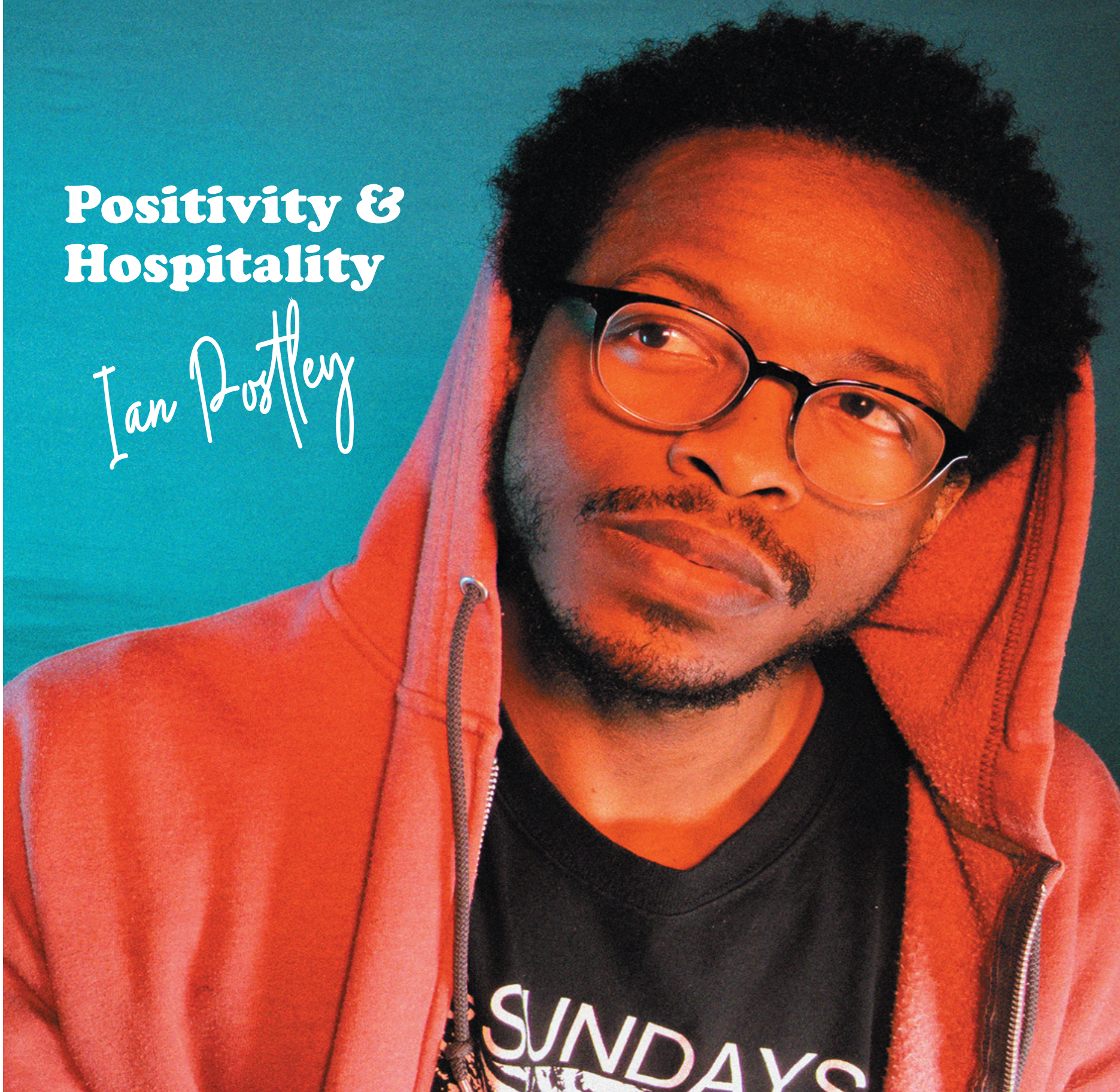


The Courier

October 20, 2021 Volume 22 Number 7

**Positivity &
Hospitality**

Ian Postley



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Art Matters

Bishopville artist thrives on positivity and hospitality

By Elaine Bean

The “human condition” is what inspires artist Ian Postley.

“People being people. Our growth, aspirations, conflicts, etc.,” he said. “I’m a big fan of music and poetry that discusses these topics, as well. At times, it feels like a coded language only a select few can understand. I’ve always found that beautiful.”

Born and raised in northern Worcester County, Postley graduated from Stephen Decatur High School in 2014 and won an Art League of Ocean City scholarship to pursue his career in art.

With that, he attended the Delaware College Art and Design in Wilmington and received an associate’s degree in 2016. Since then, Postley works as a freelance artist from his home in Bishopville, providing artwork ranging from poster designs, portraits, paintings, logo concepts, merchandising artwork, small print ads, murals,



stickers, or anything a client needs.

Postley describes himself as an illustrator. “My go-to has always been pen and ink. But as a freelancer, digital artwork has been a constant. The majority of my commissions often involve me taking on the skill set of a graphic designer. I basically live in Adobe Illustrator software.”

Being involved in the local arts community is an inspiration for Postley. For the past six years, for example, he has designed the official posters for the Ocean City Film Festival.

“I approach the Film Festival posters like most freelance opportunities, in stages. The OC Film Fest team, the creative director, and I consult about the approach for the current year, and then I attempt to

bring the vision to fruition. I create multiple thumbnails and concepts. Once approved, I make larger sketches and map out colors and details to reassemble in Adobe Illustrator. Each design comes together like a puzzle. Like a puzzle, each one takes time to complete, and some call for more pieces than others.”

Postley is currently working on the poster design for next year’s Film Festival in March 2022.

“This coming year will mark the 6th year of the festival, and each year it continues to blossom and grow,” he continued. “Film-making obviously is a facet of art with a unique palette. Filmmakers craft and build narratives with a grip of moving pieces. It’s kind of a big metaphor for the Film Festival itself. Like many forms of art, it’s in constant innovation. Just when you think it has reached its peak, the art form finds another way to transcend, elevate, and captivate. Each year filmmakers submit their passion projects to the Festival to be witnessed by passionate filmgoers. You couldn’t ask for more perfect pairing. I’m just glad to be a part of it all.”

Postley also thrives on interacting with like-minded artists “honestly by having genuine conversations with folks. The first thing you know about an artist is that they make art, then what? Community starts with the familiarity of those in your community, their personalities and their strengths. Then with that knowledge, you can surround yourself with like-minded people. Positivity and hospitality in any community, in my opinion, are necessary for it to



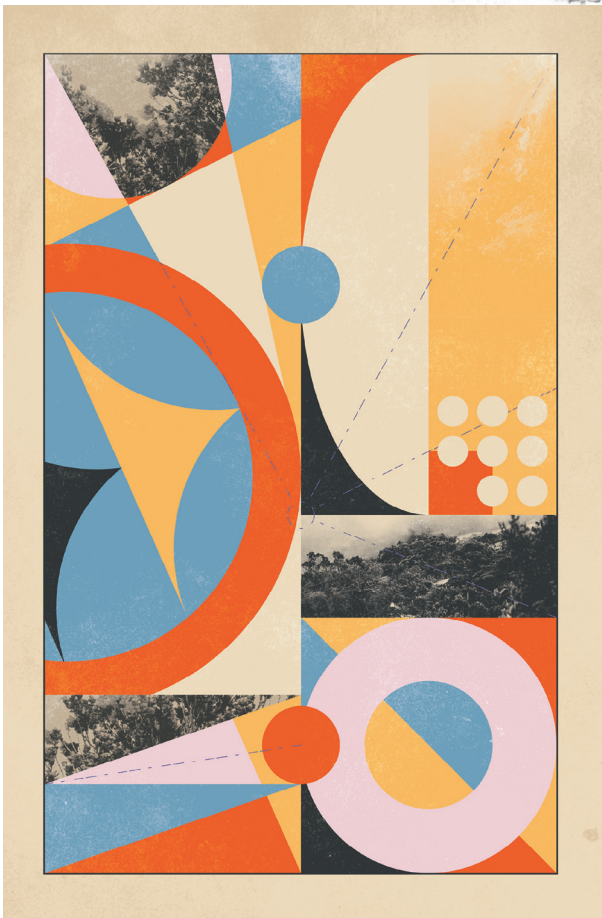
thrive. We’re all peers.”

“Art is a big part of everyone’s life, whether we acknowledge it or not,” Postley continued. “Whether you claim no interest or seek art conventionally, it follows you throughout your day in the form of billboards, logos, product packaging, typefaces, furniture, so forth and so on.

The extensiveness of art and its involvement in history interests me to no end. But at the end of the day, all art is subjective. What matters to you matters to you.”

Being raised on the tourist-focused Eastern Shore has given Postley a unique view of the world. “There’s kind of something to a place that has an ‘off-season’, he said. “In a sense, there’s a lesson to be had about work ethic and proper business management. It’s difficult running a business, especially one passion-driven. There are a lot of folks here who can attest to that and are willing to share their wisdom. Wise people learn from others’ mistakes; smart people learn from their own.”

Sharing his art and interacting with other artists and those who love art are important parts of Postley’s life. “Folks can always contact me by email at postleyart@yahoo.com or follow me on Instagram @ianpostley. I’ve had the privilege to speak and converse with aspiring artists as of late. It’s always flattering when they ask me for suggestions, advice, or feedback on passions of theirs.”

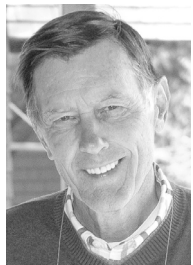


Random ramblings

Commentary by **Joe Reynolds**
OceanPinesForum.com

30,000-Foot View

General Manager John Viola's most recent update on the state of our association showed continued financial success for OPA compared to budget. Perhaps \$1.2 million favorable-to-budget at this point. Golf, Aquatics, and the Yacht Club are among departments doing exceptionally well.



