

Better customer service, more classes key to racquet sports growth

By **Josh Davis**

Despite some early setbacks because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Ocean Pines Racquet Sports operations appear more robust and inclusive than they have in years.

That's largely because of the new leadership of Racquet Sports Center Facilities Director Tim McMullen and Tennis Director Terry Underkoffler.

Both are former educators, and both have a personal interest in furthering operations because they are avid players and Ocean Pines homeowners.

The recently rebranded Ocean Pines Racquet Center, on 11443 Manklin Creek Road, is unique as the only facility on the Eastern Shore to offer tennis, platform tennis and pickleball in one complex.

That includes eight HAR-TRU (clay) tennis courts, eight permanent pickleball courts, six platform tennis courts, and two hard-surface tennis courts.

McMullen said the HAR-TRU courts, which mimic clay courts popularized in the 1950s and 1960s, are easier on players' knees and legs.

New leaders, new lessons

McMullen has been a tennis player in Ocean Pines since 1974 and became professionally involved in the sport in 2015, after being convinced to join an early morning tennis group. That group of a dozen players also included Underkoffler.

They developed a friendship and, starting in 2016, McMullen helped Underkoffler coach tennis at nearby Worcester Preparatory School.

Underkoffler had been involved in Ocean Pines Racquet Sports for several years, but his role was elevated after McMullen came on as facilities director last year. Together, they're leading efforts to reinvigorate all three sports and breathe new life into the center.

"Much of what we're doing [in Ocean Pines] is because of my relationship with Terry," McMullen said. "Terry is a United States Tennis Association [USTA]-licensed teacher and he's doing things here

*please see **sports** on page 15*



School spirit - Ocean City Elementary School held its annual Back to School Spirit Day on Friday, September 25. Although students were still at home for digital learning, they had a lot of fun dressing up in their favorite OCES shirts to show their love for our awesome school. Pictured are **Charlie and Cassie Ward** in their Blue Ribbon shirts

Property tax credit deadlines extended

Governor Larry Hogan announced that the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT) is extending the deadline to apply for 2020 Homeowners' and Renters' Property Tax Credits from October 1 to October 31. These two tax credit programs save Marylanders more than \$65 million per year, with homeowners receiving an average credit of \$1,348 on their tax bill and renters receiving an average direct payment of \$414. Applications can be submitted online through Maryland OneStop.

"This is yet another step our administration is taking to ensure more of our citizens can remain safe and secure in their homes," said Governor Hogan. "Tens of thousands of Marylanders who have not yet applied may still be eligible for these tax credits, and now have an additional month to apply for this

much-needed relief."

The Homeowners' Property Tax Credit Program provides relief for eligible homeowners by setting a limit on the amount of property taxes owed based on their income. If a resident has already paid their property tax and applies before October 31, any tax credit that the homeowner may be eligible for will be refunded by their local county finance office. Many counties and municipalities also provide supplemental homeowners' credits, which will be automatically applied if the applicant is approved for the state homeowners' credit.

The Renters' Property Tax Credit Program provides tax relief for eligible renters who pay high monthly rent relative to their total income and do not receive federal or state housing subsidies or re-

*please see **credit** page 4*



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Nature tours return to Delmarva

With Covid protocols in place, Delmarva Birding Weekends has announced the second annual Oktobirdfest slated for October 9 to 11. Like spring migration in late April, fall migration in early October offers high numbers of species for nature lovers to enjoy as warblers, herons, and egrets trade places with waterfowl, hawks, and eagles. Registration for the popular event is now open at <http://delmarvabirding.com/oktobirdfest-oct-9-11/>.

number of eagles and flocking herons, but they will see a lot more than that walking, paddling, and boating with guides in the wilds around Pocomoke City, Snow Hill, Berlin, and Ocean City. Delmarva Birding Weekend trips are so good that the governor issued a tourism award for them in 2018!

“The October weekend is spectacular,” said Southern Delaware Tourism Director Scott Thomas. “Imagine hiking a dunes trail at Cape Henlopen to be met with a Peregrine Falcon dive

bombing a flock of shorebirds. Or spend Sunday morning at Delaware Seashore State Park enjoying the beautiful yellow of fall warblers. That’s what the weekend is all about.”

Social events for this year’s Oktobirdfest have been postponed to 2021 due to the pandemic.



Nature lovers can register for just one field trip, or multiple field trips each day of the three-day event. On Friday, participants can get an early start to the weekend with both songbirds and shorebirds near Ocean City and Berlin before embarking on an afternoon trip to the nearby 2,200-acre private Newport Farms.

On Saturday, after trips to the beautiful landings in Chincoteague Bay and a hawk walk around the dunes at Cape Henlopen, the highlight of Oktobirdfest takes place on the Shorebird Explorer when ponies, shorebirds, and eagles put on a show behind Assateague Island. Top the weekend off with a Sunday paddle on Ayres Creek or a saunter around Delaware Seashore State Park.

Guided by local fun-loving birders with decades-long experience, the walking tours, boat trips, and canoe and kayak paddles will accommodate visitors from the curious nature lover to fowl fanatics. Every year, birdwatchers from surrounding states flock to Delmarva in the fall.

“This is our biggest fall nature-oriented weekend,” said Melanie Pursel, Tourism Director for Worcester County. “People will be amazed by the

Typically these “Tally Rallies” would be held at local breweries, bars, and restaurants, and allow participants to add to the species checklist and swap nature stories with new friends.


Indeed participants recount the event in terms of experiences rather than simply observing birds — a majestic Bald Eagle soaring over the marsh, a flock of white ibis, or the eerie hoot and shadow of an owl at dusk. An outdoor experience is the true draw.

The Delmarva Peninsula is one of the country’s premier birding areas, thanks to an extensive variety of habitat protected by our coastal parks, refuges and wildlife management areas. More than 400 bird species have been recorded in the region and previous Weekend tallies have topped 200 species.

If boasting that many species isn’t enough, participants should feel even better knowing that they’ve helped Delmarva’s birds by promoting birding and habitat conservation. Birders, both novice and experienced, make an important statement about the economic value of birds and their habitats

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Carozza continues to push for action

Senator Mary Beth Carozza will continue to work with Ocean City officials, law enforcement, her colleagues in the legislature and the Hogan Administration to take additional preventative and enforcement actions aimed at those H2Oi participants and visitors coming to Ocean City to wreak havoc, violence and destruction to Maryland's beach town.

"I join with thousands of local residents and business operators to express deep, heartfelt and sincere appreciation and prayers of thanks for all that law enforcement, fire, emergency management, dispatchers, public works and city employees have been doing to keep Ocean City and our home community safe," Senator Carozza said. "This has been a very difficult week for Ocean City. As Ocean City Police Chief Ross Buzzuro stated, '...the majority of these visitors are NOT car enthusiasts. They are here to disrupt, destroy and disrespect our community and our law enforcement.'"

More than one hundred participants of the weekend pop-up rally were arrested and charged with various criminal and traffic offenses under this year's special events zone law (Senate Bill 878), which was requested by law enforcement and local leaders and passed during the abbreviated 2020 legislative session.

Senate Bill 878—Worcester County—Special Event Zones – Prohibitions is an emergency local public safety bill that prohibits a person from engaging in "exhibition driving" within a special event zone in Worcester County. Senate Bill 878 strengthens the current special event zone law that passed in 2018 which only covered speeding by defining and increasing the penalties for exhibition driving, such as negligent driving, racing, or skidding in a special event zone. Senate Bill 878 went into effect on May 8, 2020.

