

The Courier

April 14, 2021 Volume 21 Number 29



Honored - Two Ocean Pines first responders and the Ocean Pines Volunteer First Department were recognized for Outstanding Duty in 2020 by Ocean City American Legion Post 166. The awards were presented at a ceremony March 24 at the Post, at which 21 area First Responders and eight area First Responder organizations were honored for their community service last year.

Ocean Pines Police Officer **John Pianka**, flanked by Post 166 Sgt-at-Arms **Bob Gilmore** and Ocean Pines Police Chief **Leo Ehrisman** (r) was honored as the Ocean Pines Police Department officer of the Year 2020.



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Golf superintendent updates committee members

Ocean Pines Golf Club Superintendent Justin Hartshorne recently supplied updates on conditions and maintenance efforts to several advisory committee members.

General Manager John Viola helped facilitate the meeting, to address their questions and concerns.



Justin Hartshorne

He engaged experts from the amenity, Hartshorne and General Manager of Golf John Malinowski, to present current plans for maintenance, and specifically the greens.

“I wanted to ensure that everyone knows exactly what we are doing to address course conditions and the overall golf course results,” Viola said.

On the maintenance side, Hartshorne said much of the recent focus has been on finding drainage lines, and addressing drainage and irrigation issues.

“This was stuff we knew we were going to have to work on and touch up,” he said. “We were also ninja-tining, and just working on diluting the thatch layer while we had favorable weather this winter. That was also a big focus, on improving the playing surfaces.”

Ninja tines are an aerification mechanism that helps pull unwanted material out of the ground.

“The tines are really shallow. We go 1-2 inches below the surface, and it just removes some of that organic matter that’s built up in the top layer,” Hartshorne said. “When you cut the grass, dead leaf tissue and dead grass just gathers in there and starts creating a harmful layer, so we get sand to di-

lute that and the tines help us get that out, mechanically, which helps us get a lot more oxygen to the profile and helps the roots grow much deeper.

“You might also encounter some days when you see some sand on there,” he continued. “The ultimate goal for us is to drive those roots deep and dry things out, so the surface becomes much firmer and there are less ball marks. It’s all about plant health for us.”

Hartshorne said he and the committee members had an informative session.

“I’m happy to answer questions and to explain to anybody why we’re doing anything on the golf course,” he said. “My time at Penn State [where he earned a bachelor’s degree in turf grass science] taught me to appreciate the details of golf course maintenance, so I am happy to pass on any information about our operation. If people don’t understand what’s going on, I’m always happy to explain it.”

Hartshorne added that April is typically the busiest time of the year for a golf course superintendent.

“There’s a lot we need to do in the next two months to be ready in July and August, so I’m going to be very busy!” he said.

Because of that, Malinowski said the best way to ask questions is through him. To contact Malinowski, email johnmalinowski@oceanpines.org.

Malinowski also said regular updates to advisory committee members would continue. The Golf Advisory Committee has not officially met in several months, which is normal during the winter.

“We have communication with them every month throughout the sea-

son,” Malinowski said. “So, we’ll continue to give updates throughout the season and probably periodically during the offseason.”

Golf Advisory Committee Chairman Fritz Lahner said the update answered many of his questions, and he praised Golf Club staff, including Hartshorne.

“It was received very well,” Lahner said. “I thought they were informative and pretty much stuck to the agenda. What I did as chair of the Ocean Pines Golf Advisory Committee is, I sent a summary out to all my members [who were not present].

“We had some questions about some of the greens and about some areas of the course, and we were given the answers. Justin provided most of the information to us,” he added.

On course conditions, Lahner said the greens had been in great shape, just prior to recent aeration efforts, which are a normal part of golf course maintenance.

“That’s as good as I’ve seen the greens in a while,” he said. “There’s some areas that need to be addressed

and that’s what they’re addressing.”

Lahner said there was still some water on the 18th hole, and that Hartshorne would investigate whether a clogged drainage pipe is the culprit.

“There also were some fairways where the grass wasn’t coming in ... but one thing they did get started is a sod garden, and I think there’s 10,000 square feet that they’re going to start filling in some of the areas with,” he said. “They’re also going to install a fan on [the seventh hole] to address that, because there’s a lot of shade in that area.”

Also present during the meeting was Board member and committee liaison Frank Daly, and Nelson Fenwick, whose “Sand Dawgs” group acts as another advisory panel. Going forward, Lahner said that Fenwick would send weekly course condition reports to Viola.

“He’ll make sure that Justin and John Malinowski get them,” Lahner said.

For more information on the Ocean Pines Golf Club, visit www.oceanpines-golf.org.

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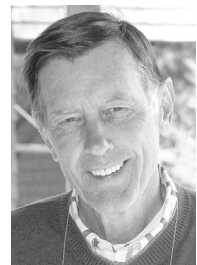
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OPA: the big picture

Commentary by **Joe Reynolds**
OceanPinesForum.com



Every so often stepping back and taking a look at the big picture, as opposed to focusing on some specific, narrow-focus current topic, is a good idea for all of us. I write commentary. Merriam-Webster lists one definition of commentary as “an expression of opinion.”

My commentaries are my opinions on various specific issues related to the management of what may be the third-largest HOA in the State of Maryland, at around 8,440 properties - after Columbia with 33,000 properties and Montgomery Village at around 14,000 properties. Agree or disagree with my opinions, as you see fit, on the *OceanPinesForum.com* message board.

Controversial issues are, well... by definition, controversial. Examining controversial issues can make for interesting reading, eliciting pro and con views on any given subject. However, examining specific controversial issues is not the best approach to provide readers with a big-picture view of Ocean Pines.

As a 30+year full-time resident of Ocean Pines, I’ve seen no end to controversial issues. In many ways, there is

less controversy today than 30 years ago. Back then a group called Concerned Citizens of Ocean Pines drew 100 or more people to their monthly meetings in the old Community Center, typically to discuss what they believed the board was doing wrong. This was at a time when only about half as many homes were constructed in the Pines as there are today!

Monthly board meetings often attracted a hundred or more association members. So many people made public comments that the board installed a numbers board where people took a number to speak, much like waiting in line at the deli counter on a busy day.

Those days are long gone. Short of some major issue, only 10 or so people attend board meetings, even before the pandemic.

Has all that much changed over the last 30 years? Not really. There are still controversial issues to discuss, but one thing has remained constant — Ocean Pines is a great place to live. Those eight words describe the “Big Picture” of Ocean Pines.

Members of the OPA Board of Directors come and go. General managers come and go. Most association members live their lives paying little or no attention to Board politics. Political aficionados see OPA Board politics as a free, valuable amenity.

Those who do follow OPA politics should never allow the focus on narrow

controversial issues to obscure one important fact ... here come those eight words Ocean Pines is a great place to live.

