

The Courier

April 7, 2021 Volume 21 Number 28

Bob Adair
U.S. ARMY



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THE WALL THAT HEALS EXHIBIT TO HONOR LOCAL VIETNAM VETS

Col. Robert Adair, one of first Ocean Pines lot owners, will be among honorees

By **Josh Davis**

This April, the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation will host a three-quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial from Washington, D.C.

The traveling national exhibit, dubbed “The Wall That Heals” and run by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, includes the names of more than 58,000 men and women who gave their lives or remain missing because of the Vietnam War.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund also created the “In Memory” program to honor thousands more Vietnam veterans who suffered from Agent Orange exposure, PTSD, and

Childhood friends

The couple are both originally from Philadelphia, and they actually grew up together.

“I knew Bob when we were 5 years old,” Mary Adair said. “He was adventuresome [as a child] ... He lived on the next street over from me, so there was a group of kids that just palled around together when we were younger.”

Bob and Mary dated in high school, and then reconnected again in 1956 after they graduated and Bob went through basic training in the U.S. Army.

“When he came back, I had enrolled in college and he was deferred

stay was short lived, and they moved often because of Bob’s service obligations.

On their first wedding anniversary, Bob was called overseas, and it was months before Mary and their young daughter, Nancy, were able to join him in Germany. The couple’s second and third children, Robert and Susan, were born in Germany.

By 1964, the family finally headed back to the United States, first at Fort Sill in Oklahoma, and later at Niagara University in New York, where Bob worked as a professor of military science and finished his master’s degree in Soviet and Eastern European history.

First and second tours

In 1967, Bob voluntarily enlisted in the Vietnam War. Mary, at first, said she was “not too happy.”

“His reasoning was that the orders were going to come anyway, so

Col. Robert Adair with General Norman Schwarzkopf

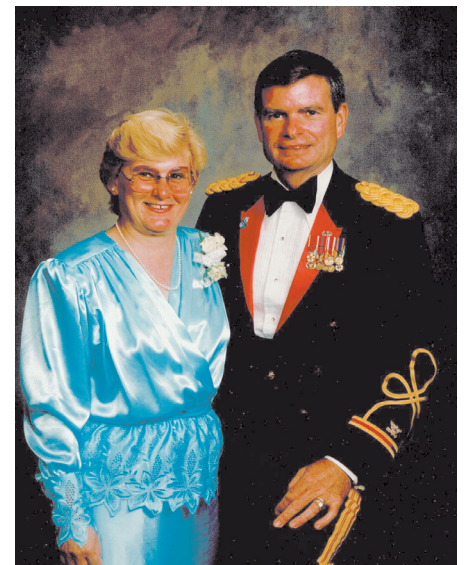
Upper right: Mary and Bob Adair

he just chose the time to go,” she said.

“He had gotten his master’s degree, so he was tasked to go over and write history – only, he wasn’t happy with that. He was an artilleryman at heart, so he volunteered to go with the 1/27 Artillery – which I found out about in a letter. So, he was on a forward firing base,” she added.

Mary and the children, meanwhile, moved home to Philadelphia to be closer to family. Nancy was already in first grade, Robert was in kindergarten, and the youngest, Susan, stayed at home.

“I chose to go back to Philadelphia, so that the children would have their grandparents and their aunts and uncles around them, and I thought that that was the better way



to go when they were little,” Mary said.

Ironically, the house they rented, on Marchman Road, was right around the corner from where Chip Bertino grew up. Bertino, currently a Worcester County Commissioner representing Ocean Pines, would later be wed to Mary’s youngest daughter, Susan.

Mary said that year, with Bob serving in the war, was a difficult one. Reports about the conflict and its high death toll were inescapable.

“I never put the news on. Walter Cronkite had the Vietnam War on his newscast every night, so I just wouldn’t put it on,” she said. “I lived for 9 o’clock, because at 9 o’clock I knew no squad car was going to be pulling up and knocking on my door, telling me that something happened to him. So, at that point you were good until the next morning.”

Bob finally returned home safely, just before the Fourth of July in 1968.

“He was fine,” upon returning home, Mary said. “The only thing that happened, was that we had gone to sleep that night [on July 4] and somebody set off firecrackers, and he was on the floor and pulled me down just as quickly, because he reacted to any kind of noise like that.”

According to Mary, Bob thought “he was going right back to Vietnam” after his brief stop home, but the military had other plans and had informed Mary while her husband was still overseas.

“For the first time in our married life, I got a call from the Air Force and they said he was slated to go to the Air Force Academy [in Colorado], to be a professor of history out there,” she said.



other related illnesses because of their service.

Among the names soon to be listed through In Memory, is U.S. Army Col. Robert Adair. His wife, Mary Adair, entered his name in the program and is an active member of the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation.

– he was an enlisted man for the engineers at that time,” Mary said. “He went to La Salle University and I went to Holy Family University [both in Philadelphia], and we started dating again. And in May of that year, we were engaged to be engaged.”

The couple were married after college graduation, in June of 1960, and moved into an apartment in Catonsville, Maryland. However, the

Ballots not properly counted

Commentary by **Joe Reynolds**
OceanPinesForum.com

Proper handling of the yearly election of OPA board members may be the most important function of the Ocean Pines Association. A vital part of "proper" is to assure the ballots are scanned, counted, and verified in accordance with our governing documents.

After an association member suggested I look into last year's ballot-counting process, I was met with a brick wall. The Elections Committee chairman did not answer a request for information about who counted the ballots and where they were counted. A committee member refused to talk about it.

Finally, I emailed the Board of Directors: "Someone tells me the ballots for last year's board election were counted by the mailing contractor at the premises of the mailing contractor. The results were then provided to the Elections Committee, along with a few ballots in question. I looked at the video and saw no scanning or counting take place as in the past, just an announcement of the results. I asked the committee chair and received no re-

sponse. Ballot counting is one of the most important aspects of our HOA. Does the board know how and where the ballots were counted last year? If so, I would like to know."

OPA Director Camilla Rogers responded: "You have asked how the ballots for the last election were counted and how the ballots for the referendum will be counted. You state that we do not know that answer. We do. You have been misinformed. The contractor scans the ballots at the place of business under the supervision of the Elections Committee. The Committee examines ballots that may be questionable (e.g., voted for all candidates) The ballots in the last election were then taken to the East Room and, under the direction of the Elections Committee they were counted."

I then asked Rogers, "Are you are saying the Elections Committee as a committee quorum went to the contractor's place of business and supervised the counting of the ballots?"

Rogers did not answer that question. Instead, she responded to me with, "I am sorry that you don't understand the explanation. Your answer is indicative that you did not practice careful reading."

Meantime another association member sent me a message. It stated, "Clue: August 2020 edition of *The Progress* article."

