

The Courier

January 7, 2026 Volume 27 Number 16

Cutlip appointed to Board of Education

The Worcester County Commissioners appointed Jackie Cutlip to the Board of Education (BOE) to fill the remainder of a four-year term through November 2026. This vacancy was created by the resignation of Katie Addis.



Jackie Cutlip

"I chose to volunteer for the opportunity to fill the vacant Board of Education seat because I believe it is important to ensure that strong, thoughtful efforts to support and improve Worcester County Public Schools continue without interruption," Cutlip said. "As a mother of three WCPS students—two currently enrolled and one recent graduate—I have been actively involved in our school system for more than 13 years in a variety of roles. Supporting student safety, transparency, and strong school communities has long been important to me, and stepping forward for this role felt like the right decision at this time."

Cutlip, who has owned and operated Bayside Boat Rentals in Ocean City with her husband since 1999, was appointed to represent the vacant District Six (Northern District) seat.

"Worcester County Public Schools welcomes Mrs. Jackie Cutlip to the Board of Education. We appreciate her willingness to serve our students, staff, and community," Superintendent of Schools Annette Wallace said. "I look forward to working collaboratively with her as we continue to advance the work of public education in Worcester County."

An active and engaged community member, Cutlip has invested her time and talents in Worcester County Public Schools for more than a decade. She served as PTA president and as a member of the School Improvement Advisory Committee at both Showell Elementary School and Berlin Intermediate School. She also served on the countywide School Safety Committee and was selected twice to participate on Superintendent Selection Committees. Cutlip currently volunteers as a field hockey coach with

please see **boe** on page 6



Collection - Ocean City Berlin Optimist Club Toys for Tots Chairman **Dena Holloway** (l) and Club Secretary **Jodi Seibenberg** (r) collected 58 toys at the Optimist Christmas Party. The toys were added to hundreds of toys already collected for the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves and distributed to Eastern Shore families in need during the holiday.

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Big Game Scramble set

Golfers are invited to tee it up at Ocean Pines Golf Club during the Big Game Scramble on Sunday, February 8.

The two-player scramble tournament will feature a shotgun start at 10 a.m. Registration is \$20 per team and includes range balls, entry into the prize pool, a hot dog, and a beer. Greens and cart fees will be paid the day of the tournament (\$35 for non-members; members pay their regular membership rate).

For more information or to register, call 410-641-6057.

RWWC to meet

The Republican Women of Worcester County will hold their January General Luncheon meeting on Thursday, January 15 at Worcester Technical High School located at 6290 Worcester Highway (Rt 113) in Newark. The guest speaker will be Maria Sofia, government affairs, CATO Institute and first vice president of Maryland Federation of Republican Women. Her topic will be "How to use AI effectively and safely." For more information, please go to gop-womenofwc@gmail.com.

New class for caregivers offered

Wor-Wic Community College is offering a new non-credit class, "The Joy of Creative Engagement: Finding Joy in Your Caregiving Journey," through its continuing education and workforce development division. The class is in partnership with the nonprofit Stories Love Music, and will be taught by its executive director, Ilyana Kadushin.

The class is recommended for both professional and family caregivers of people with dementia. It is appropriate for health care workers in memory care settings, recreational directors, nursing assistants and students in health care fields, as well as family members. It will coach participants on how to use music as an emotional anchor, stress management tool and artistic intervention. Participants will explore diverse forms of creativity in a supportive environment where they can share experiences and connect with other caregivers. It will also provide access to practical tools for navigating the complex emotional landscape of caregiving.

The class will meet on five Thursdays starting January 15, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., in Room 300 of Fulton-Owen Hall on the Wor-Wic campus. To register, visit the non-credit offerings section of worwic.edu and look under professional development on the health care page.

In addition to her work with Stories Love Music, Kadushin has served as an adjunct faculty member at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, among other teaching and artistic experiences.

Classics display at library

During the month of January, the Ocean Pines library window display will show a complete collection of Classics Illustrated Comics dating back to 1941 and ending in 1969. Recognizing the appeal of early comic books, Russian-born publisher Albert Kanter believed he could use the new medium to introduce young and reluctant readers to great literature. He created Classics Comics for Elliot Publishing Co. in 1941 with its debut issue being *The Three Musketeers*, followed by *Ivanhoe* and *The Count of Monte Cristo*. Classic Comics is marked by varying quality in art and is celebrated today for its often garish but highly collectible line-drawn covers. Classics Illustrated remains a significant part of comic book history, having introduced generations of readers to classic literature in an innovative and accessible format. Whether you are a collector or simply interested in classic stories, this complete collection of 169 mostly original classics offers a unique way to experience timeless tales through illustrated adaptations.