I’ve watched a fair number of Board members come and go. I believe every one of them based their decisions and votes on what they believed to be in the best interest of OPA association members. Just as the United States Supreme Court issues controversial split decisions, so has our seven-member Board of Directors, at times with much weeping, wailing, and gnashing of teeth. Ocean Pines has survived all of those decisions, and still here come those eight words ... Ocean Pines is a great place to live.

I believe, a gentleman named Tim Stoner was General Manager when I moved here. Seemed to be popular. Perhaps some 10 or more other GMs held the position since then, including a few board members serving as temporary GMs.

General Managers are often incorrectly blamed for things out of their control. For example, current GM John Viola is not to blame for the amount of the assessment or how OPA spends money. The annual budget must be approved by the Board of Directors and any spending over something like \$15,000 must have the specific approval of a board vote. Under Viola’s management, OPA has enjoyed a much-needed period of stability not seen since the days of GM Dave Fergu-

son.

Don’t look at the world only through a set of single-topic narrow views. Overall, John Viola may be OPA’s best General Manager in the 30 years I have lived here full time. As for various Boards, the current board may be no better or no worse than any others over my three decades of Board watching.

Don’t forget ... here come those eight words... Ocean Pines is a great place to live.

Douty withdraws appeal of OPA’s judgment

Ocean Pines Association President Larry Perrone recently issued the following statement:

On March 23, 2021, Nate Douty withdrew his appeal of the Circuit Court’s dismissal of his complaint, concluding this dispute and without any settlement between the parties. The Board of Directors is pleased to see this matter come to its rightful conclusion.

The Board maintained that Mr. Douty’s allegations were without merit and the court agreed. Unfortunately, defending these allegations did come at an expense to Ocean Pines, at least \$25,000. Nonetheless, the Board of Directors will continue to vigorously defend Ocean Pines against meritless complaints.

Courier Almanac

The American airlift of Vietnamese orphans to the United States ended April 14, 1975 after 2,600 children were transported to America. The operation began disastrously on April 4 when an Air Force cargo jet crashed shortly after take-off from Tan Son Nhut airbase in Saigon. More than 138 of the passengers, mostly children, were killed. Operation Baby Lift was initiated to bring South Vietnamese orphans to the United States for adoption by American parents. Baby Lift lasted 10 days and was carried out during the final, desperate phase of the war, as North Vietnamese forces were closing in on Saigon. Although the first flight ended in tragedy, all other flights took place without incident, and Baby Lift aircraft ferried orphans across the Pacific until the mission concluded on April 14, only 16 days before the fall of Saigon and the end of the war.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 23 percent of all adults in the United States have arthritis. Though that equates to more than 54 million people, the CDC notes that fewer than half of those people are limited in their activities because of arthritis, which is actually a



general term for more than 100 conditions that affect the tissues around the joints. Though arthritis might not limit people in their activities, it can still make it hard for people to manage preexisting conditions. The CDC reports that arthritis commonly occurs with other chronic diseases, including diabetes, heart disease and obesity. Arthritis can make it hard for people to engage in physical activity, which in turn can compromise a

person’s ability to maintain a healthy weight. For example, the Arthritis Foundation reports that 43 percent of arthritis patients indicate pain limits their ability to walk. In such instances, arthritis sufferers should speak with their physicians to develop a total wellness plan that focuses on pain management but also improves physical function and quality of life.

**The
Courier**

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A greening thumb of sorts

Last October I planted tulip bulbs around the garden and forgot about them. I never marked where they were planted so when they sprouted from the ground about a month ago,

keep trying because I like seeing red azaleas in bloom. Historically they'll last a season or two but usually don't make it to a third. There's hope on the horizon this year because a red azalea in which I've placed great hope is starting to green up. Fingers crossed.

Several years ago, I purchased on clearance about a half dozen different plants and shrubs. I could spin a tale about

how these plants were exactly what I was searching for and would be just right for the area of the garden that had full sun six hours a day and how their colors would complement the vision I had for the garden. I could spin that tale but it wouldn't ring true. The truth of the matter was they were cheap and they were available. Fed up with the inability to grow grass in my backyard for more than 20 years, and tired of looking at plain old dirt, I haphazardly planted these discounted bushes expecting them to wither and die by the end of the season. Amazingly just the opposite occurred. They took hold and by their second season were thriving. Go figure! This turn of events encouraged me to sculpt a garden around what I thought would be dead-in-a-single-season greenery.

Since then, this unexpected backyard garden has evolved into a kaleidoscope of beauty when in full bloom. At least I believe this to be so. It is now home to among other things several rose bushes, mums, lilies, coral bells, black olive coral bells, a dwarf Alberta pine, black eyed Susans, shasta daisies, geraniums, marigolds, a bird bath and two concrete turtles, one big, one small. To better define the garden, two years ago, my wife and I constructed a walkway so we can walk through the garden. I must admit, at twilight during the summer, there are occasions when I enjoy sitting out back with a cigar in one hand and an adult beverage in the other, just gazing at the flowers that attract hummingbirds and bees and the occasional robin that will splash around in the bird bath.

A green thumb I have not. But, I'm not the Grim Reaper either so I'm encouraged – a little bit.



It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

I was quite surprised and pleased to see the first "greens" speckling the dirt of winter drab.

Not long after, the day lilies started awakening. Yellow day lilies have been a mainstay in the garden seemingly forever. They were prominent in my mother's garden when I was growing up. Not long after we moved into our first house, she arrived with a bunch of lilies pulled from her garden and wrapped in a plastic trash bag. They are hardy plants, having endured multiple replantings through the years. Many times they've been split in order so they could be spread around the garden. I have started giving some to my daughter for her garden.

The older I get the more interested I am about the garden, taking a keen view of what pops out of the ground and when. I've begun concentrating on bloom cycles attempting to arrange plants with different bloom times in such a way that it will appear the garden is constantly in bloom between spring and fall. This is an evolving plan that still needs a lot of work. It would help if I learned the names of plants and didn't refer to them by their colors. "I like red ones over there. I need something white over here." A scientific approach it is not.

When they were young, the kids gave my wife a hydrangea for Mother's Day. It has resided in the front of our house, each year getting larger. Every once in a while, it won't bloom. But when it does, it's sort of a blueish color. I've been told that manipulating soil conditions can change the flower color. That's a skillset yet to be mastered.

Through the years I've had lousy luck getting azaleas to take root. Try as I might, success has eluded me. I

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Ocean Pines Academy goes live

The new Ocean Pines Academy is now active, featuring nearly 20 virtual educational segments about Ocean Pines operations, amenities, and more.

To view the academy, visit www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/ocean-pines-academy.

