

The Courier

April 23, 2025 Volume 25 Number 28



Visit - Most everyone has heard that Touch of Italy is the new organization that took over from Matt Ort to provide food services at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club, Golf Club and the Beach Club. The owner of Touch of Italy, Bob Ciprietti, visited the Kiwanis Club as the guest speaker on April 9. The Yacht Club and Golf Club will be formally opened on May 1. Bob shared that significant investments were made to update the facilities and ambiance. The facilities are open to the public, not just Ocean Pines. Touch of Italy in Ocean Pines will offer not only an Italian menu, which its name implies, but a variety of other types of foods.

Above: (L-R) **Bob Ciprietti** and Kiwanis Club President **Tom Southwell**.

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Cropper named Teacher of the Year

In a celebration of excellence in education, Worcester County Public Schools (WCPS) announced the 2025 Worcester County Teacher of the Year:

Chef Phillip Cropper of Worcester Technical High School (WTHS).

During its 38th annual Teacher of the Year celebration, Worcester County Board of Education President Todd Ferrante made the announcement following a program honoring all 14 school-level teachers of the year and their commitment to providing a high-quality edu-



Chef Phillip Cropper

cation to the young people of Worcester County.

“I am so proud of both Phil and all of the incredible teachers we have honored this evening,” said Superintendent of Schools Lou Taylor. “Chef Cropper will be a fantastic representative not only for his school, but our en-

tire school system as he progresses to the state-level program. He truly embodies what makes Career and Technical Education so special through his passion for creating hands-on learning experiences both within and beyond the classroom.”

Holding dual degrees in culinary and pastry arts, Chef Cropper has led the WTHS culinary program since 2012, creating innovative, student-centered learning experiences. Guided by his *Education Without Walls* philosophy, he connects students to their community, emphasizing engagement, collaboration, and real-world application.

“Students thrive when they see the relevance of their education and know someone believes in their potential,” Cropper said in his portfolio. “By immersing myself in organizations and initiatives that champion student success, I model the importance of lifelong learning and active participation in one’s community. Every experience I’ve had— as a professional, volunteer, and educator—comes back to enrich my students’ lives. I hope to leave a

legacy of empowerment, inspiring students and educators to embrace learning, leadership, and advocacy as lifelong pursuits.”

Cropper was one of four finalists announced during the program, who were in the running for the prestigious title. The other outstanding finalists were Shelby Matassa of Snow Hill Elementary School, Alison Semanchik of Buckingham Elementary School, and Gretchen Wallace of Pocomoke High School.

Cropper was selected by a panel of judges representing experts in the field of education, community leaders, and the current reigning 2024 Worcester County Teacher of the Year. All candidates were judged based on a rigorous set of criteria in alignment with both the state- and national-level Teacher of the Year programs, which include instructional abilities, collaboration, building connections with our community, leadership and innovation both in and out of the classroom, and the ability to articulate their education beliefs and advocate for how to better this field.



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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





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**Updated Manklin Creek, Cathell roads
milling and paving schedules**

Worcester County Public Works has contracted with Allan Myers to mill and pave Manklin Creek and Cathell Roads in Ocean Pines this April. Beginning Monday, April 21, road crews from Allan Myers will begin milling Manklin Creek and Cathell Roads. The following week, crews will pave both roads. All work will take place between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. and take about two weeks to complete. Residents can expect some lane closures and delays in their commute. Flaggers will guide motorists through the work zone.

Wor-Wic to hold golf tournament

The Wor-Wic Community College Foundation is holding its annual golf tournament on Friday, June 6 at the Ocean Resorts Golf Club in Berlin, with all proceeds to benefit the college. This year, the college is commemorating its 50th anniversary. The community can support Wor-Wic’s affordable education and workforce training programs through tournament sponsorships and donations of auction items. Visit worwic.edu/golf or contact the foundation at foundation@worwic.edu or 410-344-2965 for more information.

