

The Courier

May 17, 2023 Volume 23 Number 31

**SAFE
BOATING
WEEK**

Special Edition



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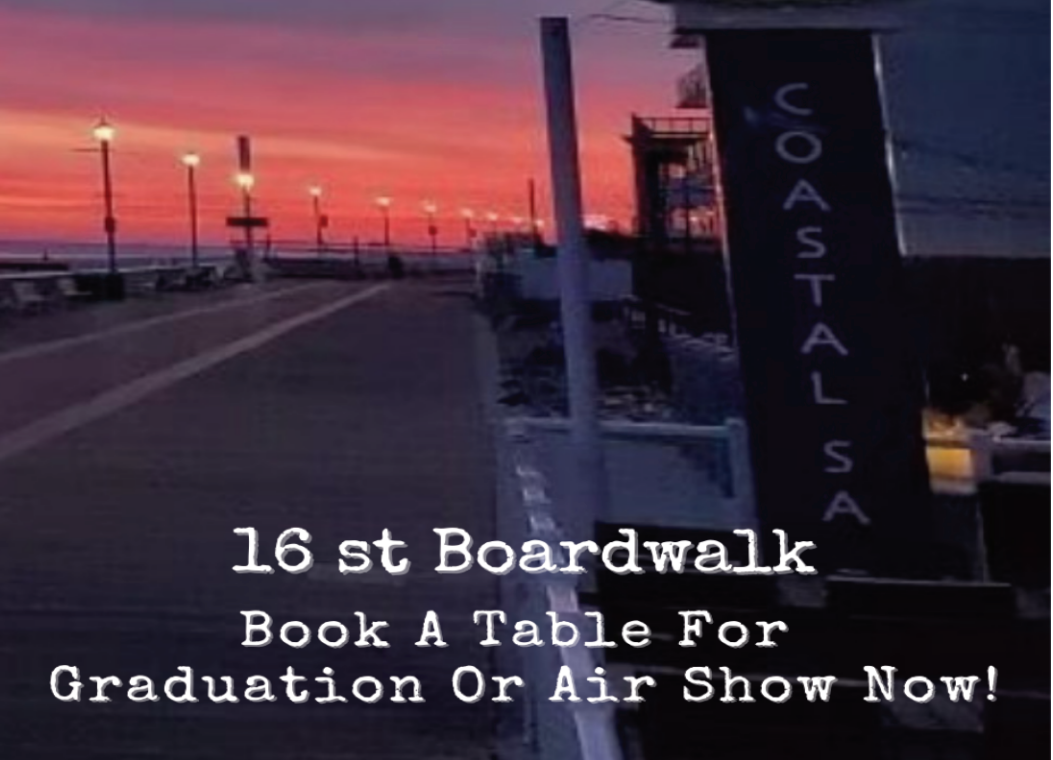
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National Safe Boating Week offers tips for all boaters

National Safe Boating Week will be held from May 20-26, reminding all boaters to brush up on boating safety skills and prepare for the boating season. This observance week is the annual kick-off of the Safe Boating Campaign, a global awareness effort that encourages boaters to make the most of their boating adventure by being responsible.

“We’re committed to teaching boaters that the best boating experience is a safe day on the water,” said Peg Phillips, executive director of the National Safe Boating Council, a nonprofit dedicated to helping create a safe boating experience for all boaters and the lead organization of the Safe Boating Campaign. “This National Safe Boating Week, prepare for a great boating season by inspecting your boating safety gear and commit to providing comfortable life jackets for all your passengers to wear every time you go boating.”

U.S. Coast Guard statistics show that drowning was the reported cause of death in four out of every five recreational boating fatalities, and that 83 percent of those who drowned were not wearing life jackets.

There are many options for boaters when it comes to choosing a life jacket. When selecting a life jacket, a boater should check that it is U.S. Coast Guard approved, appropriate for the water activity, and fits properly.

“The best life jacket is the one you will wear,” said Phillips. “Whether you’re going fishing or just enjoying a ride on the boat, make sure you’re prepared for the adventure by wearing a life jacket and knowing how to use required safety gear.”

The National Safe Boating Council recommends these tips for boaters:

Take a boating safety course. Gain valuable knowledge and on-water experience in a boating safety course with many options for novice to experienced

boaters.

Check equipment. Schedule a free vessel safety check with local U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary or U.S. Power Squadrons to make sure all essential equipment is present, working and in good condition.

Make a float plan. Always let someone on shore know the trip itinerary, including operator and passenger information, boat type and registration, and communication equipment on board before you leave the dock.

Wear a life jacket. Make sure everyone wears a life jacket – every time. A stowed life jacket is no use in an emergency.

Use an engine cut-off switch – it’s the law. An engine cut-off switch is a proven safety device to stop a powerboat engine should the operator unexpectedly fall overboard.

Watch the weather. Always check the forecast before departing on the water and frequently during the excursion.

Know what’s going on around you at all times. Nearly a quarter of all reported boating accidents in 2020 were caused by operator inattention or improper look-out.

Know where you’re going and travel at safe speeds. Be familiar with the area, local boating speed zones, and always travel at a safe speed.

Never boat under the influence. A BUI is involved in one-third of all recreational boating fatalities. Always designate a sober skipper.

Keep in touch. Have more than one communication device that works when wet. VHF radios, emergency locator beacons, satellite phones, and cell phones can all be important devices in an emergency.

The Safe Boating Campaign is produced under a grant from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund and administered by the U.S. Coast Guard. The campaign offers a variety of free and paid resources to support local boating safety education efforts. Learn more at www.safeboatingcampaign.com.



Are you one of the 11.9 M recreational boaters who ...

- Gets an annual courtesy vessel safety inspection
- Has attended the Safe Boating Class
- Promotes the use of life jackets
- Practices boat handling before there’s an emergency

If not, why not?
Help us make boating safer

Contact Barry Cohen
at (410) 935-4807



Winter barnacles

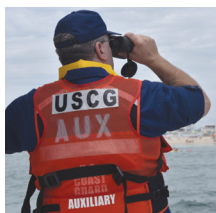
We all love boating (especially on someone else's boat). There is a certain level of freedom and a sense of superiority when mastering the 70% of the earth that we cannot stand on but the maritime euphoria is not a Disney park ride. There are dangers and downsides that are not mitigated by fastening your seat belt and keeping your hands inside the amusement car.

National Safe Boating week will be celebrated again this year just before Memorial Day, May 20-26, and, once again, it will stress wearing life jackets, getting a free vessel safety inspection and attending a safe boating class. There is, however, a lot more going on that should cause you to take pause before shoving off. Consider the following.

BUI. Boating Under the Influence has the same legal threshold as DUI (.08% alcohol in the blood) and carries the same punitive consequences. However, just like automobile driving,

about this week's cover...

The photos on the front cover are courtesy of **Dan Collins**, a member of the USCG Auxiliary Ocean City Flotilla.



Todd Morris



Dirk Esham



Martin Killian

a boater can be stopped for reckless driving regardless of the blood-alcohol concentration.

This can really sneak up on you when boating because alcohol is three times more debilitating on water than it is on land. Two beers on a boat will affect you like drinking a six pack on land because of stressors. These are the natural environs like the boat rocking, hot sun, dehydration and the seduction of the carefree attitude of the moment. They sap the energy and mental discipline from your body to manage the effects of alcohol. Enjoying an adult beverage on a boat is quite acceptable and, in fact, part of a fun day on the water for many BUT the boat operator, the skipper, needs to be the designated driver.

