



The Courier

March 24, 2021 Volume 21 Number 27

Carol Vaillancourt
A Personal Crusade



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FUND**

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Please join us for our
**3rd Platform Tennis
BENEFIT TOURNAMENT**

April 24, 2021

Play begins at 8:30 am.



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*****ENTRY DEADLINE APRIL 17*****

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Mail **Check with Entry Form** to Michael Petito, 4 Long Point Court, Ocean Pines, MD.21811

(for info: map11946@yahoo.com OR Sue Walter: cbreeze601@verizon.net)

RELEASE & WAIVER: In consideration of my admission to, and/or participation in, the platform tennis tournament to be held 4/24/21 (rain date 4/25) at Manklin Meadows Sports Complex in Ocean Pines, activity that may occur (Activity), (hereinafter sometimes referred to as Association), I, the undersigned, agree to the following terms/conditions: I understand that participating in the Activity can result in injury. I accept & fully realize that there are inherent dangers and other risks involved in participating in the Activity. I, for myself, my heirs, successors, representatives, assigns, and anyone else who might have a claim by reason of my injury or death hereby knowingly and intentionally release the Association, its directors, officers, managing agents, agents, & any organizer of Activity from any & all liability, damages, injuries, & for all & any claims arising out of my participation in the Activity including resulting from the Associations negligence. I understand that participating in the Activity subjects me to foreseeable & unforeseeable hazards, & I intend for this release to cover those hazards and any & all injuries resulting from these hazards. I understand that the Association is not taking any steps to safeguard any of my personal property & that I assume all risk associated with any personal property that I may bring to the Activity & hereby release the Association from any claim, injury or liability resulting from damage or loss of my property, including resulting from the Associations negligence. This Agreement is governed by & shall be construed under the laws of Maryland. Any claims arising under it or in relation to claims for participation in the Activity with the Association shall be filed in Worcester County, Maryland. I UNDERSTAND THE RISKS OF PARTICIPATING IN THE ACTIVITY AND I HAVE CAREFULLY READ, UNDERSTAND & VOLUNTARILY ACCEPT THE TERMS OF THIS WAIVER & RELEASE AGREEMENT.

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Junk removal franchise helping veterans in need

By **Victor Fernandes**

One man's trash is another man's treasure turned from timeless adage to personal crusade as Carol Vaillancourt watched an older man sort through a wide variety of discarded items in a warehouse at JDog Junk Removal & Hauling in Madison, Wisconsin.

He showed Vaillancourt a wish list from fellow residents at the transitional home operated through the United States Department of Veterans Affairs where the man also lived. That day, and every day, he filled his truck with what others cast aside because, said Vaillancourt, a 17-year U.S. Army veteran and self-proclaimed bleeding heart, "to them it was everything that somebody

"I'm a logistics officer in the Army. I run crews and trucks in the Army and [handle] logistics," said Vaillancourt, who serves in the Delaware National Guard. "So, it's pretty natural for me to do that kind of work, but at the same time I'm not a garbage person."

Then she witnessed first-hand the mission behind the JDog Junk Removal & Hauling franchise - to provide jobs to military veterans and family members and an environmentally safe way to dispose of junk. The franchise, now more than 200 strong nationwide, gives people a renewed purpose in life and trash an opportunity to be repurposed and donated to people in need.

this country. "Of course, we had no way of knowing that," she said. "But after the initial shock, we were able to survive."

"The biggest challenge," she said, "came in that all the thrift stores shut down, and the places where we would normally deliver things from the landfill shut down. We had nowhere to divert our materials to. So, we're collecting all this stuff. We had nowhere to go with it. We were either going to have to raise our prices significantly to cover that cost or figure out something else."

That "something else" is GI Jane's Resale, a thrift and consignment store on Manklin Creek Road in Ocean Pines that was born in the heart of the coronavirus pandemic. "I call it my landfill diversion store," she said. "If it hadn't been for the pandemic, we wouldn't have opened the resale store. It was necessary

At left: Calvin Malone, Paul Vaillancourt and Josh Flores.

Upper right: Carol, Izzy and Paul Vaillancourt.

because we would have all this usable stuff that people could use just going in the landfill. We'd probably price ourselves right out of the market because we wouldn't be able to charge what we charge for junk removal. We would have to increase our prices exponentially. That really created the need to shift into that business model."

The business' marketing strategy has pivoted to online marketing, newspaper advertisements and direct mail, which has been a 180-degree shift from the old-fashioned face-to-face approach that has personified JDog Junk Removal & Hauling Army since veteran Jerry Flanagan and his wife, Tracy, formed the original franchise seven years ago in Philadelphia.

"A big part of our marketing business," Vaillancourt said, "was community involvement and



community engagement - going to networking events, talking to people, meeting with people. The JDog model is to get out there, get involved in the community and spread from word of mouth. That went away quickly and it's still not back. That really changed the way we had to change our marketing and get the word out. We were doing things we weren't normally doing as far as our marketing strategy goes."

Still, business has rebounded well, due in part because of the success GI Jane's Resale has enjoyed as a complementary piece to the complete franchise model. "We're still expanding the resale store," Vaillancourt said, "and playing with how it's going to look into the future now that we are able to donate to thrift stores again. We're still shifting that it feels like weekly."

