

## Making dreams come true

By Elaine Bean

With the frozen tundra and snow piles lingering outside these days, dreams of warm tropical breezes and swaying palm trees are in everyone's thoughts. But do these frigid days actually lead to people making plans to travel someplace warmer?

The short answer is "Yes," said Cindy McCabe, owner of Bethany Travel. "The cold weather is great for the travel business."

"Most of our clients plan their trips in advance, but the cold snaps like we've been having in January and February are creating a lot of last-minute requests. They're wanting to go to the Caribbean. We can usually figure out somewhere for them to go, as long as they're a little flexible."

Permanent residents of Delmarva already have year-round access to a beach, but other beaches remain a popular destination.

"I live at the beach, too, but I can't get to the beach in the summer; it's too crowded," McCabe said. "So even our people who do live at the beach still want to go someplace warm, because we can't go to our own beach now. Families like to go to the Caribbean in the summertime, too, because they're not having to cook and clean and park and drive. The all-inclusive beach vacation resorts are very popular."

The youngest of eight children growing up in Pennsylvania, McCabe didn't travel much as a child, except to Ocean View where the family had a summer place. "We made trips to the beach every weekend in the summer," she said. Her dad was transferred to Ocean View permanently when McCabe was in the sec-

please see *dreams* on page 8

# The Courier

February 18, 2026 Volume 27 Number 22



**Opening** - Volunteer *Larry Yates* selling raffle tickets at the Art League of Ocean City's First Friday opening reception on February 6.

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**Speaker** - Michael P. Mullen, CLU, president of Washington Financial, spoke to the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines/Ocean City about the different types of long-term care plans and the pros and cons of each depending on the needs of an individual or family. Mike has over 47 years of experience helping companies and families with estate planning, life insurance, long-term care and employee benefits. Mike shared information on using qualified plans, such as IRAs or Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs), to purchase long-term care/life insurance policies.

Pictured above left to right is **Michael Mullen** and Kiwanis President **Sarah Walker**.

## Courier Almanac

On February 18, 2001, Dale Earnhardt Sr., considered one of the greatest drivers in National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR) history, dies at the age of 49 in a last-lap crash at the 43rd Daytona 500 in Daytona Beach, Florida. Earnhardt was driving his famous black No. 3 Chevrolet and vying for third place when he collided with another car, then crashed into a wall. After being cut from his car, Earnhardt, whose tough, aggressive driving style earned him the nickname "The Intimidator," was taken to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead of head injuries.

Light-emitting diode bulbs (LEDs) are energy-efficient and durable options. LEDs convert electricity into light instead of heat, and increasingly are used in a wide range of products, including lighting fixtures. According to Energy Star LEDs produce light up to 90 percent more efficiently than incandescent light bulbs. LEDs also do not typically "burn out" or fail, like other types of bulbs. Because of their performance benefits, homeowners may be interested in switching over to LED bulbs to power their existing lighting fixtures. Generally speaking, LED bulbs can work in most non-LED fixtures, provided the base type matches the socket. The LED bulb also should be rated for the same line voltage for the fixture. Also, the fixture should not be enclosed, such as glass-encased ceiling lights or certain outdoor fixtures. The lack of ventilation can cause heat buildup, leading to damage or failure. In such instances, one should purchase LEDs specifically rated for enclosed fixtures.



### Jigsaw puzzle tournament planned

The Bishopville Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary will hold their first Jigsaw Puzzle Tournament at the main fire station on Saturday, March 7 between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Doors open at 9:30. The cost is \$50 per team (up to 4 people) for a 500-piece puzzle. Whoever completes the puzzle first in three hours wins. First prize is \$100; 2nd prize is \$50. No puzzle trays or boards allowed. Breakfast sandwiches and drinks are available for purchase. There will be door prizes. Call 443-880-4944 by Saturday, March 1 to register. Space is limited.

### Thrift Shop hosting anniversary celebration

The Atlantic General Hospital Auxiliary Board of Directors invites the community to join in celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Atlantic General Hospital Auxiliary Thrift Shop on Friday, February 20.

Festivities begin when the Thrift Shop opens at 10 am, followed by a special anniversary commemoration at 11 am that will recognize the Auxiliary's volunteers and supporters who have contributed to the shop's continued success. In honor of this milestone, shoppers will enjoy a 20% discount throughout the day.

"For two decades, the Atlantic General Hospital Auxiliary Thrift Shop has strengthened the hospital's mission by providing affordable goods and a meaningful way for the community to give back," said Toni Keiser, TidalHealth's director of community relations and engagement. "This incredible milestone would not have been possible without the dedication of our volunteers and the loyal customers who support us year after year. We're excited to celebrate the generosity, service and community spirit that strengthen the fabric of our region."