Speeding. There are 6MPH limits in most channels and 'no wake' restrictions where boats are moored but speed on the open water is both exhilarating and dangerous. Although your reaction times are constant, about 1.5 seconds, accidents happen faster at high speed because you are covering more distance. Therefore, you need longer lead time to anticipate problems and to react to a potential mishap.

When a high-speed collision does occur, the boat's momentum can cause more damage than you can imagine. In the Safe Boating Class we teach, "Slow is Pro," which means never approach something faster than

you're willing to hit it - including sandbars.

Equipment failure. Most equipment failures are avoidable with good maintenance practices. There are a lot more recreational boats that need towing than planes falling out of the sky. Maintenance is the difference. Batteries, fuel filters, bilges, empty fuel tanks are some of the typical failures that can ruin a day but most can be avoided with good maintenance practices. If your engine sounds funny idling at the dock, guess what

weather updates and always be aware of his/her location and the depth of the water below the keel.

Passengers and crew can help as lookouts to reduce the operator's workload and modern GPS, chart plotters, and radars can keep you aware of your location; but paper charts and a compass are recommended as backup.

Inexperience. Inexperience is a relative term. I've been sailing and motor boating for over 25 years and still consider myself inexperienced. I



Too much speed and too little situational awareness. Photo attributed to My Boat Life.

is going to happen when you hit the throttle.

Situational Awareness. Not knowing where you are, what the other boats around you are doing, or how the weather might be changing can lead to disaster. The boat operator needs to keep a 360° lookout, needs to monitor marine channel 16 for emergencies and channel 3 for local

still learn something new every time I go out and I hope I'm getting better. Although we all make mistakes, rookies make more but so do 'old salts' as they return to the water in the spring.

Besides operator mistakes probably the biggest concern is the inexperienced guests. They need to be shown how to put on their life jackets, to be cautioned to remain seated while the boat is underway, to keep their hands inboard and - no heroes - they need to tell the skipper if they feel sick. Like a sick motor or deteriorating weather, a sick passenger is an immediate cause to terminate the outing and head home.

National Safe Boating Week is the ideal time to knock the winter barnacles off the brain and to revisit best practices. Let's have fun but let's keep the 'oops moments' to a minimum.

Stay safe. Stay dry.

Dan Collins can be reached for comment at dancollins.ocean-pines@gmail.com

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Family line of boat heritage

From the time I was young, boats have been a fascination and passion of mine. Whether playing with toy boats in the bath tub as a child,

was about six or seven and visiting my grandparents in Villas, NJ. Walking around the yard bundled in a heavy winter coat, a cold wind sweeping



It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

pulling behind me a plastic boat on a string along the beach or being on the water in my boat, I am the most at peace when I'm near, on or playing with a boat.

I've always felt that boats, all boats, have a soul, a personality, an identity all their own. A boat is not an inanimate object, at least not to me. Such a sentiment originated when I was young. Let me take you back for a moment to a wintry afternoon. I

spent time talking to *Jo-Lin*, my grandfather's boat at the time. She was resting on concrete blocks and covered by a heavy, olive-green tarp tied down with lines that stretched under her hull. She was a 17-foot wooden boat powered by a 90 horsepower OMC stern drive. Built by my grandfather in 1965, she would soon be traded in for a new 19-foot Chaparral with a 120 horsepower Mercruiser purchased at the Philadelphia boat show.

I was sad *Jo-Lin* was leaving, not quite understanding why she was going. My boating memories start with that boat which was white, trimmed in red with a heavily shel-lacked mahogany engine compart-

ment cover. I caught my first fish on her, well it wasn't a fish really. It was a baby sand shark. But it still counted.

That blustery afternoon I stood at her bow, expressing my sadness that she was leaving but assuring her that I would remember her forever and that I would not like the new boat. I think she understood, at least I hope she did.

The new boat arrived with the warm weather several months later. Despite my promises to *Jo-Lin*, I immediately fell in love with the new boat which never really had a name. She was always referred to as the *Big Boat*. She was roomier, cut through the water more gracefully thanks to her deep vee hull and was much faster than her predecessor. She was also a bow rider which added a new dimension to our boating experience.

My brother and I spent a lot time fishing with our grandfather on that boat on the Delaware Bay. We relished the reality that the *Big Boat* was faster than all the other boats in the area, a fact of which we liked to remind our friends. Gramps often let my brother and me take the helm. We'd love to push the throttle down as we headed toward fishing spots at Bug Light and Fourteen Foot. Gramps would normally reach over to pull the throttle up. Although truth be known, he was a speed demon too.

At least once during the summer, we'd pile on the boat, my brother and me, our mother and grandfather, with a food-and-drink-filled cooler. We'd spend the day cruising through the Cape May Canal taking in

the sights of Cape May, Wildwood, Stone Harbor and Avalon. I look back on those cruises nostalgically. We ate ham and cheese sandwiches and washed them down with Shop Rite cream soda. Gramps would point out different landmarks while my mother pointed out interesting landscape designs of the "hoity toity" houses in Stone Harbor and Avalon. My brother and I would comment to each other about the boats we passed. "That one has a 55 Johnson." "Look at that cabin cruiser." "That one looks like Hap's brother's boat."

Those were memorable cruises.

When I was 12, Gramps bought my brother and me our own boat. It was a fiberglass 15-foot, 1957 Newport that was sitting on a trailer beside the Villas Tackle Shop. It was \$200. My brother and I were ecstatic sitting in the backseat looking out the window of Gramps' '65 Barracuda as we trailered the boat home. Gramps had a 15 horsepower, '57 Johnson outboard that he mounted on the stern. At first the steering wasn't connected so we had to use the tiller to steer. We didn't care. We were loving life.

Fast forward many years to the most recent boat show in Ocean City. My wife and I are debating whether it's time to trade in our 19-foot boat, *Susan B. II*, that we've had for just about 20 seasons for a new boat. After much hemming and hawing, mostly by me who was reliving the sadness of saying goodbye to *Jo-Lin* half a century ago, we decide the time is right and sign the papers for the new boat.

We're looking forward to soon taking delivery of this vessel that will take its place in the family line of boat heritage.

It's been a lot of years since those Cape May Canal cruises on the *Big Boat*, the freedom of plying the waters behind the house in that '57 Newport and when a little boy lamented the departure of an old wooden boat on a winter day. Through the years though, the essence of those experiences has been the primer on a canvas painted many times over by boating experiences I've enjoyed with my children and now grandchildren. And with this new boat of ours, I anticipate many more enjoyable experiences.



Top left: **Gramps** with the *Jo-Lin* (circa 1968).

Middle left: Me aboard the *G.G.*, a 1957 Newport with 1957 15 h.p. Johnson. The *Big Boat* is in the background. (circa 1978).

Bottom left: Me saying goodbye to the *Susan B.*, a 1982 *Invader* (2007).

Above top: My wife, granddaughter and me aboard the *Susan B. II* (2019).

Bottom: The new boat waiting for delivery (2023).

Walk safe, bike safe: OPPD encourages pedestrian and bicycle safety

Ocean Pines Police is reminding residents of the importance of pedestrian and bicycle safety, and asking that walkers and bicyclists follow the rules of the road.

First, all pedestrians and bicyclists are encouraged to wear light colored or reflective clothing, so they are visible to drivers. Dark colors, worn at night or on overcast days, can be difficult for cars to see and may lead to slower reaction times.

When walking at night, it is also a good idea to carry a flashlight and wear a reflective vest or armbands. Taking a few extra moments to prepare can save someone from an accident, or even death. Safety is everyone's responsibility.