While some vocal association members are saying OPA needs "new leadership," the association's leadership under President Larry Perrone and the entire board, as well as John Viola and his employees, has been some of the best ever when viewed in terms of the big picture - the view from 30,000-feet.

We should hope that any new leadership is at least as good as the

current leadership when it comes to what the vast majority of association members likely expect.

All these battles over process, by-laws, candidate eligibility, etc. make the headlines and prompt intense debate, but have little impact on day-to-day operations, maintaining home values, and our association's financial health.

Pond Pollution?

Water testing results of ponds at the north and south gates of Ocean Pines had members of the Environmental and Natural Assets Committee very worried. They were also concerned about some possible conspiracy to keep results from association members.

A conversation with Joe Craine at Jonah Ventures, the company that actually did the tests seems to confirm we have yet another OPA-Land tempest in a teapot.

Craine confirmed the first test indication of human dna at 9400 or so at a North Gate pond was an anom-

aly. The second test 30 days later showed a number of around 140. This number is not unusual or to be concerned about, according to Craine. Testing was actually done at the end of 2020.

Craine said the E-coli numbers in the test results are the ones to focus on in terms of a health threat, and he said the E-coli numbers for all the ponds tested are "very low" and should not concern people.

Anyway, any lynch party in progress should probably disband.

Farr Case Fallout

Judge Sidney Campen put an abrupt end to OPA's plan to mail out new ballots without Rick Farr's name. In addition, Campen ordered OPA to count the existing ballots already received from the original election and currently in the hands of the OPA Elections Committee.

Members of the Ocean Pines Elections Committee will count ballots for the 2021 Board of Directors election starting at 10 a.m. this Wednesday, Oct. 20, in the Clubhouse Meeting Room.

Because of a recent Worcester County Circuit Court ruling, the count will include all four candidates (in ballot order): Frank Daly, Stuart Lakernick, David C. Hardy and Richard

Farr.

The counting process may be observed by any association member, per OPA governing documents. Members of the Elections Committee will announce voting totals at the conclusion of the count. The committee expects the scanning of all valid ballots to take several hours.


Campen also scheduled a trial date for the Farr case on November 15th with a goal to finally decide this case, essentially about whether or not Rick Farr was eligible to be a board candidate on January 1, 2021, as required by the OPA bylaws. Campen said if Farr is not one of two winners in the ballot count then the case is moot.

Other fallout somewhat related to the Farr case was the resignation of board member Tom Janasek, and then the subsequent appointment of Amy Peck and Josette Wheatley to replace Janasek and the previously resigned Camilla Rogers. Rogers resigned after receiving death threats when she declared Rick Farr an ineligible candidate in the election.

Janasek's resignation makes it virtually impossible for any election result to change the presumed board majority of those seeking "new leadership" via their hoped-for election of candidates Rick Farr and Stuart Lakernick.

Courier Almanac

On October 20, 1944 General MacArthur returned to the Philippines. After advancing island by island across the Pacific Ocean, U.S. General Douglas MacArthur waded ashore onto the Philippine island of Leyte, fulfilling his promise to return to the area he was forced to flee in 1942.



Dogs are wildly popular pets. The American Pet Products Association says there are 63.4 million households in the United States that have a dog, and with the exception of 2002 and 2015, that number has steadily risen since 2000. Certain breeds remain especially popular among dog owners. In August 2021, the pet insurance provider Trupanion released the most popular dog breeds of 2020, and the top five breeds were:

1. Labrador retriever
2. Golden retriever
3. Goldendoodle
4. German shepherd
5. Labradoodle

County to host listening sessions

As part of the 2022 Worcester County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan (LPPRP) updating process, Worcester County Recreation and Parks and Environmental Programs professionals will host two public listening sessions on November 3 and 10, 2021.

The LPPRP serves as guide for conservation and park planning and program improvements. The listening sessions will be opportunities for Worcester County citizens to ask questions, share ideas, and provide input on opportunities and priorities for conservation, parks, and recreation in the next five years. Maps depicting

land preservation and parks, the result of a needs assessment survey and the existing six-year capital budget for park improvement projects, will be briefly shared.

All ages are welcome to attend and participate in the sessions. The sessions will take place at the following outdoor locations (indoor locations will be available in the event of inclement weather):

Wednesday, November 3, at 6 p.m. at the John Walter Smith Park pavilion at 6030 Public Landing Road in Snow Hill (or at the adjacent recreation center if inclement weather).

please see sessions on page 14

The Courier

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Death of a refrigerator

As I write this, I am limbo waiting for an appliance delivery. With no set time, just a four-hour window of possibilities, I can make no plans or start a project that might be interrupted at

the situation. We placed an outdoor thermometer in the freezer. It read close to zero until the next morning when it held firm at 44 degrees. Ugh.

The next step was obvious. Call for service. Not so easy. A repair company we used in the past never returned my call. A call to another company revealed they didn't work on LG products. They recommended someone else. I called. No response. In four decades of



It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

an inopportune moment. It's a drab, rainy morning that precludes being outside. So, here I sit, reflecting on a confluence of events that began about eight weeks ago with soft ice cream.

Reaching for the Turkey Hill butter almond ice cream one evening, I realized it was more cream than ice. Not a good sign. Fortunately, a quick inspection of the freezer indicated everything else was solid including the many bags of chicken thighs and frozen vegetables. Maybe we hadn't noticed that the freezer drawer wasn't closed. Maybe.

The next morning, the ice cream was again hard. Problem solved. Two days later, the ice maker was dripping water instead of dropping cubes. Yet the refrigerator and freezer were at temperature. We moved many of the items to the garage freezer believing, and hoping even more, that the house unit was packed too tightly, cutting off air circulation. That seemed to resolve

home ownership, never have I had such a difficult time getting a company to service a problem appliance. Finally, I talked with a company who could come out a week from Friday. Not what I wanted to hear but at least it was something. The woman counseled that from what I described, it could most likely be the compressor. The cost? Over a thousand dollars plus the cost of the service call. Of course, there was no certainty until the technician was on site. Hmm. Okay. The refrigerator was still working and we could use the garage freezer. We had an action plan. But you know the saying about the best laid plans. That evening the refrigerator gave out. Warm milk. Ugh.

Filling laundry baskets, I lugged everything from the refrigerator to the garage refrigerator, saving judgements on what should be tossed out for when my wife returned home. The garage refrigerator is smaller than the kitchen

unit so a little creativity was necessary to jam it all in there.

So, the situation stood as this when my wife returned. The twelve-year-old kitchen fridge was dead. We would have to walk out to the garage to retrieve cold items. The repair person would be on-site nine days hence and it now looked beyond a shadow of a doubt the compressor was kaput and would be more than a grand to fix. What to do? Oh, one important reality that cannot be glossed over. My wife's coffee creamer was now being kept cold in the garage refrigerator requiring a trek out the back door, a walk across the Piazza to the garage to retrieve. History demonstrates that any detours or delays in my wife getting her morning coffee foments disastrous consequences upon those in the house. And since we're empty-nesters, that meant I'd be on the line of fire. My mother raised no fool. A new plan was necessary to ensure my wife was in no way inconvenienced when preparing her morning coffee.

Why put so much money into a relatively old fridge? So, it was decided we'd purchase a new refrigerator. We'd move the current unit out and temporarily bring in the garage refrigerator. Coffee creamer problem solved.

During our married life, we've probably bought three or four refrigerators. Never has the process been more convoluted than this time. It should be noted that our kitchen appliances are white, not stainless, which contributed to

some of the challenges we encountered when searching for a replacement. We wanted a unit with the fridge on top (French doors) and the freezer drawer below. My wife, who is an online shopping maven, found several units she liked. So off to a few

stores we went. What we learned was frustrating. Because of a host of reasons, including supply chain disruptions and computer chip shortages, manufacturers are concentrating resources on more popular consumer choices which meant stainless units yes, white units not so much.

After spending one Sunday driving among multiple stores in Maryland and Delaware, we finally found a refrigerator my wife liked. "Pay the man," she expressed with a look of relief.

So, here I sit, waiting for a call from the delivery folks telling me our new refrigerator will arrive within a half hour.

ELECTRIC refrigeration can be bought with the certainty of a long life of every-day usefulness. In 17 years, no Kelvinator has ever worn out. Other manufacturers, it is true, can say the same of their products. But Kelvinator's statement means more, for Kelvinator is the oldest domestic electric refrigeration.

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County to host Critical Area listening sessions

As part of the Comprehensive Critical Area Code updating process, Worcester County Environmental Programs staff will host two public listening sessions on October 20 and 27, 2021.

This draft legislation, which was introduced by the commissioners on September 21, represents a comprehensive rewrite of the existing law.

“The draft bill simply codifies the combination of the two existing programs, Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area program and Chesapeake Bay Critical Area program, and provides updates in accordance with State law changes that are already enforced by staff,” Environmental Programs Director Bob Mitchell said. “It does not address or include any additional regulations over and above that which we already must apply, or have been agreed to in prior local amendments to this code.”

The listening sessions will be opportunities for Worcester County citizens to ask questions, share ideas, and

provide input. All are welcome to attend and participate in the sessions. The sessions will take place at the following locations:

Wednesday, October 20, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the Ocean Pines Branch Library meeting room at 11107 Cathell Road, Berlin.

Wednesday, October 27, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Worcester County Government Center, 1st Floor meeting room at 1 West Market Street, Snow Hill.

For more information contact Jenelle Gerthoffer at jgerthoffer@co.worcester.md.us or 410-632-1220.

