

Elections Committee releases preliminary ballot report

■ See Joe Reynolds' commentary on page 4.

The Ocean Pines Election Committee today released preliminary results of the 2020 Board of Directors Election.



Doug Parks



Colette Horn

Vote totals for the three candidates running for two available positions on the Board were as follows:

Doug Parks: 2,206

Colette Horn: 1,801

Stuart Lakernick: 1,149

The 2020 ballots also included a question regarding the possible use of electronic voting in future elections. A total of 1,581, or 65.8%, were in favor of electronic voting, while 822, or 34.2%, said they were not in favor. In total, there were 2,403 responses to the question.

Additionally, the Elections Committee released a breakdown of overall voting totals.

According to a preliminary report from Elections Committee Chairman Steve Habeger, 6,975 total ballots were mailed. A total of 2,759 ballots were counted on Friday, for a return of 39.6%, including 2,745 scanned ballots and 14 manually counted ballots.

A total of 20 ballots were rejected, including 18 which were marked improperly or included comments on the ballot, and two which used improper return envelopes.

Additionally, 60 ballots were not counted because they were received one day after the Aug. 5 deadline.

Including rejected and late ballots, the total 2020 return rate was 40.7%.

For sake of comparison, 7,957 ballots were mailed in 2019, and 3,073 were counted, for a 38.6% return rate.

Also, in 2019, seven ballots were declared invalid, including four which were marked improperly or included comments on the ballot, and three which voted for more than the allowed number of candidates. Forty-six ballots were received after the voting deadline, including 42 received two days late and four received four days after the deadline.

Including rejected and late ballots, the total 2019 return rate was 39.2%.

To view the 2020 preliminary ballot report, visit www.oceanpines.org/documents/10184/89280/Preliminary+ballot+report.docx.



Granite recognized

John Granite, a member of Ocean City American Legion Post 166, has been named the Post's Legionnaire of the Year for 2020.

Granite, a veteran of the U.S. Army who lives in Glen Riddle, has served the American Legion for 54 years. He is a member of the Ocean City Post's Executive Committee and is involved in most Post activities.

He has sold raffle tickets on the Boardwalk for the Jeep that the Post awarded to one lucky winner in its 2020 fundraiser. He has served Chairman for the Al Harmon Memorial Scholarship Committee and processed over a dozen scholarship awards to local students.

Granite also has been active on the American Legion Baseball Committee, Support the troops program, the Veteran's Day program, the Four Chaplain Service, Memorial Day program, Donation's Committee Med Tran program, Veterans Outreach Programs, and the First Responders Award Program.

He also is chair of the House Committee and organized the Post response to the coronavirus pandemic. That pandemic resulted in closing of the Legion building and as a result Granite received his award from Post Commander Tom Wengert in a private ceremony at his Glen Riddle home.

In recognizing his many years of service, Commander Wenger said, "John's ability to organize and participate in events has been outstanding. His leadership this past year has been awesome, and he has the Post marching 'in step' to meet its challenges."

Above: Tom Wengert and John Granite.



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High winds, 'sting jet' cause havoc during Tropic Storm Isaias

Tuesday, August 4 was a wild, windy day in Ocean Pines because of Tropical Storm Isaias, with dozens of trees falling all over the community and Police and Public Works crews working throughout the morning and afternoon to keep up.

Only about an inch of rain fell in the community and it seemed the worst had passed by around 10 a.m., when a "sting jet" manifested and caused havoc with high, damaging winds.

are overturned and the area is completely roped off."

Ehrisman compared the impact in Ocean Pines to that of a heavy snow-storm.

"All of our calls were trees that blew down," he said. "We had several trees down into houses and several across roads. I couldn't even guess how many."

Ehrisman said some of Ocean Pines' wooded park areas looked like a battleground. He said several trees fell in White Horse Park and Public Works even had to pull one off of the temporary police building, so police could get through the front door.

"It looks like somebody just came in and clipped the tops of all the trees," he said.

As of Tuesday afternoon, much of White Horse Park was roped off with caution tape.

Elsewhere in the community, Ehrisman said one 22-24-foot boat came off a dock lift, went into the water, banged into the bulkhead and sunk. Another person went overboard trying to bail out their boat and had to be rescued. However, no injuries were reported to Ocean Pines Police.

Ehrisman said a tree on White Horse Drive came through the roof of one home and ruptured gas lines, and the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department were called to assist. Another home, on Moonraker Road, had a tree crash through a skylight.

"All roads are now open, but there's a lot of debris left on the roads," Ehrisman said. "We ask that everyone use caution while driving, especially at nighttime. There's still the chance of a tree coming down that we're not aware of and there's quite a bit of debris on the back roads."

Public Works Director Eddie Wells said he's never seen anything like Isaias in his nearly two-decade career in Ocean Pines. He said Public Works received several hundred calls throughout the day.

"It's been nonstop," he said. "As soon as you think you're done, you get another email or phone call about a downed tree."

"I've never seen it this bad, with the wind damage," he continued. "We've had hurricanes go through and you



According to the "Washington Post," a "sting jet forms in rapidly deepening low-pressure systems when a band of precipitation wraps back along a cold conveyor belt in a region of exceptional wind energy ... When it occurs, very fast winds from the mid-levels of the atmosphere can descend to ground-level."

The name comes from the shape, which resembles the stinging tail of a scorpion.

"We thought the worst of the storm had passed us early on, but the wind picked back up and that caused lots of downed trees," General Manager John Viola said. "The biggest thing is there were no injuries that we know of. Ocean Pines Police and Public Works did an excellent job today and there was a lot of work to be done."

Police Chief Leo Ehrisman said his crew worked steadily from about 5 a.m. until late in the afternoon. Police received more than 30 calls for service during the storm.

"We got the rain [early] and the rain had practically stopped before we got wind damage. But there are trees down everywhere," he said. "Some of the big trees by the south gate pond

please see **storm** on page 12

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Sports bars capitalizing on return of sports

By **Victor Fernandes**

Tyler Simpson eagerly awaits the start of the National Football League season, both as a Baltimore Ravens fan and floor manager at Bull on the Beach in Ocean City. The ongoing coronavirus pandemic has left Simpson yearning for hard-hitting gridiron action.

And if past history is any indication, residents and visitors will flock to the 94th Street sports bar and restaurant on Sundays this fall to watch the Ravens and the rest of the league play. "We get a huge crowd for the NFL. We're packed here on Sundays [during football season]. We open at 11 [a.m.], and we usually have a line [of people] lined up [outside] to get their seats [inside]."

But what if the NFL cancels a portion, or all, of the 2020 season? Simpson already has witnessed the loss of much-needed revenue from a popular sporting event being canceled in the midst the COVID-19 health crisis. March Madness, the National

Collegiate Athletic Association's annual basketball tournament, consistently attracted large crowds to the establishment every spring. But NCAA officials canceled the tournament this past spring. Coupled with extended stoppages in the National Basketball Association, National Hockey League, Major League Soccer and a lengthy delay to the start of the Major League Baseball season, patrons at local sports bars and restaurants settled for Super Bowl reruns, sports talk shows and seemingly nonstop television coverage of COVID-19's negative impact on the sporting world. Simpson turned to music and podcasts to fill the void the loss of sports created.

