

The Courier

August 7, 2024 Volume 24 Number 44



Kids fishing - The Ocean Pines Anglers Club (OPAC) hosted the 28th annual Art Hansen Memorial Youth Fishing Contest at the South Gate Pond at Veterans Park in Ocean Pines. This year's event drew 68 contestants with at least as many adults. One hundred seventy-seven fish were caught. The OPAC is appreciative to the Dept. of Natural Resources for stocking the pond and Ocean Pines Parks and Recs. The club also thanks the Ocean City-Berlin Optimist Club and the Atlantic Coast Sportsman Association for their generous financial donations in support of the Anglers Club "kids" programs. Two free raffle grand prizes were donated by club member Mike Vitak (Deadly Tackle rod and Penn Pursuit 4000 reel) and Capt. Chris Mizurak of the Angler Charters for a free fishing trip for two.

Above are **Boden Landis** who caught seven Bluegills, **Reed Landis** who caught 19 bluegills and **Bray Ciadina** who caught 10 bluegills. Photo by Jack Barnes

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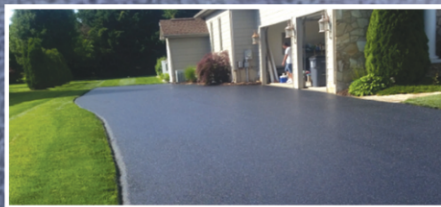
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GM reports to OPA Board on finances, improvements

General Manager John Viola's monthly report to the Board on July 20 included updates on OPA financials, ongoing initiatives and maintenance, the reserve study, and recent drainage improvements.

Financial updates

Viola said June financials were roughly \$175,000 favorable to budget. Year to date, the Association is favorable to budget about \$429,000.

"That favorability is driven by revenue," Viola said, adding amenities were favorable \$129,000 in June. "The amenities are basically paying for themselves."

Drainage updates

Viola said Pelican Underground began work on the latest round of drainage improvements on July 19.

Pelican uses cured-in-place-pipe (CIPP) liners, a method that is less invasive to install, cheaper, and lasts longer than replacing pipes. The Association has successfully used this practice for several years.

"This will be the fifth time they've been here ... we all believe this was the

best thing we ever did for drainage," Viola said, adding the Association has spent roughly \$1 million on the main pipes over the last four years.

The current area of work includes Admiral Avenue, Carrolton Lane, Capetown Road, Harpoon Road, Lookout Point, Pinehurst Road, Seafarer Lane, Teal Circle, White Horse Drive, 57 Ocean Parkway, and the Golf Course at the 18th green and 10th tee box.

DMA reserve study

Viola said he spoke with Doug Greene at DMA Reserves about rescheduling the reserve study update that was scheduled to start in November. He said OPA still has two years to update their study, based on state regulations that mandate HOA reserve levels.

"We're going to stretch it out two years ... so they're going to come in [during] spring of 2026," Viola said.

He said the Association will still work to update its study, and participate in the DMA beta program this fall.

Renovation initiatives

Viola said he met with Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department President Joe Enste and former Board member Frank Brown on July 17 to go over plans for the new South Fire Station. Brown, a former builder, has been assisting with architectural drawings.

Plans were revised during the meeting to meet OPVFD changes. Next steps are the review the revisions with the Fire Department and develop a funding plan.

Viola said he met with a contractor (the Whayland Company) and reviewed plans for the new Worcester County Veterans Memorial pavilion. Sketches have been prepared and Viola will meet again this week with Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation President Marie Gilmore to discuss the plans. He said the target completion date is just before Veterans Day, in November.

Questions on trees

Viola said there was a lot of recent discussion about the rules for cutting down trees in the community.

"What we are going to be doing

now, going forward, is we will review for reasonableness and within our [governing documents] new construction and permits, and how they go about cutting down trees on the lots," he said.

Viola said homeowners still need to get permits from Worcester County when removing any trees.

"Our governing documents are a little more restrictive, and we will have the inspectors out there. That's a big change from what I've seen over the 20-25 years. So, we have listened to the feedback and we're going to address that," Viola said.

Maintenance and beautification updates

Viola said recent maintenance efforts have included bridgework on Golf Course Road, where bridge wing-walls and piles are being replaced at the request of the Maryland State Highway Admonition. The total cost is \$149,500 and the expense was approved by the OPA Board last September.

please see opa on page 22



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Golf classic returns

The Atlantic General Hospital Foundation announced the 2024 Robert E. Warfield Memorial Tournament to benefit Atlantic General Hospital will be held on Thursday, September 19 rain or shine, at Ocean City Golf Club.