The Thrift Shop is located in the Berlin Shopping Center, 10452 Old Ocean City Blvd., Berlin, MD 21811. For more information about this event, contact Toni Keiser at [toni.keiser@tidalhealth.org](mailto:toni.keiser@tidalhealth.org) or 410-641-9678.

### Church to hold events

St. Paul's Episcopal Church located at 3 Church Street in Berlin is holding the following events:

February 17 at 6 p.m.: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Free with offering accepted.

February 18 between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.: Ashes-to-Go for Ash Wednesday.

February 18, 6 p.m.: Ash Wednesday service.

### Job fair scheduled

The Ocean Pines Yacht Club, Beach Club, and Clubhouse Bar & Grille are inviting job seekers to come out to their upcoming Job Fair at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club.

The fair will take place in the Yacht Club's Upstairs Ballroom on Saturday, March 21, and again on Saturday, April 4, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day.

All three locations are hiring for all positions, including front of house, back of house, management, culinary, and events. Seasonal and year-round opportunities are available.

Benefits include competitive pay, flexible scheduling, beautiful waterfront work environments, and opportunities for growth within Ocean Pines locations.

Applicants are encouraged to bring their resume, bring a friend, and come prepared to interview on the spot.

Please note that hiring for these positions is conducted through Touch of Italy, not the Ocean Pines Association.

For further information, contact [info@touchofitaly.com](mailto:info@touchofitaly.com).

# Creature

Not long ago my wife, frustrated with vacuuming the ever-forming fur balls shed by our dogs, decided to purchase a Shark vacuum robot to take

farmer's field. What would Hazel think about such a contraption? (*How many of you remember Hazel?*)



## It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

My wife has named this chore-doer "Creature." Why? She told me she told me why, but like so many other things she claims to have told me, I've forgotten. Before so named, we referred to it as "Clean Elizabeth."

Carpet cleaning appliances have evolved. It's extraordinary to recall there was once a time when women hung a rug over a clothesline to beat it with a broom to get it clean.

Growing up we had a Hoover upright vacuum cleaner that was kept in the hallway closet. Although I can't remember the exact color – I think it was brown and tan – I do recall a red plastic horizontal flag that popped out of the front of unit when the bag was full. It looked as if it was sticking its tongue out. To replace the bag, you opened the back of the unit, took out the full bag and inserted the new one. If not done properly, the full bag spewed vacuum dust everywhere.

Even when done correctly, it always seemed that a puff of foul-smelling dust billowed from the bag.

From time to time my mother charged either my brother or me with vacuuming duty. There was no rhyme or reason to whom she selected – whoever was in eye sight I imagine. One time I was in range and was so tasked. I wasn't happy. My brother on the other hand was gleeful, making faces and teasing me like siblings do. So, I started chasing him around the room with the Hoover. He jumped out of the way and dove into the sofa, laughing the entire time. Finally, I cornered him. He kept up the teasing so I charged at him with the vacuum cleaner, running over his socked feet. *Who's laughing now?* I thought.

In short order the rotating carpet brushes whisked up the ends of his socks pulling them tight around his toes. Uh-oh! He let out a scream which beckoned my mother who was,

to put it politely, not pleased with me. I had vacuum duty for a while after that. My brother grinned.

In our early married life, my wife's grandmother gave us an old upright vacuum cleaner made primarily of steel, maybe it was iron. I think she got it as a wedding gift just before Coolidge left the White House. It was so heavy to move around the house that a gym workout would have been less strenuous.

Since then, we've gone through many vacuum cleaners both uprights and canisters. They'd be okay for a while, maybe a year or two, then something would break or wear out. We didn't pay a lot for them – Kmart or Roses (*how many*

*of you remember Roses?*) or Walmart specials. Eventually we got frustrated so decided to buy a Dyson. It cost us more but it's been with us for many years.

Now there's Creature, a machine that looks like an extraterrestrial and works like a champ. I hope it's with us a long time.



over, or at least alleviate, the tiresome chore of pulling out the Dyson from the closet on a daily basis. It's been a welcome addition despite having the appearance of an earthbound flying saucer.

With three sequential flashing lights, the robot hovers, glides and swivels methodically over the hardwood floors and carpeting throughout the house. It changes directions when it encounters a chair or table leg. When finished or when the batteries require recharging, it returns to its home port. It's fascinating to watch. It leaves a geometric pattern in the carpet reminiscent of crop circles in a

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## New Playbook Sports Bar adds to guest experience

By Elaine Bean

Sports has always been an attraction at Ocean Downs Casino, with yearly live harness racing on the track. Sports has come indoors with a new bar at the casino designed for sports lovers of all persuasions.

