

OPA acts on forensic audit report findings

The Ocean Pines Association is taking action to address recommendations made by Gross, Mendelsohn and Associates in the recently released forensic audit.

"The board and I have reviewed and are taking very seriously the information included in the forensic audit," General Manager John Viola said. "We have already taken several steps to tighten up the oversight of association finances and have addressed virtually all of the Gross, Mendelsohn recommendations, which Finance Director Steve Phillips is taking a leadership role on."

Association President Doug Parks noted many of those items were addressed several years ago, based on the results of a "deep-dive" audit commissioned in 2017.

"I want to ensure the public that the finance team has been proactive in addressing these concerns, and that John Viola and Steve Phillips have already implemented a number of changes to our processes and procedures some time ago, based on the 'deep dive' audit," Parks said.

According to the report, dated May 30, 2019, two phases of work separately addressed food and beverage and public works financial activities between May 1, 2016 and April 30, 2018.

An entrance conference that included several board members, former General Manager John Bailey and Phillips was conducted on April 20, 2018. The report states Gross, Mendelsohn "were told that over a period of approximately the last eighteen months there have been various allegations of potential fraud pertaining to missing bank deposits, missing petty cash funds, fictitious vendor invoices, and payroll abuse."

The forensic audit sought to "evaluate those issues and to identify and quantify any abnormal activity." The Ocean Pines Board of Directors provided access to all available records and information, and allowed the firm to interview association personnel. According to Gross, Mendelsohn, "The Board did not direct how we were to conduct our investigation, and did not limit our investigation in any way."

According to a "Conclusions and Recommendations" section in the report, "numerous factors ... contributed to the Food and Beverage Department's operating losses during the last two fiscal years."

The report listed "missing bank deposit shortages totaling \$27,632.49, which most likely are missing due to fraud."

"However, our investigation did not uncover any evidence that the missing deposit money was taken by any OPA employee, and there is a possibility that

*please see **audit** on page 15*



Scholarship - The Ocean Pines Garden Club (OPGC) presented a \$1,500 scholarship award to **Madelyn Nauschuetz**, a graduating senior of Stephen Decatur High School. Nauschuetz, shown here with OPGC president **Linda Baker**, will study Environmental Science in the fall at the University of Maryland.

Community Calendar

MAY

Monday

Ocean Pines Poker Club

Poker players wanted in Ocean Pines area for Monday evenings. Call 410-208-1928.

Delmarva Chorus

The Delmarva Chorus meets every Monday evening at 7PM at the Ocean Pines Community Center in Ocean Pines, Md. Women of all ages are invited to sing with us. Please contact CAROL at 410-641-6876.

Monday/Tuesday

Sanctioned Duplicate Bridge

Open bridge games Monday at 12 p.m., Tuesday at 10 a.m. at OP Community Center. Call Mary Stover 410-726-1795.

Tuesday

Families Anonymous

From 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at room 37 in the the Community Church at Ocean Pines on Rte. 589. For more information call Carol at 410-208-4515.

Tuesday/Thursday

Poker Players wanted for Gentlemen's Poker in North Gate area Ocean Pines. Game played every Tuesday & Thursday evening 5:45 p.m. to 10:45 p.m. on Pinehurst Rd. Ocean Pines. Call 410-208-0063 for more information.

Wednesday

Kiwanis Club Meeting

Weekly meetings at 8 a.m. on Wednesdays in the Ocean Pines Community Center. Doors open 7 a.m.

Elks Bingo

Ocean City Elks in Ocean City (behind Fenwick Inn) open at 5:30 p.m. Early birds at 6:30 and bingo at 7 p.m. Call 410-250-2645.

Rotary Club

Ocean City/Berlin Rotary Club meetings are held at 5:45 p.m. at the Captains Table in Ocean City. Contact Stan.Kahn@carouselhotel.com.

Square Dancing

The Pinesteppers have introduction to square dancing at the OP Community Center at 7 p.m. Call Bruce Barrett at 410-208-6777.

AL-Anon/OP-West OC-Berlin

Wednesday Night Bayside Beginnings AL-Anon family meetings are held at the Ocean Pines Community Center at 7:30 p.m.

Second Wednesday

The Polish American Club of Delmarva meets at the Columbus Hall, behind St Luke's Church, 100th St & Coastal Hwy, Ocean City, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. the second Wednesday of the month. Come join us if you are of Polish or Slavic descent. No meetings.

June, July, August. Call Helen Sobkowiak 410-723-2639 or Maryann Lula 410-250-2548 for more information.

Thursday

Story Time

Stories, music and crafts at 10:30 a.m. for children ages 3-5 at Ocean Pines library. Call 410-208-4014.

Beach Singles

Beach Singles 45 for Happy Hour at Harpoon Hanna's at 4 p.m. Call Arlene at 302-436-9577 or Kate at 410-524-0649 for more activities. BeachSingles.org.

Gamblers Anonymous

Group meets at 8 p.m. at the Atlantic Club, 11827 Ocean Gateway, West Ocean City. Call 888-424-3577 for help.

Friday

Knights of Columbus Bingo

Bingo will be held behind St. Luke's Church, 100th St. in Ocean City. Doors open at 5 p.m. and games begin at 6:30 p.m. Refreshments available. Call 410-524-7994.

First Saturday

Creative Writing Forum

Every first Saturday of the month at 10 a.m. at the Berlin Library. Novice and established writers gather to share their fiction, non-fiction, and creative writing projects. Program includes critiques and appreciation, market leads, and writing exercises.

A Time To Remember



On this day in 2013, James Gandolfini, the actor best known for his role as New Jersey crime boss Tony Soprano on the TV series "The Sopranos," which debuted in 1999 and ran for six seasons, died of a heart attack while vacationing in Rome, Italy. He was 51.

Kids fishing event returns

The Ocean Pines Anglers Club will host the annual Teach A Kid to Fish Day on Saturday, June 22 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the South Gate Pond near the Sports Core Pool. Kids of all ages are invited to "test the waters" and learn fishing skills and techniques with the members of the Ocean Pines Anglers Club. A wonderful opportunity for parents and grandparents to introduce a new generation to the sport of fishing. The pond is stocked with several species of fish and participants will have the opportunity to try out their newly learned skills. Participants are encouraged to bring insect repellent and a bottle of water. Please bring your own rod. Bait will be provided. There will be a drawing for a free rod and reel. The event is free. No pre-registration is required.

Ravens Roost events announced

The Ravens Roost 58 monthly meeting will be held Tuesday, July 2 at 6:30 p.m. All activities take place at the 28th Street Pit & Pub. New members are welcome. Dues are \$20 per year. Please come to meeting if interested.

Additionally, the Ravens Roost 58 Crab Feast Fundraiser will be held Sunday, July 28, noon to 4 p.m. There will be all you can eat crabs, steamed shrimp, fried chicken, corn, sides, draft beer and soda. Proceeds benefit local needy families during the holidays. The cost is \$40 in advance, \$45 at door. Buy tickets at 28th Street Pit & Pub or call 410-289-2020/410-916-4006.

Safe boating course offered

Boating in heavy traffic areas like Ocean City can be intimidating. Even if you wait for the calmest day to take your boat out, you will encounter boaters speeding by and creating wakes, it is part of the boating experience. Understanding how to handle your boat under difficult and usual conditions is what boat safety is about. Although piloting a boat is a hands-on skill, much can be gained by

an understanding of the forces of nature on your boat. Weather it is wakes, wind, current, or waves causing the boat to feel unstable, knowing how to handle these conditions to minimize the effects on your boat are some of the things taught in the safe boating class. Every time on the water should be relaxing and fun.

