people prefer a breed that is known for flashy looks that will turn heads on neighborhood walks.

Trainability is another consideration when researching potential pet companions. Many veterinarians attest that positive reinforcement training is one of the

*please see **breed** on page 14*



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Free heart smart screenings offered

During American Heart Month in February and throughout the year, TidalHealth is offering free Heart Smart screenings for people who are not under the care of a cardiologist but are at risk for heart disease.

The service is provided monthly at TidalHealth Peninsula Regional in Salisbury, Md. and at various other locations in February only. Pre-registration is required.

The screenings include a heart disease risk assessment; resting 12-lead EKG; body fat/body mass index; blood pressure testing and pulse oximetry testing. Because of the blood test associated with the risk assessment, a 12-hour fast is required.

Dates in 2025 at TidalHealth Cardiovascular Surgery at TidalHealth Peninsula Regional include: February 11, March 18, April 15, May 13 and June 17.

For American Heart Month, the free Heart Smart screenings are also available on the following dates at these locations:

-Friday, February 7, TidalHealth Primary Care, 100 Rawlins Drive, Seaford, DE 19973

-Friday, February 21, TidalHealth Primary Care, 30265 Commerce Drive, Suite 206, Millsboro, DE 19966

-Tuesday, February 25, TidalHealth Primary Care, 11101 Cathage Road, Berlin, 21811

Please call 410-543-7026 to learn more or to schedule your free Heart Smart screening.



The Courier



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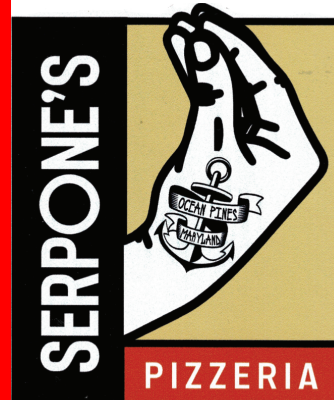
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Avian flu

Avian influenza refers to disease in birds caused by infection with avian (bird) influenza (flu) Type A viruses.

Avian influenza A viruses have been isolated from more than 100 different species of wild birds around the world. These viruses occur naturally among wild aquatic birds worldwide and can infect domestic poultry and other bird and animal species. Wild aquatic birds include waterbirds (waterfowl) such as ducks, geese, swans, gulls, and terns and shorebirds, such as storks, plovers, and sandpipers. Wild aquatic birds, especially dabbling ducks, are considered reservoirs (hosts) for avian influenza A viruses. Wild aquatic birds can be infected with avian influenza A viruses in their intestines and respiratory tract, but some species, such as ducks, may not get sick. However, avian influenza A viruses are very contagious among birds, and some of these viruses can sicken and even kill certain domesticated bird species, including chickens, ducks and turkeys.

However, anyone who fills birdfeeders for the winter should feel free to do so, as songbirds carry a very low risk of getting or spreading the virus.

Hiking, photography and other outdoor activities in areas where wild birds congregate are safe, although as with hunting, precautions should be taken to avoid sick or dead birds.

Infected birds can shed avian influenza A viruses in their saliva, nasal secretions, and feces. Susceptible birds become infected when they have contact with the virus as it is shed by infected birds. They also can become infected through contact with surfaces that are contaminated with virus from infected birds.

People working with poultry with known or possible infections of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza A viruses should follow worker protection and personal protective equipment (PPE) recommendations. Guidance is available for hunters, poultry producers, and poultry outbreak responders. Biosecurity information is available from USDA's website.

Avian influenza A viruses are classified into the following two categories: low pathogenicity avian influenza (LPAI) A viruses, and highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) A viruses. The categories refer to molecular characteristics of a virus and the virus' ability to cause disease and mortality in chickens in a laboratory setting.

More information on HPAI and how to mitigate exposure of domestic poultry to wild birds can be found on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's website.