Two winners crowned Pup of the Pines

With a tie for the most number of votes, this year's Pup of the Pines contest brought in two winners: Scrapple, an English Bulldog mix, and Bay Blazer, a Golden Retriever.

Votes were cast at the Community Center, as well as at the annual Halloween/Fall Festival, with the results announced at the Hometown Christmas tree lighting ceremony on November 29. This is the first time there have been two Pups of the Pines.

Scrapple loves making new friends. Scrapple's owner says he loves going to the library where his mom works – he even has his own library card! His favorite book is "Don't Eat Bees." He got to go swimming for the first time at this year's Doggie Swim

and enjoys going to the Ocean Pines Farmers Market every Saturday to get fresh string beans.

Bay Blazer's family says she's never met a stranger. She loves all dogs, people, cats, and bunnies, and even likes chasing squirrels. She enjoys going for walks at the park, picking up sticks and trash along the way. Her favorite activities including the Mumford Pool Doggie Swim and the Doggie Beach Bash.

As the "Pups of the Pines", Scrapple and Bay Blazer will each receive a free 2026 dog park registration and will be the official faces of the dog park for 2026. They will also be featured in the Ocean Pines Activity Guide and other postings throughout the year.

Specials, live music at the Clubhouse Bar & Grille

There's plenty to enjoy this January at the Clubhouse Bar & Grille, with weekly food and drink specials, live music, and game-day fun.

Mondays feature \$10 Smash-burgers from 11 a.m. until close, along with Music Bingo from 4–6 p.m. Happy Hour runs from 4–6 p.m. on Mondays and Fridays, while Thursdays offer all-day Happy Hour. During Monday and Thursday evening NFL games, guests can enjoy a complimentary chili bar with all the fixings, starting at 6 p.m.

Fridays include \$10 nine-inch Bulldog-style pizzas available all

day, plus live music from 5–8 p.m. The January Friday night live music lineup includes:

- January 9: Lennon La Ricci
- January 16: Jack Bannon
- January 23: Opposite Direction
- January 30: Jack Bannon

On Saturdays, enjoy Wii Bowling on the big-screen TVs from 2–5 p.m. Sundays round out the week with NFL Ticket coverage. Both days include all-day specials and giveaways.

Off-season hours are Thursday through Monday, 9 a.m. to close, and the Clubhouse is closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

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The best gift

The Christmas lights have dimmed and the voice of Andy Williams has faded. The holiday is a memory, over too soon yet again.



It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

Mine was an enjoyable season spent as often as possible with my four grandchildren who, for a nearly a fortnight, were nearby. My oldest grandchildren arrived from Kentucky with their parents a couple days before Christmas.

Given the limited time together, I did my best to spend as much time with them as possible, often manufacturing opportunities.

We have a Countdown to Christmas ornament box that has a 24 little pull-out drawers for each day leading up to Christmas. My wife had the idea to have each grandchild pull open a

drawer to find candy, little toys or random one-dollar bills. I created Nino Certificates to insert in four of the drawers. The certificates entitled the bearer to lunch with Nino at McDonald's. Each grandchild wound up with a certificate. After Christmas my wife and I piled the kids (ages one to 13) in the car and headed to the Golden Arches. It's been a long time since I've spent

so much at McDonald's. My two older grandchildren have appetites and ordered accordingly. When the clerk told me the total, I felt lightheaded. But it was worth it. It's not often we have all our grandchildren to ourselves. I enjoyed watching the kids interact with one another, munching on their chicken nuggets and Quarter Pounders as I sipped my small cup of water.

The two oldest kids stayed overnight a couple times which was enjoyable. Yet, I have to admit, with just my wife and me in the house now, adding a teenage girl and her nearly

teenage brother to our regular routine takes some getting used to. Within an hour, their clothes were spilled all over the bedroom arranged in a system only they could decipher.

The television was tuned to shows I could not follow yet compelled them to squeals of laughter – a generation divide many times over for sure. I didn't mind. It was nice hearing their giggles from the other room as I earnestly googled teenage humor on my phone.

One evening, my oldest grandson asked to make dinner for us. Sounded great. What would you like to make I asked. Filets was the answer. I don't mean fish filets either as I learned when he asked where we could purchase Wagyu steaks. I quickly readjusted his expectations. He invited his uncle (my youngest son) who is an executive chef. My son was more than happy to attend and volunteered to be my grandson's Sous Chef, a gesture that made my grand-

son beam.

Off to Food Lion we went in search of steaks and little golden potatoes for the smashed potato side he wanted to make. Two Food Lion stores later, my grandson found steaks that were acceptable. Such a discerning eye has he; such a lighter a wallet have I.