The article is about the board election last year and contains information from a Tom Stauss interview of Elections Committee Chairman Steve Habeger.

Let's compare what Rogers told me and what the committee chair said last August.

Rogers stated: "The contractor scans the ballots at the place of business **under the supervision of the Elections Committee.**"

That is a false statement if what Habeger told the *Progress* is true. From the *Progress* interview: "Habeger said he believes Gulyas (mailing contractor) actually scanned in the ballots himself in his Berlin office.... He (Habeger) was unconcerned about the initial scanning of ballots that occurs **outside the presence of committee members.**"

Further confirming the committee did not supervise the vote scanning and counting is also found in the *Progress* article: "Unlike past summers, the committee's labors on the day of counting, traditionally the Friday before the scheduled annual meeting on the second Saturday in August, was limited to 'adjudicating' whether problem ballots identified by the Snap

Survey software could be cast or had to be invalidated."

Resolution M-06 Elections and Referendums Procedures states, "It is the responsibility of the Committee to count the ballots. The ballot counting operation may be observed by any Association Member."

Clearly, the ballot scanning and counting process in the last election did not comply with Resolution M-06. Nor were association members allowed to exercise their right to observe the ballot scanning and counting.

After I emailed the board the information from the *Progress* interview, I did not receive any response from Camilla Rogers. OPA President Larry Perrone responded with: "I can't say for sure what happened last year. Steve Tuttle was the board Liaison to the election committee. Last year was the first year for the new system. We will make sure the resolutions are followed this year."

Contradicting Rogers, Perrone is honest and says he does not know what happened. It does appear he throws former OPA board member Steve Tuttle under the bus. Perrone

please see commentary on page 16

Courier Almanac

On April 7, 1970, the legendary actor John Wayne won his first and only acting Academy Award, for his star turn in the director Henry Hathaway's Western *True Grit*.

Wayne's Oscar for *True Grit* at the 42nd annual Academy Awards in 1970 was generally considered to be a largely sentimental win, and a long-overdue reward for one of Hollywood's most enduring performers. The Academy had failed to even nominate Wayne for any of his most celebrated performances, in films such as *Stagecoach* (1939), *Red River* (1948), *The Quiet Man* (1952), *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance* (1962) and especially *The Searchers* (1956), considered by many to be the greatest Western ever made.



A study from the Gap Year Association found that 77 percent of students who take a gap year do so between high school and college. Parents may not know how to react when their soon-to-be or newly minted high school graduates bring up the idea of taking a gap year, but additional findings from the GYA's "National Alumni Survey" might inspire parents to look at gap years more positively. For example, the survey, the findings of which were based on the responses of hundreds of American and Canadian citizens who had taken gap years in the past, found that 98 percent of respondents indicated their gap years helped them develop as a person, while 96 percent felt their gap years improved their self-confidence. In addition, 84 percent of respondents felt that they acquired skills to be successful in their careers during their gap years. Perhaps of most interest to parents of high school students contemplating gap years is that 73 percent of survey respondents felt their gap years increased their readiness for college and 57 percent said their gap years helped them determine what they wanted to study in college.



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I just don't know

My best efforts during the past two years to coax, baby and gently manipulate my old charcoal grill were not enough to keep it going for

kicked the bucket about eight or nine years ago.

For many months I was betwixt and between researching what I wanted. Much has changed since my last foray into the world of grill buying. The attraction of another charcoal grill was very real. But also whispering in my ear was a wood pellet grill, a technology of which I was

unfamiliar until my son last year purchased one. What to do? What to do?

Lowes. Home Depot. Tractor Supply. Walmart. Amazon. Each was visited multiple times as I looked at, inspected and considered different grills. How large a grilling surface do I really need? Is a smoker desirable? Would a hybrid (gas/charcoal) be a good fit? A side note. I turned away from gas grills years ago preferring the nostalgic glow of flaming briquets.

Months went by with no decision forthcoming. Comments though were being dropped by my wife. "Wouldn't it be nice to grill this evening. Oh, right, we don't have a grill. If only." Obviously, she wasn't aware of my inner turmoil. The reality of the situation was that I would be making a long-term commitment and there would be no turning back if I made the wrong decision. "You spent less time deciding to ask me to marry you," said my wife. How does any husband respond to that?

On a quiet Sunday afternoon with nothing better to do, my wife and I headed to BJ's to look around for nothing in particular. Positioned in one of the aisles were several grills, two of which were similar to what my son has, except smaller. Walking behind my wife, I wasn't paying attention so when she stopped to look, I walked into her. The scene was a little comical and a little more embarrassing. Not realizing it, the time of reckoning was upon me. "What do you think?" asked my wife.

"It's nice, I guess. But I don't know. I just don't know." I started giving it a good going over. Why? Who knows? I had already gone



It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

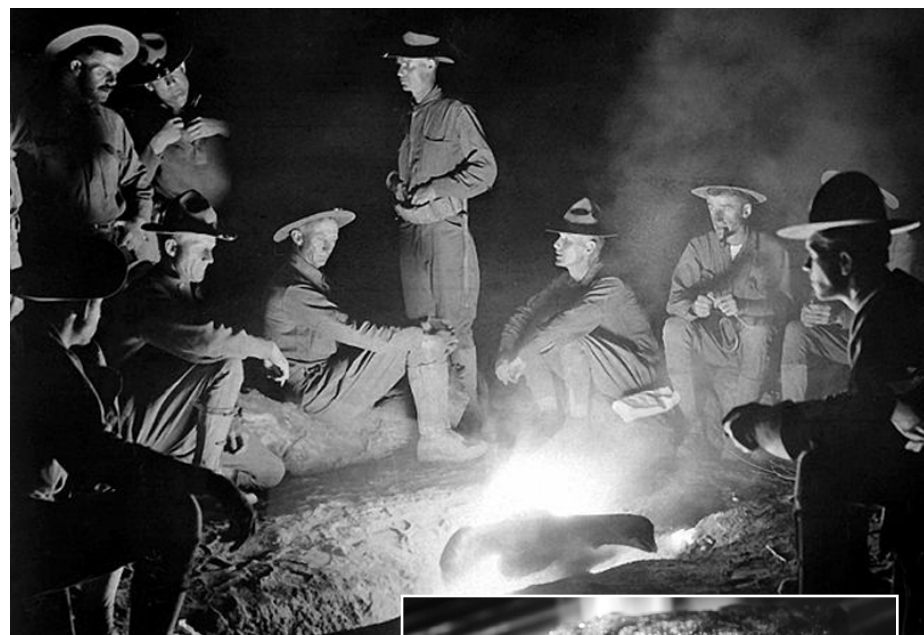
chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

another season. That I was able to stretch its useful life two seasons beyond what many would have considered possible is either a testament to my affinity toward this grill or my frugality. It's a little of both, truth be told. Many a meal had been flamed cooked on the grates of my trusty (and rusty) old grill, but the end came not with a bang but with a whimper as the embers died and went cold one last time. As much as I jury-rigged pieces that had broken or rusted during many years of service, it became clear last fall that my Charbroil companion was grilling on borrowed time. As if it to accentuate the inevitable, after grilling dinner one evening last September the adjustable charcoal tray that had for the most part rusted through and at which time I covered with a hand-fashioned screen repurposed from the side of an old outdoor fire pit, gave way, emptying its hold all over the deck and creating a plume of dust.