For local golfers, this tournament has become an annual tradition, with last year's event raising \$106,000 to expand health care services and programs for our community through our local hospital. This year's format will be a scramble with all golfers playing nine holes on each course, Newport Bay and Seaside. Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m. with a 10:00 a.m. shotgun start. Player entry fee includes golf cart and greens fees, lunch, snacks and beverages on the course, and an awards reception with light fare and cocktails. Deluxe giveaways, tournament awards and team photograph are also included. Additional excitement includes a variety of on-the-course challenges with fabulous prizes.

Team reservations can be submitted online at www.agh.care/golf and must be received by September 12. Space is limited and earliest entries are accommodated first. Non-golfers can join in the fun by purchasing tickets for the Big Bucks Raffle drawing that will take place at the conclusion of the tournament. The winner of that drawing will receive \$2,500. The raffle ticket sales are open to the public and the winner does not need to be present. Raffle tickets can also be purchased online at www.agh.care/golf.

BINGO scheduled

The Knights of Columbus will host BINGO each Friday evening in August. Doors open at 5 p.m.; games begin at 6:30 p.m. Every night there will be at least \$1,000 in payouts and a chance for the \$1,000 big jackpot at the end of the evening. Light snacks available before BINGO and at intermission. Call 410-524-7994 with questions.

The games will take place at 9901 Coastal Highway in Ocean City behind St. Luke's Church.

Crabcake sandwich fundraiser offered

St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church in Ocean City, announced it will sell crabcake sandwiches again on Sunday, August 11, between noon and 7 p.m. This fundraiser is a carry-out only event and pre-orders will be accepted until Friday, August 9. Please contact the church office at 410-289-3453 if you would like to place a pre-order.

The crabcake sandwich, complete with lettuce, tomato, and a savory sauce, will be accompanied by a side of chips, for only \$12 each. For those looking to enjoy crabcakes at home, uncooked crabcakes will also be available for purchase at the same price, ideal for freezing to eat at a later date.

The fundraiser will take place in the parish hall of St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church, located at 302 North Baltimore Avenue in Ocean City. Walk-in service will be accessible through the Third Street entrance, providing convenient access for patrons on foot. Additionally, a drive-thru pick-up option will be available in the alley on the north side of the church building.

For more information or to place an order, please contact the church office at office@stpaulsbythesea.org.

K of C breakfast scheduled

On Sunday, August 11 the Knights of Columbus will provide breakfast as a fundraiser for the community. The event will occur behind St. Luke's Church located at 9901 Coastal Highway.

Breakfast includes two kinds of eggs, sausage, bacon, scrapple, creamed chipped beef and biscuits, pancakes, juice and coffee. The price is \$15 for adults and \$7 for youth ages 8 and under. Breakfast is served from 8 a.m. through 11:30 a.m.



Welcome - The Sons and Daughters of Italy of Ocean City lodge once again has treated students from Italy who are visiting as summer workers, with a traditional American dinner and gifts that they will find useful for the two months they are here.

The 15 young men and women from the land of great cuisine dined on fried chicken, pulled pork, baked beans, macaroni and cheese, and cole slaw. The lodge members gifted them with tote bags containing a variety of items, including snacks, chips, and candies, sunscreen, a discovery map of Ocean City and surrounding areas, and a coupon to visit the Ocean City Lifesaving Museum. The Women's Club of Ocean Pines donated 40 souvenir pens for the bags.

The lodge hosts a dinner for the J-1 Italian students every year. This year the students came primarily from the north of Italy: Lombardi, Piedmonte, Veneto, Liguria, Toscana. They have jobs in nine businesses in a variety of positions:

Above: Smiling with the sheet cakes to welcome them to the US.

Paint Worcester registration is open

The Worcester County Arts Council is currently accepting artists' registration for the Paint Worcester County, plein air event to be held September 15 to 20. Again, this year's event is presented in partnership with the Worcester County Library Foundation.

Local and regional artists will paint outdoors at their leisure at any chosen location in Worcester County and compete for attractive cash prizes. The competition offers a total of \$2,450 to winning artists.

Registration, event schedule, and artists' guidelines are available on the Arts Council's website: www.worcestercountyartscouncil.org. Deadline to register: August 31, 2024.

Artwork in this competition will be judged by accomplished and award-winning plein air artist, Jim Rehak.

Visitors will have a unique opportunity to watch the artists as they set up their easels around Worcester County and paint picturesque scenes. Visitors are also invited to attend a free

and open-to-the-public sale and exhibit, featuring work created during this event, to be held on Friday, September 20, from 5 pm - 7 pm at the Berlin public library at 13 Harrison Avenue. Artwork will be available for purchase.

For more information, contact the Arts Council at 410-641-0809 or visit: www.worcestercountyartscouncil.org

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A few words about boat ramp etiquette

Okay, everyone who is a boater or thinks he is a boater and uses a boat ramp to launch his boat, listen up! There are a few rules of boat ramp etiquette of which you need to be aware,



It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

not just for yourself but for every boater who is behind you waiting to launch his boat. And when I say every other boater behind you, I really mean me.