My grandson and his uncle worked together in the kitchen which was a treat to watch as I sat at the bar sipping a glass of wine. It was interesting to watch my son giving his nephew professional pointers that were eagerly learned.

The meal that night was excellent. My grandson was very proud of himself as well he should be, especially when he earned his uncle's seal of approval.

There were many more memorable moments – bowling, antiquing, playing monopoly and more. Many gifts were exchanged this Christmas. But the best, had no wrapping at all - just four grandchildren happy to spend time with Nino.



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Reader Letter

Feeling positive about economy

Editor:

I don't understand why Democrat politicians are campaigning on "the affordability crisis" now when I can't recall them commiserating with us about it back in 2022 and 2023 when we really had an affordability crisis (caused by President Biden's policies which were actively supported by the Democratic party). When President Trump left office in January 2021, the inflation rate was 1.4%. By January 2022 Consumer prices were up 7.5% which was the largest 12-month increase since the twelve-month period ending February 1982. This rise was driven by significant increases in food and energy prices. By June 2022 the inflation rate was 9.1%. Over the next year the inflation rate slowly dropped, but never to the level of January 2021. This outrageous increase in the CPI (Consumer Price Index and Inflation are basically the same thing) cost American families thousands of dollars over the four years of the Biden presidency. Again, I don't

recall any Democrat politicians railing about this outrageous inflation and the cost to American families. The inflation rate for December 2025 is 2.7%. Another consideration is gasoline prices: in January 2021, the average price in the U.S. for a gallon of gas was \$2.39. By January 2022 it was \$3.30 per gallon and by January 2025 it was \$3.08. In December 2025, a year after President Trump took office, the average price was \$2.89. Unfortunately, it appears that a sizable percentage of Americans are listening to the gloomy prognostications of the mainstream media and Democrat politicians, because in surveys they don't feel positive about the economy. I know I feel a lot more positive today than I did four years ago. And I am eagerly looking forward to seeing the results of President Trump's policies in the coming years.

Elizabeth Hahn
Bishopville

General Manager reports Association updates

At the December 20 regular meeting of the Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors, General Manager John Viola provided several updates on ongoing and upcoming projects throughout the community. Construction on the South Fire Station is slated to begin in February 2026, with an estimated 60-week timeline to completion. OPA is currently working with its attorney on the construction contract, which is expected by the end of December. A meeting with the county regarding the required permit is scheduled for January 5. OPA plans to present the final contract to the Board for consideration in January. Phase II of the Golf Course Irrigation Project began earlier this month. Crews are currently working on hole number 4 and are marking new irrigation head locations with pin flags. Proposed updates to the Ocean Pines Yacht Club, Clubhouse Pavilion, and Beach Club are continuing to move forward. OPA is working with Touch of Italy and Vista, with the next steps including construction bids and Board approval. Capital requests for these improvements were approved at the October Board meeting. Viola also announced that the Boat Slip Project at the Clubhouse Drive canal is currently on hold and is not included in the General Manager's pro-

posed budget. Work is ongoing on the Fiscal Year 2026/2027 proposed budget. A Budget and Finance Committee presentation was held December 18, along with a DMA working session on the draft study. The Board reviewed the proposed budget on December 19. A Town Hall meeting will be scheduled in January, with Board approval anticipated by February. The proposed budget includes a \$40 increase in assessments to offset the cost of the new firehouse and rising water rates, as well as an estimated 43% increase in the cost of public safety services. Financials for November 2025 showed a favorable variance of approximately \$31,000 compared to budget, with most departments finishing the month under budget. Year-to-date financials reflect a favorable variance of \$366,000, though this represents a decrease compared to November 2024. "I'm very happy with all of it," Viola said during his financial report. The Board of Directors also approved a Capital Request of \$406,000 for Irrigation Replacement on the Ocean Pines Golf Course. The request was presented by John Viola and Director of Golf Maintenance Justin Hartshorne and approved unanimously by the Board.


boe
from page 1

Worcester County Recreation & Parks. "While several excellent candidates expressed interest in filling the vacancy, the commissioners unanimously agreed that Jackie is the right fit for this position," Commissioner Jim Bunting said. Her years of collaboration with other parents, teachers, and administrators – both in the schools and throughout the community – make her an ideal WCPS partner. "I am sincerely grateful for the trust placed in me by the commissioners and

for the opportunity to serve," Cutlip said. "I will approach this role with an open mind, a strong work ethic, and a commitment to listening, collaboration, and getting meaningful work done on behalf of our students, staff, and families." The BOE is made up of seven members who serve staggered, four-year terms. Each member is elected from one of the seven election districts. BOE members meet the third Tuesday of each month at the BOE office in Newark. Vacancies that occur between elections are filled by the commissioners.

