

The Courier

December 7, 2022
Volume 23 Number 12



Terry Devine
Crafter of the Month

Page 7



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Board withdraws award motion, options available to memorialize Gavin Knupp

Ocean Pines Board members on Saturday withdrew a proposal to create an annual award honoring Gavin Knupp, but said they were open to reconsidering the matter later.

The Board specifically cited recent comments by Gavin's mother, Tiffany Knupp, as the reason for withdrawing a motion to create the award.

Every Board member said they supported the Justice for Gavin movement and were anxious for the investigation to conclude. Several said they supported renaming the skatepark in Gavin's honor or were at least open to considering it.

However, each Board member also said they were disappointed by the level of rancor exhibited by some in

the Justice for Gavin movement.

Director Colette Horn introduced the motion "to approve OPA partnering with the Gavin Knupp Foundation to create an annual Gavin Knupp Award," and said the award would honor a local youth who embodies the qualities that inspired the foundation.

"We all know that Gavin Knupp is a youth ... whose life was cut short by a tragic accident. Testimonials provided to the Board of Directors convey that he embodied admirable qualities such as kindness, empathy, inclusiveness, leadership, and a spirit of positivity," Horn said. "The Board would like to memorialize these qualities in a gesture that conveys their importance and value to our community of youths and

adults, by shining a spotlight on Gavin's qualities and the award recipient's embodiment of them each year at our Annual Meeting of the Membership."

Horn said she and Association President Doug Parks met with Tiffany Knupp to discuss the award, and whether she and the Gavin Knupp Foundation would support it.

"For me, it was an important initiative to consider, because I felt that we needed a memorial that would reach the entire membership," Horn said, adding she felt the award would touch more local people than renaming the Ocean Pines Skatepark, which had been discussed by the foundation.

Horn said Board members asked

for testimonials on Gavin's character, because they were not familiar with him or his family.

"We wanted to know, who is this youth who inspired the development of this foundation," she said. "Those testimonials gave us that information, and we learned that he was a child of integrity, of incredible kindness, or incredible inclusiveness and empathy for his peers," Horn said. "I personally felt that these are qualities that speak to this community [and] that sometime are in short supply in the overt behavior that we see in this community, and on social media.

"I felt that, whether the skatepark would be renamed or not renamed, this would be an award that would speak to the entire community," Horn added.

Horn said she also spoke with founding mothers of the community, skatepark founder Barbara Kissell and the founders of other Ocean Pines amenities, and current and past Board members.

"Everyone felt this was a great way

please see board on page 6

Annual Penguin Swim returns January 1

Get ready to dunk your penguin tail in the frigid waters of the Atlantic Ocean to support the community's Healthcare Heroes. The 29th Annual Penguin Swim is set for Sunday, January 1 and will take place once again on the beach at The Princess Royale Oceanfront Hotel at 91st Street in Ocean City.

Individuals and teams are invited to join in the fundraising. Participants who register on or before December 10 will receive an official 2023 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 2023 AGH Penguin Swim long-sleeve t-shirt 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 9 a.m., ending promptly at 11:30 a.m., with the main event at noon on the beach at 91st street. The time in between will be chock full of fun activities the whole family will enjoy: costume contests, face painting, mermaids and more. The Bull on the Beach team will parade down the beach at 11:45 a.m. from 94th Street to the swim area in front of the Princess Royale. Spectators are welcome!

The awards ceremony will take place in the atrium immediately following the swim. Special recognition awards will be given to Oldest and Youngest Penguins, and the Penguin who traveled the furthest. Trophies for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place will be awarded to those who raise the most money in divisions for: Adults (ages 19 and over); Youth (ages 18 and under); Teams/Businesses; Community Groups/Organizations; Youth/Family.

The 1 p.m. Ravens-Steelers game will be on a big screen in the atrium. Food and drink specials at the atrium bar may include beer, wine, soda, wings, chicken tenders, pizza, soups, and sandwiches. Enjoy complimentary coffee and hot chocolate!

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. Make sure your post is public. Participants can register for the cyber swim on the

event website and pay an additional \$10 fee per participant to cover costs to have their t-shirts shipped to them.

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

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Jerk Chicken Strips
(20 chicken tenders) Fresh tenders marinated in house, grilled, and served with honey mustard for dipping. 31.99

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(20 count) Fresh, fried and glazed in choice of sauce: Hot, Mild, Old Bay, Bourbon, BBQ, Sweet Baby Rays BBQ, served with ranch dressing. 32.99





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Commentary

By Joe Reynolds
OceanPinesForum.com

Janasek back in the news

Former OPA Director Tom Janasek is back in the news. The December 2022 edition of the *Ocean Pines Progress* contains an article headlined "Janasek settlement talks stalemated."

Janasek sued OPA after the Board of Directors decided to ban him from amenities where alcohol is served for a 90-day period, based on what the OPA board saw as disgusting verbal abuse of former board member Josette Wheatley and her husband at the Yacht Club, as detailed in a written eyewitness report by an employee.

Janasek sued OPA and a Worcester County Circuit Court Judge eventually ordered: "that enforcement of the ban by Ocean Pines Association, its Board, its employees, and its law enforcement agency shall continue to be stayed and enjoined by this Court pending final disposition of this matter."

At this point, there is no "final disposition of the matter." The parties can settle out of court, or go to trial.

According to the *Progress*, OPA offered to settle with Janasek for \$2,000.

Janasek told the *Progress* a settlement of \$2,000 was "ridiculous." The article suggests Janasek's legal fees may currently be "north of \$40,000" and Janasek is "prepared to go to court again in hopes of securing a more generous settlement" from a judge.

Apparently, the awarding of legal fees in such cases is not automatic, and at this point, the actual case has not even been heard, or as the judge said there is "no final disposition of this matter."

Judge Beau Oglesby wrote in his initial order, "This Court finds that the Board acted in bad faith in enacting the ban against Plaintiff, and as such, the conduct of the Board justifies judicial review of that decision. As for the likelihood that the plaintiff will succeed on the merits, this Court finds the scales tip in favor of Mr. Janasek."

Whether or not it applies in this case, there is an interesting 2012 Maryland State Bar Association article titled "Attorneys' Fees in Maryland: Careful What You Wish For!" by Maury S. Epner, Esq.