Ocean Pines Bay Day returns

The sixth annual Bay Day event returns to White Horse Park in Ocean Pines on Sunday, May 18 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bay Day is a collaborative conservation effort between the Maryland Coastal Bays Program (MCBP) and the Ocean Pines Association aimed to help improve the health of the waterways that shoulder the residential shores of Ocean Pines. This free, family-friendly event caters to all age groups through hands-on activities, boat tours, live music, food trucks, live animal exhibits, and more. “The Maryland Coastal Bays Program relies on our communities to help us protect the resources and ecology of our Coastal Bays. Events like Bay Day are important to communicate relevant and current environmental information to interested citizens and provide a basis of support to help keep our waterways clean and beautiful”, says MCBP Executive Director Kevin Smith. “People should feel welcome to come and stay all day,” Liz Wist, MCBP Education Coordinator says. “We are thrilled to be adding a few new elements this year- there will be a storybook walk, a sensory area for littles, and a scavenger hunt for all ages. The idea behind Bay Day is to provide something for everyone and we hope that our application of feedback from previous years will make this year the best yet.” The event this year will feature more than 30 conservation partners, including the Assateague State Park, Delmarva Discovery Museum, the National Aquarium, the Art League of Ocean City, and the US Coast Guard Auxiliary, and more. There will be live music from Schizophrenic Boogiemens, bay boat tours on the OC Bay Hopper, and food from The Street Kitchen, and Kona Ice. The first 200 attendees will receive a canvas bag, hand-painted by students from Worcester County Public Schools. The recycling station will be back this year. Community members can bring their alkaline batteries, old phones and more to drop off for recycling. Go Green OC will also collect compost. For more information on the compost and recycling program, and for weekly Bay Day updates, visit the “Bay Day in Ocean Pines” event on Facebook at <https://fb.me/e/4fjR7lO3Z>.

**The
Negro Leagues**



A Celebration of History

Saturday April 26	10am-12pm Germantown School 10223 Trappe Rd. Berlin, Md.
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Join **Dr. Clara Small**, Professor Emerita, Salisbury University as she discusses the history of the Negro Leagues with particular emphasis on the Leagues of Delmarva and their players, including Hall of Fame inductee, Snow Hill's **“Judy” Johnson**.

Reservations are recommended!

To reserve a space or for more information,
email: germantownschool@gmail.com or
phone: (410) 641-0638

NOTICE

*The Courier will be on hiatus next
week and will return May 7.*

Taking photos

“Kodak moments.” At one time that was the Kodak camera slogan. That was a long time ago when Kodak cameras reigned supreme. But even though the cameras are his-

pocket. Out of 12 pictures, there may have been six or seven that were okay.

As time went on, I became more discriminating in taking pictures. I didn’t need a photo of every blooming flower in the garden. Eventually, I just took pictures at family gatherings, group shots mostly. All these pictures were saved in photo albums that had sticky pages on which I placed the photos and then overlaid a thin, clear vinyl-like cover. They were ensconced forevermore.

It’s been a lot of years since those albums have been pulled out and looked through. I think they’re in the attic.

Through the years I transitioned from the Instamatic to a Polaroid camera. Then came a 35-mm camera. Then there were several different digital cameras, a couple of which are sitting in the closet collecting dust. Now, all I use is my phone to take pictures. It has more features and offers better quality than any of my earlier equipment. And the best part of all is, I don’t have to pay for film processing and it’s always with me so I can capture spontaneous moments.

There’s really no limit to the number of pictures I can take which has absolutely no relationship to the number of good pictures I snap. There must be hundreds, maybe even thousands, of pictures stored on my phone. I hardly ever look through them, except maybe when sitting waiting to be seen by the doctor. That’s when I’ll go through and delete the really awful pictures.

Sharing photos immediately with family is a nice feature that my phone has that my Instamatic did not. Why shouldn’t everyone have a cute snapshot of Chooch and Pyper sitting together?

Looking back to when my Instamatic was new, the rotary telephone was mounted on the kitchen wall and a postage stamp was 10-cents, there is no way I could have envisioned a future when I could take pictures with a personal cellular telephone that I kept in my pocket, and then send them instantaneously to family across the country. Nope. No way.



It’s All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

tory, the sentiment of capturing a picture “moment” remains. Cell phone cameras have replaced the once ubiquitous Kodak Instamatics and Polaroids. We are free to capture more special moments than ever especially because there’s no film to process.

I can’t remember which Christmas it was when I received a Kodak Instamatic camera that used 110 film and had a disposable vertical flash bar. I was an excited 10 or 11-year-old snapping pictures of everything – my brother making funny faces or the dog barking. The functions of the camera were simple: point and shoot. There was no zoom feature nor could I take rapid pictures. Snap the shutter. Advance the film. Repeat. That was it. Matthew Brady I was not.

I learned I could quickly take a dozen pictures, using up all the film in the camera. And then? Well, I had to save my allowance so I could pay for developing the pictures and to pay for another roll of film. By the second roll of film, I concluded that my brother’s faces weren’t all that funny. How many pictures did I need of him crossing his eyes and sticking his tongue out?

