

The Courier

April 16, 2025 Volume 25 Number 27



Success - The 13th annual St. Joseph's Day Festival hosted by the Ocean City lodge of the Sons and Daughters of Italy entertained more than 1,500 guests. Guests enjoyed cannoli, St. Josephs cakes, 1,781 homemade meatballs, 150 pounds of sausage and 207 pounds of ravioli.

Above: **Armando Graziosi** carries a large pot of tomato sauce to be ladled over ravioli, meatballs and sausages.

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Teal Bay Mitzvah Team launches shoe drive

The Teal Bay Mitzvah Team, recently honored as the first recipient of the Good Neighbor Award in Ocean Pines, has launched a community shoe drive to benefit Sole4Souls, a nonprofit that provides footwear to people in need across the U.S. and around the world.

The team has placed collection boxes in four locations. People can drop off their gently worn shoes throughout April and May at the Ocean Pines Community Center, Ocean Pines library, Teal Bay Mitzvah (2 Riverside Court, Ocean Pines) and Titan Gym (10452 Old Ocean City Boulevard, Berlin)

Each box carries a flyer explaining how the shoes will help. Some will go to entrepreneurs in developing nations. Some will land in the hands of children who have none. All will stay out of landfills, and none will go to waste.

Moyer Move Management stepped up, donating 50 cartons for shipping, and Zappos for Good is covering the cost to send them where they belong.

“Thanks to the generosity of local businesses, organizations, and individuals, we can give new life to gently worn shoes while making a meaningful impact for people in need,” Margit Novack, a member of the Teal Bay Mitzvah Team, said.

The team won’t stop at the collection drive. On May 17, they will be at the Ocean Pines Season Kickoff event, raising awareness, gathering more donations, and reminding people that small things – like a pair of shoes – can make a world of difference.

For more information, visit www.souls4souls.org, or contact the Teal Bay Mitzvah Team at margitnovack@gmail.com.

OPA announces employee promotions

Several employee transitions were announced by Ocean Pines Association General Manager John Viola last week.

Linda Martin, currently the Director of Business Administration, has been promoted to Senior Director of Administration. She will continue to report to the General Manager. In her new expanded role, she will have responsibility for Recreation & Parks, Public Relations & Marketing, CPI, and Strategic Planning.

Justin Hartshorne, currently the Director of Golf Maintenance, was promoted to Senior Director of Golf Maintenance. Reporting to the General Manager, Justin’s responsibilities continue to be golf maintenance with an expanded role in overseeing the irrigation capital project.

“I am very pleased to make this announcement. I wish both Linda and Justin continued success in their roles,” Viola said.

Additionally, Steve Phillips, Senior Director/Controller of Finance, announced the promotion of Ruth Ann Meyer to Deputy Director effective May 1.

In her new role, she will continue to be responsible for memberships and assessments, and has taken on the additional duties of racquet sports. Terry Underkoffler, Racquet Sports Pro, will now report directly to Ruth Ann.

For more than 25 years, Ruth Ann has held several positions with Ocean Pines. “Ruth Ann has stepped up for us on a number of occasions, and she’s extremely knowledgeable about our organization,” Phillips said.

Manklin Creek and Cathell Roads to be paved

Contractors for Worcester County Public Works will be milling and paving Manklin Creek Road and Cathell Road, schedule to begin April 21 (weather permitting).

Allan Myers Contractor plans to begin the milling and paving of Manklin Creek Road beginning April 21. During this time, it is recommended to use Cathell Road as an alternative route. Road paving will take five to seven days to complete.

On April 28, crews will begin milling and paving Cathell Road. During this time, it is recommended to use Manklin Creek Road as an alternative route. Road paving of Cathell Road will take seven to ten days to complete.

Work will take place between the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Travelers should expect to encounter lane closure and delays during these hours. Flaggers will help direct traffic through the work zone.



Arbor Day - The Ocean Pines Garden Club (OPGC) hosted its annual Arbor Day Memorial Tree Planting Ceremony April 10 at Pintail Park in Ocean Pines. A tree is planted each year in memory of those who have passed in the previous year. Shown above (L - R), OPGC co-president **Lilanie Geiger**; Worcester County Commissioner **Chip Bertino**; OPGC Arbor Day Committee Chair **Ann Shockley**; OPA Board of Directors President **Dr. Stuart Lakernick**; and OPGC co-president **Nancy Mulligan**.

Heritage area celebrates economic growth legislation

The Beach to Bay Heritage Area and the Maryland Heritage Areas Coalition proudly celebrated the passage of SB 0980, allowing more funds to support Maryland’s heritage and economy. The legislation, sponsored by Sens. Paul Corderman and Michael A. Jackson, increases funding for the Maryland Heritage Areas Program—from \$6 million to \$12 million annually and raises caps on grants to heritage organizations from \$100,000 to \$300,000—allowing for higher levels of program and product development and more impactful capital projects.

Maryland is only one of two states in the nation with a state-based heritage area program. Heritage tourism has been a part of the fabric of traveling for centuries. Throughout many different nations and cultures, it is seen as an important way to learn about history in its most original form.