Alpaca Farm to celebrate anniversary

Ocean Breeze Alpacas will have an open house celebrating its ten-year anniversary on Saturday, October 23, from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. The farm at 10304 Caleb Road in Berlin, 21811, will be open free to the public for tours, demonstrations, and activities. Co-owners Nancy and Susan Taylor invite all to come meet the alpacas and visit the “Breezy Barn” farm store of local alpaca goods, yarn, hand-knits and roving. One-of-a-kind hand knits are available just in time for the cooler weather.

Nancy and Susan Taylor started the alpaca farm business ten years ago with a herd of 7 males. Over these ten years the herd has grown to as many as 40. Currently they have 23 alpacas including all of the 22 colors the Alpaca Owners Association recognizes. There are also three babies, known as crias, that are just a year old. There are three llamas as well.

Boat club to meet

The Ocean Pines Boat Club annual fall general meeting is on Wednesday, October 20, in the Assateague Room of the Ocean Pines Community Center. Doors open 6:30 p.m. for socializing and light refreshments. Meeting begins at 7 p.m. The speaker is Lyndsey Odachowski who speak on Medical Cannabis in Maryland. The public is invited.

Using natural gas in your home or at your business can reduce your carbon footprint.



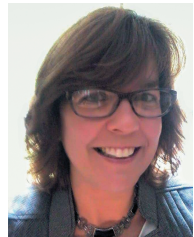
Meet new OPA Board members Peck and Wheatley

Ocean Pines welcomed two new Board members last Monday, with the appointment of Amy Peck and Josette Wheatley.

Both will serve until the 2022 election.

Amy Peck

Peck described herself as a “Baltimore girl who grew up vacationing in Ocean City.”



Amy Peck

“I worked my way through college working ‘down the ocean’ and have fond memories of working at Phillips North,” she said.

Years later, she and her family bought a home in Ocean Pines.

“Once my kids started public school in Baltimore County, we made the wise choice of buying a home here in 2002,” she said. “We were looking for a summer home where my young sons and I could live when school wasn’t in session, and we just fell in love with Ocean Pines and all that it offers.”

Before retiring, Peck worked as an early childhood educator, running her

own licensed daycare center, and working with Baltimore County Parks and Recreation as a teacher and director for their Tiny Tots program.

“My husband continues his career as a scientist with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers,” she said. “My sons attended Baltimore County Public Schools and received full tuition scholarships to Towson University and UMBC, and the oldest will receive his Ph.D. in Environmental Engineering from Duke.”

Prior to moving to Ocean Pines, Peck earned HOA experience while serving as the association secretary of the Pine Valley Valleywood Community Association in Timonium. She also started the Greater Timonium Community Council, worked with land preservation groups in Northern Baltimore County, and volunteered with the Cromwell Valley and Baltimore County recreation and parks departments.

Peck said she brings a unique perspective to the Ocean Pines Board, because of her varied background.

“I have been a part-time resident, a resident with young children, an empty nester, a retiree now almost full-time here, and an employee,” she

said. “Many residents come up to me saying, ‘I know you from somewhere,’ and it is usually from the pools. Before being appointed, I loved working the front desk for Aquatics in the summers and spreading my love for what this community offers.”

She’s also a familiar face in Ocean Pines politics, as someone who frequently attended Board meetings and often wrote letters to the Association’s governing body.

“My approach to something I don’t understand is to research it endlessly,” Peck said. “When I first heard about effluent being used to irrigate, that’s what I did – I researched and I asked any expert I could find questions.”

On the Board, Peck will serve as liaison to two advisory committees: Racquet Sports and Environment and Natural Assets.

“I’m super excited to be liaison for the Environment and Natural Assets Committee,” she said. “It’s been a pleasure talking with members of the committee who share the same passion for the environment that I do.

“I will also serve as liaison for Rac-

quet Sports,” she continued. “Our racquet center, certified instructors, and state-of-the-art courts are the best on the East Coast. The investment Ocean Pines has made in pickleball is paying off.”

Looking forward as a new Ocean Pines Board member, Peck described herself as being fiscally conversative, but not afraid to invest in the future.

“I see the value in investing money to improve our amenities and the customer experience, and in the end the growth in revenue that that investment gives us. I take that same approach with maintaining our current facilities,” she said.

“During the next nine months, I am focusing on continuing our positive revenue growth and improving communication with the homeowners,” Peck continued. “I’m excited to work together as a team to continue projects in place but also I like to look forward long-range keeping in mind the 50-year history of Ocean Pines. I’ve often been called the ‘cheerleader’ of Ocean

please see **members** on page 8

Board statement on 2021 election

Ocean Pines Association President Larry Perrone released the following statement on behalf of the Board of Directors on Friday:

“On Wednesday, Oct. 13, the court heard arguments in the Farr v OPA case. As a result, the court ordered that OPA count the ballots from the 2021 election. The court also enjoined OPA from moving forward with the recently announced redo election. There will be an announcement from the Election Committee regarding the vote count, later today.”

Committee to count ballots

Members of the Ocean Pines Elections Committee will count ballots for the 2021 Board of Directors election starting at 10 a.m. this Wednesday, October 20, in the Clubhouse Meeting Room.

Because of a recent Worcester County Circuit Court ruling, the count will include all four candidates (in ballot order): Frank Daly, Stuart Lakernick, David C. Hardy and Richard Farr.

Also because of the recent court ruling, Ocean Pines will not at this time mail new election ballots.

The count is open to the public. Members of the Elections Committee will announce voting totals at the conclusion of the count. The committee expects the scanning of all valid ballots to take several hours.

Validation of election results will be announced at a later date.

For questions about ballots or the 2021 election, contact the Elections Committee at elections@oceanpines.org or call 410-208-3989.

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Wednesday
Pasta Night...\$11.95 (soup or salad)
Selections vary
DINE IN ONLY \$3 OFF Cheesesteaks

Thursday
Sweet & Sour Chicken...\$9.95
DINE IN ONLY STEAK NIGHT served with a baked potato ...\$21.95 (soup or salad)

Friday
Fried Shrimp served with cole slaw & FF...\$16 (soup or salad)
DINE IN ONLY Meatloaf Platter served with mashed potatoes & a veggie...\$12.95 (soup or salad)

Saturday
SEAFOOD SATURDAY...
fresh catch to be announced!
DINE IN ONLY Large Cheese Pizza at regular price, get a Caesar or House Salad for ONLY \$2.99

Chamber awards banquet scheduled

The Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce invites you to come aboard the Ocean Pines Yacht Club on Wednesday, November 10, for an evening of escape, celebration, and wonderful company. With a travel theme, the organization will celebrate those community leaders who truly stood out over the past year or so.

Several new directors to the board will be welcomed including Amy Hedger of Coastal Home Care, Don Robertson of Seafloor Carpet, Hardwood, and More, Tylor Lenox of Coastal Wealth Management, and Tina Simmons of Atlantic General Hospital. Retiring from the Board will be long time directors, Sarah Yonker of Atlantic General Hospital and Wes McCabe of Taylor Bank.

This year's Businessperson of the Year is Don Robertson, owner of

Seafloor Carpet, Hardwood, and More. He is being recognized for his charitable spirit and consistent support of our area's nonprofits. Windmill Creek Vineyard and Winery is the Business of the Year for the same reason.

The nonprofit of the Year is The Grace Center for Maternal and Women's Health. For eleven years, The Grace Center has supported area mothers in need. They have recently, expanded their mission to include programs aimed at educating and empowering those who seek to improve themselves and their circumstances.

Internally, the chamber will recognize its Volunteers of the Year William and Sherry McFarland.

Destination Sponsorships and Passports (tickets) are available now at OceanPinesChamber.org. Tickets are \$75 each.

For more information, call the Ocean Pines Chamber at 410-641-5306 or email info@oceanpineschamber.org.



The Bakers

Homemade Italian pastries, cakes cookies and more were on sale during the recent Festa Piccola. Above (left to right) **Rosemary Gear, Cretia Motsco, Rosemary Rogers and Jo Alexander.**

members
from page 7

Pines, because I'm very vocal about how much I love it and how much there is to do. I'm going to do my best to serve."

Josette Wheatley

Wheatley is originally from Moncton, a city in southeastern New Brunswick, Canada.

She and her husband, Bob, raised four children in Howard County, Maryland before moving to Ocean Pines full time in 2019.

The family purchased a home in the community in 2014 to be closer to family. Wheatley said her in-laws live next door and have been homeowners since 1996.

Wheatley's professional background includes 25 years in civil engineering, with much of that time spent as a Maryland State Highway consultant working for an engineering firm in Ellicott City. Today, she runs American Engineering Solutions, which is certified by the Maryland Department of Transportation as a woman-owned small business.

"My husband and I have been business owners for the past eight years, providing drafting services for new home construction and renovation plans, including permitting for both residential and commercial projects within Maryland, Delaware and Washington, D.C.," she said. "My experience

includes storm water management, roundabouts, and bridge and road designs," she said.

Since moving to Ocean Pines, Wheatley has been an active volunteer. She previously served on both the 50th Anniversary Committee, and the Communications Advisory Committee, where she served as the committee secretary.

"I have learned that the committees are the pulse of our community, and the people who volunteer are passionate in our success," she said. "In the past, I was president for my homeowner's association in Howard County for four years. During those years, we worked on creating a financial reserve for our aging infrastructure. I also served as a liaison of CERN, a community emergency response network, which worked closely with our communities."

As an Ocean Pines Board member, Wheatley hopes to be a unifying force. She will serve as the Association Secretary, and the liaison to the Communications and Elections committees.

"My focus for this year is to help bring the board of Directors together and to meet the needs of the community," she said. "I intend to listen to the community and get their voices heard. This includes the drainage issue – as it affects so many of our neighbors – as well as the proposed Northgate roundabout, and the environmental impact on our ponds, canals and our overall water quality."