The Ocean Pines Academy is a virtual, self-paced civic education course about the Ocean Pines Association. The Academy includes an overview of the different facets of the Association, presented by those

who handle fulfilling its vision and mission each day.

Also included are printable “quick facts” about the amenities, departments and services that make Ocean Pines a vibrant and well-rounded community, as well as links to important documents and websites.

Marketing Coordinator Julie Malinowski led the project, with support supplied by a workgroup that included Association President Larry Perrone, Vice President Collette Horn, General Manager John Viola, Senior Executive Assistant Michelle Bennett, Director of Marketing and Public Relations Josh Davis, and community member Jenny Cropper-Rines.

“Whether you’re interested in becoming involved with the Board of Directors or an advisory committee, or just want to gain a deeper understanding of Ocean Pines, the Ocean Pines Academy is a great way to learn more about this place so many have called ‘home,’” Malinowski said.

*If you live in Ocean Pines,
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What's your story?



Checking data - Students in Pam Lipka's fifth grade class at Berlin Intermediate School collected and analyzed data using their shadows to demonstrate how the length and direction of the shadows changed in relation to the sun. Above **Zachary Payne** measures the shadow as **Carlos Lopez** waits to record the data.

Permits required for tree removal

Ocean Pines is reminding homeowners of the formal process for removing trees within the Association.

General Manager John Viola asked that all homeowners follow these steps, to ensure the safe and proper removal of trees within Ocean Pines' guidelines.

Before removing any tree more than 6 inches in diameter, homeowners must first fill out a “Request for Tree Removal” form and return it to the Compliance, Permit and Inspections (CPI) Department.

To obtain a form, contact the CPI Department at 410-641-7425 or visit <https://oceanpines.org/documents/10184/470931/application+for+tree+removal.pdf>.

Any tree submitted for review should be clearly marked with string or another identifier, so CPI inspectors can easily find it.

All trees must meet the following criteria to receive Association approval to be removed:

- Be within 3 feet of the driveway
 - Be within 10 feet of the foundation or deck
 - Be within 15 feet of the bulkhead
- (Note: any tree within 100 feet of a wa-

terway requires Worcester County approval. Contact the Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Management office at 410-632-1200)

Dead, dying or diseased; dangerous; or storm damaged

The Association will not approve tree removal:

If it does not meet the above criteria

If the tree is a magnolia, holly, bayberry or laurel tree, because these are protected plants

-The Association will grant approval to remove a protected tree **ONLY** if it is dead, dying or diseased; or if it is causing danger because of leaning or impairment of vision for drivers

If the tree is solely being removed to put in a shed or a fence

If the tree is being removed simply because the owner does not want the tree

CPI will take the following steps when approving a tree for removal:

Check to see if the tree meets the above criteria

*please see **trees** on page 14*

Ocean Pines Association Members:

VOTE **NO** ON THE PROPOSED REFERENDUM



The referendum seeks to unnecessarily hinder OPA's ability to conduct needed projects; fails to contemplate the impact of the ever-increasing costs of labor, material, and services; and will cause large expenses for OPA and to you as members.

The existing expenditure threshold for capital expenses was addressed along with several other changes to the OPA By-Laws in 2008 when the Amended and Restated By-Laws were adopted. The established limit on capital expenditures of 20% of the assessment income has served the Association well and has provided the intended guidance and safeguards on decisions involving this level of expense.

The threshold as a percentage of the annual assessment income, rather than a static dollar amount, takes into consideration the changes in financing associated with inflation and the time value of money. As prices for products, material, labor and services increase, the current threshold gives the Association flexibility in determining if these expenses should be considered. The current "20%" referendum requirement for capital expenditures has no direct effect on the annual assessment. A fixed dollar threshold will not reduce the annual assessment for OPA members, because the planning for the projects must continue.

Had the proposed fixed dollar threshold been in place, the Association would not have accomplished the much-needed upgrades to the administration building, police station, clubhouse, and cart barn in a timely manner. The Association would have also incurred approximately **\$50,000 - \$60,000** of expenses associated with conducting a referendum for each of those projects, as it is estimated that the cost of a referendum is approximately **\$25,000 - \$30,000** and requires additional significant staff time to administer the referendum, process the results and report the findings.

The requirement for a referendum will also cause unnecessary delays in sourcing, bidding, and determining the viability of a project. In some cases, a delay will create a lost opportunity for pricing deals from a contractor due to the inability to determine in a timely manner whether we can move forward with a project. This situation would also add to an increase in overall costs for a project. Beyond the implications on the above types of improvement projects, the proposed referendum will negatively affect OPA's ability to conduct its mandatory capital replacement work.

OPA must maintain, repair and replace the bulkheads. The bulkhead replacement costs for 2021 are forecasted at **\$1.783 million** and a 2022 proposed expense of **\$1.368 million**. These amounts are within the Board of Directors' current expenditure authority. Should the referendum pass, OPA will have to conduct a referendum before the annual bulkhead replacement projects can be authorized, which will result in substantial additional costs associated with the referendum. These additional costs will lead to an increase in the annual assessment to homeowners.



Based on the information above and knowing the established limit has not only served the Association well, but also aided in preventing unnecessary costs over the past 15 years, the Board of Directors strongly urges Association members to vote **NO** on the referendum question.

- Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors

Public benefits: can I do it myself?

By **Danielle M. Marvel**
Elder Law Department Manager
Procino-Wells & Woodland, LLC

Occasionally we meet a client who is brave enough to ask us if they can file for Long Term Care Medicaid or Veteran's Aid & Attendance on their own. We suspect it is on the tip of most client's tongues. The short answer: yes, you can. The beginning of the application process for either benefit would be comparable to applying for a highly sought-after new job; the applicant would be nervous, want to do it right, want it to go well, but not know exactly what answers are expected in the blank fields. After getting past the basic name, address and phone number fields, applicants might begin wishing for an advisor.

Sometimes families have no option but to go on and learn along the way without the help of an experienced mentor. Those families can expect the following, with slight variation depending on the circumstances:

Long Term Care Medicaid: Filling out an initial referral request that includes the applicant's demographics, health information, income and assets; receiving a 19 page application and additional consent pages to be completed covering current income, assets, and assets/transactions from the past five years; hiring an attorney to create a Miller Trust if income exceeds the income cap; navigating a "We Need" letter from Medicaid requesting supporting documentation for the application to which you have 15 days to respond, working with a Medicaid Case Manager for any additional information requested, speaking with a Medicaid Nurse about the applicant's medical conditions, and selecting a Managed Care Organization. This information is generally exchanged via scan, fax and/or email with the entire process possibly taking up to three months.

