

## *The birth of a skipjack, the decline of the oysters*

By **Charles Rouse**

The old sea captain eased his skipjack next to the wharf with a well-seasoned hand. He could almost do it blind-folded; just by getting the feel of the waves pushing against the boat and listening to the flutter of the sails. He docks the skipjack by the bucket lift, one that will soon weigh his catch of oysters and pay him his measure of his worth on this bleak day in March.

“Drudging is almost done now,” he murmurs to his mates as he views the paucity of oysters culled at the end of a long and laborious day on the water. His crew would wind in the dredges, now resting on either side of the deck over thirty times a day. Each time there seemed to be fewer live oysters. “I think this is it,” he utters sadly to no one in particular. Drudging for oysters is just about over.

When Captain John Smith arrived on the Chesapeake Bay in 1608, the oysters were as big as a dinner plate. Nine inches across and succulent beyond description. A day’s catch could be hauled up in just a few hours, and a man could be well-fed with just a half-dozen or so. The reefs were so large that at low tide, the skipper would have to post a watchman to help the steersman maneuver the vessel around them. And the reefs were so

abundant that a waterman could drop a dredge almost any place in the bay and be assured of a bountiful catch. The bay gave up 15 million bushels of oysters a year in 1880, dredged up by over 800 skipjacks that traversed the bay for eight months of the year. This year, however, the bay gave up less than 80,000 bushels of oysters. Dredging profitably for oysters is just about over.

“Something must be done,” cried the conservative congressmen in Annapolis, “We need to preserve the oysters, and the tradition of dredging as a way of life along the Chesapeake Bay.” Just as Margaret Mitchell said of the Old South with its charm and grace, was “Gone with the Wind,” so now the waterman’s way of life and the oysters that supported it will soon be “gone with the waves.” Something must be done.

There were telltale signs of the bays depleting supply of oysters. In 1878, Lt. Edward Francis Winslow conducted a major survey of the bay’s oyster beds. He found that when dredges broke up oyster rocks, the oysters seemed to grow bigger from having more room to grow. This also increased production of oyster larvae. Once attached to a surface, such as oyster shells, the larvae become spat



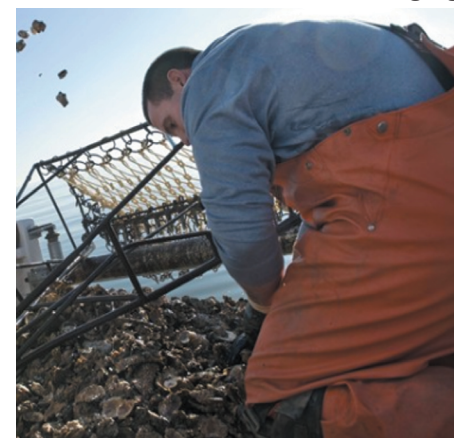
Built by Sylvester Muir, Oriole, MD 1905. Dredge # 3. Photographed 1993 at Knapps Narrows, Tilghman Island, MD. Randolph George. “Memoir of a Skipjack.”

which become the next generation of edible oysters. However, his recommendations to preserve and regulate the oyster beds were rejected. That year, the live oyster take decreased by almost a half bushel per acre of oyster beds.

The high demand for oysters continued but the oyster harvests were steadily declining. By 1900, deep water oyster beds were depleted. This gave rise to a new type of fishing boat, one that would not go out on the oceans but remain in the shallow portions of the bay. This new boat, with a shallow draft, a sharply raked mast, and extremely long boom, started appearing on the bay in order to access shallow oyster beds closer to shore. This new boat was called a “skipjack.”

Debate remains to this day as to the origins of the name. Some speculate it came from a name New England fisherman called the flying fish. Still others claim it is derived from an archaic English term, meaning an “inexpensive yet useful servant.” The skipjacks were inexpensive to build and easy to operate. The hull is

wooden and V-shaped, with a hard chine and a square stern. In order to provide a stable platform when dredging, skipjacks have very low freeboard and a wide beam, averaging



one third the length on deck. A centerboard is constructed in lieu of a keel. The mast is hewn from a single log, with two stays on either side, without spreaders; it is stepped towards the bow of the boat, with a small cabin. As typical in regional practice the bow features a curving

**Note:** On July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019, the skipjack Nathan of Dorchester, celebrated its silver anniversary.

For the past 25 years, the Nathan has taken groups of people out on the Choptank River and Chesapeake Bay teaching visitors of all ages about the ecology of the river and bay, the oysters and a way of life on the Eastern Shore that is quickly vanishing. The Nathan has also been a floating ambassador for Cambridge, MD, visiting ports of call along the Chesapeake Bay.

Charles Rouse, marketing director for the Nathan, has written four articles which highlight key stepping stones in the life of the boat.

The first deals with the declining oyster population and subsequent decline of the skipjacks. The second article talks about Nathan Myers and President Bush’s Thousand Points of Light, both of which were instrumental in building the Nathan. The third article talks about the actual building of the skipjack, which became a community undertaking. And the fourth article speaks of the impact the Nathan has had on the Cambridge community.

These four articles give the reader an insight into the birth of the skipjack, and a way of life that endured for the past 100 years.

please see *skipjack* on page 15



# Community Calendar

## AUGUST

### 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 7 p.m. 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 1987, Lynne Cox braved the freezing waters of the Bering Strait to make the first recorded swim from the United States to the Soviet Union.

Lynne Cox's swimming career began in her native New Hampshire when she was just nine years old. Not long after that, her parents moved the family to California so that Lynne and her siblings could live near the ocean and have access to better swim coaching.

By 1987, when Cox decided to try her luck at swimming the Bering Strait, the Cold War was just beginning to thaw, and under the leadership of reformer Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet Union opened their border to Cox. Her swim is considered one of the most incredible cold-water swims in history.



### Anglers to meet

The Ocean Pines Anglers Club will meet on Saturday at August 10, 9:30 a.m. in the Ocean Pines library. The speaker will be Big Bird Cropper one of the most popular fisherman in the area. If you read the *Coastal Fisherman*, watch "Outdoors Delmarva," or view the TV show, "Hooked on OC," you have seen him. Big Bird will share some of his secrets for catching the big ones in our local waters. All are welcome.

### Police chiefs to speak at meeting

The Worcester County NAACP will hold a "Neighborhood Policing" discussion with the chiefs of police or their representatives from these Worcester communities: Arnold Downing, Berlin, David Massey, Ocean Pines, Lee Brumley, Pocomoke and Andy McGee, Snow Hill. The meeting will occur Thursday, August 15 at 6:30 p.m. at the Berlin MAC Center located at 10129 Old Ocean City Blvd in Berlin. An executive meeting at 6 p.m. precedes the speakers. For further information call 443-944-6701.

### Wor-Wic offers Saturday registration

Wor-Wic Community College is offering an additional day to register for fall credit classes on Saturday, August 10, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

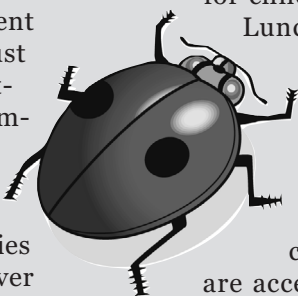
Participants can apply for financial aid, take placement tests, talk to an advisor, register for classes, make payment arrangements, visit the bookstore and/or learn about child care opportunities. Credit classes begin September 4.

To RSVP, visit the college's website at [www.worwic.edu](http://www.worwic.edu) or call the college at 410-334-2895.

### 'Wacky World of Bugs' to be explored

The Delmarva Discovery Museum will offer for a one-day event all about bugs on Tuesday, August 13. Spend time in the great outdoors discovering the positive impact bugs have on the world.

Discover the small things that make a huge difference through several hands-on activities and helping to create our first ever bug display.



Activities include crafts, games, nature walks, bug collecting and animal encounters. This event is for children six and up.

Lunch will not be provided.

Space must be reserved and pre-paid. VISA, Master Card, check and cash

are accepted. The program is limited to 25

students. Not-Yet Member cost is \$15 per child. Member cost is \$10 per child.