"Promoting our community is also a top priority," she continued. "We live in an amazing part of the world, where the beauty is impeccable and so are the people who live here."



TheCourierofOceanPines

OCEAN PINES RECREATION + PARKS PRESENTS

HAUNTED HOUSE

AT OCEAN PINES COMMUNITY CENTER
FRIDAY, SATURDAY + SUNDAY
OCTOBER 22, 23, 24
5:00PM - 9:00PM

AGES 12 + UNDER: \$8
AGES 13 + UP: \$10

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Family turns tragedy into nonprofit promoting kindness

By **Josh Davis**

Longtime Ocean Pines residents Jackie and Ron Kurtz, for the last three years, have worked to spread messages of hope through their “Matt’s Kindness Ripples On” campaign.

Originally from the Rockville, Maryland area, the family has owned a home in Ocean Pines for about 20 years and lived in the Pines during the last dozen years.

Their son, Matt Kurtz, died tragically in 2017. He was just 32.

The “Matt’s Kindness Ripples On” website and nonprofit group was started shortly after, to honor his optimism and compassion for others.

“It started as a tribute to our son, Matt, who died by suicide. But the true cause of his death was mental illness,” Jackie Kurtz said. “Matt was just a super smart, really humble person who greeted everyone he met with a nonjudgmental heart. He was just a person who practiced everyday acts of kindness as a way of life.”

After his passing, Kurtz said the family was overwhelmed with stories

of Matt’s charitable deeds.

“So many people told us that he changed their lives with his kindness,” Kurtz said. “So, we decided to do this website and blog, with the mission to keep Matt’s kindness going. Really, the mission is to make our world better, one kindness at a time.”

The nonprofit, since 2019, has given out roughly \$6,000 in “Kindness Awards” and “Kindness Grants.” The grants help support charitable acts, while the awards are given to inspirational people.

“We use the award to recognize people who make kindness a way of life, just like Matt did,” Kurtz said. “Part of it is, there are so many kind and compassionate people out there, but all the attention is given to people who behave badly. We want to change the focus and share with the world these inspirational people.”

Anyone can submit a nomination for the award, and winners are given a certificate of appreciation and \$250.

“We ask them to spend it on themselves, because kind people tend to give so much to others and neglect

themselves. So, we say, ‘This is for you to take care of yourself,’” Jackie said. “And we share those people and their stories, to try and bring more attention to that.”

The grants, on the other hand, are selected from a pool who have sent proposals for a kindness project.

“Anyone can submit an idea for an ‘Act of Kindness’ project, and we give \$250 to help them with their project,” Kurtz said.

Recipients for both honors have ranged from local people, to those living in Virginia, New York, Connecticut, Iowa, Indiana, Ohio, Missouri, Nevada, Texas, Florida, California and Hawaii.

“The very first Kindness Award went to a local person, Linda McGean, who is a counselor at Ocean City Ele-

mentary School,” Kurtz said. “Another local person, Jude Al-Hamad, read about the award and applied for a grant. She made packages for the Be-



Matt Kurtz and friend

lieve in Tomorrow organization here locally.”

Kurtz said the youngest award winner was Silas Scauzillo of Rockledge, Florida, a 9-year-old who started a “Kindness Squad” at his school.

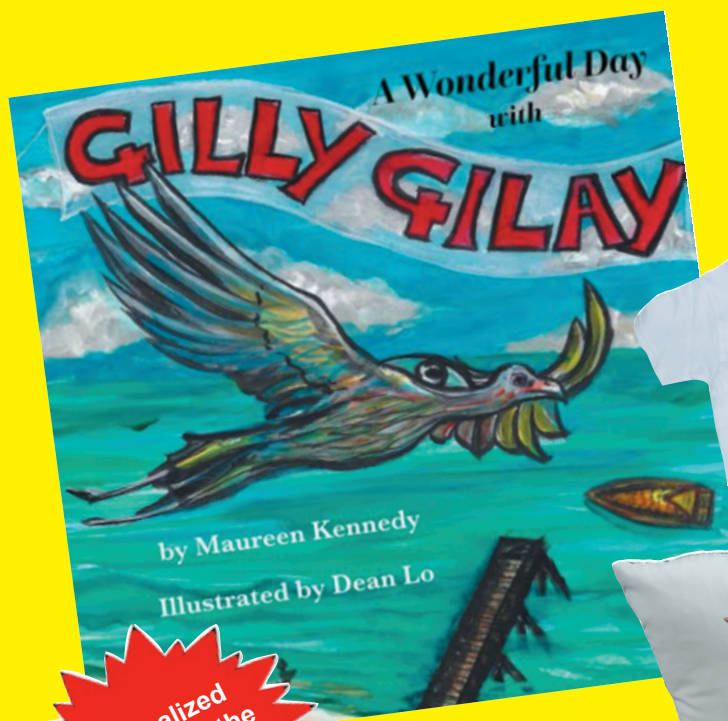
*please see **kurtz** page 22*

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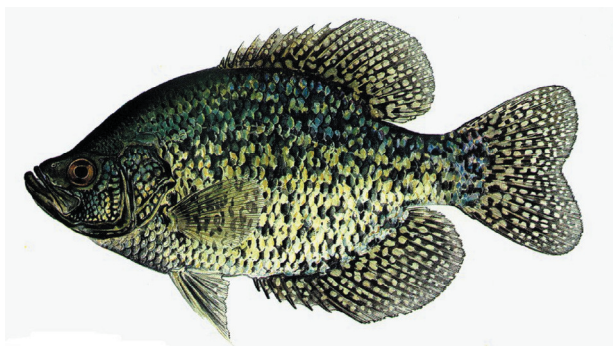
Captain Ron's Fish Tales

By Ron Fisher



Fall crappie fishing

Fishing Report: October is here and although the temperature has been mild there has not been much activity for Striper fishing. They seem to be holding in the New Jersey area and are just starting to migrate in our direction. There have been a few keeper Stripers caught around the Rte. 50 Bridge and quite a few shorts there and around the Rte. 90 Bridge. Some nice keeper Tog along the jetties from the 2nd to 4th street bulkhead on crab and sand fleas. No one can predict this fishing from day to day you just need to go fishing and hope for good luck. Offshore fishing is hot with limits of sea bass being caught along with trigger fish and flounder when the weather cooperates. Tuna fishing has been hot, the best this year. Also, mahi fishing has been better than usual. That being said it's time to think about going crappie Fishing.



Fall Crappie Fishing: It's this time of year I like to start crappie fishing. In our area we have white and black crappie many times they are the same colors and most can't tell them apart. black crappie have seven or eight dorsal spines and white only six. They also have many different names such as calico bass, white perch, cripie, and papermouth to name a few. They grow three to five inches their first year and to seven to eight inches their second year. Most crappie caught are in the range of one half to one pound.

Where to go? One area I found to be a hot spot is the Pocomoke River at Shad Landing Just off MD Route 113. You will need a Maryland Freshwater Fishing License to fish this area. Check the current regulations but usually there is no closed season and no size requirement. Also, you are allowed 15 fish per day or 30 possession

in aggregate

What equipment do I need? An ultra-light spinning outfit spooled with 4lb test monofilament line is best. The rod can be five and half to six feet. You will also need a good assortment of fine quality bobbers and size 6 and 8 short shank hooks.

What bait should I use? Crappie feed primarily on small minnows and insects. The bait of choice in my opinion is small live minnows of one to two inch maximum. These can be hooked through the lips on a size 8 hook with a bobber a couple feet above

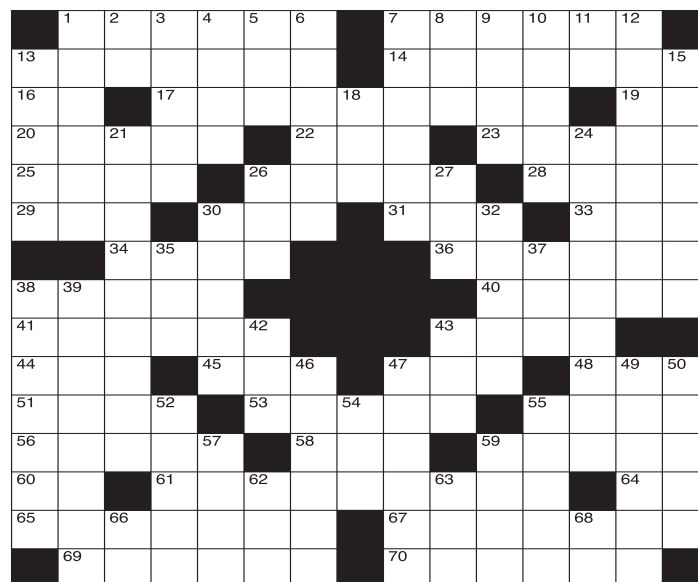
the minnow. Some fishermen prefer to jig for them and an assortment of crappie jigs can be found at local tackle shops.

Where should I fish? They prefer structure. Drop your minnow or jig next to boat docks, trees or cypress roots and wait for the bite with minnows are move you jig in a jigging motion slowly so it looks like a minnow. Don't hesitate to move around until you find them. They are a schooling fish so when you catch one there are likely to more in the area.

What about eating? How can I prepare them? Crappie are one of the best eating fish around. Here are a few recipes.