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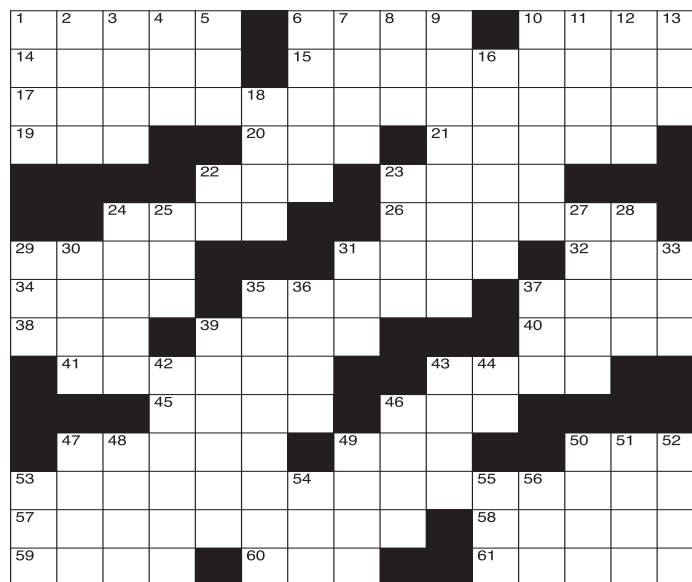
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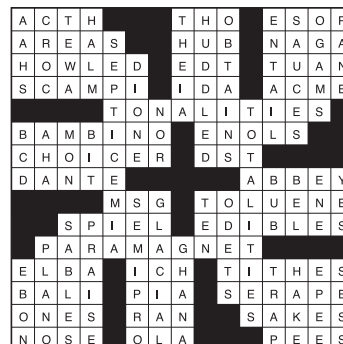


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. "The Las Vegas of the East"
- 6. Cook
- 10. Manning and Wallach are two
- 14. Chameleon
- 15. A way to fill up
- 17. What MLBers hope to play in
- 19. Unhappy
- 20. Indefinite period of time
- 21. Excites
- 22. Males
- 23. Mongol leader Genghis
- 24. Turfs
- 26. Soda comes in them
- 29. Not nice
- 31. Professional organization
- 32. Part of a play
- 34. Sea eagle
- 35. Emily Blunt's character in "Sicario"
- 37. Beige
- 38. Mental sharpness
- 39. Valley
- 40. Alcyone's husband
- 41. A place to gamble
- 43. Flightless Australian birds
- 45. Call out somebody's name over a P.A. system
- 46. US spy group
- 47. Pancakes from buckwheat flour
- 49. Swiss river
- 50. Disfigure
- 53. Have surgery
- 57. Formal withdrawal
- 58. Early English council
- 59. Square measures
- 60. 2,000 lbs.
- 61. Siskel and __, critics

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Mouths
- 2. Buffalo
- 3. You plug it in
- 4. Each
- 5. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
- 6. King of Thebes
- 7. English name meaning "mythical hunter"
- 8. Indicates near
- 9. More herbaceous
- 10. Gas-powered cars need one
- 11. Dishonest individual
- 12. Systems, doctrines, theories
- 13. The woman
- 16. The whole of one's holdings
- 18. Witnesses
- 22. Doctor
- 23. Paul __, Swiss painter
- 24. Kids look for him on December 24
- 25. Single
- 27. Competitions
- 28. Predict the future
- 29. Cage for trained hawks
- 30. Musician Clapton
- 31. Frozen water
- 33. Semiformal men's evening attire
- 35. Most worn
- 36. Common soap ingredient
- 37. Former EU monetary unit
- 39. Provisions
- 42. Book parts
- 43. Republic of Ireland
- 44. Partner to "Pa"
- 46. Sammy __, songwriter
- 47. Dutch colonist
- 48. Clare Booth __, American writer
- 49. Solar disk in Egyptian mythology
- 50. Minute arachnid
- 51. From a distance
- 52. Monthly apartment cost
- 53. Young women's association
- 54. Tourist destination
- 55. "Woman" in Ojibwe language
- 56. Pointed end of a pen



Answers for January 29

Wild Blue Yonder

On turtle patrol in a PBY CatalinaBy **Ralph Ferrusi**

On June 12, 2018 I received an e-mail from Larry O’Keefe, a friend of a friend who, like me, has had a lifelong interest in airplanes, and, trained and flew as an Aviation Radioman from 1944 to 1946 as part of a 10-man crew in the USA and in the Pacific. He flew 10 to 14-hour patrols, and approximately 700 hours total in the PBY Catalina and the PB4Y-2 Privateer: the Navy version of the AAF’s B-24 Liberator.