The lead paragraph is: "The story is told of the long-married couple, each 60 years old, who happen upon a dusty, half-buried lamp. As the husband rubs off the dust, a genie appears and grants him three wishes. He wishes for a grand mansion and, poof, a beautiful estate appears. He wishes for \$10 million and, poof, the requested cash hoard is laid out before him. Finally, he wishes for a wife 30 years younger than himself. This time, poof, he is instantly transformed into a 90-year-old. So it is with seeking and obtaining attorneys' fee awards in Maryland: be careful what you wish for!"

Will OPA's insurance company or OPA agree to pay Janasek \$40,000 or more for attorney fees? Is it possible a judge, after an actual trial of the case and a finding for Janasek, would rule Janasek is not entitled to any attorney fees? In the latter instance, it would mean Janasek spent \$40,000 or more to maintain his right to visit the OPA

Yacht Club, Beach Club, and Golf Club-house for 90 days!

Adding to the interest in an OPA/Janasek settlement is it represents a delay in what is a distinct possibility the OPA Board of Directors may be seeking new corporate counsel and attorney Bruce Bright's firm of Ayres, Jenkins, Gordy & Almand, P.A. in Ocean City might well be the first choice, according to informed sources. The firm has been selected for inclusion in the Martindale-Hubbell Bar Register of Pre-eminent Lawyers. Mr. Jenkins, Mr. Ayres, James W. Almand and Bruce F. Bright have been selected for inclusion in Maryland Super Lawyers, a distinction offered to no more than five percent (5%) of lawyers in the State of Maryland.

OPA is in need of local representation. Bruce Bright would be an excellent choice but he is probably unavailable so long as he is representing Tom Janasek in a case against OPA.

Property owner ID cards now a requirement for Board meetings

The Ocean Pines Association announced on last that valid property owner ID cards will be a requirement to attend Association Board of Directors' meetings and town halls.

The next scheduled Board meeting is on Saturday, December 17.

Cards may be obtained at the front counter of the Ocean Pines Administration Building on 239 Ocean Parkway. The office is open from 8 a.m. to 4:25 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Property owners must bring a driver's license for verification to obtain a card.

First-time cards are free, and replacement cards are \$5. Property owner ID cards are the same as membership cards.

There is no deadline to get a card, but cards will be required for entry into all Association Board of Directors' meetings and town halls, effective immediately.

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

Courier Almanac

On December 7, 1941, at around 1:30 p.m., President Franklin Roosevelt was conferring with advisor Harry Hopkins in his study when Navy Secretary Frank Knox burst in and announced that Japan had attacked Pearl Harbor. The attack killed more than 2,400 naval and military personnel.

In her account of Roosevelt and first lady Eleanor during the years of the Second World War, *No Ordinary Time*, historian Doris Kearns Goodwin recounts the scene at the White House on that tragic and pivotal day: Eleanor had just finished hosting a luncheon and walked into FDR's study just as he received confirmation of the attack via telephone. While aides and secretaries scurried around the room, Eleanor overheard some of her husband's conversation and knew that, in her words, "the final blow had fallen and we had been attacked."



Real estate remains an especially lucrative investment vehicle. According to the S&P 500 Index, the median return on investment in the United States property market is 8.6 percent. That's an important consideration for investors who are considering adding income properties to their portfolios. Though the costs associated with income properties can be substantial, the potential rate of return on those properties is significant. Individuals considering an income property investment are urged to speak with a financial advisor, who can shed light on various factors that must be examined prior to purchasing a property. For example, individuals counting on rental property income should familiarize themselves with how that income is taxed before investing.

**The
Courier**

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It's beginning to look a lot like ...

It's that time of year again when the Christmas decorations come down for the attic, furniture is rearranged and my wife and I contemplate standing the tree someplace different than every other year, ultimately

opening so she can hand something down to me. There are times I'm needed to move furniture.

One of the anticipated rituals of holiday decorating is flipping through the "Santa" pictures taken of our children through the years. I always get a little misty-eyed looking through them. The first picture was taken in 1988. Our two month old daughter looked so small sitting on St. Nick's lap. Within two pictures she is



It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

mately deciding that it will go in the same corner as it has since 1999.

Through the years the amount of decorating within our home has varied. Sometimes it's been quite a lot. Other times it's been less. It has depended on what's going on in our lives. We've collected quite an array of decorations. Many have a history that reminds us of family and friends. During our early married life, my grandmother each year gave my wife a lighted ceramic decoration including a Christmas tree, a church and candles. Our niece gave us a treasured lighted Christmas tree silhouette that stands about two feet tall. We've had that since I don't remember when. It is always the first holiday item retrieved from the attic and the last to be packed away.

This year will be the thirty-ninth Christmas my wife and I have spent as a couple. I know this because on our first Christmas together, 1984, I bought my then girlfriend the first in a series of Goebel bells. Each year since I've given her the new edition of the bell. This year she'll have 39 bells. Some years the bell was the only thing I could afford to give her. We had to make sure Santa took care of the children. Never did I consider so many years ago that time would move at such a pace that within a seeming blink of an eye there would be so many bells hanging on a special tree each holiday. Yet, there they hang, each emblazoned with a different painted picture and the year they were issued.

For years decorating the house has been my wife's domain. I get involved only when she yells from the attic for me to stand below the

joined by her brother. Several pictures later the two are joined by their little brother. The poses weren't perfect. In some, not all the children were looking into the camera. In at least two of them one of the kids was screaming. As beautiful as the pictures are, there's a part of me that denies so much time has flown by. Where are those children? Where are those kids who had a hard time going to sleep Christmas Eve? Where are those kids who talked incessantly about what they were going to ask Santa for only to be mute when the big moment arrived? What happened to those kids who would excitedly awaken their mother and me early Christmas morning, scampering around ripping through wrapping paper in their special Christmas pajamas given to them by their grandmother? Where are those kids with smiles and crooked teeth? They're all grown up; some with children of their own. Time moves on. Back to the preparations.

Once the decorating is finished, the next phase will commence: baking. The house will fill with the aroma of baked cookies and other desserts. The problem is these treats are not for me to enjoy. They are for others. Dozens of cookies as well as a multitude of cakes will be made and packaged and given to family and friends. Except for the rejects, it's not likely that I'll be able to sample the sweets of the holiday. When I've attempted to poach a cookie or two my wife's holiday persona melts like Frosty the Snowman on a warm day. I've learned it's best to just stay clear.

It's a wonderful time of year.

Book Signing & Reading

Wednesday, December 7
6 p.m.