What used to be Poseidon's is now The Playbook Sports Bar. The

"We've always had a really good burger," she continued. "I also love our chicken tenders. I know I sound like a five-year-old, but they're so good, because we hand-bread them here. It's not like out of the bag and into the fryer. We're actually hand-breading them.

"There are things on the menu I personally love. We've always had a great Maryland crab soup. That's one of the staples that hasn't changed at all. We have a teriyaki bowl, oddly enough, that is phenomenal ... We have a very solid, very delicious menu."

The drink menu features local favorites like the Orange Crush, the Horse Feather, and chocolate and coffee martinis, plus "No-Tinis" that are non-alcoholic.



nautical décor has been replaced with an additional 30 TV screens and a massive 100-inch screen, with more screens to come soon, according to Bobbi Jones, general manager of Ocean Downs.

"We felt that it made a lot more sense for us to have a sports bar to go along with our sports wagering," she said.

Guests can take a break from the telecasts by shooting hoops, playing a round of darts, or hitting that hole-in-one on the virtual Golden Tee.

Happy hour specials are on tap at the bar all day Saturday and Sunday, and from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays, with half-price domestic draft beers and house wines and \$5 rail liquor drinks. "And we do that all year," Jones said.

A mostly-new menu continues the sports theme with Pre-Game, Quarter, Sidelines, and Overtime offerings, including wings, crab cakes, smash burgers, nachos, and salads with protein enhancements.

"We went with more of a sports bar menu with appetizers and sandwiches, but kept some items from Poseidon's menu that were big hits and our regulars would like us to keep," Jones said.

Jones said clientele at The Playbook is a mixed bag of regulars who come in for dinner and gaming frequently, and out of town guests seasonally, and The Playbook attempts to appeal to both.

Jones said the goal of the re-branding was to make it a complete and welcoming experience for the sports fan. Hospitality is a big part of Jones's DNA, growing up in Mississippi, The Hospitality State, and starting her career there. She is now a resident of Ocean Pines.

"Making something happen out of nothing and seeing it go through all the phases and become successful, I just love that piece of it," Jones said.

Ocean Downs Casino continues to be the only brick-and-mortar establishment on the Coast to place live bets on sporting events. "We're the only game in town," she said.

Hours and full menu for The Playbook are available at [www.oceandowns.com/dining](http://www.oceandowns.com/dining). Reservations are being accepted at 410-641-0600, ext. 3418.

Because of on-site gaming, only patrons 21 years of age and older are permitted in Ocean Down Casino and The Playbook Sports Bar.



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*Art Matters*

# Building a local film studio with a global lens

By **Tina Kramer-Merriken**

In West Ocean City a local studio has grown from a home setup into a full-fledged production company with national and international reach. Dave Messick, founder of Unscene Productions, has built a narrative around community, collaboration, and hands-on storytelling - turning a love of skateboarding, surfing, and fishing into a career in film and television.

Dave Messick was born on Maryland's Eastern Shore and raised near Cambridge. He pursued higher education at Old Dominion University, a foundation that helped shape his path into multimedia production. Today, he channels that education into running his own studio and producing film and TV projects.

Messick is the owner of Unscene Productions, a multimedia production company, and a filmmaker and TV producer. He has always called the Shore home, but his move to West Ocean City marked a deliberate step, finding the right place to open a studio away from a home setup, with the tools and space to grow. His early work sprang from personal passions such as traveling, skateboarding, surfing, and fishing; evolving into a portfolio of television segments and shorts that laid the groundwork for what Unscene Productions would become.

A turning point came when a film festival landed in Messick's hometown. The exposure pushed him toward more narrative and documentary work with the aim of showcasing local stories to a broader audience. He began with projects like Reggie's Forest Ocean City and expanded to pieces around the world. Today, the film festival work is a labor of love alongside a bustling production schedule. Messick runs four TV shows and treats the festival programming as passion projects, an outlet to build a community and demonstrate what a

well-equipped studio can do in a regional setting.

Notable current Ocean City Film Festival projects and collaborations are pushing creative boundaries with ambitious shoots like "50 Years of Fager's," "Museum of Ocean City," and "Before the Settlers," alongside the adrenaline-fueled "The Making of OC



*The crew of Hedgehog reviewing the lighting before filming a scene in Berlin.*

Rock and Ride." This project pairs high-energy music with fast-paced action, all captured in lush anamorphic visuals. A standout moment came from Matt Odachowski's nine-day build-and-breakdown sprint, proof that big impact can come from a small town.

