

The Courier

December 8, 2021 Volume 22 Number 14



Lucy wins

*'Pup of the Pines'
winner announced*

A FOX RED LABRADOR RETRIEVER named "Lucy" has been named the top dog in the Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department's "Pup of the Pines" photo contest.

Ten-month-old Lucy received the greatest number of votes in the annual contest. She was named the winner at the "Hometown Christmas" tree lighting ceremony on Nov. 27 at White Horse Park.

Votes were cast in person at the Ocean Pines Halloween/fall festival and community center, and via an online survey.

Kevin and Susie Gordon, Lucy's owners, said Lucy loves the Ocean Pines Dog Park and walking around the community.

As "Pup of the Pines," Lucy receives a free 2022 dog park registration. She will also be the official face of the dog park and will be featured in the Ocean Pines Activity Guide and other postings throughout the year.

Money raised from the contest entry fees will be used for upgrades and improvements to the dog park.

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A little swag - Members of the Ocean Pines Garden Club gathered on the Monday following Thanksgiving to create and hang holiday decorations during their annual "Decorating the Pines" event. The members created over 50 swags and wreaths that were then distributed and installed by "unsung heroes" (usually husbands) throughout neighborhood entrances in the Pines. In addition, garden club members "fluffed" the stop sign swags and Ocean Pines Public Works employees hung them. The Ocean Pines Garden Club generally meets the second Thursday of each month at 10 a.m. in the Ocean Pines Community Center. New members are welcome. For more information, please contact Patti Lookner at 410-973-1243 or Plookner@gmail.com.

North Gate bridge maintenance to cause closure

General Manager John Viola has announced that the Ocean Pines North Gate bridge will be closed on Thursday, December 9 beginning at 8 a.m. for power washing. The work is scheduled to be completed that day.

The North Gate entrance will be closed while cleaning is underway. Traffic will be diverted to Cathell Road, the truck route entrance at Beauchamp Road and the South Gate entrance at Manklin Creek Road.

Access to the North Gate bridge will be given to police and fire personnel in the event of an emergency.

"Maintenance at the North Gate bridge is part of a larger plan to upgrade the appearance of one of Ocean Pines' main entrances," Viola said. "Our team is focusing on improvements to this area as well as on other beautification efforts throughout the community."

For questions, call 410-641-7717 or email info@oceanpines.org.

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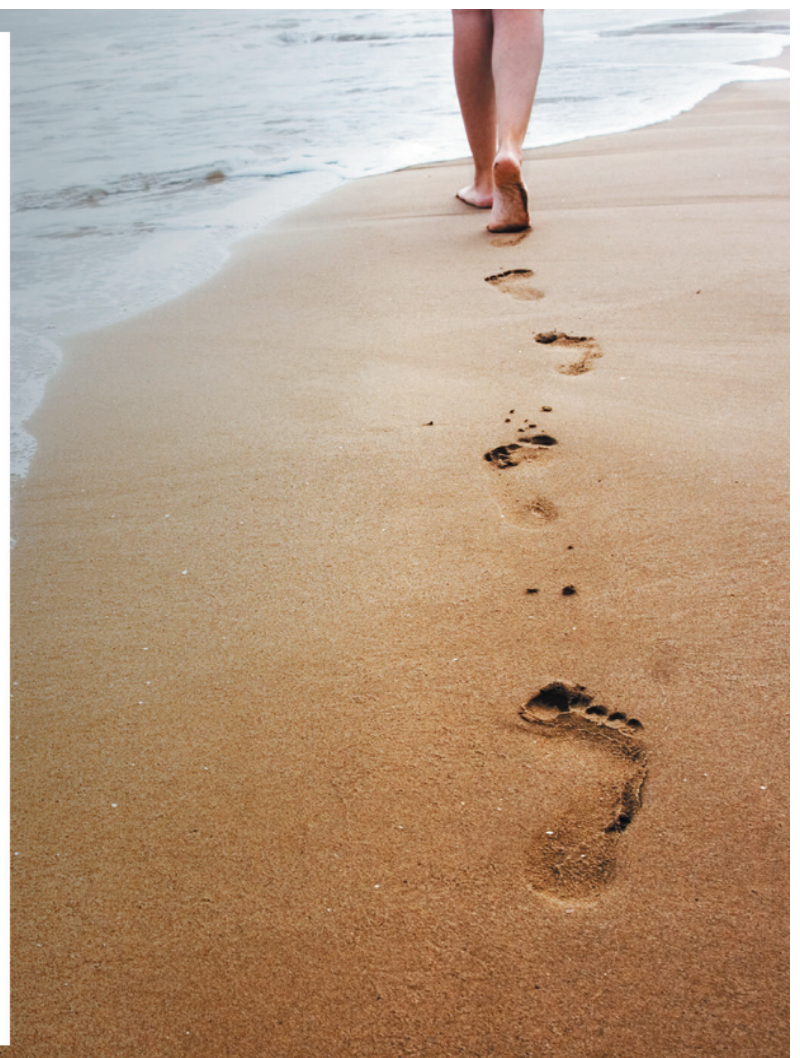


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Afternoon with an Old Man

By **Joe Reynolds**

OceanPinesForum.com

The old man had been ill for a long time. He was recovering somewhat but knew he would never get on the water again. Those days were long gone. That's what hurt the most. His family and friends worried about him, and he knew it. He knew too that he was contrary at times, but for the most part he was content. Memories brought content-



ment.

Sometimes he would sit and think for hours, going over the events of his life. Often his thoughts focused on days spent on the water, to the fish he had caught, and, most of all, to the friendships developed during those good times.

Several years had passed since the old man held a fly rod in his hands but he still enjoyed rummaging through the memories of past trips, and it seemed to him there was an endless supply of good times and good fishing to relive.

On this day he was thinking about

his friend Bill Brighoff and not even the sound of his granddaughter's vacuum cleaner or the wails of his sixteen-month-old great-grandson were enough to break the magical spell of those thoughts.

Brighoff had been a real character. From Bill's Sportsman's Chance Marina on the Little Choptank River, they had fished together for years, going after stripers and blues in the days when fly fishermen were an unusual sight on Chesapeake Bay. Sportsman's Chance was a dilapidated sort of place. Brighoff ran off most of the customers with his contrary ways. The old man always figured Brighoff did it on purpose so he would have more time for fishing. And fish he did. Right up to the day he died of a heart attack.

The old man remembered how he reacted to the news of Brighoff's death. Sure, there was sadness and a sense of loss, but mostly a feeling of anger. Damn that Brighoff, he had thought, he's no right to up and die on me. We had too many good days ahead of us. The old man never returned to Sportsman's Chance again. Not even to see Brighoff's widow, and the old man wasn't happy with himself for that. But he knew it could never be the same and, in those days, the old man's thoughts were always on the future, never the past.

Suddenly a smile cracked the wrinkles on the old man's face. He was remembering the first time he had spent the night at Sportsman's Chance. "Listen," Brighoff had said, "instead of setting up that tent, why don't you just sleep in my old trailer out there by the water. Nothin' fancy but it's comfortable." Nothing fancy.....brother was that an understatement.

It was an old, beat-up, gray-skinned travel trailer, very likely built well before World War II. The interior looked as though a major portion of the war was fought there and the mattress was a cinch to be rejected by both the Goodwill and Salvation Army. Not five minutes after settling in, the old man recalled, field mice came scurrying out of the walls and proceeded to

run all over the covers. Scared the dickens out of him at first and then he spent the remainder of the night cursing the mice and Brighoff. But next day they enjoyed some great fishing. It was fall and in those days stripers were plentiful, with scattered schools tearing up bait over most of the Little Choptank.