Vaillancourt also pointed to the growth in popularity locally of roll-off dumpsters, which has allowed the franchise to add eight dumpsters to the original two dumpsters and one truck. "That took off right away to where we could expand," she said. "As far as the future, we're really hoping to continue to grow and expand as far as the dumpster rentals go. That's an area we haven't really focused on as much as the junk removal side. But being such a small market, we need to expand and diversify our business model a little bit because we're in a much smaller market than we're used to working in."

As growth continues, Vaillancourt has turned her attention to expanding the franchise's reach west to Salisbury and into southern Worcester County. JDog Junk

please see veterans on page 11



would care enough about them. His job was to sort junk in the warehouse. But he was just making a difference to all these other people."

Vaillancourt managed JDog Junk Removal & Hauling franchises in Wisconsin throughout 2018 and most of 2019. Before that, she never imagined junk would be a part of her life, let alone such a large part now as owner of the Lower Shore's lone franchise.

"I always tell people it might just look like a garbage company to you, but to us it's a lot more," said Vaillancourt, who purchased her Ocean City franchise in November 2019, and a few months later set out to navigate it through the now yearlong pandemic.

In hindsight, Vaillancourt said, she may not have pursued this business venture if she had known COVID-19 was on its way to grind

Courier Almanac

When Elvis Presley turned 18 on January 8, 1953, he fulfilled his patriotic duty and legal obligation to register his name with the Selective Service System, thereby making himself eligible for the draft. The Korean War was still underway at the time, but as a student in good standing at L.C. Humes High School in Memphis, Elvis received a student deferment that kept him from facing conscription during that conflict's final months. Elvis would receive another deferment four years later when his draft number finally came up, but this time for a very different reason: to complete the filming of his third Hollywood movie, *King Creole*. With that obligation fulfilled, Uncle Sam would wait no longer. On March 24, 1958, Elvis Presley was finally inducted, starting his day as the King of Rock and Roll, but ending it as a lowly buck private in the United States Army.



The demand for qualified, talented nurses is expected to grow in the years to come. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), more than half a million nurses are expected to retire by 2022. Couple that with an existing nursing shortage, and the BLS projects a need for 1.1 million registered nurses in the near future. A shortage also figures to affect Canada, where the Canadian Nurses Association recently estimated that the country would be forced to confront a nursing shortage of roughly 60,000 nurses by 2022. Various factors are contributing to the nursing shortage in both countries, including an increasingly large aging population that will require more and more nurses to meet its health care needs. In the United States, the Affordable Care Act, which was passed in 2010, increased access to health care for millions of people across the country, thereby creating a greater need for nurses and other health care professionals. In addition, a greater emphasis on preventive care in many countries across the globe figures to compel more people to visit their physicians even when they're otherwise feeling healthy. As more people prioritize preventive care, the need for more nurses will likely increase.



Notice to Readers

The Courier will be on hiatus next week, March 31.

We'll be back in your driveway and in newsstands on April 7.

If you live in Ocean Pines and would like the paper delivered to your driveway each week, call us at **410-629-5906**.



Obituary

James Freeman

James Freeman passed away at his home in Ocean Pines on March 15. In his final days, Jim was surrounded by his family and was able to watch the eagles and ospreys dive into the Manklin Creek from his favorite spot in his sunroom.

He could often be seen prowling the local parks and waterways to capture wildlife with his camera. When he wasn't trying to get the perfect shot, he could be found playing platform tennis at the paddleball courts, tending to the tomatoes in his garden, golfing, kayaking and casting a line off the coast of Assateague to catch some bluefish.

Jim was a dedicated Marine who served his country with honor. After his service, Jim earned a B.S. from Temple University. He worked as a seventh-grade science teacher at Keith Valley Middle School in Hatboro-Horsham School District for thirty-one years before retiring to Ocean Pines with his wife June. In Ocean Pines Jim always kept active with platform tennis where he made many wonderful and caring friends and served as the president of the platform tennis group for many years. Jim always lived life to the fullest.

Jim was a dedicated husband, father, and grandfather. He will be dearly missed by his friends and family. He leaves behind his wife, June Freeman, his two sons Jimmy and Dave, daughter-in-law Nancy, his five grandchildren Cameron, Jillian, Evan, Owen, Ben, his brother Nick, and his nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers or donations, in the spirit of Jim, please consider a kind word or random act of kindness.



Wor-Wic to hold online job fair

The public is invited to attend a free online job fair being offered by the career services office at Wor-Wic Community College from Monday, March 22, through Friday, March 26.

Job seekers must register to participate and can then view company information and open job postings, as well as ask questions and schedule on-

line appointments to meet with employers. Visit the events section of www.worwic.edu to register.

Email careerservices@worwic.edu or call 410-334-2903 for more information.

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The
Courier

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The Courier is published Wednesday morning by CMN Communications, Inc. Contents copyright 2021. News release items and calendar entries should reach us Friday noon prior to publication date. The advertising deadline is Friday at 5 p.m. Read *The Courier* online at delmarvacourier.com.