Fighter planes are glamorous and bombers do what has to be done to win wars.

World War II “flying boat” patrol planes and patrol bombers were

pretty much behind the scenes. Yet, these not-so-glamorous, long-range planes saved thousands of downed aviators and thousands of sailors. And, sank a lot of enemy submarines and ships in the Atlantic and Pacific.

Let’s see what Jim Winchester’s 2012 “Aircraft of World War II” has to say about the PBY Catalina. For starters, the first prototype flew March 28, 1935, and in October made a non-stop 3,500-mile flight from Coco Solo to San Francisco.

According to Winchester, “Here was aviation at its essence. The high-wing, twin engine Catalina was not speedy, not flashy, not graceful, but it was more practical than anyone realized. It was old when World War II began. It was slow and could be uncomfortable, but rarely has an aircraft proved so useful to so many people. A deadly adversary to an enemy submarine or warship [and an] angel of mercy which achieved thousands of rescues throughout the war.” It revolutionized long-range patrol in the US Navy.

With a basic crew of eight, a range of over 3,000 miles, and a maximum speed of 175 mph, Catalinas could stay aloft for up to 24 hours. But the Catalina was so slow that critics joked its navigator needed a calendar rather than a stopwatch. Catalinas were either pure flying boats, or, amphibians, flying from land or sea. They were also produced in Canada and Russia, where over a 1,000 were manufactured. “Black Cats” hunted Japanese ships at night, and a British

Catalina spotted the German battleship Bismarck.

Some 3,305 Catalinas were built, and there are (at this writing) 21 airworthy survivors: eight in the US, four in Canada, and one or two in New Zealand, the Netherlands, Australia, the UK, Chile, France, and Greece.

I visited Larry and we talked airplanes and World War II for two hours or so. I’d made a short list of WW II questions but Larry had

already written some amazing documents summarizing his World War II military experience.

He graduated from high school in 1943, and when he turned 17 in October he enlisted in the Navy in New Haven, CT, then took a train home to New York to get permission from his father.

He went to Sampson, NY for boot training and “five weeks and three haircuts” later was sent to Jacksonville, FL, where he trained as an aviation radioman, air gunner, and flight crew in PBYs. He earned his wings as an Air Crew ARM 3/C (CAC).

He flew patrols over the Atlantic out of Jacksonville Naval Air Station, from Charleston, NC to Miami, FL and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and never spotted “anything except big turtles, which look like subs from the air.”

He eventually ended up in Kanehoe in the Hawaiian Islands. He noted that “Flying out of Kanehoe was dangerous. There was a high peak right in our flight path and we always had to veer to avoid it.” Ending up in Eniwetok in the Marshall Islands, and Saipan in the Marianas, he noted that “the Pacific is huge.” The only Japanese he saw were prisoner-of-war work parties guarded by Marines.

Thank you for your service, Larry O’Keefe.

Ralph Ferrusi is a World War II aviation enthusiast. His all-time favorite aircraft is the North American P-51D Mustang. He has actually flown in a P-51D, and, a B-17G and B-25H. Born and raised in New York, he and his wife currently reside in Ocean Pines. Questions, comments; rjferrusi@frontiernet.net.

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Susan Moore

Moore is 'Crafter of the Month'

The Pine'er Craft Club announced Susan Moore as its February Crafter of the Month.

Moore, a longtime crafter and retired librarian, grew up in Easton and recently returned to the Eastern Shore after living in southwest Virginia for many years. She now resides in Berlin.

