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April 19, 2023 Volume 23 Number 27



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### Cpl. Brasure gets top honors from American Legion

Ocean Pines Police Cpl. James Brasure was named Officer of the Year for the community during an April 5 ceremony of the American Legion, Synepuxent Post 166.

Ocean Pines Lt. Shakhan Toppin said Brasure has been with OPA Police for 27 years – since 1995. Toppin was named Officer of the Year at the same ceremony last year.

“His dedication to duty, his work ethic, and his commitment to the community were factors I considered when I nominated him for this prestigious award, which was given by the American Legion,” Toppin said.

The Legion hosts annual recognition ceremonies for local police, firefighters, EMS, and Coast Guard workers.

The Ocean Pines Police Department is currently hiring officers. Police academy candidates are also welcome to apply.

To download an application, visit <https://www.oceanpines.org/documents/10184/89280/Employment-Application-Form-Revised.pdf>. Applications may be dropped off at the Ocean Pines Police Station on 239 Ocean Parkway or emailed to [stop-pin@oceanpines.org](mailto:stop-pin@oceanpines.org).

## Historical Society dinner scheduled

The Worcester County Historical Society will hold its annual spring dinner meeting at the Pocomoke Community Center on Market Street, Friday, May 5. Dinner guests will learn about gambling in Ocean City in the early to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century while enjoying a delicious meal of chicken and dumplings with all the fixings prepared by the Ladies Auxiliary.

Joe Moore, a practicing attorney in Ocean City, will give a presentation about the gambling at the resort, which went on until the early 1950s. During his talk he will show pictures of the night clubs up and down the highway, (the Ricks Raft, The Sandbar, and the Brass Rail) the locations of some of the slot machines. The machines were also present at locations along the boardwalk.

A source of his information for his talk will be newspaper reports about the gambling. Some of the reports concerned the raids by a very young states attorney, William G. Kerbin Jr., who raided the locations in the late 1930s and early 1940s, along with his “flying squad.” He served in that position from 1938 to 1946.

In the very early days at the resort, before 1933, arrests were made not only for gambling but also for bootleg liquor. One story in the Baltimore Sun discusses hauling bootleg from a Canadian ship to the shore.

Jack Sanford who was elected state’s attorney in 1950 shut down the gambling for good a short time later, in 1951.

Moore credits the Ocean City Life-saving Museum for the pictures and Newt Weaver, president of the society, for much of the information from two articles Mr. Weaver wrote for the former Coconut Times.

Having been a practicing attorney at the resort since 1969, Mr. Moore also served as state’s attorney from 1978 to 1982.

Doors will open for the event at 5 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$25 per person and can be purchased by sending a check to Judi Menavich, 9 Drawbridge Road, Berlin MD 21811. The deadline for reservations to the dinner, which is open to the public, is Friday, April 28.

Meet the Team

## Ocean Pines hires new Racquet Center manager

Ocean Pines Association last week announced Tim Johnson as the new Racquet Sports manager.

A former member of several Ocean Pines Racquet Sports, Johnson also

ternational Tennis Club of Washington, and the Washington Area Tennis Patrons Foundation.

A former lawyer, he also served as a legislative counsel on Capitol Hill, and as an advocate for Native Hawaiian rights in federal legislation.

Johnson said he enjoys playing tennis with his three children and his wife, Helen.

“I am truly looking forward to working with all our Ocean Pines Racquet Sports groups to enhance our already successful operation,” Johnson said. “My goal is to ensure that our community is healthier, happier, and even more active!”

Ocean Pines General Manager John Viola said Johnson was hired after a process that was inclusive of many Racquet Sports groups.

“We took feedback from the



brings a wealth of professional experience to the position.

He most recently served as the tennis supervisor for the Town of Ocean City. Johnson is also a USPTA-certified Elite Tennis Professional, USPTA-certified Pickleball Professional, and a SPEC Tennis Ambassador.

Johnson has coached in the Mid-Atlantic area for more than 30 years and directed programs at the Aspen Hill Club, Saint Albans School, the In-

Racquet Sports Committee and incorporated that into a job description and the eventual hire,” Viola said. “We believe we found the right person for the job, and that his combination of professional experience and experience as a member in Ocean Pines makes him uniquely qualified for this role.”

For more information on the Ocean Pines Racquet Center, visit [www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/racquet-sports](http://www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/racquet-sports).

## Human trafficking conference scheduled

Every year, millions of people around the world are trafficked, and unfortunately, Worcester County is not immune to this heartless crime. Join Atlantic General Hospital’s Faith-Based Partnership on April 22 at Son-Rise Church in Berlin, for the Lower Shore Anti-Human Trafficking Conference. From 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., a team of experts from local community organizations will provide you with a deeper understanding of human trafficking, including how it affects Worcester County, how to identify warning signs, how to report suspected trafficking and information on available resources, among other things.

The speakers who will provide edu-

cation on human trafficking include:

*Kelly Richardson: Board Chair, Harriett’s House.* Kelly Richardson, a wife and mom of five, is a domestic violence survivor and a Marine veteran. She holds her degree in homeland security. Richardson has been a board member with Harriett’s House of Cambridge, Md., for the past three years. Her passion to combat human trafficking started about eight years ago at a Faith Filled Women’s Conference in Salisbury. She simply listened to a breakout session about human trafficking 101 with the Samaritan Women, of Baltimore, Md., and it triggered her to take action for those that

*please see conference on page 8*

## Ravens Roost seeks sponsors, participants for golf tournament

Ocean City Ravens Roost #44 will hold their 26th Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament on Friday, June 2 at the Ocean Pines Golf Club, a Robert Trent Jones designed course.

Tournament organizers are seeking players and sponsors for the event.

All tournament proceeds will fund college scholarships to three local high schools: Indian River High School, Stephen Decatur High School, and Worcester Preparatory School. In 2022, Ravens Roost #44 awarded \$15,000 in scholarships. To date, the group has provided nearly \$230,000 in scholarships.

Event committee member Don McMullen said scholarship funding this year would at least match the 2022 totals, which was a record donation by the nonprofit.

“Due to successful fundraising by our members and the continued support by our local business community, Ravens Roost #44 is proud to announce that we will award a minimum of \$15,000 to our local students graduating in 2023. This will take our total awards to \$243,900 to local students since the inception of our grant giving,” he said.

“We welcome participation in our event as golfers and tee sign sponsors. Merchandise and gift certificates for our silent auction are also needed for this event,” McMullen continued. “Please inquire to a Ravens Roost #44 golf committee member if your business would like to become either a Signature or Major Sponsor. These types of sponsor-

ships help underwrite the cost of the banquet or merchandise given to participating golfers.

“Again, we appreciate your continuing support of our local students by providing them with education assistance to better their future,” he said.

Ravens Roost #44, Inc. is an IRS 501(C)(7) nonprofit organization.

The following sponsorship levels are available:

-Signature Sponsor: \$2,000 – Includes two team entries, four tee signs, recognition at the tournament banquet, and business recognition on the tournament banner. Signature Sponsors without team entries will cost \$1,400.

-Major Sponsor: \$1,000 – Includes a team entry, two tee signs, recognition at the tournament banquet, and business recognition on the tournament banner. Major Sponsors without team entries will cost \$700.

-Tee Sign Sponsor: \$100

For more information, contact Scholarship Golf Committee members Don McMullen at 443-388-2941, Gary Miller 443-618-9972, Bob Rose 410-926-2558, or Anita Satterfield at 443-743-6359.