Trombone arm remedy

There was a time when reading glasses were not something of which I had to concern myself. That is no longer the case. I don't remember exactly when it happened, just that it happened suddenly. I suspect it was more of a gradual transition to which I didn't pay attention until one evening when

little lenses, at one time or another I had them all.

A liberating period occurred in my mid-40s when I didn't need glasses at all, not for reading or driving or anything else. But then, as I neared the big Five-O, it came to be that I developed trombone arm which wasn't a big deal

initially until the day when I had to drop a magazine on the floor and stand on a step stool to read it. Carrying around a folding step stool wasn't very convenient. The first pair of reading glasses I had were prescription and cost more than I

thought they should. It wasn't long before they were lost which brought back harrowing memories of the many lost retainers of my youth. Desperate not to pay for another pair of prescription glasses, I bought a three-pack of read-

ing glasses at the dollar store for under ten dollars. They did the trick, enabling me to see just fine. The challenge was to have them handy when I needed them. Inevitably my glasses were in the family room when I was in the garage attempting

to read how to assemble a new grill. The remedy was to purchase more three-packs so I could strategically stage glasses at convenient and needed locations such as the coffee table, the end table, nightstand, garage work bench, kitchen counter, on the boat, in the truck, in my wife's car, my tackle box, my desk, the saddlebag of my motorcycle and in the breast pocket of various sports coats.

As good a plan as this has been, problems have arisen. There is the tendency for me to slip whatever glasses I'm wearing at the time into my pocket or to hang them from one of their folded arms on my shirt or sweater collar. When this happens, I wind up with a collection of five or six pairs of reading glasses on my bedroom bureau top.

The awkward teenage years of me lamenting over smiling through braces and confronting blotchy skin are long gone. Gone too are the days when I enjoyed perfect vision. I'm okay with all of that. If only the bulbous nose could have been left in the past as well.



It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

I opened a book to read in bed and realized I had to prop it against the foot board in order to read the words while resting on my pillow, turning the pages with my toes.

Seemingly overnight I joined the many others who suffer from "trombone arm," holding a letter while adjusting my arm's length near and far to find the sweet spot that enabled me to successfully read the words on the page.

Growing up I didn't need glasses, which was one of the only few graces afforded me during my pubescent years. The solace of that reality was lost on me at the time as I dealt with the realities of braces ("brace face"), bad skin ("zit face") and a bulbous nose ("proboscis face"). Fortunately, the bulbous nose didn't attract as much attention as you might think as it was overshadowed by a unibrow bushier than a woollybear caterpillar. So, I had that going for me.

Beginning in my early 20s, glasses became a necessity to drive, watch television and do a host of other things. In short, I was nearsighted. Whether the need for glasses was a natural progression of age or necessitated by working in front of a computer I know not. For about 20 years I wore multiple pairs of glasses that looking back now were not as much flattering as they were comical. Wire frames, wireless frames, tortoise shell frames, rounded frames, rectangular frames, transitional lenses, tinted lenses, big lenses,



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Send cover letter and resume to
Chip Bertino at
chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

EOE

Yacht Club ballroom gets touchup

Ocean Pines Public Works recently finished several renovations at the Yacht Club, designed to get the ballroom ready for upcoming weddings and special events.

General Manager John Viola met in November with Ralph DeAngelus, cofounder of the Matt Ortt Companies that runs the Yacht Club, to discuss maintenance for the Yacht Club facilities, with an emphasis on banquets. The renovations that followed were a result of that conversation.

Public Works Director Eddie Wells said the project included removing wallpaper and painting the ballroom and second-floor hallway, as well as changing all lightbulbs to more efficient LED lighting.

In the bridal suite, Public Works replaced the carpet, painted, changed out the lights, and put new outlet covers on all the light switches.

Public Works finished the work during three weeks in January, while the Yacht Club was closed. Ocean Pines had budgeted \$14,500 for the project, and the Public Works team

came in under budget.

DeAngelus is hopeful that the improvements will help boost business.

“Public Works did a great job with the repairs and maintenance,” he said. “They got everything completed under budget and ahead of the expected timetable. Their hard work sets us up for a record-breaking season.”

Lia Isel, who manages weddings and events for the Yacht Club, said she is grateful for the efforts of Public Works.

“They have been such great sports about the work and process this year,” she said. “It just goes to show what a little paint and new carpet can do to showcase this great venue.”

Isel said she continued to offer tours and book weddings while the renovations occurred.



“Everyone that toured during this time didn’t mind seeing the work in progress, and they actually loved the fact that the Ocean Pines Yacht Club tries to keep it fresh and kept up for all our future events that are held there,” Isel said. “They all said it showed we cared and took pride in our venue.”

“The Yacht Club has also been continuing to do food sample tastings with our 2021 couples that have already booked with us, and they are completely blown away by how great the room looks and are excited to be moving forward with the wedding process this year,” she continued. “We will continue to strive and hopefully exceed everyone’s expectations when they tour our event space and see that breathtaking view at the Yacht Club, or any of the Venues at Ocean Pines facilities.”

For more on the Venues at Ocean Pines, including booking and contact information, visit www.venuesat-oceanpines.com.