Veteran's Aid & Attendance: Gathering documentation on current and past marriages for the Veteran or Surviving Spouse, as well as assets, income, and cost of care; completing an application for benefits and several additional forms provided by the VA; and possible follow up to VA responses after review of the claim.

This information is exchanged via scan, fax and/or email. The average applicant can expect a determination within six months; however, it is not uncommon for families to wait as long as 12 months. Applicants may also experience delayed responses regarding seemingly trivial adjustments, such as leaving an answer blank because it is not applicable instead of entering a "0" or "N/A." All of which further delays the approval of the case.

During both processes, families that are applying without professional help are exposed to overwhelming information from a variety of, not always accurate or current, resources. In this mix, it is not uncommon for policies that allow for the protection of assets to be lost. The result is families depleting their financial resources unnecessarily.

Families who are torn over the decision to complete the application process by themselves, or hire an experienced elder law firm should make a list of pros and cons. The pros list would include being unburdened of the application and interview, follow up and advocacy; saving several hours of time through both processes; saving assets that might otherwise be accidentally depleted for lack of understanding required spending; avoiding the burden of understanding and navigating these agencies' policies.

We understand the cons list, too. It's always made up of one thing: the fee. Considering the list of pros, this investment is well worth ensuring the benefits available to your loved one are applied for and approved as soon as possible, the assets owned by your loved one are protected as much as the law allows, and your family's peace of mind isn't disrupted any further.

A family applying for either of these benefits for their loved one is a family that is already juggling a lot and feeling financial and emotional stress. Consider allowing professionals, who fight for these benefits on behalf of their clients every day, take over this task. Not sure if your loved one could use these benefits? That's another perfect question for a specialized and experienced elder law firm.



Pet drive - Ocean City Elementary School (OCES) recently held its annual Worcester County Humane Society Care for Pets Drive. OCES students, faculty and staff collected \$1676.34 as well as many donations of cat and dog treats and toys. Pictured with some of the school's Humane Society donations are third graders (l to r): **Christian Winter, Brooklyn DelliGatti, Veronica Randall, Fallon Webster and David Banach.**

Seasonal trash and recycling rates announced

Republic Services have announced seasonal and annual rates for 2021 in Ocean Pines.

Six-month or one-year contracts are available, with the rate set at \$72.61 per quarter. Prices include trash and recycling collection, and service is bill quarterly.

Republic Services offers waste collection twice each week and recycling collection once per week.

Waste collection occurs Monday and Thursday for residents north of Route 90, and Tuesday and Friday

for those south of Route 90. Recycling pickup occurs Thursday for residents north of Route 90 and Friday for those south of Route 90.

Republic Services will supply a 95-gallon recycle cart at no extra charge. Ninety-five-gallon trash carts are available to rent at \$1.20 per month. Customers may also supply their own cans and bags.

For additional information or questions, call Republic Services at 410-749-1551, or visit www.ocean-pines.org.

The Courier seeks submissions

Rudyard Kipling is quoted saying "God could not be everywhere, and therefore he made mothers." That is a sentiment *The Courier* would like to explore in its Mother's Day edition May 5.

Readers are invited to submit stories about a mother they know who has made a difference in their life. Submissions can be no more than 500 words and must be sent as a Word document. A photo in JPG format can also be included. Make submissions to thecourier@delmarvacourier.com no later than Friday, April 23. Write "Mother's Day" in the email memo line. Include your name and phone number. Not all submissions will be published.

Eggs are eggceptional

Eggs are a topic of conversation each spring, largely because of their relationship to the Christian celebration of Easter. Brightly colored Easter eggs are on display, chocolate eggs line store shelves and egg-lined birds' nests in trees and bushes dot spring landscapes.

Eggs take center stage in early spring, but they're more than just novelties to include in Easter celebrations.

Eggs are nutritious. Eggs are loaded with vitamins A, D and B12 and the nutrient choline. They're also an excellent protein source in a small package. At 72 calories and packing six grams of protein, eggs can make for a great, filling meal at any time of day.

Eggs boost brain health. The choline in eggs is a crucial nutrient for memory, mood and muscle control, according to the University of Missouri Health Care system. Choline also is essential in fetal brain development and can help prevent birth defects.

Eggs don't always have to be refrigerated. In countries outside of the United States and Canada, eggs may not be refrigerated and do not have to be chilled. Also, outside of North America eggs are not washed prior to commercial production. However, according to the food resource The Kichn, power-washing eggs removes a protective coating and makes the eggs porous and vulnerable to contamination. A synthetic coating is put on washed eggs.

Shell color does not matter. The color of the eggshell doesn't indicate taste, nutritional value or even egg quality. The color of the eggshell reflects the breed of hen that laid the egg. Red-feathered hens tend to lay brown eggs, while hens with white features lay white eggs. Similarly, the shade of yolk is representative of what the chicken is eating. A dark, yellow yolk means the hen was probably fed green vegetables. Lighter yolks coordinate to corn and grain diets.

All eggs are "hormone-free." The term "hormone-free" on egg cartons does not signify anything special. It's like advertising that snow is cold. The United States Food & Drug Administration banned the use of hormones in all poultry production in the 1950s. All eggs are hormone-free.

Size and eggshell thickness indicates the age of the hen. Eggs come in different sizes, such as medium, large and jumbo. The age of the chicken determines the size, with older hens producing larger eggs. Age also affects shell thickness, with younger hens laying thicker-shelled eggs, says Eat This, Not That!

Eggs won't hatch. Eggs sold for consumption are not fertilized. Hens that have laid them haven't mated.

Many birds lay eggs. Kiwis lay the largest egg in relation to their body size of any species of bird in the world. However, the ostrich, emu and cassowary lay the biggest eggs.

The sink or swim test can say a lot about an egg. Eggs become more porous as they age. You can tell if an egg is old by putting it in a glass of water. If it sinks, it is fresh. If it floats, it is an older egg.

Eggs get a lot of fanfare around Easter, and there's more than meets the eye to that carton of eggs in the refrigerator.