To download sponsorship and registration forms, visit [www.oceanpines.org/documents/10184/91707/Ravens+Roost+for+ms+2023.pdf](http://www.oceanpines.org/documents/10184/91707/Ravens+Roost+for+ms+2023.pdf).

For more information about tournaments and other events at the Ocean Pines Golf Club, visit [www.oceanpines-golf.org](http://www.oceanpines-golf.org).



**Donation** - The Ocean City-Berlin Optimist Club recently donated \$1,500 to the Four Steps Therapeutic Riding Program. From Left to Right: **Maribeth Kulyncz, Grayson Underwood, “Kitty”, Sandy Winter, Maizy Underwood and “Diamond.”**

## Annual pollinator garden tour scheduled

The third annual Pollinator Garden Tour, hosted by the Lower Shore Land Trust, will be held on June 23 and 24 at eight private gardens in Wicomico County. Attendees will have the opportunity to tour the properties and the pollinator gardens and meadows and learn how these homeowners are helping combat pollinator decline while beautifying their yards with native plants.

This annual event is held by the Lower Shore Land Trust in support of their mission, which is, in part, to aid in protecting and decreasing the loss of crucial habitat for pollinators across our region and providing the members

of the community the opportunity to learn simple ways to make a big impact, even in their own back yards.

Bees, birds, butterflies, bats and birds increase the USA’s crop values each year by more than \$15 billion (USGS). Yet between 2017 and 2022, 37% of the honeybee population and the same number of wild bumblebees were lost with seven new species making it to the endangered list here in the United States alone. Four thousand of the world’s 20,000 bee species live in the United States. Without these pollinators, more than one hundred crop species that provide 90% of the world’s food supply pollinated by bees, butterflies, birds and or bats could fail. This presents a major threat to food security. Both kept and native bees, butterflies, bats and birds rely on the public’s assistance to protect their habitats.

The Lower Shore Land Trust staff and its committee members Suzy Taylor, Tracy Causey-Jeffery and Barbara Dolan invite the public to tour these private pollinator gardens on June 23 and 24, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., one or both days, and learn how to turn a back yard into a pollinator paradise.

This year’s tour gardens range from an Urban Forest Garden, a Mt. Hermon Farm Garden, a converted lawn, a meadow garden, to two Salisbury gardens opposite each other that provide a “street crossing” for pollinators, a garden and a chicken paradise, all pro-

please see **tour** on page 8



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# It wasn't easy

It's often remarked that the two happiest days of a boater's life are the day he buys a boat and the day he sells his boat. There's also the adage that a boat is a hole in the water into

the many moments of just being aboard alone; and, so many more.

The decision to sell the boat was prompted by a decision made during the boat show. It wasn't an easy decision. Sitting in a boat on the afternoon of the last day of the show, my wife and I hemmed and hawed, debated and went back and forth. Was it time for something new? Given the magnitude of the question, we called our children asking for their input. Each told us to do what we thought was best. The only objection we encountered, and it was a very forceful objection, came from our 11-year-old granddaughter who made clear in no uncertain terms her displeasure over us getting a new boat. Taking everything into account, we signed the paperwork on the new boat. So engrossed were we in our thoughts, we hadn't realized the show had closed a half hour before. The salesman never said a word.

Less than a week later, I received in the mail a letter from my granddaughter articulating her reasons why we should not get a new boat. Her tone was sweet and her message was heartfelt. She even included a dollar bill in the letter as a downpayment for her purchase of our boat. She wrote a postscript that the dollar was to be returned if we failed to heed her pleas.

After reading the letter, I called her. We talked for a good long while as I explained why it was time to make a change. We reminisced about our times together on the boat like the time she and I went out and ate watermelon while sitting on the swim platform, our feet dangling in the water. Although I accentuated the positives about the new boat, she was reluctant to buy in. The best I got from her was that she'll let me know her thoughts when she sees it when she visits.

A new relationship will soon begin when the new boat arrives. It won't be the same as the relationship with our previous boat or the boat before that or the boat before that. But it will be exciting. I just hope my granddaughter comes around to believe the same thing. Maybe I should return her dollar with interest.



## It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

which you throw money.

For more than half a century I've been a boater, starting when I sat on my grandfather's lap at the helm of his boat. I was under a year old. Although my memory of that particular experience, captured as a Kodachrome moment in a family album somewhere, is lost to history, the excitement of boating, the sheer joy of being on the water, has remained with me, becoming part of my DNA.

I've shared with you in this space before that I believe boats have a spirit, a personality. That's why I think boaters have relationships with their boats and don't simply own them. My wife will be the first to admit that my boat is my mistress, upon whom I'll lavish whatever is necessary to please her. And history has shown I'll lavish. There's a reason for that. You get out of a boat what you put into it. If you skimp on maintenance or care, such behavior will catch up with you, most likely when you're on the water. It's not worth the risk as far as I'm concerned.

There have been very few periods of my life when I haven't owned a boat. Now is one such time. Several weeks ago, we waved good bye to our boat of nearly 19 years as it was towed by her new owner to her new home. Despite what some think, it wasn't a happy day. In fact, it was a very sad day. Standing in the driveway watching her leave, memories of so many good times and adventures flashed in my mind: my young children piling onboard to spend the day behind Assateague; trips down the Pocomoke River heading to Crisfield; voyages up to Cape May, NJ and beyond; my grandchildren screaming with excitement as we skimmed across the water; my wife and I cruising the bay at sunset; fishing trips;



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# Commentary

By Joe Reynolds  
OceanPinesForum.com

## 2022 election debacle continues

Tom Piatti, chairman of the OPA Elections Committee, told the *Ocean Pines Progress* that any review of the ten-digit code on the return paper ballot envelopes from the last board election will “not produce any new count of lots that participated in the last election.” Author Tom Stauss goes on to quote Piatti as saying, “The code on these envelopes do not refer to the number of lots that a property owner might own, contrary to the stubborn belief by some that they do.”

Count this commentator among those who not only have a “stubborn belief,” but know for a fact that the code numbers on the return envelopes and the corresponding code number on the voting instruction sheet sent with the ballot packages do reference the number of lots represented by a paper or online ballot. That new Election Committee chairman Piatti would make statements as published in the *Progress* is extremely troubling. This is especially so since the new committee is charged with restoring confidence in the OPA board election system after the disaster last year.

In an interview subsequent to the publication of Piatti’s comments in the *Progress*, he said, “I may not have

understood the question fully, as what transpired last year under the old committee was very complicated. As a result, my response may not have been as clear as I would have desired.” The *Progress* quotes are unfortunate in that association members should have every confidence that Piatti, a man of unquestioned integrity, will do his level best to insure a fair and accurate accounting of the upcoming board election.

Of some interest is that OPA staff did not provide the “weighted” code numbers that caused the problems last year. Staff sent a list of lots eligible to vote to the Elections Committee. What happened then is unknown. Most likely, the Internet voting company or the mailing contractor took the OPA list and created the 10-digit code numbers for “weighting” each ballot. Piatti says he cannot find any copy of this list of code numbers and the referenced lots, a primary document in the mangled election process last year. Also of note, no video exists of the vote count or the subsequent recount because the chair last year refused to allow video recording.

Anyone can verify the fact that contrary to what was published in the *Progress*, the control number was indicative of the number of lots voting on a single ballot simply by looking at

the “IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT OPA ELECTION BALLOTS” included in the election package mailed to every eligible owner last year.

Included in that “important information” for voters one finds the following: “Since this is a ‘hybrid’ voting process, Association members owning multiple properties will receive one code and are encouraged to use online voting. Your code is ‘weighted’ according to the number of properties you own.”