Where a sidewalk is not provided, pedestrians must walk on the left shoulder or the left side of a roadway, facing any traffic that might approach from the opposite direction. Walking on the opposite side is a violation of Maryland Transportation Code 21-506b, and violators are subject to a \$50 fine.

Cyclists must ride on the right-hand side of the roadway, going with the flow of traffic. Riding on the wrong side of the road could put turning cyclists in the path of oncoming traffic and would make them at fault in the case of an accident. Violators are also subject to a \$50 fine under Maryland



Transportation code 21-1205a.

Maryland Transportation Code 21-1210b states that riders cannot operate a bicycle and wear ear plugs in both ears, including headphones.

Many people like to listen to music or have a GPS for directions as they ride, but riders must only cover one ear so they can hear what is going on around them, such as an approaching emergency vehicle or a motorist trying to alert them. This violation carries a \$60 fine.

Helmets are encouraged for all bicycle riders and are required by all persons under the age of 16 riding as a passenger or driver of a bicycle. If a parent or guardian allows such a violation, they may be subject to a \$50 fine.

For more information about pedestrian and bicyclist safety, visit <https://zerodeathsmd.gov/road-safety/pedestrian-bicyclist-safety>.

Rummage sale scheduled

There will be a church rummage sale at the Ocean City Presbyterian Church on Saturday, May 20 between 7 a.m. and 1 p.m. The church is located at 1301 Philadelphia Avenue in Ocean City.



Donation - *Unstoppable Joy* announced that it has received a community grant of \$750 from the Coastal Association of REALTORS. The grant will help fund the self-care services and healing bags that *Unstoppable Joy* provides to cancer warriors and their caregivers.

"We are incredibly grateful to the Coastal Association of REALTORS® for their generous support," said Tonya Agostino, Founder of *Unstoppable Joy*. "Their grant will go a long way in helping us provide natural and positive self-care services to those who need it most during their cancer journey."

The Coastal Association of REALTORS Community Grant Program supports organizations that are making a positive impact in their local communities. *Unstoppable Joy* was selected as a recipient of this grant due to its commitment to providing cancer warriors and their caregivers with access to natural and positive self-care services.

Above: from left to right are **Joni Martin Williamson**, CAR Foundation Committee Chair, **Susan Lloyd**, Realtor and **Tonya Agostino**, Founder of *Unstoppable Joy*.

Memorial Day ceremony returns

The largest Memorial Day ceremony in the region returns to the Worcester County Veterans Memorial in Ocean Pines, on Monday, May 29, starting at 11 a.m.

The event each year draws thousands of people to the memorial grounds and features music, demonstrations, and public speakers honoring U.S. Military men and women who gave their lives in service.

please see **ceremony** on page 22

The beverages individuals drink could affect their skin cancer risk. According to World Cancer Research Fund International, drinking coffee could reduce a woman's risk for malignant melanoma and might decrease both men's and women's risk for basal cell carcinoma. Though WCRFI notes the exact biological mechanisms linking coffee consumption to malignant melanoma and basal cell carcinoma are uncertain, drinking coffee exposes people to various biologically active compounds. According to the WCRFI, some of those compounds have been studied in animal and in vitro studies and been found to boast antioxidant and anti-tumorigenic (anti-tumor) properties. But it's not all good news regarding beverages and skin cancer risk. The WCRFI also notes that consuming alcohol could increase the risk of malignant melanoma and basal cell carcinoma.



Courier Almanac

On May 17, 1973, in Washington, D.C., the Senate Select Committee on Presidential Campaign Activities, headed by Senator Sam Ervin of North Carolina, began televised hearings on the escalating Watergate scandal. One week later, Harvard law professor Archibald Cox was sworn in as special Watergate prosecutor.

The Courier

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Sponsor 'Flags for Heroes' in Ocean Pines

The Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation has joined with the Rotary Club of Ocean City/Berlin to create a display of flags that will

sponsoring a flag for just \$50. The sponsorship deadline is May 15.

The sponsor's name and their hero's name will be identified on each flag on a medallion. Medallions may be removed at any time by the sponsor.

Proceeds from this project will benefit students' education outreach projects, community charities, and the Rotary Scholarship Fund.

Businesses may sponsor the project and will be identified on the sponsor banner posted at the field



proudly fly in Veterans Memorial Park, along Route 589, in Ocean Pines to honor heroes.

Veterans Memorial Foundation President Marie Gilmore said the definition of a hero "is a person who is admired or idealized for courage, outstanding achievements, or noble qualities."

Individuals and community businesses can be part of this tribute by

of flags.

Flags will be on display from Armed Forces Day through July 4.

Sponsorship forms are available on Veterans Memorial Foundation website, www.OPVETS.org.

Golf crews keep up with fast-growing grass

After a mild winter and a rainy spring, the Ocean Pines Golf Club would like to remind players that maintenance crews are working hard to cover a lot of ground.

Golf Superintendent Justin Hartshorne said a major area of focus right now is the perimeter mowing around trees and the out of bounds markers along the golf course.

"Our mower runs every day, but it's just a lot of acreage for us to keep up with while the grass is growing rapidly in the spring season," he said. "My crew and I appreciate everyone's patience as we continue to mow those areas!"

For more information on the Ocean Pines Golf Club, call 410-641-6057 or visit www.oceanpinesgolf.org.

Tides for Ocean City Inlet

Day	High /Low	Tide Time
Th 18	Low	1:35 AM
18	High	7:37 AM
18	Low	1:29 PM
18	High	8:03 PM
F 19	Low	2:22 AM
19	High	8:23 AM
19	Low	2:11 PM
19	High	8:47 PM
Sa 20	Low	3:07 AM
20	High	9:07 AM
20	Low	2:52 PM
20	High	9:31 PM
Su 21	Low	3:50 AM
21	High	9:51 AM
21	Low	3:34 PM
21	High	10:14 PM
M 22	Low	4:34 AM
22	High	10:35 AM
22	Low	4:16 PM
22	High	10:58 PM
Tu 23	Low	5:18 AM
23	High	11:18 AM
23	Low	5:01 PM
23	High	11:43 PM
W 24	Low	6:05 AM
24	High	12:04 PM
24	Low	5:49 PM

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Captain Ron's
Fish Tales

By Ron Fisher



Where should I fish?

Important Information: Please remember that fishing the Inlet and Bay areas of Ocean City and Assateague are difficult due to the numerous channels, shallows and shoals. In addition, the bottom contour changes each year with storms that impact the Eastern Shore during the winter months. A depth finder is essential, follow the markers and buoys.

South Bay: Sinepuxent Bay along Assateague: You want to fish here during the high tide. Once the water starts boiling out, it gets dirty, too warm. Best drift is from marker 3 to 11. Three starts just south of the inlet and 11 ends at the airport. Try to stay in the channel or on the West side. East side very shallow. Also, good drift from marker 12 to 14. 12 starts just before Frontier Town Campground and 14 ends just below Grays point.

Inlet: Best on incoming tide. Fish close to the sea wall. Also drift the South side of the Jetty. Don't overlook a drift close to the entrance of the Commercial Harbor at the end of the Inlet. Stay just to the West of the markers and try a drift from the Inlet to the Rte. 50 bridge. Don't go to far west or you will be on a sand bar. Watch your depth. As long as you stay just west of the markers you will be okay. What to use? A three-way swivel with a 30" to 36" leader of 20-30lb test. Have available two- to four-ounce sinkers to keep your bait on the bottom when fishing for bottom feeding fish and adjust the weight to tide movement. Use peeler, green crab or sand crabs to catch tautog, triggerfish, and sheepshead close to the rocks. Use a size 1/0 or 2/0 Octopus hook. For flounder use a wide gap hook 1/0 or 2/0 and frozen shiners and squid strip. I prefer frozen shiners over live minnows because they seem to be a better attractor. Also, if you want to catch sea bass and croaker use bloodworm or shrimp with a 4 or 6 long shank hook. At night use live eels or live spot for Rock fish (Striped Bass). Use a 3/0 or 5/0 Octopus hook. (See

helpful hints below for more details).