"From my conversations with the leadership of the OCPD and allied law enforcement command, I expect to hear

their future public safety recommendations. I believe we need to allow our professional law enforcement leaders to assess the weekend, conduct their after-action review, and hear their specific recommendations for the future with the input and support of the public."

"I will continue to do all I can to support law enforcement and make public safety my top priority, especially at a time when the Maryland General Assembly has been holding anti-police hearings in

Annapolis and considering legislation that would weaken law enforcement."

Senator Carozza also supports Delegate Wayne Hartman's efforts to introduce legislation that would classify attacks against law enforcement officers as a hate crime, and is working with her colleagues on the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to advance additional resources and protections for first responders.

credit
from page 1

side in public housing. The credit is issued in the form of a direct check payment of up to \$1,000.

SDAT is also encouraging Maryland homeowners to submit an application for the Homestead Tax Credit if they have not yet done so. Once approved, the Homestead Credit accrues over time by limiting the increase in taxable assessment each year to a fixed percentage, and is a one-time application without a specific filing deadline. The Homestead Credit provides nearly \$20 billion in assessment relief per year.

Sufficiently completed tax credit applications will be processed 30-90 days after they are submitted, al-

though online applications will be processed significantly faster than those submitted by mail. For additional questions about these credits, applicants should visit www.taxcredits.sdat.maryland.gov or contact SDAT as follows:

Homeowners' Property Tax Credit Program: sdat.homeowners@maryland.gov, 410-767-4433

Renters' Property Tax Credit Program: sdat.renters@maryland.gov, 410-767-4433

Homestead Property Tax Credit Program: sdat.homestead@maryland.gov, 410-767-4433

For more information about these programs, please visit dat.maryland.gov/Pages/Tax-Credit-Programs.

Dinner fundraiser is Saturday

The Bishopville Ladies Auxiliary will host a carryout only Chicken and Dumpling dinner on Saturday, October 10, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Included is chicken, pint of dumplings, sweet potatoes (with our special sauce), green beans and a roll for \$12. Additional pints of dumplings are \$5 each. Preorders must be made by October 8 by calling 619-922-9950. This will be curbside pickup. You do not get out of your car. Proceeds will assist local firefighters.

Take away dinner planned

A Take Away Dinner Italian Dinner is scheduled for Saturday, October 10 between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. at Bethany United Methodist Church. On the menu is chicken parmesan, pasta, salad and bread. The cost is \$15. The church is located at 8648 Stephen Decatur Hwy. in Berlin. Pre-orders recommended. Call 410-641-2186 and leave a message

Aging men and women may be tempted to eschew home cooking entirely. After all, there are plenty of convenient frozen or take-out foods available that can be whipped up in a snap. However, there are certain benefits to cooking your own meals. John Moore, DO, an Aetna medical director and senior health specialist, says that cooking can be good for helping to stave off cognitive decline. Dr. Moore notes that, when cooking, the mind is put to use following a recipe and learning new skills and tasks. Furthermore, cooking for oneself can boost seniors' self-confidence, reassuring them that they can handle an important daily task without having to rely on their family for meals. As long as it is deemed safe (i.e., no sign of cognitive decline or forgetfulness), seniors should be encouraged to continue cooking.



Courier Almanac

On October 7, 1975, a New York State Supreme Court judge reversed a deportation order for John Lennon, allowing him to remain legally in his adoptive home of New York City.

Protests against the Vietnam War had escalated significantly following the announcement of the Cambodia invasion on April 30, 1970, and the shooting deaths of four student protestors at Kent State just four days later. Many such gatherings would feature peaceful demonstrators singing Lennon's 1969 anthem "Give Peace A Chance," but others were more threatening. Newly relocated to New York City, John Lennon began to associate publicly with such radical figures as Abbie Hoffman, Jerry Rubin and Bobby Seale, and the White House reportedly grew concerned, according to the 2006 documentary "*The U.S. vs. John Lennon*," over his potentially powerful influence with a generation of 18-to-20-year-olds who would be allowed, for the very first time, to vote in the 1972 presidential election. "I suppose if you were going to list your enemies and decide who is most dangerous," Walter Cronkite would later say, "if I were Nixon, I would put Lennon up near the top."

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Candles on a cake

My eldest son recently celebrated a birthday, one that ended with a zero. When a child reaches a milestone birthday, it's understandable a parent

To my knowledge my son has never lied to me, even when it would have been easier for the both of us if he had. A fair amount of grief could have been avoided and maybe my hair wouldn't be so silver. We'll never know.

He has been a determined individual from the moment he drew his first breath. He has achieved much, not always as quickly as he expected but

to his credit, he's never let a setback derail him from attaining an objective. At times like that he's just figured out an alternative path. I will tell you that some of the same qualities that have made him a success as an adult – stick-to-itiveness, concentration on a goal and an uncompromising attitude – were many of the same traits that earned him early bedtime or grounding or both when he was a child. He could be a stubborn little cuss who would argue a point with such veracity that both Clarence Darrow and Perry Mason would have backed down. His creativity as a six-year-old

in arguing why he should be allowed to watch a "Sponge Bob Square Pants" marathon past bedtime was clever and at times nuanced which was frustrating as a parent. Looking back, I chuckle at the image of a pajama-clad, barefoot, three-foot something little boy earnestly making his case, arm and hand movements to match. Amusing now; not so amusing then. It was during these formative years and beyond that my son learned an elemental truth of life. As much of an irresistible, persuasive force he thought he was, there was an even more powerful, unmovable counter force: Mom. My wife was and is just as clever, just as stubborn (and still is) and even more formidable as my son thought he was so when the two of them locked horns, my son found himself on the losing end of arguments. It was a lesson that required repeated learning. But he learned from a master.

Vivid memories abound of when as a child he had to sit on a chair contemplating the error of his ways after being placed in time out. And he was the type to contemplate loudly, telling everyone within earshot his thoughts and reasons why he was being unfairly treated. The more he expressed him-

self, the more time was added to the time-out clock. It took him a while to figure that out.

As frustrating as he could be at times as a child, there were many, many more times when his sense of humor, comic impersonations and deadpan comments had those around him doubled over in laughter. His comedic timing is innate and when he's on he's on. Growing up he sat across from me at the dinner table which could be difficult. Often, I felt like Harvey Korman to his Tim Conway when he would just bust out a routine with no warning. He was in grade school when, one night, he did an exaggerated impression of a friend using a computer keyboard to type his name, enunciating in an affected voice each letter he typed. None of us around the table could take another bite of food for quite a while because we were laughing so hard and our sides hurt. I'm laughing now as I type this. Give me a moment. I'll be right back.

I'm back and close with this observation. Forget about the number of candles on a birthday cake. Laughter will keep you young.



It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

might wonder how time has moved from him blowing out a single candle on his first cake until now. It hasn't been that long ago since I celebrated the same birthday, has it? Upon reflection, it has. In fact, it was longer ago than my youngest child's current age of 24. I don't really feel that much older. Sure, my hair is now silver when it used to be... the original color was ... it was ... uh, black. Yes, that's right black. And even though I'm told my hearing isn't what it once was, at least according to my wife, nonetheless, I feel fit as a fiddle and ready to go, eventually.