The Maryland Basic Boating Class is a great opportunity to satisfy Maryland requirements and to get practical boating knowledge from state certified Coast Guard Auxiliary In-

structors.

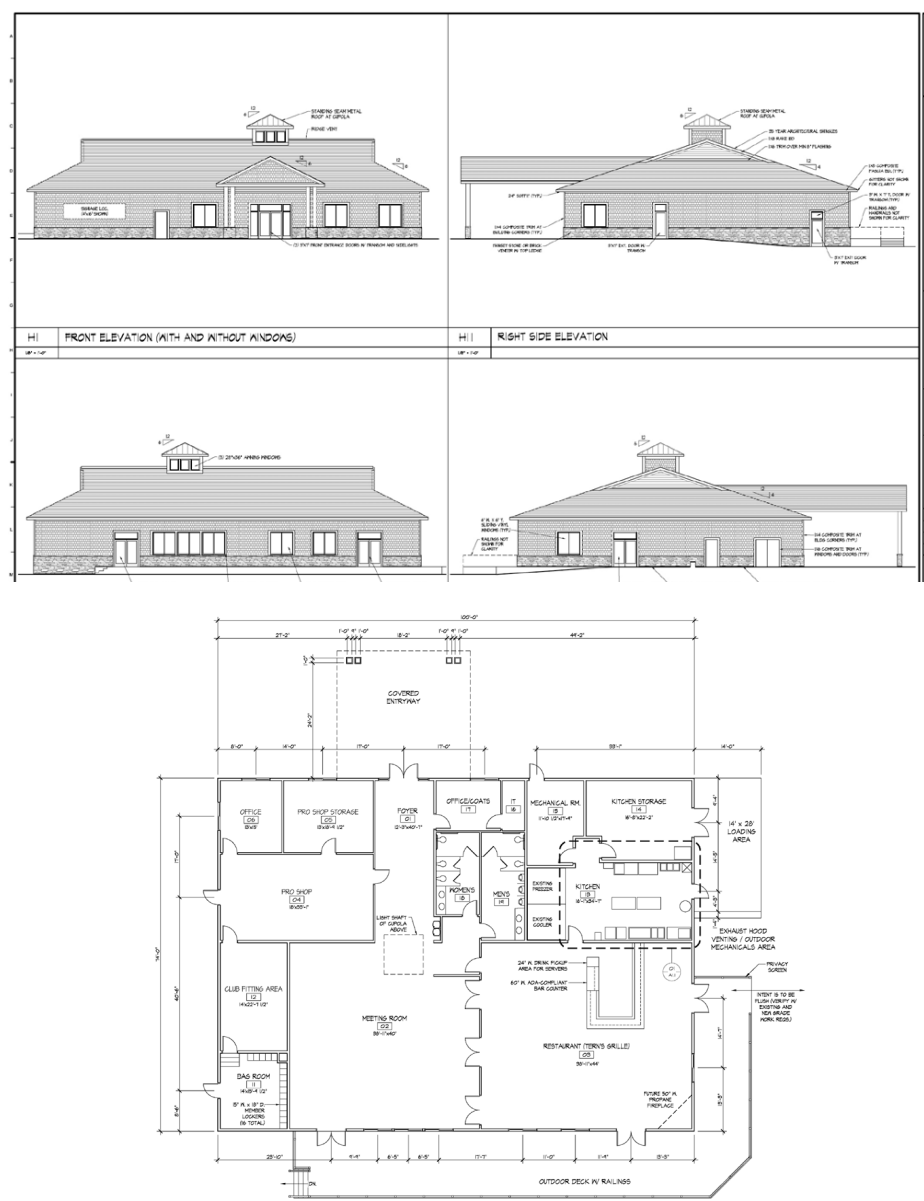
The Maryland Boating Safety Education Act requires that anyone born after July 1, 1972 must possess a Maryland Basic Boating Safety Certificate to operate a boat in the state of Maryland. Those attending the class and passing the test will receive a Maryland Boating Certificate which is NASBLA approved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

The course will be held at the

Ocean Pines library. The three-evening course will begin at 6 p.m. and end no later than 9 p.m. each evening. Space is limited.

A fee of \$15 is required to cover the cost for the course and all course materials. To register, or if you have questions, please contact: Barry Cohen at 410-935-4807 or E mail CGAUXOC@Gmail.com

Future classes will be offered Saturday, August 3 (all day) and September 3 to 5.



Golf clubhouse plans presented

Floor plans, roof plans and building elevations for the new Ocean Pines Golf Clubhouse were delivered this week by Salisbury architectural firm Davis, Bowen and Friedel, Inc.

Plans for the roughly 7,200 single-story building include a large meeting room and space for the Tern's Grille restaurant, along with an outdoor deck, pro shop and club-fitting area. Construction on the new building is scheduled to start later this year.

The former, two-story golf clubhouse was demolished in May. Absolute Demolition, which had recently finished work for the Town of Ocean City, oversaw the demolition.

The Ocean Pines Board of Directors in April approved construction of the new building at a guaranteed maximum cost of \$1.6 million. The Whayland Company, based in Laurel,

Delaware, will oversee construction.

An advisory team that includes General Manager John Viola, Association Vice President Steve Tuttle, builder Marvin Steen and contractor Frank Brown also contributed to plans for the new building.

Despite the current lack of a golf clubhouse, operations continue at the course. More than \$12,000 was raised for local students during the annual Ravens Roost tournament last month, and the 35th annual Ocean Pines-Taylor Bank Golf Scramble is set for July 17 at the Ocean Pines Golf Course, with proceeds benefiting junior golf programs and scholarships for local students.

Golf operations have moved to a trailer and will remain there until the

please see **clubhouse** on page 15

When it matters most, trust the healthcare provider with the most experience



Treating Cancer For More Than 50 Years



Five Stars

by Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (2018)

TOP 5%

in the Nation

by Healthgrades (2018)



PENINSULA REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

RICHARD A. HENSON CANCER INSTITUTE

Salisbury, MD | Ocean Pines, MD

peninsula.org/cancer

SHA officials to discuss Ocean Parkway roundabout

Maryland State Highway Administration officials will host an informal informational meeting on the proposed Ocean Parkway roundabout on July 11 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Assateague Room of the Ocean Pines Community Center.

Bob Rager, Maryland State Highway Administration district community liaison, will lead the presentation.

"The informal walk-through meeting allows us to engage citizens individually, but also offers the flexibility to bring people together at a station around common interests and concerns if the need arises," he said. "By maintaining an informal, walkthrough atmosphere, we can do this several times throughout the evening as needed and ensure that everyone gets heard. This format also eliminates

concerns audience members often have regarding visibility of any screen presentation and difficulty understanding speakers due to room noise or soft voices."

"This meeting is just one opportunity for engagement," he continued. "We'll certainly continue the conversation and look to engage Ocean Pines residents throughout this process."

Rager said recent roadwork on Route 589 and Ocean Parkway was "routine survey work related to the roundabout concept." It is unclear if further work will be required, in the near term.

Association Vice President Steve Tuttle said he personally forwarded about 60 or 70 emails from homeowners

to state transportation officials, most of which were strongly opposed to the idea of a North Gate roundabout.