Ocean Pines Library

Author and columnist Chip Bertino will discuss and read from his just released book, *It's All About... Some of My Favorites*, a collection of some of his favorite columns written during the past two decades.



Humorous and poignant, the book chronicles experiences of raising children, getting older, being (and staying) married and just living life. The stories resonate with readers who will visualize their own similar experiences.

Copies of the book will be available for purchase and can be signed by the author.

Books are also available at:

The Greyhound

South Main Street, Berlin

Kozma Jewelers

9936 Stephen Decatur Highway, West Ocean City

The Courier

Call 410-629-5906

Amazon.com



"I hope you find the book interesting, at times humorous and be able to visualize yourself and your family in similar situations."

- Chip Bertino

Great holiday gift idea

board
from page 3

to memorialize this youth, and to put front and center to this entire community each year who Gavin was, his story, and the qualities that inspire the people who loved him," she said.

Horn said Tiffany Knupp initially loved the idea and was supportive of partnering with Ocean Pines.

"I have to say, I was gob smacked when someone sent me a social media posting in which I was told [by Tiffany Knupp] to kindly 'shove this award up my ass,'" Horn said.

"I still believe that this is an appropriate [way] to memorialize Gavin to the wide audience of the entire membership," Horn said.

Association Vice President Rick Farr said he supports the Justice for Gavin movement and was an early donor to the foundation. However, Farr said he's alarmed at the some of the comments he and other Board members have received directly, as well as what they've seen on social media.

"One of the things that's really hurting is the temperature of this community," Farr said. "The harassment, the bullying, the threats – we have Board members here that have been threatened, and open investigations have been done for those threats.

"That bothers me as a Board member, as a father, [and] as part of this community," he continued. "The temperature has to drop immediately. You can't get anything done when you act like this. It's a mob-type mentality that doesn't belong in our loving community."

Farr said he has letters from parents of children who have been bullied at school because they work at Ocean Pines Association restaurants, which have been subject to boycotts.

"That's wrong, and that's not who we are," Farr said. "I support the Gavin Knupp Foundation and everybody on this Board wants justice – I can tell you that wholeheartedly. Everybody. But the way it's happening is not who we are.

"We all need to lower this temperature that's out there, where there's name calling and stalking and doxing, and taking pictures of people and shaming them in public because they're going to a food and beverage establishment," he added.

Farr said boycotters have every right to do so, just as those supporting the amenities have every right to do so.

He said he hopes the community can come together and move forward.

"Ocean Pines is not part of this [police] investigation that's going on. That's up to the state's attorney, Maryland State Police and all of that. We have nothing to do with that," Farr said. "We want justice, just like everybody else does.

"We will continue to support the Gavin Knupp Foundation [and] we will continue to support justice – but we don't need vengeance in our community, at all," he added.

Director Stuart Lakernick echoed Farr's statement and said he was also an early supporter and donor to the foundation. But he said the behavior by some was "just wrong."

"We had to take our phone numbers and addresses off our website because of the targeted emails, text messages and phone calls we have all been getting, that are threatening us," Lakernick said.

He said Horn, in particular, has been a target.

"She's endured some brutal attacks. I'm horrified at what this woman has had to go through," he said.

"We're volunteers, folks – we're you," Lakernick continued. "Governing ... isn't easy. You have to make decisions that some people aren't going to like ... but understand, the decisions that we make are made for the benefit of everybody."

Director Monika Rakowski said that, after Tiffany Knupp approached the Board in September to discuss renaming the skatepark, she felt it was worthy of consideration.

"In contemplating the idea though, I felt, what if another child passes away that also loves the skatepark – are they no less worthy of being remembered by friends and family at the facility that they wish?" she said.

Rakowski said she heard from community members who opposed the renaming, but were "too intimidated to voice opinions, for fear of retaliation."

"Some members have asked, 'is it even safe to go to our food and beverage venues anymore?'" Rakowski said. "It is unfortunate the Board's offer of ... an award in Gavin's name is considered an insult. Having that information, there's no action required at this time, or warranted."

Director Steve Jacobs said he wrote and filed a motion to rename the Ocean Pines Skatepark, but he later

please see **board** on page 14

Rearview Mirror / Chip Bertino

Robert Pellenbarg of Ocean Pines on his 1967 Sunbeam Imp as told to Chip Bertino.

My first car was a 1967 Sunbeam Imp. It was a rear engine car imported from UK by Chrysler Corporation. It was kind of a robin's egg blue. I bought it new for \$1,200.

I had purchased this vehicle for commuting to University. The car was very bare bones, but was a blast to drive. It was very light, nimble, and comfortable. Black vinyl seats, buckets up front, and a fold down bench in the back. The rear window was hinged to open to pass stuff through to a cavernous storage volume with the rear seat folded down. The Imp had a 4-cylinder, overhead cam, aluminum block engine. Very sophisticated. With a four speed trans, gas mileage was around 50 mpg as I recall. I put a 50# bag of sand in the front 'trunk' for better balance and handling, which was crisp.

However, in less than a year of use, the bad side of the Imp appeared. There was lots of time in the shop, big problems with the head gasket on the engine. Long story short, I replaced the Imp with a more dependable American car: a 4 speed V-8 Barracuda fastback. Woo hoo! The 'Cuda went over 250,000 miles with no mechanical problems whatsoever!



Jolly Roger Parks partnered with Diakonia for Giving Tuesday

Jolly Roger Amusement Parks partnered with local nonprofit organization, Diakonia Inc. for Giving Tuesday on Tuesday, November 29, to start the season of giving off on the right foot.

"This is our second Giving Tuesday working with Diakonia," says Steve Pastusak, Vice President of Jolly Roger Amusement Parks, "we're bringing our team to give back to the community where we live, work, and play."

Giving Tuesday is a global giving movement that has been driven by individuals, charities, businesses, and communities across the U.S. and in countries around the world. Giving Tuesday is the world's largest generosity movement, and is largely considered the beginning of the giving season.

The impact of Giving Tuesday goes beyond charitable donations, it inspires giving in all forms. People coast to coast embrace this day as an opportunity to raise money for local charities and non-profit organizations, donate to food and clothing drives, encourage kindness, help a neighbor, and generally celebrate the power of generosity.

"Although it's our first year officially participating in Giving Tuesday, Jolly Roger Parks give back throughout the year, and are excited to officially put our feet to the ground on this special day," continues Pastusak, "we encourage other local businesses to participate in making a difference as well."