Pope's Texas Crappie
provided by Russell Pope
This recipe uses the whole fish cleaned and scaled
Coat crappie in sour cream (don't thin the sour cream)

please see fishing on page 22

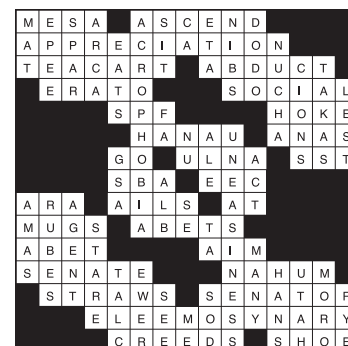


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Break
- 7. Ruled Russia
- 13. Having several lobes
- 14. Walked around proudly
- 16. Atomic #77
- 17. Largest living land animals
- 19. The Great Lakes State
- 20. A type of toast
- 22. Partner to feather
- 23. Bristlelike
- 25. Bowfin
- 26. Distributes
- 28. Hairlike structure
- 29. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
- 30. Where wrestlers work
- 31. Blood relation
- 33. A great deal
- 34. Round Dutch cheese
- 36. Move further away from
- 38. Type of wrap
- 40. Furies
- 41. Removes from the record
- 43. Young salmon
- 44. Feline
- 45. Skin decor
- 47. Disfigure
- 48. They ___
- 51. Formal term for "on"
- 53. Weight of precious stones
- 55. Traveled rapidly
- 56. Long-winged aquatic bird
- 58. Prickly husk
- 59. Expressed pleasure
- 60. Exclamation of surprise
- 61. Most irritable
- 64. Virginia
- 65. Optimistic
- 67. Humorous works
- 69. Arranged systematically
- 70. Emerges

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Wives of a polygamous man
- 2. Where hurt ballplayers land
- 3. Single-celled animal
- 4. Rhythmic pattern
- 5. One from Utah
- 6. A group of seven
- 7. Refrains from inflicting
- 8. Light brown
- 9. Humanistic discipline
- 10. Emits coherent radiation
- 11. It says who you are
- 12. Roundworm
- 13. Group of Native Americans
- 15. Makes wider
- 18. Headgear
- 21. One who sets others free
- 24. Form of communication
- 26. A Brit's mother
- 27. Title of respect
- 30. Famed modernist painter
- 32. One-time province of British India
- 35. Prosecutors
- 37. Motor vehicle
- 38. Non-religious
- 39. Native Americans of Colorado and Wyoming
- 42. Pouch
- 43. Touch gently
- 46. Chose
- 47. Actress Tomei
- 49. Former Broncos coach Dan
- 50. Icelandic poems
- 52. More decent
- 54. Grillmasters use it
- 55. Self-immolation by fire rituals
- 57. Expression of annoyance
- 59. ___ Spumante (Italian wine)
- 62. Consumed
- 63. Body part
- 66. Thus
- 68. Rupee



Answers for October 13

Bays report card released, Osprey Award presented

The Maryland Coastal Bays Program unveiled its 2019-2020 Coastal Bays Report Card, an annual assessment on the health of the Maryland Coastal Bays, the five bays located behind Ocean City and Assateague Island.

The Report Card provides a transparent, timely, and geographically detailed assessment of the health of the Coastal Bays. Coastal Bays health is defined as the progress of four water quality indicators, and two biotic indicators toward scientifically derived ecological thresholds or goals. The six indicators are combined into one coastal bays health index, presented as a report card score. This year's report combined two years of analysis due to analytical problems brought about by the Covid shutdown.

The Coastal Bays had an overall score of C+ for the combined 2019 and 2020 reporting cycle. The years were combined because of covid shutdown which prevented timely water quality analyses. The current grade is a slight decline from the 2017 grade of B-, the

last year data for all indicators were available for a complete analysis. The 2018 report card grade was incomplete due to complications of final indicator results.

This year's data revealed that most areas remained unchanged except for Isle of Wight Bay and Newport Bay, which declined slightly. The main reason for the decline was due to decreased seagrass abundance and mixed hard clam results.

The Report Card is a scientific collaborative effort among the Maryland Coastal Bays Program, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science - Integration and Application Network, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Virginia Institute of Marine Science and the National Park Service. Funding for the publication is provided by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

This year's report card release program included six Gold Star award presentations to recognize the contri-

please see report on page 22



Sheriff speaks on dangers of driving while impaired

Worcester County Sheriff Matt Crisafulli visited Worcester Preparatory School (WPS) Upper School students to share the dangers of driving while impaired.

Sheriff Crisafulli emphasized how many lives are affected when one person makes a poor choice to get behind the wheel of a vehicle while impaired. He also spoke of the legal ramifications and long-term consequences if pulled over while driving impaired, or worse the loss of life.

"Our young adults need to know the long-term impact of poor social decisions," Sheriff Crisafulli said. "Education and prevention are keys to keeping our young adults safe, as they navigate through stressful situations."

Above from the left are students **Harrison Humes, Griffin Jones, Sheriff Crisafulli, Gavin Conaway, Madilyn Nechay and Avery Roselle.**

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Some things to think about

Gathered from the internet by Jack Barnes

Life's biggest tragedy is that we get old too soon and wise too late.

YOU KNOW YOU'RE OLD WHEN YOU GO TO BED AT THE TIME YOU USED TO GO OUT.



"Anybody that can do at 65 what he was doin' at 25 wasn't doin much at 25!"

OLD AGE COMES AT A BAD TIME!
WHEN YOU FINALLY KNOW EVERYTHING, YOU START TO FORGET EVERYTHING YOU KNOW.

MOST PEOPLE DON'T THINK I'M AS OLD AS I AM UNTIL THEY HEAR ME STAND UP

I see people my age out there climbing mountains and zip lining and here I am feeling good about myself because I got my leg through my underwear without losing my balance.



Being twenty in the seventies was much more fun than being seventy in the twenties.

Felt uncomfortable driving into the cemetery. The gps blurted out you have reached your final destination.

Anyone else reached that age where you gain weight if you breathe?



Chamber visits Kiwanis

Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce President Kerrie Bunting spoke recently at the weekly meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines – Ocean City. Above are club president **Tim Lund** and **Kerrie Bunting**.

The Parke garage sale returns

The Parke at Ocean Pines is holding its community sale on Saturday, October 23 (rain date is Sunday, October 24) from 7:30 a.m. to noon in the driveways of its residents. The Parke is an active 55-plus adult community of 503 homes. Parke residents are selling their treasures for others to enjoy. There are clothes, lamps, artwork, household items, electronics, furniture and more.

On October 23, maps will be available at the main entrance of the

Parke located at Central Parke West, located off of Ocean Parkway at the south entrance of Ocean Pines.

For additional information, contact the Parke Clubhouse Staff at 410-208-4994.

Chorus seeks members

The Delmarva Chorus, a chapter of the Sweet Adelines International (501)(c3) holds practice at the Ocean Pines Community Center every Monday evening from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Ladies of all ages are welcome to sing in barbershop harmony. For information, please call Mary at 410-208-4009.

Tides for Ocean City Inlet

Day	High /Low	Tide Time
Th 21	Low	2:35 AM
21	High	9:01 AM
21	Low	3:09 PM
21	High	9:19 PM
F 22	Low	3:09 AM
22	High	9:39 AM
22	Low	3:48 PM
22	High	9:58 PM
Sa 23	Low	3:43 AM
23	High	10:18 AM
23	Low	4:28 PM
23	High	10:37 PM
Su 24	Low	4:20 AM
24	High	10:58 AM
24	Low	5:10 PM
24	High	11:17 PM
M 25	Low	4:59 AM
25	High	11:41 AM
25	Low	5:56 PM
Tu 26	High	12:00 AM
26	Low	5:43 AM
26	High	12:26 PM
26	Low	6:46 PM
W 27	High	12:46 AM
27	Low	6:33 AM
27	High	1:16 PM
27	Low	7:40 PM

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SURVEY DEADLINE: NOV 15

Original lot salesman made his home in Ocean Pines

By **Josh Davis**

John Talbott has been in Ocean Pines since the very beginning, and more than 50 years later he still calls the community home.

After traveling the country, Talbott came to Ocean Pines in 1968 as one of the original lot salesmen and he never left, eventually buying property and raising a family.

Today, he continues to be one of the community's best and most enthusiastic ambassadors.

On the road

Talbott is originally from suburban Philadelphia. He attended Millersville University (then Millersville College) in Pennsylvania and graduated with a bachelor's degree in education.

In 1959, he was drafted into the U.S. Army and served at Fort Jackson in South Carolina, and Fort Sill in Oklahoma.

At Fort Sill, Talbott joined the sky-diving club and made 47 successful jumps. He was also part of the Fort Sill wrestling team that competed with other Army posts.

"Aside from that, I did like the Army food, which many people complained about, but I liked it," he said.

Talbott initially served in the infantry, but later had the opportunity to move into "a rather nice, air-conditioned building" in a new role. He was asked if he could type and fibbed "yes," and then quickly taught himself.

John Talbott is an enthusiastic Ocean Pines ambassador

"I dealt with allied personnel from all over the world who came to Fort Sill to enter courses pertaining to artillery," he said. "I met a lot of people from various countries and it was a very interesting job."

While at Fort Sill, Talbott said the Army circulated a notice that, "If you were dissatisfied with your present MOS (military occupational specialty), you could volunteer to be an advisor in a place called Vietnam."

"I knew what Vietnam was and I



was getting close to the termination of my duty," he said. "I didn't want to be an advisor in Vietnam for a couple of reasons, but mainly because I was getting ready to get out of the service. So,

I declined the opportunity to go."

After the Army, Talbott worked briefly as a substitute teacher near Philadelphia, and then landed a full-time job teaching history and geography in Upper Darby, Pennsylvania. During the summers, he worked as a police officer in Ocean City, NJ.

After two years of teaching full time, Talbott said he realized he didn't enjoy "being couped up in a classroom."

"I was young enough that I wanted to venture out, so I decided that I would try something new," he said. "I was single at the time and I was talking to some friends about this job where you travel around the United States, get paid good money, get to see

sessions
from page 4

Wednesday, November 10, at 3 p.m. on the Berlin Branch Library porch at 13 Harrison Avenue in Berlin (or in the library meeting room if inclement weather).