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 contact 410-957-9933 or go to [www.DelmarvaDiscoveryCenter.org](http://www.DelmarvaDiscoveryCenter.org).

### Dem picnic scheduled

The Worcester County Democratic Club annual Labor Day picnic is September 2 from noon to 3 p.m. at White Horse Park in Ocean Pines. Catering will be provided by Em-ings of Bishopville. There will be music and a speaker. Chicken, baby back ribs, salads and beverages are included. The cost is \$25 per person. Call 301-667-3099 to reserve your ticket.



# OPA signs contract for employee compensation study

The Ocean Pines Association has agreed to terms with New York firm Sibson Consulting for a comprehensive compensation study to include employee wages and benefits.

According to the contract the total fixed fee, including expenses, will be \$48,000 to \$51,000.

The Board of Directors earlier this month voted 6-0 to authorize General Manager John Viola to negotiate a contract for the study. According to the formal Board motion, the contract amount was “not to exceed \$100,000” and would include an “analysis of all positions and salaries, [an] external salary survey, benefits study, development of a compensation philosophy, and development of an implementation plan.”

Budgeted funding for the study was \$25,000, but a workgroup later agreed the higher cost was “justified based on need for the scope of services that are proposed,” according to Director Colette Horn.

“The consultant will be helping Ocean Pines develop a strategy for making any compensation adjustments needed, based on their findings and based on upcoming changes to minimum wage,” Horn said. “They will be providing us with tools to set and adjust compensation such that we will be able to forecast payroll and benefit costs more than a year at a time.”

The finalized contract, signed on Wednesday, features several phases of work, with Sibson set to create “a customized salary, benefits and pay practices market survey with up to 30 benchmark job titles, to be distributed to up to 12 HOAs and municipalities.” Sibson will then compare salary ranges and benefits packages with other homeowner’s associations and cities, and draft a report on the findings.

Based on the report, Sibson will develop pay schedules and recommend salary structures and incentives that “can be supported without excessive

increases to the yearly property owner assessments.” The firm will estimate the cost of implementing the recommended changes “to provide parity with the identified market.”

In a final phase, Sibson will craft a presentation for the Ocean Pines Board and homeowners.



Ocean Pines Association President **Doug Parks**, with Executive Secretary **Michelle Bennett**, on July 31 sign a contract with Sibson Consulting for a compensation study.

General Manager John Viola said the cost was lower than first estimated because Ocean Pines would take on some of the work, including writing job descriptions using Sibson-approved templates.

The firm is scheduled to start work on Aug. 7, with a target of finishing by the end of October. Viola said that timeline would allow the study results to be factored into the fiscal 2021

budget.

“We want a comprehensive, benchmarked evaluation, by position, with a review of job descriptions and compensation ranges including a minimum, maximum and midpoint,” Viola said. “It has to be a complete, compre-

hensive analysis of our compensation package – and not just salary.”

Viola said the study would provide transparency both for the assessment-paying homeowners and the employ-

*please see study on page 15*

## RELIEF... IS JUST STEPS AWAY.

“We welcome you to our new practice!”

William Hamilton, Jr., DPT, CHT  
and Jennifer S. Hamilton, DPT, CHT

If you're in pain that is making everyday activities difficult... there's a new Physical Therapy practice in Ocean Pines that you should know about. You may already know Billy and Jenn Hamilton, they've been Doctors of Physical Therapy in the region for over 13 years, and they are both Certified Hand Therapists.

NOW, just around the corner, Billy and Jenn have set up a very special kind of practice in Pennington Commons. And you don't need a referral to get relief! That's right, the Hamiltons will take care of all the paperwork with your insurance company to make sure you get the care you need, quickly and easily!

So call, email or simply stop in to experience a new kind of physical therapy, it's a breath of fresh air for anyone who is experiencing pain.

Pennington Commons, steps away from Food Lion.

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# Saving money on TV

By **Joe Reynolds**  
*OceanPinesForum.com*

The average home today probably pays double or more for cable TV and internet than what we paid for a home b a c k a r o u n d 1965. A two-story, brand new, three-bedroom, corner brick r o w h o m e mortgage set us back about \$100 a month. This included principal, interest, fire insurance, and real estate taxes. Today, lots of folks are shelling out \$200 or more just for TV and internet. In 1965 there was only free TV and it came into one's home via a rooftop antenna. The airwaves delivered ABC, CBS, and NBC.

Interestingly, those same channels plus Fox Network and Public



The Mediterranean diet has been associated with a reduced risk for various diseases, including heart disease, cancer, Parkinson's, and Alzheimer's diseases. According to the Mayo Clinic, the Mediterranean diet emphasizes eating primarily plant-based foods, such as fruits and vegetables, whole grains, legumes, and nuts. The Mediterranean diet also emphasizes replacing butter with healthy fats, such as olive oil and canola oil, and using herbs and spices instead of salt to add flavor to foods. Consumption of red meat is limited to no more than a few times per month when following the Mediterranean diet, while eating fish and poultry at least twice a week is encouraged.



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Television are still available free over the airwaves, even in Ocean Pines.

Ocean Pines Association Declarations of Restrictions do not allow rooftop antennas. However, the restriction is meaningless, overridden by federal law. FCC rule (47 C.F.R. Section 1.4000) has been in effect since October 1996, and it prohibits restrictions that impair the installation, maintenance or use of antennas used to receive video programming. The rule prohibits most restrictions that: (1) unreasonably delay or prevent installation, maintenance or use; (2) unreasonably increase the cost of installation, maintenance or use; or (3) preclude reception of an acceptable quality signal.

The FCC says, "Local rules or regulations that require a person to obtain a permit or approval prior to installation create unreasonable delay and are generally prohibited." You can even mount an antenna on a mast up to 12 feet high on your roof if needed to acquire signals of local channels. See the following FCC web page: [fcc.gov/media/over-air-reception-devices-rule](http://fcc.gov/media/over-air-reception-devices-rule)

I purchased a \$40 RCA antenna from Home Depot, mounted it on a second-floor deck rail, pointed it in the proper direction, ran a cable to my primary living room TV, and had access to over 10 free HD television channels, including WTOP, WRDE, WMDT, PBS, and Fox 21. A free iPhone app called "Antenna Point" does the "pointing" job, giving you the perfect direction to Salisbury transmission towers.

This provides local channel TV to one TV, representing absolutely the least expensive way to watch local network and PBS television. FREE. You will probably want more. There are various possible solutions. I chose to purchase an Apple TV for each television set at \$140 a pop, and one Tablo Quad DVR at around

\$250. This setup allows me to view local channels live or record as many as four different programs at a time. Live TV or viewing recorded shows is done wirelessly via a wi-fi connection from the Tablo Quad to any Apple TV box connected to any TV in the house — no wires required. The Tablo even has a provision to auto-skip commercials when viewing many recorded programs.

Also, note that the Apple TV connected to each TV in the home allows access to Netflix and a vast variety of paid and free television. There is even an Apple TV app to access movies from the Worcester County Library - free. The Apple TV, or a similar streaming device, requires internet access, thus one cannot avoid Mediacom entirely at this point if quality streaming is desired.

The antenna installation may be an issue for many Ocean Pines folks. The simplest solution is to call Dish Network.

CordcutterNews says, "No longer do you need to worry about running cables into your house or making sure an outdoor antenna is properly installed because DISH will do all that for you starting at \$99.99. To have an antenna installed, call 1-888-364-6055. (Make sure to call that number. Calling the main DISH number will likely end up with someone trying to sell you a DISH TV package.)"

Back to the Apple TV — there are three or more apps that will provide you with access to nearly all the nor-

mal cable channels you like, such as all the cable news channels, as well as all local network channels out of Salisbury. We chose the app from Playstation-Vue by Sony. Monthly cost is \$50 and includes DVR service. YouTube TV offers a similar service at \$50 but does not offer the Hallmark Channel. At our home, there were two requirements — Fox News and the Hallmark Channel. DirecTV has a streaming service called DirecTV NOW offering both but does not offer local channels in Ocean Pines as yet. If you can do without the cable news channels, you can find deals as low as \$20 a month.