Moore's love of crafting began as a young child and was inspired by her grandmother, who taught her many of the skills she uses today. She specializes in making teddy bears with hand-knitted sweaters, quilted wall hangings, pillows, and full-sized quilts. Most of her creations are crafted by hand using traditional patterns and methods.

A recent member of the Pine'er Craft Club, Moore expressed her gratitude for joining the group, saying she is "very happy to have found a crafting home."

Her creations can be found at the Pine'er Craft Club's Artisan Gift Shop, in White Horse Park in Ocean Pines. The shop is open Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Pine'er Craft Club welcomes new crafters, and its meetings are open to the public. Artisans interested in selling their creations at the shop are encouraged to contact shop managers Debbie Jiwa or Barbara Herzog, or email opcraftclub@aol.com for more information.

Since its founding, the Pine'er Craft Club has contributed nearly \$196,000 to the Ocean Pines community and has proudly promoted hand-crafted goods for 50 years.

For more information, visit www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/artisan-gift-shop.



Visit - Cliff Berg and Margaret Mudron of the Ocean City - Berlin Rotary Club visited the club's adopted class at Buckingham Elementary and shared a snack with Jenny Schwab's pre-K-3 students. The club meets the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 6p.m. Don's Seafood at the South Gate of Ocean Pines. For more info email ocberlinrotary@gmail.com.



Paint pour - Everly Otens and Mia Barnes pour painted jumping dolphins in an art class on Saturday, Jan. 18 at the Ocean City Center for the Arts. Art League of Ocean City instructor Cindy Strouse led the class for both children and adults.



Winner - Seaside Christian Academy third grader Kinely Will (center front) won the bookmark contest for "Shorebirds Hit the Books Program." Her artwork was selected out of thousands of applicants from 118 schools throughout the Eastern Shore and will be featured on every bookmark for this year's Shorebirds program.

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Astronomy & Spaceflight

By Douglas Hemmick, Ph.D.

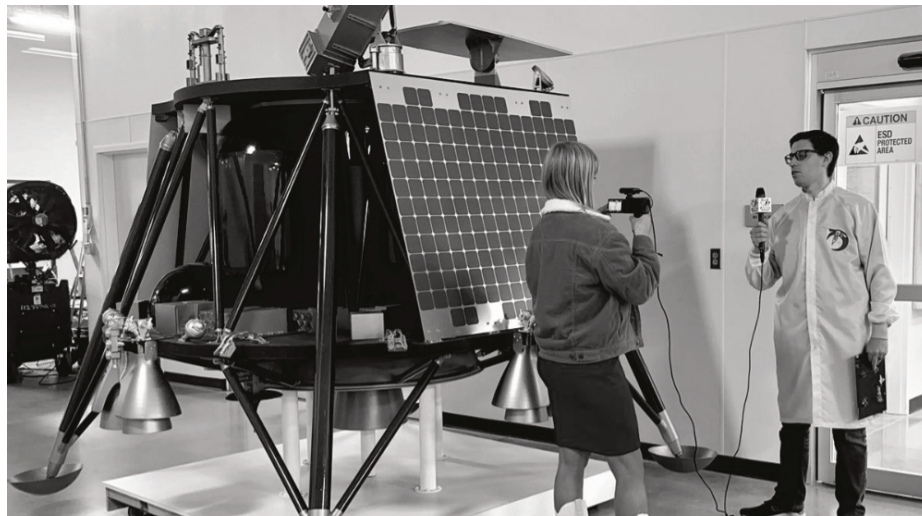


Examining the dusty lunar regolith

To help prepare for human habitats on the moon, NASA has begun studying the dusty lunar soil, or regolith. Research from the Apollo landings in the late 1960s proved conclusively that the lunar regolith is very abrasive. It was discovered that powdery accumulations could impede the performance of equipment such as space suits, gloves and other apparatus needed by the

early in March.

On Earth, the materials underfoot might be soil or sand or rocky terrain. The soil comes from decay of forest and plant materials, while sand is created by rocks that have been worn down by wind and water over many long millennia. Sand is well known to cause problems for various types of machinery, and precautions must be taken.