Boating course offered

The US Coast Guard Auxiliary is offering a virtual Maryland Basic Boating Safety Course on April 6, 7, and 8. The Maryland Safe Boating Certificate is required for all boat operators born after July 1st 1972 and is awarded after successful completion of the course. The class includes piloting in local waters, tying nautical knots, foul weather tactics, legal issues, updated Maryland regulations, and common marine maintenance. The cost is \$20 for all three evenings. Register or get more information by calling Barry Cohen at 410-935-4807, or Email: CGAUXOC@Gmail.com.

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Expression through brush strokes

Joshua Cloyd is an artist and resident at Worcester County Developmental Center (WCDC), where he has been creating amazing abstract art and manipulating photos with iPhone photography. Recently, WCDC staff sat with Josh and talked to him about his work.

WCDC: What do you like most about art?

Josh: It is relaxing, it makes me happy.

WCDC: What art class do you like most at WCDC?

Josh: Painting and arts and crafts

Last April, WCDC artists, in coordination with the Worcester County Arts Council, were preparing for their first art exhibition in Berlin when COVID-19 struck and the show was postponed until the pandemic is over. This would have been Josh's first exhibit, and he



favorite painters inspired his work in the use of the small strokes in his lighting painting, and the way he uses colors and lines to show the movement of the sky surrounding the lighting strikes. Josh's work has many extraordinary details within the strokes telling a story with small strokes of his brush.

WCDC: What things do you like to do in your free time?

Josh: I like to take pictures, draw and color. I also enjoy making jewelry.

Josh has an affinity for avant-garde work loves to be experimental with his art. Josh likes to find ordinary items such as nuts, bolts, seashells and buttons and transform them

into avant-garde jewelry pieces. Just like his artwork, Josh's jewelry is experimental, out of the box, radical and creative.



was very excited. Even though he was disappointed that the exhibit was postponed, he continued working on his pieces and they are ready to go when the time is right.

WCDC: What type of art inspires you?

Josh: Colorful paintings and abstract art.

WCDC: What artists do you like best?

Josh: Picasso and Van Gogh
Josh's paintings are full of color, lines and detail. You can see how his



"My parents didn't mean to leave us a to-do list."

Luanne H., PWW Client

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Shoulder to hand specialization

By **William Hamilton Jr., DPT, CHT**

Over the years it has become apparent to me that most people are not familiar with the specialized world of hand surgery and hand therapy. This realization has not been lost by the top hand surgeons and therapists in the country. The term "Hand" that precedes "surgeon" or "therapist" has really become a misnomer. Many take the word "hand" literally and believe that those with this specialty ONLY work on the hands. I would like to try to provide information clearly and concisely on this highly specialized field.

First, I would like to define what a Certified Hand Therapist (CHT) is: A Certified Hand Therapist (CHT), as defined by the HTCC, is "an occupational therapist or physical therapist who has a minimum of three years of clinical experience, including 4,000 hours or more in direct practice in hand therapy. In addition, the Certified Hand Therapist has successfully passed a comprehensive test of advanced clinical skills and theory in upper quarter rehabilitation." There are roughly 6,900 CHTs in the world. Only 15% of CHTs are physical therapists, the other 85% are Occupational Therapists.

Second, hand surgery as defined by the American Board of Surgery: "Hand

surgery is the field of medicine that includes the investigation, preservation, and restoration by medical, surgical, and rehabilitative means of all structures of the upper extremity directly affecting the form and function of the hand and wrist."

I mentioned that the term "Hand" has become a misnomer because the field of hand surgery and hand therapy encompasses everything from the shoulder to the hand. So much so, that the former Philadelphia Hand Center is now called the Philadelphia Hand to Shoulder Center. This shift in nomenclature was necessary because of how the shoulder, elbow, and wrist effect the function of the hand. You cannot effectively treat the hand without addressing possible issues at these other joints. Hand surgeons and Certified Hand Therapists are experts in treating conditions in the upper extremity (arm) and work closely together to obtain the best possible outcome for patients.

If you or someone you know is having any pain or problems from the shoulder to the hand, be sure to find a Certified Hand Therapist or Hand Surgeon to schedule an evaluation from a true expert and clinical specialist. You can find a CHT near you by going to <https://www.htcc.org/find-a-cht>.

William "Billy" Hamilton Jr., DPT, CHT is owner of Hamilton Physical Therapy in Ocean Pines. He can be reached at 410-208-3300 or by email at Billy@HamiltonPTcares.com.



William "Billy" Hamilton, Jr.



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Review of

Commonwealth

By Jean Marx

Commonwealth is a book that traces the lives of two families beginning with a chance encounter. The book’s author is Ann Patchett, the co-owner of Parnassus Books in Nashville, TN and author of nine other books including three that are non-fiction.

The beginning of the book is about this chance encounter. The father of one of the families, Albert (Bert) Cousins, shows up uninvited at the home of the other family, the Keatings, following the christening of their second daughter Franny. The husband whose nickname is Fix is a cop and the numerous in- vited guests already there were his fellow cop friends and their families from church. He answers the door with a smile but barely recognizes Bert. Bert explains that he is a deputy in the District At- torney’s office and that he’d been casually invited by Fix’s friend in the DA’s office, Dick Spencer. Bert decided to come to the party on a last-minute whim, and not having any sort of christening present to bring, he decides to bring a bottle of gin to have something in hand.