Courier Almanac

On January 7, 1927, the Harlem Globetrotters basketball team travels 48 miles west from Chicago to play their first game in Hinckley, Illinois.



An act of the United States Congress approved in 1800 continues to have an impact even today, when it's still paying dividends for lawmakers, librarians, scholars, and the general public. As Congress prepared to move the national government from Philadelphia to Washington in 1800, founding father and then-President of the United States John Adams approved an act allocating \$5,000 for books to be used by Congressmen. Thus marked the beginning of what is now known as the Library of Congress, which has since become the largest library in the world as well as the home of the U.S. Copyright Office. In 1802, President Adams's successor, Thomas Jefferson, made the job of Librarian of Congress a presidential appointment, and it remains so today. The Library of Congress continually adds to its collection, which currently consists of millions of books in roughly 470 languages.

Art League announces ‘Art Uncorked’

Reservations are now being accepted for the Art League of Ocean City’s fundraising event, “Art Uncorked,” to be held on Thursday, Feb. 12, 2026, 6-9 p.m. in the ballroom of the Ocean Pines Yacht Club. The event supports the nonprofit Art League and their many outreach programs.

Known for memorable events such as the annual pARTy of the Year and the upcoming 10th season of the Ocean City Film Festival, the Art League is continuing their momentum with this new event based on wine pairing and romance close to Valentine’s Day.

“Art Uncorked is a fundraising dinner where love, creativity, and Italian wine come together in perfect harmony,” Rina Thaler executive director of the Art League, said. “The night promises to be a heartfelt celebration

of passion — for food, for wine, for art, and for giving back. Whether you’re sharing the night with a sweetheart, friends, or fellow art lovers, this is the perfect way to toast Valentine’s Week — an unforgettable evening of wine, art, and heartfelt giving.”

Guest will enjoy a five-course Italian dinner crafted by *Touch of Italy*, with each dish thoughtfully paired with Italian wines and guided by Laurie Forster, The Wine Coach®, a nationally-recognized wine expert and author of the award-winning book *The Sipping Point: A Crash Course in Wine*.

“With her signature wit and expertise as a sommelier, Laurie will show you how to fall in love with wine all over again — teaching not just how to drink it, but how to savor its character, chemistry, and connection with food,” Thaler said.

Through interactive tastings, guests will explore how flavors flirt, contrast, and find their perfect match. Bottles of specially-curated wines will be available for purchase at the end of the evening.

Throughout the evening, art masterpieces will be unveiled, intentionally paired with a featured wine to highlight how artistic expression and wine can complement each other. The pairings will be part of a silent auction at the end of the evening, with proceeds supporting the Art League and its mission to nurture creativity in the community.

“To tempt your palate and quench your curiosity for the evening, the Art League will reveal wines, menu courses, and artwork throughout the coming weeks,” Thaler continued. “To learn more about the experience, follow the Art League on social media and subscribe to our email list.”

Reservations are \$150 per person, or a table for six can be reserved for \$900. Tickets and more information about the event and The Wine Coach are available at <https://givebutter.com/ArtUncorked>

County offers non-profit grants

Worcester County Government (WCG) is accepting grant applications from area non-profit agencies now through Friday, January 23.

Applications are available to download as a PDF at www.co.worcester.md.us. Once there, the link to the Non-Profit Grant Application can be found under “Important Links” on the right-hand side of the web page.

Completed grant applications should be mailed to the following address: Worcester County Government, One West Market Street, Room 1103, Snow Hill Maryland, 21863. Attention: Senior Budget Accountant Lynn Wright.

Applications received after the deadline will not be considered, and

applying for a non-profit grant is not a guarantee of funding approval from WCG. Grant awards will be announced by mail following the adoption of the FY27 WCG Operating Budget in June 2026.

Pot roast fundraiser set

Bethany United Methodist Church will host a pot roast dinner on Friday, January 30 between 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. The church is located at 8648 Stephen Decatur Highway in Berlin. The menu includes pot roast, potatoes, green beans, beverage, rolls, and dessert. Dine-in or carry-out is available. Call ahead or reserve a meal at bethany21811@gmail.com or 410-641-2186. Meals are first-come, first-served unless reserved.



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Looking back on the Apollo moon missions

The NASA Artemis mission is poised to return humans to the surface of the moon as soon as 2027 or 2028. It seems worthwhile to take a look back

missions concluded in early 1968 after exploring regions of lunar terrain suitable for manned landings. These probes took readings of the lunar

region of the moon, can be easily seen along the western edge of the waxing gibbous disk. It was here that the Apollo 11 lander touched down in 1969.