There was no need to hurry. Most times it was nine or so before the fish were on top. After breakfast they'd sit by the window of Brighoff's marina office and scan the horizon with binoculars, looking for signs of gulls working over the feeding fish. Their conversation would revolve around tackle, guns, knives, fish, women, mosquitoes, and other such matters of importance. But it really wasn't conversation. More like constant arguing. About anything. Probably why they got along so well, the old man thought. Maybe not having Brighoff as an antagonist was why he missed him so much. They had been alike in more ways than one.

On that day they took a few fish in the afternoon but just before sunset the stripers really went on a feeding binge, he remembered. The wind died and a miserable chop had flattened until the surface was mirror-smooth. Dead flat. They were inside James Island with the final rays of an orange sun slanting thru the tall pines reflecting from the water and creating a latticework of black over orange.

Suddenly the stripers were tearing into bait along the entire shore. Two to three pounders. A seemingly endless supply. They cast white streamers and the fish took without hesitation on every cast. Another reason the old man would never forget that day was most of the stripers jumped after taking the fly. Not fancy, head-shaking leaps like a bluefish, but jumps nevertheless. His friends laughed when he told them of the jumping stripers and he didn't tell the story again after that. But he knew it had happened.

The vacuum cleaner went off and

*please see **afternoon** on page 14*

Courier Almanac

On December 8, 1981 John Lennon, a former member of the Beatles, the rock group that transformed popular music in the 1960s, was shot and killed by an obsessed fan in New York City.

The 40-year-old artist was entering his luxury Manhattan apartment building when Mark David Chapman shot him four times at close range with a .38-caliber revolver. Lennon, bleeding profusely, was rushed to the hospital but died enroute. Chapman had received an autograph from Lennon earlier in the day and voluntarily remained at the scene of the shooting until he was arrested by police. For a week, hundreds of bereaved fans kept a vigil outside the Dakota, Lennon's apartment building, and demonstrations of mourning were held around the world.

Comic books have inspired countless Hollywood blockbusters over the last 20 years, but even the most devoted comic book fan may not recognize just how influential the genre was more than a half century ago. Comic books and the Civil



Rights Movement may seem like an unlikely pairing, but History.com notes that a 1957 comic book titled "Martin Luther King and The Montgomery Story" affected a generation of activists more than 50 years ago. The book, written by activist Alfred Hassler and illustrated by Sy Barry, highlighted the heroic efforts of Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King, Jr. during the Montgomery bus boycott in 1955 and promoted the merits of nonviolent protest. A quarter million copies of the

book were printed and distributed by churches and civil rights groups. Among the many individuals to credit the comic book were the late U.S. Congressman John Lewis, a widely respected civil rights activist who admitted reading the book as an 18-year-old. History.com notes the book's reach extended beyond the United States, ultimately inspiring anti-apartheid protesters in South Africa before it was banned by the South African government.

The Courier

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Christmas bell memories

IN THIS SPACE LAST WEEK, I wrote about the “Decorating Fanatic.” I revealed the reality of my life when my wife decorates our home for Christmas. To recap: my contribution usually extends no further than



It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

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responding, “Yes dear, whatever you’d like me to do dear.”

The column struck a nerve. After reading my comments, my wife came into the family room holding the paper and saying something to the effect that readers would get the wrong idea about her. I didn’t portray things as they really are she claimed.

To rectify the situation, she invited (more accurately, told) me to become more involved in the decorating process this year. How could I have been so obtuse? After years of escaping decorating duty because of perceived, or more accurately, manufactured ineptitude, I was now being called up to serve. Avoidance was not an option. Better to go along to get along.

My mission was to set up, light and decorate the “Bell” tree in the family room. This is the tree upon which are placed the Goebel bells that each Christmas I give my wife. She now has 39 bells.

This custom started the first year we started dating while in college. We had been going together only a couple months. During Christmas break she travelled to Germany where her father was commander of a brigade in Augsburg. She left early in December. We agreed to exchange gifts when she returned.

Intent on buying the perfect

Christmas gifts for my new girlfriend, while shopping with my mother in Lahaska, Pennsylvania at a place called Peddler’s Village, I went into a collectible shop. In a display cabinet I found the inaugural edition of the

Goebel ornament bell launched that year. I bought it and have continued to purchase one each year since. Funny how traditions originate. Some years it was the only gift I could afford to give her.

When I finished lighting the tree, I pulled the many ornament bell boxes from the red Rubbermaid storage tub. Each ornament has an image on the front and the issue year on the back. Nostalgia washed over me with each bell I hung. Some memories were more vivid than others; some were happier than others.

The first bell was 1984 which included an image of an evergreen tree. That was a pivotal year. In May, my grandfather passed away. In October my wife and I started dating. It wasn’t until I hung that bell on the bough that it struck me that during that one year, I lost Gramps and found Susan. It gave me pause. It’s been many years and many bells since then, yet it wasn’t until I hung that ornament this year that I fully appreciated the connection between those two major life events that happened that

year.

1987 (Teddy Bear image). When my wife displayed that ornament for the first time, we were experiencing our first Christmas as a married couple in our first home. That house was tiny, very tiny. Just under 600 square feet. The tree we bought occupied most of the floor space.

1988 (Poinsettia). The first

Christmas with our daughter, our first child. We were so excited about being first time parents that we went overboard, way overboard, with the number of gifts we gave her. Although just under two months old, I think there was even a two-wheel bicycle under the tree.

1990 (Holly). Our first Christmas with our second child, our son. He was born in early October but unforeseen and very serious medical issues kept him in the hospital for weeks. My wife and I were on edge for months. By Christmas, the worst was fortunately behind us.

1991 (Hobby Horse). Our first Christmas in Ocean Pines. The ornament remained in its box that year because we were living at the time with my wife’s parents as we waited for our home in New Jersey to sell.

1995 (A boy on a sled). We enjoyed our first Christmas in our new home in Ocean Pines. We moved in in June. We had a heck of a time putting presents under the tree that year because our five-year-old son refused to go to sleep. He kept coming into the living room to see if Santa had yet arrived. It was a long evening.

1996 (Little girl mailing a letter). The first Christmas with our third child, a son. Just over eight months old by Christmas, he was a beautiful, energetic baby. He was also very spoiled by his older siblings, especially his sister.

2000 (Angel). The year we launched *The Courier*. That was a hectic year. We met ourselves coming and going.

2003 (Christmas stocking). That was the year we put an addition on our house. The work, which was expected to be finished by Halloween, was chronically delayed because of an ineffective contractor. Things came to a head on Christmas Eve morning when workers knocked on the front door to continue work that should have been finished weeks before. My wife had just started baking in the kitchen, attempting to make the holiday as normal as possible for our children despite the reality that our home was tossed upside down be-

cause of construction. I stepped outside with the workers and explained there would be no working on the house that day or the next and that they would be taking their lives in their own hands if they crossed the

threshold to do so. A spatula in my wife’s hand that morning could have been a lethal weapon. The workers understood.

2007 (Bells). The year my wife’s father passed away. He faced ALS with dignity and humor. He left us too soon. It was a relatively quiet holiday.