Blue Ghost Lander assembly

astronauts. Therefore, mitigating such hazards has become an important NASA goal.

Just a few weeks ago, on January 15, SpaceX launched the Blue Ghost Lander carrying the instrument called Regolith Adherence Characterization (RAC-1). The lander is expected to reach the moon

The lunar regolith contains pebble-size particles as well as more fine grains which have come from the pulverizing of rocks over millions of years of bombardment by asteroids. Evidence of this bombardment can be seen in the familiar lunar craters we see today. The regolith contains particles as small as

one thousandth of an inch making them about ten times smaller than sand grains on Earth.

The moon and its regolith are strongly affected by the constant barrage of the solar wind and cosmic rays from space. This results in the ionization of the dust, so that it becomes electrically charged, contributing to its tendency to adhere to various surfaces.

The RAC-1 instrument is designed to study the regolith's tendency to adhere to and possibly degrade the functioning of various materials. These surfaces include optical elements such as lenses and mirrors. Other materials to be tested are solar cells, metal alloys, paint coatings and fabrics. The goal is to find out which of these can best resist the moon's gritty surface and may be easiest to maintain.

Another new instrument carried aboard the Blue Ghost Lander is the Lunar Planet Vac (LPV). This new instrument will use pressurized gas to collect the lunar regolith, and deposit samples in a containment vessel. Regolith particles ranging as large as one cm in size, (roughly 0.4 inches), and down to one thousandth of an inch, will be photographed and the findings transmitted back to Earth.

NASA System Engineer Dennis Harris described the LPV as a game changer, saying, "There's no digging, no mechanical arm to wear out requiring servicing or replacement. It functions like a vacuum cleaner. The technology...could benefit the search for water, helium, and other resources and provide a clearer picture of in situ materials available."

By better understanding the lunar dust, NASA hopes to improve the durability of spacesuits, vehicles and other critical technologies. In addition, it may be that the regolith could be exploited in a positive way, to help extract oxygen or water, and maybe even in the construction of lunar habitats.

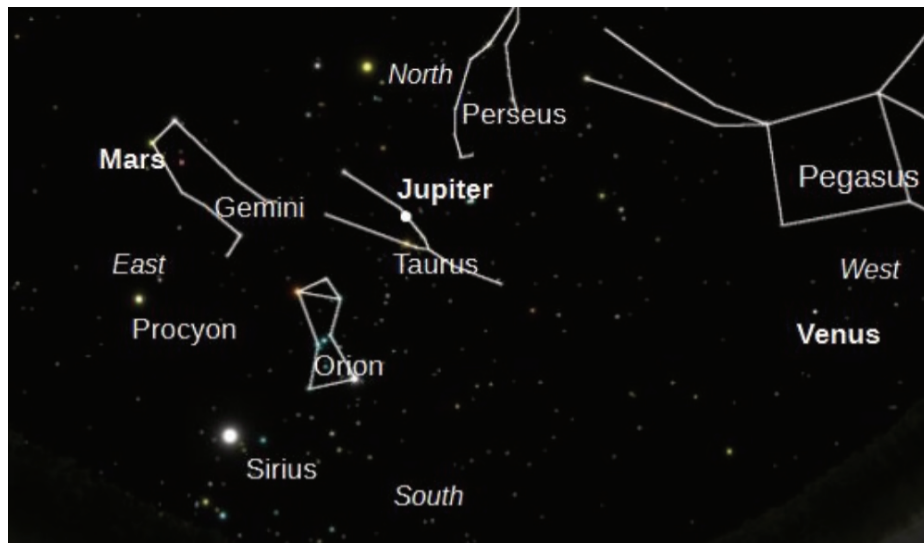
February 5 is the anniversary of the Apollo 14 moon landing in 1971, by astronauts Alan Shepard and Edgar Mitchell.

The February winter display arrives early as both Jupiter and Venus should be visible as early as 5:30 p.m. The king of planets Jupiter hangs high in the sky, while Venus is in the western quadrant. Venus is still offering a generous show and remains clearly visible until at least 7:30 when it begins to approach the western horizon before setting.