“The heritage area program is a partnership between state agencies, local communities and nonprofit organizations to optimize the appeal and understanding of our region’s distinctive intrinsic qualities,” said Lisa Challengier, Executive Director of the Beach

to Bay Heritage Area. “Through a variety of partnerships, we work to conserve the areas natural, cultural and historic resources in a regional heritage approach”.

“This legislation, along with the Maryland Heritage Areas Program, is essential to making sure everyone sees themselves in Maryland’s story for generations to come. We are truly grateful to Sens. Corderman and Jackson and the Moore-Miller Administration for championing this effort to expand heritage tourism and highlight the incredible range of stories, cultures, and communities that make Maryland unique.”

Maryland’s 13 certified heritage areas, which cover a portion of every county in the state and the City of Baltimore, are an economic powerhouse. By drawing visitors to Maryland’s historic sites, towns, and natural areas, they, along with tourism partners, pump an estimated \$2.4 billion into Maryland’s economy annually and support more than 40,000 jobs, delivering a strong and proven return on investment. Every \$1 the state invests

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

WATER/WASTEWATER ISSUE

What Happened?

Ocean Pines ratepayers may soon face an unfair financial burden, requiring repayment of \$6 million dollars of debt accrued by other service areas within the county. THIS IS DEBT THAT OCEAN PINES RATE PAYERS DID NOT INCUR.

Important Dates:

- When: April 23 – Commissioner Town Hall Meeting, 6 p.m.
Where: Ocean Pines Library
- When: May 6 – Worcester County Public Hearing, 6 p.m.
Where: Worcester County Government Center (Snow Hill)

What to do:

Have your voice heard! The Ocean Pines Board of Directors is requesting your support in fighting this injustice.

- Attend the above meetings
- Email commissioners@co.worcester.md.us
- Visit our website, www.oceanpines.org, for updates



BoE announces finalists in superintendent search

The Worcester County Board of Education has announced the names of the two finalists for the next Worcester County Superintendent of Schools. Each finalist will participate in a “Day in the District” experience later this month.

The finalists are Dr. Annette Wallace of the Worcester County public school system and Dr. Monique Wheatley-Phillip of the Baltimore County school system.

Dr. Annette Wallace is a graduate of Worcester County Public Schools (WCPS) and currently serves as WCPS Chief Safety Officer and Academic Officer for grades nine-12. With a history of impactful leadership, Wallace served as principal of Pocomoke High School from 2012-2018, where she doubled AP enrollment while significantly improving student pass rates and launched Project 100 to increase access to post-secondary education, all of which led to



Dr. Annette Wallace

the school becoming the district’s highest performing. Since her appointment to Chief Operating Officer in 2018, Wallace has demonstrated leadership in school construction, food services, technology, special education, all academic content areas, human resources, and student services. She holds degrees in Mathematics, School Leadership, and Educational Leadership, is actively involved in her community, and has presented as a thought leader at local, state, and national education conferences.

Dr. Monique Wheatley-Phillip brings over 30 years of experience in education, including 17 years in Title I schools as a classroom and special education resource teacher. She has led medium and large sized schools and annually supervised over 30 principals who served in diverse communities. As the Baltimore County Public Schools Division Chief



Dr. Monique Wheatley-Phillip

of Research, Accountability, and Assessment, she supervised the development of the eight-year strategic plan, which identified annual goals and specific targets for the system. A strategic thinker and planner who understands the importance of collaboration and gaining consensus, Wheatley-Phillip’s expertise in the use of evidence-based instructional practices and data analytics narrowed achievement gaps and increased performance across student groups. In her current role as a Consulting Administrator, School Operations, Wheatley-Phillip supports schools by managing the utilization of \$11 million dollars of extracurricular and co-curricular activity funds. Additionally, she manages seven million dollars in Title II grant funds that support educator development. She holds degrees in education as well as certificates in Leadership and Reading.

Each of the finalists’ “Day in the District” will include time to meet with local officials; interviews with panels of Central Office leaders, principals, teachers, support staff, business leaders, parents and community leaders; lunch with students; time to meet with

members of the media; and dinner and discussion with the Board of Education.

“The search process to find a new educational leader in Worcester County has been a top priority for this Board. We are pleased with our progress in the search so far, and we are excited to announce our two highly qualified finalists,” Board of Education President Todd Ferrante said. “We greatly appreciate the investment our community is making by participating in the upcoming focus groups and providing input to the Board. We look forward to making a final decision soon and helping our new Superintendent create a vision and plan for transitioning into this leadership role.”

The Board’s goal is to choose the top candidate for superintendent this month and vote to appoint the chosen candidate in May. The new superintendent would begin on July 1, 2025.

In January, Superintendent Lou Taylor announced he would not seek another reappointment to another four-year term, choosing instead to re-

please see boe on page 14

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HOSTED BY:

Tracy K. Jones

Dinner decisions

A consequence of our children no longer living at home is that my wife and I apply a much different thought process when deciding whether to dine out or eat at home.

it's just me and the missus. We'll often decide to go out for dinner at the last minute when we've both arrived home from work and neither of us has taken anything out to thaw. One week we ate dinner out four evenings in a row which got expensive. Not only that, but there were no leftovers for the following day's lunch.