I went with both an antenna and a full streaming service with local and cable channels. I wanted to know I always had the access to locals via an antenna for free, but also everything cable TV or DirecTV satellite provided at substantial savings. Bottom line for you may be a monthly payment savings of \$100 or more a month. In any cost savings, note that there may be zero monthly cost for antenna-only TV but you will still need Mediacom or another internet service to use an Apple TV or other streaming devices if you decide to switch from cable or satellite to streaming service. You should factor in a monthly internet cost of about \$80.

Happy "cord-cutting," even if the cord can never truly be cut. For more information, go to [OceanPinesForum.com](http://OceanPinesForum.com).

## Autism Awareness conference set

Atlantic General Hospital is sponsoring the third Annual Autism Awareness Conference on Tuesday, August 13, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. This event is free to the community. Dinner will be provided and registration is required.

Guest speakers: Jim Brannon, from Atlantic General Hospital. He will be discussing intern growth and development through the Project Search program.

Maureen van Stone, Esq., Kennedy Krieger Institute, will discuss transition planning for students with disabilities.

Dr. Deepa Menon, Kennedy Krieger Institute, will discuss medical and genetic updates in Autism.

For more information, contact Donna Nordstrom, Atlantic General Hospital Director of Community Health, at 410-629-6820 or [dnordstrom@atlantic-general.org](mailto:dnordstrom@atlantic-general.org).

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# Nostalgic?

Flipping through the Netflix online catalog I came across a heading entitled, "Nostalgic '90s" which caught my attention. Not so much for the movies that were included in this category but

through the years and it's now imbued with many family memories.

Shortly after we moved into our new home, our third child was born. Our family was complete: a daughter and two sons. Who could ask for more?

I changed jobs several times during the decade, advancing along the way. There was a lot of travel. Sometimes too much.

My wife became active in our children's activities

that included Little League baseball, soccer, swimming and after school events. She began to teach Sunday School, something she would continue to do for 18 years.

During this decade I enjoyed playing a fair amount of golf with my father-in-law at what had been Pine Shore Golf on Beauchamp Road. I enjoyed that time with him. Neither one of us was a great golfer. We walked much of the course if you know what I mean. Sadly, the course and my father-in-law are no longer with us.

During the latter part of the decade I bought a small 15-foot boat. It was nice to once again have a boat. I had sold my previous boat shortly before we moved to the Eastern Shore. The enjoyable aspect of boating is that it fosters family togetherness. And we "togethered" the heck out of that boat. During the season my wife and I often gathered up the kids, dropped the boat in the water and cruised the local waters, spending many of those days anchored behind Assateague picnicking and frolicking in the water. These were enjoyable times that gave us all many memories.

During the decade we experienced loss. My wife lost a grandmother, a grandfather and great-aunt. I lost my grandmother and my gall bladder.

By the time December 31, 1999 arrived, our lives were moving along at such a pace that we didn't have time to give any thought to how our lives had changed during the decade. We were looking forward. There was no time for reflection. Our oldest child would soon be a teenager and we were discussing starting a local newspaper.

I guess the 1990s could be considered nostalgic. But it's still hard for me to believe that it's been 25 years since I saw "Lion King" in the theater.

Thank goodness for Netflix, which wasn't even around in the 90s.



## It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

for the heading. When did the '90s become nostalgic? It was only last year wasn't it?

I don't consider myself having aged during the nearly 30 years since the 1990s started. When I look in the mirror and look past the silver hair, the heavy jowls and creases around my eyes (which I regard as laugh lines), I see the same person I've always seen, just a little wiser.

At 12:01 January 1, 1990, we had one child, our daughter. Our second child arrived 10 months later. Our third child arrived six years into the decade.

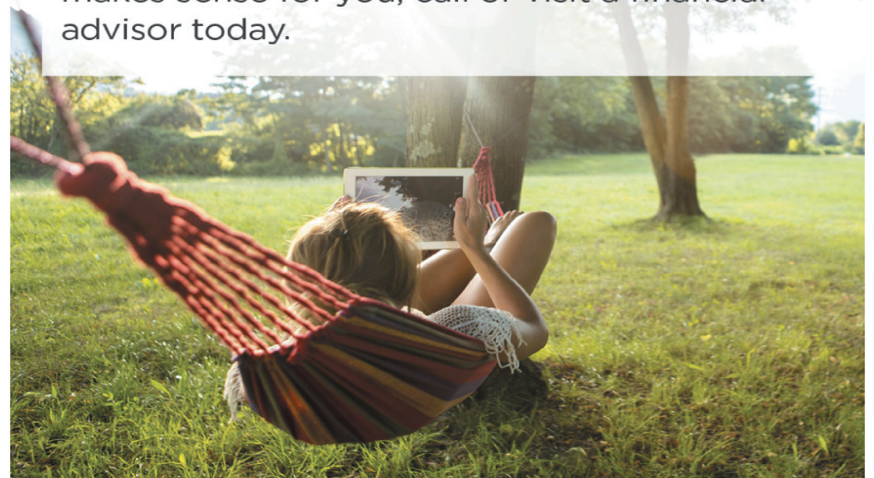
We lived in New Jersey. We had only one car, a Subaru Legacy wagon. We struggled to make ends meet, living in a house we couldn't afford. We were learning the ropes of being adults and being parents, at times struggling to convince ourselves and others that we knew what we were doing. Sometimes we did. Sometimes we didn't. Fake it 'til you make it.

It was during year one of the decade that my wife and I prepared to move to the Eastern Shore, following a job that had been offered to me. We looked upon it as an adventure. The reality was that when we put our house on the market there was a recession. Our house remained on the market for 18 months. We were eventually forced to sell it for less than what we paid for it. The realtor made money on the transaction. We did not. We had just enough for the ferry fare to get to Delmarva. It was a difficult time for us but we made it through, realizing that Maryland's Eastern Shore was where we wanted to call home.

Eventually we scraped together enough money to build a very modest home in Ocean Pines. It wasn't big by any stretch of the imagination but it was ours and we loved it. We still do. We've added on to it a couple times

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# DR archives updated

The Ocean Pines Association has updated its online archive of Declarations of Restrictions.

Several of the files were incomplete because they lacked amendments filed after the original declarations.

The following sections were updated:

• Section 1: added Book 275, Pages 1-7

• Section 12: added Book 4984, Pages 710-713; Book 5228, Pages 280-283

• Section 14C: added Book 1176, Pages 393-395; Book 1316, Pages 562-564

• Section 15A: added Book 2127, Pages 97-168

• Section 18C: added Book 2268, Pages 443-448; Book 2362, Pages 409-416

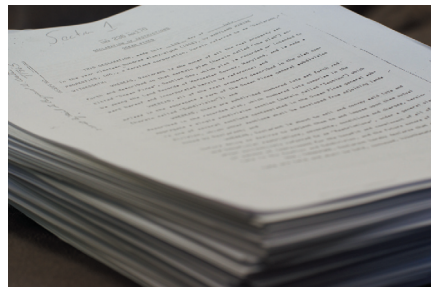
This list was compiled using Ocean Pines' records and the State of Maryland archives at MD LAND

REC, an online database maintained by the Maryland Judiciary, the 24 elected Court Clerks of Maryland, and the Maryland State Archives.

However, additional documents may exist. To view a list of Ocean Pines Declarations of Restrictions by section, visit [www.oceanpines.org/forms-docs-cat/declaration-of-restrictions](http://www.oceanpines.org/forms-docs-cat/declaration-of-restrictions). To view a list of land records filed with the State of Maryland, visit [www.mdlandrec.net](http://www.mdlandrec.net).

Ocean Pines encourages homeowners to check their paper copies of the Declarations of Restrictions for their section against the online archives. For any corrections, email [info@oceanpines.org](mailto:info@oceanpines.org).

To obtain physical copies of the Declarations of Restrictions, contact Billie Tragle at 410-641-7425 or [btragle@oceanpines.org](mailto:btragle@oceanpines.org).



Ocean Pines officials, members of the Pine'eer Craft Club and representatives from Ocean Tower Construction LLC on Thursday break ground on a new craft building in White Horse Park.