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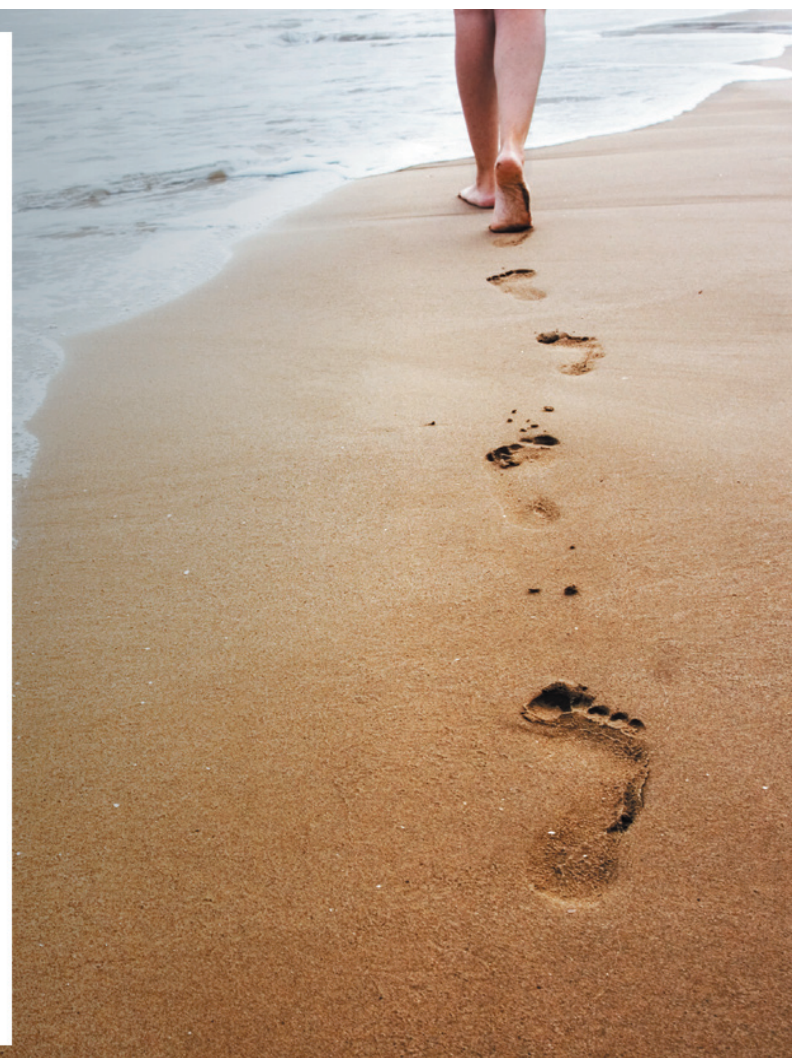
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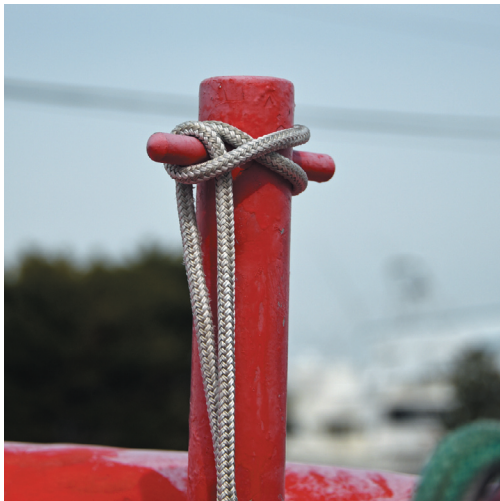


Sampson post expertise

Every season, a few of us have a bad day on the water other than sun burn, sea sickness or unexpected weather. Those are the really memorable days when the boat feels under-appreciated and, like a pouting child, wants to be the center of attention. Sometimes it picks a lovely sandbar to jump on or sometimes it just quits.

Running aground is not the exclusive province of recreational boaters. Last month a ship, the *Ever Given*, drifted into the sandy bank along the Suez Canal during a sand storm. Some 706,000 cubic feet of sand had to be removed to re-float the container ship.

Eventually we always pacify the boat's sand-bar tantrum but some pacifications are more expensive than others. Most of the time, you can



push yourself off but you may need help if you were speeding and ran up on it pretty far like the *Ever Given*. These are the days that you need a tow.

Often a fellow boater, under the protection of the Good Samaritan rule, will throw you a line and get you re-floated but sometimes the problem needs more muscle and skill. That's when you call for professional assistance.

A good start is to call the Coast Guard on channel 16. However, unless the distressed vessel is experiencing an emergency involving safety, i.e. sinking, fire, medical emergency, children at risk, floundering near a jetty or a bridge, etc., the Coast Guard will pass your request for assistance onto a civilian tow boat company and monitor the event until it is successfully resolved.

There are a couple towing companies in the Ocean City area. The biggest is TowBoatUS located on the West Ocean City commercial channel. All their skippers have their master

captain license plus the "assistance towing endorsement." I think that means that they know how to secure a towline to a Sampson Post – that oversized cleat in the center stern of the tow boat – and pay out the correct length of tow line to keep both boats in step to avoid shock loading of the tow lines and stressing the deck fittings.

With a half dozen boats of varying size, draft, horsepower and range they can typically get to a distressed boater within forty-five minutes in the bay.

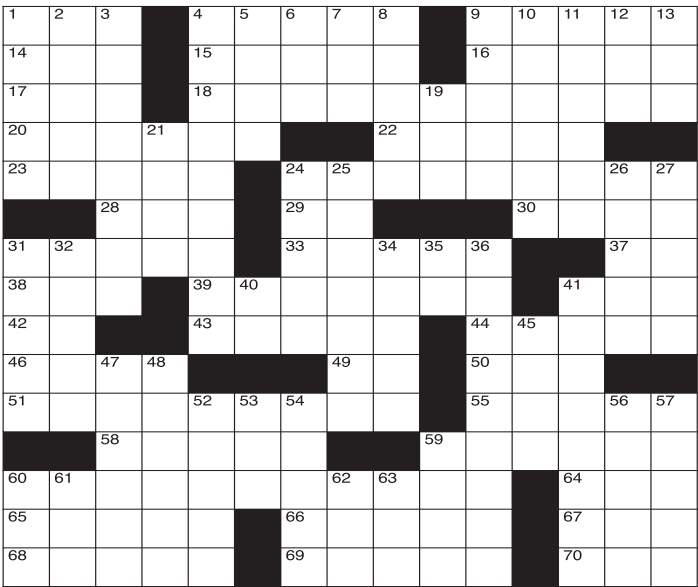
Response times in the ocean are more problematic. TowBoatUS's largest boat has a range of 80 miles which means it can get out to the fishing canyons but its maximum speed is only around 12 knots (13-14 MPH). Therefore, it could take 4 hours to get

there and the towing speed on the return trip is even slower– typically five to six knots - because it is dictated by the hull speed of the boat being towed.

But groundings aren't the only problem. The other is loss of boat integrity – mechanical failure or water failing to stay outside the boat.

The Coast Guard technically refers to the later as "free communication with the sea." I call it a hole in the boat; in which case, beaching it or purposely running it up on a normally dreaded sandbar to avoid sinking isn't a bad idea, especially if you can't bail or pump faster than you're taking on water. If you do sink, the Coast Guard will be focused on passenger safety while the tow boat company salvages your 'hole in the water that you (normally only) pour money into.'