The Fotomat was in the parking lot of Krewstown Shopping Center where we dropped off used rolls of film. We’d wait about a week for the pictures to be ready. It was exciting ripping open the envelope and pulling out the picture sleeve. Then there was disappointment when I realized some of the pictures were too dark while others weren’t centered, some were taken from too far away and still others were just black. I must have inadvertently snapped the shutter while the camera was in my



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Reader Letter

Ratepayers deserve better

The following letter was sent to the Worcester County Commissioners and shared with The Courier by the author.

Dear Commissioners:

Worcester County representatives have a responsibility to us, the people who live here and pay taxes. Employees and elected officials of our county, please stand up to the responsibilities you have accepted in managing our money. We expect basic standards.

I live among neighbors who managed their finances, paid their way, saved for their futures, bought or built homes here in Worcester County. As we each cast our votes we expect integrity and honesty in those who represent us. We also expect accountability.

The mismanagement of funds in the water and sewer account does not meet this basic standard, not by a long shot. An annual increase estimated at

around \$128 per household is hard to swallow. As I understand it, that is just for starters.

Part of the action that needs to be taken is an accounting, reckoning, audit, call it what you want, of **what** happened; **how** did this get to this level; **who** is responsible? Once you have uncovered those answers, I want to know, what will be done about it and what safe guards will be in place going forward.

I have only heard one proposal, that is to raise the rates on everyone in the county, even though over half of the rate payers, Ocean Pines residents, have not contributed significantly to the deficit. Not sure what school of accounting this proposal is from, none that would be accepted in any business. If there was a problem in Ocean Pines, would the rest of the rate-payers in the county be willing to cover that additional expense?

The people of Ocean Pines don't have deep pockets for the county to reach into, or a vault full of gold bricks, or a blank check for you to cash, or any other pay and pay and pay scheme. We are individuals and families, retired and employed, renters and owners who live here by choice and expect competent and honest actions from our county government.

We demand that our home-owners association carefully review annual budgets, give monthly statements on income and expenses, and be open to questions from each of Ocean Pines residents. Will our county officials be willing to be held to the same scrutiny?

Worcester County has a resort

community, farms of all sorts, a national seashore, state, county, and town parks, historic communities, developed communities with home owners associations, and hamlets that have been here for hundreds of years. So it makes sense that we have seven county commissioners to represent all of the diverse interests. It is now time to work together, tackle this problem, and provide answers to all of us. We all are Worcester County.

Thank you for bringing this to our attention and for seeking equitable solutions.

Sincerely,
Kathryn A. Ferrusi
Ocean Pines

Tingle appointed chairman of Political Action Committee

The Independent Community Bankers of America (ICBA) announced recently that Reid Tingle,



Reid Tingle

president/CEO of Bank of Ocean City and current ICBA Board member, was appointed Chairman of ICBA's Political Action Committee. As the nation's voice for community banks, ICBA's sole focus is ensuring community

banks and the customers they serve continue to flourish.

"Community banks are the heartbeat of Main Street, driving local economies and forging lasting relationships with consumers and small businesses," said Tingle. "I'm honored to contribute to

ICBA's mission, ensuring that community banks have a strong voice in policy discussions and access to education and innovative solutions that strengthen their ability to serve local communities."

In this role, Mr. Tingle will help shape and promote ICBA's policy positions and programming, engage in grassroots advocacy efforts in Maryland, and serve as a bridge between local community banks and ICBA leadership in Washington, D.C.

"Reid brings invaluable insight and dedication to the table, reinforcing the importance of community banks in fostering economic stability and opportunity," said ICBA Chairman Jack Hopkins, President and CEO of Cor-Trust Bank in Sioux Falls, S.D. "We appreciate Reid's leadership and commitment to advancing ICBA's mission and look forward to working together to champion policies that empower community banks and the communities they serve."

Bank of Ocean City is a locally-owned, independent community bank. Established in 1916 and headquartered in West Ocean City, the bank has six offices; two in Ocean City, one in Ocean Pines, one in Berlin, one in Fenwick Island, DE and our newest office, located in Selbyville, DE. For more information, contact President Reid Tingle at the 59th Street office at (410) 524-6144.

Courier Almanac

On April 23, 1985, The Coca-Cola Company announces that it is changing the formula of its signature soft drink for the first time in 99 years. The short-lived, sweeter New Coke, as it is called, debuts to a consumer backlash that pundits call the marketing blunder of the century.