Now that the NBA and NHL have resumed with the start of their playoffs, baseball has begun despite a rash of positive virus tests among players and team personnel, and MLS has returned with a World Cup-style

please see bars on page 12

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Parks, Horn re-elected

Commentary by **Joe Reynolds**

Doug Parks and Colette Horn will be returning for three more years to the Ocean Pines Board of Directors after both sitting board members coasted to overwhelming victory based on vote count results announced by the Ocean Pines



Election Committee on August 7.

Horn's victory was even more impressive as it came in spite of two local newspapers endorsing Parks and Stuart Lakernick, a new-comer to OPA board politics. Lakernick was also the going-away favorite to win a board seat in a poll conducted on *Ocean-PinesForum.com*. For nearly 15 years this annual poll has closely mirrored the actual election results. Not so this year.

Vote totals for the three candidates vying for a position on the board were as follows:

Doug Parks: 2,206

Colette Horn: 1,801

Stuart Lakernick: 1,149

According to a report from Elections Committee Chairman Steve Habeger, 6,975 total ballots were mailed. A total of 2,759 ballots were counted on Friday, for a return of 39.6%, including 2,745 scanned bal-

lots and 14 manually counted ballots.

A total of 20 ballots were rejected, including 18 which were marked improperly or included comments on the ballot, and two which used improper return envelopes. Additionally, 60 ballots were not counted because they were received one day after the Aug. 5 deadline. Including rejected and late ballots, the total 2020 return rate was 40.7%. Including rejected and late ballots, the total 2019 return rate was 39.2%.

The ballot also contained a question asking association members if they would support online voting. A total of 1,581, or 65.8%, were in favor of electronic voting, while 822, or 34.2%, said they were not in favor. In total, there were 2,403 responses to the question. Hopefully, OPA will stay with paper voting, but the move to electronic online voting seems inevitable.

The OPA Annual Meeting of association members on August 8, scheduled for outside at the area around the Veterans Memorial, was not held as the necessary quorum of 100 votes was not present.

OPA announced that, "Association President Doug Parks, during brief opening remarks on Saturday at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial in Ocean Pines, said a quorum was not reached and asked for a motion to ad-

journal the meeting. The motion was made and seconded, and the meeting was adjourned."

How can a vote be taken or a meeting adjourned when there was not a quorum present to hold the meeting in the first place? Just another strange event in the sometimes wacky world of OPA.

The Board of Directors will meet on Wednesday, August 12 at 2 p.m. in the Golf Clubhouse to formally accept the election results since that could not happen at the annual meeting due to the lack of a quorum. Once that formality is completed by the old board,

the new board (with the same members) will hold the organization meeting to elect the officers for the coming year.

The primary item of interest is who will be the OPA president for the coming year. One local paper reported that Parks will not be a candidate for the position, after holding it for several years. Speculation is that OPA vice-president Steve Tuttle and OPA Treasurer Larry Perrone are both interested in being president. The organization meeting and election of officers at the new golf clubhouse on August 12 is open to the membership.

No quorum, no meeting

For the second straight year, an official Ocean Pines Association Annual Meeting was not held because of the lack of a quorum.

Association President Doug Parks, during brief opening remarks on Saturday at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial in Ocean Pines, said a quorum was not reached and asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made and seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

Parks said the Sam Wilkinson Award, presented each year by the Recreation and Parks Department, would be given at a later date.

He said reports scheduled for the Annual Meeting would be made available online. As of Saturday, slides from the GM report, finance report and au-

ditor's report were online, here: <http://www.oceanpines.org/documents/10184/89280/2020+Annual+Meeting+Presentation.pptx>.

Additional reports from Parks and attorney Jeremy Tucker will be made available at a later date.

Parks said the Board of Directors would next meet on Wednesday, August 12 at 2 p.m. in the Golf Clubhouse.

"We will have the acceptance of the election results from the Elections Committee and we'll also follow that up with the organizational meeting of the new Board," Parks said.

To view a video of Saturday's meeting, visit <https://youtu.be/ivMLMPz1a9o>.

Scars can develop if an injury is not treated properly or you didn't think a cut was deep enough to necessitate treatment. Scars also may develop after surgery or another medical procedure. Scars may be dark marks, which are



pink, red or brown patches that result from post-inflammatory hyperpigmentation. Cuts, burns and other injuries to the skin, including acne, can contribute to hyperpigmentation. Certain scars may fade and become less noticeable on their own, but there are other ways to speed the process along. Dark scars can be made less visible after the application of topical treatments, such as those with salicylic acid or glycolic acid peels, which help promote cell turnover, advises the beauty experts at

Good Housekeeping. At-home topical brightening ingredients are another option that can be discussed with a dermatologist. In terms of textured scars, which may be depressed or raised areas on the skin, microneedling or dermaroller treatments may help to diminish these scars at home. Individuals with deep, dark scars may need to seek the help of a dermatologist, who may recommend therapies that can use light, peels and fills to make scars less visible.

Courier Almanac

The Wizard of Oz, starring Judy Garland and featuring words and music by E.Y. "Yip" Harburg and Harold Arlen, receives its world premiere in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, on this day in 1939.

The beloved characters and familiar plot points were mostly all there in the original children's book, from the Kansas farm girl in shiny slippers transported to Munchkin land by a terrible tornado, to the wicked witch, the brainless scarecrow, the heartless tin woodsman and the cowardly lion she encounters once she gets there. But what's missing, of course, from Frank Baum's bestselling novel "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz," is the music that helped make those characters so beloved and those plot points so familiar. First published in 1900, "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz" was adapted numerous times for the stage and screen and even set to music prior to 1939. It was that year's film adaptation, however, that earned Baum's work a permanent place not only in cinema history, but also in music history.

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First meetings

Meeting for the first time the parents of the person with whom you're in a relationship can cause anxiety, possibly a little heartburn.

by the giver to ingratiate him/herself into my good graces. Sometimes it works. Sometimes it doesn't. Sometimes it depends on the gift.

Through the years my kids have brought home some real "winners." I'm sure they were nice people but within seconds it was clear they were not going to fit in and once dinner was over, I'd never see them again.

There were times when things were kaput by dessert.

Before bringing home one young man, my daughter prepped him to give me a firm handshake. He took her coaching to heart and nearly



It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

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It can even cause the hiccups. Don't ask me how I know. First impressions make lasting impressions. Will they like me? How will they accept me?

For women, the concern is the mother. "Will she think I'm good enough for her son?" Those waters can be fraught with shoals, undercurrents and depth charges.

For men, meeting the father can be problematic, especially if they're dating the father's only daughter. Fathers can be very protective of their little girls and very judgmental of the boys/men they bring home. I speak from experience. However, if the father has all girls, he may be happy to have a little more testosterone around the house to even things out some.

Then of course there are the siblings. That can be tricky. Are they older siblings? Younger? Are they male or female?

Although every parent-meeting situation is unique, they have at least two things in common: optimism and worry. Optimism the meeting will go well; worry that it won't.

I've played both parts in this scene, boyfriend and parent. By far, being the parent is better. No pressure to impress and there's the possibility of receiving a gift, an effort



broke bones in my hand. He then proceeded to give me a couple cigars that he said he looked forward to smoking with me. I thanked him. When I got around to smoking them, he was just a memory. Not bad cigars though.