Under state law this plan must be updated every five years for the county to remain eligible for state Program Open Space funds. For more information, please contact Katherine Munson at kmunson@co.worcester.md.us or 410-632-1220.

please see talbott on page 17

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2021 Homecoming Court announced

Ladies (left to right): **Avery Braciszewski, Caroline Taylor, Darby Moore, Bailey Pusey and Georgia Oglesby.**

Gentleman (left to right): Top Row: **Khi Reid, Joe Buxbaum, and Noah Reho.** Bot-
tom Row: **Zachery Thornton and Sam Woodley.**

The Homecoming King will be crowned during the annual pep rally on Friday, Octo-
ber 22 at 2:15 p.m. The Homecoming Queen will be crowned during halftime of the Oc-
tober 22 Homecoming football game at Louis H. Taylor stadium.

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Is it time to reassess your investment risk tolerance?

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

Every investor has a unique investment approach, risk tolerance and investment time horizon based on their personal circumstances, goals and preferences. But all investors should determine at the outset the level of risk that's appropriate for them and then strive to stick with this investing strategy. To help with this, you might ask yourself these three questions.

1. How much can I stand to lose emotionally? The assets that offer the highest potential reward are often the riskier ones. Portfolios with larger allocations to stocks typically deliver higher returns over time, but they are also more volatile. An "Investor" typically has the goal of achieving investment returns that are greater than low-risk returns – cash and CDs. In order to achieve these results you must accept some level of portfolio fluctuation.

To help manage your emotional response to market volatility, consider cutting back on how often you review the performance of your long-term accounts. In fact, research suggests that the less often people check their investments, the more risk they will be comfortable taking.

2. How much can I stand to lose financially? While many people think about risk in terms of their ability to endure losses emotionally, there's another component to risk that's equally important: your capacity to recover financially.

Time is the primary issue here. Those who have a decade or more before they expect to tap their savings can likely wait out some short-term volatility. For someone who may need the money sooner—in, say, three or fewer years—a market downturn can be disturbing.

Consider designing a portfolio that holds enough cash / stable assets to cover at least 36 months worth of living expenses. This helps avoid selling investments when the market is negative and helps provide time for the investments to recover.

3. How well do I know myself? It's

worthwhile to try to square your financial capacity for risk with your emotional tolerance for it. What makes this hard is that humans are notoriously bad at predicting in advance how they'll actually respond to a given set of conditions.

You might try asking someone close to you to rate your risk tolerance, this could be a spouse, close friend or your financial advisor. A financial advisor may be well suited to this role; their experience with a broad range of clients can lend some perspective on where you fall along the spectrum of risk tolerance.

In the end, figuring out how much risk you can really handle is an art as much as it is a science. But when you have a better idea of how much you can stand to lose—both emotionally and financially—you can put together a plan that balances your long-term need for growth with the more immediate need to be able to sleep at night.

I personally believe in a well-diversified, balanced approach. If you'd like to review your portfolio and assess your risk, please reach out for a complimentary portfolio review.

Mark Engberg, CFP® is the Branch Leader at the Charles Schwab Independent Branch located in Rehoboth Beach, DE with over 20 years of experience helping clients achieve their financial goals. For more information visit the Rehoboth Beach Independent Branch Website at: www.schwab.com/rehobothbeach or call (302) 260-8731.

The information here is for general informational purposes only and should not be considered an individualized recommendation or personalized investment advice. Diversification asset allocation strategies do not ensure a profit and cannot protect against losses in a declining market.

Chix & dumpling dinner offered

The Bishopville Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary will hold a carry out Chicken & Dumpling Dinner for just \$12 per dinner including green beans and sweet potato sides. Extra pint of dumplings is \$7. Pickup times are 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the main station. Orders must be called in by November 3 to 619-922-9950.



Rosarian speaks

Beulah Bonneville recently gave a presentation on Roses to the Worcester County Garden Club. Ms. Bonneville is a consulting Rosarian for the American Rose Society.

The Worcester County Garden Club is a member of Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland, Inc., whose mission is to provide support, leadership and education for garden clubs and the public about best practices for horticulture, conservation, and landscape design. Individuals interested in learning more about Worcester County Garden Club can contact the membership chair at WorCtyGardenClub@gmail.com.

Above Beulah Bonneville speaks to the club.

Parker named new Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

The Worcester County Commissioners named recently retired U.S. Navy Commander Joseph E. Parker, III as the new deputy chief administrative officer (DCAO). He will join Worcester County Administration on October 18.

"I am humbled and excited at the opportunity to join this talented team and to serve the citizens and elected commissioners of Maryland's Coast – Worcester County," Parker said. "Our challenge will be to continue the exceptional legacy and seek to safely navigate our county to a successful future."

Parker, a decorated Naval aviator, brings 22 years of leadership experience to his new position. Commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Navy in 1999, he began his career as a pilot and

advanced through the ranks to become the reserve program budget director for the forward deployed U.S. 7th Fleet in Japan and the Office of the Judge Advocate General (JAG). In addition to providing manpower resources and budgetary oversight, Parker accumulated over 2,800 hours flight time while serving as helicopter aircraft commander, multi-engine/fixed-wing flight instructor, and squadron department head for safety and operations. In Pensacola, he oversaw flight operations for Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard helicopter pilots, including leading 60 flight instructors and 200 student Naval aviators at his squadron. Commander Parker completed four shipboard deployments

please see deputy on page 20

talbott
from page 14

the country, and you attend dinners and try and convince people to go down and look at property in Florida. So, I said, 'I think I'll give that a whirl!'"

Talbott loved the American West and enjoyed traveling. To date, he's visited 48 of the 50 U.S. states – all but Alaska and Maine.

He later sold real estate in Florida, promoting the same projects he used to travel to speak about.

"That was a fun job and I enjoyed living in Florida, but then another friend of mine told me about these projects in various states throughout the country where you can sell lots on lakes. And that sounded rather interesting," he said.

Dirt roads and tree stumps

Soon after, another friend mentioned a project selling lots near Ocean City, MD.

"I said, 'Near the ocean?' and they said, 'That's right.' So, I said, 'When do you want me there?'" Talbott said. "I pulled into town on the seventh day of July in 1968, and opening day was Friday, July 12. And the rest is history."

That history now spans more than five decades, as Talbott watched Ocean Pines grow "from a stretch of land that was completely wooded, to the beautiful community that it is today."

In the very beginning, most of Ocean Pines was dirt roads and "coming soon" signs.

"There were not even many dirt roads in the beginning, because they had to create roads," he said. "But there were enough roads to show people the various lots and where they would be located, based on a map that we would show them."

Back then, he said, water trucks drove up and down the dirt roads, spraying them to keep the dust down.

"If you were traveling and had prospects in your car, and you veered a little bit to the left or the right off the main area that they had cleared, you would get stuck," Talbott said. "There was a gentleman by the name of Harry Wilkerson, and we used to call him up if we got stuck."

Talbott also had the tricky task of selling people on what would eventually be built, including waterfront homes on lots with no water.

He remembers taking potential buyers to empty lots where part of the

forest was cleared of trees, but the ground was still covered in tree stumps. He would point to a stake with a red ribbon and explain that was the width of the canal, and the stake with the blue ribbon represented the center of the waterway.

"Here is Mr. and Mrs. Jones and their family, standing there, and I'm telling them there's going to be a canal – someday – and they're looking at these tree stumps," he said. "It was the same thing with the golf course lots. I would be standing there and saying, 'Do you see where this has all been cleared, way over there where the stake is?' And they would look at all these tree stumps and I would say, 'Well, that's going to be a beautiful fairway.'"

"Some people had the vision to believe what was told to them and, of course, many people did not," he continued. "Those that did became purchasers. And those that did not, years later, said, 'Gosh, I wish we had done that. Look how it turned out!'"

Talbott said he reassured potential buyers that Boise Cascade would spearhead the new development.

"Boise was a company that some people were familiar with and they were on the New York Stock Exchange, so it was a reputable company and they had done other projects throughout the United States," he said. "We would be able to show on a map where they had done the same thing – not as elaborate or as large as Ocean Pines – but they were successful projects."

Although much of the early development was left up to the imagination, Talbott said he instantly fell in love with the area.

"When I arrived on the seventh day in July of 1968, that's when I decided I wanted to stay," he said. "I liked the

area and I had already done a lot of traveling. And I really, really liked being close to the ocean, so I think that's what prompted me to stay here.

"I proceeded to buy a lot and, as time progressed, I built a home and then I bought some other properties. We have one on the water now, which we love," he continued. "I probably bought more property than I should have and at one time I owned quite a few lots, but I believed in real estate, and it's enabled us to live the way we always dreamed."

Talbott started dating a local girl from Cambridge in 1976, and they were married in 1979. Today, he and his wife, Karen, have two daughters and two grandchildren.

Looking back, and enjoying the view

More than 50 years after he first arrived in Ocean Pines, Talbott continues to sell real estate, now as an associate broker for Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices PenFed Realty.

"I don't work as hard today as I used to," he said with a laugh. "Being a Realtor, you have the ability and the freedom to work as much or as little as you wish. However, if you want to be successful and earn money, you can't

work as little as you want – you have to really do it full time. You're working Saturdays and Sundays and those could be your two busiest days. You don't really have off, like most normal jobs."

Back in 1968, Talbott said he never dreamed Ocean Pines would grow into what it is today, in part because the community was being sold as a resort getaway rather than the largest residential community in the county.

"I didn't foresee it being as successful as it turned out to be, but I've been in the community since the beginning and I've thoroughly enjoyed it," he said. "I actually marvel, every day, when I drive around. I like the beauty of the trees and the landscaping that the community offers, and the way that it was put together."