The evening sky becomes fully visible after about 7 p.m. and will include the constellations Orion the Hunter, Taurus the Bull and Gemini the Twins. The bright star Sirius is located east of Orion, and slightly south. Orion the Hunter is the most well-known of all constellations. Stargazers can see its distinctive man-shaped figure complete with two stars at the "shoulders," two at the "knees" as well as three stars making up the "belt." At the upper left shoulder of Orion, the star Betelgeuse appears with its slightly red hue.

Also, the moon will dance with a few celestial friends. On February 6 it will appear six degrees north of Jupiter, and on the 9th, watch for it to appear one degree north of Mars.

Wishing good luck and clear skies to all stargazers.



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EOE

Anglers to meet

The Ocean Pines Anglers Club will meet on Saturday, February 8 at 9:30 a.m. in the Ocean Pines library. The speaker is Fritz Pielert who was raised in West Ocean City and has fished 'stinky beach' for 65-plus years and is now retired as the 'Mayor of Stinky Beach.' An author of short stories with a lifetime of experience working the Ocean City docks, Fritz has seen community change from neighborhood working folks to the multimillion-dollar enterprise it is today. During his lifetime Fritz has worked the docks, Trimper's amusements as an artist and carpenter, and worked to help save the famous OC Life Saving Museum. All are welcome.

market
from page 7

and savory biscuits.

Isabel Walsh's passion for baking began in her parents' bakery in El Salvador, where she developed her skills and love for traditional recipes. After moving to Delaware, she gained over a decade of local experi-

ence, which she now brings to Gather Alfajores.

"Isabel and Matthew's dedication to quality and artistry is evident in every product they make," Market Manager David Bean said. "We are thrilled to welcome Gather Alfajores to the Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market. Their unique offerings add something special to our community."

The Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market is open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at White Horse Park. Visitors can enjoy Gather Alfajores' artisanal baked goods and other local products while supporting small businesses.

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

breed
from page 8

tools to keep a dog happy, healthy and well-behaved.

Training also can offset behavioral issues that may make spending time in and out of a home with a dog less enjoyable, thus reducing the chances the pet may be surrendered to a shelter. The American Kennel Club says that each dog breed has a distinct personality, instinctive drive and genetic heritage. These factors can affect trainability.

Highly trainable dog breeds

According to renowned dog researcher Dr. Stanley Coren, certain breeds are more trainable than others.

-German shepherd: There is a good reason this breed is regularly used for police and military work. The German shepherd is a workhorse and wants to please.

-Border collie: This breed can learn very fast and will be eager to learn more.

-Poodle: Although that curly coat may lead a person to believe this breed is more fluff than brains, quite the opposite is true. Poodles are keen to work and willing to please.

-Collie: Collies are known for their unwavering devotion and loyalty, not to mention trainability.

-Golden retriever and Labrador retriever: Some of the most popular family dogs around, these retrievers tend to be gentle, friendly, trainable, and eager to

please.

-Rottweiler: This imposing pup is a natural protector that wants a job to do. That makes the Rottie highly trainable.

Some dogs, such as hounds, beagles, huskies, and Akitas, are among the most challenging to train, according to experts. Such dogs' focus may be on sensing prey or doing other things they find fun, and not on a handler. But people should not grow discouraged if they have their hearts set on less-receptive-to-training breeds.

What about mixed breed dogs? What can you expect if you have an Akita mixed with a golden retriever? Perhaps aloof-

ness will mix with friendly exuberance and result in a mild-mannered pup. It often is challenging to determine the heritage of a mixed-breed dog with the hopes of gauging its willingness to be trained. Mutts tend to have more muted traits. However, if two highly trainable, active breeds comprise the DNA of a mixed-breed dog, that intense desire to work may be a negative in the home environment. Much like other factors regarding mixed-breed dogs, an owner won't know what he or she is getting until spending time with the dog over time.