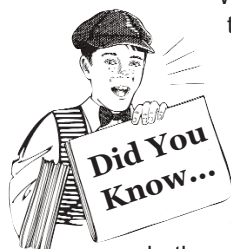
"Many believe it will be very unsafe and they will not be able to use the North Gate exit from our community, and most believe this project is being thrust upon them because of the

PRMC project [on Ocean Parkway]," Tuttle said. "With that kind of community sentiment, we felt it was vital to have an informational meeting with the Maryland State Highway Administration officials present, so our homeowners can express their sentiments and hear directly from the planners of this project."



The year 1893 was an important one in hot dog history. According to the National Hot Dog and Sausage Council, in 1893, the city of Chicago hosted the Chicago Columbian Exposition, a world's fair that celebrated the 400th anniversary of famed explorer Christopher Columbus's arrival in the New

World in 1492. Visitors to the exposition consumed large quantities of sausages sold by vendors. Many immediately took a liking to this unique food because it was both easy to eat and inexpensive. The NHDSC notes that Germans are likely responsible for introducing sausages served on buns. In addition to their popularity at the Columbian Exposition, hot dogs got another boost in 1893 when they first started appearing at ballparks. Many modern baseball fans now cannot imagine attending a ballgame without indulging in a hot dog or two, and some historians believe they have German immigrant Chris von der Ahe to thank for that. Chris von der Ahe owned the St. Louis Browns, and in 1893 his team became the first to sell hot dogs at baseball games, though some historians dispute this.



Declaration of Independence to be read

On Thursday July 4 Synepuxent Post #166 American Legion and the Captain John Smoot Chapter of the Maryland Society of Sons of the American Revolution will hold its second annual joint event with the reading of the Declaration of Independence at Post #166. The joint program will start at 1 p.m. with parking available in the parking lot. The entry will be on the north side of the Post on 24th Street. Sarge Garlitz of Captain Smoot's Chapter SAR as well as the commander of the South Eastern Shore District American Legion, Chaplain Ben Dawson of Synepuxent Post #166 American Legion and President Mark Tyler of the Captain Smoot Chapter of the SAR will read the Declaration of Independence. This annual event is open to the public. The entertainment for the afternoon will be Ken and Caroline Farley of "Fife and Fife" who will play music of the mid-1770s.



SDHS students write their own success

Six Stephen Decatur High School students walked away with cash prizes after placing first, second or third in the 7th Annual Peggy Hevel Memorial Writing Contest, which includes the categories of poetry, short story, and one act plays. The contest was named in honor of Peggy Hevel, a long-time English teacher at the school.

Pictured are **Mariana Juarez-Quio** (one act play, poetry), **Morgan Carlson** (short story), **Lydia Woodley** (poetry), **Jake Gillespie** (short story), **Maeve Donahue** (short story), **Jenna Miller** (poetry), and Principal **Tom Sites**.

**The
Courier**

Chip Bertino Publisher/Editor

Mary Adair Comptroller

Linda Knight Advertising Representative

Contributing Writers

Dan Collins, Ron Fisher, June Freeman, Douglas Hemmick, Jean Marx, Kelly Marx, and Bev Wisch
Robert B. Adair 1938-2007

P.O. Box 1326 Ocean Pines, MD 21811
410-641-6695 • fax: 410-641-6688
thecourier@delmarvacourier.com
www.delmarvacourier.com

The Courier is published Wednesday morning by CMN Communications, Inc. Contents copyright 2019. News release items and calendar entries should reach us Friday noon prior to publication date. The advertising deadline is Friday at 5 p.m. Read **The Courier** online at delmarvacourier.com

Going to the beach with small children and all their stuff

Author's Note: I wrote several years ago but believe it's true today as it was then.

While sitting on the beach the other day I watched a young family setting up their site. They had three small children,

We had to unload the car and begin walking. The cooler had handles on each side so Susan and I could carry a side. On top of the cooler we put the duffel bags, and the multi-colored beach umbrella. In our other arms we carried the folding chairs and the playpen. We would place the kids in the stroller and push it in front of us with our feet.

We took up the entire width of the sidewalk as we walked toward the beach. By the second block, I would announce our arrival by declar-

ing, "Watch the tram car, please." People would bolt out to the street or press themselves flat against the buildings as we passed.

By the third block we normally got a police escort from the police bicycle patrol. They had the streets cordoned off so we could proceed with little delay.

By the time we reached the boardwalk, we were exhausted. Panting and in need of water, we normally opened the cooler to suck on a couple of ice cubes. Sufficiently rehydrated, we made our way on the hot sand to locate a prime location on which to unload. It never failed that we got to the beach at low tide. This meant we had to walk at least a mile to get to the surf. There's never a camel around when you need one.

Once we found the location we wanted to claim as our own, we spent the next 45 minutes setting everything up. The umbrella was put up first and then everything was arranged around it. This was normally done twice. I did it first and then Susan showed me how to do it "right."

Despite the challenges of getting to the beach, we always had a good time. The kids loved playing in the sand and by the water's edge. And truthfully, there is nothing more special than watching a baby experience the ocean for the first time. They were truly special moments

By the end of the day, our Hallmark moments dissolved into reality when it came time to reverse the process to get home.

We were tired, everything was sandy and the kids had doubled their body weight with all the sand they were carrying in the bathing suits.

Now my kids are older. They are responsible for what they bring to the beach so all Susan and I have to bring are our towels and chairs. It's much simpler now but it is a reminder that our children don't stay small forever.



It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

the oldest no more than five or six years old.

While the kids were jumping up and down enjoying themselves, the parents had expressions on their faces that I remembered well. I could tell they were mentally asking themselves whose idea was it to go to the beach with three small children and a truckload of gear. I couldn't help but look over and offer an understanding nod.

When our children were infants and toddlers, it would have been helpful to have had two, if not three, moving men to help get all our stuff to the beach. We had an umbrella, a large cooler that weighed 75 pounds at least that was filled with ice, food and drinks, folding chairs, a stroller, a playpen and two duffel bags containing towels, diapers and at least two changes of clothes for each child.

We began in the predawn hours getting ready. The car was loaded and reloaded twice. I loaded it the first time and then Susan showed me how to do it "right." She complained that the way I packed left no room for the kids. What? The baby couldn't ride on the dashboard?

Once the car was loaded, we had to make sure the kids were fed, burped and properly attired. This process took at least two hours because the baby never quite understood that once he/she was changed he/she was not allowed to spit up his/her food. I guess in their mind, the cute little grin they gave was enough to make up for the fact that we had to go back into the house and change their clothes, again. You just have to love them. Right?

Once in the car, things never got much better because when we got to the beach we'd have to drive around the block several times to find a parking space. Sure we could park closer to the beach if we wanted to spend \$10 on parking. Not me though, I had to find a place fourteen and a half blocks away, where parking was free. Then the fun really began.



Inside Ocean Pines
South Gate



Mon - Sat at 7:30 am
Breakfast Lunch Dinner

Open Sundays 7:30 am- 2 pm
Serving Breakfast All Day
Pizza starting at 10 a.m.