## Ground broken on new Ocean Pines craft building

Ocean Pines officials on July 25 officially broke ground on the new craft building at White Horse Park, to be used by the Pine'eer Craft Club.

The Board of Directors in June voted unanimously to award a \$86,826 contract for the new building to Ocean Tower Construction, LLC. The building will be constructed based on a design by Ocean City architectural and engineering firm MAD Design Group, Inc.

As a result of a March vote by the Board of Directors, the Craft Club will enter into a 10-year rental agreement for the new building, with an annual charge of between \$3,792 and \$5,064, depending on the final construction costs.

The new building will stand across from the administration building and

adjacent to the Ocean Pines Farmer's Market held at White Horse Park, while the old building will be demolished to provide additional parking for the nearby Community Center.

The Pine'eer Artisan and Gift Shop was established in 1974 and the organization behind it has a long track record of giving back to the community, having donated more than \$150,000 over the years to Ocean Pines Police, Public Works, and Recreation and Parks, among other groups. The club also sponsors craft fairs that each year draw hundreds of people to Ocean Pines.

Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Program Supervisor Debbie Donahue thanked the Board of Directors for approving the building upgrade, which

*please see **groundbreaking** on page 11*

### STEVEN W. RAKOW

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# Water and sewer issues? Call Worcester County

Ocean Pines residents and homeowners experiencing water and sewer issues are reminded to contact Worcester County, not Ocean Pines Public Works.

“For anything related to water or sewage, they need to call the county, and they have an emergency number as well,” Public Works Operations Manager Nobie Violante said. Violante said Public Works receives several calls each week on the subject. “Ocean Pines Public Works doesn’t handle any water or wastewater – we just take care of our own buildings if we have a problem.”

Karen Hammer, from Worcester County Administration, said water or sewer operational issues should be directed to the Worcester County Department of Public Works – Water/Wastewater Division on 1000 Shore Lane in Ocean Pines. To contact the department, call 410-641-5251.

“It’ll usually go to someone who will respond in a half hour to an hour after they call the emergency line,” Vi-

olante said.

For water and wastewater billing questions, call the Worcester County Treasurers office at 410-632-0686 and select option four.



Violante said Ocean Pines Public Works recently changed its nighttime answering machine greeting, directing people with water and sewer problems to call Worcester County. He said Ocean Pines Police also receives several calls each week on the subject.

“People call us and get upset and think we just don’t want to address those problems, but it’s really something they have to call the county about,” Violante said. “They can call Ocean Pines Public Works if they’re having any issues with drainage ditches or potholes. We pretty much deal with anything and everything – other than water and wastewater.”

To contact Ocean Pines Public Works, call 410-641-7425.

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# Neighborhood Watch Crime Bulletin

**Chief David C. Massey, Ed.D.**  
Ocean Pines Police Department

**4th of July Fireworks:** As you are all aware, this year our 4th of July Fireworks celebration was held within Ocean Pines, over our pond, next to the Veteran's Memorial. This was quite a challenge to the Ocean Pines management team, but I am happy to report that the event was a resounding success. Although a motorist violated our traffic pattern, and was involved in a traffic accident, causing some delays in exiting the event, our residents were most patient in understanding the problem. Thank you for your patience!

**Bikers and Joggers:** With the summer season, we are seeing and influx of bikers and joggers along our Parkway. Drivers should pay particular attention when pulling out from intersections. Bikes must obey all traffic regulations, and obey traffic control devices. The Police Department has free helmets for kids who need them. State law requires that all kids under the age of 16 must wear helmets. Bikes must also travel with the flow of traffic and not against it.

**Ocean Pines Skate Park:** One of

the many benefits of living in Ocean Pines is the use of a Skate Park, located behind our Administration Building. The use of helmets is mandatory when using the skate bowl, and elbow and knee pads are recommended. Police are charged with monitoring activities at the park, through video surveillance, and enforcing all rules designed to keep patrons safe.

**Anatomy of a Scam:** Phone scams are, unfortunately, quite frequent in today's world. In this actual scam, the victim lost \$35,000. Here are the steps the scammer took to cheat the victim out of her money:

1) The victim receives a phone call from a person that sounded like her grandson.

2) The scammer says "Grandma, I need your help. Please don't call mom!" Then another individual gets on the phone claiming to be an attorney for the alleged grandson, stating the grandson needs "bail" money.

3) The victim is given an address in Rhode Island and told to mail the cash to that address.

4) The very next day the victim receives another phone call from the al-

leged attorney stating that more money is needed because the bail has now been raised,

5) The victim is told to wire money to the scammer's account, and that the grandson is lucky to have such a wonderful grandmother. The victim wires more money to the scammer's bank account.

Needless to say, everything is untrue, and professional scammers are at work. Wiring money is often impossible to trace, since the scammers constantly move. Never believe telephone solicitations without verification. In today's world, it is probably a scam.

**Fake Email Addresses:** In today's world, anybody on the internet can create a fake or false name and claim to be somebody else. Recently, a scammer claiming to be our General Manager or Board President sent emails to individuals, wanting the recipients to send money to the scammer.

A quick way to check for scammers is to examine the actual email address of the sender. If it looks strange, it is strange! The next step would be to verify with the real individual that the

email sender was a scammer. Never wire money or send money without actual verification of the real person, which you have initiated and personally verified.

**Domestic Violence Arrests:** As the largest year-round community in Worcester County, police frequently are called to handle family issues, which can range from unruly children to drug use, and even violence within the family unit. Since our last Crime Bulletin, we arrested two (2) individuals for domestic assault. In one of these cases, one of our police officers was assaulted, and the suspect was charged with resisting arrest.

**Drunk Driving Arrests:** Since our last Crime Bulletin, police made two (2) drunk driving arrests in Ocean Pines.

There are many local cab and ride services available for residents to use, if they anticipate alcohol consumption that may impair their ability to operate a vehicle safely.

**Fugitive Arrests:** Sometimes, the people the police come in contact with are wanted for crimes that oc-

*please see bulletin on page 15*

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# Republic Services to issue recycling notices

As part of its ongoing effort to educate Ocean Pines residents about best recycling practices, Republic Services will place hang tags on recycling containers contaminated with non-recyclable materials on Thursday, August 8 and Friday, August 9.

“The recycling crisis that our industry is facing will be challenging to overcome,” Division Manager Anthony Spirito said. “We all know the importance of why we want to recycle. The only way to improve the quality of material is by educating those who are providing it.”

The “crisis” facing the recycling industry is the result of lower or even non-existent demand for materials that were previously profitable to recycle, according to Spirito. Because the net cost to recycle the remaining materials is higher, keeping those materials as uncontaminated as possible helps to keep rising costs in check, he said.

The notices will serve as reminders that only accepted materials should be placed in Republic Services’ recycling containers. Recyclable items include flattened cardboard, paper, metal cans, and plastic bottles and jugs. Items should be empty, clean and dry and should be placed in containers loose rather than in bags or other containers.

Plastic lids, which are too small to recycle by themselves, should be left on bottles and jugs or placed in the trash. Glass of any sort can no longer be recycled as there is no market for that material, Spirito said.

A checklist of non-recyclable items will also be included on the notices. Such items include soiled paper, clothing and shoes, tools, toys, construction waste, medical waste, scrap metal, polystyrene foam, greasy pizza boxes, food, electronics and batteries, diapers and yard waste.

Spirito said that Republic Services customers may place up to four bags of leaves and yard waste curbside for each scheduled pickup. This is in addition to regular trash pickup.

Yard waste in bulk or in paper bags may also be taken to the Public Works yard, located at 1 Firehouse Lane near the south station fire department. The yard is open Saturdays from 8 a.m to 4

p.m. year-round. Contractor dumping and plastic bags are not permitted.

Making sure the appropriate items are put out for recycling or trash collection is the responsibility of the customer, Spirito said. He added that contaminated recycling will not be collected and that those materials ultimately wind up in landfills anyway.