During his first year in college, my oldest son brought home a young lady. *Next!*

Certainly, it's not fair to be so judgmental about the significant others my kids have brought home to meet my wife and me. Because the flipside is, my kids are also

meeting parents for the first time. What sort of impression are they making?

It was clear from the time I first met my now son-in-law and daughter-in-law that we had winners, that these kids were going to be the keepers. Lucky for them. Lucky for me.

Recently my youngest son brought home his girlfriend for us to meet. They've been dating about half a year. Following a nonstop 900-mile-drive, with the dog in the backseat, they arrived just after breakfast for a two-week visit. Despite obviously being exhausted, "The Girl" as I shall refer to her, was vibrant and engaging. But more important than that, she had a gift for me. And it was a very nice, very thoughtful gift, something I'll use for many, many years. Ten points for The Girl.

During the time she stayed, the more comfortable she became with us and vice versa. She endured, and I think enjoyed, stories about my son when he was growing up. She was enthusiastic about watching old movies. And most importantly of all, she liked going out on the boat.

Ding, ding, ding! We have a winner!

She took in stride meeting family and friends. She's a very good conversationalist, interested in learning about others. She listens, asks questions and doesn't try to dominate the discussion which makes her even more attractive.

I was interested in how the first meeting between The Girl and my daughter and daughter-in-law would go. Would it have the drama of "High Noon" or worse, the frenzied feeding of "Jaws?" Nope, nothing like that at all. Very quickly it was three girls three.

After she left to return home with my son and the dog in the backseat, we found on her bed a thank you note she left for us. It was a very nice note from a very nice young woman.

What the future holds for my son and The Girl, I don't know. That's up to them. What's important is they're happy, make each other laugh and that they remember my birthday. Should things not work out, well, that would be a shame. We've told our son that should that happen, we're keeping her.

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New police building finished and under budget

After more than a decade of talking about renovating the cramped and outdated Ocean Pines Police headquarters, officers this week will finally move into a newly expanded and modernized space.

The revamped Police quarters, next to the Ocean Pines Administration Building on Ocean Parkway, is estimated to finish construction at a cost of \$1.162 million, or about \$100,000 below budget. It's also a month ahead of the original completion date of September 2020.

The Whayland Company of Laurel, DE oversaw construction, but many helped in moving the project from the planning stages to the final product, including the Ocean Pines Public Works and IT departments, local builders Marvin Steen and Bill Stamp, and designer Tobie Jacobs.

Fittingly, Leo Ehrisman officially took over as the new Ocean Pines Police Chief on August 1, just in time to make the move into the new offices. Ehrisman said the renovated space totals about 5,300 square feet, while the old quarters was much smaller, at just 1,700 square feet.

He said the old space was built for six people. The Ocean Pines Police Department currently has a staff that's four times larger.

"The original building was built when Ocean Pines was still a 'special police department.' And it was a construction building – it wasn't a public safety building," he said. "The new one has been designed and built as an actual public safety building. It meets the state requirements as far as holding facilities, as well as all the other safety regulations and federal ADA regulations."

One of the main benefits for Police, according to Ehrisman, is separating "good guys from bad guys."

"In the old building, if we locked somebody up, they were basically in the same work area as civilians and dispatchers. In this building, that's completely independent," he said. "It has a processing area and a holding area that is separate from the officers' workspace and the civilians' workspace – as a public safety building should be."

Public Works Director Eddie Wells agreed that safety was the biggest con-



Ocean Pines Police Chief **Leo Ehrisman**, builder **Bill Stamp**, General Manager **John Viola**, designer **Tobie Jacobs**, builder **Marvin Steen** and Executive Secretary **Michelle**

cern.

"It's a lot safer building now," Wells said. "Before, if you brought a prisoner in, they would walk right back and sit at a table where an officer was doing work. Now, it's all separated. The safety and security is just so much better."

Wells said the renovation also helped update the heating and air conditioning systems of the old offices, built around the late 1970s or early 1980s, as well as supply a much-needed technology upgrade.

For example, Ehrisman said new phone and computer systems can now tie into the Worcester County dispatch through a universal 911 hookup. That means, in case of an emergency, Ocean Pines Police could work from the county offices in Snow Hill, or vice versa.

There are also many everyday uses for the new systems, which should help to strengthen partnerships with other law enforcement agencies.

"Before, if a Worcester County deputy had an arrest out on Route 589, they would have to transport the person to Snow Hill just to process and fingerprint, and then come all the way back to Ocean City to see a commissioner, and then go back to Snow Hill again if the subject was to be placed in the county jail," Ehrisman said. "Now, if they have an arrest in the north end of the county, they can just come directly to our office, tap into their own system, do the processing, and go right across the bridge to Ocean City."

Steen, who toured the building last week, said he couldn't be happier with

the results.

"It turned out great!" he said. "They've been working on it so long – at least 10 years – and during that time they thought about this and that and they looked at other places, and they were able to include all of those things they needed. And that really helped, big time."

Steen consulted on the renovation and helped to connect Ocean Pines with the Whayland Company. That partnership has now resulted in two successful construction projects. The new Ocean Pines Golf Clubhouse, also built by Whayland, wrapped construction earlier this year and at a similar cost savings.

"I grew up in Dagsboro and I knew who they were, and it's just a great company," Steen said. "They did a great job, they really did. Everybody in Ocean Pines worked really well with them."

Jacobs' involvement began as a designer, but she also became an important consultant on the project. After an early meeting, she said it was clear that the layout still needed some work.

"My background was very valuable in completing this project," she said. "I have 30-plus years of security and investigative experience in government and private sector. During this period, part of my duties were the handling and security of evidence and property during criminal prosecutions. Officer safety has also played an integral part in my life, and my martial arts background led me to be a state-certified self-defense tactics instructor for multiple police agencies in Maryland."

please see **station** on page 12

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ANNIVERSARY

2004-2019

NEWS, LIFE AND POLITICS

Ocean Pines, Maryland

A parent's perspective

Families face challenges in new school year

By **Victor Fernandes**

There was nothing normal about the final three months of the 2019-20 academic year in the Worcester County Public Schools system, down to my 10-year-old son Zachary's graduation from elementary school. Instead of walking down an aisle wearing a cap and gown, he hung out a rear window of my car in shorts, sleeveless shirt and face mask as we slowly rolled past a line of cheering teachers, administrators and support staff. They showered him with praise and gifts, from a socially acceptable distance, of course.

That June morning was the first day we arrived at Berlin Elementary School since schools across the county closed as part of the Maryland State Department of Education's statewide shutdown on March 16 to limit the spread of the coronavirus. It was the last day of a school year that left students counting the days until they could resume in-person learning

alongside their friends, and left their families concerned the ongoing health crisis would cause irreparable harm to their children's education moving forward.

Now, we're less than a month away from the first day of the new school year on Sept. 8, and Zach's first day as a fifth grader at Berlin Intermediate School. That morning, my son and 7,000 fellow students across the county will awaken, get dressed, eat breakfast and brush their teeth before sitting in front of their home computer to begin the new normal for learning in this COVID-19 world. Schools Superintendent Lou Taylor announced July 30 that students will begin the school year online with the hope they can, he said, "welcome back into our buildings small groups of identified students for face-to-face instruction" on September 28.