Ice Cream Bar
NOW
OPEN



410-208-2782



Center for Joint Surgery

Knees ... Hips ... Shoulders

- The expertise you need
- Advanced procedures for faster healing
- Call today for a consultation



care.givers

Go to: agh.care/joint

410-641-9189



**November 12 to
November 19, 2020**

TASTE of BORDEAUX
AMA Waterways Wine
Cruise with Host

\$3,687 per person
(French Balcony)
Includes **\$1,000 off**
per person
if booked by June 30



Contact Linda Sprows
410-726-4713
lsprows@dreamvacationinc.com

Facebook page:
Linda Sprows/Bethany Travel
for a detailed itinerary

2 CROWS NEST OCEAN PINES
\$293,900



Lowest Priced Waterfront Home For Sale In OP, One Level With Garage/Remote, 3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, Cathedral Ceiling, Hand-capped Access, Enclosed Porch, Open Water View Of Lagoon, Gas Fireplace, Cast-Iron Electric Stove, Floored Attic, Granite Kitchen Counter-Top, Ceiling Fans, Skylight, All Appliances, Large Deck, Laminate Wood Flooring, Asphalt Driveway, New Roof In 2016, New HVAC System In 2018, Limited Waterfrontage But Small Dock Permitted, Priced To Sell!

MLS# mdwo106730

**John
Talbot**

Associate Broker

Cell: 410-603-7373 (9 a.m. to 10 p.m.)
24 Hour Voicemail 866-666-1727
Office: 410-208-3500
johntalbot7@gmail.com



**BERKSHIRE
HATHAWAY**
HomeServices
PenFed Realty

11001 Manklin Meadows Lane
Ocean Pines, MD 21811

Reading Review

The Wedding Gift

By **Jean Marx**

The Wedding Gift, written by Marlen Suyapa Bodden, takes place in the South in the pre-Civil War era. It gives a stark, close-up look at daily life on the Cornelius Allen Plantation in Alabama as told from the alternating perspectives of Theodora Allen, Cornelius's wife and manager of the household slaves, and young Sarah Campbell, one of these slaves. While the book hints at what the escalating tensions between the North and South will eventually lead to, its depiction of the lives of both slaves and slaveholders underscores how deeply rooted the institution was and how those benefitting from it were determined to hold onto it no matter the cost.

Sarah Campbell tells her story years after the events in the book take place. She describes how her life was always intertwined with that of her half-sister, Clarissa Allen. Clarissa was the third child and only daughter of Cornelius and Theodora. Sarah was the product of an affair between Cornelius and Sarah's mother named Emmeline,

one of the 25 house slaves on the plantation. Cornelius would summon Emmeline to his room several times a week for years, feeling it was his entitlement as her slaveowner. Sarah was born 3 months before

Clarissa, and while the resemblance between the girls was striking, it took many years for Theodora to make the connection and then find the courage to confront Cornelius

about it.

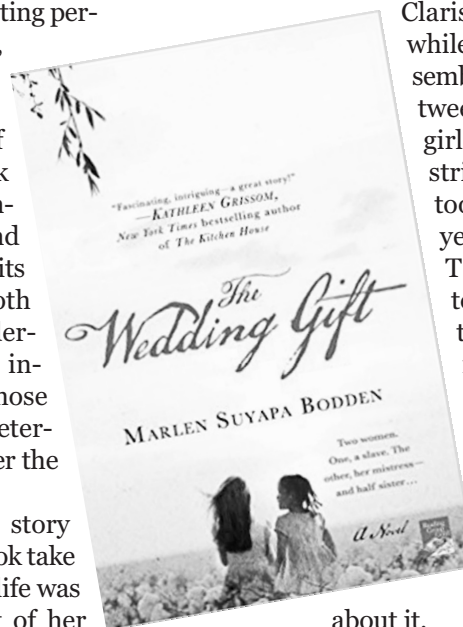
The girls were constant playmates, and at age 6, Sarah began her life as a slave. During breaks, the girls were allowed to play together. Sarah takes a keen interest in books, of which Clarissa has dozens and Sarah discovers the slaves have none. Because Clarissa's much older brothers were already out of the house away at their boarding schools, Clarissa was lonely for company. She begged her mother to allow Sarah to receive daily schooling lessons including learning how to read and write. Literacy was strictly forbidden to slaves, and Emmeline as well as Theodora impress upon Sarah that she must keep this a secret. As Sarah becomes more educated, a longing to escape begins to burn in her

heart.

Over the ensuing years, both Sarah and Theodora in their vastly different roles witness the horrors of slavery and the dire consequences of not playing by the rules. For example, when Theodora confronts her husband about Emmeline, he lashes out at her violently and condemns her for daring to question his complete authority. Emmeline, too, sees his violent streak when he punishes her for voicing that she no longer wants to be his mistress. He sends her first daughter named Belle off to another plantation where she is forced to serve at the whim of a group of young white men and she later returns pregnant and psychologically broken.

Clarissa grows up with her own urge to rebel within this slavery era. She does not want to be told who she needs to marry in order to advance the fortunes and political advantages of both families. Like Sarah, she outwardly appears to play by the rules. However, she learns how to pay visits to other suitors while pretending to just be enroute to see her betrothed. Sarah becomes Clarissa's wedding gift, among other financial benefits promised to Clarissa's soon-to-be husband. Theodora develops more of a backbone over time and puts her own skills to use, also without her husband's knowledge. The desires, secrets, and unwavering spirit of these three ladies will bring this once-great family down – in unexpected twists.

This is Bodden's first novel, published in 2014. She is a lawyer for The Legal Aid Society in New York City where she has over 20 years of experience representing low-income and immigrant workers. This book is actually based on a true story, and Bodden weaves her own knowledge of both historical and modern slavery and human rights abuses into a tale you won't soon forget.



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

STEVEN W. RAKOW

Attorney at Law

General Practice / Civil Litigation / Criminal Defense
Contracts / Construction Law / Traffic

- Past President, Worcester County Bar Association
- Former Assistant State's Attorney, Worcester County
- Retired Marine Officer • 21 Years Legal Experience

410-600-3075

STEVE@STEVERAKOWLAW.COM www.STEVERAKOWLAW.COM

All Major Credit Cards Accepted



**The LORD will surely save me
So we will play my songs on
stringed instruments Isaiah 38:20**



We do that!

www.FellowshipAlliance.com
Church
Come join us this
Sunday 9:00AM
Showell Elementary School - Route 589
410-641-6000

New playground opens at White Horse Park

Work on the White Horse Park Playground in Ocean Pines finished ahead of schedule and the new structure is now open to the public.

The bright and colorful, and completely rebuilt, play area includes a large jungle gym with several slides, a kid-sized zip line, a tire swing and tot swing areas, and two different merry-go-rounds for children both large and small.

Planning for the new playground started in March. Four bids were received for the project, with River Valley Recreation entering winning the bid. The company also oversaw construction of the Manklin Meadows Playground two years ago.

The Ocean Pines Board approved the project in May. Ocean Pines Public Works oversaw demolition of the old playground, and River Valley started construction on June 3. Recreation and Parks Program Supervisor Debbie Donahue said work finished well ahead of schedule.

"They ordered all the parts and pieces and started construction on June 3, with the agreement they would finish before June 17, when summer

camps start, along with our movies and concerts in the park," Donahue said. "They agreed they could make it all happen before the summer season started and they did – with time to spare."

Donahue said the work also finished under budget, with construction estimated to cost \$150,000 and the final bill coming in at \$148,400.

"River Valley Recreation were fabulous and very easy to work with," she said. "They made everything simple and the whole process went very well. They were here at 6 a.m. just about every day and they worked hard to meet that deadline. Finishing a major construction project in a week and a half is almost unheard of!"