About Jolly Roger Amusement Parks: Jolly Roger Park® is comprised of Jolly Roger at the Pier®, Jolly Roger at 30th Street, Speed-World, Splash Mountain Water Park, and Jolly Roger Mini Golf. Founded in 1964 by Charles "Buddy" Jenkins, Jolly Roger Parks offers a wide range of new-aged and nostalgic family-friendly fun in Ocean City, with rides, amusements, games, waterslides, and more.

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Toy drive asks Ocean Pines residents to ‘Get Involved’

Ocean Pines Get Involved is collecting toys for area children through December 19, with drop boxes available at several locations in the community.

The Get Involved group is in its second year of managing donation drives, having pulled off a trio of successful campaigns last year to collect food, toys and coats for local people in need.

This year, the group has already donated more than 1,000 pounds of food to Diakonia, a nonprofit that assists area homeless.

Organizer Esther Diller said the toy drive this year would benefit Toys for Tots.

“How this all started was, I didn’t realize we had such a homeless population in this area – I was stunned when I found out the story,” she said. “I found out they camp out behind the outlets [in Ocean City] and in the woods, and I heard there were children as well as adults.”

Diller said she reached out to leadership at Diakonia, and her worst fears were confirmed: homelessness is an underreported, but rampant issue in

Worcester County.

“I never knew it had gotten this bad, and it really bothered me. In the bright lights of Ocean City and Worcester County, here we all these homeless people,” Diller said. “It’s such a tragedy.

“So, I thought we need to help not only the families and the parents, but I want to give something to the kids – to families with children who can’t afford anything for the holidays,” she added.

Get Involved is seeking new, unwrapped items for children of all ages.

Collection boxes are available at the Ocean Pines Administration Building lobby, as well as at the Yacht Club, the Golf Club, and at the south fire station.

Diller said volunteers have already collected several large boxes of donations.

“We just got a bunch of brand-new dolls, which is great, and there have been a lot of toys for the little ones as well, with stuff like building blocks, which is just awesome,” she said. “We’re not really picky about what the toys are, as long as they’re new and un-

wrapped.”

Up next, Get Involved will host its second-annual coat drive from Dec. 26 through New Year’s Day. Drop boxes will be available at the same four locations as the toy drive.

Gently used coats, along with new hats, gloves and socks, will go to Land’s End Fellowship, which is run by a nondenominational church in

Ocean City.

“Last year we were able to collect hundreds of coats, so we’re really excited to be able to help that organization out. We are also looking for more organizations to donate to, so please reach out if anyone locally has a need,” Diller said.

For more information, contact Diller at esmatt4@aol.com.

Devine recognized

The Pine’er Craft Club of Ocean Pines announced that **Terry Devine** as the December Crafter of the Month.

Devine shares her time between her hometown of Philadelphia and Ocean Pines, where she has owned a home for nine years. In March of 2020, she retired from her job as a director in the Philadelphia Health Care System, just as the COVID-19 pandemic was starting to cause lockdowns.

When the pandemic forced her to spend more time at home, Devine joined an online class and started making art from acrylic paint and glass. The glass she prima-

rily uses is the same chunky glass used in decorative gas fireplaces. She also breaks and cuts glass from colorful vases she finds in thrift stores.

Along with making crafts, Devine also enjoys traveling, photography, gardening and spending time with family and friends.

View Devine’s projects and other handmade items at the Artisan Gift Shop in White Horse Park, on 239 Ocean Parkway in Ocean Pines. The shop is open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, visit <https://www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/artisan-gift-shop>.

RETURN TO ACTIVE LIVING AGAIN



Female pelvic health issues such as overactive bladder, stress incontinence, and pelvic organ prolapse are not a normal part of aging.

It’s time to get the specialized care you need.

If pelvic floor dysfunction is getting in the way of your quality of life, turn to one of the region’s leading specialists in urogynecology and female pelvic medicine and reconstructive surgery, Dr. Alyssa Gracely at Chesapeake Urology.



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Astronomy & Spaceflight

By Douglas Hemmick, Ph.D.



James Webb Telescope's first 100 days

On October 20 astronomers celebrated the first 100 days of observations by the James Webb Space Telescope. The telescope's exciting new findings are being published almost daily. Here are a few examples.

Direct imaging an exoplanet: While exoplanets are usually found using stellar wobble and eclipse, the Webb Telescope used its unique infrared capability to obtain a rare direct image of the gas giant HIP 65426-b. This planet is about seven times the mass of Jupiter, and is located 385 light-years away, in a young star system about 18 million years

old. In the field of exoplanet research, there have been many detailed properties analyzed in the past, but the Webb should refine these results and detect new features such as planetary cloud patterns.

Exoplanet atmospheres: Using the technique of spectroscopy enables the James Webb to detect specific gasses on several exoplanets. Results announced on July 12 included discovery of water in the atmosphere of WASP 96b and more recently, carbon dioxide was found on WASP 39b. The Webb is more sensitive in this sort of detection than past instruments. Astronomers anticipate many similar results to come.

Young galaxies in the early universe: Modern astronomers have targeted the early universe's galaxies to understand how they evolved. The Hubble telescope was able to witness galaxies at a time period of 600 million years after the big bang, when the universe was just 4.3 percent of its present age. Webb expands that capability, peering back still further to 250 million years post big bang, which is 1.8 percent of the cosmic lifespan.

Astronomers expected Webb to reveal young galaxies with irregular shapes, since gravitation would not have had time squeeze them into smoother contours. Surprisingly, the young galaxies observed by the James Webb already appeared regular and uniform and thus mature.

Astronomy hobbyists may recognize that the distances of stars and galaxies are directly linked to the age of the light being observed. For example, the North Star, Polaris, is located 320 light-years from Earth, which means its light which sky-watchers are seeing is 320 years old. Thus, astronomers studying Webb's deep space images are observing conditions up to 13.5 billion years earlier. An image of the galaxy cluster SMACS 0723 taken this past July, represents the deepest and sharpest infrared image of the distant universe to date.

Extraordinary rings of WR-140: One

of the most fascinating Webb images shows a series of 17 concentric rings around a Wolf-Rayet binary star, WR-140. Every eight years when the two orbiting stars closely approach one another, they release great plumes of dust spanning more than 100 billion miles. The periodic deployment of these clouds formed an unusual pattern of glowing rings.