On paper, that would be followed

please see school page 15



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Chamber Music by the Sea reinvents festival

Extraordinary times call for creative approaches, and Chamber Music by the Sea is up to the task! While festivals around the world are cancelling due to challenges posed by the COVID pandemic, Chamber Music by the Sea is committed to inspiring communities, enriching lives, and bringing people together through the universal language of music.

In its fifth season, the Eastern Shore's premier professional chamber music festival will continue to delight audiences with world-renowned musicians in live-streamed events across multiple virtual platforms. Although the format may look slightly different this year, the festival's superb musicianship, innovative programming, and opportunity to "mingle" virtually with the musicians will be available to audiences in the comfort of their homes.

Chamber Music by the Sea's Artistic Director, violinist Elena Urioste, has once again assembled a roster of internationally acclaimed artists who will join forces to present diverse programs with works by Grieg, Dvorak,

Schubert, and Berlin's own Lila Wildy Quillin, among others. Urioste will be joined by several returning festival favorites: violist Milena Pajaro-Van de Stadt, cellist Brook Speltz, and pianist Tom Poster. New to the festival this year are violinist Grace Park and double bassist Xavier Foley, along with a few surprise guests. This extraordinary group of young artists includes recipients of the Avery Fisher Career Grant, Lincoln Center Emerging Artist Award, Sphinx Medal of Excellence, and BBC New Generation Artists.

This year's virtual festival will run from August 18 to 22 and includes three evening concerts, plus a free Saturday morning family mini-concert suitable for children of all ages, all streamed online. Under the sponsorship of the Worcester County Education Foundation, Chamber Music by the Sea proudly supports year-round arts initiatives in Worcester County public schools through its festival ticket sales.

Thanks to a generous grant from the Paul M. Angell Family Foundation, the upcoming academic year will also

include an exciting new initiative, Virtual Visiting Artists, which will enable acclaimed musicians to interact directly with students in live virtual sessions.

2020 festival schedule:

August 18, 7 p.m.: ticketed concert streamed on Zoom featuring the music of Grieg, plus #UriPosteJukeBox-style gems

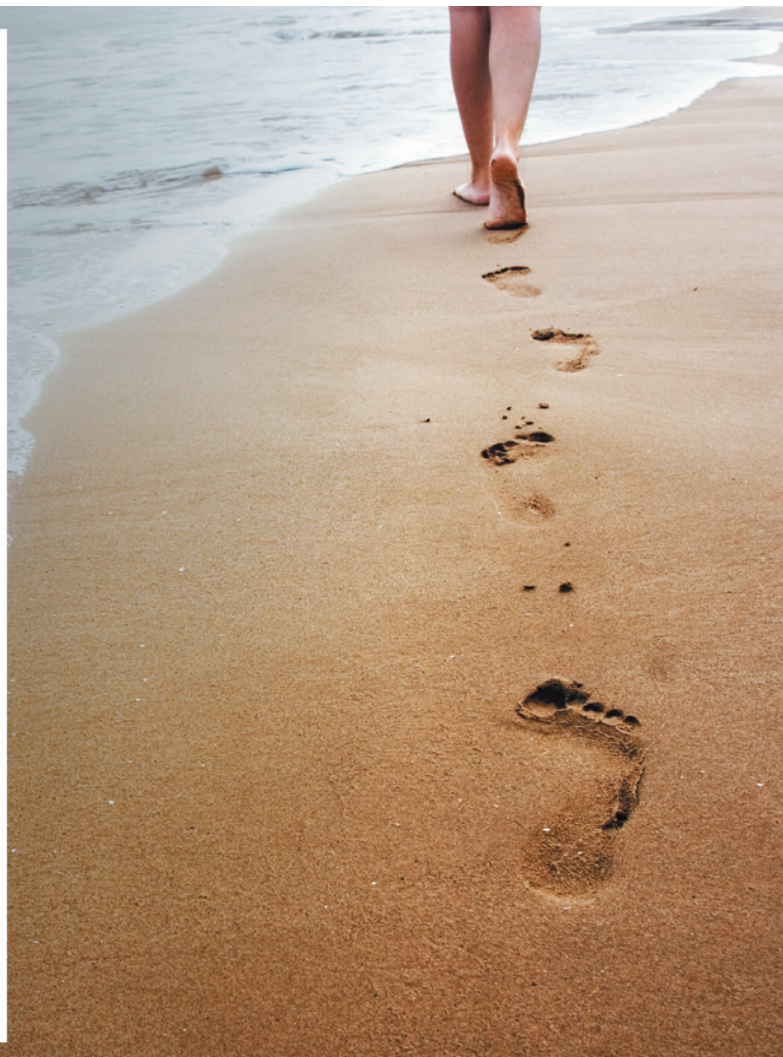
August 20, 7 p.m.: ticketed concert streamed on Zoom featuring the music of Schubert, plus a selection of popular favorites arranged by Tom Poster

August 22, 10:30 a.m.: free family concert broadcast live on Facebook and YouTube

August 22, 7 p.m.: ticketed concert streamed on Zoom featuring Dvorak's beloved Piano Quartet in E-flat Major, plus a new duo for two violins by Lila Wildy Quillin.

If you live in Ocean Pines, be sure to contact The Courier if you want the paper each week in your driveway. Call 410-629-5906

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What does it mean to be Power of Attorney?

By **Leslie Case DiPietro, Esq.**

The Power of Attorney is one of the most important estate planning documents for adults. The creator of the Power of Attorney gains comfort with the document by working with their attorney to establish it, but sometimes the Agent(s) who has been named for this responsibility is unsure of what the job involves.



Leslie Case DiPietro

A Durable Power of Attorney is a document that allows the person signing ("Principal") to name a person or people ("Agent(s)") to make legal and financial decisions. An appropriate Power of Attorney should reflect the most recent laws and it should name a trusted Agent and backup Agent(s). It should be effective immediately upon signing, and should give the Agent all powers they may need to fully protect the Principal and the Principal's assets.

If you are appointed as an Agent under a Power of Attorney and you have determined that it is time to act on behalf

of your loved one, you should locate a complete copy of the document. In some situations, you will also need the original.

Next, you should execute the Agent Certification. This document is often requested when the Agent first attempts to use the Power of Attorney on behalf of the Principal. It confirms that the Agent will act in the best interest of the Principal and that the Agent has authority to act. Sometimes the Agent Certification is located with or attached to the Power of Attorney. If you cannot locate the Certification with the Power of Attorney it can be created separately.

After you have collected the legal paperwork, you will need to organize asset information. Ideally, your loved one shared information with you before they became incapacitated, or guided you to their trusted professionals, such as their estate planning attorney, who may be able to help you with this task. If the information wasn't shared with you, you may need to review saved paperwork, mail and/or tax statements. After getting the information you will need to reach out to the custodian of the assets (banks, financial firms, etc.) and provide the legal paperwork to be recognized as the Agent.

As Agent your job could involve consolidating assets, investing the assets and even engaging in further planning to protect assets. This is a good time to engage with professionals to ensure that you are acting prudently. If your loved one has a need for care, either at home or in a nursing facility, you will want to meet with an experienced elder law attorney who can help you secure all available payor sources for care.