It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

The result is that we eat out more now than we ever did when our children were around. Looking back, schlepping our kids into the car to eat a meal at a restaurant was a very rare occasion. Contending with a car seat, a stroller and then a high chair was just more than we were willing to endure. Besides, back in those days when my hair was dark and my waist was thin, we just didn't have the money to splurge on restaurant visits. However, there were occasions when as a family treat, we ordered a pizza or Chinese food which made the kids ecstatic.

Another treat for the kids was going through the McDonald's drive-thru. We would pull up to the order speaker and from the backseat the kids would start yelling out their orders in a cacophony of deafening desires. Inevitably, an inordinate amount of time was spent deciding which Happy Meal they wanted and more importantly, which toy. The back and forth over which meal and toy was preferred drove me to distraction and wore my patience thin in short order. I'd count backwards from three and if they still hadn't decided, I'd threaten to tell the server to forget about the toy. That motivated them.

Those experiences, at least with my kids, are in the rearview mirror. As frustrating as they could be at the time, I'd relive those experiences in a heartbeat if given the opportunity. I have enjoyed somewhat similar experiences with my grandchildren who never come close to stretching my nerves to the breaking point. As far as I'm concerned, they can take all the time they need to decide. Ah, the joy of grandparenting.

Now though, most of the time,

Being the good husband that I am, I often attempt to have dinner ready by the time my wife comes home later from work. Admittedly my culinary range is not vast. Standards include a roasted chicken with potatoes, an eye roast with potatoes and when I'm feeling adventurous, a pork roast with potatoes. Are you seeing a trend?

When I'm able to fire up the outside grill, my menu offerings expand accordingly: barbecue chicken with a baked potato; steak with a baked potato; or, pork ribs with a baked potato.

There are evenings when we both come home from work and neither of us has planned a meal nor are we interested or have the energy to head out to a restaurant. When that happens, a fallback meal is breakfast for dinner: scrambled eggs on a plate with a side of toast. Easy peasy.

There have also been times when we'll go back and forth asking what the other wants for dinner. "I don't know. What do you feel like?" This can go on for quite some time before we realize it's past 8 p.m. We usually decide to skip dinner, retrieving the scoop from the drawer and serving up a couple bowls of ice cream. We were much more disciplined when our kids were home. There would have been no way that ice cream for dinner would have happened if any or all three of our kids were with us. That's one of the positives of no longer having children at home.

Interestingly, found in the same situation with our grandchildren, I don't think we'd have any reservations about scooping ice cream for dinner. "Don't tell your parents."

Ah, the joy of grandparenting.



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Commentary

By Joe Reynolds
OceanPinesForum.com

Elections Committee secrecy

If there is any OPA Committee requiring transparency, it is the Elections Committee.

Unfortunately, it could be the least transparent committee, perhaps to the extent of violating the Maryland HOA Act. The last committee meeting minutes on the OPA website are from September 2024. Those minutes are interesting, stating: "Due to facility issues, the Election Committee was unable to hold our regularly scheduled meeting. Committee members who were present received copies of last year's ballot materials for review. Changes will be discussed at our next meeting."

Regularly scheduled meeting? There are no more recent committee meeting

minutes since September 2024. However, the Elections Committee has been meeting. It must be meeting. The Committee has received bids from five vendors to handle the OPA Board of Directors election process. We know this, not because the Elections Committee or OPA announced the information, rather because of reporting in the *Ocean Pines Progress*, apparently from an unnamed source. Neither the Elections Committee nor the Ocean Pines Association announced the bidding information publicly.

In recent years, the Elections Committee ignored the HOA Act or OPA's own governing documents on a number of occasions. The Board of Directors

needs to step in and make changes. The Elections Committee is too important for the Board of Directors to allow such laissez-faire operation.

Transparency rarely causes problems; lack of transparency frequently causes problems.

Based on the *Progress* reporting, it looks like Ace Printing and Mailing of Berlin has an excellent chance of handling the OPA board election this year. It might be good to again have a local contractor handle the election. Ace Printing handled OPA elections for many years without much controversy. Things went south fast after the board voted some years ago to also include Internet voting, hiring out of state contractors, and resultant issues every year since.

The Ace bid of \$18,685 is much lower than MK Solutions, the company that handled the election last year. MK Solutions this year bid \$31,539 - the highest bid received. Either they figured they were a shoo-in, based on public state-

ments from the Elections Committee last year, and went for the gold, or did not want the job again.

A company named Voatz was in third place with a bid of \$22,000 and they, like Ace, complied with the RFP requirements.

A low bid of just under \$10,000 from YesElections in New York did not comply with the RFP requirements.

Contrary to what many believe, the OPA Governing Documents provide that the Elections Committee approve the independent contractor to handle the election process, not the Board of Directors. After Committee approval, the contract is to be signed by the General Manager or the board president.

Association members can only speculate on when the Elections Committee will tell the membership what is going on.

To repeat: Transparency rarely causes problems; lack of transparency frequently causes problems.