After Bert gives the gin to Fix, Fix’s wife Beverly happens to lean her head into the kitchen to tell him they are in need of ice. Fix holds up the bottle which catches the eye of a friend of Beverly’s and she chimes in an order for Fix to pick up some tonic at the store as well. Fix and his brother walk to the local store to pick up four bags of ice and four bottles of tonic, and they’re only gone for twenty minutes. However, by the time they get back home, Bert and Beverly are stand- ing side by side in the kitchen slicing or- anges in front of an audience of most of the other party guests who were now anx- iously awaiting Fix’s return. From there, the guests begin drinking screwdriver drinks and getting quite drunk.

Bert, who had taken immediate no- tice of Beverly’s beauty, finds himself em- boldened by the alcohol, and when Fix asks at one point where Beverly is, Bert offers to locate her. Bert finds Beverly in the nursery attending to Franny, and as he watches the sunlight stream in through the window, he kisses her. As she was also tipsy, she responds to the

kiss.

The book then leaps forward to the day before Bert is to wed Beverly. The reader is left to deduce that this chance encounter at Franny’s christening was the impetus for the disintegration of Fix and Beverly’s marriage as well as Bert’s marriage to his wife, Teresa. Bert and Teresa had lived in Torrance, California, and they had four kids, the oldest of whom is in second grade. Teresa keeps the kids when she and Bert split up, while Bert relocates Beverly and her two daughters, Caroline and Franny, to Vir- ginia to be near the girls’ grandparents.

The book jumps around a lot, giving glimpses here and there of what the lives were like for the combined six chil- dren as well as the four par- ents. The wives end up doing the majority of the child rearing, with Bert being the least parental among them. A lot of the book describes the experi- ences the children have during disjointed family gatherings when the children of both families share time together during summers and hol- iday breaks. A tragedy happens to Bert’s oldest son when the six of the children are together one summer that leaves lasting effects on both families in different ways.

To me, it took a long time for the book to become cohesive. The book starts to coalesce when Franny, now grown, has an affair with the renowned and much- older author, Leon Posen. She tells Posen about her personal and family struggles, and he not only writes a successful book about the story, but the story gets turned into a movie called “Commonwealth.” The name is derived from one of their home states of Virginia that was also the site of the childhood tragedy. The adult children who had become further es- tranged following the tragedy begin to re- connect with each other.

In all, the book was written rather cre- atively, and the characters do have a lot of depth to them. It’s a challenging book to read because of the heavy subject mat- ter and depth of the emotions the fami- lies experience in splitting up and having difficult childhoods. In this reader’s humble opinion, the bright spots that emerge in the story are necessary as the book may have otherwise been a little too gloomy.



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60						61				62		63		
64						65						66		
67						68						69		