The time to prep your boat, de-winterize, scrub the hull or flush the engine is not, I repeat not, when you are about to back your boat trailer down the ramp. Do it before you get to the ramp. More specifically, do it before you leave your driveway or wherever it is you keep your boat.

Make sure you have your boat keys and the plug in *before* you get to the ramp. Don't wait until after you have launched the boat and moved your car and trailer to a parking space. Scratching your head while your boat is occupying ramp space wondering why you can't start your sinking boat, is not the time to have a flash of inspiration that maybe you should have remembered the key and/or the plug. There are boaters behind you waiting to use the ramp. And trust me, if you think you're upset you can't get your sinking boat started, I can assure you the boaters behind you are even more upset.

The boat ramp is not the place for long goodbyes or the time for a photo shoot. It's not like you're the captain of the "Love Boat" and people onshore are waving enthusiastically to see you off. Get you, and everyone who is going with you, on your boat and shove off, the quicker the better. I can assure you if people begin expressing themselves with hand gestures, it's not to express warm wishes and bon voyage.

If you take more than five minutes to get your boat in the water, including lining up with the ramp, backing in and launching, you are taking way too long. It's a relatively quick process or at least it should be. Line up, back up, launch, tie off, park your car and trailer, start

your boat and leave. Bing, bang, boom.

The time to apply sun screen or rummage through the cooler for something to drink is not when you are still taking up ramp space while other boaters are waiting behind you. You can apply all the sun screen you want and drink all you want (preferably non-alcoholic beverages) after you leave the ramp.

Here are a few tips you may find helpful or more importantly, helpful to fellow boaters waiting to use the ramp behind you.

-Test start your engine before you get to the ramp.

-Fuel up before you get to the ramp, not while you're floating at the ramp.

-Make sure the plug is in before you launch your boat.

-Load coolers, chairs, belly boards and anything else you plan to take on the boat before you get to the ramp.

If you are a first-time boater, practice maneuvering your trailer someplace other than the boat ramp. Go to a parking lot. Get a feel for backing up and pulling forward. Note: do not launch the boat in the parking lot! You would think I wouldn't have to express such a caution but I've seen people do stupid things with their boats at the ramp. Stupid's stupid regardless of the venue.

Explain to your spouse before getting on the ramp what is expected of her. I write "her" because it's usually the husband behind the wheel of the car exploring new frontiers of geometric angles while backing up and the wife standing on the dock, sometimes with boat line in hand, screaming frantically at her husband that he's doing it wrong. I'd like to think the husband knows there's a problem without the missus telling him, and the world, the error of his ways. A little practice can go a long way.

If you need help launching your boat, ask for it. There is nothing embarrassing about needing help, especially if it moves things along quickly and safely. Boating should be as tension free as possible so ask for help.

Basically, it comes down to something very simple: exercise a high level of respect for your fellow boaters who, like you, are eager to launch their boats and begin their fun on the water.

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FOPL sale a success

To the Ocean Pines community and surrounding Area:

The Annual Ocean Pines Library Book Sale was held July 23rd through July 29th and was a huge success with approximately \$14,000.00 in sales that will be used for programs, events, children's programs and other needs that the Ocean Pines Library supplies the public daily. Those who attend this event know that it takes large numbers of volunteers and many hours to make this event happen. This year there were over 126 volunteers who gave over 800 hours doing set-up, tear-down, cashing, counting, organizing, greeting and doing the many tasks required to make this event run smoothly. It has also created many friendships, camaraderie, togetherness and above all, the love of the li-



brary and its operations.

The Friends of the Ocean Pines Library would like to thank all of those who volunteered their time, the library staff, the OP Police Department, the Ocean Pines Department of Public Works, the OC Today- Dispatch, The Courier, the Bayside Gazette, ABC Printing, Copy Central and to all the patrons who attended the Book Sale with their kindness and contributions of donations throughout the year.

The FOPL is looking for a person(s) to chair the Book Sale for the future. Anyone interested can contact Jim Meckley at the Ocean Pines Library.

Thank you again to the community and neighbors for all you do to make the Ocean Pines Library the flagship of Public Libraries.

Jim Meckley and Eileen Leonhart
Book Sale Co-Chairs

Film challenge entries to be shown

The Ocean City Film Festival presents Film Challenge Night, showing the entries into the 7th Annual Ocean City Film Challenge. The screenings are free to the public and take place on Saturday, August 10 at the tennis courts in Little Salisbury Park, next door to the Ocean City Center for the Arts, 502 94th St. bayside.

Gates open at 7 p.m. with films beginning at 8 p.m. All are welcome, and advanced tickets are not required. Guests are encouraged to bring their own chairs. In case of inclement weather, the films will be shown indoors at the Arts Center next door.