Age is a state of mind. Nonetheless, it gives me just a little pause to accept that my son has entered his fourth decade. There were times when the prospects of him getting through his teen decade appeared iffy. There were times when the prospect of *me* getting through his teen decade appeared the same way. In retrospect, his teen years really weren't all that bad. I see that now, having lived through my youngest child's teen years. But that's a story for another time and place accompanied by a licensed therapist.

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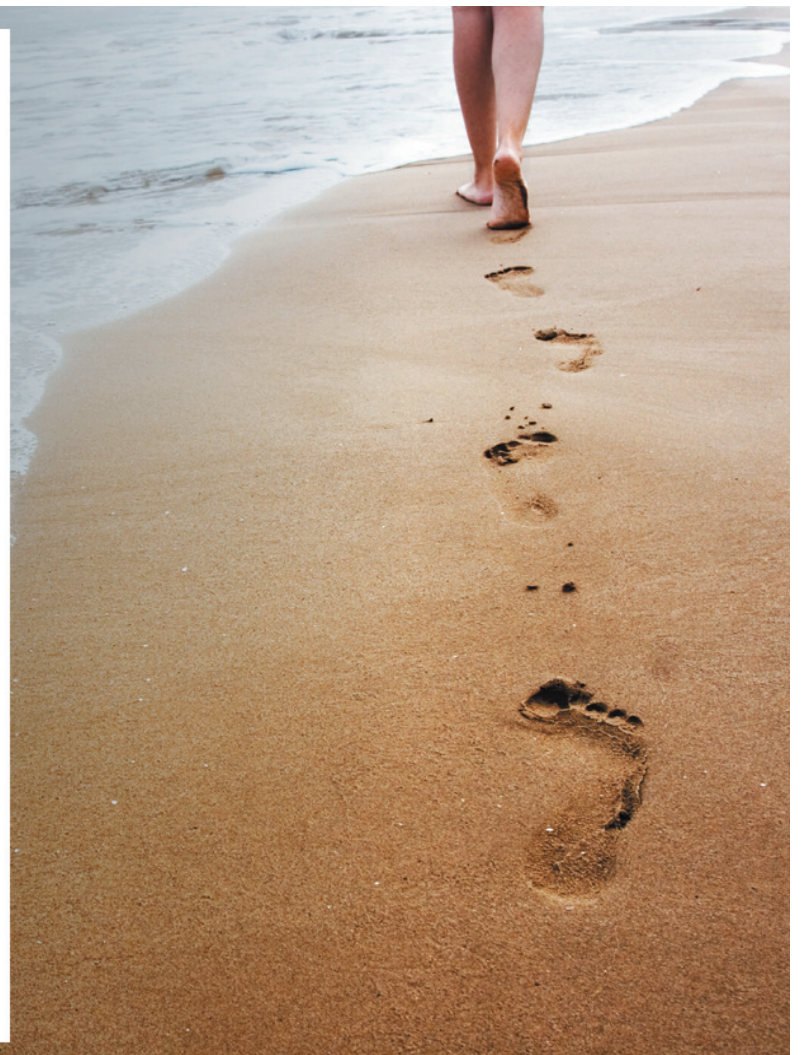
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AGH offers flu clinics

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the best way to prevent the flu is getting a flu vaccine each year. The CDC recommends that everyone 6 months of age and older get a seasonal flu vaccine.

As a service to the community, Atlantic General Hospital/Health System is again providing community flu vaccination. The healthcare organization will be hosting the annual clinics for ages 13 and older.

The high dose flu vaccine, which is for individuals age 65 and older, will also be available. This vaccine option will be administered at the flu clinics by AGHRx RediScripts Pharmacy and billed to insurance. The flu vaccine is considered preventative care and is covered at 100 percent by most insurances.

Due to COVID-19, the flu clinics will be drive-through this year, held in coordination with the Worcester County Health Department. An appointment is required. Please wear a short-sleeved shirt in preparation for the vaccine.

Flu Clinics:

Tuesday, October 6, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Snow Hill Senior Center

Thursday, October 8, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Ocean City Park and Ride

Saturday, October 10, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Ocean City Park and Ride

Wednesday, October 14, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Worcester County Health
Department's Pocomoke office

Thursday, October 15, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Ocean City Park and Ride

Pet blessing scheduled

In honor of St. Francis of Assisi, who loved all animals and whose feast day is October 4, the Church of the Holy Spirit in Ocean City will hold a Blessing of the Animals ceremony on October 11 from 11:30 a.m. till 1 p.m. in the church parking lot.

The church is located at Coastal Highway and 100th St. Pets should be on leashes or otherwise under their owners' control. Any size, shape or type of pet is welcome. You may also bring a photo of a departed pet, or a stuffed animal that means a lot to you.

Call the church at 410-723-1973 for further information.

Clinic dates are subject to change based upon flu vaccine availability. To schedule an appointment, visit www.marylandvax.org. Individuals without computer access can call 410-632-1100 and select option 8 to register.

Influenza, or flu, is a highly contagious virus spread by inhaling droplets from an infected individual's cough or sneeze. Most symptoms emerge within 24 to 48 hours and are characterized by fever, chills, sore throat, cough and headache. Just one infected person can unknowingly pass on the flu to family members and loved ones because the virus can be transmitted 24 hours before symptoms appear.

Donations made during the Atlantic General Hospital flu clinics help offset the cost of future flu clinics. For more information on the Atlantic General Hospital Community Flu Clinics, contact Atlantic General Hospital at 410-641-9FLU (9358).

Virtual Narcan training offered

The Worcester County Health Department (WCHD) now offers free virtual Narcan Training online. Narcan is a medication that may counteract the life-threatening effects of a suspected or known opioid overdose.

This online training covers:

- What is an opioid?
- Types of opioids
- How to recognize an opioid overdose
- How to respond to an opioid overdose
- Tips for preventing an opioid overdose

Successfully complete the training to receive your free Narcan response kit. Kits can be picked up at the Worcester County Health Department, 6040 Public Landing Road, Snow Hill. You will need to call ahead to set up an appointment to pick up your free Narcan kit. Safety precautions will be taken during pick up and includes mandatory wearing of face coverings, physical distancing, and completion of a health questionnaire prior to entrance into the building.

For more information on Narcan visit WorcesterHealth.org. Contact Kelcey Kengla at kelcey.kengla@maryland.gov or (410) 632-1100 ext. 1115 to enroll in the training and schedule a time to pick up your free Narcan kit.



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Ocean Pines offers three unique event locations

By **Josh Davis**

Most Ocean Pines homeowners and residents are familiar with what the Yacht Club and Beach Club have to offer in terms of events, as each features a unique setting and picturesque waterfront views.

With the recent opening of the new Golf Clubhouse, there's now a third choice for weddings, banquets, private parties and more.

The Matt Ortt Companies, which oversees food and beverage operations and special events at the Yacht Club and Beach Club, has brought its management expertise to the community's newest venue, set in the heart of the community at the Ocean Pines Golf Club.

Opened this spring, the Clubhouse offers attractive views of both nearby waterways, and of the Eastern Shore's only Robert Trent Jones-designed golf course.