"Maybe it's time to get a new grill," said my wife straight-faced.

If only it was that simple. Grilling is an experience that coalesces all things men love: the outdoors, fire, flame, meat. Pride and satisfaction swell within when a steak or hamburger or even a hot dog is grilled to perfection. Standing outside before an open flame preparing food for the family conjures up images of setting up camp on the open plain as the gold of the day meets the blue of the evening. You know what I mean, Pardner? But I digress.

Just heading out to purchase another grill is not an easy exercise for me. In full disclosure, my recently deceased grill was actually the second of its kind. Its predecessor



through this same routine many times before. "I just don't know."

"They have only two left. It's on sale. Come on. This is the one."

"I don't know, I just don't know."

"I'll go get a flat cart. We can take it home today."

"I just don't know." My indecision remained steadfast.

"Look, you're not going to get a better deal. Come on."

Through the checkout line, while pushing the flat cart to the truck, while driving home and while in the garage assembling this new grill, the

recurring refrain, "I just don't know" was constant.

The grill came to life that evening when I grilled a couple steaks, the first time in months. What a wonderful sensation to once again watch meat cook on an open flame. Home, home on the range. Ahh!



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EOE

GM reports updates on drainage, bulkheads and Northstar

General Manager John Viola on Saturday, March 20 included several notable project updates during his monthly report to the Ocean Pines Board:

Playground replacement

Viola said the Association recently demolished the old playground at Robinhood Park, with replacement of that equipment set to start on March 22. He said Ocean Pines budgeted for two new playgrounds, also including one at Bainbridge Park, where drainage improvements have just begun.

Ocean Pines Academy wraps

Viola said a team led by Marketing Coordinator Julie Malinowski recently turned in materials for the Ocean Pines Academy, a “virtual, self-paced civic education course about the Ocean Pines Association.”

A workgroup led by Malinowski started work on the project in December.

“Every department was involved,” Viola said, including Public Relations and Marketing Director

Josh Davis, who produced video segments for the Ocean Pines Academy.

“We’re looking at a rollout [soon],” he said. “There’s a lot of information there about every department [and] every amenity. It’s been put together to give an education to the homeowners ... as well as future or current Board candidates that are looking to get information about Ocean Pines.”

Northstar updates

Viola said the Ocean Pines website was down at several times last week. Northstar, the company that hosts the website, moved the entire site to a new server on Wednesday. The hope is that the new server helps make the site more stable.

“In layman’s terms, Northstar was having issues with capacity ... [and] they are working on it based on our calls,” he said.

Northstar also supplies Ocean Pines financial software, and Viola said a Northstar point-of-sales system was recently taken out of the

Clubhouse Bar and Grille because of technical issues. A backup system was installed instead.

Viola said Ralph DeAngelus, co-founder of the Matt Ortt Companies that runs Ocean Pines’ food and beverage operations, is comfortable with the backup.

“The [Northstar] point-of-sales system goes back into the sandbox ... for review,” Viola said. “Food and beverage has given me resources to help with it as we try to get it functional, but it will not be implemented without discussions between Ralph and myself, and then signoffs from everybody to make sure this thing works. I don’t anticipate [using the Northstar system] in the current season.”

Viola said Ocean Pines staff continues to work through issues with Northstar.

“Every member of the team [and] of the workgroups have embraced this project. We understand that we need to get it operational, but it is a challenge,” he said.

Drainage updates

Viola said work on the Bainbridge Pond drainage project started last week and is scheduled to run through the end of June. The total project cost is estimated at \$800,000, with \$549,000 of that coming from a Maryland Department of Natural Resources grant.

Based on recent communications and updates, Viola said he has “complete confidence in the team and the contractor.”

“I think everybody is going to see a lot of improvement there,” he said.

Additional drainage improvements will start on April 12, with contractor Pelican Underground LLC set to start installing new pipes at several locations. Those include Ocean Parkway near Route 90, 215 Ocean Parkway, 159 Ocean Parkway, 736 Ocean Parkway, 30 Offshore Lane, 102 Robin Hood Trail, Fosse Grante, and the four-way intersection at the south gate.

Viola said the improvements would use “a new type of pipe” after receiving recommendations from Worcester County and others.

“The big thing with these pipes [is] we don’t have to cut into the road,” he said. “We’ve gotten some really positive feedback ... and it’s

also saved money.”

Nobie Violante and Justin Riner from Ocean Pines Public Works will oversee both drainage improvement projects, with Public Works Director Eddie Wells coordinating with Worcester County and the contractors.

Bulkhead replacement

Ocean Pines has moved into phase two of a bulkhead replacement project, now focused on Pintail Drive and North Pintail Drive. Addresses included in the work are 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47 and 49 Pintail Drive, and 4, 8, 12, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38 and 39 North Pintail Drive.

Viola said Ocean Pines budgeted \$1.192 million for the project. The contract amount for the work is \$1.182 million, with about \$665,000 paid so far.

Construction is scheduled to run through April 30 and include a total of 3,330 linear feet of bulkheads.

“I did get some calls [and] I did receive emails ... on the bulkhead,” Viola said. “I am working with Julie and others on putting out a communication this week with a lot of detail and numbers for the bulkheads, so that everybody can see it and understand where we are.”

He said that communication would include the reason for assessment increases for bulkhead owners.

Financial report

On the current financial picture, Viola said Ocean Pines closed February about \$17,000 below budget estimates.

Year to date, the Association is ahead of budget by \$1.13 million. Viola said that was largely because of \$1.143 million in grants received through the federal Paycheck Protection Program.

With two months to go in the fiscal year, Viola said he expects that \$1.13 million positive balance to decrease, although there has been good financial news of late.

“I don’t have a crystal ball on what’s going to happen with the pandemic, but today I feel better ... on the forecast that we may not have to shut down in April, which would have a big [impact] on our amenities,” he said.

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Dates announced for Wall
That Heals ceremonies

The Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation is asking local people to show their support during several historic events this April as part of the visiting Wall That Heals exhibit.

The Wall That Heals is a three-quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., and is sponsored by the national Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund.

“The Wall That Heals travels throughout the United States, giving those who cannot visit the wall in Washington, D.C. the opportunity to honor those who gave their lives for their country in Vietnam,” Memorial Foundation President Marie Gilmore said.