CLUES ACROSS

1. Volcanic crater

5. Long times

10. Swedish rock group

14. Having the means to do something

15. Rods or spindles

16. La __ Tar Pits, Hollywood

17. Missing soldiers

18. Measuring instrument

19. All of the components considered individually

20. Play “__ Irish Rose”

22. Gene __

23. Barrels

24. London-based soccer team

27. Feline

30. Breed of sheep

31. Body part

32. Doctors’ group

35. One who follows the rules

37. Cigarette residue

38. Ancient Greek sophist

39. Polish yeast cakes
40. Promotional materials

41. Pancakes made from buckwheat flour

42. Completed perfectly

43. Photo

44. A peninsula in SW Asia

45. The common gibbon

46. Disfigure

47. Ribonucleic acid

48. Japanese honorific

49. Pieces of music

52. Expressed pleasure

55. Having ten

56. Type of sword

60. Humble request for help

61. Eating houses

63. Italian Seaport

64. Cain and __

65. Measure the depth

66. U. of Miami’s mascot

67. Political outsiders

68. Greek sorceress

69. Body part

CLUES DOWN

1. Mother

2. Jewish calendar month

3. Jai __, sport

4. Establish again

5. Swiss river

6. Racetrack wager

7. __ but goodie

8. Closeness

9. Soviet Socialist Republic

10. At right angles to a ship’s length

11. Women’s undergarments

12. Mountain stream

13. Expresses pleasure

21. Painful places on the body

23. Automobile

25. Scandinavian god of battle

26. Expresses surprise

27. Secret political clique

28. Yields manila hemp

29. River in central Italy

32. Brain injury science acronym

33. Mental illness.
34. A person from Asia

36. Father

37. General’s assistant (abbr.)

38. Cooked or prepared in a specified style

40. Large terrier

41. Hillsides

43. Golf score

44. Not or

46. Type of student

47. Flower cluster

49. Closes tightly

50. Saudi Arabian desert

51. Famed vaccine developer

52. Multi-function radar (abbr.)

53. Actress Jessica

54. Pay attention to

57. Beloved big screen pig

58. __ Clapton, musician

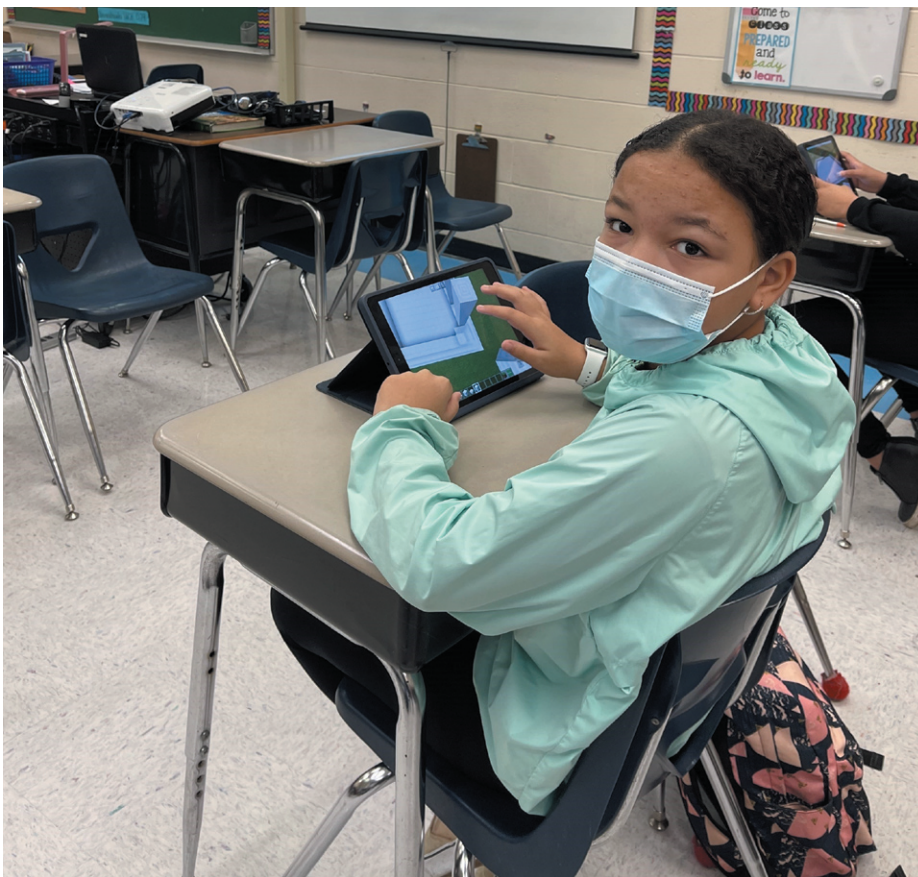
59. Take a chance

61. Cost per mille

62. Helps little firms

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Answers for March 17



Math design - Berlin Intermediate School students in Diandra Bratten's sixth grade Social Studies class have been learning about ancient Greece. In one of their latest lessons, students combined their knowledge of the Parthenon with their knowledge of area and volume to construct their version of the Parthenon using the Minecraft app. **Jayla Mitchell** is working on her Parthenon design.

Lower Shore Land Trust to host annual native plant sale

On Friday, April 30, and Saturday, May 1, the Lower Shore Land Trust (LSLT) will host the 14th Annual Native Plant Sale. This event will be pre-order only with curbside pickup.

There will be more than 75 varieties of native plants, shrubs, and trees – an offering of plants with blooming times from March through October. Native plants beautify landscapes and support a healthier environment. The populations of pollinators like bees, butterflies, dragonflies, etc., have been on a sharp decline over the past decade. Declines in pollinating insects and birds are a big problem because one out of every three bites of food requires pollination. Furthermore, more than 90% of all known flowering plants, and almost all fruits, vegetables, and grains, require pollination to produce crops.

The Lower Shore Land Trust is a nationally accredited 501(C)(3) nonprofit that is dedicated to preserving rural lands, promoting vi-

brant towns, and to building a healthier and more connected Eastern Shore.

For more information visit www.lowershorelandtrust.org, or contact Taylor Carty at 443-234-5587 or tcarty@lowershorelandtrust.org.

**I swear we are
fighting two
pandemics.**

**Coronavirus and
stupidity.**

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know the joy of
finding a quarter
in the coin return**