The original Apollo moon landings occurred at a variety of places on Earth's satellite, as seen in the diagram. The Apollo "footprints and flags" missions were meant to allow the astronauts to experience the new world, while initiating science experiments when possible. In contrast, the Artemis program is aimed towards a very different purpose, namely establishing a permanent human presence.

Because the Apollo moon program

exploratory missions in the 1990s and of the early twenty-first century firmly established the existence of water ice. This is important not only for human consumption but also as a source of hydrogen and oxygen gas which are the raw materials for rocket fuel.

This year, 2026, space enthusiasts' expectations are soaring with the upcoming Artemis II mission to launch astronauts into orbit around the moon. This mission will offer another trial run for the Orion space capsule but will not land on the surface. It is the long-awaited Artemis III mission that will finally carry astronauts to a lunar landing where they can enjoy their moon walks. This is scheduled to take

Astronomy & Spaceflight

By Douglas Hemmick, Ph.D.



and place this in context, remembering the great endeavors of the past.

The classic lunar era was based on the US and Soviet "race in space," a competition rooted in international politics. The Soviets program achieved the first success in January 1959 when Lunik-1 sailed past the moon and returned information to Earth. In March 1959 the US probe Pioneer-4

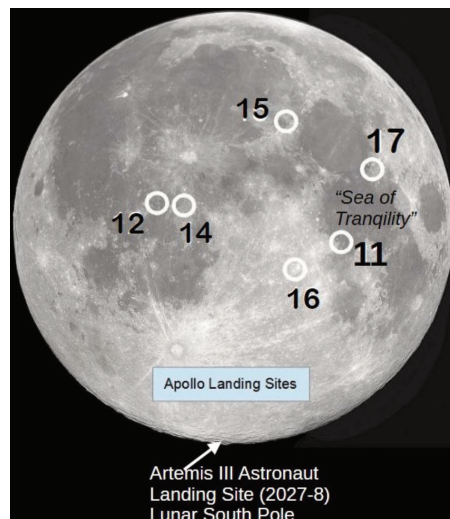
surface, including soil composition and bearing strength. Such data answered the question: Would the lunar surface be solid enough to support a heavy spacecraft, or would the craft be swallowed into the lunar dust? The first manned spacecraft to land was the Apollo-11 Lunar Module weighing more than 16 tons, about three tons at the moon's lower gravity.

In May 1969, a final trial was performed. Apollo10 successfully performed all the lunar flight maneuvers as they orbited above the moon. The Command Module was orbiting as the Lunar Module was released, and was descending toward the lunar surface. Acting according to plan, the descent was stopped about 10 miles above the lunar surface. From that low altitude they were clearly mapping the landing site planned to be used later by Apollo 11. The astronauts Eugene Cernan and Tom Stafford described the terrain as: "generally very smooth . . . with some occasional big craters"

Two months later, in July 1969, came the historic landing of Apollo 11 manned by Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin. During their 21 hour moonwalk they collected samples of lunar soil and rocks, and deployed scientific experiments involving lunar dust, seismic activity, and lunar soil mechanics. Armstrong and Aldrin also set up Laser Retro-Reflectors, which today are still allowing precise measurements of the Earth-to-moon distance.

In total, NASA has launched six successful manned missions, each landing in different regions of the moon.

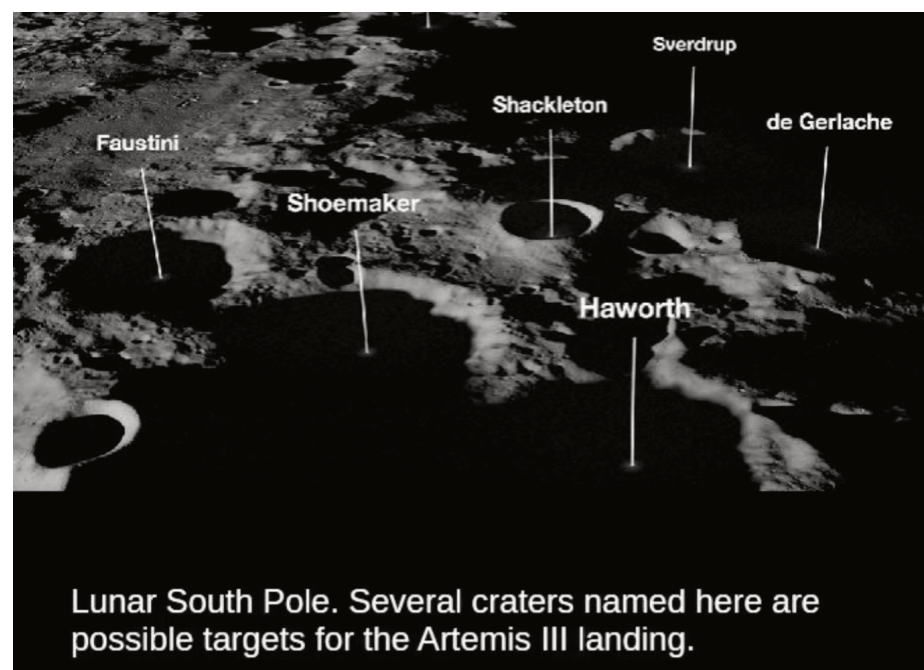
Those who enjoy seeing the moon for themselves might take a look on the night of January 7. On this night the Sea of Tranquility, a large darkened



