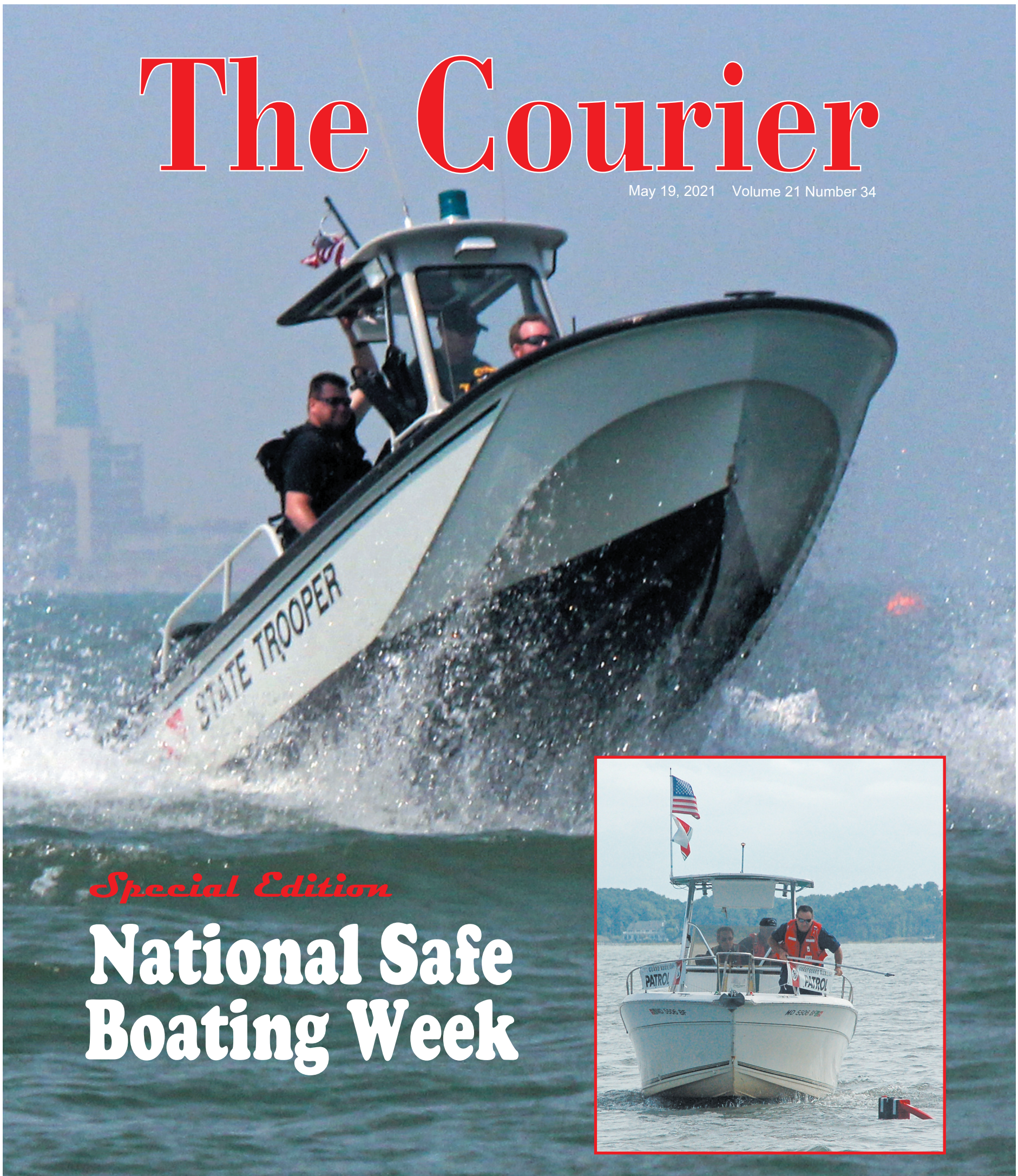


The Courier

May 19, 2021 Volume 21 Number 34



Special Edition

National Safe Boating Week





Celebrating
the 2021
Stephen Decatur High School
STRAIGHT A - TEAM



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Earning Straight As for 15 Consecutive Terms

#SeahawksSoar



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Morgan Carlson



Silas Cascio



Braelyn Clark



Gavin Conner



Luke Davis



Annabelle Derby



Macy Dill



Maeve Donahue



Alexis Graybill



Erika Holdren



Jessica Janney



Skyler Mahoney



Allison Marx



Samantha McManus



Josh Midley



Victoria Mueller



Melis Unal



Isabella Vazquez



Tiernan Weinstein

Stephen Decatur High School
9913 Seahawk Road
Berlin, Maryland 21811

Not Pictured Aiden Ciurca



New playground officially opens

A group of neighborhood children and their families joined Ocean Pines and local officials on Monday for a ribbon cutting ceremony at Robinhood Park.

Attendees included Maryland Del. Wayne Hartman, Ocean Pines Association President Larry Perrone, Recreation and Parks Director Debbie Donahue, members of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee, and Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce President Kerrie Bunting.

The ceremony officially opened a brand-new playground at the park, on Robin Hood Trail in Ocean Pines.

The brightly colored playground features several slides, monkey bars, a small rock-climbing wall, and a swing set.

Perrone did the honors in cutting the ribbon.

"First of all, I want to thank Debbie for all the hard work she's done," Perrone said.

He also thanked Public Works for demolishing the old structure and preparing the grounds for the new one, and the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee for recommending the playground replacement.

"And, of course, we want to thank all of the kids here for coming out to help us do the ribbon cutting," Perrone said.

"And they're going to take real good care of our playground!" Donahue added.

Ocean Pines pools to open at full capacity

Ocean Pines General Manager John Viola has announced that Ocean Pines pools will be open with no capacity limitations, in accordance with Gov. Larry Hogan's executive order lifting all existing capacity limitations at indoor and outdoor venues in Maryland, effective May 15.

"With the governor's latest announcement, we're excited to continue moving toward a return to normalcy," Viola said. "We're looking forward to a busy and successful summer at all of our amenities, including our five pools."

Masks will continue to be required indoors, including when entering and exiting pool bathrooms and enclosed lobby areas at the Mumford's Landing and Swim and Racquet Club pools. Normal deck and bather capacities still apply.

Masks are not currently required while swimming or on outdoor pool decks. Ocean Pines outdoor pools are scheduled to open for the season on Saturday, May 29.

Those wishing to use Ocean Pines pools may purchase an annual or seasonal membership or pay the daily entrance fee.

Discounted swim coupon cards, although included under "User Fees" in the FY2021-22 budget, will not be offered this year. However, Director of Finance Steve Phillips stated that the coupon cards were included in the budget to account for any existing "legacy" cards, whose expiration was extended through Oct. 1. Those cards may be used until that date.

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Holding the Line

A perspective from behind the badge

Commentary by **Matthew R. Bertino**

Monday May 9 was my first day back to work in about a month. I had been on orders with the Army to complete my Captain's Career Course. The alarm was set for 4:00 a.m. but I awoke at two finally giving up and getting out of bed at three to make a cup of coffee.

Trying not to wake my wife, my pre-work routine began, brushing my teeth, shaving, and showering. It was then time to put my uniform on, not my normal duty uniform; my Class A uniform with freshly cleaned leather and polished brass.

I spent about 10 minutes putting on my belt, taking it off to adjust my holster, putting it back on, taking it off again to adjust it a centimeter one way, then the other way. I stared at myself in the mirror checking everything over. Today things had to be perfect.

Four fifteen, out the door for a report time of six. Ahead of schedule but there was no way I was going to be late. I made my way to a church in Salisbury wandering around until I found where I was expected to park for the day.

The sun rose, glimmering on a gathering of Police Officers from around the community and around the country. In just a few hours I

would be one of more than two thousand sworn officers from Maryland and as far away as Fort Worth, TX. Today was like no other day I have ever experienced while on duty and hopefully unlike one I will ever experience again in my career.

In the early morning of April 25, 2021 Cpl. Keith Heacock of Delmar Police Department was dispatched alone to a reported fight. Arriving at the scene he was brutally ambushed by an unarmed suspect. When radio dispatchers were unable to contact Cpl. Heacock, Troopers from the Delaware State Police and Deputies from the Wicomico County Sheriff's Office were dispatched to his location. Cpl. Heacock was found unresponsive. Three days later Cpl. Heacock passed away from his injuries. He was murdered by an unarmed assailant, leaving behind a wife and son.

On this day, at a Salisbury church we came together to honor Cpl. Heacock to give him the send-off he deserved. I was a part of the cordon that would line the path from the parking lot to the church. I stood in line with Deputies, Officers, and Troopers from Maryland agencies facing a line of Officers and Troopers from Delaware agencies. We were given our instructions and practiced a few times. The officer in charge meticulously decided

how many would stand in line, where each would stand and gave us our instructions. "We're going to make this perfect for Keith, he deserves that much," he said. For the first time in my career, I did not hear one person complain.

Various agency vehicles entered the parking lot and surrounding area. To maintain agency integrity, Shorebirds Stadium was the staging location where they were organized before moving to the church. Vehicles formed up in the field and parking lot in front of the church. The pipes and drums arrived. Color Guards began lining the parking lot where the motorcade would enter. There were American, Maryland, Delaware, and agency flags for as far as the eye could see.