Messick is dedicated to building a production company that uses real industry tools and connections to connect New York and Los Angeles with the Maryland/Delaware beaches, while stressing positive collaboration and the importance of local partnerships. The Art League of Ocean City has been especially crucial in bringing stories to the community, helping local filmmakers reach audiences and develop their craft. His philosophy centers on giving people the tools to tell their stories, and on the idea that "Be seen with Unscene" is more than a motto—it's a call to action to bring people together to create and share.

Film, community, and storytelling have also yielded tangible results. His

*please see studio page 10*



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<b>THURSDAY</b>	Happy Hour Drink Specials 1/2 Price Sandwiches & Burgers	4PM-7PM 4PM-CLOSE
<b>FRIDAY</b>	Happy Hour Drink Specials 1/2 Price Entrées	4PM-7PM 4PM-CLOSE
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**dreams**  
from page 1

ond grade. "I got lucky and got to grow up at the beach."

After McCabe was married, she and her husband started doing cruises, often taking along family and friends. "They wanted to know where we were going and what we were doing, and I got the bug about 25 years ago to be a travel agent. I had done bookkeeping and sales the rest of my life," she said.

"I was a traveler before I was a travel agent, so I always say that makes me a great travel agent."

McCabe's personal cell phone number is provided on all travel documents, so she can be reached anytime in an emergency.

"I know the things that can go wrong, and that's why we have the 24/7 emergency cell number," she said. "If a flight is cancelled or something like that, they will call us, and we can assist from here.



**Cindy McCabe**

Even if they're at the airport, we can advise them on what to ask for, and we're looking at what flights are going out ... 99% of our issues are airlines."

The agency had a client become ill on a cruise ship a few weeks ago, and Bethany Travel was able to help. "They reached out to us, and we were able to delay their flight home," McCabe said. "Things happen when you're traveling."

When she travels for personal pleasure, McCabe enjoys family-friendly favorite spots. "I love going to the Sandals Resorts and Beaches because they're all-inclusive," she said. "It's the first thing I started selling 25 years ago ... Those are probably my most memorable vacations, because I get to take my grandkids with me. We create a lot of family memories while we're traveling."

Sandals Resorts in Jamaica were hit hard when Hurricane Melissa tore through parts of the island in October 2025. Recovery at most of the resorts has been swift, and McCabe was invited to participate personally in their grand reopenings.

"We have five Sandals Resorts open in Jamaica, and three that will be opening June 1," she said. "I didn't know myself [the condition of the island] after the hurricane. But I saw it myself. The air-

port is fine; the roads are fine; the resorts that are open are fine."

McCabe believes her social media posts from Jamaica helped people decide to travel there. "I was doing live videos from the beach, from the resort, from the drive to the resort, from the airport. So social media really comforts people when they know we're there and actually seeing it firsthand. They then feel totally at ease ... Certain areas of Jamaica did get hit and are rebuilding and recovering. But there were parts of the island that were never touched [by the hurricane.]"

McCabe is heading back to Jamaica in mid-February, leading a group of travelers seeking warmth and blue waters. "I need a little vitamin D," she joked.

Europe is the hot destination for 2026, McCabe predicts, and she is personally touring there herself this spring. She's headed to Amsterdam in March where 12 river cruise companies will be docked and where she will receive training and personally experience the ships.

"I'll be getting immersed in the river cruise market, which we sell a lot of," she said. "But it's always good to see the product you're selling."

From Amsterdam, McCabe will fly to Rome to meet up with a group from Be-

thany Travel who will be embarking on a three-week guided tour of Italy. "People love traveling with groups, and from Bethany Travel we have an entire motor coach to ourselves," McCabe said.