East Channel: Lots of action. The water is swift and deep 20 feet to 30 feet. You need to play the tides carefully here. From the draw of the Rte. 50 bridge to 9th street is very good. Good through incoming tide and a few hours after. You will notice to the left a protected island followed by a green marker #3 & red #4 marking the entrance to the main channel for the north bay. Drifting just to the West of marker 3 and between the marker and the island is a great spot during incoming tide. Also, just to the north of marker 4 where the town houses jut out is a great place to drift back toward marker 3 and 4 and the East Channel. This area also holds Croaker & a few Trout.

Convention Hall Channel: Around 33rd st. Good for flounder July and August. Stay in the deeper water on the East side of the Markers.

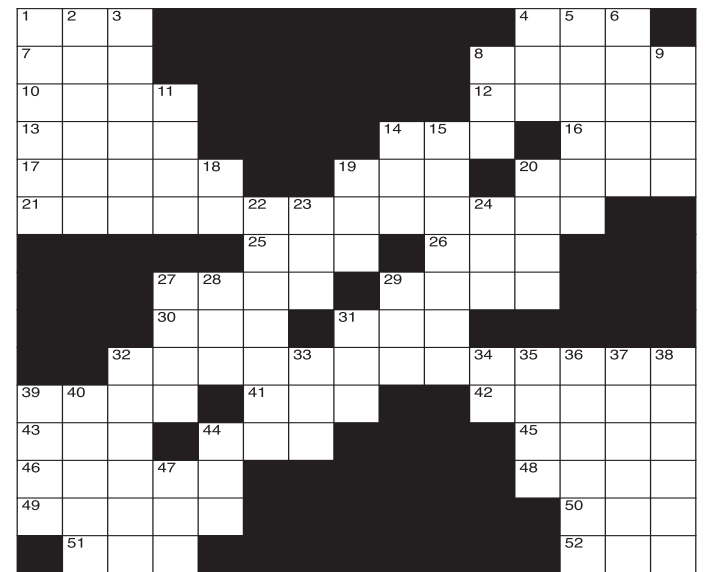
Thorofare: Work the areas around buoys #2, #6, #8 and #10. You can drift on the West side by the marshes all the way to #16. Use your depth finder as the east side of the channel becomes very shallow quickly. Best to fish during high tide.

Helpful hints

Many varieties of fish can be caught in the Inlet and bays. I will concentrate my comments to two of the most popular, flounder and rock (striped bass). Obviously, there are many lures and baits for these two species as well as techniques. I will simply give you hints based on my personal experience and preference.

Flounder: Flounder enter the inlet and bays in the early spring usually around mid April when the fishing starts and obviously improves during the heat of summer during the months of June, July, August and September. I usually monitor the water temperature in April and when it hits 54 degrees I go fishing for flounder. During

please see fish page 22



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- 4. Chinese philosophical principle
- 7. Branch
- 8. Jewish spiritual leader
- 10. Slang for requests
- 12. "So Human An Animal" author
- 13. Rocker Billy
- 14. British Air Aces
- 16. Type of tree
- 17. "Tough Little Boys" singer Gary
- 19. State attorneys
- 20. Goddess of fertility
- 21. Localities
- 25. Beloved singer Charles
- 26. Clue
- 27. Ridge of jagged rock below sea surface
- 29. Helsinki neighborhood
- 30. Farm resident
- 31. Ocean
- 32. Where ballplayers work
- 39. Unable to hear
- 41. Cool!
- 42. Cape Verde capital
- 43. One point north of due east
- 44. Kilo yard (abbr.)
- 45. Middle Eastern nation
- 46. It yields Manila hemp
- 48. People operate it (abbr.)
- 49. Regenerate
- 50. Not healthy
- 51. Chinese sword
- 52. Mild expression of surprise

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Unit of angle
- 2. Headgear to control a horse
- 3. Clots
- 4. Follows sigma
- 5. A woman who is the superior of a group of nuns
- 6. Greek units of weight
- 8. Radio direction finder (abbr.)
- 9. Systems, doctrines, theories
- 11. Stony waste matter
- 14. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
- 15. Hostile to others
- 18. U.S. State
- 19. Not wet
- 20. Something one thinks up
- 22. Where beer is made
- 23. Clumsy person
- 24. Belonging to us
- 27. Canadian flyers
- 28. Greek goddess of the dawn
- 29. Snakelike fish
- 31. Unhappy
- 32. Fruit
- 33. Not good
- 34. Zero degrees Celsius
- 35. Goo Goo Dolls' hit
- 36. Crawls into the head (folklore)
- 37. Legally responsible
- 38. Move in a playful way
- 39. Regarded with deep affection
- 40. Partner to flowed
- 44. Native American tribe
- 47. Head honcho



Answers for May 10



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Tips for first-time boat buyers

Boating is a rewarding hobby that can be great for people from all walks of life. Many people buy a boat because they already have a passion for fishing and want their own vessel to take out on the water. Others may buy a boat because they like the challenge posed by sailing, a demanding yet rewarding hobby.

According to Grow Boating, a marine industry organization that aims to generate awareness and interest in boating, retail sales of new boats, marine engines and marine accessories in the United States totaled \$20.1 billion in 2017. That marked a 9.5 percent increase from the year prior, highlighting the growing popularity of boating. In fact, Grow Boating notes that 141.6 million Americans went boating in 2016.

The fun of boating compels many people to buy their own boats. For first-timers, buying a boat can be both exciting and confusing. Prospective buyers must decide on everything from the type of vessel they want to the size of the boat to where to store it when they're not out on the water. Such decisions can make the process

of buying a boat somewhat intimidating. However, the following tips might facilitate the process of buying a boat for the first time.

Assess your skills. An honest assessment of your skills will help you determine if the time is right to buy a boat. There's no shame in waiting to buy a boat until you become more comfortable navigating it. Boating schools can be great resources for novices, teaching them the ins and outs of boating. The United States Coast Guard notes that boating safety courses are offered throughout the country for all types of recreational boaters.

Ask around. Boaters tend to be passionate about boating, and many are willing to offer advice to novices about boats that may suit their needs. Local marinas can be great resources for first-time boat buyers. Visit a local marina and seek advice from current boat owners. Some may share their own travails and triumphs from their first boat-buying experience, and those stories can serve as a guide as you begin your own journey to boat ownership.



Be patient. Boats are significant investments, so it serves prospective owners well to be patient and exercise due diligence before making a purchase. Do your homework on the type of boat that best suits your needs,

skill level and budget.

Do your homework in regard to fees. The cost of owning a boat is more than just the sticker price and the cost of fuel. Much like you would before buying an automobile, get a quote on boating insurance before making a purchase, being as specific as possible in regard to the boat's make, model and age when asking for an estimate. In addition, get quotes on docking and mooring fees. When buying a boat, people envision taking their boats out as much as possible. That's only possible for boat owners who fully grasp the full cost of boat ownership and how to finance all of the ancillary expenses of owning a boat.

The decision to buy a boat requires careful consideration of a host of factors to ensure boaters find the right boat and get the most of their time on the water.