When buying a child's first bike, shoppers should prioritize a bike that is lightweight, which will be easier for the child to maneuver while learning. The general rule of thumb is to find a bike that weighs less than one-third of the child's overall weight. Choose a bike that has minimal features, and opt for models that have a single gear and no complex braking systems. The child should be able to comfortably straddle the bike with their feet flat on the ground, and the seat height should be set where the child's legs are slightly bent at the bottom of the pedal stroke. According to BikeExchange.com, the first bike a child owns likely will feature 12-inch tires and will often come with optional training wheels. Children between the ages of two and five may progress to 14-inch tires and then increase that size as they grow and gain experience. Although it can be less expensive to purchase a child's bike at a big box retailer, more personalized service is often available at local retailers that specialize in bikes.

Letters sent to The Courier for publication consideration must be signed and include a telephone number where the author can be reached to verify authenticity, if necessary.

Letters are not corrected for spelling or grammar and priority will be given to letters of 300 words or less. Letters must be received by Friday at 5 p.m. They can be e-mailed to:

thecourier@delmarvacourier.com

The Courier

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Carozza reports on legislative session

On the final day of session, the Maryland General Assembly approved a \$67 billion budget for fiscal 2026 including \$1.6 billion in new fees, including a new 3% sales tax on IT and data services. Passing a balanced budget is the only constitutionally-mandated duty of the Maryland General Assembly.

Budget and taxes

"This budget hurts Marylanders at every level, from low to middle to high-income families," said Senator Mary Beth Carozza, who voted against the operating budget and tax increases. "The biggest losers in this year's budget are individual taxpayers and Maryland businesses as well as local governments as the State continues to pass along costly unfunded mandates to the locals."

"With a \$3 billion budget deficit predicted to grow to \$7 billion in the next three years, we knew going into this session that we were facing extremely difficult budget challenges," said Senator Carozza. "But it was wrong for the Democrat leadership to push these huge tax hikes and put the

burden of Maryland's budget crisis on the back of Marylanders."

During the Senate vote on the budget reconciliation bill, Senator Mary Beth Carozza stated "I represent a district that borders two other states, so I'm especially sensitive to businesses, retirees, and other constituents who have already left or are planning to leave Maryland. Our constituents were hit with a \$3.3 billion budget deficit and were hit again with skyrocketing energy costs. They expected us to bring forward proposals that balanced the budget without harming them further, and given all the challenges our constituents are facing, I strongly reject and voted against this year's budget and historic tax increases."

Senator Carozza joined with her Senate Republican colleagues in offering an alternative budget proposal that would have cut \$1.8 billion and did not include tax increases. The proposal included:

- A 5% across the board spending cut for state agencies;
- A state employee hiring freeze and pause in planned cost-of-living sal-

ary increases;

- Pausing spending increases for the Blueprint education plan; and
- Rolling back Medicaid eligibility that has been significantly expanded during the COVID-19 pandemic. Currently a family of four making \$100,000 is eligible for Medicaid.

During the Senate budget debate, Senator Carozza offered an amendment which would have paused fund increases to the Blueprint for the next two fiscal years. This pause in incremental fund increases would save Maryland taxpayers \$88 million. Additionally, the pause would have allowed state and local education authorities and stakeholders, including parents and teachers, time to address existing concerns with the Blueprint so that Maryland can maximize its potential benefits.

"I believe this pause is the time we need to take a hard look at the recommendations of the local superintendents to work with all of our education partners, to guarantee the success of the Blueprint at the local level, therefore benefiting our state's

most important resource: our students," Senator Carozza said on the Senate floor. The amendment was rejected by a 13-30 vote.

Capital budget highlights

The Maryland General Assembly also approved the Capital Budget in the final days of the 2025 legislative session, which includes funding for several local projects in Worcester, Wicomico, and Somerset counties. Senator Carozza voted for the capital budget. Here are District 38 highlights:

Worcester County:

\$2 million, Ocean City Beach Replacement and Hurricane Protection Program

\$250,000, Worcester County Fire Training Tower

\$79,000 Atlantic General Hospital

\$20,000, Worcester County Humane Society (secured by Senator Mary Beth Carozza)

Wicomico County:

please see session on page 9



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\$35 million, Salisbury University Blackwell Hall Renovation
\$2.2 million, TidalHealth Peninsula Regional
\$1.5 million, Salisbury Regional Airport
\$361,000, Salisbury University Blackwell Hall Student Services Center
\$200,000, Mason Dixon Complex – Phase II (secured by Senator Mary Beth Carozza and Delegate Barry Beauchamp)
\$150,000, Parsonsburg Fire Company Community Center (secured by Delegate Wayne Hartman)
\$75,000, Wicomico Nursing Home (secured by Senator Johnny Mautz)
\$20,000, Wicomico County Humane Society Shelter Construction (secured by Senator Mary Beth Carozza)
Note: Wor-Wic Community College will receive an unspecified amount for their Maintenance Building Expansion through the Community College Facilities Renewal Grant Program. 14 Community Colleges will receive in total \$3,011,000.