Those voting on the Internet had to enter their code number in order to vote. Thus, there is a degree of confidence that those owning multiple lots had all their lots counted. Not so with all voters who returned paper ballots representing ownership of more than one lot. The Elections Committee last year, in violation of Resolution M-06, decided to open the return envelopes rather than have the mailing contractor do so and then provide the Committee a stack of returned envelopes and a separate stack of the actual ballots removed from the envelopes.

The return paper envelopes from the 2022 OPA Board of Directors election, are all in possession of OPA, along with the returned ballots. The ballots themselves contain nothing indicating who owned the properties. In an even more ridiculous sidebar to all this, association member Sherrie Clifford has requested access to look at the envelopes and ballots, and OPA’s attorney wants her to sign a non-disclosure agreement in the event Clifford

can do the impossible — determine the name of voters and how they voted by looking at the ballots.

In what amounted to an unintentional but disastrous mistake, the committee last year separated paper ballots from the envelopes without first determining how many lots a ballot represented by checking the code number on the return envelope. Thus any association member owning more than one lot and returning the ballot as originally sent by the Election Committee, had only one of their lots counted, regardless of the number of lots owned.

Why is anyone even concerned about this issue? The third open board position was determined by a 13-vote margin. There could be hundreds of uncounted returned paper-ballot lots because any owner with more than one lot who returned the single ballot as originally mailed had their lots counted only as one. In other words, if you owned five lots, only one of your lots was counted.

The current board majority controlling OPA was decided by a 13-vote victory for an open board seat and many paper-ballot lot votes were not counted.

OPA attorney Jeremy Tucker, according to leaked information published in the *Progress*, told the OPA Board of Directors it is possible Clifford could uncover vote count irregularities and file a complaint in the Circuit Court or with the Maryland At-

please see *commentary* on page 8

A nursing shortage in the United States is expected to intensify in the coming years as the aging population grows and the need for health care increases as well. Projections from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics suggest there will be more than 203,000 openings for registered nurses each year between 2021 and 2031. And it’s not just a shortage of RNs that the health care industry will be forced to confront. The BLSO Occupation Outlook Handbook also projects a growing demand for advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs), with estimates suggesting as many as 30,200 APRN openings each year between now and 2031. Qualifications to become an APRN typically include completion of a master’s or even doctoral program, while RNs typically must complete a four-year bachelor’s or two-year associate’s program.



## Courier Almanac

On April 19, 1897, John J. McDermott of New York won the first Boston Marathon with a time of 2:55:10.

The Boston Marathon was the brainchild of Boston Athletic Association member and inaugural U.S. Olympic team manager John Graham, who was inspired by the marathon at the first modern Olympic Games in Athens in 1896. With the assistance of Boston businessman Herbert H. Holton, various routes were considered, before a measured distance of 24.5 miles from the Irvington Oval in Boston to Metcalf’s Mill in Ashland was eventually selected.

The  
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*art matters*

# Artist goes from hot glass to cool pool

By **Elaine Bean**

During the academic year, Jason Giusti spends his days loading hot molten glass into fiery furnaces and producing art glass in rich glowing colors. During the summer, he spends most of his time behind the bar at The Original Pool Bar on 66<sup>th</sup> Street, enjoying the cool ocean breezes.

Giusti is currently the Glass Technician at The Hot Glass Studio of Salisbury University (SU), where he earned his BFA in Hot Glass from The Fulton School of Liberal Arts.



Jason Giusti

“In my second year I discovered the Hot Shop and have been addicted since,” Giusti said. “It’s a way of life for me.”

Hot glass involves working with molten glass at a temperature around 2,000 degrees. Work such as glass sculpture, hand-blown bowls, vases, goblets, and ornaments are commonly made with hot glass from a furnace.

Giusti helps maintain the glass studio at SU and also acts as a teaching assistant, instructing the next generation of hot glass artists.

“Watching other glass artists work in the hot shop inspires me,” he said, “and watching the students struggle with such a challenging medium.”

The glass artist has a show of his own work on exhibit during April at the Ocean City Center for the Arts on 94<sup>th</sup> St. in Ocean City, offering a collec-

tion of small sculptures, vessels, and paperweights, all hand-created in colorful glass and all inspired by the coastal environment.

“Swimming in the ocean and watching the clouds overhead, I gain perspective and inspiration for the colors that I choose to go into the glass work that I create,” Giusti said.

Born outside of Harrisburg, PA, he spent most of his life around the Ocean City area, moving to the area around kindergarten age, and is a graduate of Stephen Decatur High School. He is a member of The Worcester County Arts Council and The Art League of Ocean City and believes we need more art in the world.

“Art is the most creative output we have,” Giusti said. “Without art, the world would be at a loss. We actually need more art in the world. I strive to explore new artists and the creative ways they express themselves.”

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**commentary**  
from page 6

torney General “to overturn the election results.”

While the odds of an overturned election are slim, association members have an absolute right to know how many validly submitted lot votes were not counted in the last election.

Unfortunately, an OPA Board of Directors majority consisting of Doug Parks, Rick Farr, Stuart Lakernick, and Monica Rakowski is not likely to want a review of the return envelope code numbers, a review that might very well call into question whether they should even be in the majority. On the other hand, such an envelope review could reveal so few as to have no impact on the results. Association members have a right to know, whether the results prove embarrassing to the current board majority or not.

The new Election Committee should not be responsible for checking the returned envelopes from the last election. Clifford should not be allowed to handle the envelopes until after the Board of Directors arranges to send the return envelopes to the mailing contractor, who must have a copy of code numbers, or to some other reliable, trusted outside entity to obtain a count of how many eligible lots were not counted last year.

Partial transparency is not transparency.

## List of violations

OPA’s website now contains a new item called “Violations List” under the ARC Committee section of the website.

This is apparently in response to public comments by an association member at the last board meeting regarding DR enforcement. The association member suggested a list of the violations should be made public to perhaps “shame” violators into compliance. Doug Parks seemed to more or less agree and thus we now have this new list of violations.

Interestingly, not long after the board meeting, one association member apparently posted a partial list of violations on a Facebook site. As is sadly too typical in OPA politics recently, she was attacked for posting information that is readily available to the public on OPA’s website. Not to mention, all ARC/ECC meetings and discussions related to violations are open to association members. One ex-

treme political activist even suggested the woman should be sued for defamation for posting public information. That is the rather disgusting state of OPA politics lately.

At any rate, in what is yet another ironic bit of this brave new world of OPA politics, the list now on the OPA website lists 150 or more violations but not the addresses of the violations. Instead, the lots are listed by property number consisting of the subdivision section number followed by the lot number in the section.

One lot owner has five different open violations. Another lot has an open violation for an unregistered vehicle going back to 2017. Of course, vehicle violations are not all that difficult to find. There are at least two properties on Ocean Parkway that could be mistaken for automobile graveyards.

Any enterprising association member might find a way to look at plats of the subdivision and locate the property addresses, but if the idea as originally suggested was to “shame” owners into correcting violations, this new list is somewhat lacking.

Should OPA even strive to make these violations more visible to all owners? Does OPA, in general, compared to the Parke, for example, look like a community with enforced Declarations of Restrictions?

What is your opinion?

## Mini-grants available

Beach to Bay Heritage Area (BBHA) announces guidelines and criteria for the FY24 Mini-Grant program. Made possible through financial support from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, BBHA mini-grants assist local heritage-related non-profit organizations in developing new heritage and preservation-related programs, activities, products and events. Maximum mini-grant awards capped at \$5000. Please go to the Mini Grants page at Mini Grants - BeachesBays-WaterWays.org for the application, guidelines and more.