2009 (Gingerbread house). The start of what would be called in hindsight, the Great Recession. That year (and the year after) was a roller coaster both emotionally and financially. It was one of the toughest years we experienced. But we got through.

2012 (Toy train). The year our daughter got married and our first grandchild (a little girl) was born. Life changes for the better when you become a grandparent. It was also the year our oldest son commissioned into the Army.

2014 (Christmas tree). The year our first grandson was born. Life becomes doubly better with two grandchildren.

2016 (Sled). The year my wife and I took a road trip to El Paso to visit our daughter and her family. It was our first vacation in many years.

2019 (Cardinal perched in front of a window). The year our oldest son married a very beautiful young lady and made his parents even more proud.

My trip down memory lane came to a close with one bell still to be hung, 2021. I called my wife in so she could have the honor. She found a place. The tree was complete for this year.

A lot of bells. A lot of years. A lot of memories made more special because they have been shared with a very special woman.

And to top it all off, she gave my tree decorating efforts two thumbs up.



Frozen coming to Performing Arts Center

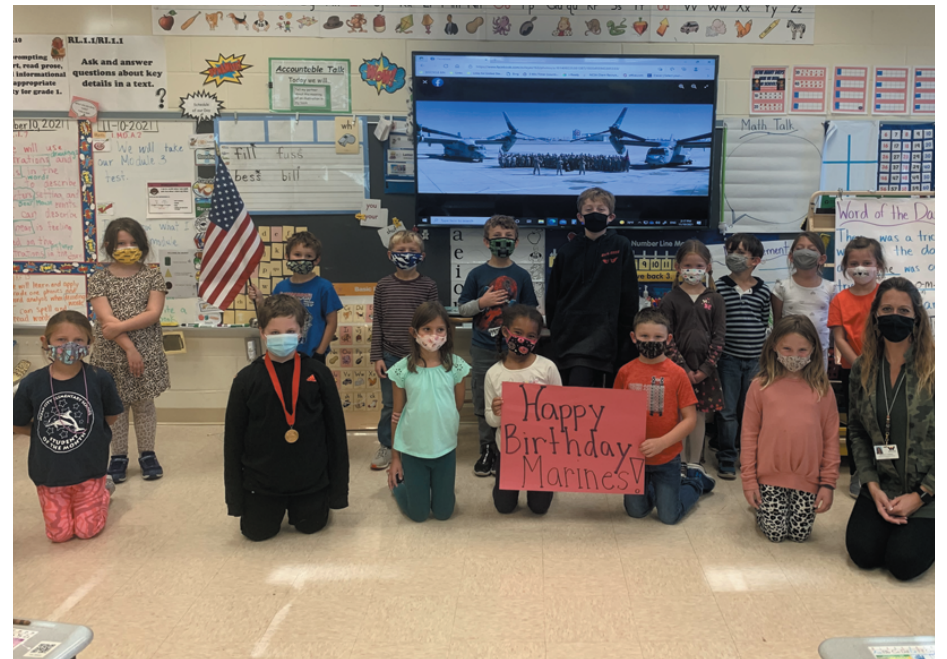
The highly acclaimed Ocean Pines Children's Theater is delighted to announce their upcoming production of the musical, "Disney's Frozen, Jr." Performances will be January 14 at 7 p.m., and January 15 at 3 p.m., at the Performing Arts Center, located in the Ocean City Convention Center.

Based on the Oscar-winning film, the stage adaptation of "Frozen" opened on Broadway in 2018, earning 3 Tony award nominations, including best musical. Unfortunately, in May 2020, after 825 performances, the painful decision was reached to suspend further Broadway performances of "Frozen" due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Since the beginning of 2021, the show has been on the road, again captivating audiences across the United States, Europe, Japan, and Australia. The OP Children's Theater is proud to offer audiences yet another opportunity to see this magical show.



Director / Choreographer, and President of the OP Children's Theater, Paulette DeRosa-Matrona, had this to say. "I am so proud of the 16 talented and hard-working young people in our cast, and of course incredibly grateful to our wonderful artistic directors and production crew. Everyone is so excited to be a part of this. I'm particularly honored to represent one of the theater groups performing this enchanting modern Disney classic, and I encourage all to come out and experience its magic. Help us truly celebrate Elsa and Anna's song, "For the First Time in Forever."

Tickets may be purchased through ticketmaster.com, or in person at the Ocean City Convention Center Box Office, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., at 40th St. Bayside.



Happy birthday - Ocean City Elementary School students in Melanie Coleman's class enjoyed a special presentation from LT. Colonel Oles, who is in charge of the VMM-163 Evil Eyes Squadron at Miramar Marine Corp Base in San Diego. The first grade students celebrated the Marine Corps 246th birthday along with learning the importance of soldiers and thanking a Veteran. Students especially enjoyed listening to all the cool experiences Lt. Colonel has had as a soldier.

Paying for Long-Term Care: the importance of planning early

By **Michele Procino-Wells, Esquire**

We plan to go on vacation. We plan to have dinner with friends. But when it comes to planning for our care as we advance in age, many of us prefer not to think about it, believing it will somehow all work out. Consider the two scenarios below that contrast the different outcomes of planning early and choosing the "wait and see" approach for long term care.

The Facts

Steve is 72 and Carol is 69. They have been retired for several years. Recently, their oldest child asked them whether they had made any

plans if one of them suddenly got sick. Steve and Carol had not thought much about this since both of them were in good health. However, they agreed to seek some advice to see what their options were. Steve and Carol own a home and they have checking, savings and CD accounts that total \$325,000. They both worked most of their adult lives, carefully watching their expenses and never spending money on extravagant items they didn't feel they needed.

*please see **care** on page 8*

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Thankfulness — In the spirit of Thanksgiving, Beverley Thompson’s Kindergarten class at Ocean City Elementary has been discussing thankfulness. Some of the things that the students are thankful for include, family, friends, pets, and the earth. Pictured below are **Georgia Horner, Vivienne Oladeji, Grace Vornicu, and Michael Pappas-Newhouse.**

OPA announces resignations

It was announced last week that the Ocean Pines Association (OPA) has accepted the resignations of two individuals who are key to the community’s operations. General Manager John Viola and Senior Executive Assistant Michelle Bennett are stepping down effective February 28 and December 28 respectively.

In a statement, association President Larry Perrone said the Board of Directors is “very appreciative of all John’s contributions.” He acknowledged that Viola assembled a “highly effective” management team and credited him for stabilizing OPA finances and directing the community’s recent strong economic performance.

Viola was named temporary general manager in April 2019. He signed a multiyear contract in December 2019 that was scheduled to end June 30, 2022.

Since 2010 the community has been helmed by four different general managers: Bob Thompson (2010-2016); Brett Hill (2016-2017); John Bailey (2017-2019); and John Viola (2019-2022).

Perrone said the Board of Directors is moving forward with initiating a search for the new General Manager.

Bennett has accepted an employment opportunity that will enable her to utilize her accounting experience fulling according to a statement by Viola last Friday. Said Viola, “Michelle has been a great asset to Ocean Pines Association and will be missed very much.”

Worship service announced

A Blue Christmas Worship Service will be held Sunday, December 19 at 5 p.m. at Bethany United Methodist Church located at 8648 Stephen Decatur Highway in Berlin. The service also will be lived streamed on Facebook, YouTube, and at bethanyberlin.org. The Worship includes opportunities for expression of grief and pain as well as an opportunity to focus on the promise of hope. All are welcome. For more information call 410-641-2186.