"And, of course, you can't overlook the amenities! You can't duplicate what we have here, and you can't create waterfront properties anymore," he continued.

"To this day, if I'm by myself running an errand, I will take in the beauty that the community offers. I really enjoy the environment, and I think a lot of other people would share the same feeling," Talbott said.



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Church to install new Dean

Holy Trinity Cathedral of the Missionary Diocese of all Saints in the Anglican Church in North America, located at 11021 Worcester Hwy., in Berlin, announces the Installation of its New Dean, the Very Rev. Fr. Larry Barnhill. The service of Installation will take place on Sunday Oct. 24 at 10 a.m. at Holy Trinity Cathedral. Fr. Larry comes to Holy Trinity from central Florida and the Special Jurisdiction of Chaplains.



Rev. Fr. Larry Barnhill

Fr. Larry was ordained to the Diaconate on Pentecost Sunday in

2012. After several years of leading and teaching on aspects of prayer and spiritual healing, mostly with the Order of St. Luke, Fr. Larry felt the call to go back to school and pursue his MDiv and head towards being a chaplain. Fr. Larry started his MDiv with Reformed Theological Seminary in Orlando, FL before transferring over and completing his MDiv in 2018 at Asbury Theological Seminary in Orlando, FL. Fr. Larry was ordained to the priesthood on May 18, 2019, by Bishop Mark Nordstrom in Gainesville, Florida.

Fr. Larry grew up as an Army brat and has traveled the world and across many parts of the US. Fr. Larry was born in Germany and is the eldest of three children. He served in the army during the early 1990s and later continued to serve the military veterans in the US as a healthcare professional with the Veterans Administration. Fr. Larry was a spiritual and pastoral resource for many veterans and did work as a chaplain with Transport for Christ Ministries which ministers to the trucking industry.



Tour - Mary Foelber (second from left), chair of the 2021 Sand Castle Home Tour, **Michael Foelber**, and homeowners **Seanna** and **Matt Covell** celebrate at the cocktail party on October 11 at the Spain Wine Bar in the Cambria Hotel held by the Art League of Ocean City. The all-virtual tour that runs through Oct. 31 is a benefit for the nonprofit Art League.

If you live in Ocean Pines, be sure to contact The Courier if you want the paper each week in your driveway.

Call 410-629-5906

Pusey named new deputy director of DRP

The Worcester County Commissioners appointed Gary Pusey as the new deputy director within Development Review and Permitting (DRP). Pusey stepped into his new role on October 8.



Gary Pusey

“Gary is a dedicated leader with a wide range of planning experience to bring to Worcester County,” DRP Director Jennifer Keener said. “He will be a valuable asset to our team, and I look forward to working with him.”

Pusey, brings more than 35 years of planning experience to this position. He has served as the planning director for Somerset County since 2010, where he oversaw planning, zoning, environmental regulations, housing programs, grant management, and building permit issuance and inspections. Prior to taking on that role, he served as the chief of long-range/transportation planning with the City of Salisbury and Wicomico County Government from 2002-2010, where his long-range planning activities included prepar-

ing and updating the comprehensive plans and other planning studies.

“Worcester County has long had a reputation for implementing high-quality planning efforts, which I believe is attributable to the efforts of the County Commissioners, Planning Commission and staff members, with valuable input from the public,” Pusey said. “I look forward to being a part of that process, and hopefully I can contribute to those efforts.”

He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in geography and regional planning from Salisbury University and a Master of Urban and Regional Planning degree from Virginia Commonwealth University.

The DRP deputy director is responsible for assisting the director with all aspects of development, review, permitting, and other functions, including staff supervision, and coordinating planning studies and documents, including the upcoming review of the Worcester County Comprehensive Plan.

Pusey has lived on the Lower Eastern Shore for most of his life and enjoys a variety of outdoor activities.

Freelance features
writers sought.

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What's your story?





Jail and correctional officers graduate

Thirty-two jail and correctional officers from Wicomico, Worcester, Somerset and Talbot counties graduated in the 112th entrance-level class of the Eastern Shore Criminal Justice Academy (ESCJA) operated by Wor-Wic Community College in Salisbury.

Officers from the Worcester County Jail and Detention Center who graduated in the 112th entrance-level class of the Eastern Shore Criminal Justice Academy operated by Wor-Wic Community College in Salisbury are shown, from left, **Caleb Foster** and **Taylor Hartman**.

TidalHealth modifies visitation

As TidalHealth works to balance patient safety and support and the desire to reunite loved ones with family members who are hospitalized, the health system has increased visitation opportunities at both TidalHealth Peninsula Regional in Salisbury and TidalHealth Nanticoke in Seaford, DE.

One visitor, over the age of 18, per patient will be allowed.

If the patient is confirmed to have COVID-19 or under investigation for COVID-19, visitation will not be permitted, however, end of life accommodations will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

Visitation hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., seven days a week.

Visitors are required at all times to wear a facemask that covers both their nose and mouth. People who are unable to wear a face covering should not visit. Gaiters and bandanas will not be permitted. A mask will be provided for those visitors arriving with either of the two unapproved face coverings.

Upon entry, visitors will be screened for fever and other COVID-19 symptoms. Anyone who is feeling ill or feverish should not visit and will not be allowed to proceed to a patient floor if they are found to have a fever or symptoms.

Additionally, TidalHealth will provide

each guest a visitation card that must be returned at the conclusion of their visit to the same reception desk from which it was obtained. Failure to do so will result in that patient not being allowed additional visitors until the card is returned.

Visitors will not be permitted to wait inside any TidalHealth lobby prior to visiting hours or while waiting for entry into a patient's room if already occupied by a guest. Visitors are encouraged to wait in their vehicles and to coordinate visitation times with loved ones and friends to avoid an overlap of guests.

At TidalHealth Peninsula Regional, visitors should enter via the Hanna Main Entrance (adjacent to the Emergency Department), located near the Visitor Parking Garage off Vine Street. At TidalHealth Nanticoke, visitors should use the main entrance or your designated entrance.

One support person is allowed to accompany a patient in the Emergency Department (ED). If that patient is later admitted to a medical floor, the patient will be allowed a single visitor.

In the Labor and Delivery and Mother/Baby units, one support person and one approved and certified doula are allowed to accompany the birthing mother.

Local leader helps deliver community banking message

The Independent Community Bankers of America (ICBA) announced that community banker, Reid Tingle, President/CEO of Bank of Ocean City, Ocean City, MD was re-elected to the ICBA Federal Delegate Board. ICBA is the nation's voice for commu-



Reid Tingle

nity banks.

"I am honored to be re-elected to represent our industry and help ICBA communicate the positive story of community banking," Tingle said. "As relationship-based lenders, committed to ensuring the financial health of local consumers and entrepreneurs, community banks are central to creating communities of prosperity nationwide."

In addition to helping shape and advocate ICBA's national policy positions and programs, Tingle's duties include engaging in grassroots

activities in Maryland and serving as a liaison between independent community bankers and ICBA staff and leadership in Washington, D.C. He will also work to recruit new members to ICBA.

ICBA is the only organization dedicated exclusively to promoting the interests of locally operated community banks and savings institutions. With trusted financial expertise and high-quality customer service as their hallmarks, community banks offer the best financial services option for millions of consumers, small businesses and agricultural enterprises.

"Mr. Tingle is a dedicated advocate for his community, who is well-respected by his industry peers," said ICBA Chairman Robert M. Fisher, president and CEO of Tioga State Bank. "We are fortunate to have Reid serve in this volunteer capacity in pursuit of creating an environment where community banks, and the communities they serve, continue to flourish."

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Benefits of pet crates, and how to make them cozy

Aspiring pet owners purchase various items before they welcome a new companion animal into their homes. Food, collars, leashes, toys, and preventive medications are just some of the items necessary to keep pets happy and safe. Large animals like dogs and cats often benefit from crates and carriers as well.

Though some individuals and animal rights organizations are against



crates, when used responsibly, crates can be useful in various ways.

Crates provide a safe space. Certain animals have a natural instinct to bed down in dens. While some homes have areas that serve as cozy nooks, a crate set aside in a quiet room can replicate a safe den for the pet when he or she is stressed or tired and simply needs some time away. A pet may seek out this "den" on its own or can be placed there by an owner when the animal needs to calm down. Children should be advised to leave crated animals alone.

Assist with house training. Many animals prefer not to soil where they sleep. Therefore, a pet will not void in the crate, provided it is sized correctly, and will learn to gradually hold it until it is granted access to the proper place to relieve itself.

Keep areas off limits. Cordoned off areas surrounded by gates may work for some pets, but certain dogs are able to scale or circumvent such barriers. A closed crate provides a safe option when the animal cannot be supervised and has not yet demonstrated it can be trusted to have free reign of the home.

When selecting and outfitting a crate, pet owners should keep certain things in mind.

Be sure there is adequate ventilation so that the animal can breathe comfortably. Wire crates, which are among the most popular, will allow for plenty of air flow and enable the pet to see his or her environment.

Seek out a crate that is rated for travel so that you'll get double duty out of the item. Keeping pets contained in a moving vehicle is a safer way to travel.

Monitor your pet to determine what you can put inside the crate. Some trainers recommend feeding and watering your pet in the crate to make the animal more comfortable with it. Comfortable bedding or a favorite toy

or blanket may help provided your pet is not a chewer (and swallower) and can be trusted with these items overnight.

Remove harnesses, collars and other items from the pet before placing it in the crate to reduce the risk of strangulation or injury.

Limit the time the pet spends in the crate to allow for exercise and stretching. The pet should be able to stand up and reposition in the crate, but the crate should not be large enough that



the dog can soil on one side and rest on the other. The crate should never be a punishment tool.