Local people are asked to line the sidewalk along Route 589, south of Manklin Creek Road, on Tuesday, April 20 at 4 p.m. A 53-foot trailer carrying the exhibit will travel to Veterans Memorial Park in Ocean Pines, led by a motorcycle escort of more than 100

volunteers and local law enforcement.

“We’re asking that everyone come and show their support, and safely line the sidewalks to help welcome the Wall That Heals to Ocean Pines,” Gilmore said.

Volunteers will begin assembling the wall at Veterans Memorial Park on Wednesday, April 21. The exhibit will be open to the public, 24 hours a day, from Thursday, April 22 until Sunday, April 25 at 2 p.m.

The Memorial Foundation will host a “welcome home” opening ceremony for the exhibit on Thursday, April 22

please see ceremonies on page 19



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My Backyard... sponsored by Maureen Kennedy

How can I keep birds from hitting my windows?

After cats, windows are one of the deadliest threats to birds in America. Researchers estimate that between 100 million and 1 billion birds are killed by colliding with glass every year, in the United States alone.

If you're selecting new windows while building or remodeling, if at all possible, choose double-hung windows or other types with the window screens on the outside. If you're putting up a large picture window and like the effect of small panes, putting dividers on the outside as well as the inside will also help.

But most of us are stuck with the windows we already have, or are limited in our options in selecting new windows. Sticking one or two decals on a window will not help. You might try one of these techniques, ranked roughly from most to least effective:

Cover the glass on the outside with window screening or netting at least 2-3 inches from the glass, taut enough to bounce birds off before they can hit the glass. The is the kind of netting that is effective for protecting birds from hitting windows is sold in garden stores to protect trees and shrubs. This netting should be drawn taut across the windows, 2-3 inches from the glass, or birds could get entangled. It shouldn't hurt your view at all on vaulted windows set high up anyway, nor will it reduce the solar benefits at all significantly. But it will both make the windows a little more visible and act like a trampoline so when birds do hit, they'll bounce off.

Cover the outside surface of the glass with a one-way transparent film that permits people indoors to see out, but makes the window appear opaque on the outside.

Place vertical strips of tape on the exterior glass, set no more than 4 inches apart, or cover the exterior glass with decals placed close together (no more than 4 inches apart).

Mark the glass with permanent paint or markers. Birds can see in the ultraviolet spectrum, but painting windows with ultraviolet markers usually helps for only a few days because most of these inks fade very quickly.

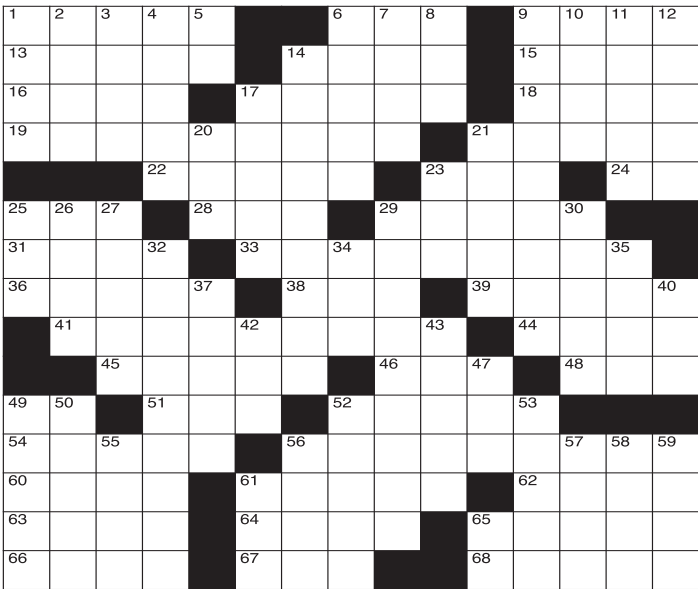


Install external shutters and keep them closed when you're not actively enjoying the light or view.

If you have interior vertical blinds, keep the slats half open.

Window decals can work, but you must put up many, set only a few inches apart, on each glass panel. Sadly, birds do not respond to falcon and owl silhouette decals the way people once believed. Visit our Window Collisions page for more suggestions and photos of window treatments that help prevent collisions.

-The Cornell Lab

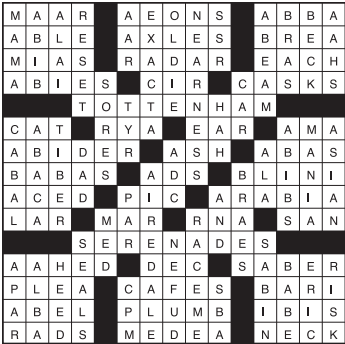


CLUES ACROSS

1. One who manufactures
6. Science degree
9. Database management system
13. Desert
14. Inventor Musk
15. Welsh valley
16. Round Dutch cheese
17. Saying
18. Comedian and TV host
19. Uppermost portions of brain
21. City in Transylvania
22. Where astronauts go
23. Men's hairstyle
24. Indicates position
25. One point east of due south
28. Businessmen may have one
29. Grass part
31. Running back Gurley
33. Unwavering
36. Options
38. Annoy
39. Greek mountain
41. Pastas
44. Fishes
45. Wrap
46. Potentially a criminal (slang)
48. Seize
49. The Constitution State
51. Upset
52. 1991 men's Wimbledon champ
54. Central Chinese province
56. Predisposition
60. A notice of someone's death
61. One-time Kentucky Rep.
62. Swiss river
63. Dried-up
64. Finger millet
65. ___ Allan Poe
66. German river
67. Brew
68. Kenyan river

CLUES DOWN

1. Millisecond
2. Acts as military assistant
3. Knot in a tree
4. Husband-and-wife industrial designers
5. The Ocean State
6. Point the finger at
7. Parts in a machine
8. Midway between northeast and east
9. Portray precisely
10. Blister
11. Mental illness
12. Nose of an animal
14. What students receive
17. Semitic peoples
20. Beats per minute
21. Family of drugs
23. Atrocious
25. Type of microscope (abbr.)
26. ___ or bust
27. Icelandic poems
29. A citizen of Pakistan
30. Very pale
32. Metric linear unit
34. Sea eagle
35. Biblical judge of Israel
37. Isaac's mother (Bib.)
40. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
42. Cool!
43. Large hotel room
47. Type of boat (abbr.)
49. Picked
50. Type of hookah
52. Attack
53. Directs
55. Belgian WWII resistance fighter
56. Finished negotiation
57. Heroic tale
58. Middle Eastern country
59. Protein-rich liquids
61. Malaysian Isthmus
65. Spielberg's alien



Answers for March 24



OPEN

Tuesday - Saturday
10 am - 5 pm

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April 24, 2021

Play begins at 8:30 am.