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Farmers Market to announce Market Achievement Awards

Behind the name “Ocean Pines Farmers and Artisans Market” are a dedicated group of merchants, volunteers, community partners and market leadership that brings the marketplace to the public each week of the year.

After 10 successful years, the market continues to be an essential part of the local food and handmade product system in Worcester County, offering the community a central place to gather and shop for those local products.

On Jan. 8, the market will recognize individuals, groups and businesses that contributed to the market’s success with the 2022 Ocean Pines Farmers and Artisans

Market Achievement Awards.

The Ocean Pines Market will recognize with honors a legacy merchant, an outstanding marketplace leader, and a dedicated marketplace volunteer. Awards will also be bestowed in several other categories, including Best Marketplace Storefront and Outstanding Social Media Promotion.

“It’s always incredible to see how much love and labor our merchants put into their market businesses,” Assistant Market Manager John Chandler said. “We want to recognize these efforts that make the Ocean Pines market one of the most unique public markets in this region.”

than 5 years had passed. Carol was incredibly relieved to know that she did not have to worry about paying for Steve’s care and could instead focus on visiting him and providing as much support as possible to him.

Scenario #2 – Steve and Carol without planning ahead.

Let’s assume Steve and Carol did not plan ahead. When Steve had a stroke at age 78, the couple had \$325,000 in checking, savings and CDs. Under the Medicaid regulations in place at the time, Carol was able to keep approximately \$125,000 of the assets, but most of the remaining assets had to be spent for Steve’s care. While their home would be protected since Carol was still living there, if she were to become ill the home could be subject to a lien by Medicaid. It took nearly two years to get Steve qualified for Medicaid, and the process was incredibly stressful for Carol and her children. Furthermore, no planning has been done for Carol and if her health fails, their remaining assets are at risk.

Conclusion

The scenarios above highlight the importance of seniors planning early for the possibility of needing long term care. There are not only financial benefits to doing so, but also numerous non-financial benefits, including reduced stress on the family and peace of mind knowing that the family’s needs are taken care of regardless of any health care crisis that may occur.

Other award categories will include Artisan of the Year, Green Market Merchant of the Year, Peddler Merchant of the Year, and overall Market Merchant of the Year.

“To the average marketgoer, it might seem like the market just sort of happens. We can assure you that this is not the case,” Market Manager David Bean said. “We couldn’t function without our entire market team, and we want to give them a big thank you with these honors.”

Bean said 120 merchants participated in the Ocean Pines Farmers and Artisans Market this year. The market will accept new merchant applications, starting in February.

“We will be searching for potential merchants with new and differ-

ent products to add to our lineup,” Chandler said.

Additionally, The Ocean Pines market will hold a special weekday Christmas Market on Thursday, Dec. 23 from 9 a.m. to noon at its White Horse Park location.

The market will be closed on Saturday, Dec. 25 for Christmas Day and Jan. 1 for New Year’s Day.

The Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market is open Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon, through February. In-season hours return in March, with the market open from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information, visit <https://www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/farmers-artisans-market>.

care

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Scenario #1 – Steve and Carol planning ahead.

Steve and Carol spoke with an elder law attorney, as they knew they should update their will and powers of attorney. While there, they were surprised to learn that they could actually plan now to avoid running out of money in the future should they need long term care. They placed \$200,000 and their home into an irrevocable trust, and named their children as beneficiaries of the trust. If needed, their children would be able to take a distribution from the trust rather than using their own money for Steve and Carol’s needs. They kept the remaining \$125,000 in a revocable trust that Steve and Carol would use for their living expenses. The \$200,000 placed into the irrevocable trust would not be counted against them after 5 years, should either of them need long term care and the assistance of state benefits to pay for it. Unfortunately, six years later Steve had a severe stroke and ended up in a nursing home. Carol tried caring for him at home but was simply unable to. Because they had planned ahead and had set up an irrevocable trust, Carol was able to keep all of the remaining cash assets in their revocable trust, and Steve was able to qualify immediately for state Medicaid benefits. The irrevocable trust (which had now grown to \$215,000) remained in place but did not count against Steve since more

Take home COVID test kits available

The Worcester County Health Department (WCHD) is partnering with Worcester County Libraries (WCL) and County Government to connect residents with COVID test kits that they can use at-home. Kits are now available, while supplies last, at all five WCL branches: the Snow Hill, Pocumoke, Berlin, Ocean City, and Ocean Pines libraries.

“We know that, in Worcester, partnerships between agencies support a stronger community,” said Rebecca Jones, Health Officer for Worcester County. “By working hand-in-hand with our local li-

braries, we are making take-home COVID-19 testing kits easy and convenient to use no matter where you live in the county.”

Take-home COVID-19 test kits use rapid antigen testing to detect active COVID infections. They provide results within a few minutes. If you are experiencing symptoms of illness or believe you may have COVID-19, please see a health provider instead of going to the library.

“To protect public health, this service will be available via contactless pick up,” WCL Director Jennifer Ranck said. “Patrons are asked to call the library, and we will place kits on a table outside with their names.”

Looking for a COVID-19 vaccine or booster? You can schedule an appointment online at WorcesterHealth.org. Questions or need assistance scheduling? We’re here to help. Call 667-253-2140 during business hours to speak with a member of our public health team.

Anglers to meet

The Ocean Pines Anglers Club will meet on Saturday, December 11 at 9:30 a.m. in the Ocean Pines library. Angler members Jack Barnes, Budd Heim, Doug Murphy and Buddy Siegel will provide a slide show review of the 2021 Club activities. Local anglers contemplating membership in the club should definitely attend. In addition, the 2021 winners of the Walt Boge Fishing Tournament will be announced. Members are asked to bring a contribution of a non-perishable food item and or money {cash or check} which will be donated to Diakonia the local transitional housing shelter on the Lower Shore. All are welcome.

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

Pine Tones to perform

On Friday, December 10, at 7:30 p.m. the Pine Tones Chorus will present their Christmas Concert at Atlantic United Methodist Church in Ocean City, Baltimore Ave. and 4th Street.

The concert opens with its title song "Can't Wait for Christmas." Popular selections will include the all-time favorites: "There's No Place Like Home for the Holidays" as sung by Perry Como and "Let it Snow, Let it Snow" from Sinatra and other artists. Other songs will present fanciful arrangements of the tunes from "Parade of the Wooden Soldiers" and the "Nutcracker."

Classical selections will feature themes such as "Bethlehem," "the Child in the Manger," and "Shepherds in the Fields." A highlight attraction is the well-known Christmas favorite "O Holy Night" performed by Mary Price, soprano.

The Pine Tones Chorus includes about 40 singers from Ocean Pines, Ocean City, and nearby areas. June Todd and Jenny Anderson are the group's co-directors. Guest

musicians will include percussionist Len Rubin and string bass player Tom Baione.

Admission is free and an offering will be received. After the concert, guests may enjoy refreshments in the church social hall.

The Pine Tones Chorus has been entertaining local audiences in the Ocean Pines and Ocean City areas since 1984. For additional information, call the Chorus President Dave Holloway at 410-641-5672 or 610-213-7472.

Christmas service announced

There will be a Christmas Eve Worship Service, Friday, December 24 at 7 p.m. at Bethany United Methodist Church located at 8648 Stephen Decatur Highway in Berlin. The service also will be lived streamed on Facebook, YouTube, and at bethanyberlin.org. All are welcome. For more information call 410-641-2186



Decorating

Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City decorated their tree for the Ocean Pines Hometown Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration in White Horse Park.