BBHA matching mini-grants program is designed to assist heritage-related sites and organizations, as well as municipalities, within the certified heritage area to develop new and innovative programs, partnerships, exhibits, tours, events, and other

please see **grants** on page 11

**tour**  
from page 4

viding a community for pollinators.

As a visitor to these private pollinator paradises, attendees can participate in mini-workshops covering such topics as rain barrel installation, soil health and testing for the homeowner, spotting and handling invasive species, bird watching 101 and more.

In addition, garden guests may purchase raffle tickets for a complete rain barrel or a pollinator garden goodies basket. There will also be eight professional *plein air* painters at work in the gardens. Painting in this year’s gardens will be Lissa Abrams, Natalie Blanton, Rhonda Ford, Jill Glassman, Ann Schaeffer, John Schisler, Karen Winston Levin and Lori Yates.

Following the tour dates, Bishop’s Stock Fine Art, Craft & Wine in Snow

**conference**  
from page 3

have no voice and are locked in a world of modern-day slavery. Since then, Richardson tries to take every opportunity to do local mission work throughout the Eastern Shore by educating and raising awareness. She strives to open the eyes of those that are unaware that human trafficking is happening right here on the Eastern Shore.

*Julie Crain: Founder & Executive Director, Harriett’s House.* Julie Crain is the founder and executive director of Harriett’s House, an anti-human trafficking organization in Cambridge. Harriett’s House currently operates as a drop-in center for survivors of human trafficking, with plans to expand into residential housing in the future. Julie began her work in human trafficking through traveling internationally, doing short-term mission work in after-care programs for women who had escaped sex trafficking. Realizing the need for services in the United States compelled her to start Harriett’s House with the goal of raising awareness and educating communities about human trafficking, providing outreach, drop-in centers and developing residential programming for women survivors of sex trafficking.

*Dr. Danielle Thomas: Child Sex Trafficking Regional Navigator, Life Crisis Center.* Dr. Danielle Thomas is the regional navigator for Maryland’s Lower Shore. She supports children

Hill will host a reception on June 30 from 5 p.m. to 7 pm. Plein air artists from the garden tour will be in attendance and their paintings created during the tours will be available for viewing and sale. The public is cordially invited to the artists’ reception and sale. Proceeds of the art sales will go to the artists and the Lower Shore Land Trust’s future pollinator garden projects.

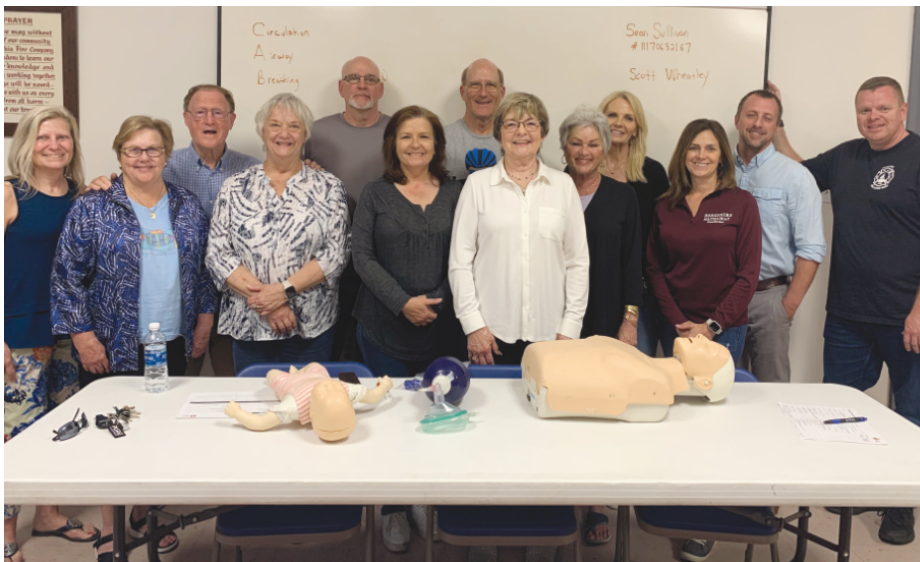
Every ticket purchased benefits the Lower Shore Land Trust’s work to create or preserve more pollinator habitat for bees, birds, butterflies and bats. To purchase tickets for this year’s Lower Shore Land Trust’s Pollinator Garden Tour visit <https://www.lowershorelandtrust.org/shop-beehive>. For more information contact the Land Trust office at 443-234-5587 or [info@lowershorelandtrust.org](mailto:info@lowershorelandtrust.org).

and young adults who are survivors of sex trafficking or at risk of being trafficked. Thomas completed her doctoral degree in traumatology, where she focused her dissertation research on the resources available to survivors of child sex trafficking in nonmetropolitan communities. She also holds a master’s degree in addictions and recovery counseling. Thomas has previously worked as a crisis clinician for children and adolescents in southern Delaware. Most recently, she worked for Worcester County’s CRICKET Center, where she helped provide outreach and education on child abuse.

*Mandi Mendoza: Survivor Leader, Delaware Anti-Trafficking Action Council.* Mandi Mendoza is a survivor leader who has lived experience with both familial trafficking as well as domestic violence. She currently is a survivor leader with the Delaware Anti-Trafficking Action Council. She has a passion and desire to use her voice through her lived experience to help others and to raise awareness, and credits where she is today to her faith in God.

This event is free of charge, with the sole purpose of educating and raising awareness of human trafficking in our area. After all, an educated community is the first line of defense in keeping the Eastern Shore free of human trafficking. Scan the QR code below or contact Thomas at [dthomas@lifecrisiscenter.org](mailto:dthomas@lifecrisiscenter.org) for more information and to register for the Lower Shore Anti-Human Trafficking Conference.





**Training** - Berkshire Hathaway Home Services PenFed agents attended a CPR and AED class taught by Sean Sullivan of the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department. The event was coordinated by Associate Broker Marlene Ott. Those attending from left to right were **Kim Heaney, Linda Moran, John Talbott, Sharon O'Hare, Dan Silverman, Donna Silverman, Mickey Lobb, Marlene Ott, Brenda Archer-Nichols, Beth Miller Cindy Poremski, Jake Spence** and instructor **Sean Sullivan**.

## Health Fair scheduled

Atlantic General Hospital, the Town of Ocean City, and AARP Ocean City Chapter #1917 are co-sponsoring a free health fair for the community. The event will take place Tuesday, May 2, from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Roland E. Powell Convention Center in Ocean City.

The health fair is free and open to the public. Free health screenings will be offered, including carotid, respiratory, bone density, hearing, blood

### Women's Club Fashion Show, luncheon set

Reservations are being accepted for the Fashion Show and Luncheon scheduled on Thursday, May 11 at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Fashions will be provided by Chico's. For \$38, you have a choice of four entrees: (1) grilled chicken Greek salad; (2) brisket French dip; (3) shrimp salad wrap; (4) chef's choice vegetarian. Assorted dessert trays and non-alcoholic beverages included. For more information, contact Jan Chiampa, 508-446-6204 (cell) or 410-600-4236 (home). Reservations will be accepted no later than April 24, 2023. Make checks payable to WCOP. Send reservations to Jan Chiampa, 6 Federal Hill, Ocean Pines MD 21811. This is a fundraiser for high school scholarships and community donations to be presented on June 1.

pressure, skin cancer, medicine review by AGHRx RediScripts pharmacists, lipid panel and blood glucose (a 12-hour fast is required), and more!