Lia Isel, events manager for the Matt Ortt Companies, said the facility's modest size is ideal for smaller parties and was the inspiration for a new all-inclusive "tiny weddings" package available exclusively at the Clubhouse.

"The Clubhouse is a great space to have your rehearsal dinner, or even your birthday party," Isel said. "I think a majority of people are familiar with the Yacht Club, but what we're also very excited about are all the additional types of events we can now offer at the Clubhouse."

As Ocean Pines' flagship venue, the Yacht Club continues to be a favorite location for weddings and other special events. Perhaps best known for its one-of-a-kind view of the Isle of Wight Bay, Matt Ortt Companies cofounder Ralph DeAngelus said the Yacht Club is even more dazzling at night, thanks to the twinkling skyline of nearby Ocean City.

"It's a million-dollar view. When people walk into the second-story banquet hall and look out over the balcony, it just sells itself," added Lewis Sherman, who serves as the Matt Ortt Companies' director of operations.

Events at the Yacht Club can range from big, bold galas in the upstairs banquet room, to rehearsal dinners in the downstairs restaurant, and even small, cozy events in the downstairs lounge bar.

"We have done anything and everything at the Yacht Club, from a baby shower and a celebration of life, to a 250-person wedding on the big patio overlooking the water," Isel said. "We can also host several events at once. We've had a wedding upstairs with 200 people,

a dinner party or a rehearsal dinner downstairs, and another 30-40 people for a smaller event at our cozy lounge bar."

For those looking for a more casual setting, DeAngelus recommends the Beach Club, which is perfect for a barefoot wedding in the sand with the iconic backdrop of the Atlantic Ocean. The venue is open from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

Although being able to offer three distinct venues, each with a unique setting, is appealing to clients, an even bigger advantage is the added flexibility the Ortt Companies now has in booking events.

"I think the exciting thing for the Clubhouse is that it's a second outlet for us. So many times, we've had to say 'no' to people because that date is booked already. Now, we can say, 'Let me take you two minutes from here and show you

what we've got,'" DeAngelus said. "It's a great second option and another gorgeous view."

Isel said it's always best to book in advance, with the calendar filling up quickly all the way into 2022. However, having the new Clubhouse also means the Ortt Companies can now handle many last-minute requests.

"The sooner the better, but even if it's the last minute, call us! That's the beauty of having three really unique places to host everything from large weddings, to small and intimate parties," Isel said. "Whether you need to book a year in advance or for something that just popped up next week, we can accommodate you."

For information on bookings, visit www.opyachtclub.com/banquets or email Lia Isel at lia@mattorttcompanies.com.

Tidalhealth offers seasonal flu shot options

A person's best shot at avoiding the flu this season is to be vaccinated against it. Flu vaccinations are encouraged for anyone over the age of 6 months, but especially for people over the age of 65, people with heart or lung disorders, immunosuppressant diseases or diabetes.

TidalHealth offers residents of the Delmarva Peninsula multiple options and opportunities at nearly 30 locations where they can receive their seasonal flu shots.

The most convenient option is any of their three Drive-Thru Flu Clinics in Crisfield and Salisbury, and Millsboro, Delaware. TidalHealth nurses will be offering flu shots at the TidalHealth McCready Pavilion on Saturday, October 3 from 8 a.m. to noon. The Drive-Thru event in Salisbury will be held from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Arthur W. Perdue (Shorebirds) Stadium on Friday, October 9. Residents in and around Millsboro may receive their vaccination at the Drive-Thru clinic on Saturday, October 31 from 8 a.m. to noon at the TidalHealth Millsboro Pavilion on Route 113 near Lowes. Flu shots at all three Drive-Thru clinics are free of charge. Participants, who do not need to leave their cars, must be at least 13 years of age (13 to 17 bring a parent to sign consent). No payment or insur-

ance information is required at our drive-thru clinics.

Additionally, flu shots are offered during regular hours at TidalHealth Home Scripts Pharmacy in Ocean Pines and three Immediate Care locations in Seaford, Georgetown and Laurel, Delaware. These locations will bill a person's insurance company, when appropriate, if any copays are associated.

Flu vaccinations are also available at many of TidalHealth's primary care and specialty care offices across Delmarva. Primary Care offices offering flu vaccinations include Bridgeville, Millsboro, Delmar, Georgetown, Laurel and Seaford in Delaware and Salisbury, Federalsburg, Crisfield, Ocean Pines, Berlin and Snow Hill.

Persons needing a flu shot may also obtain one at TidalHealth Pulmonology, Nephrology and Women's Health specialty offices. All primary care and specialty care offices will bill a person's insurance company, when appropriate, if any copays are associated.

TidalHealth Population Health is also providing free flu shots on its Wagner Wellness Van at eight locations across Delmarva in the months of October and November, including a Veterans Day flu shot clinic for vets and their spouses on November 11 in Salisbury.

Boggs' decades of public service helped break down barriers

By **Josh Davis**

It was a full-circle moment for Judy Boggs, earlier this year, when the Worcester County Commission for Women named her as the organization's "Woman of the Year."

Boggs, a former Worcester County Commissioner and Ocean Pines Association President, helped found the

carved her own path. She is known for having unique and innovative ideas, and for her ability to get to the heart of a matter by asking tough, searching questions.

Born in 1939, Boggs grew up in a small community near Dundalk, MD called Water's Edge. Her late husband, William, grew up "right across the

and, when he came back, I was grown up. But, I still lived across the street from him."

They later bumped into each other at a wedding of mutual friends. She was invited by the bride and he was invited by the groom.

"At the reception, he kept looking at me and looking at me, and he asked me to dance," she said. "He finally said, 'What's your name?' And I said Judy O'Hara, which is my maiden name. And he stopped and he said real loud for everybody to hear, 'THE LITTLE KID FROM ACROSS THE STREET?!'"

"He was gone for three years, and I grew up," Boggs added with a laugh.

First, a reporter

William "Bill" Boggs was drafted after graduating from high school and served in the U.S. Army. He would later become a supervisor at Bethlehem Steel and was active in the community as a volunteer.

Judy Boggs, meanwhile, attended the University of Baltimore, but never graduated. Instead, she picked classes that appealed to her interests and then moved on.

Boggs stayed home while their three children were very young. When they were a little older, she decided it was time to go to work. William, she said, was always supportive.

"Anything I wanted to do, any cockamamie idea, he always said, 'Well, if it makes you happy,'" Boggs said.

First, she decided she wanted to be a newspaper reporter.

"Dundalk had one big, very popular paper. So, I went there," she said. "This was really a man's world, at that time. All the writers were men – all the everything were men!"

Boggs told the owner of the paper, the *Dundalk Eagle*, that she was looking for a job as a reporter. She told him she could write and knew shorthand, a skill she picked up in college.

"He said, 'OK, let me give you a test.' And I said, 'No, I'm not looking to be a secretary, I'm going to be a writer,'" she said. "And I started walking out and he said, 'Well, wait a minute.' He looked at me funny and then said, 'The Fourth of July parade

please see boggs page 12



Judy Boggs

commission several decades earlier, citing a need to help elevate women's interests in areas of society often dominated by men.

Throughout her career, Boggs

street." He passed away earlier this year, but the story of their first meeting is one she still enjoys telling.

"He was 11 years older than I was," she said. "He went into the service

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Astronomy & Spaceflight

By Douglas Hemmick, Ph.D.