It's discouraging to find that some Powers of Attorney, even created by other law firms, do not meet the criteria de-

tailed here. It is not uncommon for us to find the Principal has failed to include certain powers for the Agent because the Principal wasn't advised of the future ramifications of excluding those powers. Other times the Power of Attorney requires a written finding of incapacity, or cognitive impairment, before the Agent may act.

In these situations, if the Principal is capable of signing a new Power of Attorney, we can correct these limitations. If

please see law page 15

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Gone are the bright sails of the Hobie Cats and their weekly regattas of yesteryear in the bays behind Ocean City. They have been replaced with the state-of-the-art water toy, the jet ski. Unlike the catamarans that silently slip through the water at 5 mph to 10 mph without a drop of gas, the Jet Ski can go from zero to 50 mph before you can say “hold on” over the noise of the jet propulsion engine.

I think you can best describe riding a jet ski or as the Maryland state regulation call them, PWC, personal water craft, is like riding a motor cycle without the wheels or brakes but with a lot more freedom. Most street bikes stay on the street while dirt bikes can venture onto trails and, in some places, open land. Jet skis, on the other hand, can go slow, go fast, and make hair pin turns with what would be called reckless abandon on a motorcycle.

They come in different sizes: one, two and three seaters with commensurate weight limitations and different horsepower from ‘isn’t this better than rowing’ to ‘get out of the way, Evel Knievel.’

Unfortunately, the exhilaration of jet skis comes with increased danger that requires increased caution. PWC operators must be at least 16 years old and have successfully completed the Maryland Safe Boating Class.

The jet ski renters are able to let novices who are 16+ year olds but who do not possess a Maryland operator’s certificate to experience a PWC. This requires taking a short safety orientation, passing a PWC specific safety/regulations test and operating the jet ski under the watchful eye of an on-water guide.

This year, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources is distributing a new placard that is to be affixed to all jet skis. It summarizes the unique PWC regulations. They include: YOU MUST...

Be at least 16 years of age to operate.

Wear a US Coast Guard approved

life jacket.

Carry a certificate of boater safety education if born on or after July 1, 1972.

Maintain 6 knots or slower within 100 feet of another PWC, vessel, shore, pier, piling.

Have PWC equipped with an operating self-circling device or kill switch.



Summer visitor **Levgenii Zabula** is seen here getting a free safety inspection of his jet ski from USCG Auxiliaryist **Maureen Hoffman** before launching at the West Ocean City public ramp.

YOU MAY NOT...

Operate above idle speed in water less than 18 inches in depth.

Operate between sunset and sunrise.

Jump, or attempt jumping, the wake of another vessel within 10 feet of that vessel.

Operate within 300 feet of people in the water or surf fishing activities in the Atlantic Ocean.

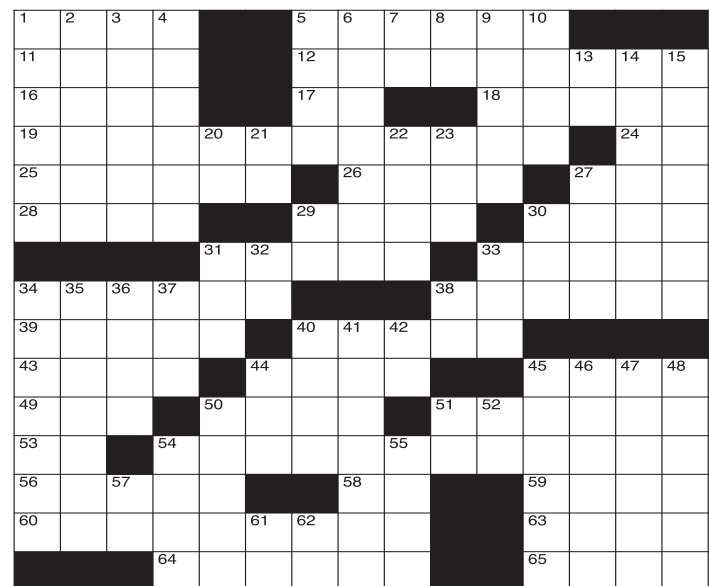
Disturb waterfowl and wildlife.

Operate in a reckless and/or negligent manner.

If you are a jet ski owner and do not have the new placard, you can obtain one when you get your annual free boat safety inspection from either the USCG Auxiliary or the US Power Squadron.

The biggest thrill and concern on a jet ski is control. Going fast is a given. Turning sharply is the issue. Until you get the feel of the jet ski and you lose the bug eye, deer in the headlight stare, rental companies suggest that you take it relatively slow with wide turns to maintain sta-

please see pwc on page 12



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Corrode
- 5. Jean Paul __, author
- 11. Hebrew unit of dry measure
- 12. A type of scientist
- 16. Greek goddess of discord
- 17. For Red Sox MVP
- 18. It checks your speed
- 19. Made dirty
- 24. The First State
- 25. Lodgings
- 26. Spiritual leader
- 27. Bradley Int'l Airport code
- 28. Native American people
- 29. Sharp pain
- 30. Touch
- 31. Slowly disappears
- 33. Indigenous Russian people
- 34. Narrative poem
- 38. Some are bad
- 39. Small quill feathers
- 40. Tattles
- 43. Popular Easter tree
- 44. Beneficiary
- 45. Clothed
- 49. Payroll firm
- 50. Lower Normandy's largest city
- 51. Binary compound of halogen
- 53. The Fighting Irish
- 54. Skilled, paid worker
- 56. Eyelashes
- 58. The 12th letter of the Greek alphabet
- 59. Large, stocky lizard
- 60. Made poisonous
- 63. Former US Secretary of State
- 64. Sticky substances
- 65. A type of gin

CLUES DOWN

- 1. To return an echo
- 2. Displace
- 3. Japanese religion
- 4. Predilections
- 5. Partial
- 6. Poisonous plant
- 7. Road open
- 8. Atomic #81
- 9. Accomplished American composer
- 10. Oh, God!
- 13. Potato state
- 14. Most melancholic
- 15. Supportive framework
- 20. Hollywood's Pacino
- 21. A title for women
- 22. Popular Grammys alternative
- 23. Check
- 27. Bolivian river
- 29. South Dakota
- 30. Wonderful
- 31. Supervises flying
- 32. Commercial
- 33. More (Spanish)
- 34. Even distribution of weight
- 35. "Arabian Nights" hero
- 36. Compact mass of a substance
- 37. Bachelor of Laws
- 38. Halfback
- 40. Some of it is ground
- 41. They play in the trenches
- 42. Atomic #18
- 44. Chinese Prefecture
- 45. Fabrics
- 46. Being in a direct line of descent from an ancestor
- 47. In slow tempo
- 48. Flood
- 50. Long-necked bird
- 51. Secondary school
- 52. Artificial intelligence
- 54. Structure by the water
- 55. Lather
- 57. What happens there stays there
- 61. A bone
- 62. The Great Lakes State



Answers for August 5

Health Department offers Worcester Wellness Weigh

The Worcester County Health Department is making plans for the fifth session of our online health and wellness program, Worcester Wellness Weigh (WWW). The program set to begin in September is supported by a grant from the Maryland Community Health Resources Commission. WWW is a free, technology-based, healthy lifestyle and weight loss program designed specifically for families who are ready to work together to lose weight, eat healthier, increase physical activity, and improve their overall health. To date, three out of four participants completing the program have reported an increase in their daily fruit and vegetable consumption with another four out of five participants now preparing healthier foods at home.