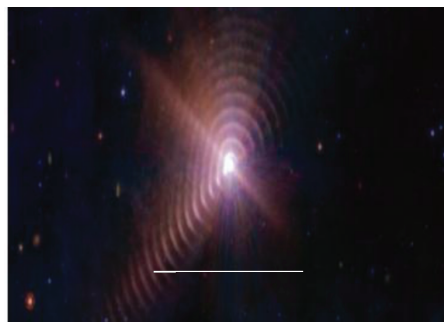
In the early morning hours of November 16, space fans were thrilled by the launch of *Artemis-1* at the Kennedy Space Center. Many fans watched live TV coverage of the 1:47 a.m. blast off. The flight featured NASA's newest, most powerful rocket, the Space Launch System (SLS), which helped propel the unmanned Orion capsule into an orbital path around the moon. NASA's 2024 plans call for *Artemis-2* to carry four astronauts, to achieve lunar orbit, and to return to Earth with a splash down

popular winter attraction, Orion the Hunter, appears over the eastern horizon.

On December 7 the moon will "graze" the planet Mars and at 11 p.m. will approach within a "hair's width". Viewers further west will see the moon completely cover and block out the disk of Mars. For those in Pittsburgh PA, Mars disappears behind the moon at 10:34 p.m. and will later reappear at 10:58 p.m.

Venus presents itself for convenient viewing after about December 20. Stargazers must look quickly around the time of dusk, since the planet sets not long after sunset. After the 20th, start watching around 4:40 p.m. and continue for another 30 minutes, gazing low over the southwestern horizon.

Fans of the elusive planet Mercury can look for a couple treats this month. On Christmas Eve, December 24,



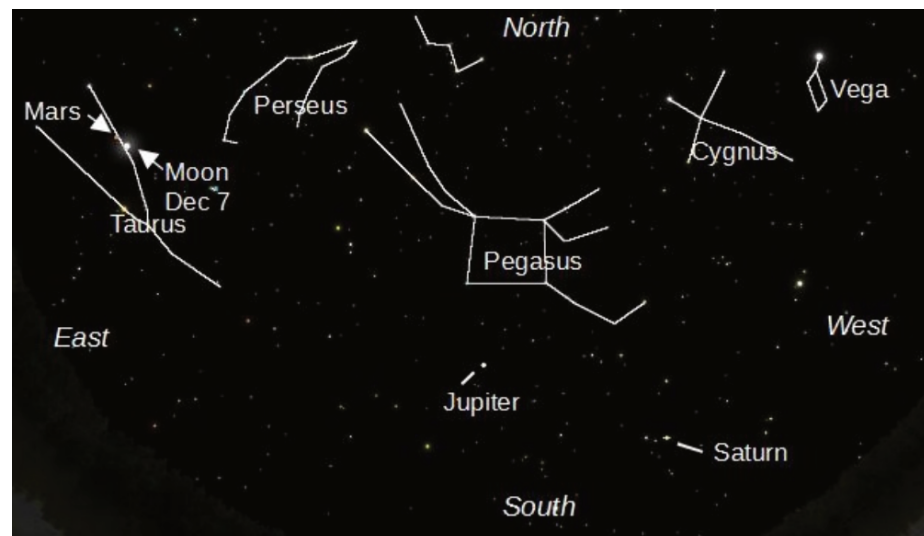
WR-140 Ringed Binary Star



Stephen's Quintet in Pegasus



Orion Nebula



landing. A mission to walk on the lunar surface is scheduled for 2025.

December's stargazing begins about 5:30 p.m. when the Great Square of Pegasus is flying high overhead. About 7 p.m., Taurus the Bull, with its familiar "V"-shape, comes into view in the eastern sky. After about 9 p.m., the

Mercury forms a small triangle with Venus and the crescent moon over the southwestern horizon. Also, the two planets again rendezvous on the 28th. Binoculars are recommended for spotting Mercury, the smallest planet.

Wishing good luck and clear skies to all stargazers.

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Presentation - Ocean City Berlin Optimist Club presented a check for \$5,000 to Toys for Tots in Worcester County. Shown are **Bill Hickey**, past president, **Dena Hol-loway**, coordinator, Maryland Lower Eastern Shore, Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots, **Christina Dolomount Brown**, president.

Head to the drive-in for free movies, laser shows

Worcester County Recreation & Parks (WCRP) is hosting two, free drive-in movies and laser shows in Maryland's Coast, Worcester County this December. Be sure to save the date for these new WCRP events.

On Friday, December 9, The Polar Express will air on the big screen at John Walter Smith Park, which is located at 6022 Public Landing Rd in Snow Hill. Then on Saturday, December 10, The Grinch will play at Newtown Park, which is located at 2001 Groton Road in Pocomoke.

Following both movies, laser shows will light up the skies.

Vehicle parking for both events will begin at 6 p.m. and show time will start at 7 p.m.

Don't miss these festive, outdoor, holiday events. Bring a blanket, some of your favorite snacks, and enjoy one or more of these great holiday movies and laser show performances with friends and family.

For more information, contact Tyler Keiser at 410-632-2144, ext. 2505.

Hometown Christmas tree lighting is successful

Hundreds attended the annual Hometown Christmas celebration at White Horse Park on Saturday, during event that included dozens of tree lightings and an appearance by Santa Claus himself.

Hosted by the Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department, Hometown Christmas featured trees individually decorated by more than 40 local businesses and community groups. Members of the Delmarva Chorus sang Christmas carols, and Santa led the countdown to light the official Ocean Pines Association tree.

The display of trees and festive decorations will remain at White Horse Park through the Christmas holiday. All are welcome to walk through the park and enjoy.

"Once again, the Hometown Christmas was a success. The trees are beautifully decorated, and the light fixtures are perfectly placed and look great in the park," Recreation and Parks Director Debbie Donahue said.

"Katie Goetzinger, our program supervisor, does a great job planning this event each year," Donahue continued. "However, she does need a lot of help making it happen. We would like to again say thank you to Norbert Violante for all his hard work setting up the park for the event; to Ocean Pines Public Works for delivering the trees, setting them up, and helping get the park ready; and to the Rec and

Parks staff for helping make this event a success again this year."

Donahue said the Hometown Christmas event has been celebrated in Ocean Pines for 12 years.

"It continues to be a great way to start the holiday season," she said. "Happy holidays to everyone, thank you for joining us, and we hope you enjoyed the evening."

The Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks will host several events in December:

Gingerbread Man Decorating - December 16 at the Ocean Pines Community Center, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Children ages three to 12 will learn how to make Santa the best cookie ever! Get ready to be creative and decorate some festive gingerbread men. Materials and instruction provided. The cost is \$8 per child. Call 410-641-7052 to register.

Adult Co-ed Dodgeball League - Coaches' meeting on December 29; Games start January 11 at 7 p.m. Gather friends, family members or coworkers for this fun league for ages 18-plus at the Ocean Pines Community Center. Maximum 15 players per roster. The cost is \$250 per team. Call 410-641-7052 to register.

For more information on the Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department, visit <https://www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/recreation-parks>.

Wor-Wic to host enrollment session, campus tour

Wor-Wic Community College will hold an information session about how to apply and enroll on Wednesday, December 14, at 3 p.m., in room 308 of Fulton-Owen Hall on the campus at the corner of Route 50 and Walston Switch Road in Salisbury.

This session is for anyone who is considering going to college and would like guidance and tips on getting started with applications or enrollment. Attendees will also be offered a guided tour of the college to see the many resources, technology and amenities the campus has to offer.

Visit the events section of www.wor-wic.edu for more information or to register.

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My Backyard... sponsored by Maureen Kennedy

Doves

Doves are a group of birds in the Columbidae family. They are closely related to pigeons, which also share the same family. Technically speaking, people often refer to some pigeons as “doves” and vice versa.

Usually, doves are smaller members of the family, while pigeons are larger. There are over 300 different species of pigeons and doves.

Most doves have relatively stout bodies, with short legs and short beaks. They all have a similar shape, though their plumage varies drastically from species to species. Some doves are uniform in color, while others have many different colors and patterns.

Their coloration also varies drastically in brightness. For example, the African collared dove



is a uniform tan color, while the pink-headed fruit dove has a bright pink head and neck, a white collar, and a green body.

Doves live in a wide variety of different habitats, from tropical rainforests to deserts. Different species usually live in different ecosystems. Some species live only in the rainforests of Brazil, while others live across meadows and grasslands of North America.

These birds inhabit nearly every landmass on Earth, with the exception of Antarctica, some areas of the Sahara Desert, and the northernmost reaches of the Arctic Circle. They are a varied and diverse group of birds.

Some species live across massive expanses of land, while others inhabit

a tiny area of an island or group of islands. There are dove species throughout North, Central, and South America, as well as Eurasia, Africa, Australia, and the surrounding islands.

Most dove species are herbivores, and eat primarily plant matter. Their exact diet varies based on the species and region that they live in. Some doves eat primarily fruits and berries, while others eat seeds and grains.

Those that feed on grains and seeds usually forage on the ground, while those that eat fruit typically forage in the trees and bushes. Some species also eat insects and other invertebrates, like spiders, flies, moths, snails, and more.

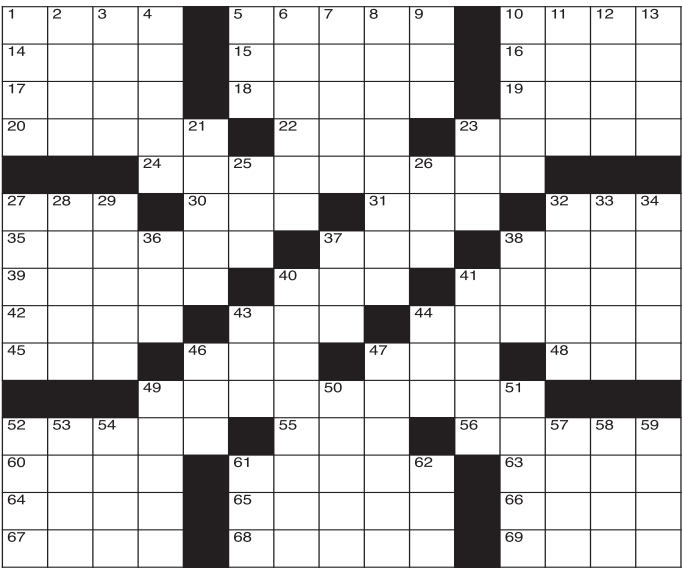
Human impact on these birds varies drastically from species to species. Several dove species thrive in human-disturbed areas, like cities, parks, gardens, and farmland. Other species do not do so well with human interaction.

Human activity has driven several species to extinction. Doves living on islands are at an exceptional risk to human disturbance. Their primary threats are habitat destruction, hunting, invasive/introduced species like rats and cats, and more.

Humans have domesticated some species of doves, including the diamond dove and the ringneck dove.

Some doves make good pets. Domesticated species are friendly and make good companions, but you should not keep wild species as pets. In most places, it is illegal to keep wild dove species as pets.

-animals.com



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Chop up
- 5. Ones who utilize
- 10. Sings with closed lips
- 14. South American hummingbird
- 15. Serves as a coxswain
- 16. Liquor distilled from coconut or rice
- 17. Spur
- 18. Senile
- 19. Tanzanian people
- 20. Cruel
- 22. Boxing’s “GOAT”
- 23. Yokels
- 24. London soccer team
- 27. Chinese chess piece
- 30. Supervises flying
- 31. 007’s creator
- 32. Shaft horsepower (abbr.)
- 35. A spider makes one
- 37. Liquefied natural gas
- 38. Opaque gem
- 39. Brazilian palm

- 40. Periodical (slang)
- 41. You might step on one
- 42. Marvin and Horsley are two
- 43. Partner to cheese
- 44. Unpleasant smell
- 45. Field force unit (abbr.)
- 46. Fashion accessory
- 47. Cool!
- 48. Time zone
- 49. Songs to one’s lover
- 52. German river
- 55. Go bad
- 56. Sword
- 60. Very eager
- 61. Leaf bug
- 63. Italian seaport
- 64. Napoleon Dynamite’s uncle
- 65. Member of Jamaican religion
- 66. Large wading bird
- 67. Carries out
- 68. Eternal rest
- 69. It holds up your headwords

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Not low
- 2. Small water buffalo
- 3. A mark left behind
- 4. Archaic form of have
- 5. Fiddler crabs
- 6. Popular Hyundai sedan
- 7. Deport
- 8. Making over
- 9. Midway between south and southeast
- 10. Arabic masculine name
- 11. Type of acid
- 12. Popular 1980s Cher film
- 13. Outdoor enthusiasts’ tools
- 21. Chinese city
- 23. “Star Wars” character Solo
- 25. The bill in a restaurant
- 26. Old, ugly witch
- 27. Burn with a hot liquid
- 28. To claim or demand
- 29. “A Doll’s House” playwright
- 32. Involuntary muscular contraction
- 33. Pea stems (British)