As officers milled about, old friends ran into each other, academy mates, old shift partners that had not seen each other in years. There was excitement in seeing each other and reconnecting, though the circumstances were the worst imaginable. When all the agencies had arrived, everyone was formed up to quickly rehearse how things would work. Although there was some time before the motorcade was to arrive you could hear a pin drop. Behind me was a group of officers from Florida and New York City.


I learned that they were the academy mates of Cpl. Heacock 22 years ago.

"Keith is on his way." We all stood quietly. It was overcast with a chilly breeze. Rain fell a few times throughout the day but cleared up quickly. A helicopter flew in the distance, one of the news choppers surely following the motorcade. We started hearing the distant rumble of the motorcycles escorting Cpl. Heacock. The ground vibrated though they were still about three miles away.

Over 100 police motorcycle escorts pulled up in front of the hearse carrying Cpl. Heacock, it took several minutes for them to pass and the hearse to stop in front of the casket detail. We stood silent as his family was escorted from their cars behind the hearse. Troopers from the Maryland State Police and Delaware State Police carried the casket of Cpl. Heacock through the cordon line, his family following behind. I choked up a bit as I saluted the flag-draped casket and saw his wife in tears, his mother being pushed in a wheelchair. The doors closed and we all continued to stand for a few moments. The officer in charge informed everyone when the pass and review would begin and allowed everyone to fall out.

We were able to go to several tents

please see badge on page 20



Statistics from the United States Coast Guard indicate that, in 2019, 86 percent of drowning victims in recreational boating accidents where cause of death was known were not wearing life jackets. The National Park Service (NPS) reports that drowning is the top cause of visitor deaths in national parks and that nearly all of those deaths are preventable. One of the simplest ways to prevent drowning is to follow the advice of the NPS and wear a life jacket at all times when near or in the water. This includes when wading, swimming, fishing, boating, and engaging in watersports or other water-related activities. The NPS notes that there are three types of life jackets, but only two come in child and infant sizes. Inherently buoyant (primarily foam) life jackets and hybrid (foam and inflation) life jackets are available in child and infant sizes. The NPS recommends both types of life jackets for swimmers and non-swimmers. People who intend to engage in water sports should know that some hybrid life jackets are designed specifically for such activities. The third type of life jacket is inflatable life jackets, which are only available in adult sizes and should never be worn by poor or non-swimmers.

The Courier Almanac

On May 19, 1536, Anne Boleyn, the infamous second wife of King Henry VIII, was executed on charges including adultery, incest and conspiracy against the king.

King Henry had become enamored of Anne Boleyn in the mid-1520s, when she returned from serving in the French court and became a lady-in-waiting to his first wife, Catherine of Aragon.

Dark-haired, with an olive complexion and a long, elegant neck, Anne was not said to be a great beauty, but she clearly captivated the king. As Catherine had failed to produce a male heir, Henry transferred his hopes for the future continuation of his royal line to Anne, and set about getting a divorce or annulment so he could marry her.

**The
Courier**

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A boat's mystique

For those of you who have read this column during the past decade, you know that I love boating and that my boat is my mistress. My wife has said that I'd probably pause a little too long before an-

are now considered classics. I'm sure though that many of them were long ago destroyed.

It pains me when I see an old boat in someone's yard just wasting away, overgrown with vegetation. I can almost hear the boat pleading to be returned to the water one last time. I know that sounds crazy. My wife says I'm a "boat whisperer" and maybe she's right. If I could spend my time any way I wanted, I would love to re-



It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

swering whether she or my boat is more important to me. I don't think I'd hesitate when giving the answer; but I would have to sleep on the boat for awhile.

When I was a child, I had a fleet of plastic boats that I played with in the tub or on the floor or, during the summer, on the sandbars behind my grandparents' home at the shore. For hours I would play, pulling the boats behind me with a long string or building marinas out of sand and twigs. I would use fishing sinkers as anchors. My grandfather wasn't too happy when I would raid his tackle box for another "anchor" for yet another toy boat.

My favorite toy boat was a blue and green cabin cruiser. I don't know why, but it was. Although this particular boat was one of several dozen in my fleet, it was first among equals, usually getting the best slip in any marina I constructed. I believe it is drydocked (read: in a bag filled with my old toys) in my attic.

Runabouts under 20 feet have always held a particular interest with me. These are the types of boats with which I grew up. Down the street from my grandparents' house was Hap's Pier. In addition to the fishing pier, he had an anchorage that accommodated about 15 or 20 boats that were owned by what we called "weekenders" who came down to go fishing on the weekends. The boats weren't fancy really but to me they all had a personality. My brother and I nicknamed many of them. There was the "Bat Boat," the "Gold Boat," "Baldi's Boat" and "Hap's Brother's Boat." The monikers may not have been terribly creative but they worked for us. As I write this, I can still see many of them floating at their moorings on a tranquil summer day.

When the tide went out and the boats were resting quietly on the sandbars, I would walk around them to get a closer look. Occasionally, old man Hap would chase me away. Many of those old boats

store old boats, making them water-worthy again so that families wanting a boat but unable to afford one could enjoy the pleasure that is boating. Boating brings families together in ways that are undeniable and most important. Not only that but boating helps build a lot of family memories. That has certainly been the case with my family.

My first boat was an eight-foot wooden row boat built by my grandfather. I loved it and spent countless hours in her rowing, fishing or just sitting listening to the water lap her hull. It was time well spent.

I've had many experiences during the years I've been boating. As a teenager I once got caught in a storm on the Delaware Bay. Black clouds and wind came up unexpectedly and scared the you-know-what out of me. The episode lasted about fifteen minutes but seemed like forever. I rode it out and in the process got a whole lot smarter about the fury of nature.

I've had more than my fair share of engine problems, especially with the old outboards we had when I was a kid. They usually got me to my fishing destination but conked out on the way in. Thankfully I always had an alternate propulsion system: oars.

There are many memories of experiences and people that come to mind when I think about boating such as fishing with my grandfather and father-in-law; my children, my grandchildren and my nieces and nephews diving off the bow of our boat, splashing around in the water. I think about a girlfriend who was forced to keep my boat from getting beached after the engine broke down and I had to get help. I eventually married that girl just to make it up to her.

It's been a long time since I played with toy boats and constructed marinas in the sand. Oh, but what an influence that time has had on me over the years!



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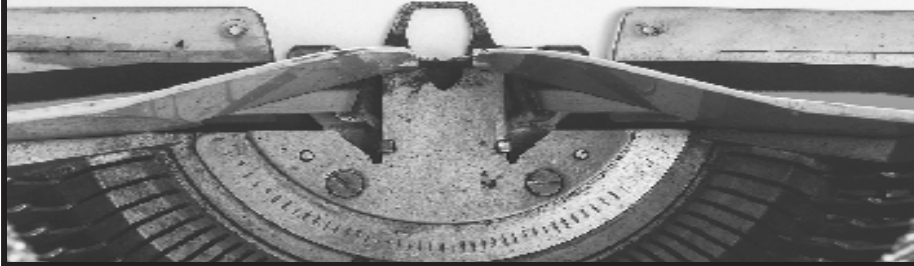
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What's your story?



Seahawks take games to next level

Fourteen Stephen Decatur High School student athletes will be taking their games to the next level in a variety of sports. The student athletes were recognized in a small signing ceremony in the school gymnasium on May 5 along with family members and coaches.

Left to right: Back row: **Koby Higgins** (Lacrosse - Hartford Community College), **Riley Rayne** (Lacrosse - Randolph Macon), **Eric Cropper** (Baseball - Hood College), **Evan Truitt** (Baseball - Charleston Southern University), **John James** (Lacrosse - Hampden Sydney).

Middle row: **Rafe Parsons** (Football - Bridgewater College), **James Parana** (Wrestling - West Colorado State University), **Adison Hommel** (Lacrosse - Weber International University), **Patrick O'Halloran** (Soccer - Goucher College).

Front row: **Katie Davis** (Golf - Hood College), **Brooklynn Pugner** (Volleyball - Washington College), **Brittyn Leonard** (Lacrosse - Frostburg State University), **Juliana Fohner** (Lacrosse - Shenandoah University), **Victoria Mueller** (Lacrosse - University of Mary Washington).



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Sponsors sought for sold-out pickleball tournament

The Ocean Pines Pickleball Club is seeking sponsors for the 2021 Summer Classic Pickleball Tournament, scheduled June 12-13 at the Ocean Pines Racquet Center.

The event drew more than 180 competition players from 15 states in 2018 and 2019. Registration this year is already full, with 200 players from multiple states set to take part.

"This year we are expecting even more players and more excitement," tournament organizer Chris Shook said.

Shook said the Pickleball Club is increasing the number of sponsorships this year, to allow more local companies to have a presence during the tournament.