County to host information sessions on water, sewer rate changes

This April, the Worcester County Commissioners will host a series of information sessions about proposed Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) water and sewer rate changes. At each meeting, administration and finance officials will deliver a brief presentation, along with a handout, regarding the 11 water and wastewater sanitary service areas (SSA) in the county. After the presentation, county staff will be available to answer questions.

Sessions will take place at diverse locations in Northern Worcester. Each meeting will focus on specific SSAs. Residents are welcome to attend any or all of the following sessions:

-Monday, April 21, at 6 p.m. in the Berlin Library Meeting Room – This informational meeting will focus on the Newark, River Run, Edgewater Acres, and Lighthouse Sound SSAs.

-Thursday, April 24, at 6 p.m. at Stephen Decatur High School – This informational meeting will cover the West Ocean City, Mystic Harbour, Landings, Assateague Point, and Riddle Farm SSAs.\

-Wednesday, April 30, at 6:30 p.m. at St. Paul United Methodist Church on Flower St. in Berlin. This informational meeting will cover the Bridgetown SSA.

Commissioners Chip Bertino and Jim Bunting will host a town hall meeting on this topic, with a focus on the Ocean Pines SSA, on Wednesday, April 23, at 6 p.m. in the Ocean Pines Library Meeting Room.

These sessions will present accurate, detailed information that addresses proposed water and sewer rate changes. Sessions will also cover the root causes of deficits within numerous water and sewer SSAs, some of which include aging infrastructure, increased chemicals and capital equipment costs, and pumping and hauling charges affiliated with the Riddle Farm Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) failure.

A public hearing on the requested FY26 Water and Wastewater Enterprise Fund Budget will take place May 6 at 6 p.m. in the Worcester County Government Center.

Courier Almanac

On April 16, 1929, the Cleveland Indians open the season with numbers on the back of each player's jersey, the first Major League Baseball team to do so. The numbers make it easier for scorekeepers, broadcasters and fans to identify players. Cleveland wins the game against the Detroit Tigers in 11 innings, 5-4.

Earth Day is now a global event, but its origins are somewhat humble. Prior to the 1960s, awareness of the link between public health and pollution was minimal. However, according to EarthDay.org, the 1962 publication of *Silent Spring* by American marine biologist, writer and conservationist Rachel Carson was a watershed moment for the environmental movement. The book did much to raise awareness of the effects of pollution on public health.

Indeed, the publication of Carson's book proved a pivotal step toward the eventual establishment of Earth Day in 1970, which EarthDay.org characterizes as the dawn of the modern environmental movement. Earth Day is April 22.



The
Courier

Chip Bertino Publisher/Editor

Mary Adair Comptroller

Linda Knight Advertising Representative

Contributors

Jack Barnes, Dan Collins, Ralph Farrusi, Douglas Hemmick, Joe Reynolds

Robert B. Adair 1938-2007

98 Nottingham Lane Ocean Pines, MD 21811

410-629-5906

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Trails & Waterways

Celebrate National Bike Month this May

By **Laura Scharle**

After the rough winter this area has seen, everyone seems like they are itching to get outside and explore some of the trails on the eastern shore. May is right around the corner and it happens to be National Bike Month. It's a great time to start planning some biking adventures and participating in community biking events.

Even before May is officially here, the Maryland's Coast Bike Festival kicks off on Saturday, April 26. Riders can choose between a 19-, 33-, or 48-mile route through Worcester County, all finishing at Assateague. All registered participants will receive a t-shirt, course maps, and lunch.

If you're looking for something a little more low-key, the Ocean Pines Association is hosting a spring community bike ride on Saturday, May 10. The seven- or 14-mile courses begin and end at the Golf Clubhouse. Participants must be at least 12 years old and wear a helmet. Participation

is free, but pre-registration is required by calling 410-641-7052. All participants will receive a free drink ticket—alcoholic or non-alcoholic.

For an all-ages event, Ocean Pines will also be hosting a free Bike Rodeo on Sunday, May 18 at the Swim & Racquet Club. Volunteers will be teaching bike safety skills, conducting bike safety inspections, and participants will get a chance to practice new bike handling skills. Participation is free, but pre-registration is also required by calling 410-641-7052.

As part of National Bike Month, Friday, May 16 is National Bike To Work Day. If your daily commute is on safe roads and avoids highways, or if you can take an alternative route that's safe, be sure to participate in this national movement. The idea behind National Bike to Work Day is to promote exercise and community health, highlight bicycling and road safety, and to bring awareness to a more environmentally-friendly form of transportation.

If joining a community cycling event doesn't fit in your schedule, consider celebrating National Ride A Bike Day on Sunday, May 4. While Worcester County doesn't have too many off-road bike trails aside from Assateague's bike path and the mountain biking trails in the Pocomoke State Forest, there are plenty of other bike trails on Delmarva that are worth checking out.

There is a 15-mile bike loop in the Lewes/Rehoboth area that is almost completely separated from roads. Between the stunning Gordons Pond Trail, the bike loop within Cape Henlopen State Park, and the wooded Junction & Breakwater Trail, this loop offers a lot of variety. You will need to pedal on the roads through the towns of Lewes and Rehoboth, but riding through town provides excellent opportunities for a lunch break or happy hour spot.