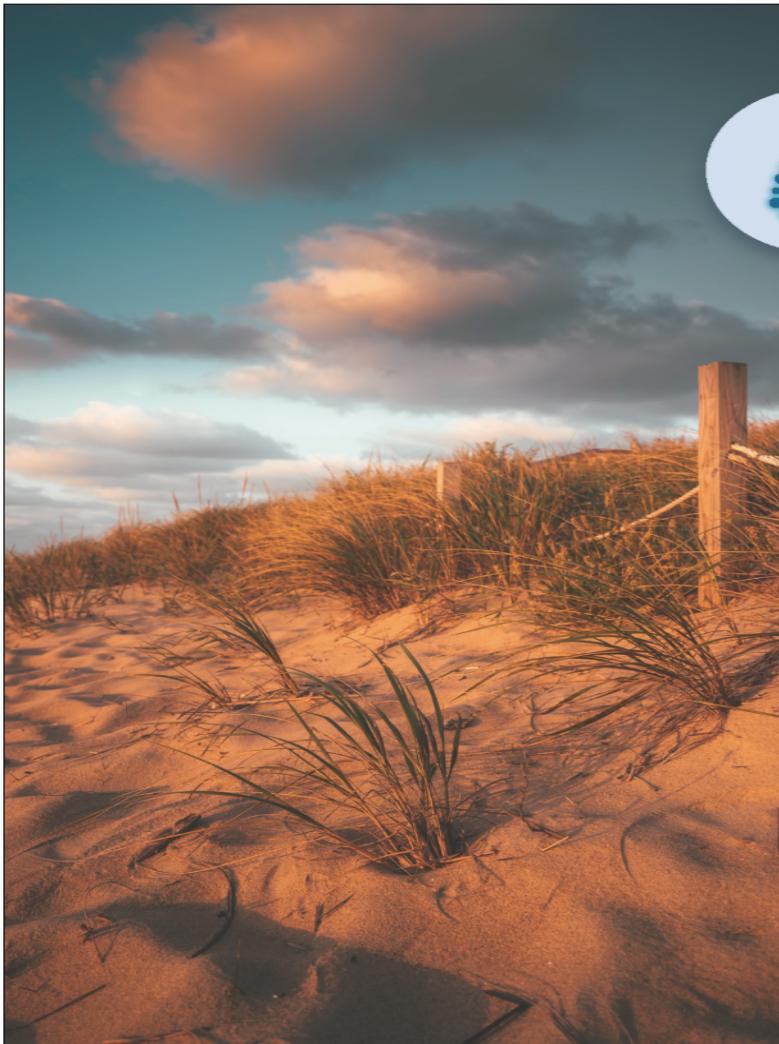
Bethany Travel is a family business, according to McCabe, since son-in-law Brandon Kendrick joined the company several years ago, handling social media and business development. McCabe expects her daughter will join the agency after retiring from her teaching career.

"[Hiring Brandon] was one of the best decisions we ever made," McCabe said. "When you build a business, you definitely want someone to take it over. I'm not anywhere near retiring. Having a physical storefront is also a testament to we're not going anywhere. We're very visible."

Bethany Travel's tagline is: The internet's for looking. Bethany Travel's for booking.

"We are the same price as the internet," McCabe said. "People ask me why should I use a travel agent. Why shouldn't you? ... We've been through it all. In 25 years, I've seen a lot of things."

Bethany Travel is located at 28436 Dupont Blvd., Millsboro, DE. Phone (302) 933-0955. [www.bethanytravel.net](http://www.bethanytravel.net) and on Facebook.



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**Start-up - Ann Coates** from Worcester County (left) and **Nancy Rogers** from Wicomico County (right) recently spoke to the Democratic Women's Club of Worcester County about starting a League of Women Voters/ Maryland Lower Eastern Shore Chapter.

## Atlantic Club celebrates years of service

The Atlantic Club is celebrating four decades of unwavering commitment to recovery, hope, and community support throughout the Delmarva region.

Founded in 1986, The Atlantic Club is a non-profit service organization dedicated to helping individuals and their families recover from the disease of addiction. For 40 years, the club has served as a safe, welcoming place where people can find support, connection, and a path forward to a healthy life in recovery.

The Atlantic Club provides a wide range of recovery-focused services, including hosting 12-step program meetings, sober social events, and community activities that promote unity, accountability, and belonging. These offerings help individuals not only maintain sobriety, but also rebuild relationships and become active, contributing members of the community.

What has always set club apart is its accessibility. The club is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, with trained staff on duty to assist anyone seeking help with addiction, as well as

families looking for support, guidance, and hope. This around-the-clock availability reflects the club's core belief that help should be available whenever it is needed most.

Over the past four decades, facility has touched countless lives, standing as a beacon of stability, compassion, and recovery in the community. Its success is rooted in the dedication of its staff, volunteers, members, donors, and community partners who have supported the mission year after year.

"As we celebrate 40 years of service, we honor the individuals who found hope within these walls, the families who discovered support, and the community that has stood beside us," said Sue Rodden, general manager. "Our mission remains the same today as it was in 1986: to provide a safe, supportive environment where recovery can begin and thrive."

As The Atlantic Club looks toward the future, it remains committed to expanding its impact, strengthening community connections, and continuing to serve as a lifeline for those affected by addiction.

## Film festival kick-off planned

The Ocean City Film Festival, a production of the Art League of Ocean City, kicks off its 10<sup>th</sup> season with a special launch party on Thursday, February 19 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. The kick-off party is free and open to the public and will take place at the Ocean City Center for the Arts, 502 94<sup>th</sup> St. bayside.

"Our 10<sup>th</sup> OC Film Festival is coming up March 5-8, and this free celebration brings together filmmakers, arts supporters and film enthusiasts for a preview of what they can expect at the four-day festival," Rina Thaler, executive director of the Art League, said. "A film festival is so much more than just seeing movies; there are also parties and opportunities to interact with the filmmakers." "This event will set the stage to showcase the full scope of the festival experience."