- 34. Double or multiple fold
- 36. No longer is
- 37. Lakers’ crosstown rivals (abbr.)
- 38. S. American plant cultivated in Peru
- 40. Cloth or fabric
- 41. Flanks
- 43. Disfigure
- 44. Angry
- 46. Baltic coast peninsula
- 47. Large, flightless birds
- 49. Plants of the lily family
- 50. Medieval Norwegian language
- 51. Polio vaccine developer
- 52. Not soft
- 53. Exchange rate
- 54. Voice (Italian)
- 57. Baseball’s Ruth
- 58. Famed guitarist Clapton
- 59. Take a chance
- 61. Wife
- 62. Elaborate handshake



Answers for November 23



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Decorating - The Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland were invited to participate in the 2022 State House Christmas Display. On November 29, five Worcester County Garden Club members traveled to Annapolis and decorated a holiday tree using horticulture grown in member gardens and deer antlers found in Worcester County. After viewing the tree, First Lady Yumi Hogan presented a certificate of appreciation from the Office of the Governor to the club.

Above are **Jan King, Pat Arata, First Lady Yumi Hogan, Suzy Young, Joanne Kirby and Mary Ellen Jefferson.**

Our Lady of Guadalupe to be celebrated

St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church on Third Street in Ocean City, Maryland will celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Sunday, December 11, at 10 a.m. A special bilingual service will begin with the congregation processing around the church building following a statue of the Virgin Mary, while carrying symbolic red roses and singing. After the service, there will be a celebration in the church hall complete with Jarocho Dancers, performing traditional folk dances, and Mexican and Salvadoran food that is traditional for the occasion.

This Catholic celebration is considered an important day for Mexican Americans and the Hispanic community to honor their cultural and religious identity. Its popularity has grown particularly in the southwestern United States. Dancers, banners, and parades are all a part of the feast day. Many Episcopal Churches, especially those with Latino parishioners, are now celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of

Guadalupe.

According to legend, in 1531 the Virgin Mary, Mexico's patron saint, appeared several times to a peasant named Juan Diego on Tepeyac Hill (now Mexico City) between December 9 and December 12. She told Juan to ask the bishop to build a church at the site. Twice Juan Diego reported her appearance to his local bishop, who did not believe him. The second time, the bishop asked for proof. On December 12, Mary appeared and told Juan Diego to gather flowers from a place normally barren in winter. The faithful man followed her instructions and found roses blooming there, which the Virgin Mary arranged in his cloak to be brought to the bishop. When Juan Diego arrived and opened his cloak, the flowers fell to the floor and on the fabric was the image of the Virgin of Guadalupe. The bishop was convinced of the miracle and built a church in honor of the event.

Pine Tones Chorus to perform

On Friday, December 9, 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 "A Bit of holiday Cheer," a medley of festive holiday tunes such as "Winter Wonderland," and "Jungle Bell Rock." Popular songs of the season will include "Blue Christmas" by Elvis, and "Sleigh Ride," frequently performed by the Boston Pops Orchestra.

Classical Christmas selections will feature shepherds in the fields, the Star of Bethlehem and the Child in the manger. The song "Love Came Down at Christmas" presents lovely, dream-like musical themes.

A unique arrangement of "Deck the Hall" will imitate orchestral music from a Mozart composition. Most music fans will recognize this famous

*please see **performance** on page 12*



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Some things to think about

Gathered from the internet by **Jack Barnes**

Later in Life ...

- I used to be able to do cartwheels. Now I tip over putting on my underwear.
- I told my wife she should embrace her mistakes... so she hugged me.
- My wife says I only have 2 faults. I don't listen and something else....
- At my funeral, take the bouquet off my coffin and throw it into the crowd to see who is next.
- I thought growing old would take longer.
- I came, I saw, I forgot what I was doing. Retraced my steps, got lost on the way back. Now I have no idea what's going on.
- The officer said, "You drinking?" I said, "You buying?" We just laughed and laughed...I need bail money.
- I think the reason we are born with two hands is so we can pet two dogs at once.
- Day 12 without chocolate. Lost hearing in my left eye.
- Scientists say the universe is made up of protons, neutrons and electrons. They forgot to mention morons.
- The adult version of "head, shoulders, knees and toes" is "wallet, glasses, keys and phone."
- A dog accepts you as the boss... a cat wants to see your resume.
- Life is too short to waste time matching socks.
- Wi-fi went down for five minutes, so I had to talk to my family. They seem like nice people.
- If you see me talking to myself, just move along. I'm self-employed; we're having a staff meeting.
- Some people call me crazy. I prefer happy with a twist.
- My doctor asked if anyone in my family suffers from mental illness. I said, "No, we all seem to enjoy it."
- I really don't mind getting old, but my body is having a major fit.
- Camping: where you spend a small fortune to live like a homeless person.
- I told my wife I wanted to be cremated. She made me an appointment for Tuesday.
- Measure once, cuss twice.
- THINK! (It's not illegal.... YET)
- I don't care who dies in a movie, as long as the dog lives.
- The world's best antidepressant has 4 legs, a wagging tail and comes with unconditional love.
- Love is how excited your dog gets when you come home.
- I've reached the age where my train of thought often leaves the station without me.
- If you're happy and you know it, it's your meds.



‘Pup of the Pines’ winner announced – A Cavalier King Charles Spaniel named **“Penny”** has been named the top dog in the Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department’s “Pup of the Pines” photo contest.

Penny received the greatest number of votes in the annual contest. She was named the winner at the “Hometown Christmas” tree lighting ceremony on November 26 in White Horse Park.

Votes were cast in person at the Ocean Pines Halloween/fall festival and at the Ocean Pines community center.

Paulette Parker, Penny’s owner, said she is a very affectionate dog with many neighborhood friends. “Everyone knows Penny,” Parker said.

As “Pup of the Pines,” Penny will receive a free 2023 Ocean Pines 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.

performance
from page 11

Mozart melody.

Unusual musical adaptations are also woven into “We Three Kings” and “God Rest You Merry Gentlemen.”

The Pine Tones Chorus includes about 45 singers from Ocean Pines, Ocean City, and nearby areas. June Todd and Jenny Anderson are the group’s directors and accompanists. Pete Anderson is Assistant director/accompanist. Other instruments will

also accompany the chorus with flute played by Barbara Dau and string bass played by 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, 410-641-5672, or June Todd, 443-880-3922.