Above are **Candy** and **Roy Foreman** with the finished product.

Quinto recognized

The Pine'er Craft Club of Ocean Pines has announced Carol Quinto as the December Crafter of the Month.

Born and raised in New Jersey, Carol and her husband Phil retired and moved to Ocean Pines in 2004. Carol joined the Pine'er Craft Club and discovered she had a passion for making handmade items.

A self-taught sewer, Carol began making sewn items to sell in the Pine'er Artisan Gift Shop but quickly expanded her craft to include machine embroidery, painted porcelain china and fabric decoupage plates.

Carol is also a very busy member of the Pine'er Craft Club. She has chaired the popular summer and holiday craft fairs and served as

vice president and manager of the gift shop. She currently serves as gift shop treasurer.

To see the items Carol has created and those of other crafters in the group, visit the Artisan Gift Shop, located next to the Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market in White Horse Park. The shop is open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The shop will be open Dec. 3, 10 and 17 for extra holiday shopping.

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

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Knots & Knots by Dan Collins

Lights

We're now within a couple weeks of the longest night of the year and, coincidentally, we are also in the holiday light season. Homes and stores and parks are all aglow. There are reds and greens and blues and whites and yellows. They will glow bright or blink or even change colors. It seems to be a perfect confluence, the darkness being overwhelmed by all the bright holiday spirit.

The holiday lights are a smattering of everything that is joyful. They can be arranged in precise patterns to trim a house or a menorah or randomly scattered over bushes and trees to lure Saint Nicholas to stop and admire their haphazard beauty but out on the water red and green and blue and yellow lights are not as carefree.

For mariners, lights are vital to safe nighttime navigation and they have precise meanings. Red and green lights identify the port and starboard sides of vessels that are under way as well as the lateral buoys that mark the channels at night. The blue lights identify police boats and the yellow lights make the nighttime mariner aware that there is a towing operation underway.

Not all lateral buoys have lights. In fact, most do not; however, where necessary they are equipped with red and green lights respectively. These lights also help you identify buoys when it is too dark to read the buoys identification number. In daylight, you can recognize the distinct 'can' and 'nun' shapes at great distances and read the numbers on the buoys through binoculars as you approach but at night that might not be possible until you are close enough to view them with a searchlight.

The solution is very clever. The red and green lights can be made to illuminate 100% of the time (steady state) or flash a unique pattern. If you were lost at night or in a heavy fog, you would be able to see the flashing red light long before you would see the buoy or get close enough to read its number. By knowing their light patterns you would be able to get your bearings and move on.

The flash pattern for each buoy is indicated on the NOAA nautical chart.



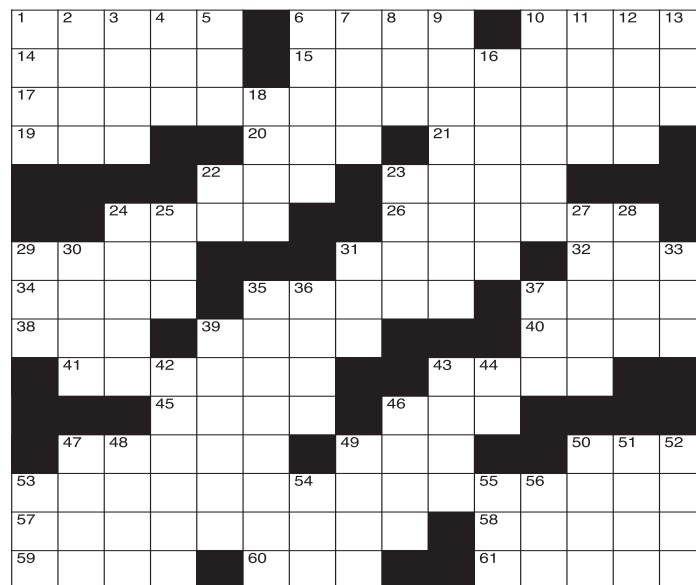
Holiday tree lights in White Horse Park

The Coast Guard uses three standardized flash durations that are sufficiently distinct to avoid misinterpretation. They are 2.5, 4, and 6 seconds.

For example, on our local chart, 12211, in the Isle of Wight Bay there are several red buoys. The red buoy at the entrance to the Ocean Pine Yacht Club basin is marked as "Fl R 2.5s" meaning that it flashes red for two and a half second durations. On the eastern side of the bay, buoy number 14, at the end (or beginning) of the eastern channel is marked "Fl R 4s." It flashes on a four second interval.

It is easy to get fooled when you go out at night. Everything looks different. I remember one humorous night time mission with the USCG Auxiliary, we were coming north in Isle of Wight Bay looking for the St. Martin River.

please see lights on page 14

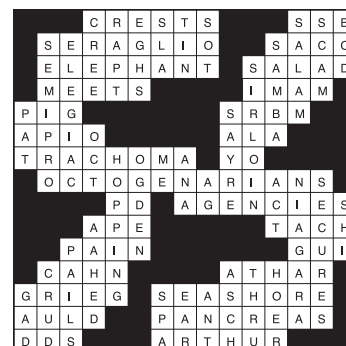


CLUES ACROSS

1. Polish city
6. Very eager
10. Identifies a specific person or thing
14. Tennis great Naomi
15. One concerned by professional advancement
17. PGA Championship reward
19. A fashionable hotel
20. Norse mythology afterlife location
21. Stood up
22. Car mechanics group
23. Weather forecasters use it (abbr.)
24. Broken branch
26. Astronomy unit
29. East Asian nursemaid
31. "Airplane!" actor
32. Exclamation that denotes disgust
34. "Batman" villain
35. Downfalls
37. Philippine province
38. Once-vital TV part
39. Valley
40. Tax
41. Classic Scorsese film
43. Subway dwellers
45. Book part
46. Taxi
47. Pancakes made from buckwheat flour
49. Swiss river
50. Founder of Babism
53. Have surgery
57. Withdrawal from a larger entity
58. Lot's father
59. Greek war god
60. 2,000 lbs.
61. Lemur

CLUES DOWN

1. Quarrels
2. Right away
3. Comedian Carvey
4. Egyptian unit of weight
5. A Brit's mother
6. Tropical tree
7. One who speaks Gaelic
8. NHL legend Bobby
9. Vacation spots
10. Military personnel
11. Shakira's don't lie
12. Wimbledon champ
13. Teletypewriter
16. Mistakes
18. Whale ship captain
22. Thus
23. From end to end
24. Kids love him
25. One and only
27. Fencing swords
28. Taxis
29. Basics
30. Refuse of grapes
31. Go quickly
33. French ballet dynasty
35. Most open
36. Popular soap ingredient
37. US time zone (abbr.)
39. Items of food
42. Backbones
43. Infrequent
44. Blood type
46. "Let It Snow!" songwriter
47. Dutch colonist
48. Pike
49. Egyptian sun god
50. A cardinal is one
51. From a distance
52. Bolivian river
53. N. American student organization (abbr.)
54. River (Spanish)
55. Chinese life force
56. Chinese surname



Answers for December 1

Free flu and COVID-19 shot clinic offered

Twas the Saturday before Christmas, and do you still need your seasonal flu shot or COVID-19 vaccination? Good news, it's not too late. On Saturday, December 18 from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m., TidalHealth Peninsula Regional and Froggy 99.9 are again teaming up to provide Delmarva residents their best "shot" against the flu and COVID-19 this season.