flew a similar mission past the moon.

Many more missions were necessary to understand safety requirements before the first journey of American astronauts to the moon in 1969. The U.S. Ranger series of probes from 1962 to 1965 produced more than 17,000 photographs of the moon's surface. A variety of scientific instruments were aboard these early probes including magnetometer, seismometer, electrostatic analyzer, among others.

The unmanned Surveyor probes were robotic soft-landing missions designed to locate safe sites on the moon for human landings. Surveyor-1 successfully landed in June 1966 and returned more than 10,000 photographs. The seven Surveyor



represented first human contact with Earth's satellite, scientists were less knowledgeable at that time. The Artemis program takes advantage of surprising recent discoveries at the lunar south pole. In that region,

place in 2027, but could be pushed to 2028.

All science fans are hopeful for smooth and successful operations as we approach this exciting new milestone.

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Health Watch

Seven tips for keeping your bladder healthy

By **Peter G. O'Hare III**,
MD, URPS, FACOG
TidalHealth Urogynecology



Peter O'Hare

Your bladder might be something you don't think too much about until you need to use the bathroom without one in sight — or if you're having a problem. Below are my tips for ways women can keep their bladders healthy.

Stay hydrated. I recommend drinking about 50 ounces of a neutral fluid — like water — each day. Drinks to avoid or limit include heavily caffeinated beverages, alcohol and carbonated drinks. If you do have one of those types of drinks, drink water afterward.

Keep your body healthy. Keeping your body healthy can help keep your bladder healthy. Diet and exercise are important for bladder and overall health. Women who are

obese are putting more pressure on their pelvic floor, which can lead to pelvic floor concerns.

Don't hold urine too long. It's not always convenient to use the bathroom during work, especially for those in roles like nursing and teaching, so some have trained their bladder not to empty. The longer this goes on, the more of a problem it can cause. It's important to stop habits like this before they lead to problems like bladder dysfunction and having to urinate more often later in life.

Don't rush urine out. Basically, you need to let your bladder do what it requires naturally — don't hold urine in, but don't force it out, either. Trying to get urine out as quickly as possible, also known as Valsalva voiding, is not healthy for the bladder.

Do what you can to avoid urinary tract infections. It's common to have the occasional urinary tract infection, and in young, healthy women, they will often go away on their own.

However, you should seek medical treatment if you get UTIs more than twice a year or experience problems such as fever or back pain with a UTI. One tip for decreasing the risk of UTIs is to flush out the system with water after sexual activity.

Be aware of abnormalities. If you see blood in your urine — and what you're seeing isn't your usual menstrual cycle — you should see a urogynecologist to find out what's causing it.

Know what is healthy. Most people urinate about five to seven times during waking hours, and once or less at night. If you are uri-

nating often or waking up throughout the night to urinate, you should raise your concerns with a urogynecologist. Similarly, leaking urine, while common, does not have to be an expected part of life after giving birth or while aging, and that can be treated.

To see a specialist about a bladder-related or pelvic floor concern, women can call TidalHealth Urogynecology, located in Ocean Pines, at 410-912-5674. Men can call TidalHealth Urology in Salisbury at 410-912-6716 or in Seaford at 302-990-3300. Learn more at tidalhealth.org.

Angel Tree campaign successful

The Ocean Pines Recreation & Parks Department announced that this year's Angel Tree campaign attracted more than 100 donated gifts for local families

"I feel incredibly blessed to live in a community where so many people are willing to show up and help one another," said Katie Goetzinger, Recreation Program Supervisor. "Residents consistently called the Community Center asking if there were more angel ornaments available to shop for. Seeing the tree filled—and refilled—three times was truly heartwarming. Knowing how many people will be receiving gifts makes it all worthwhile."