Sponsorship levels and benefits are as follows:

Gold Tournament Sponsor, \$500

-Large banner advertising for one year; primary locations at the Ocean Pines Racquet Center

-Courtside banner advertising for one year; eight banners with gold sponsors at eight courtside locations

-The option for a company information table at the Ocean Pines Racquet Center on June 12-13

-Exclusive sponsorship in business category

-Sponsorship listed, with a link to company's website on the Pickleball Den reservation app

-Banner advertising on the Ocean Pines Pickleball Club website

-Sponsorship listed and a link to company's website for 12 weeks in the Ocean Pines Pickleball Club newsletter

-Public appreciation announcements during the tournament weekend

-Press exposure as a sponsor in Ocean Pines Pickleball Club news releases

-Community goodwill

Silver Tournament Sponsor, \$250

-Large banner advertising for one year; primary locations at the Ocean Pines Racquet Center

-Banner advertising on the Ocean Pines Pickleball Club website

-Sponsorship listed and a link to

company's website for 12 weeks in the Ocean Pines Pickleball Club newsletter

-Public appreciation announcements during the tournament weekend

-Press exposure as a sponsor in Ocean Pines Pickleball Club news releases

-Community goodwill

"Pickleball is now the fastest growing sport in the U.S. and lends itself perfectly to our local demographics," Shook said. "We expect many more years of growth in our tournament and in our sport. Please consider teaming up with the Ocean Pines Pickleball Club for this tournament event."

To secure a sponsorship, make a \$500 or \$250 check out to the Ocean Pines Pickleball Club, and mail it to Treasurer Ron Kurtz, 1-B Canvasback Court, Ocean Pines, Maryland 21811.

For questions or more information, contact Kurtz at rkurtzcpa@gmail.com.

Virtual cooking session offered

TidalHealth Nanticoke's Diabetes Support Group meets regularly to share education, information and peer support about managing diabetes and living well with the condition. The group has been meeting virtually since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On May 27 from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., the group will have a special session hosted by the American Heart Association Simple Cooking with Heart Kitchen – a real-time, virtual cooking class featuring healthy, delicious, and easy recipes. The featured recipe is Shredded Beef with Bok Choy and Carrots. The free class requires registration; register online at <https://app.mainstreet-sites.com/dmn2346/class.aspx?cls=787811>

The registration site includes the recipe, so participants will know what ingredients they need to follow along in their own kitchens.

For more information about the TidalHealth Nanticoke Diabetes Support Group, call 302-629-6611 x2288.



Artist at work - Students in Heather Riser's 3D Art classes at Berlin Intermediate School created pinch pot succulent planters in clay. Their designs were based on animals or mythical creatures. Students used technology to assist them in painting their designs with watercolor paints. Many went home for Mother's Day gifts. **Alivia James** used the image of the Scarlet Macaw to help get her pinch pot painted just right.

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 **TheCourierofOceanPines**

SECURE Act basics: what everyone should know

Presented by **Mark E. Engberg, CFP**

We live in an ever-changing financial landscape and staying on top of things can be difficult. But your financial professional can be a key partner in understanding how new laws and changes in tax policies can impact your retirement saving and investments.



Mark Engberg

In late 2019, the government passed the Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement (SECURE) Act, which could benefit retirees and retirement savers, as well as parents and college students. Here are six key changes—and what they could mean for you.

1. RMDs kick in at 72: IRS-mandated required minimum distributions (RMDs) from tax-deferred retirement accounts now begin at 72 instead of 70½.

The fine print: The deadline for taking your first RMD, which increases income and may push you into a higher tax bracket, is April 1 of the calendar year following the year in which you turn 72, then December 31 every RMD after. Failure to take RMDs on time results in a 50% penalty.

2. IRA contributions aren't restricted by age: Contributions to traditional IRAs are now permitted no matter your age, so long as you have earned income.

The fine print: Whether you're working or not, you'll still be subject to RMDs.

3. Inherited IRAs must be depleted within a decade: Other than a spouse, most inheritors of retirement accounts must now deplete those assets within 10 years. There are exceptions for a minor child and a few other categories.

The fine print: The new rule could generate significant taxable income for inheritors. If assets remain after 10 years, inheritors face a penalty equal to 50% of the undistributed amount.

4. 401(k)s are available to more part-time workers: Employers are now required to offer their workplace retirement plans to part timers with three consecutive years of service of at least 500 hours

per year, in addition to employees with more than 1,000 hours over 12 months.

The fine print: Newly qualified part-time employees can save money on a pre-tax basis—and capture an employer match, if it's offered.

5. 529s can be used to pay back student loans: Owners of 529 college savings accounts can now use up to \$10,000 to repay student loans for the account's primary beneficiary or siblings or stepsiblings.

The fine print: Those with excess 529 assets now have another penalty-free way to use them—though such funds would typically be used first to pay current college expenses.

6. Retirement savings can be

used for adoption and birth costs: Account owners can now withdraw up to \$5,000 from a 401(k) (if the plan allows) or an IRA to pay for qualified adoption or birth expenses without penalty.

The fine print: Parents may be able to avoid taking on debt to cover such expenses, but tapping retirement funds early could put your long-term savings goals at risk.

If you have any questions related to the SECURE Act or other financial issues affecting you and your family, feel free to contact me. There is no cost or obligation and I'll help assure you are making well informed decisions about your financial future.

Mark Engberg, CFP® is the

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ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY Monday, May 31, 2021 11 a.m.



In the event of inclement weather the ceremony will move to the Ocean Pines Community Center. Check Oceanpines.org, OPVets.org or FB for weather related changes.

Honoring Those Who Made the Ultimate Sacrifice and their Families
All are welcome - please bring your lawn chairs.



Captain Ron's
Fish Tales

By Ron Fisher

Bluefish are fun to catch

Fishing report: Good reports of flounder being caught in and around the thorofare. Striper fishing is good around the Rt. 50 Bridge. In the surf Stripers, Black Drum and Bluefish are hot.

Regulations: Minimum size to keep is 8". Daily creel limit fishing from shore or private boat is 3 fish per day. Season: Open year-round.

What is a bluefish: A bluefish can grow 40 to 45 inches in length and can weigh up to 30 pounds. It has a large mouth and strong jaws with sharp teeth. The bluefish eats squid and small schooling fish such as menhaden. It will attack and feed on prey with its sharp teeth and will kill another fish just for the sake of killing it.

Will they attack humans? Bluefish have been known to bite humans who wander too close to a school of fish being hunted. I had a personal experience in 1962 while fishing at Patuxent River Maryland. We were fishing in the bay at night off a lighted sea wall when a large school of bluefish came in attacking a school of Bunker. A fisherman about 20 ft. from us fell into the school and was bitten so bad he had to be taken to the dispensary at the naval base.

Where should I fish for bluefish? Bluefish can show up anywhere in the bays or surf. I've caught them at Harbor Island, Rt. 50 Bridge, South Bay and North Bay. Watch for schooling fish and birds as they like to feed on debris from the feeding frenzy.

What should I use: I recommend a medium action rod and reel with 15 to 20lb. test line and a wire leader with an Anglers clip. The wire leader is to keep the blues from biting your line off. With regards to bait, almost anything will work such as, squid strips, cut mullet, live minnows, plugs, bucktails, etc.

Are bluefish good to eat?

They have a reputation for being a very strong fish although many people eat them. Some smoke them others marinate and grill them. Here is a great recipe from the Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen's Alliance.

Triple citrus grilled bluefish

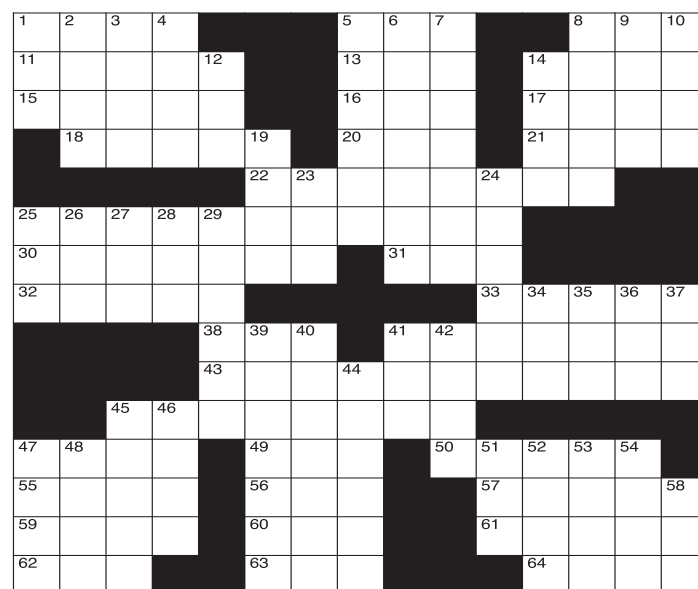
Ingredients: 1 cup orange juice, ¼ cup fresh lime juice, ¼ cup fresh lemon juice, ¼ cup olive oil, 1 tablespoon dry white wine (or white wine vinegar), salt and ground black pepper to taste, ¼ cup lemon pepper seasoning, 2 bluefish fillets.

Directions: Pour orange juice, lime juice, lemon juice, olive oil and white wine into a large glass bowl. Add salt, pepper and lemon pepper seasoning. Stir to



blend. Submerge the fish fillets into the bowl of marinade. Cover and marinate in the refrigerator for at least two hours. Preheat grill or grill pan for high heat. When the grill is hot, oil the grate with canola oil. Place fish fillets on the grill. Baste with marinade during the first half of cooking and discard remaining marinade. Cook for approximately four minutes on each side or until fish flakes with a fork. Transfer to a serving platter and enjoy.