At 9 a.m. Dr. M. Sean Hooker of Atlantic General Orthopedic Surgery will discuss how robotic technology is used in surgery, followed by a representative from Taylor Bank who will give a presentation on identity theft and scams at 10:00 a.m. The final speaker of the morning is Dr. Edwin Castañeda of Atlantic General Primary Care, who will provide information about antibiotics at 11:00 a.m.

For more information, please contact Atlantic General Population Health's Alyce Marzola at 410-641-9268 or [amarzola@atlanticgeneral.org](mailto:amarzola@atlanticgeneral.org).

*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**

## Waterline system flushing schedule announced

The Water and Wastewater Division of Public Works will begin its semi-annual program for flushing waterlines in Assateague Pointe, Edgewater Acres, Nantucket Point, Deer Point, Landings, Mystic Harbour, Newark, Ocean Reef, and West Ocean City Service Areas between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.

The following proposed spring 2023 dates for the flushing of the waterlines are subject to change.

- April 24 thru May 5 - Assateague Pointe, Deer Point, Mystic Harbour, Ocean Reef, and West Ocean City
- May 9 & 10 - Newark
- May 11 & 12 - Edgewater Acres and Nantucket Pointe

Routine flushing of the water system helps to reduce the frequency of discolored water. Public Works crews open and close the hydrants, flushing out the built-up iron deposits. Sometimes, this can

lead to temporary increases in suspended iron, which should settle out within a few hours of the flushing.

Please be aware that, even on dates the water lines in your section are not being flushed, it is still possible to experience discolored water. If area residents notice that their water becomes cloudy during these times, please allow the water to run for a few minutes until it becomes clear. For more information, please call the Water and Wastewater Division at (410) 641-5251.

## Kiwanis event scheduled

On Wednesday, April 19 the Kiwanis Club will host an early evening at the Southgate Grill Pavilion beginning at 3:30 p.m. The event is an opportunity to learn more about the club and its support of the community. Attendees can enjoy half price burger night, Happy Hour Drinks between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. as well as \$1 appetizers.



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*Captain Ron's*  
**Fish Tales**

*By Ron Fisher*



# Big spring flounder

**Fishing Report:** Keeper flounder are being caught in the shallows at the Thorofare, South Bay and the shallows at Harbor Island.

**When to fish:** You can spend all day fishing but to really target big flounder you should make it a point to check the tide charts. Flounder fishing is best the last two hours of the incoming tide and the first two hours of the outgoing tide. Also remember the tides flow two hours behind in the bay so if the beach high tide is 1 p.m. the bay high tide is 3 p.m. I have also found over the years that fishing is even better with a mild north-east or easterly wind. A south wind seems to



dirty up the South Bay and a West wind brings out the biting flies.

**What bait should you use?** Any good flounder fisherman will tell you that to catch big flounder you will need to fish with big bait. Talk to your tackle shops about bait but when targeting the big fish use frozen smelt two to three inches long with a squid strip as an attractor. You can also use big minnows if you can find them and I will still use frozen shiners but will put two on a hook with a squid strip. If you are using frozen shiners hook them through the eyes. Another option is strip bait. This time of year it can be a fillet of a blue fish, sea robin, or flounder belly cut into strips 3-4 inches long. Taper the strip bait so it moves well through the water. Another hot bait is 5" Pearl White Swimming Mullet Gulp dressed with a frozen shiner or live minnow. A pink Swimming Mullet Gulp is also good in the spring when flounder are feeding on grass shrimp.

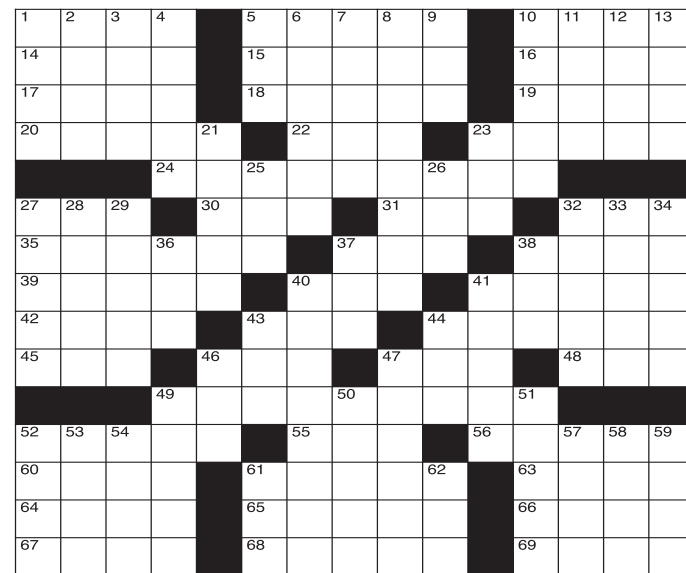
**What kind of rig should you use?** There are many options for rigs but the following are what I prefer. A simple rig of a four foot 20 or 30lb. test leader with a three-way swivel at the top to

which is attached a 2oz or 3oz bank sinker depending on how fast the tide is moving. At the terminal end use a single wide gap hook dressed with two beads of red or chartreuse. To this hook attach either the smelt, minnow, frozen shiner or strip bait along with a strip of squid or if fishing the Swimming Mullet eliminate the beads. Another option is a plain leader to which

is attached a two ounce or 3oz bucket. Dress this hook preferably with strip bait described earlier. These are attached to a four foot 20 or 30lb. test leader with a three-way swivel and two or three ounce bank sinker. This time of year the chartreuse and the pink work well. I will dress these with frozen shiners and a squid strip.

**Where should you fish?** In the South bay from Buoy 6-12, From the Rte. 50 bridge along the bulkhead past the Coast Guard Station to the fishing pier, the inlet along the south jetty and on the inlet side of the West O.C. Harbor, The East Channel Buoy 8 to 14 and along the shallows at Bird Island, At Harbor Island along the hard shoal, along the bulkhead where the townhouses jut out and from the townhouses to the 9<sup>th</sup> St. fishing pier, In the Thorofare, work just above the bend up against the marsh and drift from four feet of water to the drop off at 25' at the bend, and in the North Bay from Buoy Marker #14 at the convention center. Drift inside the channel markers to keep clear of the boat traffic.

*Remember to take a kid fishing,  
Capt. Ron*

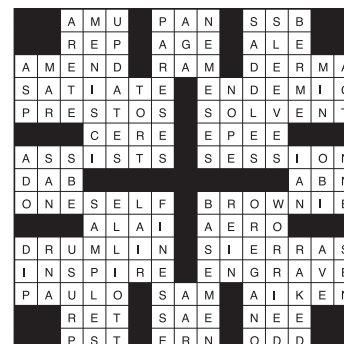


**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Dylan and Marley are two
- 5. Makes healthy
- 10. The Who's "O'Riley"
- 14. Side sheltered from wind
- 15. Flat-bottomed sailboats
- 16. Egyptian supreme god
- 17. Advice
- 18. Mass of small, loose stones
- 19. Online learning services provider
- 20. "Lords" in Northwest Semitic languages
- 22. Of she
- 23. A place to relax
- 24. Critical and mocking
- 27. Consumed
- 30. You get one in summer
- 31. Bath
- 32. Luxury automaker
- 35. Spiders spin one
- 37. Guy (slang)
- 38. Greek personification of Earth
- 39. Large instruments
- 40. Domestic cattle genus
- 41. Appetizer
- 42. Oil group
- 43. Where to put groceries
- 44. Speak incessantly
- 45. Popular color
- 46. A place to sleep
- 47. Make fun of
- 48. Former CIA
- 49. Salts
- 52. Bleated
- 55. Never sleeps
- 56. Sword
- 60. Water (Spanish)
- 61. Cyprinids
- 63. "Dark Knight" actor Christian
- 64. Fictional demon
- 65. Old World lizard
- 66. The content of cognition
- 67. Makes a mistake
- 68. A way to make wet
- 69. Tide