Republic Services representatives will answer questions and share information about the recycling education campaign at Ocean Pines’ National Night Out event on Tuesday, August 6 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in White Horse Park.

“Our industry knows the difficulties we will face with these educational programs, but we have to start somewhere. One customer, one community, one town at a time,” Spirito said.

To learn more, visit [www.RecyclingSimplified.com](http://www.RecyclingSimplified.com).



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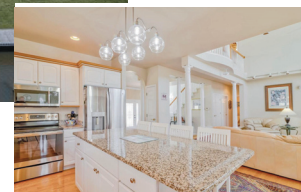
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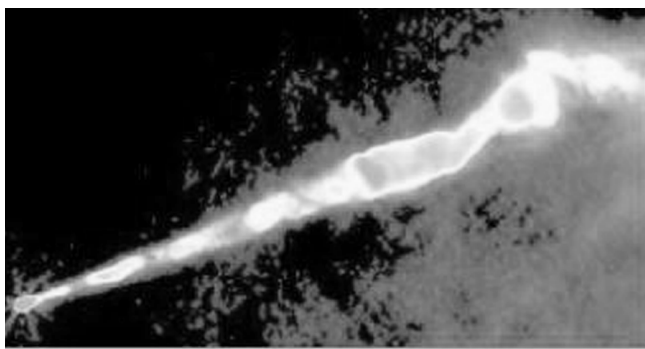
# Astronomy & Spaceflight

By Douglas Hemmick, Ph.D.



## M87's Streaming Jets

As was discussed in the June column, announcement of the first black hole image made worldwide headlines. For the month of August, the column again visits the site of this black hole, the galaxy M87. To put the black hole image into context, NASA recently republished photos of the enormous “jets” of material streaming outwards from the central region of M87. These NASA pictures were taken by the Earth-orbiting Spitzer Space Telescope, while previous sightings of the streaming jets had been gathered by the Hubble Space Telescope and the Very Large Array (VLA).



M87 Jet imaged by Radio Astronomers

While other galaxies show similar jets, the giant elliptical M87 was the first to reveal them, as they were seen more than 100 years ago. In 1918, Heber Curtis at the Lick Observatory in California first discovered the streaming material in M87, which he described as a “curious straight ray . . . apparently connected with the nucleus by a line of matter.” Modern astronomers have observed M87’s jets in visible light, radio, x-ray, and infrared. The jet’s radio emission was first observed by Australian astronomers in 1948.

Astronomy fans understand how material is being drawn in by the strong gravity of the black hole and forms into a swirling, rapidly-spinning, super-heated “accretion disk.” Scientists believe that subatomic particles are pushed outwards from the poles of this disk and that its magnetic fields are twisted tightly. This out-streaming material is sometimes described as energetic ionized gas (plasma). Inside the jet, shock waves produce high-energy electrons that spiral around the magnetic field, thus emitting various forms of radiation. This radiation is

what astronomers observe. Scientists have described the forces producing these effects as the “great particle-accelerator of the universe.”

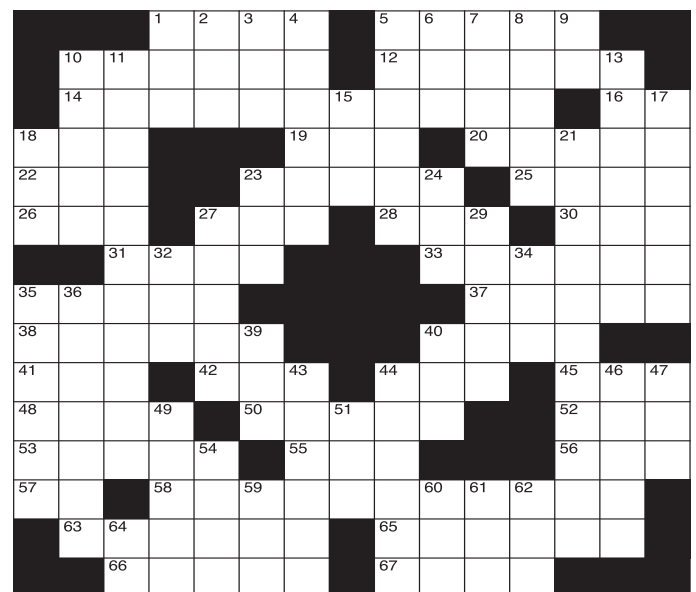
Modern astronomers have found the length of M87’s jets to be about 5,000 light-years. It is impressive to

realize such jets are produced by a black hole whose event horizon is just two-percent of a light-year in size.

M87 is known as an “active galaxy” meaning that it displays special characteristics not seen in most ordinary galaxies. When astronomers observe active galaxies they find the innermost cores shining far more brightly than the rest of its stars. Technically, such cores are called “active galactic nuclei” (AGN) with high luminosity detected across the electromagnetic spectrum. Examples would include observations by radio waves, infrared, ultra-violet, and X-ray wavebands, as well as in optical light.

For some of the active galaxies such as M87, their nuclei not only display bright central regions, but they also eject enormous streams of charged particles or jets, as described above. Another recent example featuring such jets is the elliptical galaxy NGC 4261. In 1992 and 1994 the Hubble Space Telescope took new detailed photos of NGC 4261 revealing these features.

Astronomy fans may be aware that collisions and mergers of galaxies have occurred throughout celestial history. Within the galactic mergers, regions

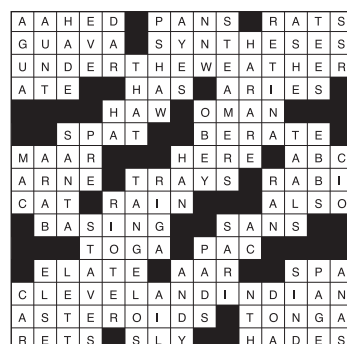


### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Crackle & Pop’s friend
- 5. Having wings
- 10. Small, rounded fruit
- 12. Cobb and tossed are two
- 14. Not sensible
- 16. One of the six noble gases
- 18. Helps little firms
- 19. A way to approve
- 20. Triangular bones
- 22. Plead
- 23. Longs
- 25. Covers with turf
- 26. Peyton’s little brother
- 27. Partner to cheese
- 28. Famed patriot Adams
- 30. Tear
- 31. One-billionth of a second (abbr.)
- 33. Dog
- 35. Electronic communication
- 37. Marked
- 38. Informed upon (slang)
- 40. Actor Damon
- 41. Black, long-tailed cuckoo
- 42. A type of corrosion (abbr.)
- 44. Sportscaster Patrick
- 45. Witch
- 48. Neatly, carefully store
- 50. Indicates silence
- 52. Computer giant
- 53. Sea eagles
- 55. Moved quickly
- 56. Small island (British)
- 57. Prosecutor
- 58. A type of monk
- 63. Pictures or sculptures of the Virgin Mary
- 65. Area of muddy ground
- 66. Saddle horses
- 67. Fasting in Islam

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Engine additive
- 2. ATM company
- 3. Satisfaction
- 4. Park lunch
- 5. Remarks to the audience
- 6. Resinous substance
- 7. Expression of sorrow or pity
- 8. Rhythmic patterns
- 9. “Westworld” actress Harris
- 10. Published false statement
- 11. Ability to be resourceful
- 13. Small, herringlike fish
- 15. 2,000 lbs.
- 17. Scraped
- 18. One point east of due south
- 21. Books of the New Testament
- 23. Political action committee
- 24. Resembles a pouch
- 27. Genus of badgers
- 29. Daniel Francois \_\_\_, South African P.M.
- 32. Pull up a chair
- 34. Egg of a louse
- 35. Removed
- 36. Catches poachers
- 39. Fall back
- 40. Sports equipment
- 43. Stroke gently
- 44. Jeans and jackets
- 46. Firs genus
- 47. Greenwich Time
- 49. “Wings” actor
- 51. Dishonorable man
- 54. Stiff, hairlike structure
- 59. Snag
- 60. Portuguese river
- 61. Defunct aerospace company
- 62. 007’s creator
- 64. Farm state