Remember to take a kid fishing,
Capt. Ron

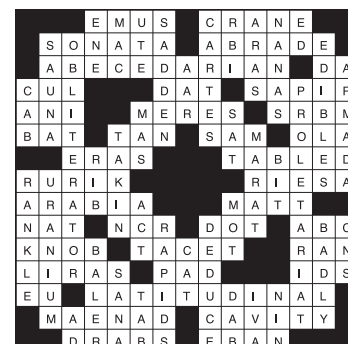


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Prevents harm to young
- 5. "Losing My Religion" rockers
- 8. Partner to pan
- 11. Cavalry unit
- 13. Peyton's little brother
- 14. Mexican dish
- 15. Disseminates info to the public
- 16. Set an animal on
- 17. Canadian flyers
- 18. Elongated mouths of arthropods
- 20. I (German)
- 21. Opposite of west
- 22. Glows
- 25. Measures how quickly a car moves
- 30. One who has gained wealth
- 31. Patti Hearst's captors
- 32. Extensive landed property
- 33. Male aristocrat
- 38. For each
- 41. More fidgety
- 43. Very happy
- 45. A place to store info
- 47. Helps to heal
- 49. 12th month (abbr.)
- 50. Broad, shallow craters
- 55. Nocturnal S. American rodent
- 56. Frost
- 57. Ethiopian town
- 59. Curved shapes
- 60. Company that rings receipts
- 61. Spiritual leader
- 62. Sheep native to Sweden
- 63. Cars need it
- 64. Partner to relaxation

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Scientist's high-resolution tool (abbr.)
- 2. Type of school
- 3. Formal close (music)
- 4. Transmits high voltage
- 5. A way to occupy a certain area
- 6. Draws out
- 7. His Airness
- 8. Nocturnal rodents
- 9. South American plants
- 10. Homestead
- 12. Bland or semiliquid food
- 14. Forest resident
- 19. The body needs it
- 23. Atomic mass unit (abbr.)
- 24. Spell
- 25. Relaxing place
- 26. Political fundraising tool
- 27. Make a mistake
- 28. Partner to Adam
- 29. Tyrant
- 34. Unit of electrical resistance
- 35. A history of one's life
- 36. Actor DiCaprio
- 37. Sea eagle
- 39. Avoiding being caught
- 40. ___ de Mornay, actress
- 41. Belonging to a thing
- 42. Not us
- 44. Motorcars
- 45. Capital of Bangladesh
- 46. Ancient Greek sophist
- 47. Practice boxing
- 48. ___ Grant, actor
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. S. Sudan river
- 53. A bumpkin
- 54. One point south of southwest
- 58. Small island (British)



Answers for May 12



Gratitude - During a volunteer picnic Saturday, members of the Ocean Pines Veterans Memorial Foundation presented **Marie Gilmore** (left), president of the organization, with a framed copy of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall That Heals that included images photographed by **Joe Reynolds** (right) from when the Wall was displayed last month at Veterans Memorial Park.

County accepting grant recovery applications

Local nonprofit organizations impacted by the current health pandemic are urged to apply for grant funds through the Worcester County Nonprofits Grant Recovery Program. Applications will be accepted through June 1, 2021.

Applications can be obtained online at www.co.worcester.md.us under Important Links. All completed applications must be emailed to kreynolds@co.worcester.md.us on or before June 1, 2021. "Nonprofit organizations that are physically located in Worcester County will be eligible to apply for grant funds," Worcester County Senior Budget Accountant Kim Reynolds said. "Grant funds may be used for reimbursable expenses occurring from March 1, 2020 through December 31, 2021 provided that COVID relief or other funding has not already been applied to those expenses."

Applicants should thoroughly review eligibility requirements and show there is a need for funding directly or indirectly related to the pandemic.

Submitting an incomplete or inaccurate application may render an applicant ineligible for program funding.

Funds of \$172,937 for the Local Nonprofits Grant Recovery Program were awarded to Worcester County as part of Maryland Recovery Now Funds issued through the Department of Housing and Community Development. Grant awards will be announced on or before June 30. For additional information, contact Reynolds by email or at (410) 632-1194.

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Land Trust to hold pollinator garden tour

On Friday, June 25, and Saturday, June 26, the Lower Shore Land Trust (LSLT) will hold its first-ever Garden Tour. The tour will be self-guided and cover nine Pollinator-Friendly gardens across Maryland's Lower Eastern Shore.

Visit beautiful gardens located throughout the Lower Shore and gain inspiration and resources to incorporate native plants in your own



gardening projects. LSLT strives to promote good health and habitat for a variety of pollinators in urban and suburban settings on the Lower Shore by encouraging conservation landscaping. LSLT manages a certification program to provide resources for people who wish to implement practices that support pollinator habitat. Residential, suburban and rural properties are all important across the landscape in providing critical habitat for pollinators and other wildlife.

This inaugural event will support efforts to increase pollinator habitat, promote the use of native landscaping, raise awareness for the benefits of pollinators and promote the LSLT Pollinator Certification Program. Featured gardens reflect a variety of garden styles beneficial to butterflies, pollinating insects and birds.

A highlight of the Pollinator Garden Tour will be the raffle of "Beehives and Butterflies", an original oil painting by artist Laura Jenkins valued at \$750. The painting conveys the artist's eye for color and love for nature. Raffle tickets are \$20 each or 3 for \$50. See the painting online or visit the Lower Shore Land Trust Conservation Center in Snow Hill during the Garden Tour.

Tickets for the tour are \$25 in advance or \$30 day-of. They can be purchased online at www.lowershorelandtrust.org. For sponsorship opportunities or more information call 443-234-5587 or email info@lowershorelandtrust.org.



Kayla Higgins of Berlin, who received her associate degree in general studies, shows off her decorated mortarboard.

Wor-Wic holds outdoor commencement ceremonies

Dr. Steven E. Leonard, president/CEO of TidalHealth, addressed the 2021 graduates, saying that it seemed like yesterday when he completed his paramedic certificate at a community college in upstate New York. He explained that the certificate he earned 25 years ago was his start in health care that contributed to where he is today.

Leonard reflected on the COVID-19 pandemic, telling the crowd that "each generation has experienced significant events that have challenged society, and as individuals we will surely face more at some point in time." Then he offered a few suggestions to help the graduates as they enter the next phase of their lives, battling a global pandemic, or, more likely, managing challenge and change.

Leonard told the graduates that growth never stops, or at least it never should. He said that success can be reached, or at least the risk of failure can be mitigated, by constantly challenging themselves to learn new things, acquire new skills and be open to growth and development. He added that learning new skills and the ability to adapt are invaluable.

"Look for others who can help ... guide you on this path," he said, explaining that they should find a good mentor who will give them honest feedback. Leonard added that they

must be open to feedback, as it is a necessary part of growth, even if what they hear might not be what they want to hear.

He suggested that they also look for an organization where they can develop relationships, saying that they should find a place that can help them grow and develop, that looks at them not just as someone who can do a job, but as an invaluable member of a team. In the end, both parties should be motivated to maximize your potential and support every member of the team.

"There is no way to do everything on your own when dealing with challenge and change - pandemics or otherwise," Leonard said. "Teams are like families - we work, we argue, we debate, we improve, we connect, and we're there for each other. It's in a shared purpose of developing a product or service, or in our case, caring for the community, that we all benefit and find value and meaning - and ultimately meet the mission ... It's important to work on problems, it's important to improve our work, challenge and debate each other. We need to be comfortable doing that."

Leonard also pointed out that no one is perfect, but that we have much more in common to build from than our differences. He concluded his re-

please see commencement on page 19

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National
SAFE
BOATING
WEEK

May 22 - 28, 2021



Federal boating act aided safety

By Dan Collins

On Sunday, May 2, a spectacular rescue occurred when, as a result of a five-vehicle accident on the Route 90 Bridge, an 18-month-old toddler plunged about 25 feet into the cold, 57-degree water of Assawoman Bay. An anonymous Good Samaritan jumped in and got to the baby who was floating face down only moments away from drowning. A hero indeed.

Also involved in this great rescue was the Oertel family who were cruising nearby in their pontoon boat. Alayna Oertel was following the good safe boating practice of maintaining a lookout. She saw something in the water and informed her dad at the helm. Joe, in turn maneuvered into a position to bring the persons-in-the-water on board over the stern. Mrs. Oertel immediately wrapped the chilled baby in a blanket to abate potential hypothermia and Mr. Oertel proceeded to shore and Ocean City rescue units. The Oertel family's handling of this emergency is boat safety course 101 textbook performance!

That kind of a reaction to a situation has not always been the case. In fact, during the post WWII happy days, muscle car era of the 1950s and 60s, recreational boating was borderline dangerous. In 1971, the year when President Nixon signed the Federal Safe Boating Act (FSBA), there were 1,580 deaths. That was 20.6 deaths per 10,000 boats.



The FSBA empowered the creation of recreational boater education programs and funded states to enact safe boating laws. It also gave the United States Coast Guard the responsibility to set safety standards for the manufacture of boats and marine equipment.

Today, the FSBA has facilitated an atmosphere of safety on the water. Every state has a safe boating class and certification for boat operators and legal provisions to address Boating Under the Influence (BUI). Likewise, national organizations like the US Power Squadron and the US Coast Guard Auxiliary provide annual free recreational boat safety inspections to assure the fundamental safety equipment like life jackets, fire extinguishers, horns, flares, and documents are in order. The Coast Guard also approves the seaworthiness of boat designs and approves their capacity limitations and their safety equipment requirements.

We celebrate the 50th anniversary of FSBA this year with the recognition that on-water fatalities and other accident metrics have decreased dramatically over the half century. As of 2019 (most recent data), the fatality rate has dropped to 5.2 deaths per 10,000 boats but like the Covid-19 daily statistics, they are not zero and they still hurt.