Somerset County:
\$8.7 million, Somers Cove Marina Bulkhead Replacement and Facility Improvements
\$5.8 million, ECI High Temperature Distribution and Perimeter Security Improvements
\$1 million, UMES New Residence Hall
\$100,000, Walter Polk American Legion (secured by Senator Mary Beth Carozza and Delegate Charles Otto)

Energy legislation
The Maryland General Assembly approved Senate Bill 909 (Energy Resource Adequacy and Planning Act) amended, and Senate Bill 931 (Renewable Energy Certainty Act) amended, and Senate Bill 937 (Next Generation Energy Act) amended to address Maryland’s energy crisis.
Senate Bill 937 would expedite the approval process for up to 10 energy projects in Maryland that meet the definition of “dispatchable energy.” Four non-emission-generating projects must be approved for every one project that generates emissions. The bill also creates a separate procurement process of new nuclear projects

and battery storage projects.
“Along with an unseasonably cold winter, the long-time push for renewable energy and climate change mandates to electrify Maryland’s energy grid, the premature retirement of coal and oil generation facilities without an adequate replacement, and the growing reliance on energy from outside of the state have led to Maryland’s energy crisis and skyrocketing rates for ratepayers,” said Carozza.
“Our constituents expected us to take action on ratepayer relief and to incentivize in-state generation of electricity, and these energy bills simply did not go far enough to ensuring the lowest cost and greatest benefit to Maryland ratepayers.” Senator Carozza voted for SB 937, noting the legislation takes small steps in increasing nuclear energy and natural gas energy generation, and provides minimal ratepayer relief.
Senator Carozza voted against Senate Bill 931, the Renewable Energy Certainty Act. “This bill was problematic from the start as it makes it easier for the Public Service Commission to approve large-scale solar projects across the state and override local zoning decisions, putting agricultural land

and greenspace at risk,” said Senator Carozza. “This would be especially hurtful to our farm community on the Eastern Shore.”
Senate Bill 931 would place a five percent cap on solar development in each county’s priority protection area, after which zoning authority would revert from the Public Service Commission back to the county. In essence, this undermines the ability of county governments to act in the best interest of their local communities regarding the regulation of renewable energy.
Senate Bill 909 requires long-term comprehensive energy planning and policy options for meeting the State’s energy needs while ensuring electric system reliability and cost-effectiveness.
“We should have been doing long-term energy development planning all along, and then we would have known the true and full costs of alternative energy development like offshore wind before spending millions of dollars on costly State subsidies benefitting foreign offshore wind energy developers,” said Senator Carozza. “I will continue to push the Public Service Commission and my colleagues to utilize
please see session on page 10

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methods of calculation that factor in that wind and solar are intermittent sources of energy that are supplemented by other energy sources which ends up costing the ratepayers.”

Senators Carozza and Steve Hershey (District 36 – Upper Shore) introduced Senate Bill 675, legislation requiring a full cost analysis of energy generation including offshore wind. Senator Mary Beth Carozza voted for SB 909.

Second look

The Maryland Second Look Act (House Bill 853) will allow individuals serving life sentences who committed their crimes when they were between the ages of 18-25 to petition for an early release after serving at least 20 years. This includes those convicted of the most violent crimes including rape and murder. These individuals can make repeat petitions every three years, retraumatizing the family and loved ones of their victims over and over again. These “look backs” are in addition to 17 other opportunities for reduced sentences that already exist in Maryland law.

“This is a pro criminal bill that would retraumatize victim’s families,” said Carozza. “This legislation would allow someone convicted of murdering a pregnant woman to have a second look, it would allow someone convicted of murdering a victim under the age of six to have a second look, it would allow someone who was convicted of being involved with heroin or fentanyl to have a second look, it would allow someone convicted of murder involving a victim 65 years or older or with a physical, intellectual, or developmental disability to have a sec-

ond look, and it would allow someone convicted of murder involving more than one victim to have a second look. The families of the victims will never have a second look,” said Senator Carozza when casting her “no” vote in opposition to House Bill 853.

Senate Republicans attempted to amend the bill to exclude the worst offenders, and were successful on one account. An amendment by Senator Jack Bailey (District 29 – St. Mary’s) received bipartisan support to remove the early release option for those convicted of murdering first responders in the line of duty.