Manned flights to ISS, moon

This month's column discusses the progress of two NASA programs, both aimed at manned spaceflight. The first topic is October's scheduled launch to the International Space Station. The second is recent progress toward the goal of sending astronauts to the moon via the new Space Launch System (SLS) rocket program.

After SpaceX's successful flight launched on May 30 with two astro-

launchpad 39A at Cape Canaveral and ride aloft on a Falcon 9 rocket. The upcoming event will kick off a six-month mission, much longer than the 64-day stint by astronauts Doug Hurley and Bob Behnken, which was classified as a test mission.

NASA has chosen the timing of SpaceX's Crew-1 launch so that the mission will overlap with the next mission, "Crew-2," planned for April 2021.

Musk's SpaceX company is under contract for six or more crew rotation launches to the ISS through 2024. NASA has committed more than \$3.1 billion to SpaceX for development and operational flights of the Crew Dragon spacecraft.

Having discussed the efforts to take astronauts to the space station, the next topic is the program to carry humans all the way to the surface of the moon.

To fulfill the lunar mission, NASA is now building the powerful new Space Launch System (SLS). The year 2020 has seen significant progress in this next generation of heavy lift, deep space rocketry. In January the rocket's massive core section was completed at NASA's facility in

New Orleans. A massive barge transported the 212-foot core to NASA's testing center in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. This testing involves eight separate stages. In the first weeks of September, the fifth testing phase took place. The final stage, involving actual firing of the core's rocket engines, is scheduled for late October.

Meanwhile on September 2, a trial firing of the SLS booster rockets took place in a desert facility near Promontory, UT. For a little over two minutes, the five-segment booster rocket put on

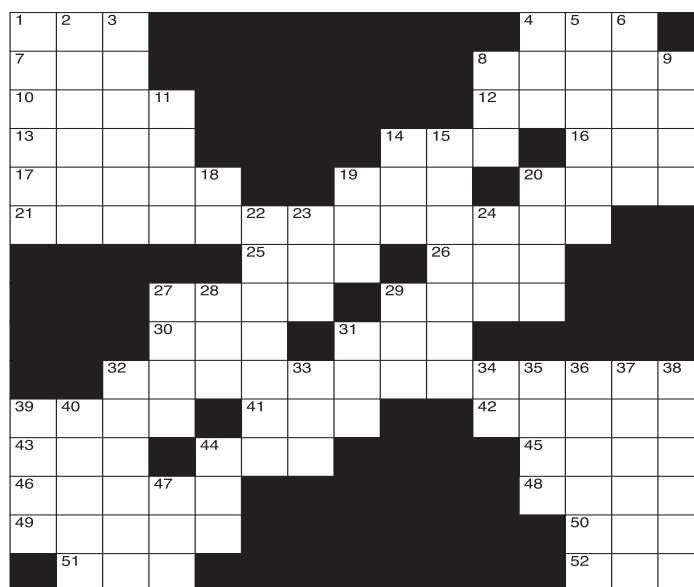


Crew-Dragon astronauts (L - R) Shannon Walker, Victor Glover, Mike Hopkins, Soichi Noguchi

nauts aboard, the next Crew Dragon mission is being prepared to carry four astronauts to the International Space Station. The diverse crew is headed by Commander Mike Hopkins and pilot Victor Glover along with mission specialists Shannon Walker and Soichi Noguchi, an astronaut from the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency. This flight, designated "Crew-1" is scheduled to launch on October 23, pending a formal certification review of data from the first mission.

Similar to the earlier launch this past May, the Crew-1 flight will use

please see *flights* on page 11



CLUES ACROSS

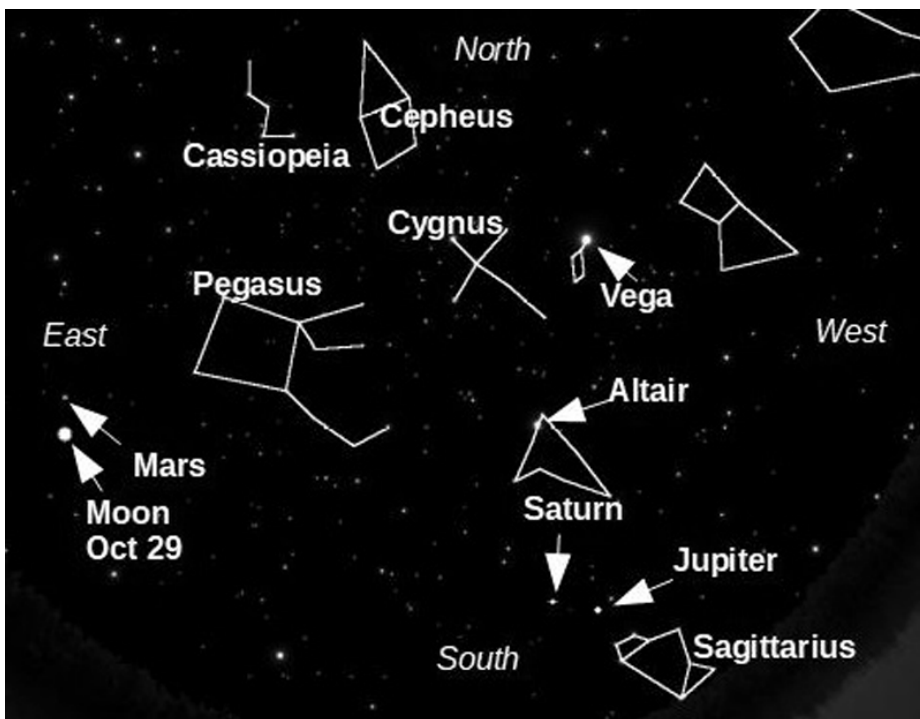
- 1. They look out for kids
- 4. Play
- 7. Water (French)
- 8. Prayer leader
- 10. Small constellation
- 12. ___ Carta: influential royal charter
- 13. Pressure unit
- 14. Extrasensory perception
- 16. A symbol of "Aloha"
- 17. Portion of the small intestine
- 19. Psychedelic amphetamine
- 20. Very long period of time
- 21. British overseas territory
- 25. Cereal grain
- 26. Car mechanics group
- 27. Wish harm upon
- 29. At a specific prior time
- 30. Peyton's younger brother
- 31. UK firefighters' union
- 32. Carroll O'Connor's screen partner
- 39. Popular show honoring musicians
- 41. Basics
- 42. Honk
- 43. Trent Reznor's band
- 44. Patti Hearst's captors
- 45. Long-legged wading bird
- 46. Specialized biological grouping
- 48. A coin goes in it
- 49. Of the wind
- 50. One-time measure of length
- 51. A very large body of water
- 52. River in NE Scotland

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Boston hoopster
- 2. A type of bribe
- 3. SE England county
- 4. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
- 5. "Hotel California" rockers
- 6. Italian province
- 8. Mischievous child
- 9. Popular street name
- 11. Boxing promoter Bob
- 14. Snakelike fish
- 15. Break into pieces
- 18. The Bay State
- 19. Time zone
- 20. Port city in Yemen
- 22. In name only
- 23. 007's creator
- 24. No (Scottish)
- 27. Baseball's Gordon and rock's Snider are two
- 28. Pie ___ mode
- 29. Don't know when yet
- 31. Supervises interstate commerce
- 32. Make a ringing metallic sound
- 33. Helps little firms
- 34. Pound
- 35. Lilly and Manning are two
- 36. Put on the back burner
- 37. Baltimore ballplayer
- 38. Cuddle
- 39. Poker stake
- 40. Drinks to celebrate a birth (Spanish)
- 44. Pouch
- 47. Not around



Answers for September 23



flights
from page 10

a fiery spectacle as it produced more than three million pounds of thrust, while anchored to its test stand. NASA-TV and its web site broadcast this event.