In addition to the 15-mile loop, the construction of the Lewes-Georgetown bike trail is also well underway, with over 7 miles of trail

completed and open to cyclists.

Neighboring Somerset County has a great rail trail connecting Marion Station to Crisfield. The trail is currently about 4.5 miles long, with plans to extend several more miles, all the way to Westover.

While the Maryland district of Assateague has a great off-road bike path, the Virginia district also has some great paved trails to ride. The Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge has a 7-mile trail system including the Wildlife Drive loop, Woodland Trail, and a ride out to the Tom's Cove Visitor Center.

Find more details, directions, and photos of each of these trails at delmarvatrailsandwaterways.com.

Laura Scharle enjoys all things outdoors and is an avid kayaker. She resides in Ocean Pines with her husband and son. In 2020, Laura developed www.DelmarvaTrailsandWaterways.com to connect people with trails, beaches, piers, and public lands across the peninsula.



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Stories of the Resurrection as told in the Gospels

Easter is a holy day on the Christian calendar that commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The resurrection of Jesus is described in the Gospels of the New Testament, which millions of Christians read every year, especially during the Lenten season, which is a 40-day period that directly precedes Easter Sunday.

The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John comprise the canonical Gospels. Each book can help Christians understand and connect with the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The following are passages from each of the canonical Gospels that help to tell the story of the resurrection of Jesus.

Matthew 28: 1-10

Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. But the angel said

to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to



Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you." So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

Mark 16: 2-7

And very early in the morning, the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulcher at the rising of the sun. And they said among themselves, "Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulcher?" And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great. And entering into the sepulcher, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted. And he saith unto them, "Be not affrighted: ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him. But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you."

Luke 24: 1-12

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in daz-

zling apparel. And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise." And they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles, but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.

John 20: 1-10

Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. So she ran and went to

please see stories on page 14

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Kennedy teaches anyone can take great photos

By **Elaine Bean**

Got an iPhone? Tom Kennedy can teach you how to take great photos with it. Or with whatever camera you have. Take Janice, for example. She wanted to take pictures of her beloved birds, but knew nothing about her new camera.

“Janice’s family bought their mother a camera so she could take

cameras and covering photo composition, lighting, aperture, shutter speed, and ISO. On June 21, he’s teaching “Photography with Your iPhone and iPad,” covering how to capture professional-looking pictures with a cell phone, share photos and move them among devices, and use the built-in apps to crop and apply special effects.

No photography experience is necessary, and Kennedy will even come to private homes to teach those who cannot travel. “Teaching and tutoring photography locally keeps me in touch with the community,” he said. “You do not have to spend a lot of money to enjoy photography, and you can do it for your entire life.”

Kennedy’s interest in photography began in high school in New York, where he photographed landscapes and wildlife. “I have been interested in photography most of my life ... My interest peaked when I was asked to run my high school’s dark room.”

After years of working as a Special Agent with the Department of Justice and then as a contractor with the U.S. Army serving in Iraq for 14 months, Kennedy moved to the Shore in 2014 and is now a freelance photographer.

“While attending training in Washington D.C. in the early 1970s, I went to the Eastern Shore almost every weekend,” Kennedy remembered. “I thought this would be a great place to live one day and never changed my mind.”

Kennedy works part time at Glen Riddle Golf Club and can be seen on the beach during the warm weather taking family portraits. He also photographs golf tournaments and sporting and special events, served on the Ocean City Community Emergency Response Team, and is a member of the Ocean City Elks Club. He has traveled the world taking photos in more than twenty

countries, continually expanding his skills and techniques.

“My love of photographing wildlife has taken me from the Andes mountains in South America, to the Galapagos Islands, and most recently, South Africa, Botswana and Namibia. I have taught photography in South America, Europe and Asia. Photography allows me to be creative and connect with nature and individuals.

“I see the world differently through a lens and admire what I am seeing, then try to capture the moment, emotion or story of the scene, individual or animal as I see and feel it.”

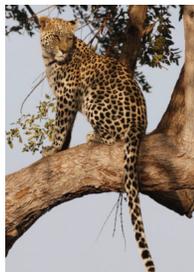
The local landscape is also an inspiration for Kennedy. “Quaint towns like Berlin, great landscapes, sunsets, water ways, abundant wildlife and the activities in Ocean City, Berlin and

Ocean Pines offer great photo opportunities all year round. I recently discovered Mariner’s Country Down. An



Tom Kennedy

photos of birds from her deck, but she was not familiar with photography,” Kennedy recalled. “Janice let me know that all she wanted to learn was how to take good pictures of birds. Not exactly where you start with a beginner. She was a great student and within a few months we were friends. Tutoring ended, as two friends we would just sit on her deck, and I would answer her questions, and she could practice. Janice has become an incredible photographer. I brag about her in all my classes as a great success ... Her picture was chosen to be the title page one year for the Cornell Lab Feeder Watch calendar.”



Kennedy currently teaches photography in regular monthly classes at the Art League of Ocean City. On May 31, he’s teaching “Introduction to the Art of Photography,” a beginner’s level workshop using traditional DSLR

unbelievable find.”