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The Cardinal

The cardinal, also known as the red bird, is one of the most recognized birds. Even the non-birder knows who they are. Spotted easily by its bright red color, the male cardinal outshines its female counterpart who is far less flashy. She too has some red but is mostly a pale tan & gray. Both adult male and female have a tuft of feathers on the heads known as a crest, and a reddish orange beak. Juvenile cardinals have a black beak. Their beaks turn the reddish orange once they have their first molt and they transition to adults.

Cardinals are omnivores, they eat seeds, berries, and insects. Some insects they eat include ants, caterpillars, flies, spiders and even snails. The other part of their diet is made up of vegetable matter such as flowers, seeds of grasses and weeds and berries. They are mostly ground feeders, but they will visit your backyard feeders, especially if they have a flat surface on which they can land. They have



been seen eating from a perch, but that is not the normal. Cardinals love black oil sunflower and safflower seeds. They enjoy mealworms too. When feeding their young, they only feed them insects. Cardinals, just like flamingos, get their color from what they eat. If there is not an abundance of red berries, the male cardinal may not be a vibrant red. In the bird world, this may lessen his chances of attracting a female if competing against more colorful males.

Cardinals typically mate for life. During mating season, you may have the opportunity to see the male feeding the female beak to beak. This is part of normal mating behavior. If you have not had the pleasure of seeing this, keep your eyes open this spring. It is a beautiful sight and shows how wonderful nature truly is. Unlike

some birds, they do not nest in tree cavities or bird houses. They prefer to build the nest in thick bushes or shrubbery and even on low branches that are usually less than 10-feet off the ground. Cardinals are open nesters and build them from twigs and other plant materials. During mating season, both male and female contribute to the nest building. They usually have their first brood in March, and another in May. It is possible for a third brood to hatch in the same year. The female will lay three to four

eggs which are a whitish green color. The female incubates the eggs for about 11 to 13 days. During this time, the male will fiercely protect both the female and the nest from any intruders. The hatchlings are born with pink skin and a grayish scaling. They grow incredibly fast and will usually leave the nest in about nine to 11 days. The male plays a major role in teaching the young to find food and learn to defend themselves. During this time, the female is working on a new location and will start building the next nest. They do not use the same nest twice.

People believe cardinals are a symbol of good luck. It is also believed that if you see one, it is a loved one coming back to visit. Weather you believe or not, the sight of the red bird is one of nature's incredible gifts.

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66					67				68				

CLUES ACROSS

1. Lakes

6. Electromotive force

9. Invests in little enterprises

13. Longtime Utah Jazz coach

14. Small sailboat

15. Actor Idris

16. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls

17. System that detects objects under water

18. Harsh, grating noise

19. Steward

21. A fencing sword

22. Infections

23. Actress Ryan

24. Sodium

25. Swedish castle

28. A lump of slime

29. African antelope

31. Insurance providers

33. Choosy

36. Ringworm
38. Unpolished

39. Drenches

41. Pant style

44. Son of Noah

45. Spiritual being

46. Upton Sinclair novel

48. Journalist Tarbell

49. Popular sports highlight show

51. Born of

52. Rich tapestry

54. S. China seaport

56. State of being unclothed

60. Surrounded by

61. Residue

62. Away from wind

63. Dried-up

64. Visionary

65. A very large body of water

66. Garden tools

67. Screen type

68. Ancient Scandinavian poet

CLUES DOWN

1. Millisecond

2. Spanish city

3. A sudden very loud sound

4. "The Indiana Jones of beer"

5. Tin

6. Sea eagles

7. Volcanic crater

8. Type of coat

9. Women's apartments in Ottoman palace

10. Divulge a secret

11. Norwegian playwright

12. "It's a Wonderful Life" director

14. Poisonous perennial plant

17. 18-year astronomical period

20. Clothes

21. Places to sit

23. Family of regulator genes

25. New York ballplayer

26. Impressive in size or scope

27. Jacques __, French biologist
29. One from the Big Apple

30. Genus of woolly lemurs

32. Songs to one's beloved

34. Indigenous person of N.E. Thailand

35. Supplemented with difficulty

37. Farewell

40. Investment account (abbr.)

42. One from Utah

43. Begets

47. A male child

49. Break apart

50. Brief appearance

52. Partner to "oohed"

53. A light informal meal

55. Fabric with smooth, shiny surface

56. One billionth of a second

57. Ancient Italian-Greek colony

58. Close tightly

59. Mail out

61. Language

65. Computer characteristic

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Answers for December 17

We're all about the birds and more!