The most common electro-mechanical failure is that the engine quits and the most common cause is no fuel.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Pituitary hormone (abbr.)

4. Ceramic jars

9. Monetary units

14. Alias

15. "Superman" actor

16. Britonic tribe

17. Shorten

18. LA Dodgers manager

20. Hoarded

22. Theatrically portray

23. Noah's grandson

24. Dependent

28. Peyton's little brother

29. Cools the house

30. Principle part of

31. Type of wrap

33. Peels

37. Commercial

38. Make an attempt

39. Arrange in steps
41. U. Utah athlete

42. Old English

43. Trade

44. Nostrils

46. Ticket seller __Hub

49. Of I

50. Institute legal proceedings against

51. Takes apart

55. Doorway

58. Long int'l river

59. Trailblazing athlete Gibson

60. Former CBS News host

64. Sign language

65. Badgerlike mammal

66. Thin strips of wood

67. Brooklyn hoopster

68. Portents of good or evil

69. Footwear

70. When you think you'll arrive

CLUES DOWN

1. Batflower genus

2. Predatory seabirds

3. Fish farm

4. Arrangements

5. Go in advance of others

6. Bulgarian monetary unit

7. " __ Maria"

8. W. African ethnoreligious group

9. Wild Asian oxen genus

10. Vinegary

11. To this

12. Explosive

13. Female sibling

19. Orlando museum (abbr.)

21. Type of hoop

24. About Holy Father

25. Academic environment

26. Extremely angry

27. Surrenders

31. Swiss mountain pass
32. Sharp mountain ridge

34. Erases

35. Spielberg's alien

36. Absurd

40. Dorm worker

41. Used to make pesticides

45. The sister of your father or mother

47. A way to let know

48. Can't produce much vegetation

52. Small streams

53. Folk singer DiFranco

54. Weights

56. Start over

57. Black Sea resort city

59. Wimbledon champ

60. Corporate executive (abbr.)

61. Unskilled actor who overacts

62. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!

63. Of or relating to ears



Answers for April 7

please see **knots** on page 15

Flags for Heroes returns in May

The Rotary Club of Ocean City/Berlin and the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation are partnering to offer local people a unique way to honor a "hero" in their lives.

On Armed Forces Day, May 15, through the Fourth of July, a colorful display of flags will fly in Veterans Memorial Park along Route 589 in Ocean Pines. Each flag will honor a local hero.

"We all know a hero, someone who has impacted our lives," Memorial Foundation President Marie Gilmore said. "Perhaps there was a teacher, physician, mentor, family member or friend who has inspired you. Perhaps you wish to honor someone who has served or is serving in the Armed Forces."

Flag sponsorships are \$50. Each flag will include a medallion with the sponsor's name and the name of their chosen hero. The cutoff date to sponsor a flag is May 10 and all orders must be received by then.

Make checks payable to: Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation, with "Flags for Heroes" written in the memo line. One check may be written

for multiple flags at \$50 each. Mail checks to WCVMF, P.O. Box 1576, Ocean Pines, MD 21811.

All proceeds will benefit student education and outreach projects, community charities, and the Rotary Club's Scholarship fund.

Flags for Heroes also includes multiple sponsorship opportunities, and all major sponsors will be named on a large

Public Works yard to open

The Ocean Pines Public Works yard will be open to Ocean Pines residents May 1 to 28 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays.

Yard debris may be dropped off during this time. Only loose yard debris, such as leaves and limbs, is accepted. Yard debris may also be placed in paper bags. Plastic bags are not allowed.

Other debris should be taken to the Worcester County landfill. For more information, visit www.co.worcester.md.us/departments/publicworks/waste/facilities.

Republic Services customers may

sign on Route 589, near the flag display.

"Any project like this needs funding," Gilmore said. "We are hoping that our community business partners would want to join with us and make this effort a success. We hope that you will want to be part of this very moving tribute to local heroes."

For more details, email cliff0917@aol.com.

place up to four additional bags of leaves or yard debris curbside for each scheduled pickup. Republic will also pick up branches if they are tied in bundles no longer than 4 feet and weighing no more than 50 pounds.

Trash collection days for residents south of Route 90 are Tuesday and Friday. For residents north of Route 90, the collection days are Monday and Thursday.

Ocean Pines is not currently offering bulk pickup, because the practice was determined to be cost prohibitive.

For more information, contact Public Works at 410-641-7425.

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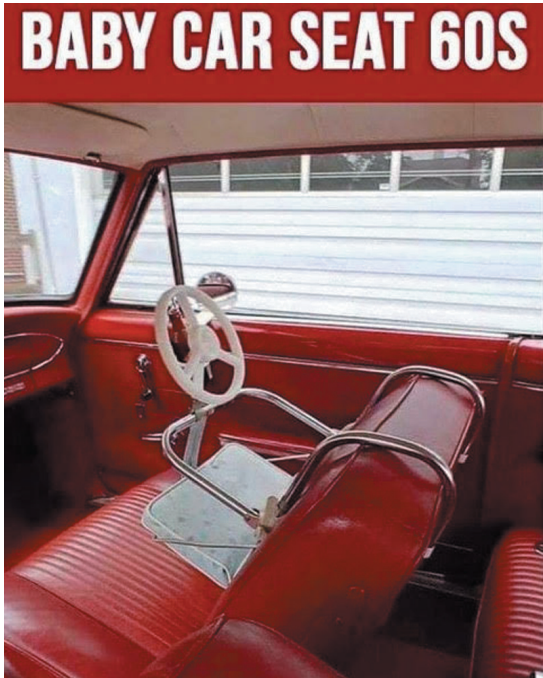


Apart from being exhausted,
financially unstable,
nearing a mental breakdown
and being fat,
everything is great.
Thanks.

I think the real reason this generation is so angry is because their music sucks.

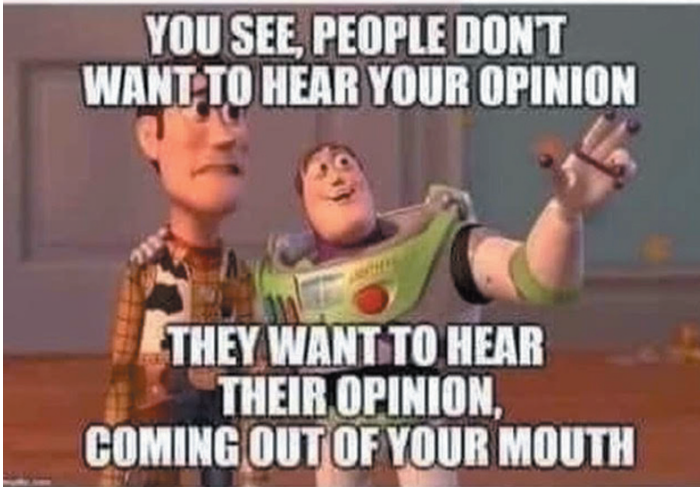
Some things to think about

Gathered from the internet by **Jack Barnes**



BEWARE OF THE NEW SCAM ON EBAY

I BOUGHT MY WFE SOME STUNNING JEWELRY AND WHEN IT ARRIVED IT WAS FISHING GEAR



My wife just stopped and said,
"You weren't even listening were you?"