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. One-liner
- 2. Evergreen genus
- 3. College in Rome
- 4. Prevents from seeing
- 5. Cycles/second
- 6. Mischievous child
- 7. Less common
- 8. Honorably retired
- 9. Midway between south and southeast
- 10. A confusion of voices and other sounds
- 11. Bony fish genus
- 12. Type of pear
- 13. Egyptian cross
- 21. Satisfies
- 23. Founder of Babism
- 25. Bar bill
- 26. Chicago ballplayer
- 27. Performer
- 28. Hairpiece
- 29. Partner to flowed
- 32. Aircraft formation
- 33. You have 3 per day
- 34. Goes into
- 36. College athletic organization
- 37. Wet, muddy ground
- 38. Talk
- 40. Witty conversation
- 41. Gurus
- 43. "French Price of \_\_\_ Air"
- 44. Sports equipment
- 46. Try to get
- 47. Flower cluster
- 49. Sea dwellers
- 50. Palmlike subtropical plant
- 51. Polio vaccine developer
- 52. Baseball's Ruth
- 53. Gelatinous substance
- 54. Hungarian violinist Leopold
- 57. Offered
- 58. Ancient Greek City
- 59. A way to derive
- 61. Touch lightly
- 62. Witnessed



Answers for April 12

Travel

# Visiting Kapama River Lodge

By Kurt and Jean Marx

In our last two columns, we described our experiences in and around Cape Town in South Africa. This week we present our first part of two regarding our amazing safari experiences at the Kapama River Lodge in Hoedspruit.

Having done our research ahead of time, we found that there are generally three major ways to go on safari, each with pros and cons. The first way is to



rent a car and go to a national park, like Kruger. The pros include you can go where you want, when you want, and stay for as long as you want. It is also generally the cheapest. The second is to stay at a lodge that provides a vehicle and guide at a national park. Although you have a professional

guide, you are sharing the space with everyone else. The final alternative is a lodge that has its own game reserve. Although this is the most expensive option, this is the one we would recommend especially if this is your first and possibly only safari. The pros are that you have professionals to spot, track and explain wildlife to you and there are very few people around. You are able to get extremely close to the animals but still be safe. This is the option we chose when we went to the Kapama River Lodge, and we were rewarded with one of the greatest experiences of our lives.

After our short flight from Cape Town of two and a half hours, we arrived at Hoedspruit Airport and were met by our guide, Ruan, and our tracker, Give. We got into an open-air jeep and Ruan asked if we were ready for our three-hour drive to the lodge. We then left the airport and drove across the street and entered Kapama. This was the first of Ruan's jokes. He kept us laughing throughout our stay.

As we drove in, we immediately saw impalas, zebras, and giraffes. It was amazing to see these animals so close to the jeep. The zebras had birds on their backs that Ruan said live symbiotically with them. The birds eat the ticks and other insects that land on the zebras. The zebras get relief and the

courage or enhance preservation, revitalization, and interpretation of the area's natural, cultural and historic resources are also eligible. BBHA encourages proposals that are consistent with any regional thematic heritage-tourism related initiatives and those that include new technology, foster environmentally-friendly and sustainable practices at heritage sites, foster accessibility for visitors with disabilities, and/or create new heritage-related programming in the arts. Generally, grants will be made as one-time awards, not for ongoing projects or annual activities. Other types of projects not specifically stated here may be eligible and should be discussed with the heritage area director.

Applicants are encouraged to contact the heritage area [info@beachesbayswaterways.org](mailto:info@beachesbayswaterways.org) to discuss potential grant projects before they begin the application. Applications are due (submitted via e-mail) no later than Friday, May 12.

grants  
from page 8

initiatives that are consistent regional goals and activities outlined in the Heritage Area Strategic Plan. Mini-grant proposals that include collaborative partnerships and enhance preservation, the stewardship of historical, cultural, and/or natural resources and economic development through heritage tourism are encouraged.

Examples of eligible projects include new heritage tours, maps, interpretive brochures, podcasts, and other heritage-related publications; educational public programs, exhibits, and/or events; and heritage tourism-related website development. Oral history projects are also eligible. Heritage tourism-related programs for K-12 students, home-schooled students, and/or after-school educational programs, and educational seminars, workshops, and conferences that en-

birds get a food source.

Ruan dropped us off at the beautiful open-air registration area of the lodge where we were greeted warmly and were checked in. We were then escorted to our rooms which were very pretty and had patio areas where you could sit out and see animals grazing. We met Chris, our waiter, and ate a quick lunch and prepared for our afternoon safari. Generally, you will go out on two three-hour safaris a day. One is in the morning, starting at 6:30 a.m. and one is in the afternoon, starting at 4:30 p.m. Ruan and Give picked us up, reminded us that the animals are wild, we needed to never stand up in the jeep, and we needed to be quiet during the journey. We then got on our way.

Just a short distance from the gate near registration, we saw two hyenas. Ruan said they were relatively young and were probably siblings. It was amazing to be six feet away from the hyenas. We watched them for 15 minutes. Give spotted a small mongoose scooting through the grass as well as hornbills, vultures, Cape Starling birds, and kudus. The kudus were very tall and dark gray in color.

Ruan drove to a clearing and we stopped for a happy hour. We sipped on South African wines as we watched the sun set. The sky went from yellow and blue to purple and pink before the sun set completely. It was gorgeous. As we began to meander back, Give spotted a huge Cape buffalo. Give then spotted two leopards, which are the hardest of the Big Five animals to see. The Big Five are the Cape buffalo, elephant, leopard, lion, and rhinoceros. The leopards quickly disap-

peared but Give then spotlighted one standing majestically in a tree. It was amazing! We returned to our rooms and showered before heading to dinner.

Although a lodge like Kapama is pricey, you do get three fantastic meals per day as well as wine, drinks, and snacks throughout the day, excellent service, and memories to last a lifetime. Next time we will cover our first close encounters with lions!

## Tides for Ocean City Inlet

Day	High /Low	Tide Time
Th 20	Low	2:37 AM
20	High	8:49 AM
20	Low	2:41 PM
20	High	9:10 PM
F 21	Low	3:24 AM
21	High	9:34 AM
21	Low	3:22 PM
21	High	9:55 PM
Sa 22	Low	4:10 AM
22	High	10:17 AM
22	Low	4:03 PM
22	High	10:39 PM
Su 23	Low	4:56 AM
23	High	11:01 AM
23	Low	4:46 PM
23	High	11:24 PM
M 24	Low	5:44 AM
24	High	11:45 AM
24	Low	5:32 PM
Tu 25	High	12:10 AM
25	Low	6:35 AM
25	High	12:31 PM
25	Low	6:21 PM
W 26	High	1:00 AM
26	Low	7:28 AM
26	High	1:22 PM
26	Low	7:16 PM

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## Health Watch

# Advanced cervical cancer cases on the rise in the US

By **Michael, DiClemente**  
*Board-certified gynecologist*

Cervical cancer research conducted in the past few years reveals a conundrum; While rates of early-stage disease have been dropping in the United States ever since the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine was introduced, advanced cases have been on the rise.

Which women are being hit the hardest? The steepest uptick in ad-

vanced cervical cancer is occurring in white women who didn't get the HPV shot and who weren't up-to-date with their screening tests.

Approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in 2006, the HPV shot protects against certain strains of HPV, the most common sexually transmitted infection in the United States. HPV has been linked to several cancers, including cervical cancer, vaginal cancer, vulvar cancer,

head and neck cancers, anal cancer and penile cancer. Everyone between the ages of nine and 45 can get the HPV shot.

But HPV vaccination rates still lag behind other childhood vaccinations.

For a 2021 study published in the *International Journal of Gynecological Cancer*, the researchers analyzed cervical cancer data from the U.S. Cancer Statistics program and national survey findings on screening and vaccination from 2001 to 2018. During this time-frame, 29,715 women were diagnosed with advanced cervical cancer. Overall, the rate of advanced cervical cancer increased by nearly 1.5% every year, the investigators found.

When cervical cancer is advanced and has spread, it is much harder to cure. Only about 17% of those women diagnosed with it will survive at least five years, compared with 92% of women who are diagnosed with early cervical cancer, the study's author noted.

Black women aged 55 to 59 who lived in the South were most likely to be diagnosed with advanced cervical cancer, but the largest increase — a

rate of 4.5% — was seen among white women aged 40 to 44 from the South, the findings showed.

When compared with black women, white women were nearly twice as likely not to be screened for cervical cancer at all or not to be screened in line with guidelines, the study showed. HPV vaccination rates were lower in these women. The largest increase in cases was for adenocarcinoma, a subtype of cervical cancer.

If you or a child in your household is between the ages of 9 and 45, please, please get the HPV vaccine. It's safe and effective in preventing HPV and a number of cancers. Regardless of a woman's vaccination status, you can benefit from the added protection of annual checkup with your gynecologist.

*Dr. Michael DiClemente is a board-certified gynecologist at Atlantic General Women's Health in Selbyville, Delaware, and West Ocean City. Appointments can be made in West Ocean City by calling 443-728-1050. The Selbyville office can be reached at 302-524-5007.*

## Facts about cancer

Cancer is a word no one wants to hear. However, cancer affects millions of people across the globe, and no one is immune to it.

The impact of cancer can be staggering to behold. The following cancer facts, courtesy of the American Cancer Society, National Cancer Institute, World Health Organization, and the Mayo Clinic, highlight the far-reaching nature of this potentially deadly disease.

Cancer is the leading cause of death worldwide. In 2020, it accounted for more than 10 million fatalities.

Cancer can start in almost any part of the human body, which is comprised of trillions of cells.

Tumors are formed when abnormal or damaged cells grow and multiply when they shouldn't. Many cancers cause solid tumors, but blood cancers do not.

Cancer cells can grow in the absence of bodily signals telling them to grow. They also ignore signals to stop dividing or to die off. Cancer cells can tell blood vessels to grow toward tumors helping to supply tumors with oxygen and nutrients.

Signs and symptoms of cancer will vary depending on which part of the body is affected. However, lumps (tumors), fatigue, weight changes, skin changes, and changes to bowel or bladder habits are symptoms often associated with cancer.

The word "cancer" comes from the Greek word for "crab." It likely stems from the finger-like spreading protrusions of cancer being likened to the shape of a crab.

Tobacco usage is one of the leading causes of lung cancer and many other

forms of the disease. Tobacco can be linked to the death of at least 50 million people in the last 10 years.

Gene mutations that result in cancer can be present from birth or occur after birth from lifestyle behaviors or exposure to carcinogens.

Certain lifestyle choices increase the risk for developing cancer. These include smoking, drinking alcohol, excessive exposure to the sun, being obese, and having unsafe sex.

In 2020, the most common cancers worldwide included breast, lung, colorectal, prostate, and non-melanoma skin cancers.

Lung cancer accounted for the most cancer deaths in 2020.

Cancer that has spread from the place where it first began to another place in the body is called metastatic cancer. The cancer is always called by the initial cancer, not where it has spread. So breast cancer that spreads to a lung is known as metastatic breast cancer.

Carcinomas are the most common types of cancer. They form in the epithelial cells that cover the inside and outside surfaces of the body.

Excluding non-melanoma skin cancer, at least 42 percent of newly diagnosed cancers in the United States are potentially avoidable, particularly those caused by smoking, obesity and alcohol consumption.

While anyone can get cancer, 88 percent of Americans diagnosed with cancer are age 50 or older.

Cancer is prolific. Learning more about the disease may encourage people to take more active measures in improving their health.

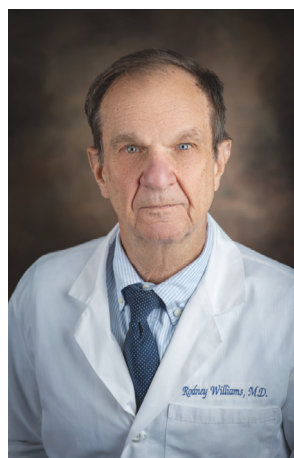
## Oncologist joins AGH

Dr. Rodney Williams joined the medical staff of Atlantic General Hospital this month to provide medical oncology care alongside Dr. Rabindra Paul and nurse practitioner Paige Wildmann at the John H. 'Jack' Burbage, Jr. Regional Cancer Care Center.

Williams earned his medical degree at University of California School of Medicine. His training and clinical experience includes a fellowship at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, after a residency at the University of Colorado Affiliated Hospitals in Denver. He comes to Atlantic General from coastal South Carolina, where he provided cancer treatment in a rural clinic and in the hematology/oncology division at the Medical University of South Carolina, in Charleston.

Williams has held medical leadership positions at several healthcare organizations, including the Greater Baltimore Medical Center. He is board certified in internal medicine and medical oncology.

Williams is currently accepting new patients. For more information and appointments, please call the Burbage Regional Cancer Care Center at 410-629-6888.



## Atlantic General Women's Health Center

# Women's health services built around you!

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▶ **Gynecology Services – Suite 8**

Schedule an appointment by calling 443-728-1050.

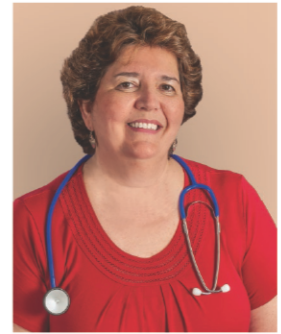
▶ **Imaging Services – Suite 5**

3D mammography, ultrasound and bone densitometry services.

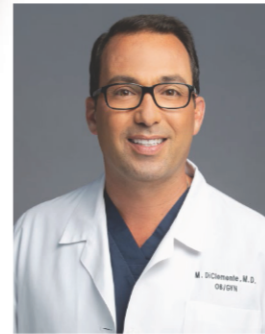
Schedule an appointment by calling 443-728-1090.