Kennedy believes continued growth is important in his personal work. “The Art League of Ocean City is a great place to admire other artists work and observe and learn from their techniques. What keeps me passionate is trying to stay current in this great art form.”

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Why you should use a family-run travel agency

By **Cindy McCabe**
Bethany Travel

In a world where online booking engines and travel apps are just a click away, it may be tempting to DIY your next getaway. Before diving into a sea of confusing options, uncertain policies, and fluctuating prices, consider this: a professional travel agency that doesn't just book trips but one that transforms them into stress-free, personalized, and memorable experiences.

Consider a family-run, locally owned travel agency free of corporate influence, giving them the flexibility to focus solely on what matters most - their clients. They may be small, but their strength lies in their personalized service and powerhouse knowledge of the travel industry.

Booking with a travel agency means saving time and avoiding

stress. They handle all the research, planning, and coordination so you can focus on enjoying your trip. From the first inquiry to the final itinerary, their team ensures every detail is handled with care. No long hours scrolling through booking sites or trying to piece together transportation and excursions — they've got it all covered.



One of the standout benefits of working with a travel agency is the insider access they offer. Thanks to their long-standing partnerships and industry expertise, they can unlock exclusive perks, upgrades, and special experiences that simply aren't available through online platforms. Whether it's a room upgrade, resort credit, or a personalized welcome amenity, they consistently go above and beyond to elevate your travel experience.

Even better, the recommendations you receive aren't one-size fits-all. A local travel agent takes the time to get to know your preferences, travel style, and budget. Whether you're planning a bachelorette getaway, couples' golf trip, wedding party escape, or just a friends' retreat to the Caribbean, they tailor each trip to fit exactly what you want — no generic packages or cookie-cutter itineraries here.

Another reason clients return to their local travel agent time and time

again is their unmatched support. With a 24/7 answering service, you're never left in the lurch if something goes sideways during your trip. No robots, no endless wait times - just real help from a real person on their team, anytime you need it. That level of service provides peace of mind that online travel sites simply can't offer.

A travel agency also specializes in all types of destinations and experiences. Their top-selling vacations in-

please see travel page 12

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Health Watch

Avoid ticks and lyme disease this spring

By **Alyce Marzola**, MSN, RN
*Manager of Population Health
Atlantic General Hospital*

Nearly 500,000 people in the United States contract Lyme disease each year. Ticks carrying the bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi* pass it to humans by a bite, which causes the bacteria to migrate through the skin and sometimes into the bloodstream. Antibiotics offered soon after can help most people.

Blood tests can take several weeks to turn positive, however, so recognizing the early symptoms is important. The most common indicator is a rash that develops after you've spent time outdoors, especially if it has a bullseye or circular shape that expands over a day or two.

Undiagnosed cases of Lyme can lead to serious complications, including arthritis, meningitis and heart problems. About 10% to 20% of people experience persistent fatigue, joint pain, mental impairment and other symptoms lasting for months to years.

Ticks have an incredible ability to hitchhike. While spending time outdoors this summer, keep the following tips in mind to avoid tick bites and Lyme disease:

- Be sure to avoid tall grass and dense brush by staying toward the middle of hiking trails.

- Wear light-colored clothing so you can easily spot the dark-colored bugs. Wear long-sleeved shirts, long

pants and closed-toed shoes, tucking your pants legs into your socks.

- Use proven repellents, containing at least 20% DEET.

- Spray repellent on your skin, ideally in an open area, according to the directions on product labels.

- DEET can be used on children and infants older than 2 months, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Avoid applying the product to children's hands and around the eyes and mouth. Children under age 10 shouldn't apply repellent to themselves.

- Consider spraying clothing, shoes and camping gear with insecticides that contain 0.5% permethrin, following label instructions and applying the chemical in a well-

ventilated area.

- Keep the spray and any still-wet treated items away from cats, because permethrin is toxic to them.

- Do regular tick checks when you're outside, even if you're dressed defensively, and check again every time you come indoors.

- Take a shower and feel for new bumps on soapy skin. This can also wash away the tick before it has a chance to bite.

- Pay special attention to areas where ticks try to hide, including under the arms, in and around the ears, inside the belly button, behind the knees, between the toes, under hair, in groin areas and near the waist.

- Wash clothing after time spent outdoors.

Ticks can transmit Lyme disease after being attached 36 to 72 hours, so finding them earlier helps.

If you do find a tick, use pointed tweezers to remove it. Grasp the tick at its mouth where it's attached to your skin, and pull back slowly, steadily and firmly, as you would do for a splinter. The tick will eventually ease out. After removing the tick, clean the area with soap and water.

If you develop a rash, call your doctor and ask for a Lyme test. But take note: Not all tick bites produce the bullseye or lead to any rash at all.

It's important to also pay attention to how you're feeling. See a doctor if you have fatigue, fever, aches and pains, or headaches.

Kelly Foods continues AGH anniversary sponsorship

As May approaches, Atlantic General Hospital Foundation is preparing to present one of its largest fundraising events, the annual Anniversary Celebration. This is a very special occasion for Atlantic General Hospital, as it is a time to come together to celebrate the hospital that the community helped create thirty-two years ago.