TidalHealth is bringing its Wag-

ner Wellness Van to the Froggy 99.9 studios, located near the Oak Ridge Baptist Church in Salisbury, and will be providing free flu shots to anyone age 13 and above. If age 13 to 17, a parent or legal guardian must accompany the child to sign consent. COVID-19 vaccinations will also be available to those who are over the age of 18.

Call 410-543-7139 for more information.



From left to right: **Dillon Scopp, Dylan Simons, Jayden Scopp and Hunter Simons** are pictured outside of the Worcester Youth & Family Counseling Services. All wearing "Find Your Strong" sweatshirts in support of the Simons brothers Only Positive Stories organization.

Students surpass fundraising goal

Recently, a group of Worcester Preparatory School (WPS) students raised a goal of \$1,000 in just four days to benefit the Worcester Youth & Family Counseling Services (WYFCS).

Siblings, Dylan and Hunter Simons, along with Jayden and Dillon Scopp, teamed up to create a fundraiser on the Go Fund Me website to raise money towards WYFCS this holiday season.

The students are focusing on facilitating positive outcomes for kids in need. It is their wish to provide the local youth a place to feel safe, and also have fun. The goal is to raise funds to create a grand and dynamic space for children by supplying them with smart TVs, video gaming system, and other kid-friendly games at the WYFCS facil-

ity located in Berlin.

"Everyone should feel special and loved especially during this holiday season," Hunter Simons said.

Although the fundraiser has met the goal of \$1000 raised, it is still open for donations. The money raised will go directly to WYFCS where any donation makes an impact. The Simons and Scopp families are asking anyone able to chip in to help make the facility a happier, and more stimulating environment for local youth.

"We hope other kids will want to join us, and giving back will become contagious," Dylan Simons said.

To donate visit <https://go-fund.me/b08c67eb>.

For more info on Only Positive Stories visit www.onlypositivestories.com.

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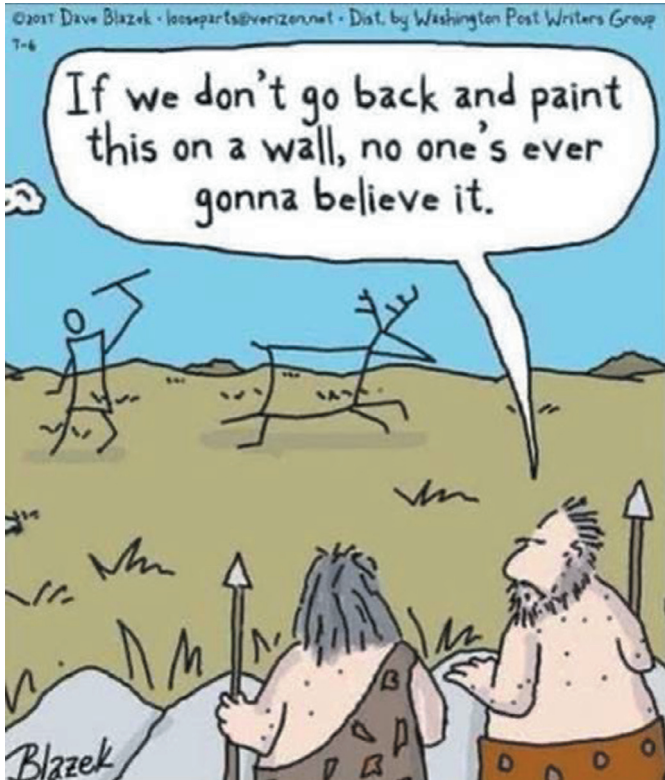
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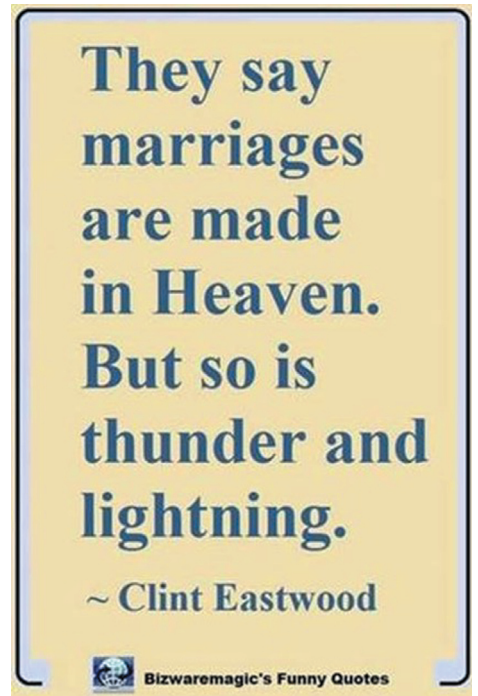
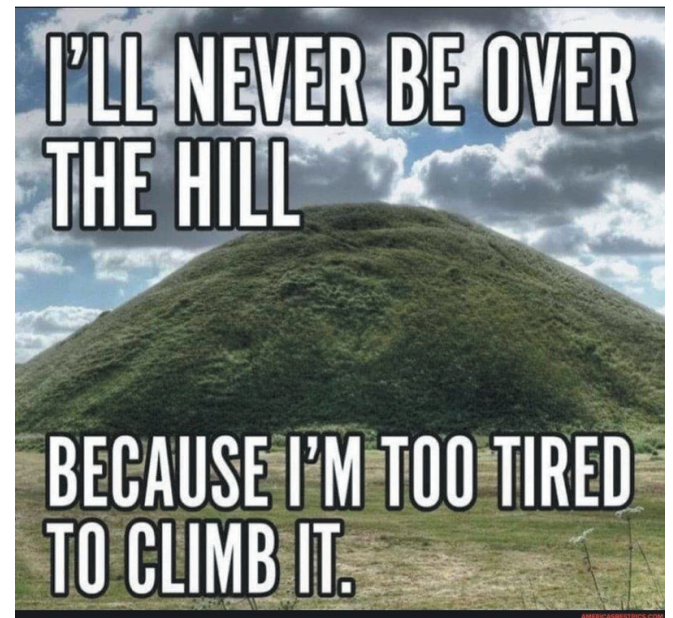
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Some things to think about

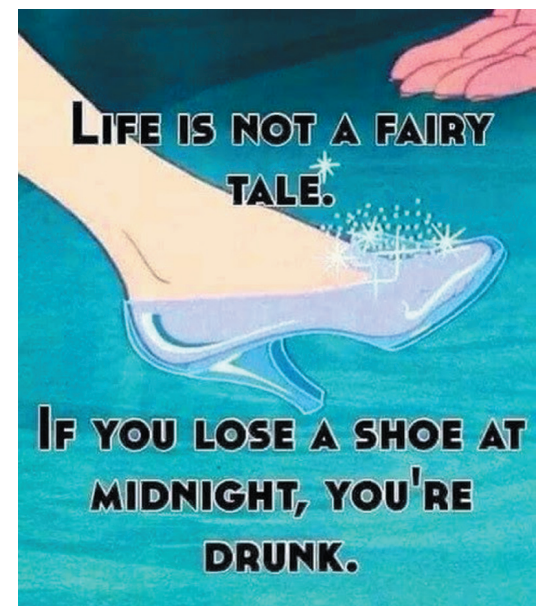
Gathered from the internet by **Jack Barnes**



Me and every campfire EVER!