Ten entries were received into the 2024 challenge and will be screened on Film Challenge Night with a total run time of approximately 80 minutes.

The 7th Annual Ocean City Film Challenge inspired filmmakers to produce an original short film no longer than 15 minutes and made between July 1 and July 31, 2024. Films must have been shot in Ocean City or outside of Ocean City but with the resort

central to the premise of the film.

The ten films being screened are: "Swedish Fish" directed by Fiona O'Brien

"Why Not" directed by Joan Floyd

"The Lot" directed by Joe Joyce

"Ocean vs. Bay" directed by Marlon Wallace

"Staring Contest" directed by Jackson Dutton

"The Boardwalk" directed by Erik Espinosa

"Ocean City Summer Heat Drones On" directed by Thomas Taylor

"Shoreside News" directed by Myah Stokes

"Dating in 2024" directed by Jesse Bowes

"Thirsty" directed by Josh Vine
B.L. Strang-Moya, creative director of the OC Film Festival, said, "Ocean City is a great place to tell a story, and the entries into this year's challenge are creative and inspiring. On last year's Film Challenge Night, more than 120 audience members gathered under the stars for a magical evening,

please see film on page 22

Courier Almanac

On August 7, 1782, in Newburgh, NY, General George Washington, the commander in chief of the Continental Army, creates the "Badge for Military Merit," a decoration consisting of a purple, heart-shaped piece of silk, edged with a narrow binding of silver, with the word *Merit* stitched across the face in silver.

Treatment for head lice should not begin before a live nymph or adult louse is identified, advises the American Academy of Pediatrics. A health care provider will carefully comb wet, lubricated hair with a fine-toothed comb from the scalp to the end of the hair looking for a live louse. In addition, he or she may use a special light called a Wood's light, which causes lice eggs, also known as nits, to appear bluish. If live

lice are found, a non-prescription medication likely will be recommended, says the Mayo Clinic. Some studies suggest a first treatment, and then a second seven to nine days later to address nymphs that may have hatched after the first application, as these medicines do not kill nits, only live lice. Common medication used to treat lice include permethrin, a synthetic version of a compound extracted from the chrysanthemum flower, and ivermectin lotion. If a non-prescription treatment fails repeatedly, a doctor may recommend a prescription treatment. Some lice have developed a resistance to non-prescription products, and there's also a chance for user error. Spinosad, malathion and a tablet form of ivermectin may be prescribed.



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Become a steward of the land

Learn to be a steward of the land this fall with the University of Maryland Extension's General Forestry Course. The online course features full-color photos and graphics and will run from August 26 through December 9. Registration is now open, and interested participants can register online at extension.umd.edu/forestry-course.

This is a non-credit course with no formal classes – work from the comfort of your home using your own wood lot, a friend's, or a public forest. The course covers ways to protect your trees from insects, diseases, and fire; how to, step by step, create a forest inventory and a stand analysis; and covers the details of the forestry business, including tax nuances and the sale and harvest of forest products. Ultimately, the course exercises help you develop the framework for a stewardship plan for your forest.

The cost for this forestry course is \$150. Included in the cost are copies of the supplemental readings: A Sand County Almanac, The Woodland Steward, American Forests: A History of Resiliency and Recovery, a small pamphlet entitled "What Tree Is That?" and Common Native Trees of Virginia Tree Identification Guide. Users receive a flash drive of the paper version of the text and appendices. A certificate of completion is awarded when all assignments are completed.

To learn more about the course and what it entails, go to extension.umd.edu/forestry-

course. There you can read lessons from the text, preview an exercise, read through detailed course information, and more.

For more information, contact Andrew Kling at the University of Maryland Extension Western Maryland Research & Education Center at 301-226-7564, or via email at akling1@umd.edu.

Pickleball tournament returns

One of the biggest racquet sports events of the year returns with the fourth annual Oktoberfest pickleball tournament, October 11 through 13 at the Ocean Pines Racquet Center.

The event each year draws several hundred players and spectators. This is the only pickleball tournament with cash prizes held on the Delmarva Peninsula.

For players, registration is \$45, and the registration deadline is September 27. To register, visit <https://app.pickleballtournaments.com/external-tournament/5282529>.

Organizers are also seeking sponsors for the event at three different levels: gold (\$1,000), silver (\$500), and bronze (\$250). For information on sponsorships, contact Debbie Donahue at ddonahue@oceanpines.org.

For tournament information, contact Jamie Lowe at tournaments@sportsoffice365.com.



Christmas in July

Jolly Roger Amusement Parks celebrated Christmas in July with the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program. Guests visited Jolly Roger at the Pier and Jolly Roger Park at 30th St. on July 24 and July 25, for Christmas in July activities, and fun giveaways.