"The old playground was 20 years old, and this new one is much more up to date and more fun and inviting," Donahue continued. "With those bright and vibrant colors, it stands out much more than the playground did before."

Along with the Manklin Meadows Playground, homeowners, residents and guests now have options for their children and grandchildren near both



the north and south gates, Donahue added.

Operations Director Colby Phillips was also thrilled with the finished product.

"Debbie did a wonderful job bringing this exciting new playground to White Horse Park that will be fun for all ages," she said. "It truly captures

your attention with all the bright colors as you pass by, and the area still provides a good amount of shade to our guests who will be using it."

Visit the playground at 235 Ocean Parkway, located inside White Horse Park and across from the Ocean Pines Community Center.

WE NOW HAVE TWO FARMERS & ARTISANS MARKETS ALL SUMMER WEDNESDAY & SATURDAY 8 A.M. TO 1 P.M.

Produce • Honey • Farm Eggs
Meats • Seafood • Pastries
Jams • Coffee • Teas
Local Crafters



White Horse Park
(In Rear)
239 Ocean Parkway
Ocean Pines, MD, 21811

Open year-round to the public



Board candidates take questions at first forum

Six candidates for the Ocean Pines Board of Directors met during a forum at the community center, Wednesday night.

Candidates were asked questions ranging from where they would focus their attention on the next fiscal-year budget, to their impressions on the recently released forensic audit.

Forum questions were developed by the Ocean Pines Elections Committee, sourced from homeowner emails prior to the forum, and taken by written submission from attendees during the forum.

"It was a spirited debate and we enjoyed having all of the candidates answer questions from our homeowners and residents," Elections Committee Chairman Steve Habeger said. "We hope everyone will pay close attention to upcoming election dates and carefully review their ballots and ballot instructions before voting. Remember, your vote counts."

Tom Janasek, Larry Perrone, Camilla Rogers, Paula Gray, Shawn

Kotwica and Gregory Turner attended the forum. Edward Solum could not attend because of a health issue, but he is expected to attend the next forum.

To view a video of the forum, visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nFvfp9daOII&feature=em-lb-castemail>. Footage begins at the 29:15 mark.

The second and final official candidate forum is scheduled June 22 at 10 a.m. in the Assateague Room of the Ocean Pines Community Center on 235 Ocean Parkway. To submit questions for candidates, email the Elections Committee at elections@oceanpines.org.

This year, the top-three vote getters will each be elected to three-year terms on the Ocean Pines Board.

Ballots will be mailed to all association members in good standing during the week of July 8. They may be returned either to the ballot box inside the police department office in the Ocean Pines Administration Building

please see board on page 15



Integration - Worcester Preparatory School Middle and Upper School students participate in e-Mission and CyberSurgeons, two innovative, distance learning programs that enhance classroom learning. Through live simulation conducted via web/videoconferencing, students experience real-life emergency situations where critical thinking, math and science knowledge, and technology skills are utilized to solve problems.

Above: Sixth graders **Maxine Ruggerio** and **Jayden Scopp** work as a team on the e-Mission Operation Montserrat.

D.A. Kozma Jewelers

Prompt, friendly & Affordable Service

*Watch Batteries
Custom Designs
Personalized Service
Bridal Consultation*



*We buy Gold
and Silver
Coins*

410-213-7505 410-524-GOLD
www.dakozmajewelers.com

on Route 611 at Route 50
in the Food Lion Shopping Center

MD #2294



Renovation donation - The Ocean City/Berlin Optimist club donated \$15,000 to Believe in Tomorrow to complete the renovations in the Military House on Bayshore Drive. The Military House is used to host families with ill children.

The funds will be used to repair the outside bay side deck, steps and fence as well as providing living room furniture. The Optimist club has donated to Believe in Tomorrow for the past 30 years.

Above: **Charles Smith**, Optimist president; **Wayne Littleton**, Optimist member and Believe in Tomorrow director and **Joe Hammen**, Optimist treasurer.

Nature camps offered

The Nature Club at the Delmarva Discovery Museum will offer programs on Tuesday, June 25 and Friday, June 28.

Delmarva Discovery Museum is offering a day camp in the great outdoors creating a beautiful garden. Learn all about the native plant life and the impact it can have on the environment and the native wildlife around us.

This event will be from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on both days. This camp is for ages six and up. This is a pre-register and pre-pay event. Not-Yet Member Cost is \$20 per day or \$35 for both days. Member Cost is \$15 per day or \$25 for both days. Participants are asked to bring a bag lunch.

The Museum is located at 2 Market Street, Pocomoke City, MD, and is open year-round; Monday-Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday

noon to 4 p.m. For more information call (410) 957-9933 or go to www.DelmarvaDiscoveryCenter.org.

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

Apple Pax and **Apple MedSync** make medication time worry-free. All you have to do is . .



just
add
water.

With **Apple Pax**, your medications come organized by date and time, securely sealed in individual, easy-open packages.

Apple MedSync is a prescription service that synchronizes all of your routine medication refills to one day per month - ready for pick-up or delivery within Apple's free delivery area



Managing your medications has never been easier with **Apple Pax** and **Apple MedSync**. For details, call or stop in your Local Apple Drugs.

Route 13 South and Cedar Lane
FRUITLAND • 410-749-8401
314 Franklin Avenue
BERLIN • 410-641-3130
1210 Nanticoke Road, Pecan Sq.
SALISBURY • 410-543-8401



**APPLE
DISCOUNT
DRUGS**

SANDPIPER ENERGY



BRINGING NATURAL GAS TO WORCESTER COUNTY

Over 4,000 New Natural Gas Customers and Growing!

800-427-0015

www.sandpiper-energy.com



It's about the bait

Fishing Report: Fishing has been pretty good when the weather permits. Local residents George Rines, Joe Costello and Budd Heim have had good luck with keeper flounder. Some blues and small stripers are being caught and one report of a weakfish being caught in the inlet. Party boats are doing well with sea bass.

Dates to Remember: Teach-A-Kid -To-Fish sponsored by the Ocean Pines Anglers Club will be held on Saturday June 22 at the South Pond next to the Sports Core Pool. Watch local papers for details. This is a great educational experience for kids and they also have fun.

The Ocean Pines Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Flounder Tournament will be held on Saturday August 3. Contact the Chamber for details or register online at their web site @ www.ocean-pineschamber.org

It's about the bait: So as not to overcomplicate the next few columns I am going to limit my comments to fish normally found in the bays at Ocean City and baits used to catch them. Did you ever go out for a good day of fishing and after getting no bites you noticed the fisherman next to you was pulling them in right and left? It is usually because they are using the right bait for the right fish. As a result, I thought it might be helpful to review the bait types most common for bay fishing and if you are using live bait how to keep them alive.

Frozen Shiners: The average size is approximately 2 1/2 to 4 inches. I prefer the shiner in the early spring and summer although it is a good all-season bait for flounder. They can be purchased in most tackle shops. Use care when thawing them or they will get mushy and hard to hold on a hook. Thaw in cold water and attempt to keep them cool and moist while fishing by throwing a wet towel over the bait to keep it away from direct sun contact.