Wear Your Life Jacket at Work Day is Friday

Whether you're working in the office, at home, in the air, or on the water, all boating enthusiasts can participate in Wear Your Life Jacket at Work Day on Friday, May 19. This fun day is part of the Safe Boating Campaign, a global awareness effort that encourages boaters to make the most of their boating adventure by being responsible.

"Wear Your Life Jacket at Work Day is a great opportunity to share with others your love for boating," said Yvonne Pentz, communications director of the National Safe Boating Council, a nonprofit dedicated to helping create a safe boating experience for all boaters and the lead organization of the Safe Boating Campaign. "The NSBC can't wait to see the creative and fun ways boaters wear their life jacket at work for a chance to win a prize."

Here's how to participate:

Wear a life jacket wherever you work

Snap a picture

Post the picture on social media with the hashtag #wearyourlifejacketatworkday
Tag the Safe Boating Campaign (@boatingcampaign)

Boaters will randomly be selected to win prizes from the Safe Boating Campaign throughout the day.

U.S. Coast Guard statistics show that drowning was the reported cause of death in four out of every five recreational boating

fatalities in 2021, and that 83 percent of those who drowned were not wearing life jackets.

There are many options for boaters when it comes to choosing a life jacket. When selecting a life jacket, a boater should check that it is U.S. Coast Guard approved, appropriate for the water activity, and fits properly.

National Safe Boating Week will take place following Wear Your Life Jacket at Work Day from May 20-26, 2023. During this week, the Safe Boating Campaign will provide daily tips for boaters on social media. Follow the Safe Boating Campaign on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram at @boatingcampaign.

The Safe Boating Campaign is produced under a grant from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund and administered by the U.S. Coast Guard. The campaign offers a variety of free and paid resources to support local boating safety education efforts. Learn more at www.safeboatingcampaign.com.

Established in 1958, the National Safe Boating Council is the foremost coalition for the advancement and promotion of safer boating through education, outreach, and training. For more information about NSBC programs and professional development opportunities,

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Ways to prevent drowning all year long

Spending time in and around water is a favorite pastime for adults and children. Swimming, boating, running

is the leading cause of death for children between the ages of one and four and the fifth leading cause of accidental death overall in the United States, offers UCI Health. Calm rivers can hide swift currents, rocks and tree branches. Ocean rip tides and rough waves can confound even excellent swimmers. Lake waters can be extremely cold, even in summer, making it challenging



through sprinklers, and soaking in a nice warm tub can be great ways to relax and have fun.

Even though water play can be exciting, it also can be dangerous. Drowning

for a person to stay afloat and avoid hypothermia. It is essential for everyone to play it safe when in and around water. Here are nine ways to do just that.

Avoid swimming or boating in high

running water, making sure to always check conditions before starting.

Never dive or jump into unfamiliar or shallow water, advises Seattle Children's Hospital.

Obey barriers, such as markings for deeper ends in pools, fencing around pools and ropes in open waters. Barriers help reduce the risk of drowning considerably.

Life jackets should be worn by swimmers of all ages, especially during water sports like boating and jet skiing.

The Red Cross says strong swimming skills can significantly reduce the risk of drowning. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, most children age four and older can learn to swim. Enroll in a family swim class to brush up on skills.

Have eyes on children at all times when they are in or around the water, both inside the home and outdoors. Employ "touch supervision," which means

always remaining in arm's reach of the child.

Swim only in public swimming areas that are protected by lifeguards.

Do not mix alcohol and water recreation. Remain sober when boating, swimming or supervising children who are swimming.

Drains in pools and spas can be deadly. The Mayo Clinic says to keep children away from drains, as body parts and hair can become trapped by the strong suction.

Water safety is a priority all year long, but gets even more attention every summer. A few simple safety measures can prevent many drownings.

Boating course offered in June

A Maryland Safe Boating course will be offered June 6 though 8 between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. at the Ocean Pines library.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (17 June 2021), "More children (in the US) ages 1-4 die from drowning than any other cause of death except birth defects. For children ages 1-14 drowning is the second leading cause of unintentional injury death after motor vehicle crashes."

That's why Maryland law requires children under 13 on vessels under 21 feet to wear US Coast Guard approved personal floatation devices (PFD) and children under 4 to wear specialized infant life jackets.

A fee of \$20.00 covers the cost of the course and materials.

Checks should be made payable to: USGCAUX 12-05 and mailed to: USCGAUX - 12-05, PO Box 1682, Berlin, MD 21811.

Payment via PayPal is also accepted. For more information contact Barry Cohen at 410-935-4807.

Understanding how to use a compass

Global positioning systems have revolutionized the way people get from point A to point B. Utilizing satellites and orbital data, GPS devices can ping these satellites and compute location anywhere on the planet. GPS-enabled maps are used in smartphones, car navigation systems and elsewhere. But before GPS became the primary navigational tool, people relied heavily on other aids, such as a compass.



markings will be on the outer facing of the compass as well. Other compasses also may have a clear baseplate into which the compass is attached. The baseplate may have rulers for helping to calculate distance when used with the map's scale and a directional arrow.

The compass has a magnetized needle that always points to magnetic North. It will be colored red or white. Magnetic North is not the same as True North. In fact, the two can differ by up to 20 degrees depending on where a person is on the surface of the Earth. For the most accurate reading, compass users will account for this difference, which is called "declination;" otherwise, they may end up many miles away from their mapped destinations. There also will be an orienting arrow. This arrow allows the base plate to be aligned with the magnetic needle. A travel arrow tells the direction a person should head.

Reading a compass. To read a compass, users must first make sure they are away from structures that can interfere with the compass reading, such as large metal structures or high-voltage power lines.

Place the compass on the palm of a hand at chest level. Watch for the

magnetic needle to rest with the red tip pointing to North.

Turn the dial surrounding the compass until the orienting arrow is completely lined up with the magnetic needle. Once it is, the direction arrow on the baseplate of the compass will now indicate your heading.

Beginners should always practice using a compass and test their map-reading and navigational skills in a place they visit frequently. When using a compass, always be sure the direction traveled coincides with the direction of the travel arrow.

Despite the prevalence of GPS and other digital navigation software, understanding how to use a compass is a handy skill, particularly should one lose battery power, be out of satellite range or lose a map when enjoying the great outdoors.

According to *The Fisherman*, the top 10 boat names for 2022 were as follows:

- | | |
|----------|--------------|
| Andiamo | Second Wind |
| Osprey | Adventure |
| Serenity | Knot on Call |
| Encore | Shenanigans |
| Zephyr | Grace |



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Fiber artist uses needle and thread to express herself

By Elaine Bean

“From the time I could hold any kind of fiber and needle, I have been making something,” Dale Ashera-Davis said. “My mother taught me, and I just kept on creating.”



In April 2023 at the Ocean City Center for the Arts, Ashera-Davis won Best in Show for her fiber artwork entitled “Spring 2022” that weaves together the colors of new growth and natural textural objects. The annual Corporate Partner Show at the Arts Center drew more than 150 entries, and judge Christopher Harrington from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore chose her piece as the best.

“I was/am still stunned at being awarded Best in Show,” she said. “As part of my art practice, I regularly enter shows both locally and nationally. One of my pieces has been traveling for 18 months as part of the Studio Art Quilt Associates’ Simple Lines exhibit, but I hope the Best in Show award will continue to bring fiber art forward on the Eastern Shore.”

Ashera-Davis was raised in southern New England and moved to Baltimore in the mid 1980s. Before retiring five years ago, she worked in nursing and pharmaceutical research and holds dual BAs in Psychology and Women’s Studies. She moved to the Coast in 2018. “My

wife grew up here and wanted to come back,” she said. “I love the ocean!”