So many people these days are too judgemental.
I can tell just by looking at them.



US WIND partners with local groups

Last week Baltimore-based US Wind, Inc. (“US Wind”) announced key partnerships with three local non-profit conservation organizations serving the inland and coastal bays in both Delaware and Maryland.

US Wind has pledged \$100,000 to the Maryland Coastal Bays Program, a National Estuary Program and non-profit partnership between the state of Maryland, the towns of Ocean City and Berlin, Worcester County, the Assateague Island National Seashore, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, to help with land restoration and resilience efforts to fight the effects of climate change. A \$50,000 pledge has also been made to the Assateague Coastal Trust Coast Kids program, which will enable Delmarva’s youth to immerse themselves in outdoor experiences, ranging from kayak-

ing to bird banding, in order to more fully understand coastal ecosystems.

US Wind has also made a \$100,000 pledge to the Delaware Center for the Inland Bays, also a National Estuary Program, which will serve as a capstone contribution to the capital campaign behind their master plan for the James Farm Ecological Preserve. In recognition of the gift, the Center will name the new facility the “US Wind Environmental Education Center at the James Farm Ecological Preserve.”

“Strong connections in the community are critical to our efforts to bring clean energy and good jobs to the region,” said US Wind CEO Jeff Grybowski. “We’re honored to lend our name to the Center for the Inland Bays’ Environmental Education Center and to be partnering with such well-respected and effective local conservation groups on the Delmarva peninsula.”

“We’ve been working with the state, Audubon, and US Wind to find a way to create a new coastal resilience position that will help us stem the loss of our tern and skimmer island habitat,” said Maryland Coastal Bays Program Executive Director Kevin Smith. “This partnership with US Wind will make that much-needed position possible.”

“US Wind’s commitment to clean, renewable energy and the health of our coast is tremendous,” said Chris Bason, Executive Director of the Delaware Center for the Inland Bays. “We’re honored to add US Wind’s name to the Environmental Education Building that will be constructed as a

part of the Master Plan for the James Farm Ecological Preserve. Their support will greatly improve the Center’s capacity to educate and engage youth and adults in our efforts to restore the health of the Inland Bays and their watershed for decades to come.”

“As part of the Waterkeeper Alliance, we work closely with our local estuary programs to help reduce nutrient inputs into our local waterways and educate and engage our next generation of environmental stewards,” said Kathy Phillips, Executive Director of Assateague Coastal Trust. “Partnering with US Wind on the Coast Kids program is a huge boost to our efforts, allowing many kids who wouldn’t otherwise be able to afford it to attend this experiential program.”

In 2014, US Wind acquired an 80,000-acre federal lease area off the coast of Maryland. In 2017, the company was awarded Offshore Renewable Energy Credits (ORECs) from the state of Maryland for its MarWin project. The passage of Maryland’s Clean Energy Jobs Act in 2019 increased the state’s offshore wind energy requirements, calling for an additional 1,200 MW to be procured from developers with projects near the state’s coast. In 2021, US Wind submitted its vision to fully satisfy Maryland’s offshore wind goals with the full buildout of Momentum Wind. Momentum Wind will also bring steel back to Baltimore via Sparrows Point Steel, a new steel fabrication facility to be built in conjunction with Momentum Wind at Tradeport Atlantic in Sparrows Point, Maryland.

Annual N.O.E.L. community dinner returns

The N.O.E.L. (Nothing Other than Eating and Loving) Community will be able to provide food for locals for Christmas again this year. While a big part of the Christmas Day dinner allows for entertainment and social gathering, the organization has again modified our outreach this Christmas to ensure safety for everyone involved. On Thursday, December 23, between 10 a.m. and noon volunteers will distribute bags of non-perishable foods filled with some traditional food items to prepare at home. For those who are not able to prepare food, there will be a special bag with food. These bags will be distributed at St. Paul’s by-the-Sea Episcopal Church on 3rd Street and Baltimore Avenue in Ocean City, at the main entrance to the Church Hall (separate entrance than Shepherd’s Crook). Visitors are asked wear a mask for the safety of everyone.

For more information about the N.O.E.L. Community or this event, please contact the office at St. Paul’s by-the-Sea at 410-289-3453. If you would like to make a donation to the N.O.E.L. Community, please send donations to The N.O.E.L. Community c/o St. Paul’s by the Sea at 302 N. Baltimore Avenue, Ocean City, MD 21842. The NOEL Community provides outreach year-round to local pantries and social service agencies in the area.

Penguin Swim returns

Get ready to dunk your penguin tail in the frigid waters of the Atlantic Ocean to support our community’s Healthcare Heroes! The 28th Annual Penguin Swim is set for Saturday, January 1 and will take place once again on the beach at The Princess Royale Oceanfront Hotel at 91st Street in Ocean City, Maryland.

The health and safety of participants, spectators, staff and volunteers are at the forefront of logistics planning. All event details will be subject to change due to COVID-19 conditions and requirements at the time of the event. Please visit the event website

www.aghpenguinswim.org for complete up-to-date information.

Individuals and teams are invited to join in the fundraising. Participants who register on or before December 10th will receive an official 2022 AGH Penguin Swim short-sleeve t-shirt for their \$25 registration fee. Shirts for participants who register after December 10 will be available while supplies last. Individual participants who raise or donate \$100 or more will also be eligible to receive an official 2022 AGH Penguin Swim long-sleeve t-shirt

Tides for Ocean City Inlet

Day	High /Low	Tide Time
Th 9	Low	5:19 AM
9	High	11:57 AM
9	Low	6:22 PM
F 10	High	12:25 AM
10	Low	6:22 AM
10	High	12:55 PM
10	Low	7:19 PM
Sa 11	High	1:31 AM
11	Low	7:27 AM
11	High	1:56 PM
11	Low	8:14 PM
Su 12	High	2:38 AM
12	Low	8:32 AM
12	High	2:56 PM
12	Low	9:04 PM
M 13	High	3:39 AM
13	Low	9:36 AM
13	High	3:51 PM
13	Low	9:51 PM
Tu 14	High	4:29 AM
14	Low	10:35 AM
14	High	4:39 PM
14	Low	10:34 PM
W 15	High	5:12 AM
15	Low	11:27 AM
15	High	5:22 PM
15	Low	11:15 PM



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please see *swim* page 14

EOE

swim
from page 13

while supplies last. Participants can register online now to start collecting donations. To view this year's shirts, or to register, visit www.aghpenguin-swim.org.

All participants are required to register either online or in person and check in on New Year's Eve or New Year's Day to receive a wristband to gain access to the swim area. Advance online registration is recommended.

Participants are encouraged to come to pre-registration and advance check-in at the Princess Royale from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on New Year's Eve.

Avoid long lines on event day and pick up wristbands and shirts early! Participants will also receive an additional Penguin Swim item during advance check-in.

Event day registration and check-in will begin at 10 a.m., ending promptly at 12:30 p.m., with the main event at 1 p.m. on the beach at 91st street. The time in between will be chock full of fun activities the whole family will enjoy: carnival games, face painting, mermaids and more. The Bull on the Beach team will parade down the beach at 12:45 p.m. from 94th Street to the swim area in front of the Princess Royale. Spectators are welcome!

All participants and spectators are expected to follow all posted instructions and verbal directions of volunteers and staff for face coverings and physical distancing before, during and after the event.