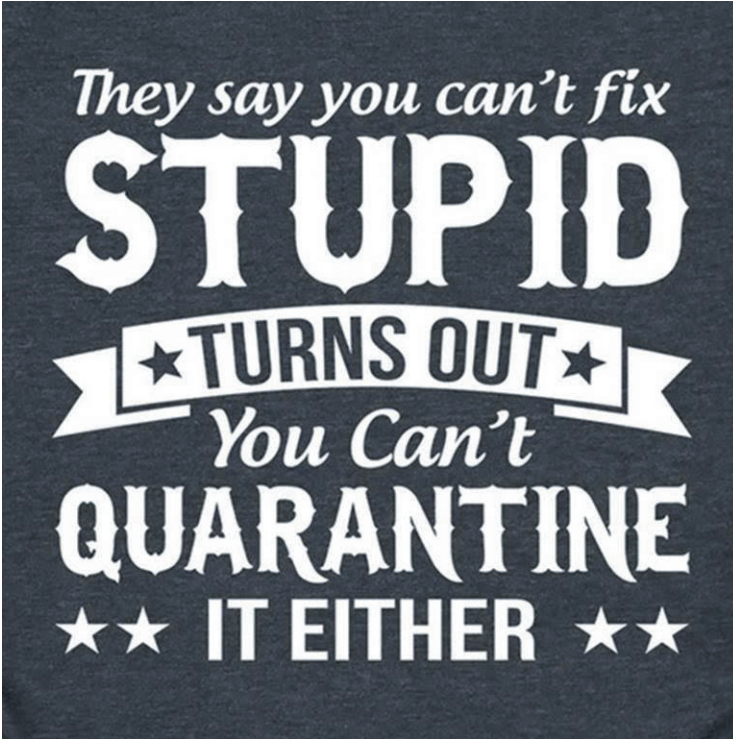


**Not to brag, but I just
went into another
room and actually
remembered why I
went in there.**

**It was the
bathroom, but still....**

*Some things to
think about*

Gathered from the internet by **Jack Barnes**





Visit - Governor Larry Hogan visited the new Showell Elementary School during a visit to Worcester County last Friday.

Above are **Governor Hogan**, School Superintendent **Lou Taylor** and Principal **Diane Short**.

Kiwanis adjusts fundraising efforts

The Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City was not immune to the effects of the COVID-19 shutdowns and health precautions.

The club was forced to cancel its pancake breakfasts, ethnic dinners and wine tasting fundraising events. The club remained as active as possible through Zoom meetings held twice a month and by adjusting its fundraising efforts.

Necessity being the mother of invention, the club found a new way to raise funds during the pandemic with a lottery raffle that ultimately sold one thousand tickets at \$20 apiece. Confronting community challenges brought on by the pandemic, the club undertook two food drives to support local food banks, a coat drive that netted over 300 coats and a toy drive that filled three SUVs.

The club continued to sponsor five student organizations in local schools, including Buckingham and Showell elementary schools, Berlin Intermediate, Stephen Decatur Middle School and Stephen Decatur High School. The club also sponsors an AKTION club at Worcester County Developmental Center for adults with disabilities.

Each year the club awards schol-

arships to local graduating senior students. Usually, scholarship amounts total \$15,000. In order to raise additional funds to meet that amount for June 2021, the club held yard sales, sold face masks and sponsored outdoor haircut events by a local hairdresser who shared her profits.

Additionally, the club this year will launch a new event, "Karwanis," that will take place Saturday May 29 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the Ocean Pines Veterans Memorial. Participant registration is \$15.

For more information on the club see Kiwanis Club of Ocean Pines/Ocean City on Facebook or go to their website www.kiwanisofopoc.org.

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Officials break ground on major drainage improvement project in Ocean Pines

Worcester County, Ocean Pines and other stakeholders last Wednesday officially broke ground on the Bainbridge Pond project designed to reduce flooding in an area considered among the worst in the community in terms of drainage.

Natural Resources, with Ocean Pines contributing the rest of the estimated \$800,000 total price tag.

The grant was made possible thanks to a partnership with the Maryland Coastal Bays Program and help from Worcester County.



Officials touted the partnerships that made the endeavor possible, and said they were hopeful this would be the first of many similar projects designed to tackle drainage problems.

The Bainbridge Pond project was largely funded by a \$549,000 grant from the Maryland Department of

Drainage improvements at Bainbridge Pond will include replacement of storm drain inflow and outflow pipes, construction of a new forebay, re-grading the perimeter of the pond and installing aquatic benches, and building a new weir to control water levels and slow flooding during larger

storms.

Present during the groundbreaking were Worcester County Commissioners Chip Bertino and Jim Bunting, Worcester County Director of Environmental Programs Bob Mitchell, Vista Design Director of Engineering Rich Polk, Maryland Coastal Bays Program Watershed Coordinator Steve Farr, and Ocean Pines Association President Larry Perrone, Vice President Colette Horn, and Director Doug Parks.

*Worcester County Commissioner **Jim Bunting** (left) talks with Commissioner **Chip Bertino**, OPA President **Larry Perrone**, OPA Vice President **Colette Horn** and OPA Director **Doug Parks**.*

"I think this is an opportunity to show how the community can come together [with] the county. We had a lot of good people who put this together," Bertino said, singling out Mitchell, Eddie Wells and Colby Phillips from Ocean Pines, and Sen. Mary Beth Carozza.

"Our community is better for it," Bertino said. "It just goes to show when people look at the same thing and come up with ideas, anything's possible."

Mitchell credited Bunting with earlier efforts to improve drainage in Section Three of Ocean Pines, and he said Bertino joined the cause upon his election in 2014. Mitchell also said Vista Design was instrumental on the project.

"I really hope this works for the Ocean Pines Community," Mitchell said. "We're all working together for the same end goal here — that's the citizens of Ocean Pines. At the end of the day [the project should] help with flood resiliency and also help with cleaning up the bay, so, it's a win-win."

Polk said the project would not

have happened "without the help of everybody standing here."

"The greenlight thinking every time there was something that came up, [and] the ability to work through issues as a team and resolve them as a team, is why we're here today," he said.

Perrone thanked the Worcester County Commissioners and Mitchell, as well as Parks, who during the project acted as a liaison to the Ocean Pines Board.