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"Tournament Dedicated to JIM FREEMAN"

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All Platform Tennis clubs in MD, DE, NJ & PA are invited to compete

We respectfully request donations to SEMPER FI/AMERICA'S FUND 'or' you can help
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c/o Michael Petito, 4 Long Point Court, Ocean Pines, MD. 21811

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

\$50.00/paddle, check to **SEMPER FI/AMERICA'S FUND** "in Memory of JIM FREEMAN"

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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John Bennish
Financial Advisor
11200 Racetrack Road
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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

The average timelines for popular renovation projects

Now that the Stimulus Bill has been signed into law, many households will receive minimum stimulus checks of \$1,400. As warmer weather approaches, many homeowners will use the money for indoor and outdoor home improvements and renovations.

Home renovation projects are significant undertakings. Working with skilled and experienced contractors can ensure projects go smoothly and are completed promptly. Timing is a big consideration for homeowners as they begin renovating their homes, and the home improvement experts at HomeAdvisor note that the following are some general timelines for popular renovation projects.

Home addition: Short of a full-scale demolition and rebuild, home additions are the most time-consuming

projects homeowners can undertake. HomeAdvisor notes that its survey of customers who recently completed home addition projects reported that the average time from start



to finish was between three and four months. Certain variables, including the scale of the project and the local permits process, can extend the time it takes to complete a home addition.

Kitchen remodel: Scale is a big factor to consider when estimating the

please see projects on page 19



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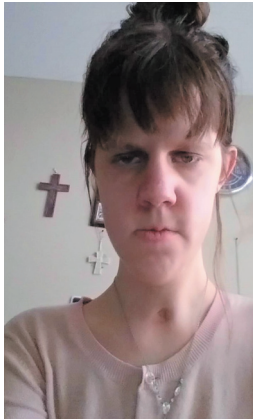
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Stephanie Bussacca is a rising star

This is the fifth in a series of five artist profiles highlighting clients from the Worcester County Developmental Center (WCDC). March was Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, and this series was presented to celebrate the talents and abilities of those who live with a disability in Worcester County. As part of its day program, WCDC provides multimedia art training as well as other activities designed to maximize our clients' physical, emotional and vocational talents. WCDC also provides residential services and one-on-one community-based supports.



Stephanie Bussacca is a rising star among her peers. At Worcester County Developmental Center, she takes art

classes and enjoys art enrichment activities. Stephanie likes spending time with her family, getting out of the house and enjoying nature. Not having the ability to do those things during this pandemic has been hard on her. However, to help her find the social interaction she has been missing, she has been attending art classes online with WCDC. She has found that she likes painting and drawing classes. She enjoys learning from and working with her Zoom instructor Tina Johnson, the Creative Arts Manager at WCDC. Stephanie said she likes drawing with Glynne and doing crafts with Tatiana, also art Instructors at WCDC.

Stephanie truly appreciates art. Stylistically, her works run the gamut from expressionism, impressionism and realism to abstract art. Stephanie is working her way through these styles to find one that will best represent her and her ideas.

Even though she enjoys painting and drawing, her favorite classes on-

*please see **star** page 17*



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A Life to Remember Genet Seifu Tuttle

By **Steve Tuttle**

Genet Seifu Tuttle was born on May 7, 1961 to Seifu Woldemariam and Abebech Sahle in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. She attended Princess Zenebwork primary school and Etege Menen secondary school. Genet's story is one of perseverance and divine intervention. At the ripe age of twelve, Genet began to suffer from a life-threatening heart disease. Desperate to save his beloved daughter, her father, Seifu, tirelessly devoted himself to figuring out a way to send Genet to America to seek medical treatment.

As a result of her father's unwavering love and tenacious commitment, a young yet valiant Genet arrived in Minneapolis, MN in 1975, escorted by her brother-in-law Kassa Maru. One can only imagine the stark contrast and bewilderment that this young girl, born and raised in Addis Ababa, experienced as she disembarked a plane in Minnesota. Yet she carried on with a smile and a prayer, as she would continue to do throughout her life. A man of strong faith, Genet's father, Seifu,

requested that his daughter be adopted by a Christian family in the United States, following her surgery.



In a testament of divine intervention, Steve and Nancy Tuttle learned about Genet's story through their church, and knew that they wanted to open their hearts and home to Genet. With Genet's consent, she was adopted by the Tuttle family on December 6, 1975.

In 1976, the Tuttle family relocated to Peoria, IL, where Genet graduated from Richwood High School. Due to the combined efforts of Genet's biological and adopted parents, Genet was reunited with her five beloved siblings, following their immigration to America in 1977. A year later, the Tuttle family moved to Alexandria, VA where she pursued her higher education at NOVA Community College and crossed paths with the love of her life, Beyene Berhane.

Genet earned her degree in Accounting and was hired as one of the first employees of American General Supplies (AGS) by Kassa and Aster Maru. Genet's skills and work ethic enabled her to evolve in the finance department, and she recently celebrated 35 years with AGS as Executive Assistant to the Chairman and President. She was a dedicated and integral aspect of the company, and her gentle kindness will be deeply missed by all who had the pleasure of working with her.

Genet married Beyene, her college sweetheart, on July 1, 1989. Beyene and Genet's union birthed two children, Samuel and Gelila. Genet was known to regularly boast about her kids, and the close relationship she

*please see **tuttle** on page 17*

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adair
from page 3

The family lived in Colorado for two years while Bob taught, and the couple's fourth child, James, was born.

Bob received orders for a second tour of Vietnam in 1971, this time stationed in Saigon (present day Ho Chi Minh City) with the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, and working under a U.S. Marines general.

"The second tour was not as stressful as the first tour," Mary said. "It would have been, because they were going to send him over as an advisor which I was not happy about, but then they changed him to headquarters."

All told, Bob served in the U.S. Armed Forces for 28 years as a career officer.

"I don't think we ever lived any place for longer than two years," Mary said. "I used to joke that I didn't have to spring house clean – I just cleared quarters and moved."

That was hard on the children, who each time went through an adjustment period, but the family "made it an adventure."

"Bob and I always told them, when he got orders, 'This is where we're going to be and this is what we'll be doing,'" Mary said.

"When we were at the Air Force Academy, Nancy had really settled in there with friends, and she came to her father and she said, 'I'm so unhappy about moving, because I have to leave all my friends.' And Bob said, 'Well, if I didn't have the job that I

have and we didn't move around the way that we do, you would have never met those friends.' And that sticks with her, even today," she added.

Mary said the transition from civilian to military living was also hard on her, at least at first.

"The military life, to me, was a 180 degrees from what I was normally involved in – as a child, I got homesick going to Girl Scout camp overnight!" she said with a laugh.

During much of that time, Mary said she stayed busy as "the epitome of volunteerism."

"I forget all the things I've done," she said. "I worked as a Red Cross volunteer in the x-ray department, I worked for Army community service as a budget counselor, and you always sit on a lot of committees and boards and make decisions and help out."