When the SLS is ready to fly, it will become the most powerful rocket on Earth. Similar to NASA's historic Apollo program, the Artemis project aims to take astronauts on a series of missions back to the lunar surface. Artemis-1 is scheduled for 2021, and will carry an unmanned Orion capsule into orbit around the moon. In 2023, Artemis-2 will carry astronauts along for another lunar-orbiting journey. Artemis-3 will strive for launch in 2024, with the objective of landing astronauts on the lunar surface. This timetable is a best-case scenario.

Among the Artemis program's goals, NASA is planning to make history by landing the first woman on the moon and choosing a landing site near the lunar south pole. NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine has said, "Over the next decade, the Artemis program will lay the foundation for a sustained long-term presence on the lunar surface and use the moon to validate deep space systems and operations before embarking on the much farther voyage to Mars."

As the skies grow fully dark at about 7:30 p.m., the Great Square of Pegasus rides high above the eastern horizon. Sports fans may proclaim that its large square shape outlines a baseball diamond in the sky, celebrat-

ing the "championship season." Northwards from Pegasus are Cepheus the King and the W-shaped Cassiopeia the Queen.

The constellation Sagittarius the Archer, with its "teapot" shape, hugs the southern horizon, while Jupiter and Saturn appear nearby, towards the east.

In October the planet Mars arrives in the evening sky for the first time since 2018. This famous planet features a dull red-orange hue, and can be seen hanging above the eastern horizon after about 9 p.m.. Check in particular on October 29, when Mars will be in conjunction with the moon, being located about three degrees to the north.

Wishing clear skies and good luck to all stargazers.

BJ's offer returns to Ocean Pines

BJ's Wholesale Club is once again partnering with the Ocean Pines Association to bring a special membership offer, effective October 16-30, to benefit the Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines Foundation.

In addition to offering special membership benefits, BJ's will donate \$5 of each membership fee to the foundation.

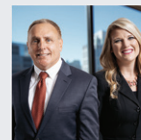
With this offer, new members receive a 12-month BJ's Inner Circle Membership for \$25 or a BJ's Perks Rewards Membership, which earns 2% cash back on most BJ's purchases,

please see offer on page 15

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Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

boggs
from page 9

is going to be next week. If you want to cover that, cover that and we'll see how it goes from there."

The try-out went well, and Boggs worked at the paper for the next eight years – as a writer.

"I became very popular because I did my own thing, and I did things nobody ever did," she said. "For example, I decided that I was going to interview all the churches in the area for their history. They loved it! The people who went to church loved it the churches loved it. It was a really big hit."

Boggs also became popular for writing about local politics, but it was her coverage of a major new development that would eventually lead to a second career.

Boggs' memory, she said, is a little fuzzy on the exact timeline, but Church Home and Hospital and Baltimore City Hospital were competing to build new facilities in the Dundalk area. She interviewed representatives from each company and wrote an article about their plans, with instructions for readers to mail in which group they preferred.

"The paper said, 'Don't be disap-

pointed if nobody responds,'" she said, but her editor later called back and demanded, "You've got to change this! I have a desk full of responses!"

Happy to oblige, Boggs redirected all the mail to her own home.

"It was boatloads of [letters] from all kinds of people," she said. "And I was getting calls [asking] who's winning? I wouldn't tell anybody, but we had bags and bags of letters. The mailman had to come into the house and empty it onto the kitchen table."

Next, a hospital administrator Church Home and Hospital would eventually win the bid, and Boggs would go on to become the health care administrator for the Church Home and Hospital Health Centers in Baltimore.

"They asked me to work with them, so I could familiarize the whole area with what they were going to build and what they were going to offer," she said.

Boggs took the position with the understanding that she would not work during the summer, so she could spend time with her children between school terms.

"They really liked what I had done, and they were getting a lot of response from the community – the whole area,

really. After that summer I said to Bill, 'You know, I really like this job. Maybe I better not take off the next summer!'

"I stayed with them for some years and did a lot of unusual things, for a writer," she continued. "I was pretty creative."

As an administrator, Boggs worked to make operations run more smoothly. That included a new program she created for those injured at work, sending patients in for immediate care rather than making them wait.

"They were used to City Hospital, which was very slow. I had people coming in and bringing their meals because they'd sat down at a table and waited. And I said, 'Oh no, we're not going to do this,'" she said. "I would go to all of the businesses around and say, 'When anyone is injured, you can have them sent to Church Home and Hospital. We will see them immediately and then either send them back to work or put them off.'"

The program ended up with more than 200 companies signing on.

"They were happy with my work – but they also tolerated me," Boggs said of her time at Church Home and Hospital. "I was just full of ideas."

Ocean Pines and elected office

Boggs retired in 1992, and she and William moved to Ocean Pines into a home they designed themselves.

"We always had our vacations in and around this area, and we loved Ocean Pines," she said.

At first, she said they didn't know anyone in the area, but figured, "the easiest way to get to know people is to volunteer for something."

William became involved in the Ocean Pines Players, building sets, while Boggs got involved in local politics, starting with the Ocean Pines Board of Directors.

Around the same time, in 1995, Boggs helped establish and served as

the first president of the Worcester County Commission for Women. She was previously a member of a similar commission in Baltimore.

However, she said the idea was at first mocked by her male colleagues on the Board.

"When the Board of Directors found out that on the agenda that month was Judy Boggs, who wanted to have a Commission for Women ... they started laughing and they started [saying], 'Oh, we need a Commission for Men!'

"It was a circus," she continued. "The men didn't like me. They fought me and I fought back ... I was elected president for a year, and, after that year I thought, 'this is enough of that!'"

Then, in 2002, Boggs moved on to a higher office, becoming the first person elected to represent the newly created Ocean Pines district on the Worcester County Commissioners, the governing body for the entire county.

"I got to know people and then I was encouraged to run," Boggs said. "They wanted me to stay for another term with Ocean Pines [on the Board of Directors], but I'm not a believer in staying and staying and staying."

As a Commissioner, Boggs was known for asking tough and intelligent questions. It was a trait from her days as a reporter, she said.



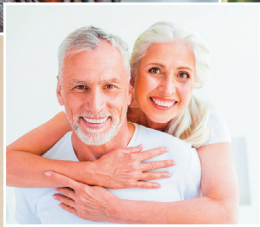
"There was one time that I asked a question and there was silence, and then everybody started closing their books ... and they ended the meeting," she said with a laugh.

"But the staff loved it. I was very popular and friendly with the staff. I was asking good questions and sometimes [the other Commissioners] even learned something," Boggs continued. "I read all the minutes and I had the questions, so the men thought, 'Well, we don't need to read the minutes, be-

please see boggs on page 15

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boggs
from page 12

cause Judy does it and Judy corrects them.' And that's how it was."