“I find the pace here much more relaxing, and the nature here quite fascinating,” she continued. “I watch the weather and the tides, resulting in their colors coming through in much of my work. When we moved here, our house wasn’t quite finished, so we spent two months in a local pet-friendly hotel. We had adjoining rooms so the three cats and one dog could feel a little sense of space. We were right between the bay and the ocean, so walking the dog was a fine way to explore the area.”

Currently Ashera-Davis is the Sussex County Coordinator for Lit-



eracy DE, as well as the Tutor Trainer, and tutors adults who want to learn English as another lan-

guage. She creates her art in a small studio in Berlin where she can get as messy as she wants. “I am free to cheerfully make a big mess and only occasionally clean it up,” she said. “I do my fabric dyeing at home because it’s easier to clean up any mess.”

Ashera-Davis is a member of the national Studio Art Quilt Associates and also a member of a small SAQA group on the Eastern Shore. “Communicating regularly with other artists keeps me creative,” she said. “Art is a vehicle to express emotions, thoughts and feelings. For example, in 2015 a young man in Baltimore City was killed while in police custody. The resulting events inspired a four-part series of art quilts based on those events. Those pieces are among my favorites. They express what it was like for me, as an empathetic white person, to live through that time.”

Ashera-Davis continues to create and exhibit locally at the Arts Center and elsewhere. And she continues to push the importance of fiber art.

From January through March



2023, her work was exhibited through the Art League of Ocean City’s satellite gallery program at the Coffee Beanery on 94th Street in the resort.

“The Art League has been amazing,” she said. “They have been exceptional in recognizing fiber art as art, and not looking down on it as craft,” she said. “I am so grateful to the Art League for this attitude.”



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The U.S. Coast Guard serves a unique role

The United States Coast Guard is one of the nation's oldest and most respected federal agencies. It was established in 1790 and continues to serve a dual role both domestically and internationally.

The U.S. Coast Guard is comprised of roughly 42,000 men and women. Unlike other branches of the government, the Coast Guard has distinct roles during times of peace and war. In times of peace, the Coast Guard is part of the Department of Homeland Security, which also oversees the U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency. The Coast Guard protects marine environments, enforces laws at sea, helps guard the coastline, and engages in life-saving missions at sea. During conflicts and time of war, the United States President can direct the Coast Guard to serve as part of the U.S. Navy, defending the nation against terrorism and foreign threats at sea. The Coast Guard technically is both a federal law enforcement agency and a branch of the military.

The Coast Guard is often the first responder on the ocean or other waterways. The Coast Guard protects the

water and coastline through 11 official missions. These include:

1. Search and rescue
2. Marine environmental protection
3. Drug interdiction
4. Aids to navigation
5. Living marine resources
6. Defense readiness
7. Port and waterway security
8. Migrant interdiction
9. Marine safety
10. Ice operations
11. Law enforcement

The service motto of the Coast Guard is "Semper Paratus (Always Ready)," and members of the USCG are on duty in many different capacities every day of the year.

The U.S. Coast Guard is always looking for new recruits. A person can enlist in the Coast Guard right out of high school or apply to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. Graduates earn a bachelor's degree as well as an officer's commission. That can result in higher pay and greater responsibility over time. Learn more about the United States Coast Guard at www.uscg.mil.



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Life jackets are a requirement

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, "More children (in the US) ages one to four die from drowning than any other cause of death except birth defects. For children ages one to 14 drowning is the second leading cause of unintentional injury death after motor vehicle crashes."



That's why Maryland law requires children under 13 on vessels under 21 feet wear US Coast Guard approved personal flotation devices (PFD) and children under four wear specialized infant life jackets.

Take a Safe Boating Class from either the USCG Auxiliary or the Ocean City Power Squadron to learn more. For more information contact: Barry Cohen, USCG Auxiliary at (401) 935-4807 or email CGAUX@gmail.com or Fred Stiehl, Ocean City Power Squadron at (443)-604-5851 or email stiehl@mchsi.com.

AGH to hold active shooter drill

On May 30, Atlantic General Hospital, in coordination with Berlin Police Department, will conduct an active shooter drill. The drill will initiate at AGHRx RediScripts Pharmacy on the first floor of the hospital, and will continue to the outpatient waiting area. Inpatient floors, imaging and the Emergency Department will not be affected. Prior to the drill, multiple announcements will be made to the public, staff and patients so they are aware that this event is for training purposes only. Any patients in the outpatient waiting area will be relocated so they are not in close proximity of the drill.

In today's ever-changing environment, no business or organization is immune to violence. The purpose of this drill is to train and educate hospital staff members on how to respond to an active shooter emergency. During such emergencies, the health and safety of patients and staff members are paramount, and being prepared and responsive is vital to the prevention of injury and loss of life.

During the drill, there will be many emergency vehicles and personnel on-site. Please be aware that during this time, Atlantic General Hospital will remain operational.

Kiwanis seeking car show sponsors

On June 3, the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines - Ocean City will host their 3rd Annual Car Show from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Park in Ocean Pines.

The organization seeks sponsors for the event. All sponsors will be listed in social media and literature and will be announced during the prize ceremonies. There are three types of sponsors including Community Sponsor (\$100 donation), Event Sponsor (\$150 donation) and Trophy Sponsor (\$250 donation). All sponsors will have their name displayed on the event banner. If interested, please make checks payable to Kiwanis Club of Ocean Pines and mail to 2023 Kiwanis Car Show, 239 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines, MD 21811.



If interested, please make checks payable to Kiwanis Club of Ocean Pines and mail to 2023 Kiwanis Car Show, 239 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines, MD 21811.

Software upgrades to interrupt County Treasurer's Office

Software system upgrades within the Worcester County Treasurer's Office will likely cause temporary service interruptions Monday and Tuesday, May 22 and 23.

Anticipated service disruptions will include tax payments, utility payments, room and food tax payments, and the ability of staff in the Treasurer's Office to process deed instruments and related activities.

"Due to anticipated interruptions, we are asking customers to make alternative arrangements during these two dates," Finance Officer Phil Thompson said. "We anticipate the upgrade will be completed by Wednesday, May 24, when the Treasurer's Office should be open for business as usual."

The temporary disruption will impact over-the-counter transactions at both the Worcester County Government Center in Snow Hill and the Isle of Wight building on St. Martin's Neck Road in Bishopville, as well as on-line activity at <https://www.co.worcester.md.us/departments/treasurers-office>.

Meet and Greet set

The Republican Women of Worcester County will host a Meet and Greet Happy Hour at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club on Thursday, June 8 between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. There will be a cash bar. All are welcome.



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Health Watch

The bronze glow of summer could lead to skin cancer

Mary Mullins, RN, MSN

The bronze glow of a summer tan that most of us strive for could turn to skin cancer down the road. The chances of that happening are 50% higher in Worcester County than the state of Maryland as a whole. For men in Worcester County, the rate of melanoma was 68% higher than in women, according to the most recent data.

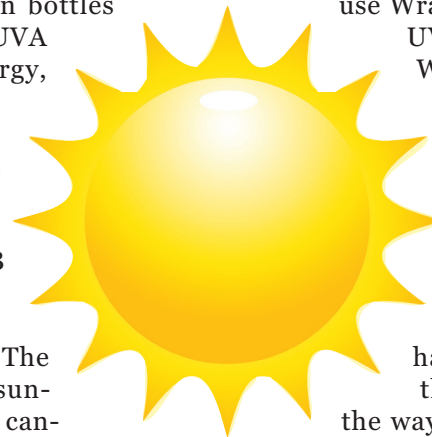
There are three types of skin cancer: basal cell, squamous cell and

melanoma. Without getting into too deep of a science lesson, just know that all three types of cells compose the top layer of skin. If either of the three types of cells start to grow out of control, that is cancer. Basal and squamous are the most common types of cancers and are the most treatable.