“As I cast my vote in support of this pro first responders amendment, I thought of Corporal Glenn Hilliard, Corporal Keith Heacock, and Correctional Officer Gregory Collins, and how they were killed in the line of duty and how their families are living with the devastation of losing their loved one,” said Carozza. “These families don’t get a second look at their loved one, and this amendment ensures that those convicted of killing our first responders will not get a second look and early release from prison.”

The pro first responders amendment passed on a close 24-23 vote. Fortunately, the amendment survived and was part of the final bill. Senator Carozza voted for the Bailey amendment and voted against the final bill.

Law enforcement win on House Bill 1222

Sheriffs and law enforcement from across the State of Maryland gathered in Annapolis on March 27 to keep the pressure on in strong opposition to House Bill 1222 which would end the 287g programs in Maryland, a program that allows local law enforcement to work with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials to remove violent offenders from our local communities.

The final version of HB 1222 approved by the Maryland General Assembly on Sine Die did **NOT** eliminate the 287g programs in Maryland. “This program has allowed for a strong partnership between local law enforcement and federal ICE officials in keeping our communities safe from violent criminals,” said Senator Carozza. “I especially am grateful to Sheriff Lewis, Sheriff Crisafulli, and Sheriff Howard for the extra effort they made to be in Annapolis to oppose the elimination of the 287g program in Maryland.”



Students from Worcester County recently inducted into the Delta Gamma chapter of Alpha Beta Gamma at Wor-Wic Community College are shown in the front row, from left, **Juliana Brown, Morelia Camacho-Arriola and Lizardo Chuez**. In the back row, from left, are **Jessica Cropper, Isabel Hernandez-Weber and William Melgar**.

Business honor society inducts new members

The Delta Gamma chapter of Alpha Beta Gamma, a national business honor society, recently inducted new members at Wor-Wic Community College.

Leading the induction ceremony was Dr. Tracie Brady, associate professor of business and advisor to the chapter, with student officers Katherine Rimel, president; Kordell Kelley-Rawl, secretary; Jean Hupke, treasurer; and new inductee Nicole McMichael, vice president.

Along with McMichael, inductees from Wicomico County were Kaitlin Burton, Aleeyah Dennis, Alexia Dill, Marcus Fontaine, Torre Phillips, Aiden Pusey, Elizabeth Rogers, Nathan Rosengren, Jennifer Tremont and Calaan Williams.

Inductees from Worcester County included Juliana Brown, Morelia Camacho-Arriola, Lizardo Chuez, Jessica Cropper, Isabel Hernandez-Weber and William Melgar.

Also inducted were Ayleen Ramirez Godinez of Caroline County and Mariah Smith of Sussex County, Del.

Founded in 1970, Alpha Beta Gamma is the national honor society for students enrolled in business and professional curricula at two-year degree-granting institutions. It was established to foster excellence, leadership training and an intellectual climate for sharing

ideas. Members are eligible to enter national essay competitions, attend the national leadership conference and apply for scholarship opportunities.

Summer program for children offered at Wor-Wic

The on-campus child development center at Wor-Wic Community College in Salisbury is accepting registrations for Camp Jordan, a summer day camp program for children from five to eight years old that runs from June 23 through Aug. 8.

Camp Jordan features a different theme for each week and consists of instructional, indoor and outdoor activities. Weekly programs run Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Parents can register their children for all seven weeks or choose which weeks work best for them. Registration for the camp is due by May 9.

The children have an opportunity to learn about art, science and geography. Themed weeks include “Aloha Summer,” “Under the Sea,” “Ready Set Game” and “Campfire Snacks.” Campers can take part in arts, crafts, games, science experiments and field trips throughout the summer.

For more information, visit www.worwic.edu or call the child development center at 410-334-2962.

NOTICE

The Courier will be on hiatus next week and will return May 7.



Little library - The Ocean City - Berlin Rotary Club recently built and donated a little free library to The Antigua Cono on 85th Street in Ocean City. The library will be placed by the entrance to the beach for owners and visitors to use. Pictured are (l-r) are Rotarians **Larry Krause** and **Cliff Berg** and **Mary Dischinger** from The Antigua. The Club meets the first and third Wednesday of the month at Don's Seafood at the South Gate of Ocean Pines.

Benefits of spaying and neutering

Each year millions of dogs and cats are euthanized in shelters because of overpopulation. Just a few years ago, during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, shelters were emptied out as pet adoptions reached all-time highs. Now that offices have reopened and people have returned to work and other activities, pets increasingly are being surrendered to shelters again, once more leading to over-taxed shelters and other facilities.