Jolly Roger Amusement Parks partnered with the Marine Corps Reserve, which collected new, unwrapped toys or \$20 donations at multiple locations at Jolly Roger at the Pier and Jolly Roger 30th St. on both days. When guests donated a new, unwrapped toy, or gave a \$20 donation, they received a 20% discount to be applied to any Jolly Roger purchase.

This year, Jolly Roger Amusement Parks collected and donated \$2,672 in cash donations, and 200 unwrapped toys.

Christmas in July celebrations were held at Jolly Roger at the Pier and Jolly Roger Park at 30th St. Guests were able to have free Jolly Pix taken with Santa Claus and watch special holiday performances by Circus Smile, Dastardly Dave the Pirate, and Lollipop the Clown at the Pier and 30th St. They also received fun Christmas in July swag and snapped pictures with our pirate mascot who walked around the parks various times throughout the events.

In years past, the Toys for Tots local program has donated over 10,000 toys to over 5,600 local children.

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Dance lessons offered

Dance lessons are held each week in the Assateague Room of the Ocean Pines Community Center. Instructors promise a welcoming environment for all skill levels. Starting September 11, the first four lessons are free. (September 11, 18, 25 and October 2). Following that, participants can continue with a 12-week course for \$4 per person, per session. Couples and singles are welcome. Join for fun, exercise and camaraderie. For more information, call Barbara at 908-229-8799 or Dee at 302-222-4448.

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The Eastern Screech Owl

This robin-sized nightbird is common over much of the east, including in city parks and shady suburbs, where many human residents are unaware they have an owl for a neighbor. The owl spends the day roosting in holes or in dense cover, becoming active at dusk. Despite the name, screech-owls do not screech; the voice of this species features whinnies and soft trills.

Adult owls are small, about 10-inches with short “ear” tufts that may be raised or flattened, changing ap-

pearance of their head shape. Overall color varies: commonly gray, can be reddish or brown. Base of bill is yellow-green.

They yield four to five white eggs, sometimes two to eight. Incubation is mostly by female, averaging about 26 days. Males bring food to female during incubation.

Both parents bring food for the young. Adults may bring back small, wormlike Blind Snakes and release them in the nest, where the snakes burrow in debris at the bottom of the cavity, feeding on insects there, perhaps helping protect the young from parasites. The young leave the nest about four weeks after hatching and are fed by their parents for some time thereafter.

The owls forage at dusk and at night. They hunt mostly by watching from a perch and then swooping down to take prey from the ground or from foliage. They also catch flying insects in the air. Can locate prey by sound as well as by sight.

Their diet consists mostly large insects and small rodents. There is a wide variation in their diet. They eat many beetles, moths, crickets and other large insects. They catch mice and other rodents, shrews, sometimes bats; also, some small birds, lizards, frogs, spiders, earthworms, crayfish, many other small creatures. Some catch small fish.

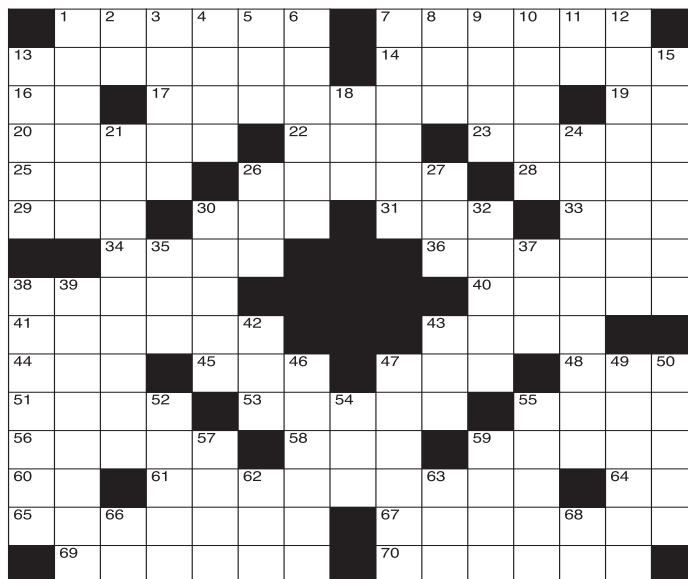
Courtship displays of the male include bowing, raising wings, clicking bill. The male brings food to the female. Mated pairs preen each other's feathers and call in duet. Nest sites are in tree cavities including natural hollows and abandoned woodpecker holes. They will also use artificial nest boxes.

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pearance of their head shape. Overall color varies: commonly gray, can be reddish or brown. Base of bill is yellow-green.

Their habitat is commonly woodlands, farm groves and shade trees. They generally favor deciduous or mixed woods, but may be found in any habitat having some open ground and some large trees, from forest to isolated groves to suburban yards.