Ocean Pines and 'house number last'

Ocean Pines came into the picture during the early 1970s, when Bob was stationed at the Pentagon.

"We had put away all of his combat pay, and Boise Cascade was making phone calls in those days, and they called us and said, 'How about a free weekend in Ocean City?'" Mary said. All they had to do was listen to a sales pitch.

The family stayed at the Executive Motel in Ocean City, and they ended up buying property in Ocean Pines, on Ivanhoe Court, but waited to develop it at the advice of local builder Marvin Steen.

"We had a wonderful weekend in Ocean City, met a lot of nice people, bought a lot, and went home," Mary said.

The couple were among the original lot owners in Ocean Pines, but they didn't move to the community until the late 1980s. Still, Mary vividly remembers early visits, from camping in the area that later became White Horse Park, to passing the stables near the South Gate.

Around 1987, the couple revisited Ocean Pines as Bob was preparing to retire. They were living in Alexandria, Virginia at the time.

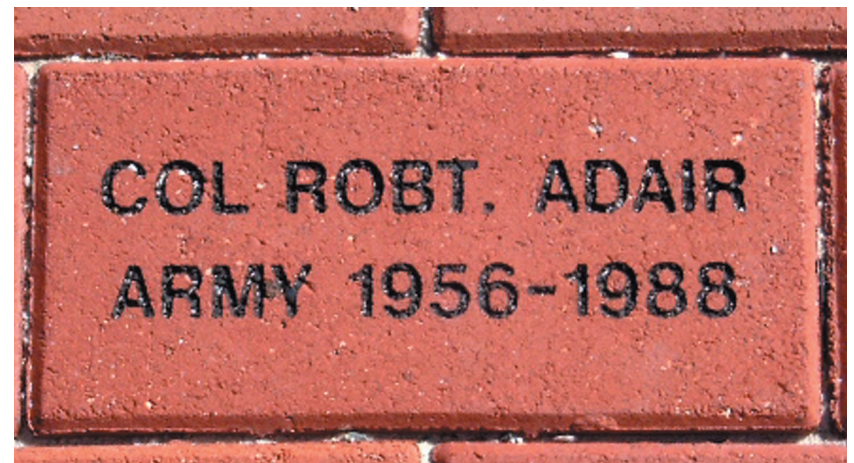
"We talked to Marvin again, and we put our house in Alexandria up for sale and bought [another] lot that we're on now, and I chose the house and Marvin built it," Mary said.

She said the difference in the

community, from the first time she saw it to the present, is "night and day."

"It developed, basically, into what we thought it would be when we first moved down here. And I love it," she said. "This is my 28th residency and I told Bob when I moved in, 'this is house number last!'"

Bob and Mary joined the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation, as lifetime members, when Bob was still alive. However, she became much more involved after he passed away in 2007.



"Chip was on the [foundation] board at the time and he said to me, 'I think this would be a good fit for you, Mary – you need to get out of the house!'" she said. "So, I wrote a little thing about being an Army wife and volunteering, and I won a one-year term" on the foundation board.

When that one year was up, Mary finished two more years of another board member's term, and she never left. She remains a fixture of the foundation to this day.

"I've been their assistant treasurer, treasurer, and president," she said.

Mary said the Veterans Memorial Foundation is important to her, "because it honors veterans, and that was my whole adult life."

"Anything I can do for the military, I will," she said.

The Wall That Heals exhibit

This year, Mary has been an active part of the volunteer force helping to bring The Wall That Heals to Ocean Pines. She's working with Jenny Cropper-Rines to develop a history pamphlet and pitching in wherever she's needed.

"I'm probably on every committee one way or another," she said. "I'm a worker bee!"

The project, Mary said, is among the most important she has ever worked on. And she recognizes the impact it could have on many others who lost loved ones because of the war.

"We have a lot of friends that passed away in Vietnam, even before it was known to be a combat area," she said. "When we were stationed in Germany, we lost a friend, and his name was Robert. And I told my son, 'I [already] have a Robert Adair,' so I called him Robbie after this young man."

"The fact that a lot of people do not have the ability to go to Washington, D.C. to see the wall there, this three-quarter replica of it just gives people the opportunity to kind of touch history," she said.

The Wall That Heals does not usually travel through Maryland, but an exception was made to bring it to Ocean Pines. During its stop in April, the exhibit will honor "Hometown Heroes" from every county on the Eastern Shore of Maryland and Virginia, as well as Sussex County in Delaware. Those names, which are also on the wall in Washington, D.C., will be read aloud during ceremonies in Ocean Pines.

"I'm very honored to be a part of this," Mary said.

Mary also decided to honor Bob through the In Memory program. He died of Lou Gehrig's disease, also known as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis or ALS, and the illness is widely linked to military service.

"It's been very bittersweet for me to deal with this, because I had to go back and pick up a lot of memories," Mary said. "But I am awed and honored that the wall will be here, and the fact that they can move it around allows it to be meaningful to so many people."

WALL THAT HEALS

WHAT: THE WALL THAT HEALS, a three-quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

WHEN: April 22 through April 25 at 2 p.m.

WHERE: The Worcester County Veterans Memorial in Ocean Pines

FOR MORE INFO:
www.opvets.org

Astronomy & Spaceflight

By Douglas Hemmick, Ph.D.



Gateway station will orbit the moon

As spaceflight fans are aware, NASA is now testing rockets and capsules designed

to send astronauts back to the lunar surface for the first time since the Apollo missions of the 1970s. NASA's new goals include longer-term landings and eventually establishing a base camp. A lunar-orbiting space station named "Gateway" will provide vital support for these manned expeditions.

NASA has assembled various teams to build the Gateway space station. On February 9 Space-X was awarded a \$331 million contract to power the launch of the first two components: the Power and Propulsion Element (PPE) and the Habitation and Logistics Outpost (HALO). The pair are to be launched together, no earlier than May 2024. The combined cargo of PPE and HALO will require hardware locking

the two together, as well as a specially designed shroud to enclose the larger payload atop the Space-X rocket. Space-X has already been at work on an extended capacity shroud needed for projects with the U.S. Space Force.

Space-X will launch this combined payload with its Falcon Heavy rocket,



Artist's Conception of Capsule approaching Gateway Station

capable of producing 5.1 million pounds of thrust, exceeding any other rocket in use today. The Falcon Heavy consists of three Falcon 9 boosters mounted together, topped by a second stage and the payload.

The Power and Propulsion Element (PPE) will collect solar

power, provide communications, and will adjust and maintain Gateway's orbit. Maxar Technologies is building the PPE, and is partnering with Blue Origin in the effort.