The 12-week program includes easy-to-use online learning education lessons on healthy eating, cooking, meal planning, grocery shopping, food preservation, food budgeting, physical activity, stress and time management. Participants will monitor their activity and nutrition through the use of tech-

nology and apps. Members of WWW are assigned a personal Physical Activity and Nutrition Coach who will monitor and review weekly goals, successes, and challenges. Individuals will also have the opportunity to participate in virtual monthly events including grocery store tours, community garden tours, cooking demonstrations, and virtual park tours. Participants have stated, "I liked the online classes much better than showing up every week. Loved the cooking videos—very well done. Thanks for everything—If I needed to contact anyone, they were available."

Worcester Wellness Weigh is offered by Worcester Health in partnership with Chesapeake Health Care, Salisbury University, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, University of Maryland Extension, Wor-Wic Community College, Atlantic Club Garden of Hope, Atlantic General Hospital Community Garden, and Pocomoke Corner Sanctuary Community Garden. A virtual orientation for the program

please see wellness on page 14



News Briefs

County cancels Ban on outdoor burning

The outdoor burning ban in effect for Worcester County since the first week in July was lifted August 5.

All who conduct outdoor burnings, regardless of the type, are reminded that the law requires any fire to be attended from start to extinguishment. Precautions for having the proper tools and safe water supply are also required.


For further information, contact Fire Marshal Jeff McMahon at 410-632-5666.

RWWC cancels events


The Republican Women of Worcester County announced that their annual Patriot's Day Fashion Show is postponed until September 2021. Meetings scheduled for October and November 2020 are canceled. The club's principle concern is the safety of its members and guests during these uncertain times. Small group club gatherings are being planned for the remainder of 2020 as are campaign activities for the November election. Details regarding both will be forthcoming.


Terns Landing yard sale is Saturday

The annual Terns Landing Community Yard Sale will take place Saturday August 15 from 8 a.m. to noon. The entrance to the community is at Ocean Parkway and Alton Point in South Ocean Pines. The rain date for this event is Sunday August 16 from 8 a.m. to noon.




USCG Auxiliary






The USCGAuxiliary performs free Vessel Safety Check every Saturday and Sunday morning throughout the summer at the West Ocean City boat ramp from 8:00AM until noon. Vessels can be checked while on a trailer or in the water.

Vessels can also be inspected by appointment at private docks or marina slips. To arrange an inspection, E-mail at CGAUXOC@Gmail.com



The USCGAuxiliary will teach the state mandated Recreational Safe Boating Course on line for the duration of the pandemic. Next class runs Aug 18-20.

To register, E-mail at CGAUXOC@Gmail.com



Help Us Make Boating Safer

For more information about other activities and joining the Auxiliary, visit our Website: <http://www.a0541205.uscgaux.info>

Or follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/uscgauxocmd/>

Or contact us directly, E-mail: FL1205HR@gmail.com

station

from page 6

Among the changes credited to Jacobs are moving the evidence room to the front of the temporary detention area, building a storage area for uniforms and supplies near the armory, reconfiguring locker rooms for male and female officers, creating more efficient works stations for each officer, and using local and commercial vendors to help cut costs. All told, she estimates those changes saved

PWC

from page 10

bility. You don't want to roll the PWC over and you don't want to get thrown off. If you do fall off, the safety lanyard that is connected between you and the ignition switch will kill the engine or at least slow it and get it to turn in circles until you can climb back on. If you roll the PWC, it can be righted and dewatered but it's an effort.

The newer jet skis have overcome some of the earlier shortcomings. The ride can still be hard, especially in choppy water, but the fatigue from holding the throttle for a long trip has been eliminated with the introduction of a cruise control feature. Now a couple

bars

from page 3

tournament, sports bars have capitalized on the opportunity to show every sporting event possible. That's what patrons have asked for, said Dawn Hodge, marketing and office manager at the Original Greene Turtle in Ocean City, given the number of telephone calls she has answered in recent weeks.

"We are showing everything," she said. "I have had a lot of people calling and asking if we're going to have the game on. The best thing I've found seems to be hockey, where they show a lot of hockey games back to back. And everybody loves baseball."

Meanwhile, NFL training camps are kicking into gear despite coronavirus fears, including among management at local sports bars.

"I'm hoping the NFL gets back and running," Simpson said. "I think that would be a big hit on us [if the NFL shuts down], especially on the weekends. Not having that here would really take a toll on us. Not having that Sunday crowd is something we don't really want. Hopefully [league officials] can get it figured out so we can have everything going on here."

more than \$54,000.

"This project was especially rewarding to me because I was able to blend my knowledge of security, investigations and interior design to create a functional, safe and beautiful space," she said.

General Manager John Viola, who oversaw the renovation, said he is most proud of the value Ocean Pines got for its money.

"One of the best things I ever did was reach out to Marvin Steen and Bill Stamp, and also to Tobie Jacobs, who is

hour cruise to someplace like Chincoteague is not a close encounter with carpal tunnel syndrome.

Also, another recently introduced feature is a reverse thruster that can be used as a brake. It will certainly help stop you but once stopped you will need to reengage forward motion in order to control the direction of the PWC.

Still the most fun is to yah-ha with friends in relatively smooth water where 0 to 50 mph and tight turns can be executed without endangering other boaters. Drive responsibly and remember social distancing on a jet ski is 300 feet.

Dan Collins can be reached for comment at dancollins.oceanpines@gmail.com.

The Original Greene Turtle, a 44-year-old establishment Hodge labeled "Ocean City's original sports bar," has been a devoted Ravens' bar since the franchise joined the league in 1996. Like Bull on the Beach, the Original Greene Turtle is a popular hotspot on Sundays during the NFL season. The restaurant annually hosts the "Ravens Rap Show," a postgame livestream recapping and analyzing the team's latest performance. That show may be canceled this season, Hodge said, if there is no NFL season.

"It's been quite a few years doing that," Hodge said. "But if it's not going to be able to be a live show in the restaurant, I'm not sure we're going to continue that this year. We're still in plans. We're waiting to see what the season is going to bring before we make any final decisions. ... It will definitely have an impact if there is no NFL season."

And what if there is an NFL season? Sports bars, like restaurants, still are operating at 50 percent capacity with indoor seating. In past years, they regularly filled with football fans every Sunday, many of which remained on hand for games all afternoon.

"We get a lot of people from out of state. We get a lot of fans from all over

much more than a designer," he said. "It's a compliment to the team and everybody contributed, including all the work done by Ocean Pines IT and Public Works. And, of course, it's a credit to Whayland. They built us two really good buildings and they were great to work with."

In an interview two years ago, former Ocean Pines Police Chief David Massey called the old police station cramped and unsafe, and an architectural afterthought.

"I've been trying to get them to upgrade what we have since 2006," he said at the time. "It's frustrating ... Just about every police facility in this county has been upgraded."

In an interview last month, Massey again underscored the importance of building a safe and modern home for Ocean Pines Police, and he expressed his gratitude to those who helped make that dream a reality.