Dinner meeting - The Republican Women of Worcester County (RWWC) held its November dinner meeting at Lighthouse Sound on November 17. The guest speaker was Terris Todd of the Heritage Foundation. Pictured are **Sandy Zitser**, RWWC president, **Terris Todd**, and **Liz Mumford**, RWWC 1st vice president.

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

The N.O.E.L. (Nothing Other than Eating and Loving) Community will provide food for locals for Christmas again this year. On Saturday, December 24, between 9 a.m. and noon, the organization will provide hot breakfast food along with some sweet treats and some festive Christmas music. N.O.E.L. volunteers will distribute bags of non-perishable foods including some traditional food items to prepare at home. The bags will be distributed at St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church on 3rd Street and Baltimore Avenue, in the church hall.

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). In addition to the Christmas outreach, N.O.E.L. supports many local social service programs and food pantries throughout the year. 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.

Bertino to launch new book

Author and columnist Chip Bertino will host a book signing and reading for his just released book, *It's All About... Some of My Favorites*, a collection of some of his favorite columns written during the past two decades.

Humorous and poignant, the book chronicles experiences of raising children, getting older, being (and staying) married and just living life. The stories will resonate with readers who will visualize their own similar experiences.

Copies of the book will be available for purchase and can be signed by the author.

The event will take place Wednesday, December 7 at 6 p.m. at the Ocean Pines library.



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board
from page 6

withdrew it.
“I pulled my motion after I was in-
formed of an agreement coming out of
a meeting with Ms. Tiffany Knupp,
Board member Colette Horn and

Tides for Ocean City Inlet

Day	High /Low	Tide Time
Th 8	Low	1:06 AM
8	High	7:45 AM
8	Low	2:03 PM
8	High	7:59 PM
F 9	Low	1:45 AM
9	High	8:26 AM
9	Low	2:42 PM
9	High	8:41 PM
Sa 10	Low	2:24 AM
10	High	9:08 AM
10	Low	3:22 PM
10	High	9:22 PM
Su 11	Low	3:04 AM
11	High	9:49 AM
11	Low	4:04 PM
11	High	10:04 PM
M 12	Low	3:46 AM
12	High	10:31 AM
12	Low	4:47 PM
12	High	10:48 PM
Tu 13	Low	4:32 AM
13	High	11:14 AM
13	Low	5:31 PM
13	High	11:34 PM
W 14	Low	5:21 AM
14	High	11:58 AM
14	Low	6:17 PM

President Doug Parks. I confirmed the agreement with Ms. Knupp, and she agreed that I should remove the motion from the agenda for today’s meeting,” Jacobs said.

Jacobs said he still believes re-naming the skatepark “is an appropriate way to memorialize Gavin Knupp.” He also said the award in Gavin’s name is a worthy proposal.

“It is especially painful that we could not find a way to honor Gavin today. I hope, going forward, that we will still find a way to do so,” he said.

Jacobs said there’s been a “rush to point fingers” and “to suggest a variety of mean or evil motives.”

He encouraged people to share their opinions and said open discussion is valuable.

“Protest, done peacefully, is an expression of important views. Boycotts of products or businesses is an acceptable form of protest. Mean, insulting, vicious comments about any person – even one you disagree with – has no place in the sort of discussion and debate we should all value,” Jacobs said.

“In this case it has made – at least for now – the chance for Ocean Pines to memorialize Gavin a nonstarter.

“It is very sad that we will end up doing nothing to memorialize a young man, taken from his friends [and] family in this community, much too soon,” Jacobs added.

Jacobs said “the back and forth on social media” has become an “insurmountable roadblock to doing the right thing.”

Like Farr, he called for temperatures to drop.

“No matter where you fall on this debate, engaging in insulting, mean, disparaging comments or actions that harass or insult someone else simply because they disagree with you is wrong and fails to get us any closer to a solution,” he said.

“Those who engage in that behavior do a disservice to our community, and to Gavin’s memory,” Jacobs continued. “What is clear is that today no one has won, and we have failed to do the right thing – recognizing Gavin Knupp and honoring his memory. At best, we have missed an opportunity. At worst, we have lost that opportunity.”

Director Frank Daly said of himself and the other Board members, “there’s absolutely no question that we want justice, and we want this thing brought to a firm legal conclusion.”

Daly said he supports both the annual award and the skatepark renaming.

“But, at the end of the day, I’m not going to shove something down the family’s throat. I don’t know what they want, after looking at all the social media posts ... and until I know what they want, I’m not going to vote on anything,” Daly said. “And that’s unfortunately where we’re at, and it’s sad.”

Association President Doug Parks reaffirmed there is “absolute support” on the Board for justice for Gavin, as well as an “absolute desire” to memorialize him.

Parks said the skatepark renaming effort initially stalled because there was at least some opposition.

“It made us reconsider,” he said.

Parks said he was excited about the notion of an annual award, especially after learning that Gavin enjoyed skateboarding, as well as fishing and hunting and other outdoor activities.

“When you memorialize him on an

annual basis, the target audience isn’t just going to be the folks that are skateboarding. The target audience can be expanded to all of those other friends he made in those particular environments ... that’s what really intrigued me and made me really supportive.”

Parks said Tiffany Knupp initially liked the idea and said, “I wish I would have thought about that.”

“Leaving that meeting, we were very upbeat. We felt ... this is really the way to go,” Parks said.

Parks said he understood that Tiffany Knupp later reconsidered after talking with friends and family members.

“Having her change her mind, not a problem,” he said. “She could have come back directly to myself, Colette and the Board and said, ‘You know what, thanks, but no thanks.’ It didn’t even have to be polite.

“But we find out on social media, not only was it a bad idea, but there were some things in there that probably were not appropriate,” Parks continued. “I still want to give her the benefit of the doubt, because I still respect her cause ... if she asks us again to reconsider, absolutely. Because I still think it’s a good idea.”

Parks said renaming the skatepark is also still on the table, but added, “perhaps it’s not the right time.”

“I’m not against it, I just don’t think it’s appropriate right now ... I just think it’s too volatile of a situation,” he said.

“I, for one, would love to see temperature go down a little bit. Hopefully, more information will be coming out from the state police and state’s attorney’s office,” Parks added.

Horn withdrew her motion, which the Board supported doing by unanimous consent.



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