In 2005, the Maryland Daily Record named Boggs one of the 100 most powerful and influential women in the state. Along with her seat as a County Commissioner, she also served on the Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland, Worcester County Board of Health, Worcester County Health Planning Advisory Council, Worcester County Social Services Board, legislative committee for the Maryland Association of Counties, board of the Worcester County Developmental Center, and the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines/Ocean City.

Boggs said she started volunteering when her children were little, first as president of the local PTA, and she just never stopped.

"I was involved with my children and I just liked doing things," she said. "It was just part of me, I guess."

In 2014, Boggs decided not to seek another term as a Commissioner. Again, she said she didn't want to overstay her welcome.

"I did the same thing with the Com-

mission for Women," she said. "I was the president for the first term and then I announced that I wasn't going to be president ... I said, 'There's a lot of people here in this room that are capable of [serving].'"

Also, in 2014, Chip Bertino was elected to succeed Boggs on the Worcester County Commissioners. A fellow newspaper veteran, he also became known for asking the tough questions during meetings.

"Chip has done a good job," Boggs said.

Bertino introduced Boggs during an August 18 County Commissioners meeting, as the panel she once sat on formally recognized her "Woman of the Year" honor.

Proudly introducing himself as Boggs' successor, Bertino said she "meant a lot to this community." He said that Boggs "advocated for numerous community infrastructure initiatives, including the extension of natural gas to the county, and conducted more than three-dozen town hall meetings to connect constituents to local government."

Boggs stood up and thanked the Commissioners.

"This was totally unthought of by me, because I never thought ahead. I just did what needed to be done for my job, which I enjoyed tremendously," she said. "I really did enjoy being a County Commissioner. And I'm proud of the progress that the county has made, and I feel very privileged to live in this county –and the more I watch TV news, the prouder I become!"

Boggs said she's visited many places in Maryland and "nothing comes close to Worcester County and its people."

"I live in Ocean Pines, and it's very safe [and] very comfortable," she said. "The people who live there are wonderful and giving."

Women of the year

Among Boggs' closest friends in Ocean Pines was the late Anna Foulz, who would often call for advice.

Boggs recalled one time, when Foulz called her in tears.

"She said, 'I'm in trouble I'm in big trouble! I need your help.' She always counted on me for a lot of things, but she really underestimated herself," Boggs said. "She didn't realize how strong she was."

Foulz explained that she received a letter announcing that a national group had named her their "Businesswoman of the Year" and wanted to fly her to California to receive the award.

"I said, 'Anna, that's wonderful!' And she said, 'No, I'm not a businesswoman! I just do things for people,'" Boggs said.

Determined to help, Boggs got out a large pad of paper.

"I wrote down, 'What does a businesswoman do?'" Boggs said. "And [Foulz] said, 'They have an office.' And I said, 'You have an office, it's in your house.' And she said, 'Yeah, but they make money and they have people

working for them.' I said, 'You have people working.' She said, 'They're not my workers, they're just my helpers' ... and we went through the whole thing."

"It took two different sessions for her to realize that, maybe, she was a businesswoman," Boggs continued. "She finally went to receive the award... [but] she still couldn't believe that it happened. She was a great gal."

On her own "Woman of the Year" recognition by the Worcester County Commission for Women – a group she founded and served with – Boggs said, "It's very satisfying."

"I've met the people who are taking it to another level," she said. "They have a variety of women with various skills, and they're doing a wonderful job and they're creating their own programs."

As for the young women who are entering new jobs or serving on new boards and commissions, Boggs' advice is simple.

"Be yourself. And don't be afraid to be yourself," she said. "Don't let people make you into something that you're not. You have to have confidence in yourself."

"And, if you want something, work for it. Don't let anybody say, 'Oh, you shouldn't do that,'" Boggs added.

Tides for Ocean City Inlet

Day	High /Low	Tide Time
Th 8	High	12:30 AM
8	Low	6:19 AM
8	High	12:58 PM
8	Low	7:19 PM
F 9	High	1:19 AM
9	Low	7:12 AM
9	High	1:53 PM
9	Low	8:16 PM
Sa 10	High	2:18 AM
10	Low	8:11 AM
10	High	2:55 PM
10	Low	9:15 PM
Su 11	High	3:23 AM
11	Low	9:13 AM
11	High	3:58 PM
11	Low	10:13 PM
M 12	High	4:26 AM
12	Low	10:16 AM
12	High	4:57 PM
12	Low	11:08 PM
Tu 13	High	5:23 AM
13	Low	11:17 AM
13	High	5:52 PM
W 14	Low	12:00 AM
14	High	6:17 AM
14	Low	12:16 PM
14	High	6:43 PM

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sports

from page 1

that have never been done before.”

New tennis and pickleball lessons have made a significant impact, according to McMullen. On an average day, he said there can be two or three lessons running simultaneously.

Linda Horst offers pickleball instruction every morning and Bill Gilroy, who teaches at the U.S. Naval Academy, teaches beginners' tennis.

New to Ocean Pines is Greg Gunther, an instructor with a master's degree in tennis who has helped lure elite players at the high school and college levels, and beyond.

“That is a real great feature for us,” Underkoffler said. “And these are all programs that weren't around last year.

“Pickleball instruction, in particular, is just taking off and it's helping the sport tremendously,” he continued. “It's attracting both experienced players that want to get better, and those who are new to the sport and that like the fact that it's fast and active, but they don't have to run as much.”

Underkoffler offers individual and group tennis lessons, as well as “stroke of the day” clinics, which are free for Racquet Sports members.

Additionally, platform tennis members offer free intro lessons every Saturday at 9:30 a.m. They also offer a free 30-day trial membership.

McMullen said the pickleball courts are perhaps the biggest draw, with players regularly coming from Lewes, Rehoboth and Millsboro in Delaware, as well as Snow Hill and Pocomoke in Worcester County.

“We had a lady who recently drove from Easton to come here, which is an hour and 15 minutes to play pickleball,” McMullen said. “We had a guy from Annapolis two weekends ago introduce himself and say, ‘you guys have a facility here that is unbelievable.’”

On average, McMullen said the racquet center draws about 125 players each day. Underkoffler said the “amount of courts and the quality of the courts” is what makes the facility such a draw.

McMullen said another key to the center's turnaround is the re-assignment of Bob Grant, from Public Works to specifically helping with Racquet Sports.

“Bob brought in three tons of rock and three tons of mulch, and he re-landscaped everything,” McMullen

said. “The fact that we have Bob here means, now, the place is being taken care of.”

A friendly, welcoming atmosphere

Improved customer service has also helped encourage more racquet sports play.

McMullen said the center did not always have a reputation for friendliness and good customer service, but changing that perception was a priority. He said that started with hiring attendants like Brendan Miller, and sisters Mallorie and Julie Parsons, who each live and play racquet sports in Ocean Pines.

Another attendant, Victor Karviva, was part of the morning tennis group with McMullen and Underkoffler and has been a Racquet Sports member since the complex opened.

“These attendants learned the name of every member,” McMullen said. “They greet them every morning, and you'll see them around doing all kinds of work to make the place look better. They have been phenomenal.”

“What we're hearing from our players, is the place is cleaner and it's so much more friendly,” Underkoffler said. “They feel that it's a welcoming environment now. They see the attendants and the attendants greet them by name.”

Last year, he said, some pickleball players didn't feel welcome at the center.