Answers for July 24

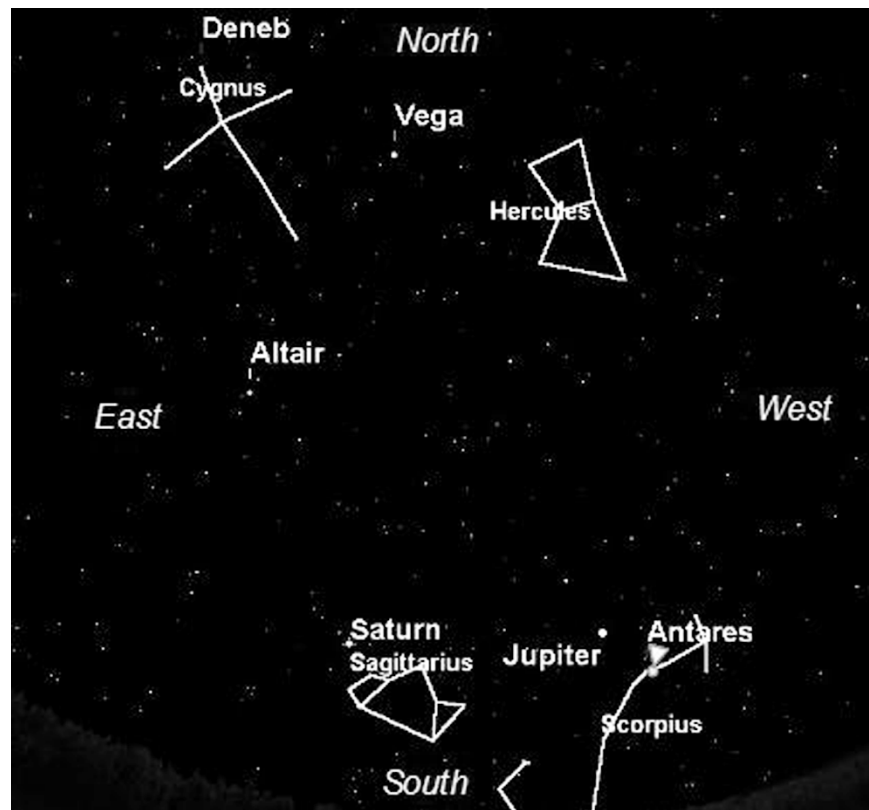


space  
from page 10

containing dust and gas are colliding and combining. This provides stock piles of materials available to be swept into a black hole. In turn, this powers the jets of electrons speeding outwards.

In 2015, astronomers announced they now have confirming evidence that the M87 giant elliptical galaxy has swallowed an entire medium-sized galaxy, in the ancient past. Astronomers have speculated that a similar event may have occurred for the galaxy NGC 4261.

Stargazing begins as early as 8:30 p.m., with the planet Jupiter hovering over the southern horizon. This "king of planets" will appear gradually brighter as the evening goes on, ultimately outshining all the stars. When the sky grows darker, at around 9:15 p.m., viewers will find the full stellar vista coming into view. Jupiter is located within Scorpius the Scorpion which features the bright red star Antares. On August 12, Jupiter



will appear just 4 degrees northwest of this star.

To the west of Jupiter and

Scorpius, stargazers may enjoy the planet Saturn, now returning to the evening sky at a convenient hour. The modest yellowish glow of Saturn makes for good viewing, except on the nights of August 11 and 12, when it is likely to be overwhelmed by the nearby gibbous moon. Saturn appears within the constellation Sagittarius the Archer.

Stargazers may also enjoy the Summer Triangle composed of the bright stars Deneb, Vega and Altair.

This year's Perseid meteor shower will suffer from competition with moonlight, making meteors more difficult to observe. The shower reaches its peak on the night of August 12 between the hours of 3 a.m. and 5 a.m. (technically the morning of August 13).

Wishing good luck and clear skies to all stargazers.

groundbreaking  
from page 6

she called "a long time coming."

"I think it will make a much nicer location and storefront for our Craft Club to work out of, so they can continue to give back to the community and to the different departments of Ocean Pines," she said.

"They make donations every year to all of our departments with the funds that they make, and none of that money goes outside of our community. To me, it only makes sense that we would offer to put up a nicer building for them to be able to continue to do what they do," Donahue added.

Association President Doug Parks said he was "excited to get things started" on the new building.

"It's been needed for a while. The other building was not in great shape, so it makes all the sense in the world to provide this service to the crafters," he said.

General Manager John Viola agreed.

"We think it's a wonderful organization that for several decades has given back to both the Ocean Pines Association and the community, so we're happy to do our part in supporting them with this new building," he said.

Pine'eer Craft Club President Sharon Puser said she was thrilled at

the prospect of a new building with a better workspace and storefront. The organization has roughly 70 members.

"That has been a long time coming for us," she said. "The other shop was starting to be run down and now we'll have a whole new space to continue our work, which is to help support the community. We're very excited."

Oleg Shakirov of Ocean Tower Construction added the company was "honored to be awarded with this project."

"We want to help the community in putting this new building up and we hope they'll enjoy this new space," he said.

Construction on the new building is scheduled to start in August.

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## Craft Club to meet

The Pine'eer Craft Club will meet August 15 in the Ocean Pines Community Center. The business meeting begins at 10 a.m. The month's project is a closed terrarium. The cost is \$15. Please call Sharon 410-208-3032 to reserve your project. All are welcomed to join your friends and neighbors for fun and friendship.

## Committee to meet

The Democratic Central Committee Worcester County will hold its monthly meeting on Saturday, August 10 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., at the Snow Hill library located at 307 N. Washington St. in Snow Hill. Interested persons are encouraged to attend. Call 410-213-1956 for additional information.

## SURF TIDE CHART

Bay Tides - 2 hrs. later

Day	High / Low	Tide Time	Sunrise / Sunset
Th 8	High	2:00 AM	6:09 AM
	Low	8:19 AM	8:03 PM
	High	2:45 PM	
	Low	9:15 PM	
F 9	High	3:04 AM	6:09 AM
	Low	9:15 AM	8:02 PM
	High	3:50 PM	
	Low	10:22 PM	
Sa 10	High	4:07 AM	6:10 AM
	Low	10:12 AM	8:01 PM
	High	4:50 PM	
	Low	11:26 PM	
Su 11	High	5:05 AM	6:11 AM
	Low	11:08 AM	7:59 PM
	High	5:43 PM	
M 12	Low	12:22 AM	6:12 AM
	High	5:56 AM	7:58 PM
	Low	12:00 PM	
	High	6:30 PM	
Tu 13	Low	1:07 AM	6:13 AM
	High	6:41 AM	7:57 PM
	Low	12:47 PM	
	High	7:12 PM	
W 14	Low	1:45 AM	6:14 AM
	High	7:24 AM	7:56 PM
	Low	1:30 PM	
	High	7:52 PM	

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## Swim and Racquet Snack Bar to have reduced hours

As of Monday, July 29, the Ocean Pines Swim and Racquet Club Snack Bar started closing during the week and reopening Friday through Sunday.

Ice cream and drinks will still be available for purchase at the front desk, each Monday through Thursday.

Operations Director Colby Phillips said lower than expected sales brought about the reduced hours.

“While our Swim and Racquet Club Pool is consistently busy, traffic at the snack bar just hasn’t been what we hoped for,” she said. “The snack bar will still be open on the weekends throughout the remainder of the season, and we look forward

to continuing to serve our customers at what has been a very successful year at all five of Ocean Pines’ pools.”

The Ocean Pines Swim and Racquet Club features an outdoor family pool with lap lanes, a tot splash pad, and changing rooms and showers. The complex, situated on a scenic peninsula, also includes free public tennis courts, a gazebo, picnic tables, several boat slips, and a walking trail. Kayak, SUP and canoe rentals are available on site during the summer.

Normal Swim and Racquet Club Pool hours are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily, May 25 through Sept. 2. Weekend snack bar hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. For a snack bar menu, visit [www.oceanpines.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Snack-BarMenu2019-2.pdf](http://www.oceanpines.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Snack-BarMenu2019-2.pdf).