Live Spot: A good fishing size is 2 to 4 inches. They have a black spot

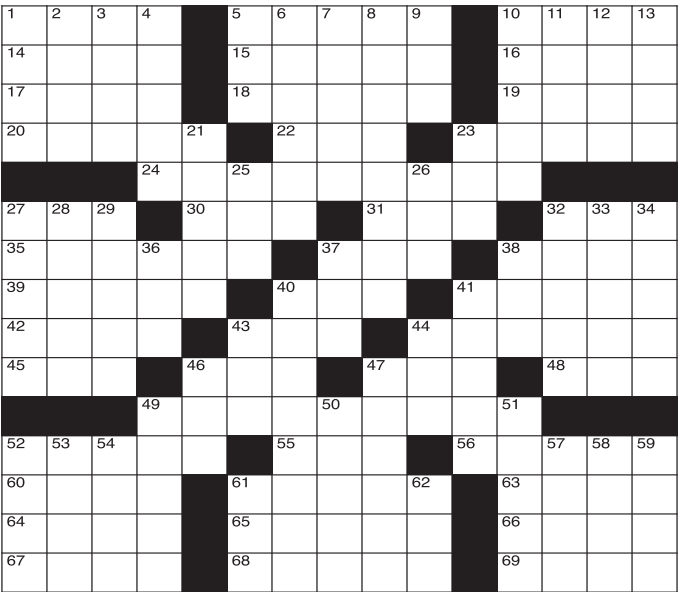
just behind the top of the gill opening and dusky bars on their upper side. They can be caught in canals and around bridges usually starting in late June using small hooks such as a Sabiki rig size 8 hooks baited with small pieces of blood worm, squid or bloodworm fishbites as an alternative to regular bloodworms. They are easier to keep alive in a large aerated bucket or cooler that is round in shape to keep them from running into the sides as with a standard rectangular cooler. They are an excellent live bait for Stripers, Bluefish and Flounder. Hook them through the lip and out along the hard membrane along the snout.

Live Saltwater Minnows: These minnows can be purchased at most tackle shops or caught by cast net or minnow trap in shallow water. Varieties are usually found in tidal creeks and they also hang around sea grass and hard structure. They can easily be kept alive overnight in an aerated bucket but are best bought the day you are going to use them. They are an excellent bait for flounder and bluefish. They are best hooked through the lips.

Menhaden: Also called **alewife or (peanut bunker), and fat back.** They are a very popular bait for flounder, bluefish and stripers. They can usually be caught in large schools in marinas, canals and some creeks with a cast net. Caution, they are a very difficult bait to keep alive as they require large amounts of oxygen. You should try to catch them a few hours before going fishing because they will not likely live overnight. After catching they must be kept in an aerator hooked up to a five-gallon bucket or a live well. A maximum per five-gallon bucket is about three dozen. They should be hooked through the lips when fishing.

Next time more about bait as it is critical you have the right bait for the right fish.

Remember to take a kid fishing,
Capt. Ron

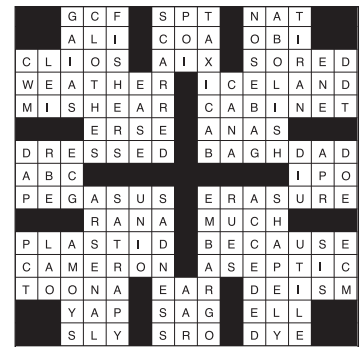


CLUES ACROSS

1. Drains
5. Cleveland baseball team
10. Leans in for apples
14. Language spoken in India
15. Norwegian parish
16. Wings
17. "Family City, USA"
18. Prague
19. Tottenham footballer Alli
20. Cakes
22. A way to save for retirement
23. Good gosh!
24. HBO Dust Bowl series
27. ELO drummer Bevan
30. Kids' game
31. Computer giant
32. Luxury automaker
35. Made disappear
37. Mandela's party
38. Greek personification of Earth
39. Semitic lords
40. Where to put groceries
41. Healthy lunch
42. Greek mountain
43. Disfigure
44. Ramble on
45. Partner to carrot
46. Figure
47. Mock
48. Former CIA
49. Salts
52. Bleated
55. Never sleeps
56. Cavalry sword
60. Scottish island
61. Cyprinid fishes
63. Italian seaport
64. Fruit tree
65. Old World lizard
66. U. of Miami mascot
67. Gentlemen
68. Cover with drops, as with dew
69. Don't stick it out

CLUES DOWN

1. Broken branch
2. A distinctive quality surrounding someone
3. Commoner
4. It can be poisonous
5. Recipe measurement
6. Eager
7. City in Finland
8. Acting appropriately
9. Pitching stat
10. Cops wear one
11. Evergreen genus
12. Lacking hair
13. Witnesses
21. Supplies to excess
23. This street produces nightmares
25. Cool!
26. Basics
27. Type of jazz
28. Remove
29. Seaport in Finland
32. Large formation of aircraft
33. You should eat three every day
34. Dips feet into
36. Patti Hearst's captors
37. Swiss river
38. Talk
40. Humorous conversation
41. Gurus
43. Actress Gretchen
44. Hitters need one
46. Offer
47. Flower cluster
49. The Navy has them
50. Palmlike plant
51. Vaccine developer
52. Guys (slang)
53. Jai __, sport
54. Assert
57. Beloved movie pig
58. __ Clapton, musician
59. Gamble
61. Hit lightly
62. Carpenter's tool



Answers for June 12

Clay-A-Palooza celebration is Saturday

The Ocean City Center for the Arts is hosting a free weekend of pottery demonstrations and hands-on activities geared for all ages from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Saturday, June 22 and Sunday, June 23 at 94th St. bayside. The public is welcome to drop in, and reservations are not required.



Organized by the Art League of Ocean City and the Clay Guild of the Eastern Shore, the free weekend includes pottery demonstrations, children's activities, and original pottery for sale in Studio E. The event will also include an ice cream social with the main Thaler Gallery set up café-style. Handmade pottery bowls from the Empty Bowl Project will be available for \$20 including ice cream donated by Island Creamery, or ice cream alone can be purchased for \$5. Funds raised will

Clay artist **Mary Back** who will be part of Clay-a-palooza.

benefit the Empty Bowl Project to advance the programs of Diakonia and the Art League. Hands-on activities for all ages include the making of ceramic fish, sea creatures, fairies, pumpkins, pins, and

rings. Guests can also make a hand print or a paw print in clay with their child's or pet's name. Clay Guild members include Marie Cavallero, Dot Truitt, Bob Truitt, Ernie Satchel, Florence Kasden, Joy Maxwell, Karen Bearman, Mary Back, Robert Johnson, Sarah Halcott, and

Imma. Johnson will do a special raku firing demonstration using horsehair and feathers. All events are free, but if participants wish to take home the pottery they make, a firing fee based on size will apply. Pottery will be fired later for pickup in three weeks.

A BAGEL and...

Free Wireless Internet

410-208-0707
Open 6 a.m. - 2 p.m. Daily

Serving Breakfast and Lunch

Pastries and Cookie Trays

Boar's Head Meats

RTE. 589

O.P. South Gate Entrance

OCEAN PKWY

A Bagel and...

Southgate - Ocean Pines
(Manklin Creek & Ocean Pkwy)

MAC to host park day

The annual MAC Inc. Fun Day at the Jolly Roger Amusement Park in Ocean City will be held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, July 13. Tickets are \$25 and are on sale in advance only. The event is held rain or shine.

Tickets include Splash Mountain Water Park from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; amusement rides from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. (excluding Speed World and Zip Line); miniature golf from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and water basketball and volleyball for adults. Children under age two will be admitted free to the water park. Tickets are on sale now. For tickets and more information, call 410-742-0505.