Overburdened shelters also are made worse by litters of animals born to unsterilized parents. The American Veterinary Medical Association says spaying and neutering are important tools for preventing unplanned or unwanted litters, and reducing pet overpopulation. Most experts agree there is little benefit to leaving pets' reproductive systems intact. Even family pets can get loose and mate unintentionally. The following are six notable benefits to spaying or neutering a pet.

1. Prevent the conception and birth of unwanted animals.

2. The ASPCA says spaying prevents uterine infections and decreases the incidence of breast tumors, which are malignant or cancerous in about 50 percent of dogs and 90 percent of cats. Spaying a pet before the first heat offers the best

measure of protection.

3. Neutering male animals prevents testicular cancer if done before six months of age.

4. Neutered animals are less likely to roam and become nuisances. Female cats can go into heat four to five days every three weeks during breeding season. While in heat they will yowl and urinate frequently. Males will be on the prowl for females and can get into fights. Spaying and neutering reduces these tendencies.

5. Neutering and spaying are a lot less costly than having and caring for a litter. It also prevents medical treatment from being needed in the event a pet gets into a fight over mating.

6. Although the surgery will reduce some undesirable behaviors, it is not a magic fix for all behavioral problems, including bad habits.

The ASPCA says the traditional age to sterilize dogs is between six and nine months. Healthy puppies as young as eight weeks can undergo a spaying or neutering surgery. For cats, it is generally considered safe for kittens as young as eight weeks old. To avoid the start of urine spraying, neuter or spay a cat before the animal reaches five months of age.

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Optimist Art Awards - The 2025 OC-Berlin Optimist Club Visual Art Contest award winners are pictured with their certificates. Standing from left to right are the participants **Caroline McCreedy, Lilly McClure, Tobi Blaska, Adee Carmean, Aaralyn Lillquist, Emery Anthony, Nicole Sebastian, Hannah Giardina, Elsie Booth, Lainie Booth, and Milana Christensen.** Standing behind are OC-Berlin Optimist Club President **Christine Dolomount** (left) and Visual Arts Chair **Sharon Sorrentino** (right), along with Worcester Prep’s Lower School art teacher, **Cathy Roman** (second from right).

Gardening offers more than a day in the sun

Millions of people embrace opportunities to get back in their gardens each spring, and they might be

reaping more rewards from that activity than they realize. According to the American Institute of Stress, gardening sparks a level of creativity among enthusiasts, and that can help to alleviate stress by lowering levels of the hormone cortisol. In addition, authors of a 2022 study published in the journal Urban Forestry & Urban Greening concluded that gardening during the COVID-19 pandemic helped people cope with coronavirus-related stress through outdoor activity.



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Wild Blue Yonder

Twin Mustang's 'Dubious distinction'

By **Ralph Ferrusi**

I've been a "Mustang nut" - more specifically, the Rolls Royce Merlin-engined P-51D/K Mustangs - since I was a kid. Near the end of World War II another Mustang appeared: the P-82 Twin Mustang. Two Mustangs stuck together, pretty much joined at the hip.

In October 1943 North American Aviation began working on slapping two P-51s together. Based on the P-51H, it was originally designed as a very long-range escort fighter able to travel over 2,000 miles without refueling. It was intended to escort B-29s on 2,000-plus mile missions from bases in the Solomons or the Philippines to the Japanese mainland that was beyond the range of the P-51.

In the prototype the left propeller turned upward, opposite the right propeller, approaching the center wing. But, during its first flight the aircraft *refused* to become airborne. After a month of head scratching, the engines and props were exchanged with their rotation meeting on the *downward* turn. The plane took off.

Both cockpits of some P-82s were equipped so they could be flown from either position, allowing alternate control on long flights, but later night fighter versions had controls in the left cockpit only, with a radar operator on the right. World War II ended before the first production P-82s became operational.

Early P-82s were powered by the Mustang's Packard-built Rolls Royce Merlin V-1650. When the War ended later models were powered by the Allison V-1710-100, resulting in a lower top speed and poorer high-altitude performance. This gave the P-82 the dubious distinction of being one of the few aircraft in U. S. military history where the earlier versions were faster than the fighter version.

The Air Force accepted 272 P/F-82s between 1945 and 1949, eight production variants, A through H were manufactured at North American's Inglewood, California plant. In 1948 P-82s were re-designated F-82.

During the Korean War, Japan-based F-82s were among the first USAF aircraft to operate over Korea. F-82s destroyed

20 enemy aircraft: four in the air, 16 on the ground. Ten F-82s were lost.