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- 1. Spiritual leaders
- 7. A solution
- 13. Fortified wine
- 14. Edible mollusk
- 16. Blood group
- 17. A way to compare
- 19. Gov't lawyer
- 20. Actor Ciaran
- 22. Calendar month
- 23. Very willing
- 25. ___ ex Machina
- 26. Satisfies
- 28. Type of berry
- 29. Distinctive practice
- 30. Popular pickup truck model
- 31. Dekagram
- 33. Naturally occurring solid material
- 34. Company officer
- 36. Villains
- 38. Cricket frogs
- 40. German founder of psychology
- 41. Endured
- 43. A female domestic
- 44. A situation you can be in
- 45. Cigarette (slang)
- 47. Fiber optic network (abbr.)
- 48. Belgian composer Walter
- 51. Employee stock ownership plan
- 53. Belonging to the bottom layer
- 55. Musical or vocal sound
- 56. Yankees' great Judge
- 58. Dickens character
- 59. Beloved late sportscaster Craig
- 60. South Dakota
- 61. Exposing human vice or folly to ridicule
- 64. Atomic #79
- 65. Former Braves pitcher Julio
- 67. Humor
- 69. Shawl
- 70. Hospital unit

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Animal disease
- 2. Commercial
- 3. Arts and crafts supplies
- 4. Containers
- 5. Investment vehicle
- 6. A way to greet in a friendly way
- 7. Bulged downward
- 8. "A Day Without" singer
- 9. Lay about
- 10. Intestinal
- 11. Negative
- 12. Caused to be loved
- 13. Prominent in Islamic eschatology
- 15. Sincere
- 18. Not in
- 21. Number above the line in a fraction
- 24. Bill Murray chased one
- 26. Pouch
- 27. Swedish krona
- 30. Start over
- 32. Wild white or yellow flower
- 35. Fourteen
- 37. Visual way of interacting with a computer (abbr.)
- 38. Up-to-date
- 39. Campaigns
- 42. Touch lightly
- 43. "Boardwalk Empire" actress Gretchen
- 46. Violent seizure of property
- 47. One who supports the Pope
- 49. Malaise
- 50. Body fluid
- 52. Inauthentic person
- 54. Title of respect
- 55. Chilean city
- 57. Central Japanese city
- 59. Garment
- 62. Draw from
- 63. Automobile
- 66. The man
- 68. Top government lawyer

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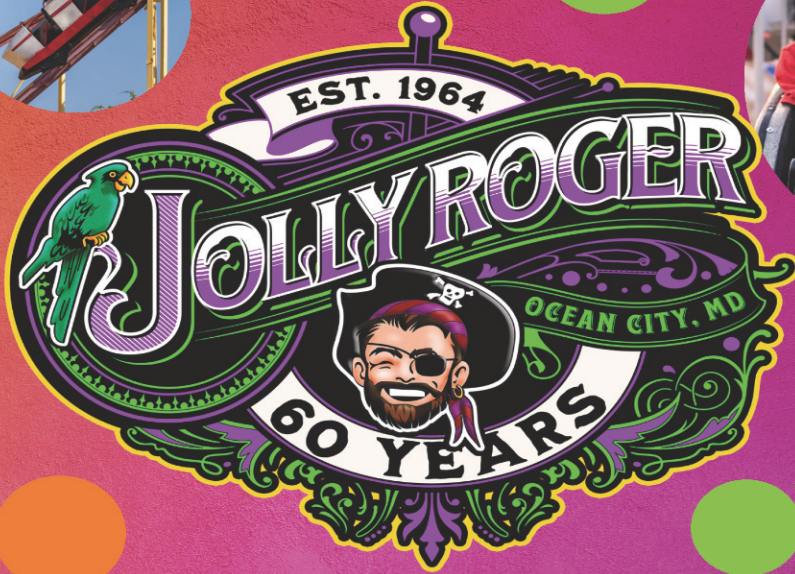
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Intermediate mass black hole found

Astronomy & Spaceflight

By Douglas Hemmick, Ph.D.



Black holes are among the most fascinating of all astronomical subjects for professionals and hobbyists alike. In 2019 people across the globe were thrilled to see the first radio-photograph of a black hole ever to be produced. Assembling that image required a collaboration of radio telescopes capturing the glow of the accretion

Their goal was to identify a member of a third class of object, an “intermediate mass black hole” or IMBH.

Researchers poured over a vast database of stellar photographs taken by Hubble Telescope over the last twenty years. Their work effectively “watched” the motions of more than a million stars in the

examples have been found to date.

“This discovery is the most direct evidence so far of an intermediate mass black hole in Omega Centauri” said Nadine Neumayer, an astronomer at Max Planck Institute for Astronomy. Neumayer added, “This is exciting because there are only very few other black holes known with a similar mass.”