"Let's not forget our engineers who put all this stuff together, and DNR who provided all this grant money for us," Perrone said. "Ocean Pines is very appreciative and we're hoping that this is just the first of many [drainage improvement projects] that we can take care of, because this is a big issue."

"Also, our Public Works people, Eddie [Wells] and Nobie [Violante], have done a great job for us and I know they're going to keep on top of this project as we move forward. Thank you to all of you," he added.

Parks recalled a lunch meeting four years ago with then Maryland Coastal Bays Program Director Frank Piorko, who suggested using grant funds to help with water abatement and water quality projects in Ocean Pines.

"We kept those discussions going over the past couple of years and it started to get some momentum, to the point where we involved the county for their insight and their support," Parks said. "We also brought in Vista to [look at it] from an engineering perspective. The folks at Maryland Coastal Bays helped to guide us through the process, and it was a collaborative effort between the Maryland Coastal Bays folks, the county, and everybody else that was involved."

"And I want to thank the county, because we as an HOA ... could not apply for the grant money, so we had to have somebody who was an advocate for us," Parks continued. "If it wasn't for that collaborative effort, we wouldn't be here today."

Parks also thanked Ocean Pines staff, who he said were vital to the project's success.

"I'm looking forward to getting this thing started and getting it completed, and seeing how well we've done," he said.



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veterans
from page 3

Removal & Hauling's five other franchises in Maryland are located west of the Chesapeake Bay - in Eldersburg, Elkridge, Frederick, Hagerstown and Waldorf. Delaware's lone franchise resides in Rehoboth Beach. Eight locations exist in Virginia, but none are located along the Eastern Shore of the state.

"It's been a wild ride," she said. "With the pandemic and everything, it's been quite the ride."

Now, Vaillancourt can focus on the future. But as she recalled how this venture came to fruition, she realizes there were moments when her path to owning a JDog Junk Removal & Hauling franchise on the Lower Shore may have veered off course.

Vaillancourt was first approached about operating a franchise in 2018, through her involvement with the Veterans Chamber of Commerce in Wisconsin. The operator of a franchise in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, asked if she would be interested in opening a franchise in Madison, where Vaillancourt lived at the time while serving in the Wisconsin National Guard.

She was reluctant. But her husband, Paul, a military veteran who

served 12 years in the Army National Guard and deployed twice overseas, saw a great opportunity for her. She traveled to Milwaukee to see the operation there, and returned home having learned more about the heart and soul of JDog Junk Removal & Hauling than she ever expected.

"A lot of these veterans, they found their home at JDog," Vaillancourt said. "That's what it was for me, to be able to employ these guys and gals who were searching for that feeling of camaraderie and team they lost in the military. They found it through junk removal. Once I saw the impact JDog has on their lives, I [thought] 'OK, this is something really cool that I want to be a part of.'"

She employed homeless veterans at the franchise in Madison. She donated furniture to fill countless apartments. "The VA found them apartments - couches, beds, TVs - and we would drop them off at their apartment," she said. "That was an incredible thing."

Vaillancourt spoke of a man in his 60s with no front teeth who had been homeless for three decades who turned a job with JDog Junk Removal & Hauling in Madison into the confidence he needed to secure a full-time cleaning job at the University of Wisconsin.

"He came to work for me. The VA

put them in our program," she said. "They finally got him teeth implants. [He said], 'I'm getting teeth for Christmas.' A month later, he applied for a job at UW Madison. He got a full-time state job at the school with benefits."

"To be a part of an organization like that is amazing," she added. "Down here on the Eastern Shore, with the pandemic and the population, we haven't really been able to tap into that veteran community as much as we would like, but we have a little bit."

Vaillancourt volunteered with the "Be a Santa to Senior" program, donated gifts to veterans in need and delivered Christmas gifts around Salisbury. "It's just a lot of fun to be able to be a part of the community that way and help out veterans," she said.

The future looks bright, she said, including the possibility of appearing on an upcoming reality television show on a major cable network this coming fall. "We might be featured," she said. "We might have some TV crews in Ocean City following us around."

But the mission remains the same. "We're trying to help veterans out. We're giving good jobs to people. Our goal is to keep expanding and employing more people. It's bigger than junk removal. It's just what we do."

Tides for Ocean City Inlet

Day	High / Low	Tide Time
Th 25	High	6:02 AM
25	Low	12:10 PM
25	High	6:19 PM
F 26	Low	12:15 AM
26	High	6:51 AM
26	Low	12:57 PM
26	High	7:08 PM
Sa 27	Low	1:08 AM
27	High	7:39 AM
27	Low	1:42 PM
27	High	7:57 PM
Su 28	Low	1:59 AM
28	High	8:26 AM
28	Low	2:25 PM
28	High	8:45 PM
M 29	Low	2:49 AM
29	High	9:13 AM
29	Low	3:09 PM
29	High	9:33 PM
Tu 30	Low	3:39 AM
30	High	10:00 AM
30	Low	3:54 PM
30	High	10:22 PM
W 31	Low	4:32 AM
31	High	10:48 AM
31	Low	4:41 PM
31	High	11:13 PM

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