The F-82 Mustang had a short operational life, phased out of service by Republic F-84 Thunderjets and Lockheed F-94 Starfires. They were scrapped, declared excess and/or sent to storage or disposal. The last Twin Mustang (46-377) was officially retired on November 12, 1953.

Surviving F-82s

Airworthy: XP-82 44-83887 was restored to flying status by aircraft restorer Tom Reilly. After ten years and 207,000 manhours, its first post-restoration flight was on New Year's Eve 2018. This was its first flight since December 1949. Half the plane had been found on a farm in Ohio. The other half, an entire wing and fuselage, were fabricated. A left-turning V-1650

Merlin was found in a shed in Mexico City, and a woman in Tampa, FL possessed an F-82 cockpit canopy.

On display: F-82B 44-65162 and F-82B 44-65168 *Betty Jo* are on display at the National Museum of the United States Air Force at Wright-Patterson AFB in Dayton, OH. The *Betty Jo* made history in 1947 when it flew nonstop 5,051 miles from Hawaii to New York, without refueling, in 14 hours and 32 minutes, averaging 347.5 mph.

F-82E 46-0262 - is on display as a "gate guard" at Lackland AFB.

Under Restoration: F-82E 46-0256, an intact airframe formerly located on the same farm in Ohio as the XP-82 is currently under restoration to flying status.

The F-82 served nobly in Korea and beyond. I am very glad there is, finally, one flying again. I truly hope, someday, to actually see this now-very-rare aircraft in the skies, and, be thrilled.

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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CLUES ACROSS

1. McCarthy acolyte Roy

5. Ancient Korean chiefdoms

10. Not soft

14. Jai __, sport

15. Philosophy

16. Do what you're told

17. Gaffe

18. Widely known and esteemed

19. Amusement park attraction

20. Popular comic strip Viking

22. Usually has a lid

23. American sportscaster

24. Lung fibrosis

27. General's assistant (abbr.)

30. Pouch

31. Upset

32. Partner to hem

35. Astronomy unit of distance

37. Witch

38. Gradually disappear

39. Regions

40. Possesses

41. Body parts
42. A way to comprehend

43. Defraud

44. Sandwich type

45. Expression of disappointment

46. Popular Dodge truck model

47. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet

48. Soviet Socialist Republic

49. Songs to a beloved

52. Custom

55. Partner to cheese

56. West Indies trees

60. Member of a Semitic people

61. Plant that originated vegetatively

63. Squandered one's money

64. Ethiopian river

65. Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues

66. Acquire by one's efforts

67. Irish goddess

68. Hungarian village

69. Cereal grasses

CLUES DOWN

1. Currency

2. Ceramic jar

3. Reagan's Secretary of State

4. God worshipped in Kanesh

5. One thousand cubic feet (abbr.)

6. Semitic

7. About blood

8. Benign tumors

9. Move one's head

10. Hours (Spanish)

11. Hebrew calendar month

12. Advise someone

13. Colors clothes

21. The sun does it

23. Concealed

25. City of Angels hoops team (abbr.)

26. Droop

27. Away from one another

28. Challenges

29. A harsh scraping sound

32. Attaches to a wall

33. Capital of Ethiopia: __ Ababa
34. German river

36. Disappointed

37. Star Wars character Solo

38. Supervises flying

40. Not mass-produced

41. Nonsense

43. Automobile

44. Hogshead (abbr.)

46. Soak in water

47. Flower cluster

49. Romanian city

50. A parent is often one

51. Fencing sword

52. Body part

53. Region

54. Farm building

57. Ali's surname at birth

58. Waxy bird beak covering

59. Stiff bristles

61. VCR button

62. Small amount

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Answers for April 16

Some things to think about

Gathered from the internet
by **Jack Barnes**

Picked up a hitch-hiker. Seemed like a nice guy.

After a few miles, he asked me if I wasn't afraid that he might be a serial killer?

I told him that the odds of two serial killers being in the same car were extremely unlikely

It's been a bit of a strange day!
First I found a hat full of money.
Then I was chased by an angry man with a guitar...

As I watch this generation try to rewrite history,
one thing I'm sure of.... it will be misspelled and have no punctuation.

Me: (sobbing my heart out, eyes swollen, nose red)...I can't see you anymore... I am not going to let you hurt me like this again!

Trainer: It was a sit up. You did one sit up.

MY MIND IS LIKE MY INTERNET BROWSER

19 TABS OPEN
3 OF THEM ARE FROZEN &
I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE THE MUSIC IS COMING FROM

If you see me talking to myself,
I'm having a staff meeting.

So apparently RSVP'ing back to a wedding invite 'maybe next time' isn't the correct response

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