The Swim and Racquet Club is located on 10 Seabreeze Road in Ocean Pines. For more information, call 410-641-7227 or visit [www.oceanpines.org/amenities/pools/swim-racquet-club-pool](http://www.oceanpines.org/amenities/pools/swim-racquet-club-pool).



**Jeff Wright** (right) of Cambridge caught this 72.8-pound common dolphin off the coast of Ocean City.

## Record mahi mahi caught near Ocean City

Jeff Wright of Cambridge has broken a 34-year-old Maryland state fishing record in the Atlantic Division for a common dolphin, or mahi mahi. Wright caught the 72.8-pound fish July 28 off the coast of Ocean City.

Wright was aboard a boat above Poor Man’s Canyon practicing with friends for the upcoming White Marlin Open when his rod “went crazy” shortly after noon.

“It literally took 25 minutes to get this in,” Wright said. “I had to play it until it finally gave up.”

A Maryland Department of Natural Resources biologist identified the species as common dolphin and its weight was certified by Sunset Marina in Ocean City.

Wright’s catch beat the existing record held by Kim Lawson, who reeled in a 67.8-pound common dolphin in July 1985.

“It’s really exciting to see anglers like

Wright break records that have been on the books for decades,” Recreational Fishing Outreach Coordinator Erik Zlokovitz said. “It just shows that with a little patience you could find yourself a part of Maryland’s angling history.”

The department maintains state records for sport fish in four divisions: Atlantic, Chesapeake, Nontidal, and Invasive and awards plaques to anglers who achieve record catches. Fish caught from privately-owned, fee-fishing waters are ineligible for consideration.

Anglers who think they have a potential record catch should download and fill out a state record application and call 443-569-1381 or 410-260-8325. The department suggests fish be immersed in ice water to preserve weight until it can be checked, confirmed, and certified.

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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](mailto:thecourier@delmarvacourier.com)





### Court swears in new child advocates

Lower Shore CASA, a division of Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services (WYFCS), announced the appointment of two new Court Appointed Special Advocates, or CASA's, to the program. On Wednesday, July 31, Judge Peggy Kent, and Family Magistrate Cathi Coates, Worcester County Circuit Court, 1st Judicial Circuit, addressed the newly trained CASA volunteers. The new volunteers are Cara Kurtz, of Berlin, and Galadriel "Gail" Monte, of Snow Hill.

CASA volunteers are court-appointed, trained, and committed adults who represent and advocate for a child's best interest in the child protection system. CASA volunteers help keep abused and neglected children safe, giving them a chance at finding happiness. Most CASA volunteers average 10 – 15 hours of service per month and come from a wide variety of backgrounds, with no particular expertise required. Lower Shore CASA is currently accepting volunteer applications via the Worcester Youth and Family website: [www.gowoyo.org](http://www.gowoyo.org)

Pictured, from left to right: **Judge Peggy Kent, Cara Kurtz**, new CASA, **Galadriel "Gail" Monte**, new CASA, **Nina Tomaselli**, CASA Volunteer Coordinator, **Angela Manos**, CASA Director, and **Cathi Coates**, Family Magistrate.

For more information about these individuals, the Lower Shore CASA program or other WYFCS programs visit: [www.gowoyo.org](http://www.gowoyo.org), or call: 410-641-4598.

### Bowling league forming

The OP Bowling League will hold its annual organizational meeting on August 26 at 1 p.m. at the Ocean Pines Community Center, Assateague Room. All current members and any new bowlers are encouraged to attend. For more information, please contact Don Schaefer at 410-641-8898.

## Student immunization required

Vaccines are vital to protect children from potentially serious diseases. Parents are encouraged to contact their child's doctor to determine which vaccines are needed and schedule an appointment as needed. Changes in Maryland law in 2015 expanded the vaccine requirements for students. For the 2019-2020 school year, students are required to have:

- Two doses of Varicella vaccine for all students entering Kindergarten through 5th grade.
- A single dose of Tdap vaccine students entering 7th - 12th grade.
- A single dose of Meningococcal (MCV4) vaccine for students entering 7th - 12th grade.

Students who do not have the required vaccinations can be excluded from school unless they provide official documentation of a medical contraindication or religious exemption. With proof of an appointment to receive the vaccine(s) within 20 calendar days, a student can temporarily be admitted to school. This portion of the law is not intended to delay vaccination, but instead is designed special situations, such as a new student who may have just moved to the area from another state or country. In addition to

the required vaccines for school, seventh and eighth graders are also recommended to receive the HPV vaccine which helps prevent several different types of cancer.

For those children who remain at risk for exclusion from school, Worcester County Health Department is offering these vaccines at no charge on the dates listed below 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Appointments are not required, but are suggested.

-Berlin,  
9730 Healthway Drive  
410-629-0164  
August 27 and September 5

Snow Hill, 6040 Public Landing Road  
410-632-1100  
August 26

Pocomoke, 400-A Walnut Street  
410-957-2005  
August 29

For more information, visit the Worcester County Health Department's website at [www.worcester-health.org](http://www.worcester-health.org) or call us at 410-632-1100.

## Walk to help recovery efforts

Atlantic Club "Recovery at the Beach" provides two \$1,000 scholarships to Worcester County High School recipients who start classes this fall at the college of their choice.

This spring, two scholarships were awarded to senior students from Pocomoke High School and Snow Hill High School. The scholarships were funded through the Atlantic Club's Annual Walk/Run for Recovery. Applicants submitted essays and a panel

selected the top two from fourteen applications. According to Susan Weiss, the review team chairperson, "we had some great essays submitted and it was very difficult to pick just two winners. They reminded us all of how pervasive addiction has become and how it not only effects the addict but it destroys families".

The Atlantic Club's recovery fellowship goal is to give back to a student  
*please see **walk** on page 16*



**The Courier has a NEW PHONE NUMBER:**

**410-629-5906**



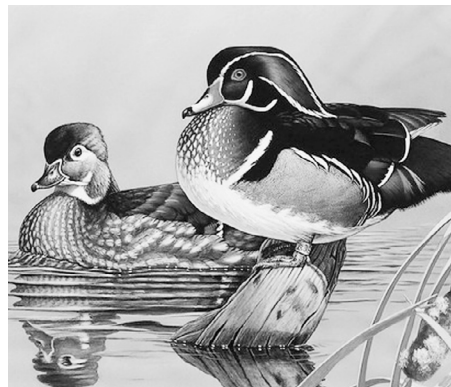
## Migratory game bird stamp design contest now open

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources invites artists to submit their original works for the 46th Annual Migratory Game Bird stamp design contest by November 1. The winning entry will appear on the 2020-2021 Migratory Game Bird Stamp hunters purchase to hunt migratory game birds in Maryland.

New this year, the contest will be held in conjunction with the 49th Annual Waterfowl Festival in Easton, November 8 through 10. The Waterfowl Festival will hold a "People's Choice Award," which will let festival-goers cast their vote for their favorite entry. The department will officially judge the entries at noon on November 10 to select the winner.

Each contestant may submit up to three entries for a fee of \$15 for one entry, \$20 for two entries, and \$30 for three entries. Proceeds help fund game bird and waterfowl research and projects.

All entries must be original works,



*"The Resting Place" by Gerald W. Putt, 2019-20 Migratory Game Bird Stamp Winner*

neither copied nor duplicated from any previously published paintings, drawings, prints, or photographs. To enter, contestants must mail their designs with required fees and forms by November 1.

Complete contest rules and entry forms are found on the department's website.

## Scam targeted Ocean Pines staff, Board members

Ocean Pines staff members and others recently received phony emails claiming to come from General Manager John Viola and Association President Doug Parks.

One email, appearing to come from Viola and sent to a staff member on Saturday, said, "I need you to run a quick task, are you free?"

Upon replying, the staffer was then asked to go to a nearby Target, CVS or Walmart to buy eBay gift cards for a client. The matter was immediately referred to Ocean Pines Police and administration.

Several Board members reported receiving similar emails that appeared to come from Parks.

"In today's world, anybody on the internet can create a fake or false name and claim to be somebody else," Ocean Pines Police Chief David Massey said. "A quick way to check for scammers is to examine the actual email address of the sender. If it looks strange, it is strange!"