National Safe Boating Week (NSBW) is the annual marine safety awareness event to help stop the hurting. It is usually scheduled for the week before Memorial Day and focuses on key safety messages. Wearing a life jacket is always number one since most recreational boat fatalities are drownings and about 86% of the victims are not wearing a personal flotation device, a life jacket.

Another NSBW point of awareness this year is the new federal law requiring the use of an engine cutoff switch (ECOS). This device will stop the engine if there is no helmsperson. Typically, the helmsperson will be attached to the switch on the console by a lanyard. If the helmsperson should leave his/her post such as to attend to an emergency elsewhere on the boat or if the helmsperson was accidentally thrown out of the boat, the motor will shut off.

The Coast Guard and the USCG Auxiliary are planning an exhibition on the Ocean City boardwalk at the Trimper Amusement Pier from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 22, to give everyone a chance to see one of the Coast Guard's 24-foot boats up close and to learn more about boat safety. There will be folks available to discuss safety issues, seamanship, free boat inspections, safe boating class, marine environment protection as well as fun and games for the children. Join the fun.

Stay safe. Stay dry.



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Offshore fishing safety

By **Dick Michael**
Ocean City Power Squadron

When you are fishing ocean waters, besides bait, tackle and plenty of fuel, there are a number of additional items of worthy consideration including offshore weather, getting home and communicating beyond VHF radio range.

Probably the most important is weather. You can check the local forecast, but what's it like offshore? The National Weather Service is a good place to start. They offer both an inshore forecast out 20NM and offshore 20-100 NM. In addition, there are a number of Apps for your phone both free and for a fee that provide detailed weather forecasts. Apps such as Buoyweather, Windy and others provide information on offshore wind and seas.

Float plans provide someone the knowledge of where you are going and when you expect to return. A float plan document should include: description of the vessel, number of persons onboard, destination, contact information and timeframe of the outing. The float plan may also include pertinent health issues of a passenger. This information can then be left with someone to provide to

emergency responders if you are long overdue.

Now that we know what the weather is going to be and have a float plan, the next thing is getting there, and more importantly getting back. Probably everyone fishing offshore has a GPS/Chart-plotter in which you can enter a waypoint for the "hot spot" you are fishing today and use your home-port waypoint for the return. But what happens if it quits working - and it can happen. On a delivery of an Ocean sport-fisherman from Ft. Lauderdale to the Chesapeake Bay the chart plotter went kaput. Running offshore beyond sight of land there is no ready reference. Luckily a handheld GPS was onboard as backup. Without a backup GPS, another approach is to take note of your course going out because the return course is 180 degrees from your morning run. So, if you head East in the morning on a course of 90 degrees course your return is 270 degrees. This approach works for all courses, not just the simple East/West example. Another good approach is to have an onboard list of compass courses from your favorite fishing spots to your home port.

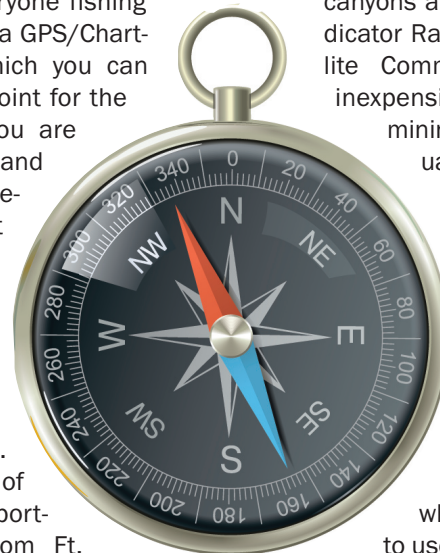
The ability to communicate in an emergency situation is also an important consideration. Cellphones and VHF radios are nice when you are within range, but both of these are line of sight devices. Maximum range varies for both

devices, cellular range is very limited and VHF range is 5-10 NM and maybe 20 NM to a USCG station depending on the height of the receive and transmit antennas. Two options when fishing offshore wrecks or going 50+ NM out to the canyons are an Emergency Position Indicator Radio Beacon (EPIRB) or Satellite Communications. Neither are inexpensive but cost is not the determining factor in an emergency situation.

An EPIRB or a Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) is an excellent addition to your safety gear and will make it much easier for rescue crews to find you in an emergency. EPIRBs and PLBs are able to transmit your location and your identity to rescue teams from anywhere on the globe and are free to use once you purchase the unit. Neither device is inexpensive, \$300-\$500, but over a 10-year life \$30-50/year may be worth the cost to notify responders in an emergency.

Satellite messaging devices such as SPOT Satellite Messenger and Garmin inReach are another option which allow text messaging, tracking and emergency notification. Some models also have a GPS waypoint routing functionality in case your chart plotter should fail. Purchase prices are in the same range as EPRIB/PLB's but there is an additional subscription costs to use the service.

Visit the Ocean City Power Squadron website at ocusps.org for additional safe boating information, including the next Boating Safety class beginning June 8, and other nautical links. Remember that being prepared will enable you to handle what may come your way offshore. Be safe on the ocean and catch a lot of fish.



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Boating safety begins with being informed when on the water. Take a state-approved boating safety course. This course will provide you with the information you need to stay safe. Plus, you'll receive your boating license after you pass it.

Also, educate yourself on your state laws before you hit the water. State laws are created to keep you and other boaters safe on the water. If you don't know the requirements, you could put yourself and other recreational boaters at risk.

National Safe Boating Week set to begin

By Joan Watt

Past Commander and Past Chairman, Vessel Safety Check Program, Ocean City Power Squadron

Recreational boating has grown and as summer approaches many are preparing to enjoy being on the water. Are you ready and prepared to enjoy a safe boating season?

“National Safe Boating Week,” May 22-28, 2021, is the start of a year-round effort to promote safe boating. Every year the president of the United States proclaims the seven-day period prior to Memorial Day weekend as National Safe Boating Week and Ocean City Mayor Richard Meehan also issues a Proclamation to emphasize the importance of safe boating practices.

Ocean City Power Squadron (OCPS) is committed to making recreational boating safer and reducing the number of injuries and deaths caused by boating accidents. Members are teaching courses, inspecting vessels, gathering data on water depths, changes in navigational aids and identifying on the water visible landmarks to help NOAA update nautical charts of the local area.

How can you, as a boater, make sure you do are doing your part to ensure the safety of yourself and those who go boating with you? The following are minimum guidelines for safe boating:

Wear a properly fitted life jacket. Wearing a life jacket can reduce by 86% the number of boaters who lose their lives each year by drowning.

Have your vessel checked for safety. Does your vessel (sail boat, power boat, PWC, kayak, row-boat, etc.) comply with federal, state and local laws, particularly regarding carrying safety equipment? A Vessel Safety Check (VSC) includes:-

- Display of registration numbers
- Valid state registration
- Personal Flotation Devices (PFD), US

Coast Guard approved

- Visual Distress Signals (Flares) with proper dates



- Fire extinguisher preferably mounted

- Safe Fuel System (Includes proper ventilation for fuel tank and I/O or Inboard Engines)

- Backfire Flame Control for all I/O or Inboard Engines

- Sound Producing Device (Horn/Bell)

- Navigation Lights (anchor and running lights)

- Pollution placard (Vessels 26 feet and longer)

- MARPOL Trash Placard (Vessels 26 feet and longer)

- Marine Sanitation Devices (all vessels with installed heads - MSD's)

- Navigation Rules (all vessels 39.4 feet or longer)

- State and/or local requirements

- Overall vessel condition

Safe electrical system (including battery terminals covered in a battery box or with rubber caps)

Ocean City Power Squadron and the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary have certified examiners to perform a free Vessel Safety Check (VSC) of your boat. There is no penalty should your vessel fail an exam and you will be told how to correct any deficiencies for a re-exam. Those vessels meeting federal, state and local safety regulations are awarded a decal which is placed on their boat.

please see boating page 16

National Safe Boating Week



Come celebrate with the United States Coast Guard and the Auxiliary at Trimpers on the Boardwalk, Saturday, 22 May, 10:00AM to 4:00PM

See the Coast Guard's 24 foot patrol boat and learn about life jackets, knot tying, marine pollution, and enjoy games for the children



Life jacket designations change

By **Mort Brown**,
Squadron Education Officer,
Ocean City Power Squadron

The US Coast Guard has come out with new labeling for approved life jackets or Personal Floating Devices (PDF). If you purchased in the past or have older life jackets, the life jackets or PFDs are of one of five approved types:

TYPE I Used mainly for off shore, rough water boating as you would find in the ocean. Its' main feature is that it has a collar that will turn your face up in the water. The inherent buoyancy for this type is 22lbs and 34lbs for an inflatable Type I.

TYPE II Used for calm, in-land water ways near shore. They have no collar, and they will often cause you to tread water to keep your head above the water.

TYPE III Used for taking part in activities in protected, inland waters where chances of immediate rescue is very good. This life jacket is good for a wide range of activities such as, sailing, dinghy races, water skiing, fishing, kayaking and more.

TYPE IV Are throwable devices meant to be thrown to someone in need. Such as; Man Over Board (MOB) situations where someone falls into the water and you throw them a Type IV device to hold on to.