The public is likely to be most familiar with the supermassive type of black hole since the iconic radio telescope image of M87 was released in 2019. Like M87, almost every large galaxy has a supermassive black hole at its center. Our Milky Way black hole, Sagittarius A* weighs in at 4 million times the mass of the Sun. Astronomers theorize that these enormous giants might have formed from the merging of more modest black holes occurring when galaxies collide.

Stellar-mass black holes like Cygnus X-1 are born when the massive core of a supernova collapses. Many of these objects have been found orbiting a partner star as part of a binary pair.

Astronomers are at last beginning to obtain a comprehensive understanding of black holes, having found the stellar and supermassive types, and now finally they can explore the intermediate mass objects like Omega Centauri to witness the stages in between. Hobbyists and professionals alike can look forward to further exciting breakthroughs

and discoveries in the future.

During the month of August, the full stellar vista arrives at about 9:15 p.m., including Scorpius the Scorpion near the southern horizon, with its bright red star Antares. To the east appears Sagittarius the Archer with its “teapot” shape. High overhead are Bootes (boh OH teez) and Hercules the Hero.

Many stargazers are aware of the Summer Triangle featuring three prominent stars Deneb, Vega and Altair.

The constellation Centaurus, which hosts the star cluster Omega Centauri and its intermediate mass black hole, lies far too close to the southern horizon for convenient viewing. Those vacationing in Florida might have a better chance at seeing Centaurus and binoculars might then reveal the star cluster. Centaurus is also known for the star “Alpha Centauri” which is recognized as the closest star system to Earth. A future NASA probe to this star might be our first interstellar exploration.

August features the Perseid meteor shower, with 1:30 a.m. as its earliest clear viewing time. The shower’s peak activity occurs on the night of August 11 from 3 a.m. to 5 a.m. (technically the morning of August 12). With a cloud-free sky, as many as a dozen meteors per hour may be seen. Look halfway between the northeastern horizon and the zenith.

Wishing good luck and clear skies to all stargazers.



disc around the supermassive black hole in the distant M87 galaxy.

As early as the 1970s, X-ray satellites spotted the famous “Cygnus X-1” one of the first confirmed black holes. This is an example from the class called “stellar-mass” black holes. The stellar -mass black hole Cygnus X-1 weighs about 21 times the mass of the sun, whereas the supermassive black hole M87* is about 6.5 million solar masses.

Just recently, astronomers of Germany’s Max Planck Institute announced the results of their search to identify a black hole in the Omega Centauri cluster of stars.

Omega Centauri cluster. The study succeeded, and seven stars were identified with very high speeds and orbital movements suggesting a heavy central object.

Results were published in the July issue of “Nature” announcing discovery of an intermediate-mass black hole in Omega Centauri. The object’s mass was derived to be about 8,200 times that of the sun. This is much larger than the typical stellar-mass objects of about 20 solar masses, yet far smaller than the million or billion-times size of the supermassive black holes. This new object falls in the intermediate range, of which few known

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Paint Worcester registration is open

The Worcester County Arts Council is currently accepting artists' registration for the Paint Worcester County, plein air event to be held September 15 to 20. Again, this year's event is presented in partnership with the Worcester County Library Foundation.

Local and regional artists will paint outdoors at their leisure at any chosen location in Worcester County and compete for attractive cash prizes. The competition offers a total of \$2,450 to winning artists.

Registration, event schedule, and artists' guidelines are available on the Arts Council's website: www.worcestercountyartscouncil.org. Deadline to register: August 31, 2024.

Artwork in this competition will be judged by accomplished and award-winning plein air artist, Jim Rehak.

Visitors will have a unique opportunity to watch the artists as they set up their easels around Worcester County and paint picturesque scenes. Visitors are also invited to attend a free and open-to-the-public sale and exhibit, featuring work created during this event, to be held on Friday, September 20, from 5 pm - 7 pm at the Berlin public library at 13 Harrison Avenue. Artwork will be available for purchase.

For more information, contact the Arts Council at 410-641-0809 or visit: www.worcestercountyartscouncil.org

TidalHealth to hold ICD Support Group

TidalHealth will hold a free ICD Support Group from 9 to 10 a.m. on Tuesday, August 13, at the TidalHealth Adult Fitness building located at 800 S. Salisbury Blvd, Ste. D, Salisbury, MD 21801. The goal of this group is to allow people with implantable cardioverter defibrillator (ICD) devices to become more knowledgeable and comfortable with having an ICD.

The group is open to patients, family, friends and caregivers, and allows attendees to meet and share with others who have been through similar experiences. Confidential group discussions, education and peer support will be facilitated. Attendees are welcome to bring one guest.

For more information, please contact Sue Colliton, RN, at 410-543-7026 or susan.colliton@tidalhealth.org, or Trish Laun, RN, at 410-334-2227 or patricia.laun@tidalhealth.org.