"The old police station was not designed by criminal justice experts. So, it didn't take into consideration some of the safety concerns of our officers," he said. "We had a prisoner once who basically pulled his handcuffs out of the wall and ran out the back door."

"The facility that we're getting ready

coming back," Simpson said. "With this 50 percent seating going on, I don't know how we're going to allow people to sit there all day. People are going to be waiting for a seat to get in and watch the game. It's going to be interesting to see how people are going to react and how it's going to work, [and] how we're going to be able to have people come in so everybody gets a chance to watch. It's something we definitely have to think about."

Hodge said a permit for outdoor seating at the Original Greene Turtle should help handle the demand for seating from patrons, if the staff is able to set up a television outside to show games. "But we may figure out something between now and then," she said.

Still, having a slew of patrons arrive to watch games would be a good problem to have.

"Overall, having sports back is definitely a good thing for everybody," Simpson said. "I think that's what people need right now in this country. Everything we've been hearing recently is so down. So, having sports back takes everybody's minds off everything."

to open – thanks to the Board of Directors and our General Manager – is state of the art, it's going to be high security, and it's going to provide for our citizens for many, many years with a safe environment for police officers and a safe environment for them," Massey continued. "I'm very grateful, for all of that."

Ehrisman said it's a rarity for a new chief to be able to move into a new headquarters, and it's also a fitting end to Massey's nearly two-decade legacy in Ocean Pines.

"The fact that the building is done the first week of August and Massey is leaving Aug. 1 is a plus for him, because he's completed his goal. And, it's a plus for me, because I get to start a new job in a new office in a new building, all at the same time. As far as timing, it's just perfect."

storm

from page 2

might have 15-20 trees that go down, but this was just relentless for so long."

Wells said the sting jet caused the majority of the damage.

"That's what hurt. We were doing really well up until that point but, when that hit us, we really got some high winds out of that," he said. "That scorpion tail, that back wind that we had, it just lasted so long and it was real hectic for a while. We'll probably be cleaning up branches for the rest of this week."

According to Wells, about 9/10 of an inch of rain fell during the day. He said no injuries were reported to Public Works.

"We had quite a few trees go down and hit houses, but I haven't heard of any injuries," he said. "All the roads are open and passable now. I can't tell you how many trees were down, but we got them all off the road."

Viola said there was some minor damage to the east side of the Yacht Club roof, but no other damage to Ocean Pines property.

"We hope that everyone stayed safe and that flooding and other damage to homes was minimal," he said. "Hurricane season typically runs from June 1 to Nov. 30, so the chances for another storm are high. Ocean Pines advises homeowners to continue to watch trusted sources, like the National Weather Service and MEMA, for the latest news and information about this and future tropical storms and hurricanes. We will continue to share that information on oceanpines.org and on Ocean Pines social media."

For non-emergencies, call the Ocean Pines Police Department at 410-641-7747. In case of an emergency, call 911.

Signs your pet may be in pain

Pet owners go to great lengths to treat their animals well. When a pet is ill, the animal may exhibit signs of anxiety and upset. However, sometimes it is not so easy to detect

weakness. In a domestic setting, pets may hold onto some of these inherent traits, which can make it challenging for pet owners to know when the animal is feeling poorly.



Cats are very stoic and it can be easy for humans to miss signs of discomfort or pain, according to Pam Johnson-Bennet, a cat behavior expert and author of several books on cats. Even dogs may not exhibit signs of pain or illness.

By learning to pick up on some cues, pet owners can determine if it is time to make a vet appointment.

Lack of appetite: A lack of appetite might be a sign of various medical conditions or that a pet is in pain. If the animal is normally a

chowhound but suddenly, he or she is skipping meals or turning up his or her nose at the bowl, be sure to alert the veterinarian, especially if this behavior continues for more than a few days, and especially if water is being refused as well.

Companion animals descend from wild animals and it is important for wild animals' survival that they do not display signs of physical

growing, or howling to indicate something is not right.

Excessive grooming: The animal resource VetsNow says that if grooming seems excessive or centralized to a spot on the body, it may be the pet's attempt to soothe.

Panting or altered breathing: A dog or cat who is breathing heavily while at rest may have an underlying illness and pain.

Potty changes: Cats may miss the litter box or choose not to use it if they're in pain. Dogs that are ill may have accidents indoors or need to go out more frequently, even if they are house trained.

Those who suspect their pets may be in pain can consult with a veterinarian and monitor symptoms carefully. Do not attempt to offer pain medication without first receiving professional advice.

Vocalizations: Both dogs and cats in pain may make be more vocal, either meowing, yelping,

growing, or howling to indicate something is not right.

K of C offers seafood events

Each Tuesday through September 1, the Knights of Columbus will hold Seafood Nights. Call 410-524-7994 between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday to place your take away order of steamed crabs, steamed shrimp and a number of items. This year only only take-out is offered. Orders can be picked up at 9901 Coastal Highway behind St. Luke's Church.

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Sand Castle Home Tour goes virtual

For the past 15 years, the Sand Castle Home Tour has featured some of the greater Ocean City area's most spectacular residences. The experience has become an annual "must-see-and-do" for locals and visitors alike.

Due to Covid-19 and the challenges of keeping everyone safe and healthy, the Art League of Ocean City, sponsor of the event, is forgoing a physical tour this year, and instead going 100% virtual. Participants can still expect to see the area's most amazing residences, but they will do so virtually from the comfort and safety of their own homes.

Now a two-week event from October 1 to 15, tourgoers will enjoy state-of-the-art 3D tours of each res-

idence; cinematic videos of homes; engaging interviews with homeowners, builders and interior designers; galleries of professional photography; dedicated sponsor zones, and much more. The online tour will provide an opportunity to hear the vision and inspiration behind the homes directly from the homeowners, builders, architects, and designers through featured videos and design tips.

"This year, we have all been challenged to adapt our programming to the new normal and deliver our mission of promoting the creative arts in new formats," Rina Thaler, Art League Executive Director, said. "The Art League has chosen to look to the future and bring you

the Sandcastle Home Tour online. This promises to be a wonderful celebration of resort living, community, and technology."

Tickets for the event are \$30 and will be available starting August 20. Tickets include unlimited access for two weeks to the Sand Castle Home Tour site, plus opportunities to win daily door prizes. Online tickets and tour preview are available at www.SandCastleHomeTour.com.

Benefiting the Art League of Ocean City, the Sand Castle Home Tour is the non-profit's largest fundraiser of the year, fueling its mission to promote artistic expression and appreciation for the creative arts in the community. It also provided the funding to build and sustain the

Ocean City Center for the Arts.

"We are still seeking sponsors to support us in this new endeavor," Thaler continued. "This tour is a new and effective way for businesses in the home and home-related industries to engage with potential clients who may not feel comfortable with in-person shopping."

More information is available at 410-524-9433 or www.artleagueofoceancity.org or www.sandcastlehometour.com.