TYPE V Are Special Use, Automatic Inflation, and Hybrids. Type V life jackets are designated by their use type; sail-board harness, deck suit, commercial whitewater vests, or float collars. They are more comfortable than their Type I counterpart, but they provide far less

floatation. When it comes to automatic inflation devices, these are usually things that look like fanny packs. Again, these are meant to be worn specifically for the intended use.

The "old" nomenclature devices are still good to use as long as they meet the useable condition requirements.

New Life Jacket Labels

Traditional "type" categories are being retired to be replaced with a new labeling system that relies more on icons and less on wording. Older life jackets and floatation devices labeled by "type" still meet regulatory requirements until no longer serviceable. Two new categories are being added, "Wearable" and "Throwable." Wearable life jackets will be divided into five buoyancy categories: 50, 70, 100, 150, and 275 Newtons (metric to complement with Canadian standards.)

Type I will become 100 N or 150 N and Turns Head.

Type II will become 70 N and Turns Head.

Type III will become 70 N and doesn't Turn Head.

Type IV will be called a Throwable.

Type V (special purpose) - check label icons. This vest will meet either Type I, II or III standards.

Visit the Ocean City Power Squadron website at ocusps.org for additional safe boating

information, including the next Boating Safety class beginning June 8, and other nautical links.

National Safe Boating Council advice

Take a boating safety course

Check equipment – annual boat safety inspection plus a dockside review before getting underway

File a float plan especially if you are going offshore

Wear a life jacket that fits and is in good condition

Never boat under the influence – physically worse than a DUI because of the boat's motion and the hot sun and just as expensive

Use an engine cutoff device (now mandatory)

Monitor the weather - both visually and marine radio channel 3 in Ocean

City area

Be aware of your surroundings – situational awareness – the weather, boat location, the depth of the water, the behavior of the boaters around you, the wellbeing of all onboard (motion sickness, dehydration, sun stroke), and the boat integrity (leaks, fuel, carbon monoxide)

Travel at a safe speed – don't approach anything faster than you are willing to hit it.

Be careful if you're in unfamiliar waters – the bottom may be closer than you think and the currents may be trickier than you are used to.

Safe boating courses offered

For the first time since 2019, Maryland Safe Boating courses will resume at the Ocean Pines library with Coast Guard Auxiliary instructors. The classes will take place June 1 through 3 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The Maryland Boating Safety Education Act requires that anyone born after July 1, 1972 must possess a Maryland Basic Boating Safety Certificate to operate a boat in the state of Maryland. Those attending the class, and passing the test will receive a Maryland Boating Certificate which is NASBLA approved

and valid in all states.

A fee of \$20 covers the cost of the course and materials. Checks should be made payable to: "USGCAUX 12-05" and mailed to USGCAUX 12-05, PO Box 1682, Berlin, MD 21811. Payment via PayPal is also accepted.

For more information or to register please contact Barry Cohen at 410-935-4807 or email CGAUXOC@Gmail.com.

The 2021 course schedule is as follows: July 12-14, Aug. 7 (all day) September 7-9. Face masks required, social distance rules will be observed.

boating

from page 15

Schedule your Vessel Safety Check with OCPS as soon as possible.

Never boat under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Get proper training in the safe operation of your boat. Check weather reports. Know the "rules of the road."

OCPS offers safe boating education classes and seminars to members and the public. Classes include engine maintenance, electrical systems, GPS, piloting, navigation, cruise planning, skipper saver, weather, anchoring, and other advanced classes. Knowing how to operate and maintain your boat, read charts, understand the weather and follow the "rules of the road" will help prevent boating accidents.

Emphasizing boating safety is important because on average 619 people die each year in the U.S. in boat-related accidents of 4,168. The State of Maryland has a high number of boating accidents. Of the top 10 states with recreational boating accidents Maryland ranked the seventh highest. Knowledge and skill improve judgment and reduce boating accidents caused by human error. Overall careless and reckless operation, operator inattention, operator inexperience, and excessive speed are the leading contributing factors of all reported accidents. Approximately 80% of all reported fatalities occurred on boats where the operator had not received safety instruction.

Are you going to be a boater who has a safe and wonderful boating season this year, or are you going to be one of the boating accident statistics or fatalities?

It's up to you. Make a commitment during National Safe Boating Week and throughout the entire year to do everything you can to help make boating safer and you can then be prepared to enjoy a safe boating season. "Boating is Fun, but Safe Boating is More Fun"

Check out the Ocean City Power Squadron website is at www.ocusps.org for classes, vessel safety checks and links on hurricane preparedness information.

Can you tell when a person is drowning?

By Mario Vittone

A swimmer doesn't splash and wave for help. Here's how to know when someone is in trouble, and how to respond.

The captain jumped from the deck, fully dressed, and sprinted through the water. A former lifeguard, he kept his

beach. "I think he thinks you're drowning," the husband said to his wife. They had been splashing each other, and she had screamed, but now they were just standing neck-deep on a sandbar.

"We're fine, what is he doing?" she asked, a little annoyed.

"We're fine!" the husband yelled, waving him off, but his captain kept swimming hard toward him.

"Move!" he barked as he sprinted between the stunned owners. Directly behind them, not 10 feet away, their 9-year-old daughter was drowning. Once the girl was safely above the

feet away—what the father couldn't recognize from just 10? Drowning is not the violent, splashing call for help that most people expect. The captain was trained to recognize drowning by experts and years of experience. The father, on the other hand, assumed he knew what drowning looks like because he watched television.

Until that young girl who was rescued by the captain cried a tearful "Daddy," the owner's daughter hadn't made a sound. As a former Coast Guard rescue swimmer, I wasn't surprised at all by this story. Drowning is almost always a deceptively quiet event. The waving, splashing and yelling that dramatic conditioning (television) prepares us to look for is rarely seen in real life.

If you spend time on or near the water, then you should make sure you and your crew know how to detect when a person is in distress. Honing this skill is critical, particularly in light of new statistics that reveal drowning is the leading cause of accidental death for children under five and the second leading cause of accidental death for children five to 15 years old. It is estimated

that over 80 percent of childhood drownings occur when the child is supervised. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, well over 50 percent of all drownings are adult men. Yet regardless of who drowns, in some cases, people are watching or are within yards of the victim and have no idea it is happening.

Francesco A. Pia, Ph.D. is the person who coined the term instinctive drowning response. This is what people do to avoid actual or perceived suffocation in the water. When someone is drowning there is very little splashing, and no waving, yelling or calling for help of any kind.

Dr. Pia, in an article he wrote for the Coast Guard's "On Scene" magazine, described the instinctive drowning response like this:

Except in rare circumstances, drowning people are physiologically unable to call out for help. The respiratory system was designed for breathing. Speech is a secondary or overlaid function. Breathing must be fulfilled before speech occurs.



eyes on his victim and headed straight for a couple who were swimming between their anchored sportfish and the

surface in the arms of the captain, she burst into tears and screamed, "Daddy!"

How did this captain know—from 50

please see **drowning** page 18

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Recreational boating safety facts

All figures are from the U.S. Coast Guard's 2019 Recreational Boating Safety Statistics, the latest official record of reported recreational boating accidents. Full report available: http://uscgboating.org/statistics/accident_statistics.php

Key Facts

Drowning was reported as the cause of death in 79 percent of all boating fatalities.

Approximately 86 percent of those who drowned were not wearing life jackets.

In 2019, the Coast Guard counted 4,168 accidents that involved 613 deaths, 2,559 injuries and approximately \$55 million dollars of damage to property as a result of recreational boating accidents.

The fatality rate was 5.2 deaths per 100,000 registered recreational vessels. This rate represents a 1.9 percent decrease from the 2018 fatality rate of 5.3 deaths per 100,000 registered recreational vessels.

Only 20 percent of deaths occurred on boats where the operator had received

boating safety instruction.

Operator inattention, improper lookout, operator inexperience, excessive speed, and alcohol rank as the top five primary contributing factors in accidents.

Alcohol use is the leading known contributing factor in fatal boating accidents. Where the primary cause was known, alcohol was listed as the leading factor in 23 percent of deaths.

Where data was known, the most common types of vessels involved in reported accidents were open motorboats (45 percent), personal watercraft (19 percent) and cabin motorboats (16 percent).

Data Snapshot

Fatalities: 613

Drownings: 484

Injuries (requiring medical treatment beyond first aid): 2,559

Boating accidents: 4,168

Property damage: \$55,000,000

Number of registered recreational boats in the U.S.: 11,878,542

drowning from page 17

The mouths of drowning people alternately sink below and reappear above the surface of the water; they are not above the surface of the water long enough for the victims to exhale, inhale and call out for help. When the mouths are above the surface, they exhale and inhale quickly before sinking below the surface of the water

Drowning people cannot wave for help. Nature instinctively forces them to extend their arms laterally and press down on the water's surface. Pressing down on the surface of the water permits drowning people to leverage their bodies so they can lift their mouths out of the water to breathe.

Throughout the instinctive drowning response, drowning people cannot voluntarily control their arm movements. Physiologically, drowning people who are struggling on the surface of the water cannot stop drowning and perform voluntary movements such as waving for help, moving toward a rescuer or reaching out for a piece of rescue equipment.

From beginning to end of the instinctive drowning response, the bodies of drowning people remain upright in the water, with no evidence of a supporting kick. Unless rescued by a trained lifeguard, these people can only struggle on the surface of the water from 20 to 60 seconds before submersion occurs.