THREE MILES WEST OF OCEAN
HIGHWAY ON ROUTE 54

West Fenwick
CAR WASH

36755 LIGHTHOUSE ROAD
SELBYVILLE, DE 19975
302.436.9730 westfenwickwash.com

Tides for Ocean City (Fishing Pier)			
Day		High /Low Tide Time	Sunrise Sunset
Th 20	Low	4:31 AM	5:37 AM
	High	10:21 AM	8:27 PM
	Low	4:20 PM	
	High	10:44 PM	
F 21	Low	5:14 AM	5:37 AM
	High	11:05 AM	8:27 PM
	Low	5:05 PM	
	High	11:27 PM	
Sa 22	Low	5:58 AM	5:37 AM
	High	11:50 AM	8:27 PM
	Low	5:53 PM	
Su 23	High	12:11 AM	5:37 AM
	Low	6:42 AM	8:28 PM
	High	12:37 PM	
	Low	6:44 PM	
M 24	High	12:57 AM	5:38 AM
	Low	7:26 AM	8:28 PM
	High	1:28 PM	
	Low	7:37 PM	
Tu 25	High	1:45 AM	5:38 AM
	Low	8:10 AM	8:28 PM
	High	2:21 PM	
	Low	8:31 PM	
W 26	High	2:37 AM	5:38 AM
	Low	8:55 AM	8:28 PM
	High	3:15 PM	
	Low	9:26 PM	

MALONE'S
BAYSIDE MARINA

Family Owned & Operated

Seasonal RV Sites and Boat Slips Available on Rehoboth Bay

Bait & Tackle Store
Gas Pumps

(302) 530-7777

36085 Long Neck Rd, Millsboro, DE 19966



PARTS SALES SERVICE

The largest RV parts inventory on the Eastern Shore

Specializing in

New & Used RVs,
Lite Weight Truck
Campers, Travel Trail-
ers, Fifth Wheels, Toy
Haulers, Park Models,
Destination Trailers,
Utility, Landscape
and Cargo Trailers,
Custom Built Amish
Sheds and Outdoor
Structures



Home of the Mobile RV Medics

Providing service and repairs at your location!

(within 60 miles of Frankford, DE)



Authorized Dealer for Canterbury Park Models, Crossroads RV Zinger Travel Trailers, Forest River Destination Trailers, Travel Lite RV Truck Campers and Travel Trailers.

Bring in this ad for 10% off retail items and service

www.eastcoastcampers.com

35502 Parker Road Frankford, DE 19945

302-927-0541



Enjoying the race - On Preakness Race Day, ladies gathered at the home of John and Eileen Smith to celebrate. The ladies decked out in their decorated bonnets, sipping Lazy Seasons and cheered "War of Will" as he cleared the field to take first place. (Top L-R) **Gloria Eckland, Eileen Smith, Mary Evans, and Jackie Robinson.** (Seated L-R) **Barbara Morgan, Pat Panuska and Pat Gorman.** Photo by Anna Foulitz.

Annual golf tourney returns

The Ocean Pines Golf Members' Council will host the 35th annual Ocean Pines-Taylor Bank Golf Scramble at the Ocean Pines Golf Club on Wednesday, July 17 with a 9 a.m. shotgun start.

This year's event is being held in honor of long-time Ocean Pines Golf Club member Jim Beisler, who passed away last November. Beisler was president of the Ocean Pines Board of Golf Governors (now the Golf Members' Council) that is responsible for the tournament and oversees the scholarship and junior golf awards that are presented.

The tournament benefits junior golf in the area by helping support junior golf clinics and an annual tournament for junior golfers. It also raises funds for scholarships that are presented to local high school seniors who have demonstrated an interest in golf.

The public entry fee is \$85 per person, which includes greens fee, cart, team prizes, men's and ladies' closest-to-the-pin prizes, door prizes, continental breakfast, on-course refreshments and lunch at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club following the tournament. The entry fee for Ocean Pines

Golf members with a cart package is \$55, or \$70 for members without a cart package.

Players may sign up individually or as a foursome. Individuals or incomplete teams will be paired.

Taylor Bank is the longtime event Title Sponsor. This year, the Optimists of Ocean City/Berlin and Deeley Insurance Group are Platinum Sponsors. Mike's Carpet Connection has again signed on as a Silver Sponsor.

Additional sponsorship opportunities are available, including personal and business tee signs and tee-sign packages. Sponsors are also being sought for long-drive and closest-to-the-pin holes.

Applications may be picked up at the Ocean Pines Golf Club. The entry deadline is July 12, and fees may be dropped off at or mailed to the Golf Shop at Ocean Pines Golf Club at 100 Clubhouse Drive, Ocean Pines, Maryland, 21811. Checks should be made payable to "Ocean Pines Golf Members' Council."

For more information, contact tournament chair Scotty Wheatley at 410-641-7486.

NEW DAGSBORO STORE NOW OPEN!



JEANNEAU

15 MIN. FROM OCEAN PINES

JEANNEAU 9.0 LEADER CC

JEANNEAU 895 POCKET CRUISER

JEANNEAU 795 POCKET CRUISER

BLACKFIN

212 CC
\$CALL

242 CC
\$CALL

272 DC
\$CALL

272 CC
\$CALL



NauticStar®

2602 CC
CLOSEOUT!

22 XS
CLOSEOUT!

243 DC
CLOSEOUT!

223 DC
CLOSEOUT!

CREST

220 SF
LIQUIDATION!

220 SLC
LIQUIDATION!

LIQUIDATION! 220 L

200 SF
LIQUIDATION!



Rudy Marine.com

Where Family Boating Begins

Delaware has
NO SALES TAX!
2 GREAT LOCATIONS!



YAMAHA



REPOWER HEADQUARTERS

**302-945-2254**

32606 Dupont Blvd. Dagsboro, DE 19969



Games that can challenge the brain

Games are as popular as ever. For evidence of that, one need look no further than his or her own smartphone. The number of hours people spend playing games on their smartphones might surprise even the most ardent players.

According to the mobile research firm Apptopia, between May and July of 2018, mobile users spent a whopping 3.38 billion hours playing the wildly popular strategy game "Clash of Clans," making it the most popular smartphone game in the world during that time period.

Games might be seen as a way to unwind, but some games can potentially do more than merely provide a way to escape the daily grind. Brain teasers, riddles and crossword puzzles are just some of the types of games that can help people engage and challenge their brains while still

providing a bit of escapism.

A Healthier Michigan, which is sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield Michigan and aims to help locals adopt healthier lifestyles, notes that the following exercises, games and platforms can help men and women challenge their brains in unique ways.

BrainHQ: According to Posit Science, which created the system, BrainHQ (www.aarp.brainhq.com) is a system of training the brain that was developed by neuroscientists and other brain experts. The BrainHQ platform includes various brain training exercises with hundreds of levels that can help people improve their brain function, including memory and retention.

Writing in the Stars: Similar to a crossword puzzle, this game provides a list of nine words to users, who

must then find the six words that connect to from a six-point star before they can move on the next level. Available at www.happy-neuron.com, Writing in the Stars aims to help users improve their logical reasoning.

Private Eye: With a goal of helping users improve their focused attention and concentration, Private Eye (www.happy-neuron.com) asks players to peruse a grid full of intricate layers and symbols in an effort to find the item that

does not belong.

Braingle: With more than 200,000 members, Braingle (www.braingle.com) is a popular online community where users can go to access brain teasers, trivia quizzes, IQ tests, and more. Users even rank the games, allowing novices to find games that might help them hone certain skills or ease their way into challenging their brains with games.