During the kick-off party, attendees will watch a curated selection of short films, meet the festival organizers, and hear from artist Ian Postley who has designed the festival posters for the past 10 years.

"Our Film Festival posters have become collectors' items over the past ten years, and each one has a back story to it that will be revealed by Ian Postley." Thaler continued. Attendees who purchase festival passes during the event will receive a discount off their passes, and a free commemorative poster.

Currently on display in the Burbage Staircase Gallery at the art center is an exhibit where viewers can walk-through the posters of each of the 100 films that will be showing during the festival, and all 10 years of Film Festival posters.

The Art League will also offer complimentary refreshments and reduced prices on festival merchandise during the launch party.

The Ocean City Film Festival comes to the resort March 5 to 8 bringing four days of diverse independent films - local and international covering genres from local history and environmental themes, to sci fi and comedy. Comedian Patton Oswalt will headline the festival with a performance at the Ocean City Performing Arts Center on Thursday March 5. Passes to the Film Festival are currently available at OCMDFilmFestival.com. More information is also available by calling 410-524-9433.

## Registration open for Twilight Golf League

The Ocean Pines Golf Club announced that registration is officially open for its Men's Twilight League.

This six-week league begins on March 12 and will continue on Thursday evenings through April 16. In March, play will begin with a 5 p.m. shotgun start, shifting to a 5:30 p.m. shotgun start in April. Two-person teams will compete in a variety of formats for weekly payouts, including two closest-to-the-pin contests each week, as well as a season-long league championship.

Registration is \$60 and includes entry into all weekly contests. Greens fees and cart fees are due on the day of play. Non-members will be charged the 9-Hole Resident Rate.

Please note that both players on each team must register individually and pay the \$60 registration fee. In addition, all participants must have a valid GHIN handicap. Any player without an official handicap will compete as a zero.

For questions or more information, call the Pro Shop at 410-641-6057.

## Safe boating course offered

The Maryland Safe Boating Course will be offered March 24 to March 25. The course is taught by certified instructors from the Ocean City Coast Guard Auxiliary and covers all the required material. A bonus this class offers is additional information on local waters and nautical navigation.

The course will be taught at the Ocean Pines library on March 24 and 25 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. respectively.

The Maryland Boating Safety Education Act requires that anyone born after July 1, 1972 must possess a Maryland Basic Boating Safety Certificate to operate a boat in the state of Maryland. Those attending the class, and passing the test will receive a Maryland Boating Certificate which is NASBLA approved and valid in all states.

A fee of \$20.00 covers the cost of the course and materials.

Checks should be made payable to: USGCAUX 12-05 and mailed to: USC-GAUX 12-05, PO Box 1682, Berlin, MD 21811

Payment via PayPal is also accepted

For more information or to register please contact: Barry Cohen at 410-935-4807 or E mail CGAUXOC@Gmail.com.

**studio**  
from page 7

film Hedgehog, a 17-minute piece created on a modest budget, earned recognition at 25 festivals across the country. The project benefited from inexpensive local actors, donated catering, and a Los Angeles-based director of photography; even the budget—around \$80,000—was lean by industry standards. Messick has additional pieces in festival lineups, underscoring his commitment to low-overhead, high-impact storytelling that still leverages professional talent and gear when possible.

Medium and motivation guide Messick's work. Film is his chosen art form, and the community serves as both muse and audience. He consistently asks how and where to work, and his approach centers on inclusivity and accessibility. The Art League of Ocean City and the broader Maryland beaches scene remains a driving force behind his projects, reinforcing the belief that art matters as a unifying force in a changing coastal landscape.

Involvement with the local arts scene isn't just about producing content; it's about empowering others to create. Messick has worked to bring together local filmmakers, actors, and technicians, demonstrating that success can be built from within the community when the right tools and opportunities are available. The studio's name, Unscene Productions, reflects a philosophy of making the unseen visible by providing the means to collaborate, film, edit, and share compelling stories.

Art matters to him; he believes art resonates because people crave expression and connection, across

mediums—from music to film to performance. The Ocean City area has seen growth in shows, concerts, and plays, supported by organizations like the Art League of Ocean City and a thriving local arts ecosystem. Messick believes that art adds depth to life at the beach, offering residents and visitors alike a richer cultural experience and a reason to stay and engage with the community.