This doesn't mean that a person who is yelling for help and thrashing isn't in real

trouble—they are experiencing aquatic distress. Not always present before the instinctive drowning response, aquatic distress doesn't last long, but unlike true drowning, these victims can still assist in their own rescue. They can grab lifelines, reach for throw rings, etc.

There are other visual cues to look for when trying to recognize a drowning person. They include the following:

Head tilted back with mouth open

Head low in the water, with mouth at water level

Eyes glassy and empty, unable to focus

Eyes closed

Hair over forehead or eyes

Not using legs

Hyperventilating or gasping

Trying to swim in a particular direction but not making headway

Trying to roll over onto the back

Appears to be climbing an invisible ladder

So, if a crewmember falls overboard and everything looks okay, don't be too sure. Sometimes the most common indication that someone is drowning is that they don't look as if they're drowning. They may just look as if they are treading water and staring up at the deck. One way to be sure? Ask, "Are you alright?" If they can answer at all, they probably are. If they return a blank stare, you may have less than 30 seconds to get to them. And parents, children playing in the water make noise. When they get quiet, you need to get to them and find out why.

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commencement
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marks by saying, "You may be called to lead at some point. Lead from a position of service to the team. The greatest teams are the result when a leader provides vision, they care for their team and they serve the team. In the end, be there for the team and the team will be there for you, and the mission will be met."

Russell W. Blake of Pocomoke City, chairperson of Wor-Wic's board of trustees, introduced Leonard and the other members on the field, including Dr. Ray Hoy, president; Dr. Kristin L. Mallory, vice president for academic affairs; Dr. Bryan Newton, vice president for enrollment management and student services; the Rev. Peggy Briggs of St. Paul United Methodist Church in Berlin; and Sierra Dacre of Berlin, student speaker. Blake also introduced other members of the board of trustees, Kimberly C. Gillis of Salisbury, Morgan Hazel of Hebron, and Martin T. Neat of Salisbury; Acting Wicomico County Executive John D. Psota of Salisbury; Worcester County Commissioner Chip Bertino; Sen. Mary Beth Carozza, R-38, of Ocean City; Del. Sheree Sample-Hughes, D-37A, of Salisbury; Del. Carl Anderton Jr., R-38B, of Delmar, Md.; and Del. Charles J. Otto, R-38A, of Princess Anne.

Addressing her fellow graduates, Dacre shared her personal experiences of how Wor-Wic changed her life.

"We all have a few particular individuals who come to mind when we think of the journey that led us here," she told those assembled. "Each are important in their own way, shaping us all to be who we are today." She said that whether it was a teacher, parent, sibling or spouse, the support that comes from them is crucial.

"When I first imagined college a few years ago, the standard university system did not appeal to me," Dacre told the graduates. "Moving far away from home never sparked my interest." She said that dorm rooms with their dark, gray, concrete walls, held no charm for her. "I was not fond of traditional universities, hence Wor-Wic being a top choice. A top choice I'm eternally grateful for.

"A short three years ago, I was not the same student who is standing up here today. I had given up on school. I enjoyed learning, but I really despised the environment," Dacre told the crowd. "I was struggling with my men-

tal health, and I had lost any and all motivation." She said she skipped school whenever she had the chance and made so many mistakes that her high school GPA was destroyed.

"I needed a school that could, and would, provide me with the support I so desperately needed to truly succeed. Thank you Wor-Wic, for giving me an opportunity to redefine myself, and show my potential and worth. I am a firm believer that you are not defined by how many times you are knocked down, but by how many times you get up."

Dacre told the crowd that this year was rough for everyone and that she thought that none of them imagined attending school this way. She thanked Wor-Wic for providing so many options in ways to take classes, even in trying times. "This year started to feel a lot like that year in high school when I stopped caring. Virtual learning is different, and was challenging to navigate at first, but guess what? I did it. We did it!"

In conclusion, Dacre told the graduates, "As you move forward in this crazy thing we call life ... look at everyone you surround yourself with as an overflowing vessel - a vessel for knowl-

edge, inspiration, love and support, a vessel that will fill yours with so many valuable things. Everyone has their own story, and within that story you may just find something that will change your experience, just as mine has."

After graduating from Wor-Wic with an associate degree in general studies, Dacre plans to pursue a degree in nursing.

Criminal justice was the most popular major among members of the graduating class. One of the graduates receiving an associate degree in criminal justice, Jonathan Estrada Ramirez of Princess Anne, is a first-generation college student whose parents only finished elementary school.

Originally from Mexico, Estrada Ramirez never knew if he would be able to pursue his dream of becoming a police officer, because he is not a U.S. citizen. He always worked on a poultry farm. Right before he began his studies at Wor-Wic, he obtained his green card. Now, after a six-year process, he is on track to get his citizenship within two weeks of earning his degree. He had to go back to Mexico for two or three months during the

please see commencement page 21

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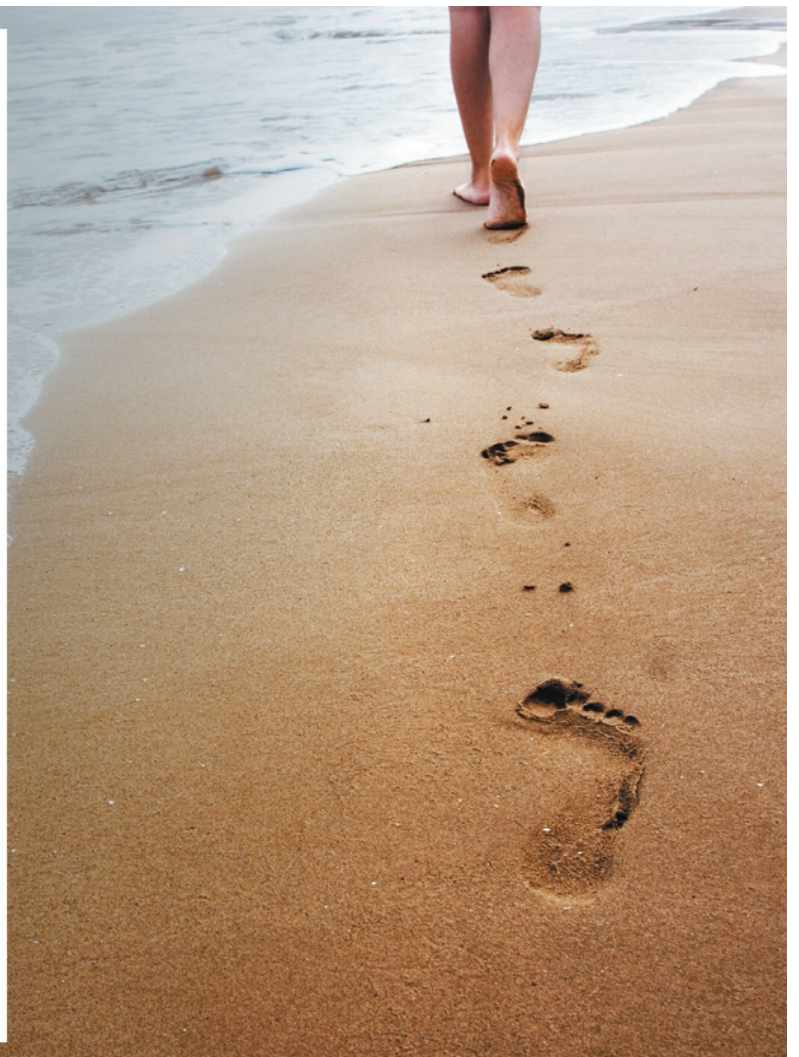
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Film festival submissions sought

The sixth Annual Ocean City Film Festival will return to the resort March 3-6, 2022 and is now accepting entries for the 2022 festival from filmmakers.

Hosted by the Art League of Ocean City, the festival was founded in 2017 and has become a recognized annual event that attracts international, national, and regional artists working in film. In 2021, the festival was named a member of the Sundance Industry Office, a testament to its rapid growth and reach. The festival creates both community engagement and networking opportunities for filmmakers at all levels in their careers.

Complete rules and entry forms are posted at <https://filmfreeway.com/OceanCityFilmFestival>.

The festival offers eight submission categories: feature films, youth short films, animation, horror/sci-fi, short documentary, funny shorts, dramatic shorts, environmental/aquatic films, and short films feel-good films. Submissions will be judged by a panel of experts, and filmmakers will be notified of acceptance into the festival by January 3, 2022.

Submission costs vary according to deadline, category of film, student work, or memberships, and

final costs are posted online. The early bird deadline is June 30, 2021; the regular deadline is September 30; and the late deadline is Nov. 30. Festival organizers are offering discount submission codes to filmmakers of diverse or historically resilient backgrounds as well as filmmakers financially affected by COVID-19.

More information about the Film Festival is available at OCMDfilmfestival.com.

The Town of Ocean City, the Maryland Film Office, and private individuals and companies have provided grants for the event.

Pet vaccination alert

If your pet received a rabies vaccination from Dr. Hafez at Worcester Animal Clinic located at 1402 Market Street, Pocomoke City, MD within the last 12 months (on or after April 1, 2020), please contact Worcester County Environmental Health at 410-352-3234.

Yard sale scheduled

The Worcester County NAACP will sponsor a community yard sale on Saturday June 5 from 7 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Stephen Decatur Middle School parking lot. Call 443-513-1745 or 443-944-6701 to reserve a spot. The cost is \$20 per space. Table is not furnished.

badge

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that had been set up on the far side of the parking lot. Food and drinks had been generously donated by local establishments. Rain fell during the public viewing. The line of community members was impressive. It took several hours for grateful citizens to pay their last respects to a man who gave everything so they could sleep peacefully at night.