I thought...
"that's a pretty weird way to start a conversation?"



Visit - Home Instead recently partnered for the coming season with the Delmarva Shorebirds. TO recognize the association Shorebirds mascot **Sherman** visited client **Richard Yankowsky** (right), and his caregiver **Krystal Craig**.

Follow safety guidelines while in Ocean Pines waterways

Boaters in Ocean Pines canals are encouraged to obey speed limits and follow all Maryland boating laws.

All canals within Ocean Pines always have a 6-knot speed limit, according to Sgt. Andrew Wilson, a supervisor with the Maryland Natural Resources Police.

“Speeding causes increased wake, which can cause additional erosion or damage to unprotected and under-protected shorelines,” Wilson said. “Our officers are responsible for patrolling all of Maryland’s waterways and enforcing all boating, conservation and criminal laws on those waterways.”

The harbor at the Yacht Club Marina is also a no-wake zone, to help prevent damage to the docks and boats.

Wilson said Ocean Pines residents may see Natural Resources Police in the area as part of normal patrol operations, or because of a complaint.

All boaters are asked to follow Maryland boating laws:

- Boaters born on or after July 1,

1972 must carry a National Association of State Boating Law Administrators-approved certificate of boating safety education when operating a motorized boat on Maryland waters. For more information, visit www.dnr.maryland.gov/boating or call 410-643-8502.

- Bow riding, or sitting on the edge of a moving boat, is illegal. A fall from the bow could put someone in the path of the boat’s propeller, causing severe injury or death.

- Life jackets must be the proper size for the intended wearer, in good serviceable condition and readily accessible. All recreational boats must carry one wearable life jacket (type I, II, III or V) for each person aboard.

- Any boat 16 feet or longer – except canoes and kayaks – must also carry one throwable type IV life jacket.

- Children under 13 must wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket while on a recreational vessel under 21 feet in length on Maryland waters. It

please see **safety** page 15

Help protect your family’s inheritance

Submitted by **John Bennish**
Financial Advisor, Edward Jones

You might contribute to your IRA for decades to help pay for your retirement. But if you don’t need all the money, you may want to leave what’s left to your children or grandchildren. However, if you want to ensure they get the most from this inheritance, you’ll need to do some planning.



John Bennish

Here’s a little background: Up until a couple of years ago, when you left the proceeds of your IRA to your beneficiaries, they could choose to “stretch” required withdrawals over a long period, based on their life expectancies. These required withdrawals were generally taxable, so this “stretch IRA” allowed your beneficiaries to greatly reduce the annual taxes due, while benefiting from longer tax-deferred growth po-

tential. And the younger the beneficiary, the longer the life expectancy and the lower the withdrawals, so this technique would have been especially valuable for your grandchildren or even great-grandchildren.

Changes in laws affecting retirement accounts have significantly limited the stretch IRA strategy. Now, most non-spouse beneficiaries must withdraw all assets from the IRA within 10 years of the IRA owner’s death. The beneficiary generally does not have to take out any money during that 10-year period, but at the end of it, the entire balance must be withdrawn – and that could result in a pretty big tax bill.

The stretch IRA strategy can still be used for surviving spouses, beneficiaries who are no more than 10 years younger than the deceased IRA owner, and beneficiaries who are chronically ill or disabled. Minor children of the original account owner are also eligible for a stretch IRA – but only until

please see **bennish** page 14

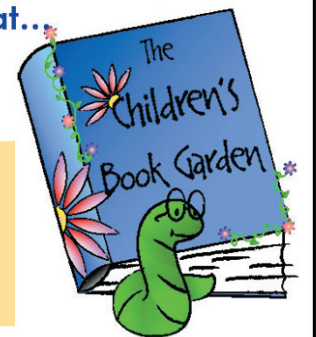
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O'Connor recognized

The Pine'er Craft Club of Ocean Pines has announced Barbara O'Connor as Crafter of the Month for April.

O'Connor was raised in Dobbs Ferry, New York and graduated from high school in 1957. Afterward, she worked at AT&T as an overseas telephone operator.

She met her husband, John, in 1960 and they were married in September 1961. This year, the couple will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary. Together, they have three children and three grandchildren.

O'Connor said she always enjoyed crafts, but didn't have much time to devote to projects until the children were all in school.

"In 1984, I took ceramic lessons and enjoyed making many different projects. It was satisfying taking greenware from start to finish, [but] my true love of crafts drifted me towards stained glass," she said.

"It was not until 1997, when we moved to Ocean Pines, that I thought about my love for glass and how I could start working in this beautiful art medium," she continued. "Fortunately, I found a local artist, Carolyn Massey, who taught me this beautiful

art form. After taking one class, I was hooked. To this day, I am still learning from this teacher and we became friends along the way."



O'Connor said she also enjoys creating fused glass projects.

"The one thing that puts this slightly above my stained glass work, is what I consider to be instant gratification," she said.

"Joining the Pine'er Craft Club in 1999 gave me the opportunity to meet some awesome ladies and men who have joined," she continued. "Being part of the Craft Club offers camaraderie, friendships, community outreach, craft fairs, and a sense of belonging to something with [a] shared interest. It has been one of the highlights of living in Ocean Pines and I thank everyone who welcomed me in."

View O'Connor's projects and other handmade items at the Artisan Gift Shop in White Horse Park, on 239 Ocean Parkway in Ocean Pines. The shop is open every Saturday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Grace Center announces new leadership

Geoff Failla, chair, and the Board of Directors for the Grace Center for Ma-



Jasmine Dennis



Leikia Hallett

ternal and Women's Health announced recently several new leadership positions that have recently been filled. A new executive director, Jasmine Dennis, and a new program manager for the Lower Shore Workforce Alliance R.I.S.E. program, Leikia Hallett, joined the team at the Center in late 2020.

Jasmine Dennis is in the unique position of knowing the inner workings of the Center from the inside out. She has been a client, volunteer, junior board member, vice chair of the board and now executive director. She is a lifelong resident of Worcester County. Jasmine holds a B.A. in Business Management from Salisbury University. In addition to the work she has done for the Grace Center, she has a long employment history in the area having served as the front desk manager for the Francis Scott Key Family Resort and assistant general manager/events

coordinator for NRG Sports/Food services.