Bob Kelly, former president of Bil-Jac Foods, also known as Kelly Foods Corporation, has always found great value in donating to the community hospital and had signed on to be Legacy Sponsor again this

year shortly before retiring. The continued endorsement was and still is important to him and his family. Kelly Foods and the Kelly family have contributed more than \$275,000 to Atlantic General Hospital since 2004. Under the new ownership of Entrepreneurial Equity Partners, otherwise known as "e2p", there are still plans to continue the Kelly family's tradition of sponsoring Atlantic General Hospital's annual Anniversary Celebration. Local vice president Robert Garner is eager to continue and honor the legacy that Bob has created.

"For over 20 years, it has been a primary goal of Bil-Jac to create a tight-knit relationship with the local community here in Berlin," stated Garner. "We feel that Atlantic General has been a cornerstone in the community for many years, and it has been an absolute pleasure supporting the initiatives of the hospital and its efforts to create a healthy community for Worcester County. This legacy is important to us because it not only shows our ongoing dedication to supporting the needs of AGH, but it also ties to our objective of being present in the local community. The relationship between Bil-Jac and AGH has played an important role to the Kellys. Through my tenure with the company, Bob has always stressed the

importance of providing AGH with continued support. We look forward to working together with the hospital in the future and enjoy being a part of the growth and success it's experiencing."

Bob Kelly's father, Bill, and Bill's brother, Jack, founded Bil-Jac Foods in 1947 based on their passion to help dogs thrive by improving their nutrition through the best combination of ingredients, vitamins and minerals. Although the Kelly Foods headquarters is located in Medina, Ohio, they also have a presence in Berlin. Their pet food plant is located half a mile from Atlantic General Hospital, and directly across the street from the AGH Foundation's building.

Additional event sponsorships are available at www.agh.care/agh32. Several sponsorship levels include a number of complimentary admissions to attend the celebration at Brooklyn Meadows in Berlin. Guests are encouraged to wear Country Cocktail attire for the outdoor event that will take place, rain or shine, during the evening of Thursday, May 8, from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. Features of the gala include an abundance of sophisticated hors d'oeuvres, an array of stylish cocktails, and live musical entertainment for your listening and dancing pleasure.

travel

from page 11

clude all-inclusive resorts, European and Alaskan cruises and land tours, and Disney and Universal vacations, but they don't stop there. From Hawaii to Australia, Las Vegas to Nashville, and everything in between --- including customized international itineraries --- if you can dream it, they can plan it.

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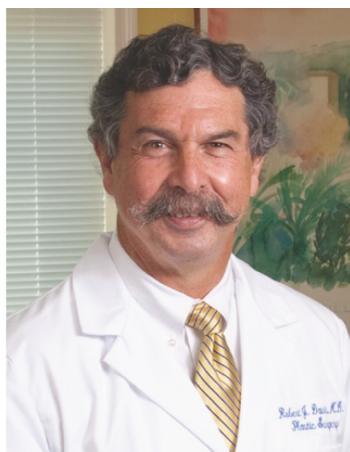
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stories
from page 9

Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples went back to their homes.

heritage
from page 2

in the Heritage Areas Program generates an estimated \$7 in economic benefits for local communities.

"I was proud to be a sponsor on this important piece of legislation for Maryland," Sen. Michael A. Jackson said. "This legislation will allow for additional funding in the future to highlight and lift up the stories of all Marylanders. It will assist the Maryland Heritage Area program in providing access to grants and funding to organizations and communities across our great state that will build our economic strength, which is particularly important now that so many are facing hardship at the federal level. It is a win for Maryland!"

While the legislation does not guarantee funding, it allows for the Maryland Heritage Areas Program to receive a greater share of Program Open Space funding from the state's transfer tax should it become available.

"I was honored to assist with this important bill passing," Sen. Paul Corderman said. "I look forward to continuing to support the work done by the heritage areas across the state. We appreciate the Maryland Heritage Areas Coalition involvement as well, with lining up countless pieces of testimony!"

boe
from page 3

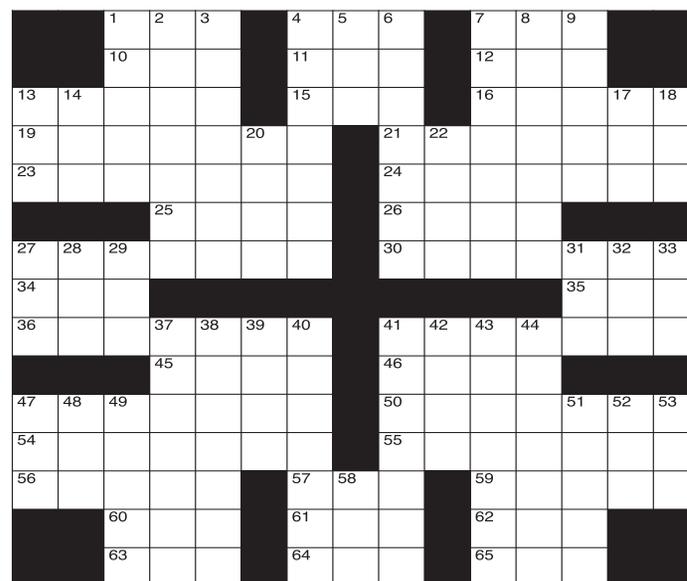
tire after his 41 years of service to the school system. Following Taylor's announcement, the Board of Education contracted with the Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) to conduct the search process. Public input was gathered in February to inform the search process for a new superintendent. Participants were asked to describe the characteristics they sought in a new Superintendent. This Superintendent profile was used when reviewing candidate qualifications.