By establishing an orbit over the moon's polar regions, Gateway will allow astronaut crews greater access to the lunar surface than had been possible via the Apollo era missions. Space fans may know that NASA is planning to conduct explorations in the moon's south polar region; an area believed to contain water-ice. The region has deep craters which are shaded from the warming effects of sunlight. Detection and recovery of this precious resource is an exciting scientific goal, useful for both life support and production of rocket fuel.

The Habitation and Logistics Outpost (HALO) provides living quarters for astronauts staying aboard Gateway. It will include docking ports for spacecraft arriving and departing from the station, and is capable of supporting four astronauts for stays as long as 30 days. Northrop Grumman is building the HALO component.

Additional modules will be added at later times, and are being designed and built with international collaboration. For example, the International Habitation Module (I-HAB) will provide additional space for crews. Another component is called the European System Providing Refueling, Infrastructure and Telecommunications Module (ESPRIT). This name describes its functionality. With all of the modules

Orion is the most prominent, high flying constellation of winter, Leo plays this role for springtime. Leo resembles a reclining lion, with its characteristic backward question mark shape representing the head and mane, and triangle delineating the hind legs. The planet Mars now appears within Taurus the Bull, to the east of the "V" shape.

After about 9:30 p.m., the kite-shaped Bootes (boh-OH-teez) the Herdsman will appear in the eastern sky. Bootes features the bright star Arcturus at its southern tip. After about 10 p.m., the brilliant star Sirius begins to sink lower towards the horizon, and will set just after midnight.

A close conjunction takes place on April 16 between Mars and the moon. That evening the crescent moon appears five degrees south of Mars.

The Lyrid meteor shower will be visible between April 20 and 22, with a peak on the evening of the 21st. Moonlight will interfere a bit with this shower and observers might not expect more than about five shooting stars per hour. This meteor shower is suitable for night owls since the best views take place after about 1:30 a.m.

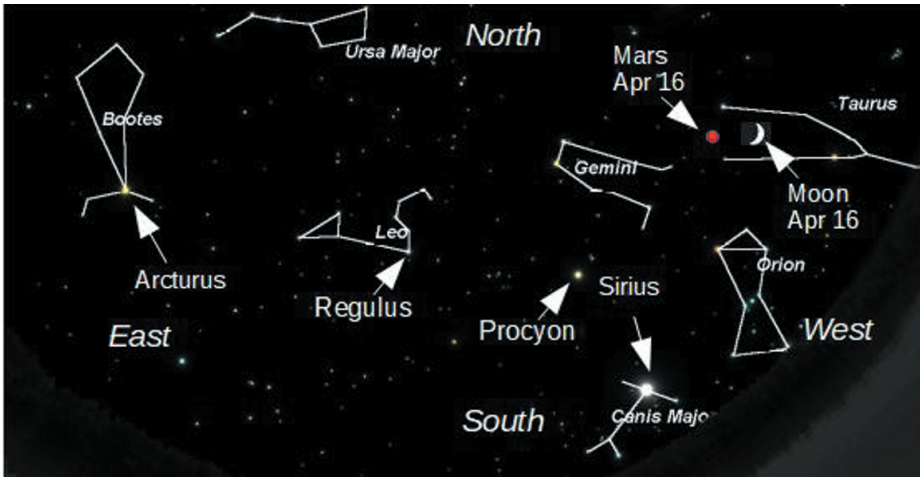
Astronomy fans may fondly recall April's significant achievement of the Hubble Space Telescope. On April 24, 1990, the Hubble Telescope blasted off from Cape Canaveral and on April 25 was deployed into orbit. This space telescope's rich history of discoveries has surpassed all expectations. These breakthroughs include seeing regions

commentary
from page 4

says that was not his intent.

Some readers may feel Covid influenced how the count was done last August. No such claim was made at the time and the committee members, some staff, the mailing contractor, and perhaps a few association members were present in the East Room of the Community Center to announce election results as in recent pre-Covid past elections. If spacing was necessary, the gymnasium was available.

To answer the question posed at the beginning of this tome, the ballots last year were scanned and counted by some unknown person at a mailing contractor's office in Berlin with no supervision of the Ocean Pines Election Committee. Of more future concern is the Elections Committee seems intent on developing some sort of online election process. Such an exceptional change in how OPA conducts elections and referendums may require a bylaws change before it can be implemented. Let's hope it never is. With elections, paper is good.



in place, the Gateway station will be about one-sixth the size of the International Space Station.

As the sky becomes dark around 8:30 p.m., Leo the Lion is riding high above the eastern horizon. Just as

of stellar birth in the Milky Way, discerning faint and never-before-seen galaxies, as well as making crucial dark matter measurements.

Wishing good luck and clear skies to all stargazers.

tuttle
from page 14

had with each of them was, without doubt, the greatest source of joy in her beautiful life.

To know Genet was to know her giving, generous nature. A devoted Orthodox Christian, her strong faith inspired her selflessness. Genet served at Hamere Noah Kidanemihiret Orthodox Church in Alexandria, VA. Her servitude extended well beyond the church, as she provided financial support to a group of ten elders in desperate need in her homeland of Ethiopia. Additionally, Genet supported the children of her dear Aunt, Amarech, after her passing. Amarech helped Genet raise her own children, and she was determined to reciprocate the same love and support for Amarech's children in Ethiopia.

Genet is survived by her loving hus-

band; Beyene Berhane, her two children; Samuel and Gelila, her parents; Nancy and Steve Tuttle, and her siblings; Mintewab, Aster, Elizabeth, Debebe, Semret, Tammy, and Matthew. While the pain of losing Genet is profound and immeasurable, we find solace in knowing that her spirit will live on in each of us. We rejoice that God has awarded her with eternal peace for a job well done.

Genet is a woman of love, courage, and strength who lived life on earth with determination to live life fully in how she loved others, served the poor, always mindful of the suffering around her, giving glory, honor and worship to God, who is the giver of every good and perfect gift!

Thank you Genet for living life with a faith that gave you hope in God with a thankful heart for His abundant blessings. The two most precious blessings, your children Samuel and Gelila.

They will carry on the legacy you have

given them, as they share this deep love of life, knowing your continued love every day as they share that love with the love of your life, Ben. As Ben has said, ON A WALK LAST WEEK, you are a genius! Through all of your trials in life, you have been a woman of love and welcome to family, friends, partners in your work place with AGS, acquaintances, as well as the greater realm of humankind as you would grieve with those grieving, and be glad with those knowing joy.

Genet loved the psalms - psalm 30:11-12 "You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, so that my soul may praise you and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever."

Mom and I, Matthew, Tammy all your siblings will always love you and say good bye for a time, until we join you at your forever home one day, entering eternal life with our Father in heaven who brought you to us 45 years ago to become our daughter while on earth. Forever grateful!

Publisher's Note: Steve Tuttle is a former resident of Ocean Pines and a former OPA board member. Genet passed away in early March.

Candidates sought for OPA Board election

The Ocean Pines Search Committee is looking for homeowners to run in this year's Board of Directors election.