If the pet messes inside the crate, clean it promptly.

Crates are useful tools for pet owners. When used responsibly, crates can serve as safe havens and training tools for pets.



Scholarships

As college bound students return to in-person learning, the Marlin Club Crew of OC (MCCOC) Inc. was excited to donate a total of \$15,000 in scholarships to local graduates who exemplified excellence in both scholastic and community activities.

Raising funds for scholarships is the primary goal of MCCOC and the team struggled hard through the pandemic to still be able to meet those goals and financially assist the students.

Checks are made payable to the institution of higher education for the expressed use of tuition. For more information, contact MCCOC President Cathy Donovan 410-213-9283.

School is Closed Camp offered

Worcester County Recreation and Parks is offering school's out camps throughout the 2021-2022 school year. These days are perfect for those affected by the schools being closed. The camps will take place at the Worcester County Recreation Center in Snow Hill.

Families can now register their deputy from page 16

(two for Operation Iraqi Freedom) onboard warships *USS Boone*, *USS Vicksburg*, *USS Bataan*, and *USS Blue Ridge*. He spent eight years of his career overseas in the Middle East and forward deployed sea duty in Japan.

He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in political science from the U.S. Naval Academy, a Master of Arts in management and leadership from Webster University, and a Master of Arts in strategic studies from the U.S. Army War College. He will step into the roll previously held by Chief Administrative Officer Weston Young.

The DCAO is a critical member of county administration and management who oversees independent and broadly-defined missions and special projects and acts on behalf of the CAO in his absence as directed.

Parker was born and raised in Berlin. He and his wife, Jacque, have two children.

children for a day of fun where participants will play various sports, games, make crafts, and more. The camp days are as follows: November 5, January 28, April 1, and April 4.

The camp program is open to students in grades kindergarten through eighth. All campers are asked to bring their own lunches. A snack will be provided. There are two time frames to choose from: 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. for extended care at \$40 per child and \$35 for each additional child; or 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at \$35 per child and \$30 for each additional child.

For more information, contact Derek Jarmon at 410-632-2144, ext. 2509 or djarmon@marylandscoast.org. To view other youth programs and one-day events, visit www.playmarylandsc coast.org.

Fundraising dinner set

The Bishopville Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary will be hold a carry out BBQ half chicken with coleslaw dinner or pint of BBQ pulled pork with coleslaw dinner for just \$12 each. Pickup times are 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the main station. Orders must be called in by October 20 to 619-922-9950.

Diabetes support group offered

Don't let diabetes get you down this autumn. The Worcester County Health Department (WCHD) is offering free diabetes support group sessions starting in November for those living with diabetes.

The sessions are offered monthly every third Wednesday, from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. at the Snow Hill library.

"Diabetes support groups offer a great opportunity for those with diabetes and their caregivers to learn more about diabetes and reinforce self-management skills such as blood glucose monitoring, medication management, healthy eating, physical activity and reducing the risk of developing complications," said Mimi Dean, Director of Prevention Services.

Participants who enroll in this program will benefit from making connections with other people living with diabetes, sharing coping strategies, gaining new ideas for meals, learning how to eat healthy as well as how to move more, and through continued encouragement and motivation.

A Registered Nutritionist leads all

of the sessions. This group is for anyone with diabetes – Type 1 or Type 2, new diagnosis, or long-term conditions.

Join the free support group today to find the resources and tools you need to manage your diabetes effectively. Pre-registration is encouraged. For more information, please contact Kelly Williams at 410-632-1100 Ext. 1113.

Christmas bazaar scheduled

The Community Church at Ocean Pines will hold its annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, November 6 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Family Life Center of the church at 11227 Racetrack Road, Berlin. The Bazaar will feature Christmas decorations and trees, linens and things, new and gently used clothing, gifts and potpourri, children's books and toys, and a bake sale. Proceeds from the event will support the Shepherd's Nook outreach ministry.



Kiwanian of the Year awarded

The most prestigious award given each year by the outgoing president in recognition of outstanding contribution to the club is the Kiwanian of the Year award. Above President **Steve Cohen** (right) presented the award to **Roy and Candy Foreman**, spouse co-chairs of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City Dawg Team. They chaired the hotdog, hamburgers, snacks and drinks team that served food for The Wall That Heals volunteers, at the summer weekly Concerts in The Park, the Ocean Pines 4th of July Celebration, the Pine'eers Craft Fair, the Kiwanis Car Show, the Ocean Pines Summer Flea Market and the Big Trucks Day.

Track or Treat event scheduled

Worcester County Recreation & Parks invites youth and families for a night of safe Trick or Treating. Track or Treat will take place at the Worcester County Recreation Center in Snow Hill on Friday, October 29, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

This family-fun event is open to youth ages 12 and under. Local vendors will have goodies to hand out to the kids. Children should come dressed in their Halloween costumes

and bring their bags to collect goodies.

There is no admission fee for this event, but children must be accompanied by an adult. All guests must sign in at the main entrance.

For more information on this event or to become a vendor, contact Tyler Keiser at 410-632-2144, ext. 2505 or tkeiser@marylandscoast.org. Visit www.playmarylandscoast.org to learn about other special events happening in Worcester County.

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Veteran Owned

fishing
from page 10

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Sharp's Crappie Recipe

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Use fillets

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Salt and Pepper to taste

Mix the above according to how much you'll need to cover your fillets.

Heat your frying oil to at least 375 degrees, drop those fillets in, and let'em fry till brown. Take'em out and squeeze some fresh lemon on them! Your tongue will slap your face!! Hope you enjoy.

Did you know? Crappies are less active during the day, they feed mostly at dawn & dusk.

Until next time remember to take a kid fishing.

Capt. Ron

Kiwanis holds annual coat, toy drives

Winter and cold temperatures are coming. Many people will need support from their communities. That's what the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines- Ocean City will be doing. Collecting new and reusable winter items for all ages, including coats, boots, sweaters, sweatshirts, shoes, scarves, gloves and blankets, and new unwrapped toys. In addition to Kiwanis members' donations, the public is asked to donate. Both drive collections will be done simultaneously in the Ocean Pines Community Center parking lot from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. on Thursdays October 28, November 4, 11, 18 and Tuesday November 23. Vehicles will be identified with Kiwanis signs. Unwrapped toy donations will be delivered to Worcester G.O.L.D. and coats/winter wear will be taken to the Joseph house Crisis Center, Little Sisters of Jesus and Mary, and St. Peter's Lutheran Church.



report

from page 11

butions of partners and their efforts to protect the coastal bays. Recipients of this recognition were the Town of Berlin, the NOAA Youth Environmental Summit, Audubon Mid-Atlantic, Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve Maryland, local res-

ident John Collins and volunteer group Protectors of the St. Martin River. The report card with the award highlights can be found at mdcoastalbays.org.

This year's report card release program included the recognition of an extraordinary volunteer. MCBP's prestigious Osprey Award was presented to Steven Taylor, Berlin, for his pio-

neering work in establishing the Coastal Bays Program and his continued support and leadership throughout the life of the Program.

Hundreds of volunteers work with MCBP, including residents and visitors, to support environmental initiatives to protect, promote, and preserve our coastal bays, by volunteering to count horseshoe crabs, terrapins, and birds; collect water samples, work on restoration projects, clean neighborhoods, wetlands, and dunes of trash, and assist in many other activities.

Part of the National Estuary Program, the Maryland Coastal Bays Program is a non-profit partnership among the towns of Ocean City and Berlin, the National Park Service, Worcester County, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Maryland Departments of Natural Resources, Agriculture, Environment, & Planning. One of only 28 such programs nationwide, the goal of the Maryland Coastal Bays Program is to protect and enhance the 175-square mile watershed, which includes Ocean City, Ocean Pines, Berlin, and Assateague Island National Seashore.

Report cards are available online at www.mdcoastalbays.org. If you would like to obtain copies for school projects and citizen groups, please contact Sandi Smith at sandis@mdcoastalbays.org or by calling 410-213-2297 ext. 106.

kurtz
from page 9

"It's amazing, all the different ideas that [grant and award winners] have come up with," she said. "It's been everything from a guy who used his stimulus check to start a nonprofit to take inner-city kids fishing and help mentor them, to people who have dealt with issues like literacy, homelessness, animal shelters, and help for cancer patients.

"It's been awesome to see the creativity that people have come up with, to help others," she continued. "It's been beautiful and inspirational, and I feel lucky that I get to read all of these nominations. The only bad part is, everybody that applies or nominates deserves an award. There's just so many amazing people and we can only give so many out."

Kurtz said the nonprofit has

committed to support at least two awards and two grants each year. However, donations to the nonprofit have made it possible to expand the programs.

"We've been very lucky that people have been donating to us," she said. "One hundred percent of donations have gone to additional awards and grants. That's been really humbling too."

While donations have also come from all over the country, Kurtz said the local community of Ocean Pines has been incredibly supportive of the nonprofit.

"A lot of people have talked to me about it. They've reached out and shared stories, and nominated people for awards," she said. "We've also received donations. It's wonderful that so many people have supported us and what we do, and they've been there for us through the heartache and the grief.

"I feel very lucky. We have some very amazing friends and neighbors here that have been super supportive of us," she added.

Jackie's husband, Ron Kurtz, is also active locally through the Ocean Pines Pickleball Club. As the club treasurer, he's helped raise funds for many charitable groups.

"They've been using their membership money to donate to some great organizations, which has been wonderful," Jackie said.

As for what Matt would have thought of the project, Jackie said he "would have absolutely loved it."

"He'd want to be involved so much," she said. "He was all about kindness and being a good person and spreading goodwill."

For more information, including nomination and grant applications, or to donate to Matt's Kindness Ripples On, visit www.mattskindnessrippleson.com.

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