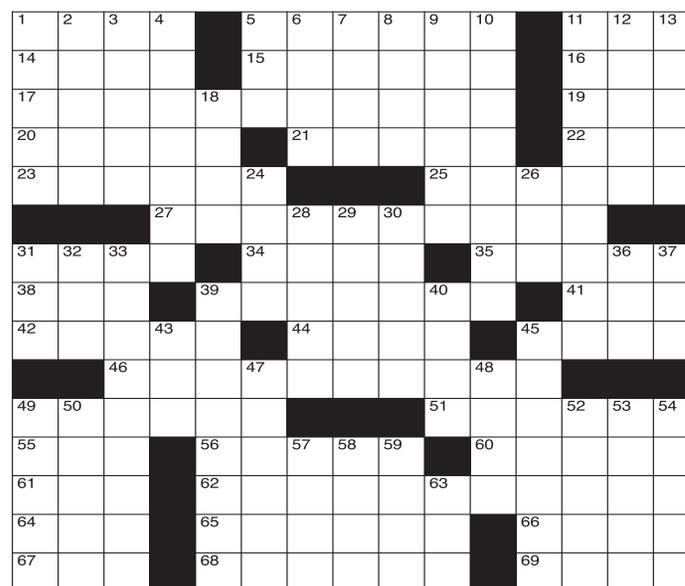
Messick values the opportunities the Art League of Ocean City provides. He credits the organization with helping many of his early, local projects gain momentum and reach audiences that might not have been accessible otherwise through the Annual Film Festival. This year's 10th Annual Film Festival is March 5 through 8. The Art League, in his view, is a cornerstone for the region's emerging filmmakers and artists, offering platforms, resources, and community connections that help small productions flourish.

## Novelist to read for Wor-Wic

Wor-Wic Community College is inviting the public to a free virtual reading by Steve Berry, best-selling author of 26 novels, on Tuesday, February 24, at 6:30 p.m., via Zoom.

Berry is a founding member of the International Thriller Writers Group. He spent 30 years working as a trial lawyer and has written novels such as "The Templar Legacy" and "The 14th Colony."

The event, part of the Echoes & Visions literary series, is free and open to the public. Visit the events section of worwic.edu for more information.



### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Cut quickly
- 5. A way to state clearly
- 11. River in NE Scotland
- 14. Expansive
- 15. Lacking social polish
- 16. Amount of time
- 17. Frame
- 19. Automobile
- 20. Toadstools
- 21. High school dances
- 22. Utilize
- 23. Experimented with
- 25. One-sided
- 27. Acquisitive
- 31. Potted plants
- 34. Everyone has one
- 35. Kalahari Desert lake
- 38. Unidentified flying object
- 39. People 65 and over
- 41. Small amount
- 42. Daughter of Acrisius
- 44. Ornamental box
- 45. Government agents
- 46. Uncertain
- 49. A cotton fabric with a satiny finish
- 51. Treeless plains
- 55. One's sense of self-importance
- 56. Consumer advocate
- 60. Type of lounger
- 61. Body part
- 62. Can be persuaded
- 64. Woman (French)
- 65. Ready and willing to be taught
- 66. Arab ruler title
- 67. Unhappy
- 68. Gradually went away
- 69. Able to think clearly

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Brushed
- 2. Small water spirit (Germ.)
- 3. Heroes
- 4. Monetary units
- 5. Some don't want to share theirs
- 6. Free-swimming invertebrate
- 7. Litigates
- 8. Outer
- 9. Parallelograms
- 10. Uneasy feelings
- 11. Cross
- 12. A way to remove
- 13. Pages can be dog-\_\_
- 18. Ukrainian city
- 24. A citizen of Denmark
- 26. Month
- 28. Hindu queens
- 29. Group of chemicals
- 30. Rider of Rohan
- 31. Wet dirt
- 32. Southwestern Russia city
- 33. Observed
- 36. Angry
- 37. Drivers' licenses
- 39. Musical composition
- 40. Auction
- 43. They \_\_
- 45. Women
- 47. Be filled with love for
- 48. Thick-soled sock
- 49. Appears
- 50. Old World lizard
- 52. The leading performer
- 53. Protein
- 54. "Gunga Din" script writer
- 57. Art \_\_, around 1920
- 58. \_\_ Blyton, children's author
- 59. Abnormal breathing
- 63. A place to rest