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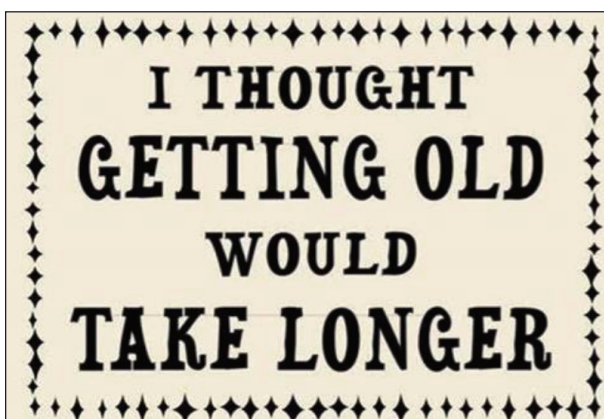
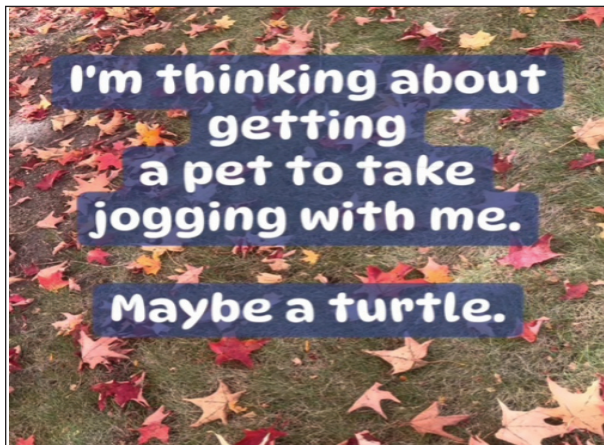
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Some things to think about

Gathered from the internet
by **Jack Barnes**



Senior Wisdom

The ability to speak several languages is an asset, but the ability to keep your mouth shut in any language is priceless.

Be decisive. Right or wrong, make a decision. The road is paved with flat squirrels who couldn't make a decision.

Happiness is not having to set the alarm clock.

When I get a headache, I take two aspirin and keep away from children just like the bottle says.

Just once, I want the prompt for username and password to say, "Close enough."

Becoming an adult is the dumbest thing I've ever done.

If you see me talking to myself, just move along. I'm self-employed. We're having a meeting.

"Your call is very important to us. Please enjoy this 40-minute flute solo."

Does anyone else have a plastic bag full of plastic bags, or is it just me?

I hate it when I can't figure out how to operate the iPad and my tech support guy is asleep. He's 5 and it's past his bedtime.

Today's 3-year-olds can switch on laptops and open their favorite apps. When I was 3, I ate mud.

Tip for a successful marriage: Don't ask your wife when dinner will be ready while she's mowing the lawn.

So, you drive across town to a gym to walk on a treadmill?

I didn't make it to the gym today. That makes five years in a row.

I decided to stop calling the bathroom "John" and renamed it the "Jim." I feel so much better saying I went to the Jim this morning.

Old age is coming at a really bad time.

If God wanted me to touch my toes, He would've put them on my knees.

Last year I joined a support group for procrastinators. We haven't met yet.

Why do I have to press one for English when you're just going to transfer me to someone I can't understand anyway?

Now, I'm wondering . . . did I send this to you, did you send it to me or have I only sent one copy?

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Capitals vs. Hurricanes bus trip scheduled

Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks is hosting a bus trip to the Washington Capitals vs. Carolina Hurricanes rematch game on Saturday, January 31. Tickets are \$130 per person and include round-trip transportation, a game ticket, and a food package. The package includes one ticketed food item and unlimited beer and wine at Devils Backbone Brewing Company until the start of the third period. The bus will depart the Ocean Pines Community Center parking lot at 1 p.m., with an additional pickup location added at the Shoppes at Salisbury parking lot at 1:30 p.m. Game time is 5 p.m. For more information and tickets, call 410-641-7052.

Super Ball party set

Come out for the ultimate game day party on Sunday, February 8, at the Clubhouse Bar & Grille. At this year's Super Ball Party, guests can enjoy an all-you-can-eat buffet featuring favorites from the Clubhouse menu, an open bar with select beer, wine, and cocktails, and chances to win door prizes throughout the evening. Catch every play on 11 televisions and the big screen for an unbeatable game-day experience. Doors open at 5 p.m. for advance ticket holders (\$78 plus tax and gratuity) and 5:30 p.m. for at-the-door purchases (\$83 plus tax and gratuity). Advance ticket holders receive early entry and select seating. Tickets are limited, so purchase early to secure the best seats and kick off game day in style.



Meals - Instead of exchanging Christmas presents, members of the Ocean City - Berlin Rotary Club filled 22 crockpots with a shelf stable meals and donated it to St. Paul's Shepherd's Crook food pantry.

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