Melanoma originates from melanocyte cells in skin that provides the tan color. Melanocytes act as our own natural sunscreen. How-

ever, when these cells become cancerous, they can spread more easily. Melanoma is the least common skin cancer.

Most skin cancers are triggered by sun exposure, or ultraviolet rays. The two main types of UV rays you see on the sunscreen bottles are UVA and UVB. UVA rays have less energy, and while they can lead to some skin cancers, they are most associated with aging and wrinkles. The UVB rays however have more energy that can damage DNA. The UVB rays lead to sunburns and most skin cancers.



Besides sunscreen, what should your skin cancer prevention routine look like? Slip, Slop, Slap and Wrap is the motto from the American Cancer Society. Slip on a long-sleeved shirt, Slop on enough sunscreen, Slap on a hat and use Wrap sunglasses with UV protection.

When it comes to clothing, there are a number of SPF clothing lines on the market to select from. For hats, you should use a hat with a two to three inch brim all the way around. Baseball hats leave necks and ears exposed, which are common sites for skin cancer.

Finally, it's best to avoid tanning beds and lamps. These devices increase a person's risk of melanoma, especially if exposed before the age of 30.

The best advice is to avoid the sun and stay in the shade as much as possible this summer. If you are going outside, remember the strongest UV rays are between 10am and 4pm. Ultraviolet rays also penetrate clouds so use your sun protection on cloudy and overcast days as well. Enjoy your summer and remember to "Slip! Slop! Slap! and Wrap!" your way to skin cancer prevention.

The link between stress and cancer

Adults have an issue with stress. According to a survey from the American Psychological Association released in December 2022, more than one in four Americans indicated they expected to experience more stress at the start of 2023 than they had at the start of 2022. And it's not just Americans feeling the sting of stress, as the American Institute of Stress indicates

35 percent of individuals across 143 countries feel stressed out.

Stress is not always a bad thing. Roughly a decade ago, researchers at the University of California, Berkeley, discovered that acute stress in rats caused the stem cells in their brain to grow rapidly into new nerve cells that ultimately improved the animals' mental performance. However, chronic stress, which the APA characterizes as constant and persistent stress over an extended period of time, can have a profoundly negative effect on overall health. And that negative effect includes a link to cancer, especially for survivors of the disease.

A 2020 study from researchers at The Wistar Institute Cancer Center in Philadelphia found that a stress hormone triggered a reaction in immune cells that awakened dormant cancer cells. Those cells eventually formed into tumors.

When discussing the link between stress and cancer, it's important to note that many studies, including the one conducted by researchers at the Wistar Institute, have shown that

stress and cancer can cause the disease to grow and spread in mice. The National Cancer Institute notes that studies have not identified a clear link between stress and cancer outcomes in humans. But researchers urge patience, noting that the Wistar Institute study is a significant step forward in studying the potential link between stress and cancer in humans. Further study in the coming years could very well identify a similar link in humans as the one already discovered in mice.

In the meantime, individuals are urged to take stress seriously and not simply accept it as a mere fact of twenty-first century life. And that's especially important for individuals who have been diagnosed with cancer, including those who are in treatment and others who have successfully finished their treatment. According to City of Hope, one of just 52 NCI-designated comprehensive cancer centers in the United States, talking to others and relying on loved ones when receiving treatment; speaking with someone in a neutral position, such as a therapist; and exercising regularly are some of the ways to overcome chronic stress. City of Hope also notes the stress-reducing benefits of wellness practices such as meditation and yoga in regard to combatting stress.

Chronic stress can have a lasting and negative impact on overall health. Though the link between chronic stress and cancer requires more study before researchers can reach a conclusion about such a connection, individuals are urged to embrace the many ways they can reduce chronic stress with a goal of living healthier, happier and, hopefully, cancer-free lives.



Did You Know...

Individuals are urged to guard against sunburns and skin cancer by applying a sunscreen. But what does SPF and the various numbers associated with it mean? SPF refers to sun protection factor. The SPF rating, according to Verywell Health, refers to how long a person can stay in the sun without getting burned while wearing the sunscreen compared to how long he or she could stay in the sun before burning without wearing sunscreen. For example, if you normally burn after 10 minutes in the sun and you apply an SPF 15 product, it will take 15 times longer to burn in the sun, or 150 minutes (2.5 hours). Wearing a higher SPF product doesn't protect you better, it does protect you for longer durations. Therefore, you could conceivably wear an SPF 5 and with frequent reapplication, get the same level of protection as wearing SPF 45. Higher number SPF products may be preferable since people can easily get distracted or forget to apply sunscreen regularly while outdoors. But experts recommend reapplication of sunscreen every two hours, regardless of the SPF number on your sunscreen bottle.



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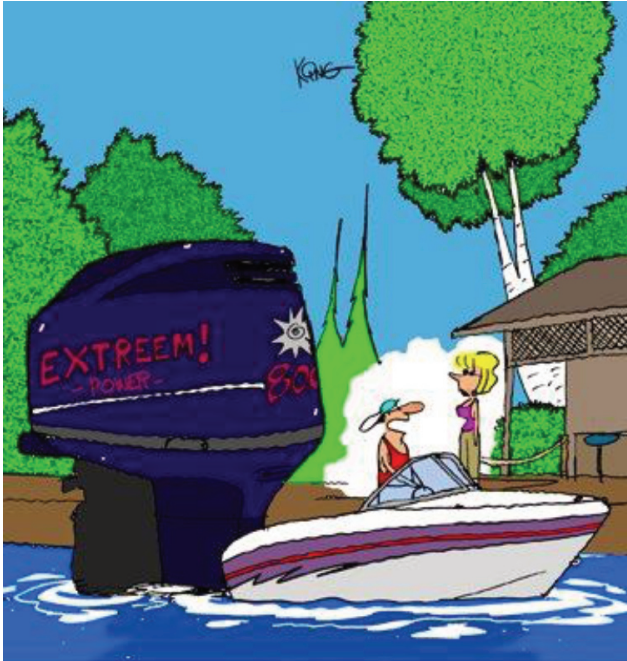
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Some things to think about

Gathered from the internet by **Jack Barnes**



"My motto has always been--you can never have too much power."



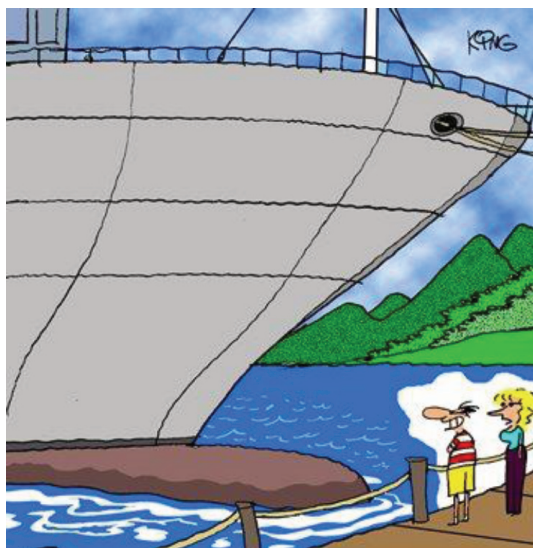
"The last time we forgot to tie it down, I swam out to get it. It's your turn."