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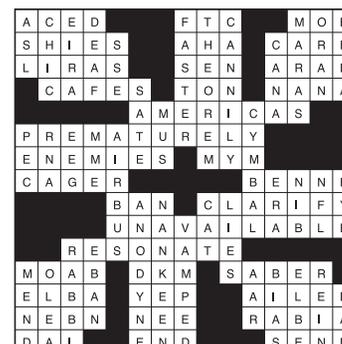
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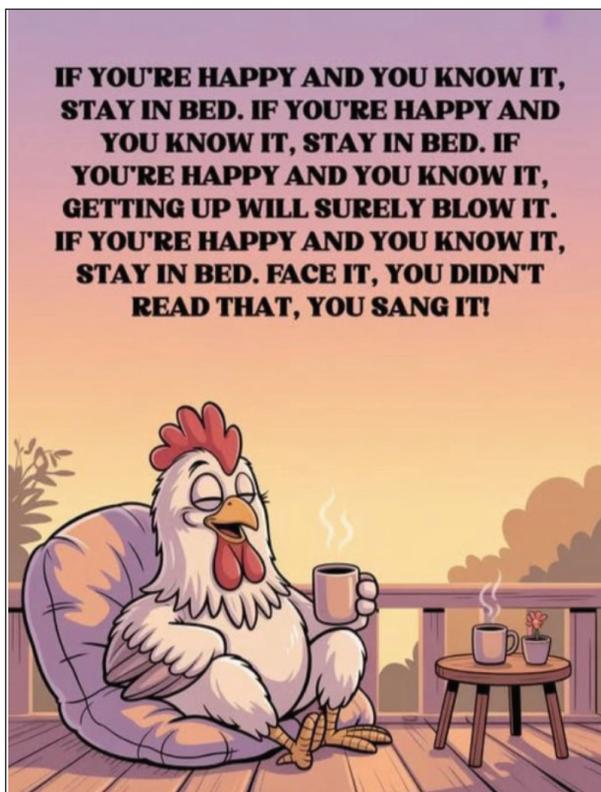
Answers for February 11

# Some things to think about

Gathered from the internet by **Jack Barnes**



If by "crunches" you mean the sound potato chips make when you chew them, then yes, I do crunches.



**IF YOU'RE HAPPY AND YOU KNOW IT, STAY IN BED. IF YOU'RE HAPPY AND YOU KNOW IT, STAY IN BED. IF YOU'RE HAPPY AND YOU KNOW IT, GETTING UP WILL SURELY BLOW IT. IF YOU'RE HAPPY AND YOU KNOW IT, STAY IN BED. FACE IT, YOU DIDN'T READ THAT, YOU SANG IT!**

# About Growing Old

Wisdom from Will Rogers (1879-1935)  
 -Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.  
 -The older we get, the fewer things seem worth waiting in line for.  
 -Some people try to turn back their odometers. Not me, I want people to know why I look this traveled road. I came a long way, and some of the roads

weren't paved.  
 -When you are dissatisfied and would like to go back to your youth, think of Algebra.  
 -You know you are getting old when everything either dries up or leaks.  
 -I don't know how I got over the hill without getting to the top.  
 -One of the many things no one tells you about

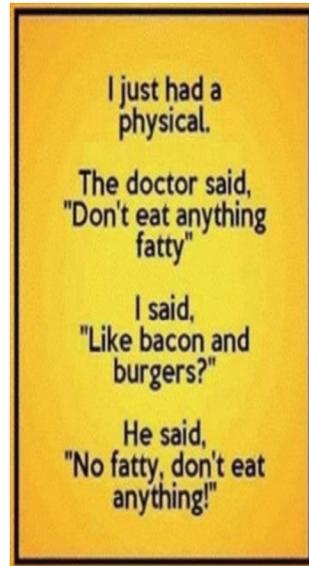
aging is that it's such a nice change from being young.

-One must wait until evening to see how splendid the day has been.

-Being young is beautiful, but being old is comfortable.

-Long ago, when men cursed and beat the ground with sticks, it was called witchcraft. Today it is called golf.

And finally: If you don't learn to laugh at trouble, you won't have anything to laugh at when you're old.



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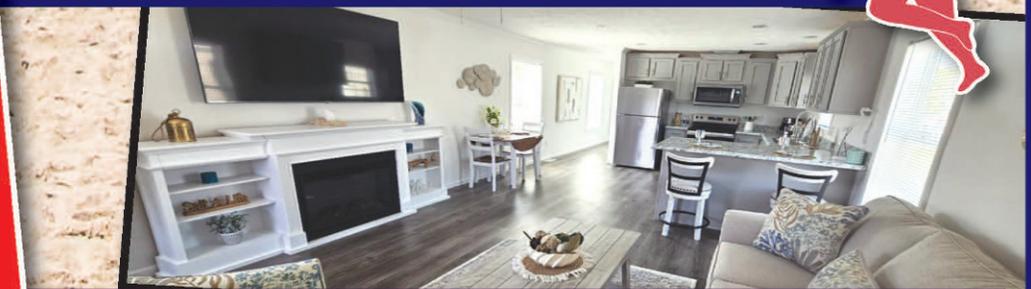
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