In March, the superintendent opening was posted widely so that qualified local, state, and national candidates could apply, with the first consideration of applications on March 26. The Board conducted interviews to select the finalists who will participate in the extensive interviews April 22 – 23, with various stakeholder groups. These groups will provide input to the Board as it prepares to choose a new superintendent.

Additionally, the legislation will help Maryland prepare to honor two important anniversaries—the United States' 250th in 2026 and Maryland's 400th in 2034—ensuring these historic milestones receive the recognition they deserve while fostering pride and community across the state.

"The passage of this legislation comes at a critical time for our state's heritage as we approach both the 250th anniversary of the nation's founding in 2026 and the 400th anniversary of the state itself in 2034," Nicholas Redding, president and CEO of Preservation Maryland said. "Given the many challenges and opportunities ahead, we made this legislation a top priority, which now paves the way for increased funding, larger grants, and better outcomes for Maryland's Heritage Area program."

Maryland's heritage areas are locally designated and state-certified regions where public and private partners make commitments to preserve historical, cultural, and natural resources for sustainable economic development through heritage tourism. At the local level, heritage areas focus community attention on often under-appreciated aspects of history, living culture, and distinctive natural areas, thus fostering a stronger sense of pride in the places where Marylanders live and work.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. English TV station
- 4. It fuels cars
- 7. Where ships dock (abbr.)
- 10. Indigenous people of Thailand
- 11. Midway between northeast and east
- 12. Small Milky Way constellation
- 13. Fritz __, Austrian chemist
- 15. A Brit's grandmother
- 16. Colombian city
- 19. Visualize
- 21. Charged
- 23. People's assets
- 24. Informative books
- 25. Jeer
- 26. You can do it with your horn
- 27. Agents of your downfall
- 30. Central Uganda city
- 34. Supervises flying
- 35. Type of tree
- 36. Alfalfa
- 41. Dishwasher soap brand
- 45. Hall where military eats
- 46. Ancient Greek City
- 47. Speaks incessantly
- 50. Discuss again
- 54. Extreme greed
- 55. Adopt or support
- 56. Fantasy writer Russell
- 57. Seize
- 59. Early Mesoamerican civilization
- 60. Noted pet detective Ventura
- 61. Automobile
- 62. Georgia rockers
- 63. Color opposite green
- 64. Amount of time
- 65. Attempt

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Sheep sound
- 2. Some can be emotional
- 3. Inflammation of colon lining
- 4. Origins
- 5. Comedienne Gasteyer
- 6. Perceived by the senses
- 7. A place to play ball
- 8. Occur before
- 9. Animal body parts
- 13. Thanksgiving dessert
- 14. Root mean square (abbr.)
- 17. 1960s teen idol Bobby
- 18. Promotional materials
- 20. One point east of northeast
- 22. Piers Anthony protagonist
- 27. Popular sports league
- 28. Cologne
- 29. Partner to cheese
- 31. Constrictor snake
- 32. Not good
- 33. Supplement with difficulty
- 37. Hug with fondness
- 38. Enforced again
- 39. Small amount of time (abbr.)
- 40. Substance
- 41. Anterior parts of the brain
- 42. Brews
- 43. Where ships load cargo
- 44. Holiday season singer
- 47. "__ humbug!"
- 48. Monetary unit of Macao
- 49. Popular children's book elephant
- 51. Glutinous
- 52. Function
- 53. Old world, new
- 58. Swiss river



Answers for April 9

Some things to think about

Gathered from the internet
by **Jack Barnes**

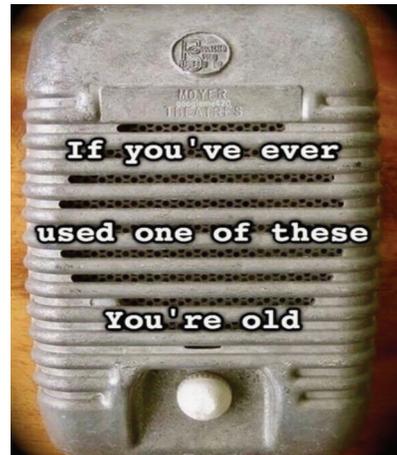


{ Three simple rules in life }

1. If you do not GO after what you want, you'll never have it.
2. If you do not ASK, the answer will always be NO.
3. If you do not step forward, you'll always be in the same place.



JOKE OF THE DAY-BUMPER STICKER ON A SENIOR'S CAR "I AM SPEEDING BECAUSE I HAVE TO GET THERE BEFORE I FORGET WHERE I AM GOING"



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