[www.agh.care/WomensHealth](http://www.agh.care/WomensHealth)



Nicki Akstinas, CRNP



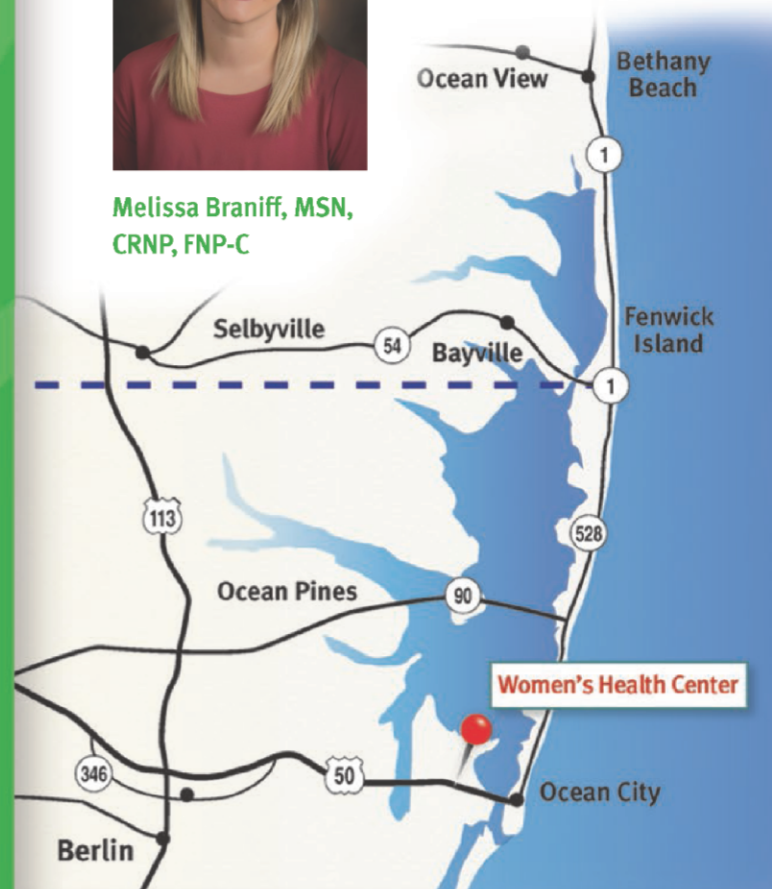
Michael DiClemente, MD



Christine Neto, MD, FACOG



Melissa Braniff, MSN, CRNP, FNP-C



**Atlantic General Women's Health Center**  
12308 Ocean Gateway, West Ocean City

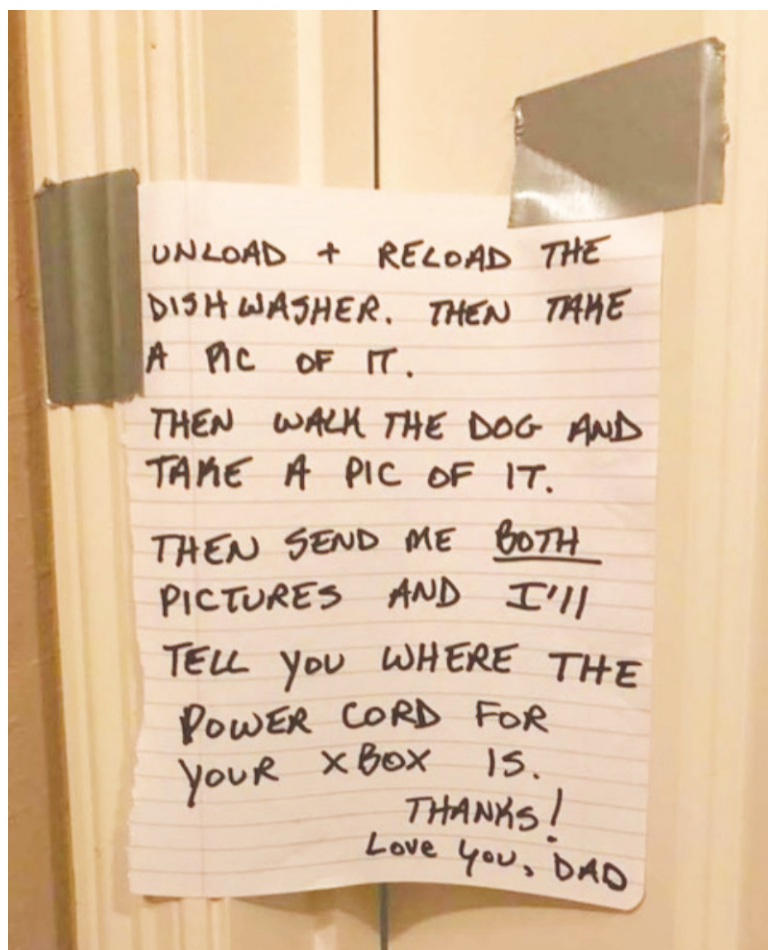
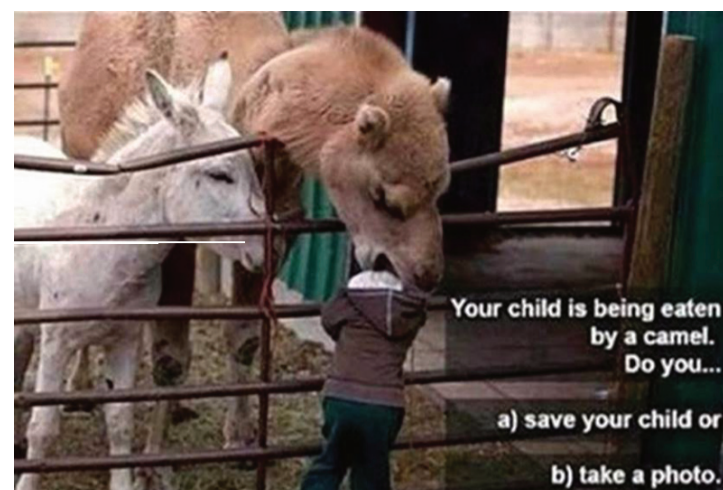
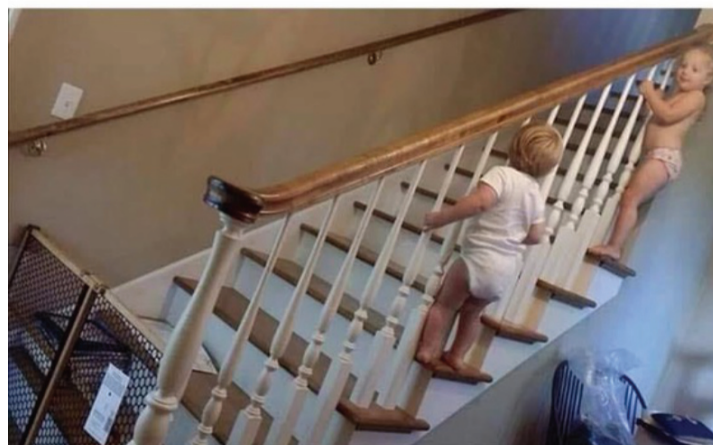
**Hours of Operation:**  
8:00 am - 4:30 pm, Monday - Friday

# Some things to think about

Gathered from the internet by **Jack Barnes**

An elderly man rear ends a guy driving an expensive sports car. Enraged, the guy hops out of his car and confronts the old man. "Look what you did to my car" he yells. "You're gonna give me \$10,000 right now or I'm gonna beat you to a bloody pulp!" "Oh my," says the old man, I don't have that kind of money. Let me call my son, he trains dolphins and he'll know what to do." "Dolphins," the other driver huffs, while rolling his eyes. The old man pulls out his phone, dials his son and just as the son answers, the irate man snatches the phone away from the old man. "So, YOU'RE a dolphin trainer, huh? Well, your old man here just rear ended my car and I need ten grand right now or I'm gonna beat you AND your old man to a bloody pulp". "I'll be there in 10 minutes, says the voice calmly on the other end". Exactly ten minutes later a jeep pulls up and a guy hops out and proceeds to pulverize the bully, leaving him in a bloody heap on the side of the road. When he's finished, he walks over to his father and says: "For the LAST TIME dad... I train SEALS... NAVY SEALS... NOT dolphins."

Get a baby gate they said, it'll keep them safe it said.... 🙄😂



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