"How sweet, he's smiling. He must be dreaming about me."



"I accidentally ran into your boat with my car. The good news is I wasn't hurt, which, I'm sure, is what matters most to you."



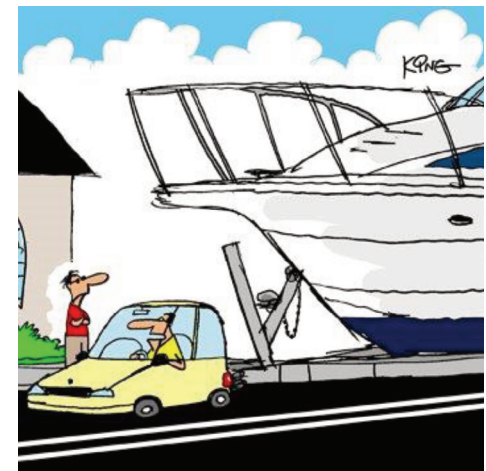
"Every time your buddy buys a boat, you have to get a bigger one. This masculinity contest is getting annoying."



"Yep, she's a real beauty. Only 187,000 more payments and she's all mine!"



"You've been on our boat all weekend, eating, drinking and hanging out. Then it suddenly occurred to us...we have no idea who you are."



"Can you help push me to the water? I downsized my vehicle to save money on gas."

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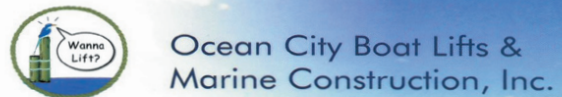


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Racquet Sports open house scheduled

Ocean Pines Racquet Sports is inviting players to a special open house on Saturday, May 27 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Ocean Pines Racquet Center.

New Racquet Center Manager Tim Johnson said the open house will showcase the various sports available at the Ocean Pines facility.

“We want this to be a fun event that will draw in friends, new members, and previous members who have lapsed,” he said. “We will have activities for all levels, all players and all sports, including pickleball, tennis, platform tennis and Spec Tennis. This is your chance to see what the pickleball craze is about, or introduce your family to tennis, or learn the up-and-coming sport of Spec.”

Johnson said the Racquet Sports Center will host several new programs as part of National Tennis Month. All are free and open to the public.

On May 12-14 starting at 10 a.m., “Tennis is Easy” will offer a low-key introduction to the sport that promises to have players rallying across the net in 15 minutes.

On May 13-14 starting at 9 a.m., “Tennis is Kid’s Play” will offer introductory lessons for children ages 5-12.

Participants will learn the fundamentals of tennis in a positive and social environment.

On May 13-14 starting at 11 a.m., “Welcome Back to Tennis” will help returning players dust off their racquets and reignite their passion for the game through short “drill and play” lessons.

Throughout May, the center will offer a free “Meet the Newbies” Spec Tennis drill and play every Thursday at 2 p.m.

There will also be a free pickleball drop-in for beginners, every Thursday from 4-6 p.m.

“To supplement these programs, we have the finest professional instructors in the area ready to help improve your game,” Johnson said. “We are proud to have Darryl Noble on staff to train our high-performance advanced pickleball players to compete at the highest levels. We are also fortunate to have Linda Horst returning to offer our pickleball classes and private lessons.

“I will join our PTR tennis professional Terry Underkoffler on the tennis courts to offer classes and lessons to our tennis enthusiasts, young and old. As a Spec Tennis ambassador, Cel

Popen and I will also be shepherding the next generation of Spec players,” Johnson added.

Johnson said the new Racquet Sports season started on May 1, so now is the perfect time for returning players to stop by the Ocean Pines Administration Building to renew their memberships.

“Please consider that this is also the perfect time to add additional activities to your skillset – our facilities and various groups are all outstanding and welcoming to newcomers,” he

said. “If you think it does not make sense financially for you to join as a member, the Racquet Center is also a public facility that allows you to play our various sports for a daily fee. Details are available at the clubhouse.”

For more information on any of these programs, contact Johnson at tjohnson@oceanpines.org or call 410-641-7228.

For more information on the Ocean Pines Racquet Center, visit www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/racquet-sports.



Donation - Aubrey Sizemore

Volunteer and Event Coordinator for the Art League of Ocean City, received a \$1,000 sponsorship for Arts Day in the Pines from Sharon Sorrentino of the Ocean City/Berlin Optimist Club. Arts Day in the Pines, a free event hosted by the Art League of Ocean City, will bring more than 50 artisans and art activities to Veterans Memorial Park in Ocean Pines on Saturday, June 24, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. with free parking and shuttle service offered from Ocean Downs Casino.

fishing

from page 10

this early season I prefer to fish outgoing tide as the water is usually warmer returning from the marshes. I will start with a rig with a three-way swivel two- or three-ounce sinker depending on the tidal flow and 30” of monofilament about 20lb. test using three pearl beads, a white spinner blade, squid strip-split tail and frozen shiner at the end with a wide gap hook 1/0 or 2/0. I will also use The Deadly Double that comes in various colors and is an excellent rig for flounder. Remember: Whatever you use you must keep the bait on the bottom. Be certain to use enough weight. If this rig does not attract them, I will go to a pink version with a pink skirt of hair & mylar cut to the edge of the hook. Most of these skirts are too long and occlude a good look at the minnow. Finally, if neither of these works I may go to a plain hook or one with just a couple red beads. Drift the same areas described

above. In mid-May or certainly June when the bay really warms up, I switch to a chartreuse color. This rig has three beads, a spinner blade and either a skirt of hair and mylar or a chartreuse artificial squid. Also, use a frozen shiner and strip of squid split for action. Also, don’t forget to try Gulp it’s an excellent bait.

Rock (striper): The best time for rock is in the early spring and fall although they can be caught all summer long in deep water usually in the evening. I prefer to fish the high slack tide and first two hours of outgoing. I will usually drift the East Channel or deeper areas of the inlet and next to the Rt. 50 bridge. Although artificial baits work well such as Rattle Trap, Gotcha lures etc. I still prefer live bait usually fished on a 30 – 36” leader with a fish finder rig with two- to three-ounce weight and a 3/0 to 5/0 octopus or circle hook baited with peeler crab, live eels, or live spot.

Remember to take a kid fishing,
Capt. Ron

ceremony

from page 6

“Memorial Day honors all who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our county,” Veterans Memorial Foundation President Marie Gilmore said. “This year’s ceremony, as those before it, will honor the brave men and women who served our country and lost their lives in doing so.”

Gilmore said the keynote speaker this year will be retired U.S. Marine Corps Maj. Al Soto.

The ceremony will also honor local Gold Star families. During World War I, families would fly flags or banners with a blue star for every immediate family member serving in combat. If one of them died, a gold star replaced the blue star.

Walter Webster, a member of the Maryland East Chapter of Ex-POWs, will place a wreath in honor of all current and former prisoners of war.

The program will also include

patriotic music performed by Randy Lee Ashcraft, The Delmarva Chorus, and Glen Mohr with the St. Luke’s Contemporary Choir.

The program is scheduled to run for one hour.

Public parking will be available at Veterans Memorial Park on Route 589 and Cathell Road in Ocean Pines. Limited seating will be available during the Memorial Day ceremony and guests are encouraged to bring chairs. No seating will be supplied for the special dedication ceremony.

In case of inclement weather, the Memorial Day ceremony will move to the Ocean Pines Community Center and be announced on the www.oceanpines.org and www.opvets.org websites and on social media.

For more information on the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation, visit www.opvets.org or www.facebook.com/WorcesterCountyVeteransMemorial.

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