Summer camp program offered

Would your sixth, seventh or eighth grader benefit from learning healthy habits and socializing with other youth while following physical distancing guidelines? The Worcester County Health Department is offering two free summer camps in August. The first session runs from August 17-21 from 9 a.m. to noon and will be held at Cypress Park, 7 Bridge Street, Pocomoke City. The second session runs from August 24-28 from 9 a.m. to noon at Dr. William Henry Park, 123 Flower Street, Berlin. Hand sanitizer, face-masks and physical distancing guidelines will be followed at all times. All participants will complete a daily health screening. The camp will arm youth with knowledge, skills, and abilities related to goal setting, healthy lifestyle practices, drug and alcohol prevention, and planning for a bright future. Lunch-

to-go will be offered at the conclusion of camp each day. Participants will have the opportunity to enjoy daily, unique art and crafts activities. Upon successful completion of the camp, each participant will receive a free pass for an hour canoe rental redeemable at the Pocomoke River Canoe Company in Snow Hill, MD.

"We are excited to offer this free camp to youth in Worcester," said Mimi Dean, Director of Prevention Services, Worcester County Health Department. "It will be an exciting week full of education, fun and arts and crafts activities."

This program is open to all sixth, seventh and eighth graders in Worcester County and will be located at outdoor locations in Pocomoke and Berlin. Inclement weather will cancel the camp. Participants must register for session 1

by August 13 and for session 2 by August 20. To register, call 410-632-1100 ext. 1109 or email lynn.suarezapecheche@maryland.gov.



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Tides for Ocean City Inlet			
Day	High /Low	Tide Time	
Th 13	High	3:30 AM	
13	Low	9:21 AM	
13	High	4:11 PM	
13	Low	10:21 PM	
F 14	High	4:28 AM	
14	Low	10:15 AM	
14	High	5:06 PM	
14	Low	11:19 PM	
Sa 15	High	5:23 AM	
15	Low	11:10 AM	
15	High	5:58 PM	
Su 16	Low	12:13 AM	
16	High	6:15 AM	
16	Low	12:04 PM	
16	High	6:48 PM	
M 17	Low	1:03 AM	
17	High	7:05 AM	
17	Low	12:57 PM	
17	High	7:37 PM	
Tu 18	Low	1:49 AM	
18	High	7:54 AM	
18	Low	1:47 PM	
18	High	8:25 PM	
W 19	Low	2:35 AM	
19	High	8:44 AM	
19	Low	2:37 PM	
19	High	9:13 PM	

wellness
from page

will occur at the times listed below. Those interested in participating in the Worcester Wellness Weigh program must register by September 11, 2020. Pre-registration is required to participate.

Tuesday, September 22, from 5 p.m.-7 p.m. via Google Meet

Wednesday, September 23, from 5 p.m.-7 p.m. via Google Meet

Thursday, September 24, from 4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. via Google Meet

Space is limited. For more information or to register, please contact Elizabeth Justice by email at elizabeth.justice@maryland.gov.

The program is supported by the Maryland Community Health Resources Commission. The views presented here are those of the grantee organization and not necessarily those of the Commission, its Commissioners, or its staff.

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school
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by a second phase of hybrid learning, namely an alternating week model, and finally face-to-face learning. The health and safety of students, faculty, administrators and staff will play a key role in how quickly that plan unfolds.

"We have received an enormous amount of input from our families, faculty, and staff," Taylor said in a statement on the school district's website. According to the statement,

district officials received input in the form of thousands of survey responses, emails and messages from families, faculty and staff. "I am confident that today's decision is the right one for our community."

Still, challenges lie ahead for families, including those like mine who have two working parents with obligations at work, bills to pay at home and a belief that a great education can provide their children with an opportunity to build a life for their families someday.

law
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the Principal doesn't have cognitive capacity, we can help the Agent obtain the necessary medical paperwork to establish incapacity, therefore making some Powers of Attorney viable.

Unfortunately, in cases where the Power of Attorney limits the Agent's authority, or when an already incapacitated person does not have a Power of Attorney, the person seeking to protect the incapacitated person must turn to the Court to be awarded legal guardianship of the person. Even uncontested guardianships can be costly, in both dollars and time, and it requires ongoing Court oversight.

If you are appointed as the Agent in a loved one's Power of Attorney, ask them

to review the document with you. If you feel uncertain about whether the Power of Attorney "measures up" ask your loved one to consider reviewing the document with an experienced estate planning and elder law attorney. You should engage an attorney experienced in implementing Powers of Attorney after someone has become incapacitated, not one who is only experienced in creating them.

Accepting the fiduciary role of Agent under a Power of Attorney has its challenges, especially when you consider the emotional implications that often arise when one family member or friend helps another. Those trials can be tempered with thoughtful planning and open communication.

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So, we prepare for anything, because we don't know what to expect. The coronavirus doesn't care about our kids' academic needs.

My wife Shelly and I believe our son belongs in school, not simply to learn but to make friends, learn how to interact with other people, experience success and learn from failure. Yet, we also worry about his health while walking the halls, sitting in class, eating lunch with other students in the cafeteria, and even playing with friends on the playground, because all we've heard lately is how this virus harms young and old. School is supposed to be a safe place for our children.

Which takes us back to what we as parents will do - and just as importantly, what district and school officials will do - to make sure our children get the education he needs as academic plans evolve. That's especially true of virtual learning, because Shelly and I can't be around Zach at all times to help him with his schoolwork much like his teachers would be in school.

We have considered traditional cyber school for our son. We hope the district's virtual learning plan will appear similar, because we were concerned with how that was handled last spring. There was a plan in place, and at that time Shelly and I were home to help Zach, as we joined countless other parents across the Lower Shore in being laid off or furloughed during the

COVID-19 shutdown. But without a traditional learning environment, Zach grew frustrated because he wasn't challenged like he was in school.

In defense of district and school administrators, they had little time to implement a plan in March that would satisfy every student's needs. Schools closed in the midst of the pandemic, and they quickly had to shift to a virtual learning platform. It wasn't perfect. But it was only for two weeks, or so we thought. Two weeks became a month, then two months, and finally the rest of the school year.

Meanwhile, Zach missed out on in-person instruction from teachers, and an atmosphere conducive to learning that only can be replicated in a classroom. Shelly purchased grade-appropriate workbooks to help further Zach's academic frame of mind, but that wasn't enough. Now, we wait for the district's final academic plan, which according to the statement will be finalized by Friday.

"We recognize the significant challenges that distance learning poses for many of our students' academic and social-emotional development," Taylor said in the statement, "which is why we intend to re-evaluate conditions every two weeks."

Welcome to the new academic year. There will be nothing normal about it. But hopefully it will be memorable for the right reasons.

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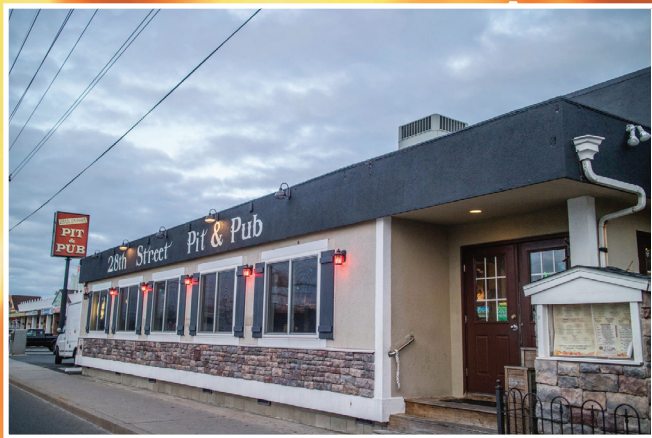
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