With her prior background at the center, Jasmine has set several goals for the immediate future including to increase the credibility and reach of services, to build the team and to expand the use of volunteers at the center through the services of a volunteer coordinator who will begin work shortly.

Leikia (Kia) Hallett comes to the center after many years of experience working for Verizon Wireless in a variety of positions including technical support manager, customer experience manager, executive relations analyst and senior analyst business operations – executive relations. She holds a B.S. in Business from UMUC and an MBA from UMGC. Her role at the Grace Center is to coordinate all activities connected with the Workforce Development Grant from the Lower Shore Workforce Alliance for R.I.S.E. (Raising. Independent. Skilled. Employees.) Kia is responsible for supervising the two full-time and two part-time career advancement coordinators associated with the program. The goal of this program is to assist 16 to 24 year-olds who are unemployed or underemployed, receive the training and credentials necessary to improve their workplace potential.



trees
from page 6

Once the criterium is determined, the tree will be marked with orange spray paint

A green permit will be given to the homeowner with specific information on how many trees have been approved for removal

The homeowner must display the permit somewhere on the front of the home (such as a window, door, etc.) before and during the tree removal process

If a homeowner removes a tree without a permit:

Any tree removed must be replaced by tree(s) approved by the CPI Department per the Worcester County Mitigation Plan:

For every large tree removed without a permit, 200 points must be planted back, based on the county's "mitigation credit for native plant" scale

For every small tree removed without a permit, 100 points must be planted back, based on the county's "mitigation credit for native plant" scale

For questions, or to report a tree that was removed without a permit, contact the CPI Department at 410-641-7425.

bennish
from page 13

they reach the age of majority, at which time the 10-year rule applies.

So, if you want to leave your IRA to family members who don't meet any of the above exceptions, what can you do?

One possibility is a Roth IRA conversion. You could convert a traditional IRA to a Roth IRA over your lifetime, so your heirs would receive the Roth IRA. They would still be required to withdraw the assets within 10 years, but unlike with a traditional IRA, Roth IRA withdrawals are generally tax-free. These conversions are taxable, so you'll want to consult your tax professional in addition to your financial advisor, to determine if this strategy can help you achieve your legacy goals.

Another option is to purchase life insurance, which can provide a specific dollar amount to your heirs or be used to help cover additional taxes. This may be especially advantageous if you are 72 or

older, in good health, and taking withdrawals – technically called required minimum distributions – from your retirement accounts, such as your traditional IRA and your 401(k). If you don't really need the money, you can use these withdrawals to pay for some or all of the insurance premiums. Life insurance can't replace an IRA as a means to save for retirement, though, so you should consult with your financial advisor to make sure you are working toward all your goals.

In any case, if you have a sizable IRA or you don't need the funds that you're required to take from your retirement accounts, you may want to start thinking about what you want to do with the money. The more thorough your legacy planning, the better your chances of meeting your legacy goals.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor John Bennish, Ocean Pines. He can be reached at 410-208-9083. Edward Jones, Member SIPC.

safety
from page 13

must be the proper size and in good, serviceable condition.

- Children under 4 must wear a life jacket with added safety precautions as appropriate for an infant, toddler, or young child, including an inflatable headrest, web handle and crotch strap.

knots
from page 10

Oddly, the reason for no gas is not usually operator negligence. The culprit is usually a failed gas gauge. That's why it's a good practice to keep a log of your fuel consumption and if you start getting better efficiency – more engine running hours per gallon, check your gas tank sensor and console gauge. It's also a good idea to carry a spare can of gas until you figure out why you are suddenly getting miraculous engine performance.

Besides fuel issues, other failures like dead batteries, clogged filters, and broken fan belts can all bite you better than the fish bite your bait. That's why you need to consider having the tow company APP on your cell phone. You can always call them on the phone but the APP provides the tow company with your exact location thus eliminat-

- Don't drink and boat! A boat operator whose blood or breath analysis shows an alcohol concentration of 0.08 or greater is considered to be under the influence of alcohol and subject to criminal prosecution. Alcohol has a more dramatic effect on the body while boating.

- Operators of personal watercraft in Maryland must be at least 16 and pos-

ing a point of confusion that can delay arrival of assistance.

You should also consider a contract to pay for the occasional service. Without a contract, the pay-as-you-go rates can give new meaning to sticker shock.

As you read this column, you might think this will never happen to me. Okay, but you never know. Ocean City has seen a yachtsman circumnavigate the world only to hit the Route 50 Bridge. And, closer to home, we have had local recreational boaters call for help because their engine won't start only to find that their engine cut-off switch was inadvertently engaged. Duh. Murphy is everybody's second mate. Just ask the crew of the *Ever Given*.

Stay safe. Stay dry.

Dan Collins can be reached for comment at dancollins.ocean-pines@gmail.com.

sess a valid certificate of boating safety education. A personal watercraft must be operated at 6 knots or less when within 100 feet of a vessel, another personal watercraft, shore, wharf, pier, piling, bridge structure, abutment, or people in the water.

There is also a new federal law governing the use of engine cut-off switches, which is enforced by the U.S. Coast Guard. For more information, visit <https://uscgboating.org/recreational-boaters/engine-cut-off-switch-faq.php>.

For more information about boating laws and regulations, visit www.dnr.maryland.gov.

For general information, call 410-260-8880. For information about boating regulations and education, call 410-643-8502.

In case of an emergency, call the Natural Resources Police. To report an emergency, violation, or abandoned boat, call 410-260-8888. To report a missing, damaged, or misplaced buoy, call 410-643-6521.

Additional information can be found in the iPhone or Android app stores.

"Maryland Department of Natural Resources also has an app for cell phones and tablets that has information on boating speed zones, fishing and crabbing regulations, and hunting seasons that some may find to be beneficial," Wilson said.

Tides for Ocean City Inlet

Day	High /Low	Tide Time
Th 15	Low	4:42 AM
15	High	10:56 AM
15	Low	4:38 PM
15	High	11:13 PM
F 16	Low	5:24 AM
16	High	11:35 AM
16	Low	5:17 PM
16	High	11:54 PM
Sa 17	Low	6:10 AM
17	High	12:16 PM
17	Low	6:01 PM
Su 18	High	12:39 AM
18	Low	6:59 AM
18	High	1:02 PM
18	Low	6:51 PM
M 19	High	1:30 AM
19	Low	7:53 AM
19	High	1:56 PM
19	Low	7:47 PM
Tu 20	High	2:28 AM
20	Low	8:48 AM
20	High	2:56 PM
20	Low	8:47 PM
W 21	High	3:30 AM
21	Low	9:44 AM
21	High	3:59 PM
21	Low	9:49 PM

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