“This year, they feel like we're embracing [the sport] and we want to see it grow – and we do,” Underkoffler said. “My goodness, it's just simple and smart business – if people are flocking to a place, why would you want to turn them away?”

Regular players have noticed the difference

“The people that are running the racquet center are great. It's definitely better managed than it was,” tennis player Carol Manly said. “The atmosphere and the professionalism is just so much better. Everybody gets greeted with a smile. It is amazing ... I would highly recommend it to everyone.”

Deb Downey used to coach at Bennett High School in Salisbury, often facing off against Underkoffler at Worcester Prep. Today, she's a big fan both of the center and her former rival.

“[In the past], the atmosphere here was so negative and so down, and this year everyone is enjoying it,” she said.

Challenges of a pandemic

McMullen said the center reopened

in mid-May, after losing several weeks in April and May to the pandemic.

COVID-19 safety protocols, as of September, included a safe sign-in station that's set up for social distancing and is regularly cleaned and sanitized.

Attendants now wear masks and make sure there's plenty of hand sanitizer throughout the complex. Players must also wear masks when signing in, or whenever they're not actively playing.

Stations throughout the center are spaced-out to help promote social distancing, including the tables with umbrellas that supply shade during hot and humid days.

Mallorie Parsons said players were initially nervous upon returning to the facility, but they quickly became accustomed to the new protocols.

“Once they saw the procedures that we had set up, it put a lot of people at ease. We've been really busy, which is great, and people are excited to be outside and get some exercise ... and to socially interact with other people, all at a distance,” she said.

“We have a great facility. We have so many courts that are utilized, which is awesome. And we've been keeping track of all of our [players'] numbers, so if a case does arise we can contact people and let them know that they might have been exposed,” Parsons added.

A needed expansion

McMullen said he would like to see some improvements at the center, as business there continues to grow. The priority, he said, is building more pickleball courts to accommodate the increase in popularity.

“We've got to have more pickleball courts,” McMullen said. “Platform tennis play has been steady, but tennis and pickleball are exploding.”

Underkoffler agreed.

“The numbers at pickleball are just wonderful,” he said. “We get so much outside interest in pickleball here so, obviously, the more people who come the more court space we need.”

Underkoffler said the sport is especially popular in Ocean Pines, because its accessible to all ages and easier on the joints than other sports.

“Even though it's less taxing, there are so many athletic movements to it that makes it fun and competitive, so players of all ages are just exploding to this,” he said. “We feel that, by helping the sport grow, it's going to help all of our sports [at the center]. And it's been a gold mine to have our instructors.”

Underkoffler said the instructional

tennis program is also growing, including with children and students just starting out.

“We want to address that growth, but we only have a finite amount of space,” he said, adding there are still some open, grassy areas in the complex that could be repurposed.

“Our strategic plan is looking at, can we add more youth tennis places to play, can we add more pickleball places to play? Can we add and grow all the sports that are growing here? That's the challenge,” Underkoffler added.

McMullen said he would also like to see more bathrooms at the center. Currently, there are just two for, at times, upwards of 125 people.

“If we've upgraded our Yacht Club and we've upgraded our [Golf] Clubhouse, why not upgrade our racquet facility to have the best on the shore?” he said.

Going forward

Underkoffler said as the effects of the pandemic eventually subside, Ocean Pines Racquet Sports will continue to grow and expand its offerings, both in terms of instruction and tournament play.

As of late August, the center had two upcoming USTA tournaments scheduled. Platform tennis has a benefit scheduled near the end of September, and pickleball will host a tournament to benefit breast cancer research in October.

McMullen said it's no coincidence that both he and Underkoffler are former educators, and that they each continue to promote lessons and regular and tournament play.

“This is about recreation and education – it's both,” he said. “It's all about fitness for life. It's about community and it's about people interacting with each other.”

And, for those who have yet to visit the center, Underkoffler said there's no time like the present.

“There's no better time to learn a lifetime sport like tennis, because of the current health situation. We have people playing here in their 80s and they're still competitive. You certainly can't play lacrosse in your 80s!”

For more information or to register for Ocean Pines Racquet Sports classes, call Underkoffler at 215-808-6457 or email optennistraining@gmail.com.

For general information on the Ocean Pines Racquet Center and racquet sports activities, visit www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/racquet-sports.



New general surgeon joins AGH

Dr. Kanika Trehan recently joined Atlantic General Hospital and Health System to provide general surgery services to residents of Worcester County and the surrounding area.

Trehan completed her undergraduate studies and master's degree in molecular and cellular biology at Johns Hopkins University before entering the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in 2010. She was a clinical and research fellow in burn surgery, trauma, and critical care at Connecticut Burn Center in Bridgeport, Conn., while also completing her general surgery residency at Yale-New Haven Hospital, in New Haven, Conn.

Trehan provides patient consultations in Ocean View, DE, in addition to her office hours at Atlantic General Surgical Associates in Berlin. To schedule an appointment in Ocean View, please call 302-541-9690. To schedule an appointment in Berlin, call 410-641-9568.

weekend
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through the money they spend in local hotels, restaurants, and shops. Participants are encouraged to remind local businesses that they are here to enjoy Delmarva's natural areas and the birds that inhabit them. This is more important now than ever.

"It's our vast shallow bays and large tracts of protected marshes and bald cypress forests that make the Delmarva Peninsula one of the finest birding regions in the nation," said guide and organizer Jim Rapp. "During the weekend, our guests will hike on private farmland and woodland that are

normally off-limits to birders, and our waterborne trips go where the birds are."

Co-organizer Dave Wilson added that most trips are not physically taxing and that the event provides a rare opportunity to tally 100 species in a day in places that are normally inaccessible to the public. For Oktobirdfest 2020, mask wearing and social distancing will be the rule. There will be no carpooling and numbers of seats will be reduced.

Sponsors for the events include Worcester County Tourism, Southern Delaware Tourism, the Boardwalk Hotel Group, Jolly Roger Amusement Park, the Delmarva Almanac, My

Backyard, the Maryland Coastal Bays Program, and the Delaware Center for the Inland Bays. Special thanks also go to the private property owners who allow us access to their properties for this weekend.

Additional sponsor and registration information, field trip descriptions and other resources for Delmarva Birding are available at www.delmarvabirding.com. To become a sponsor or for additional information, contact Jim Rapp (443-614-0261) or Dave Wilson (443-523-2201) at Conservation Community Consulting at conservationcc@gmail.com.

offer
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for \$50 with BJ's Easy Renewal.

Renewing members can purchase a 12-month Inner Circle Membership for \$40 or a BJ's Perks Rewards Membership for \$80 with BJ's Easy Renewal. Renewing members will also receive one bonus month with the offer.

This special promotion is only offered through Ocean Pines two times a year. The next promotion will be in April 2021. Current BJ's members whose memberships will expire before then are encouraged to renew during the fall offer.

BJ's membership applications are available at the Ocean Pines Association Administration Building at 239 Ocean Parkway and online at oceanpines.org/documents/10184/89280/Fall2020_BJs_FlyerApplication.pdf. Applications must be returned with payment by Oct. 30. Check and credit card payments will be accepted.

Applications may be placed in the drop box in the administration building outer lobby, dropped off at the administration building front desk or mailed to Ocean Pines Association, Attn: Marketing, 239 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines, MD 21811.

For more information, call 410-641-7717.

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