Millions of people across the globe play games every day. Though players often play games to have fun, they might be helping their brains without even knowing it.



Service DIRECTORY

To place your business card call
410-641-6695



ATTORNEYS

STEVEN W. RAKOW
Attorney at Law
410-600-3075
STEVE@STEVERAKOWLAW.COM
www.STEVERAKOWLAW.COM

ELECTRICIAN

Waterfront Electrical Service • Hot Tubs & Spas
Residential • Commercial • Interior & Exterior Lighting
Service Upgrades • Phone/Data/TV Lines • Ceiling Fans
J.T. Novak, LLC
Electrical Contracting
Prompt Service at Reasonable Rates
P.O. Box 1464 Phone: 410-208-3052
Berlin, MD 21811 Mobile: 443-235-5544
Master Electrician MD • VA • DE • PA

HOME IMPROVEMENT


PAUL'S HOME IMPROVEMENTS
All phases of home improvements
No job too small - No job too large
Handyman Home Services
Over 40 years experience
410-641-7548
Free Estimates
MHIC #83501



DENTISTRY

Gerard Ott, D.M.D., PA
Jeremy Masenior, D.D.S.
Family Dentistry
1 Pitts Street
Berlin, Maryland 21811
(410) 641-3490

FINANCIAL ADVISOR

CARRIE DUPIUE, AAMS
Financial Advisor

215 North Main Street
Berlin, MD 21811
O: 410-208-1704
Carrie.Dupuie@RaymondJames.com
RAYMOND JAMES
Raymond James Financial Services Inc., Member FINRA/SIPC

TITLE SERVICES

ACQUEST
TITLE SERVICES INC
Gwen Cordner
President
9748 Stephen Decatur Highway, Unit 113
Ocean City, Maryland 21842
410-213-7741 / 410-213-7742 fax
email AcquestTitle@comcast.net / Acquest-Title.com

JEWELER

D.A. Kozma Jewelers
410-213-7505 410-524-GOLD
www.dakozmajewelers.com
on Route 611 at Route 50 in the Food Lion Shopping Center

WRITING SERVICES

Publishing, Memoirs & More!



Jean Marx
443-880-0045
jmarx.timeflys@gmail.com
www.timeflysbooks.com



DePalma Dental, LLC



Michael DePalma, D.D.S.
Errin DePalma, D.D.S.

500 Franklin Avenue, Unit 3
Berlin, Maryland 21811
Phone: 410-641-3222
www.depalmadental.com



Kiwanian of the Month

Dick Clagett, president of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines - Ocean City, recognizes members as "Kiwanian of the Month" for their outstanding efforts during that period, and beyond. Pictured receiving the award for May 2019 is **Bill Purvis** (L) with **Dick Clagett** (R). Purvis chairs the club's Blood Bank Participation, and has done so for many years, was the recipient. Purvis, and the fellow Kiwanis members he enlists, man the snack and recovery table at the Blood Bank of Delmarva blood drives in Ocean Pines, which occur several times a year.

board

from page 8

on 239 Ocean Parkway, or mailed to the Ocean Pines post office box in Berlin.

The cutoff for voter eligibility is July 3.

Additional upcoming election dates are as follows:

-Ballots counted and announced: Aug. 9 at 10 a.m. in the East Room of the Ocean Pines Community Center on 235 Ocean Parkway

-Election results validated: Aug. 10 at 10 a.m. during the Annual Meeting of Membership in the Assateague Room of the Ocean Pines Community Center on 235 Ocean Parkway

For questions about the election, email elections@oceanpines.org.

clubhouse

from page 3

new clubhouse is completed. Food and beverage service and restroom facilities will be available during the interim.

"The project remains on track and it's been a real team effort to get us this far," Viola said. "We're excited for the new building and thrilled with the work Golf Director John Malinowski has done to keep the course running with only minimal disruption."

Opened in 1972, the Ocean Pines Golf Course is one of the earliest courses in the Ocean City area. It is open to the public year-round, and is the only Robert Trent Jones, Sr.-designed course on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

The Ocean Pines Golf Course features 18 holes of championship golf, practice facilities, instructional clinics, summer junior golf camps, private lessons and club sales, and fittings and repair services. Golf memberships are available for families, individuals and juniors.

For more information on the course, call 410-641-6057 or visit www.oceanpinesgolf.org.

audit

from page 1

the missing deposits may relate to bank employees failing to follow the bank's procedure," the report said.

Additionally, the report found \$5,262 in missing petty cash funds apparently taken by a food and beverage manager "who confessed and was terminated." Nearly half of that amount, \$2,484, was recovered from the manager's final paycheck.

The investigation did not identify any other fraudulent activity.

Gross, Mendelsohn recommendations included having the accounting manager verify the accuracy of each completed deposit ticket, retaining a copy of each deposit ticket sent to the bank, reviewing all canceled checks, and ensuring checks issued for more than \$15,000 contain two authorized signatures.

The firm also called for more realistic budgeting, for the finance department to perform periodic surprise counts of petty cash funds, and for petty cash disbursements to be supported by a receipt and signed by the recipient.

Conclusions and recommendations based on the public works forensic audit identified "several findings of noncompliance with OPA financial policies," as well as purchases made from a business owned by a relative of the public works director and the spouse of an association employee. The report also identified a public works employee related to the public works director.

According to Gross, Mendelsohn's recommendations, "The Finance Department should require that all documentation of written bids and Board approval ... be submitted along with the approved purchase order and vendor invoices (not estimates), before payment is issued."

The report recommended not releasing any check for more than \$15,000, unless the check is signed by two authorized signers, and establishing written policies to seek at least three written bids for purchases made on a frequent basis. Gross, Mendelsohn also recommended increasing the threshold for purchases requiring three written bids from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

The firm called for written policies for purchases and contracts involving vendors who are relatives of association employees or board members, and written policies for employing relatives of association employees or board members.

According to the report, "It is our understanding that some of the above-listed recommendations have already been implemented."

To address the personnel issues, General Manager John Viola has formed a working group to review the association handbook, which already includes a section on "Employment of Relatives."

According to the handbook, "members of your immediate family will be considered for employment based on their qualifications," but immediate family will not be considered if employment would "create a direct supervisor-subordinate relationship with a family member, have the potential for creating an adverse effect on work performance [or] create either an actual conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict of interest."

A human resources attorney was consulted about the matter and provided an opinion that Ocean Pines' current policies comply with the law. It was also determined that no employees working for Ocean Pines directly report to a supervisor they are related to.

"We have closely reviewed potential conflicts regarding the employment of relatives and expect a report from our work group to be forwarded to the board of directors for action," Viola said. "Our human resources attorney is developing a script for us to perform training on the employment of relatives, which will be conducted on a department by department basis, and some changes to the employee handbook and our policies may be necessary, going forward."

The Ocean Pines Board of Directors reviewed and accepted the forensic audit by an email vote last month. No changes were made and unredacted copies are available to association members, upon request.

To request a copy of the forensic audit, email Executive Secretary Michelle Bennett at mbennett@oceanpines.org and include name, lot number, address and phone number.



**Discounts of
Up to 36%
for Ocean Pines Association
Guests and Members!**

**Passes Available at the
Ocean Pines Community Center**



30th St. & Coastal Hwy & at the Pier
www.JollyRogerPark.com