The Ocean Pines Association (OPA) is governed by a seven-member Board, elected by property owners who make up membership in the home-owners association. This year, two positions are up for election.

The Board of Directors is the legislative policy-setting body of the Ocean Pines community. The Board decides operational and fiscal policy and sets property assessments annually. Board members do not receive monetary compensation for their service. They serve three-year terms on a staggered basis and cannot seek reelection after serving two consecutive terms.

A Board candidate must be an OPA property owner of record as of January 1, and not have unpaid annual charges or voting privileges suspended by the Board as of 15 May in the year of election.

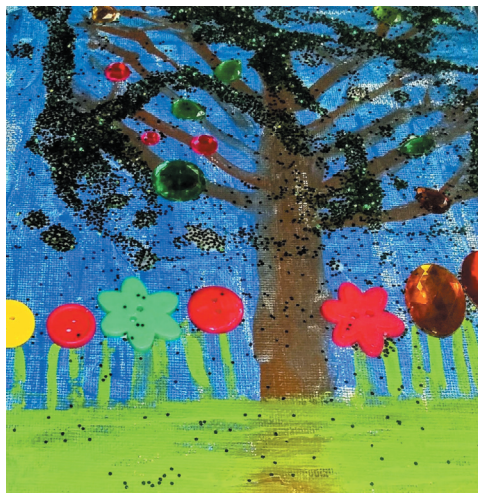
please see **opa** page 18

star
from page 13

line are music and dance. She looks forward to Monday and Thursday mornings with Ocean Pines resident Carol Ludwig, who has been volunteering at WCDC as the music enrichment instructor. Stephanie said she loves singing and dancing along with Carol who is always full of energy. Stephanie also stated that she loves to take dancing classes because they are fun, easy to follow and always a good time.

Stephanie always has a smile on her face and is willing to try just about anything. In addition to performance arts, Stephanie enjoys taking photos of friends, family and nature. Stephanie hopes she will be back creating in the center soon. Along with spending time with old friends, she wants to make new friends and create new art works.

For more information about WCDC and its programs, please contact Jack Ferry at ferry@wcdecservices.org.



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opa
from page 17

tion.

Potential candidates must complete and return an application, in a sealed envelope to the attention of the Search Committee, to the OPA General Manager's office at the administration building on 239 Ocean Parkway, no later than 4 p.m. on May 10.

Applications are available at the administration building or on the Ocean Pines website.

Potential candidates interested in further information may contact the following individuals on the Search Committee: Chairman Tom Piatti at 410-302-0558 or tompatti@aol.com, or Andie Davis at 410-200-6008 or andiepdavis@gmail.com.

Other important upcoming election dates include:

-Candidate Draw (to determine

ballot order and seating during candidate forums) - Friday, June 4 at 10 a.m. Venue TBD.

-First Candidate Forum - Wednesday, June 9 from 7-9 p.m. in the Assateague Room of the Ocean Pines Community Center

-Second Candidate Forum (if needed) - Saturday, June 19 from 10 a.m. to noon in the Assateague Room of the Ocean Pines Community Center.

-Ballot Deadline - Wednesday, August 11 by close of business.

-Ballots Counted and Vote Totals Announced - Friday, August 13 starting at 10 a.m. Venue TBD.

-Annual Meeting - Saturday, August 14. Time and Venue TBD.

Short-term rental town hall scheduled

The Ocean Pines Board has scheduled a town hall on proposed short-term rental regulations, on April 17 at 9 a.m., upstairs at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club.

Live capacity will be limited to 100 people because of COVID-19 restrictions. Residents will be given priority to speak, and nonresidents will not be allowed to make statements.

*If you live in Ocean Pines,
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projects

from page 12

time it takes to complete various home improvement projects, and kitchen remodels are no exception. Some HomeAdvisor users reported projects taking as long as four months, though the average time reported was roughly six weeks. Projects that require major overhauls like rearranging the plumbing and moving walls will likely take longer than more cosmetic projects that are limited to replacing cabinets and countertops.

ceremonies

from page 8

at 11 a.m., and a candlelight ceremony on Saturday, April 24 at 7 p.m.

During the latter, Gilmore said guests may walk along the wall, holding a candle, as volunteers read aloud the names of "hometown heroes" from Worcester County, as well as from other counties on the Eastern Shore of Maryland and Virginia, and Sussex County in Delaware.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to visit this exhibit in our community, and to honor the sacrifices of our Vietnam veterans," Gilmore said. "The Wall That Heals is a national traveling exhibit and does not normally visit Maryland. We're very happy that an

Bathroom remodel: More than 1,000 homeowners surveyed by HomeAdvisor reported that bathroom remodels took about 4.5 weeks from start to finish. Small-scale remodels that focus on painting the walls a fresh color and replacing existing tiles can be completed in less than two weeks. But like with kitchen remodels, bathroom remodels that involve replacing plumbing fixtures and removing walls figure to take much longer than that.

Siding installation: HomeAdvisor users report that new siding projects

exception was made to bring the wall to Ocean Pines, and we hope that everyone in our community will come and show their support and appreciation."

Organizers will supply about 100 chairs for each event, but guests are encouraged to bring their own seating.

COVID-19 protocols are still in effect, including mask mandates and social distancing.

Veterans Memorial Park is located at Route 589 and Cathell Road, in Ocean Pines. Public parking will be available and volunteers will staff the exhibit, 24 hours a day.

For more information on the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation or the Wall That Heals, visit www.opvets.org.

take roughly two weeks from start to finish. That estimate is the same regardless of which materials homeowners are replacing and installing.

Replacement windows: Homeowners who want to replace all the windows in their home can expect such a project to take roughly three weeks. HomeAdvisor notes that such a timeline need not concern homeowners worried that they will be forced to brave the elements during the length of the project. Much of a contractors' time during a window replacement project will be spent on upfront measuring and then ensuring a tight fit once the windows have been installed.

Tides for Ocean City Inlet

Day	High /Low	Tide Time
Th 8	High	6:27 AM
8	Low	12:35 PM
8	High	6:43 PM
F 9	Low	12:42 AM
9	High	7:10 AM
9	Low	1:14 PM
9	High	7:24 PM
Sa 10	Low	1:28 AM
10	High	7:49 AM
10	Low	1:48 PM
10	High	8:02 PM
Su 11	Low	2:08 AM
11	High	8:26 AM
11	Low	2:21 PM
11	High	8:40 PM
M 12	Low	2:47 AM
12	High	9:03 AM
12	Low	2:53 PM
12	High	9:17 PM
Tu 13	Low	3:24 AM
13	High	9:40 AM
13	Low	3:27 PM
13	High	9:55 PM
W 14	Low	4:03 AM
14	High	10:18 AM
14	Low	4:01 PM
14	High	10:34 PM

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