The agencies formed up again and, when the time came, each Police Officer marched through the cordon line, single file, into the church. We went last after everyone had filed in.

We marched silently, covers in hand, to pay our respects to Cpl. Heacock who laid in a flag draped casket, his campaign cover on top, officers standing guard behind him. Some nodded, some touched the casket, some saluted, but everyone who marched past Cpl. Heacock felt knots in their stomachs and a hole in their hearts. We were saying goodbye to our brother.

A few had the opportunity to stay inside as the service started but most wandered outside and back to the tents. We had some time before we would be called in formation. A big television screen with speakers was set up outside the entrance to the church, close to Cpl. Heacock's parked patrol vehicle which had been draped in ribbons. As the eulogies began, mostly everyone wandered back to the field and parking lot to watch and listen. There were heartfelt stories, tears, laughter. Cpl. Heacock's wife played few voicemails he left so all could hear

the true character of her late husband.

Cpl. Heacock's cousin, a former police officer himself, spoke movingly. He spoke of his cousin's character, the awful circumstances of having to respond to a call alone, but doing it because that is who we are as Officers. He spoke of the media and the political atmosphere, reminding everyone, including the politicians present at the ceremony, that his cousin was murdered by an unarmed assailant, alone, because of unaddressed manpower issues. He spoke of how the media would have reported the story had Cpl. Heacock done what ultimately needed to be done to survive, how terribly it would have been covered and how vilified both Cpl. Heacock and law enforcement would have been.

Cpl. Heacock's cousin was given a standing ovation during his eulogy and drew applause several other times. As I stood outside watching, listening, and clapping myself, I realized there was a rumble around me. When I turned and looked, hundreds, if not over a thousand, police officers were all standing together and clapping.

Cpl. Heacock spent 22 years in law enforcement. He was described as a fun loving, skilled investigator who would do anything for anyone. He served his community with pride and respect. My shift partner, who previously worked in Wicomico County and worked with Cpl. Heacock several times, described him as "the nicest guy you could ever meet."

Cpl. Heacock, as well as every police officer in attendance and beyond, have been vilified. They have been slandered for doing the job that needs done, by people who have the luxury

of not having to experience the absolute worst in people in the worst of circumstances.

Cpl. Heacock died protecting his community, a grateful community, but will never be known by ungrateful groups throughout the nation. People across the country will not know his name, will not understand his sacrifice and why it was made. They know other names though and will yell and scream them in our faces while they continue to demonize us and even celebrate the death of an officer.

The service came to an end, and without receiving any direction, everyone formed back up again to await Cpl. Heacock's departure. Those inside the service filed outside. The Color Guards were formed again, the motorcade was staged, the pipes and drums were at the ready. The doors opened and as Cpl. Heacock was carried out, the pipes played. We saluted as he was carried to the hearse and his family walked past. The tears were tougher to hold back this time. A 21-gun salute was fired followed by taps. I was not the only one welling up. The bag pipes played "Amazing Grace" as the sun started shining through, as if on cue, and two police helicopters did a fly-over.

Then it was time for the final call. Dispatch cleared radio traffic and prepared. They called out for "913-10" three times. Each time the dispatcher got more choked up. After the third time with no response from 913-10, now crying, the dispatcher gave kind words to Cpl. Heacock, said her goodbye, and called his End of Watch. There were no dry eyes.

The motors started in unison, and

the motorcade began its procession. We stood until they cleared the parking lot, listening to the rumble grow faint in the distance as Cpl. Heacock was taken to his final resting place we were dismissed.

On Monday, May 11, 2021, two thousand sworn police officers from all around the nation donned their dress uniforms and without being asked or complaining, came together and stood for hours on end to honor a brother and give him the beautiful send-off that he and his family deserved. As the "dismissed" command was given we said goodbye to old friends and new, walked back to our vehicles, and went back to work because the job is never done and that is who we are.

I never met Cpl. Heacock. Unfortunately, our paths never crossed at training events or conferences. From what I heard I would have enjoyed his company. Someone said during his eulogy that Cpl. Heacock was never late for a shot and a beer.

I will certainly keep him in mind and heart and have a shot and a beer in his honor. I hope to one day meet him when my time here is done and share a drink.

Until then though, rest easy Brother, we'll take it from here.

If you would like to donate support Cpl. Keith Heacock's family, please visit "We Stand with Corporal Keith Heacock" at <https://gofund.me/f873c92c>.

Matthew R. Bertino is a Deputy with the Worcester County Sheriff's Office and a Captain in the Pennsylvania National Guard.

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process while his wife, Erica Estrada, who graduated from Wor-Wic with him, stayed home with their two small children, currently 5 and 8 years old.

“We were looking for a better foundation for our family and careers that we both can enjoy. Wor-Wic was a good fit for both of us,” said Erica, who earned her degree in business. “We loved it. At first, it was hard with our children being so young, but the variety of hours and ways to take classes made it less scary than we thought it would be. It has been crazy the last few years, being in school together and working full time, but there was always someone to help us along the way.” After graduation, Jonathan plans to apply to the Worcester County Sheriff’s Office, with an eventual goal of becoming a state trooper, while Erica plans to transfer to Salisbury University and earn her bachelor’s degree in accounting.

Following criminal justice, general studies was the second most popular major. In addition to Dacre, Kayla Higgins of Berlin also graduated with a degree in general studies. A dean’s list student, she graduated with honors, and said she chose Wor-Wic because it was local, so she could still see some of her close friends on a regular basis, and because it was affordable, allowing her to transfer with

Referendum vote totals announced

The Ocean Pines Elections Committee on Friday announced vote totals for the 2021 referendum.

The referendum asked homeowners to vote on a proposal that would limit capital expenditure spending to \$1 million without a referendum.

According to the Elections Committee’s manual count, there were 2,531 votes in favor of the referendum and 1,358 votes not in favor.

Ocean Pines bylaws, last revised on Aug. 9, 2008, had included a spending threshold without a referendum of 20% of the income derived from annual charges, or about \$1.8 million based on collections during fiscal year 2020-2021.

“The referendum has passed,” Elections Committee Chairman Steve Habeger said.

zero debt. Another plus was that she could keep her job in Ocean City while going to school.

Higgins also said she was eligible to take advantage of the support services offered by the TRIO program at the college. Higgins said the caring professors at Wor-Wic and the support from the TRIO program helped her succeed.

She plans to transfer to Salisbury University to earn her bachelor’s degree in social work, then complete her master’s degree in order to become a marriage and family counselor.

Other graduates received degrees or certificates in business, chemical dependency counseling, computer studies, education, emergency medical services, hotel-motel-restaurant management, nursing, occupational therapy assistant, office technology, physical therapist assistant, radiologic technology and STEM.

The majority of the graduates were from Salisbury or other parts of Wicomico County, followed by Worcester and then Somerset counties. Graduates were also from Dorchester, Caroline, Kent, Queen Anne’s, Talbot and other counties in Maryland, as well as from nearby states.



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This is Buddy , I bought him as a surprise present for my husband but it turns out he's allergic to dogs . So unfortunately I'm going to have to find a new home for him , and I'm just wondering if anyone out there can help ? . His name is Alan, he's 61, great at DIY, drives a nice car and plans wonderful holidays.



Some things to think about

Gathered from the internet by **Jack Barnes**



If Jealousy had a face





Seniors complete financial literacy program

Worcester Preparatory School (WPS) thanks the Bank of Ocean City for sponsoring the spring 2021 EverFi Financial Literacy Program for seniors in Mr. Paul Cyryca's Contemporary Issues course. Thirty-six students participated and are now Certified Young Adults. The EverFi Program assists future community leaders in becoming financially responsible at an early age.

Front Row: **Bryn Elliott, Baylie Holmes, Carly Young, Natalie Foxwell, Grace Hopkins, Caroline Anderson, Meredith Cummings, Marika Vasilikos, Sarah Butler, Claire Williams, Vice President at Bank of Ocean City Earl Conley (WPS alum '90), Head of School Dr. John McDonald.**

Back Row: Vice President at Bank of Ocean City **Nancy Bradford, History/Contemporary Issues teacher Paul Cyryca, John Arrington, Hunter Gentry, Graham McColgan, Chipper Becker, T.J. Bescak, Ryan Brafman, Brugh Moore, Millie Cammack, Maddy Warren, Arusa Islam, Lexi Willey.**

Tides for Ocean City Inlet

Day	High /Low	Tide Time
Th 20	High	2:53 AM
20	Low	9:09 AM
20	High	3:28 PM
20	Low	9:22 PM
F 21	High	3:53 AM
21	Low	10:01 AM
21	High	4:27 PM
21	Low	10:25 PM
Sa 22	High	4:50 AM
22	Low	10:53 AM
22	High	5:23 PM
22	Low	11:27 PM
Su 23	High	5:45 AM
23	Low	11:44 AM
23	High	6:16 PM
M 24	Low	12:26 AM
24	High	6:38 AM
24	Low	12:35 PM
24	High	7:08 PM
Tu 25	Low	1:23 AM
25	High	7:31 AM
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25	High	8:00 PM
W 26	Low	2:17 AM
26	High	8:24 AM
26	Low	2:14 PM
26	High	8:52 PM

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