Trainability is a factor people consider when picking a dog. Certain breeds may adapt to training more readily than others, but most dogs will learn the skills necessary to live peacefully with their human companions.



trust
from page 6

volunteers play in the organization's mission. "Stewardship is the backbone of conservation," he said. "Our volunteers are the eyes and ears on the ground, helping us protect the land we've worked so hard to conserve. Plus, it's an incredibly rewarding experience to connect with nature and be part of something bigger than yourself."

The training session will provide participants with an in-depth understanding of LSLT's protected easement properties and the measures taken to preserve them for future generations. Volunteers will also learn how they can assist Deuter and his team during site visits to some of Delmarva's most stunning, and often private, landscapes.

Since its founding, LSLT has

conserved over 24,000 acres of working farms, wildlife habitats, and scenic vistas. As a small nonprofit, the organization relies on dedicated volunteers to monitor and maintain these protected areas. Deuter shared, "It's a team effort. Every volunteer makes a difference, whether it's monitoring an easement or simply sharing their enthusiasm for our mission."

The Lower Shore Land Trust invites anyone who loves the outdoors and wants to make a difference to register for the February 21 session. "If you've ever wanted to get involved in conservation, this is your chance," Deuter said. "We'd love to have you join us in protecting the places that make the Lower Shore so special."

To register, visit www.LowerShoreLandTrust.org or contact Frank Deuter directly at fdeuter@lslt.org or 443-234-5587.

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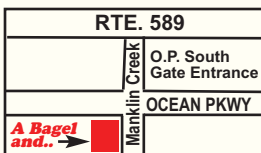
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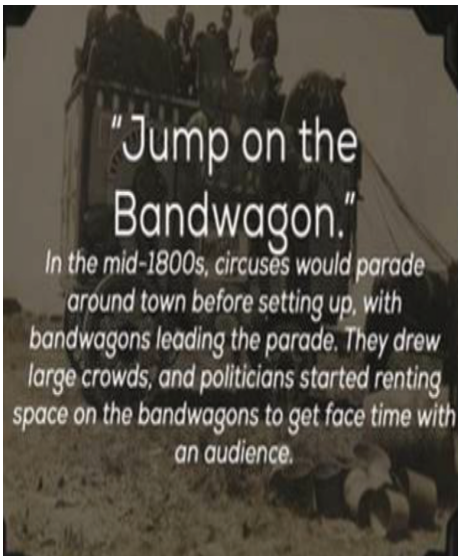


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Famous lines by famous people

Some things to think about

Gathered from the internet
by **Jack Barnes**



Sometimes, when I look at my children, I say to myself, 'Lillian, you should have remained a virgin.'

- Lillian Carter
(mother of Jimmy Carter)

I had a rose named after me and I was very flattered. But I was not pleased to read the description in the catalogue: - 'No good in a bed, but fine against a wall.'

- Eleanor Roosevelt

Last week, I stated this woman was the ugliest woman I had ever seen. I have since been visited by her sister, and now wish to withdraw that statement.

- Mark Twain

The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending; and to have the two as close together as possible.

- George Burns

Santa Claus has the right idea. Visit people only once a year

- Victor Borge

Be careful about reading health books. You may die of a misprint.

- Mark Twain

By all means, marry. If you get a good wife, you'll become happy; if you get a bad one, you'll become a philosopher.

- Socrates

I was married by a judge. I should have asked for a jury.

- Groucho Marx

My wife has a slight impediment in her speech. Every now and then she stops to breathe.

- Jimmy Durante

I have never hated a man enough to give his diamonds back.

- Zsa Zsa Gabor

Only Irish coffee provides in a single glass all four essential food groups: Alcohol, caffeine, sugar and fat.

- Alex Levine

My luck is so bad that if I bought a cemetery, people would stop dying.

- Rodney Dangerfield

Money can't buy you happiness ... But it does bring you a more pleasant form of misery.

- Spike Milligan

Until I was thirteen, I thought my name was SHUT UP.

- Joe Namath

I don't feel old. I don't feel anything until noon. Then it's time for my nap.

- Bob Hope

I never drink water because of the disgusting things that fish do in it.

- W. C. Fields

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