Unable to attend? No problem. You can still participate in the Cyber Swim! Register online; then take an ice-cold dip wherever you are and post a photo or video of your personal virtual Penguin Swim on social media using #OCPenguinSwim.

Call the Atlantic General Hospital Foundation office at 410-641-9671 or go to www.aghpenguinswim.org for more information.

lights
from page 10

We saw a red light and thought it was a lateral marker. Then we mysteriously lost sight of it. Then a few moments later we saw a green light in approximately the same location. Confused, but cautious, we proceeded very slowly. The next time we saw the light it was yellow! That's when we realized we were bearing down on the Route 90 traffic light on the Isle of Wight that we could see through the trees.

Besides red and green, you may see an occasional blue light out there. Flashing blue lights on the water have essentially the same meaning on water as they do on land. That's a law enforcement vessel and you need to pull over. Blue lights are reserved for law enforcement and they are very protective. Some folks like to use blue lights for decoration. If you see a steady state blue light on a civilian boat, you are looking at someone who wants to get stopped and have a long talk with authorities.

Yellow is another color light that you sometimes see on vessels. In general, yellow has a similar significance on water as it does on land. It communicates caution. Tow trucks and roadside assistance vehicles use yellow. Similarly, yellow lights on the water are used to indicate that there is a towing operation underway and you should stay clear.

Of course, there are white lights too. The all-around white light is illuminated at night to let others know of your presence, either underway or at anchor, so you don't get run over. But white is also used in combination with red on mastheads to indicate a boat with limited ability to maneuver or a dive boat is conducting night time scuba operations. Likewise, a combination of white and green lights indicates a commercial fishing boat that is trawling. In these cases, the message is: Be cautious, go slow and avoid a close encounter.

So while you're enjoying the creative displays of holiday lights, please remember that lights have specific meanings on the water.

Happy Holidays and enjoy the lights.

Stay safe. Stay dry.

Dan Collins can be reached for comment at dancollins.oceanpines@gmail.com.

afternoon
from page 4

the silence caused the old man's eyes to open hesitantly, as if unwilling to leave the Little Choptank. "Can I get you anything grandpop?" his granddaughter asked. The old man's head moved slowly, once or twice, from side to side. His granddaughter shook her head too, not so much in reply to the old man, but in sorrow. She dearly loved him. As she turned and headed for the bedroom to quiet the still crying baby, the old man's eyelids slowly closed and he returned to Sportsman's Chance.

Now it was early summer. Day-break on a Saturday morning in June. The old man and another fishing buddy, Chuck, had driven down from Baltimore in the old man's maroon and white Volkswagen bus. He had rigged it out with beds but they were a few inches too short and he always awoke with cramps in his legs. Everyone else said it was uncomfortable too, but the old man always insisted he slept well, even if he didn't. Then too, his wife had refused to drive anywhere in it. The thing bounced so much she always came down with a case of motion sickness.

That Saturday morning, he and Chuck came prepared to spend the weekend, and while they were inside the office talking with Brighoff, his Chesapeake retriever jumped into the van and ate all the lunch meat and bread. Chuck talked about that day for years, the old man remembered, and a smile again crossed his face. The old man always enjoyed hearing Chuck tell the story, even after he had heard it more times than he could count.

"Yeah," Chuck would begin, "first Brighoff's dog eats all our food then Brighoff sells us some sandwiches. But the best part happens at the end of the day. The two of us go out fishing in Brighoff's old leaky rowboat with an air-cooled six-horse on the back and it averages forty-seven pulls before it'll start. Engine's rusted, gas tank's rusted, paint's peelin' off the boat like crazy and I spend more time bailin' than fishin'."

About this part of the story Chuck becomes animated, the old man recalls. Chuck's eyes take on a glimmer, the short hairs of his crew cut stand perfectly straight and his hands begin moving in all directions. "But listen to this," Chuck continues. "This is the real corker. We get back to the dock by some miracle and Brighoff starts figurin' up the bill. You ain't gonna believe this. Brighoff says to me, 'Well, let's see. The boat rents for ten bucks and you probably used two bucks worth of gas. The sandwiches are two dollars and the drinks another three. That's seventeen dollars total. I don't charge my friend here, so I guess you owe me eight fifty, Chuck.' He says I owe eight fifty! Can you imagine that? I mean this guy was a real character."

Here, the old man recalled, the story would begin to vary from time to time, but mostly Chuck would talk about Brighoff's office. "Character! Character doesn't even begin to describe this guy. That office of his was a real winner. Half the time you could barely get in the door for all the junk and dirt. What kills me is that Brighoff always wiped off his shoes before going in the office. It looked to me like he should have wiped 'em off on the way out!

"Another thing. Here's a guy livin' in the middle of nowhere, nowhere mind ya, and all he worries about are riots. Has a loaded shotgun in that office, under the counter, and I think in every room of his house. Says nobody's gonna come down his place and start any trouble."

Damn, they were great days the old man thinks. But mostly when the old man thinks of Brighoff, he remembers the fishing. In later years it seemed the Little Choptank was right around the corner, but in the beginning it seemed remote and wild; a special place to be enjoyed by an adventuresome few. Now it was too easy.

As much as Brighoff and the old man argued, they didn't talk much while they were fishing. Theirs was a special brand of friendship, not requiring constant conversation. Hours might pass on the water with hardly a word uttered. And yet, somehow, the old man remembered, they had both drawn enjoyment from the silence; knowing each other's thoughts and feelings but never consciously thinking about it at the time. They never spoke of these things but the old man knew Brighoff felt the same. The old man didn't feel that way about too many people. Maybe that's why he had felt anger when he heard the news of Brighoff's death.

Silence again brought the old man out of his dreams when the baby stopped crying. His granddaughter returned. "Grandpop I'm sorry I can't spend more time with you today. I know it must get lonely in here by yourself." The old man's head nodded as if in agreement. What's the use in trying to explain, he thought, she just wouldn't understand anyway.

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Open Enrollment for 2022 Health Plans November 1, 2021 – January 15, 2022

The Lower Shore Health Insurance Assistance Program is hosting **in-person** events to assist Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester County residents with enrollment into health & dental plans!

Somerset County Health Department

8929 Sign Post Road, Westover, MD 21871

Friday, November 5th, 4:00pm-8:00pm
Friday, December 3rd, 4:00pm-8:00pm
Friday, January 7th, 4:00pm-8:00pm

Lower Shore American Job Center

31901 Tri-County Way
Salisbury, MD 21804

Saturday, December 4th, 9:00am-2:00pm
Saturday, January 8th, 9:00am-4:00pm



Berlin Health Department

9730 Healthway Drive
Berlin, MD 21811

Saturday, November 6th, 9:00am-2:00pm
Saturday, December 4th, 9:00am-2:00pm
Sunday, January 9th, 10:00am-3:00pm

Can't make it to one of our in-person events!?

Give us a call at **1(855)445-5540** and we can provide over-the-phone assistance with your enrollment!

Call Center Hours Nov. 1st – Jan. 15th

Monday-Friday: 8:00am-6:00pm
Saturday: 8:00am-2:00pm

Ready to enroll? For each person applying, you'll need:

- Photo ID
- Social Security number
- Immigration/citizenship documents (for some residents)
- Pay stubs or W-2 wage and tax statement (if employed)
- Policy numbers for any other health insurance



Enroll today at MarylandHealthConnection.gov