"The next step would be to verify with the real individual that the email sender was a scammer. Never wire money or send money without actual verification of the real person, which YOU have initiated and personally verified!" Massey added.

Anyone who receives a suspicious email is asked to report the matter to Ocean Pines Police at 410-641-7747 or [DMassey@oceanpines.org](mailto:DMassey@oceanpines.org).

## Viola issues statement on June financials

Ocean Pines Association General Manager John Viola issued the following statement about the recently released June 2019 financials, the second monthly report issued for fiscal year 2020.

"We had a positive operating fund for the month of June by approximately \$52,000, mainly due to favora-

*please see **statement** on page 15*

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**study**

from page 3

ees who work for the Association.

"It's also important to make sure we're paying everybody fairly and that we have the proper package to attract the proper talent," he said.

Viola added the increased cost would not negatively impact the budget, with additional money likely coming from a prior-year budget surplus.

Along with Viola, the workgroup that helped negotiate the contract included Board members Horn, Jeff Knepper and Frank Daly, Operations Director Colby Phillips, Finance Director Steve Phillips, Golf Director John Malinowski, Budget and Finance Committee Chairman Larry Perrone, former Board member Tom Terry, and Executive Secretary Michelle Bennett.

Bennett, who has taken a lead on the project, offered an employee's perspective.

"As the employees received benefit cuts and no pay increases this year, it was not an easy decision to spend this

money," she said. "However, the community and the employees deserve a study we can all believe in and follow through with. We believe this will help both groups in the long term."

Terry said it was "important that an organization of this size have a full understanding of its employees' compensation package."

"This is especially true since major adjustments have been made recently, which have destabilized long established norms," he said. "Updates need to be made to assure we have a competitive compensation package, while meeting the financial capabilities of the OPA."

"The results of this study, and consultation with independent experts, will hopefully establish a new foundation for OPA compensation to eliminate ongoing changes," Terry continued. "It is important to provide a stable and understandable compensation program."

Daly said the study was necessary because Ocean Pines has "two contemporary studies with conflicting information."

"One shows nobody being overcom-

captains thought it was just not worth the effort; so, the skipjacks were towed up one of the numerous creeks in the marshes of the Eastern Shore, and left to rot in the salt waters of the bay.

A way of life was quickly vanishing. Bone-chilling tales of captains and crew who braved the frigid waters of the bay to earn a living were fading from memory. Historic battles fought over fishing rights and against Virginia watermen were almost lost to history, and tragic stories of vessels capsized in violent storms and hurricanes up and down the bay grew fainter from the collected memories of watermen in towns along its shores. Packing houses, which once numbered hundreds from Baltimore to Crisfield, began to decay and the trains that carried freshly packed oysters up the Delmarva Peninsula and across the country, began to rust. Indeed, a way of life was quickly vanishing. "Something must be done" people said over and over again. Something would be done. Help came, but from three very divergent: an itinerant tinkerer, President George W. Bush, and a dedicated group of visionaries in Cambridge called the "Committee of 100." Together, they pledged to do something, and a plan began to take shape to preserve and promote the great heritage of Maryland's skipjacks.

-To be continued in next week's edition.

pensated, while the other shows about 10 percent of the employees being overcompensated," he said. "One study does not include the Police Department and one does not consider similar positions in other Maryland or Eastern Shore HOAs."

"Neither take into consideration the seasonal impact of employment on the

Eastern Shore," Daly continued. "Neither present an 'in-depth' analysis of the employee benefit package, nor compares them to other Eastern Shore benefit packages. Also, although both studies say some employees are underpaid, there are inconsistencies as to who and how much."

**statement**

from page 14

bility at the Yacht Club, marinas, Beach Club, and Recreation and Parks," Viola said. "We were unfavorable to budget at the Aquatics and Golf operations."

"Year to date, we are favorable to the budget after two months by about \$254,000. In comparison, last year we were unfavorable to budget by approximately \$138,000," Viola said.

Fiscal year 2019, which closed on April 30, finished roughly \$120,000 ahead of budgeted numbers, despite the early signs of being unfavorable.

To view the June 2019 financial report, visit [www.oceanpines.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/JUNE-FY20-OPA-FINANCIAL-REPORT.pdf](http://www.oceanpines.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/JUNE-FY20-OPA-FINANCIAL-REPORT.pdf).

**bulletin**

from page 8

curred outside Ocean Pines. In other cases, police from other jurisdictions locate wanted individuals who may be residing in Ocean Pines. In those cases, Ocean Pines Police are tasked with apprehending wanted individuals by serving arrest warrants. We recently apprehended two (2) individuals which were wanted for crimes they were involved in outside Ocean Pines.

Take a bite out of crime. Join Neighborhood Watch. Call Jim Hamlin 410-422-2736.

**skipjack**

from page 1

longhead under the bowsprit, with carved and painted trailboards. A typical skipjack is 40 to 50 feet in length. The boats use direct link Edson worm steering gear mounted immediately forward of the transom.

The dredge windlass and its motor are mounted amidships, between the mast and deckhouse. Rollers and bumpers are mounted on either side of the boat to guide the dredge line and protect the hull. Due to state laws, the boat has no motor other than for the windlass. Most skipjacks were eventually modified with stern davits to hold a dinghy or pushboat which allowed easy access to and from port. Because they were inexpensive and easy to build, most skipjacks were built in backyards of homes along the Eastern Shore of the Chesapeake. At one time, the number of skipjacks built is estimated at approximately 2,000. The skipjack was designated the state boat of Maryland in 1985, and is the state's only commercial fishing fleet.

However, just as the oyster harvests began to decline, so too did the skipjack fleet. These magnificent wooden boats were built to last about 25 to 30 years. After that, it was too expensive or too labor intensive to refurbish rotten planks or repair worn decks. Many of the old

**Courier Special Feature**  
*Back to School*

The Courier will publish a Special Back to School Feature on August 14.

**DEADLINE**  
 August 9, 2019

**Contact Linda Knight**  
**443-366-4184**  
 CourierLKnight@gmail.com



walk  
from page 13

dent who has been affected by addiction and help him/her full-fill their dreams. Additionally, each year a portion of the proceeds from the Walk for Recovery support The Atlantic Club, a nonprofit facility, to continue its mission in the community serving those with addictions 24 hours per day, 365 days.

Recipients may opt to remain anonymous due to the sensitivity of the topic. This year Nicolette Vickers from Pocomoke High School accepted a check from members of the Board of Directors. She will attend Salisbury University in the fall. The second recipient, Avalon Fortt is from Snow Hill high school and will attend University of Maryland.

The Atlantic Club along with a new partner, the Worcester County Warriors against Opiate Addiction, will host a "Walk for Recovery" on Saturday, September 7, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. on the Ocean City Boardwalk. It is in conjunction with Worcester Goes Purple, which is highlighting addiction awareness during national recovery month. Due to the current addiction epidemic in the community, financial support is needed for 24-hour recovery services, resources to assist those going to and returning from

treatment along with non-judgmental caring of those experiencing addiction. It has never been more important than today. Proceeds will fund scholarships for education and for treatment.

It will take the entire community working together to erase the stigma that is associated with the disease of addiction. You can support this cause by making a simple donation as a sponsor ranging from \$100 to \$1,000 and show off your business logo on the participant tee-shirts. Or register as a participant or team. Registration fee is \$20 per individual (first 50 will get a free T-shirt). All proceeds of this event will go towards helping Worcester County individuals/families touched by the disease of addiction.

Please send all donations to: The Atlantic Club, Attn: Sue Rodden, PO Box 563, Ocean City, MD 21843. Make checks payable to The Atlantic Club Walk for Recovery. Donations and registration may be made on the website for the Atlantic Club, [www.atlanticclubocmd.org](http://www.atlanticclubocmd.org).

For more information, go on Facebook or call Laura Puckett at 443-397-5618 or Heidi McNeeley at 302-381-0569. Any questions may also be directed to The Atlantic Club General Manager, Sue Rodden at 410-213-1007.

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