Anglers to meet

The Ocean Pines Anglers Club will meet on Saturday, August 10 at 9:30 a.m. in the Ocean Pines library. A youth events slide show will be presented, as well as updates on club charter trips, regulations and all things fishing. All are welcome.



New officers - The Ocean City - Berlin Rotary Club recently elected officers for the 2024-2025 year. The are (left to right): **Mike Simcock**, secretary; **Jennifer Bodnar**, president; **Margaret Mudron**, treasurer and **Arlan Kinney**, Sergeant at Arms. The Club meets the first and third Wednesdays of the month at Don's Seafood at the South Gate of Ocean Pines. For more information email ocberlinrotary@gmail.com.

'The Woods in Your Backyard' course offered

Registration is now open for the fall 2024 session of "The Woods in Your Backyard" online course from the University of Maryland Extension's Woodland Stewardship Education program. The self-directed, non-credit course runs 10 weeks from September 9 to November 18. The course will help landowners convert lawn to natural areas and enhance stewardship of existing natural areas. The course provides strategies to landowners of small

parcels of land (1-10 acres) that improve the stewardship of their property for personal enjoyment and environmental quality. It uses a hands-on learning approach to help participants develop and implement a plan for their property. Activities include how to map habitat areas, understand basic ecological principles about woodland and wildlife, choose and implement a few habitat management projects, and how to set a timetable and record your progress. Online discussion groups will allow participants to interact with others taking the course. A certificate of completion is awarded when all assignments are completed.

The course costs \$145.00 per person, which includes the 108-page "Woods in Your Backyard" guide, workbook, and a tree identification guide. The course is limited to 25 participants, so sign up now. Registration closes September 9 or when filled. Registration is through Eventbrite; go to https://go.umd.edu/WIYB_Fall2024.

For more information, go to https://go.umd.edu/the_course, or contact course coordinator Andrew Kling, University of Maryland Extension, akling1@umd.edu, 301-226-7564.

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Get your free passport to Bay to Beach history

By **Kathryn A. Ferrusi**

Beach to Bay Heritage Area, a non-profit organization based in Berlin, Maryland, launched their Museum Passport Program in May 2024. The program was created to build awareness about the events that happened throughout the region.

The passport idea was created through a collaborative effort with the 18 Eastern Shore museums represented in the passport. Museums are places of cultural exchange often through recorded history, as well as interpretation of places and things. They are places of exploration and discovery. The Lower Eastern Shore has more than its fair share of history and stories about people who lived here.

Passports are free and the pages have a summary of each of the 18 museums and a place for a stamp.

Collect at least six stamps and Beach to Bay Heritage Area will send you a hat. Museums are located along the shore lines, highways, and inland roads from Smith Island to Snow Hill to Salisbury and beyond.

A few recommended highlights include the Rackcliffe House on Tom

Patton Lane in Berlin. It was built in 1742 by Captain Charles Rackcliffe as a plantation house. He was a militia captain who was also a merchant/planter.

The Sinepuxent Bay gave him access to water he needed for his shipping business. They had even harvested salt, where the Verrazano Bridge now stands. The museum is located behind the Assateague National Park Visitor center. Just drive past the visitor center and follow through the gate.

Next time you are in Salisbury, stop into the Poplar Hill Mansion. Visit both floors of the beautifully

furnished 1800-era mansion that includes Dr. Huston's medical office, equipment, and supplies. It is right next to Division Street, so named because that is where the split between Worcester County and Wicomico County ended up.

Ever been to Chance, Maryland? The drive there takes you off the main roads, past farm fields, and onto roads that feel like you are floating in the marsh. The marsh is a healthy sight and shimmers in the sunlight as you travel closer and closer to the Chesapeake Bay. Why would you go to Chance? To see the Skipjack Heritage Museum, of course. The history of the Skipjack, a Chesapeake Bay's unique work-boat, is alive and well in this road-side museum that has been curated by a knowledgeable crew and shared with pride.

The passport program has renewed interest among local folks to get in touch with their roots. Families are visiting the museums as summer activities and out of town visitors are going beyond the beaches and boardwalks on their vacations to learn

more about why we are here.

Some locations charge an entrance fee, some accept donations, and at least one, The Burgess Rural Living Center, does not accept donations. Most have handouts or age-appropriate activities for young historians and explorers. Many even offer use of their site for special events at very reasonable rates.

Passports can be picked up at each museum and at the Berlin Visitor Center at 14 Main Street in Berlin. By the way, the visitor center is not in the passport but is well worth a visit.

Contact the museums prior to visiting as hours change and some locations are open seasonally. Most museums are staffed by volunteers who are very well-versed in the history of their site. After a stop or two on this magical history tour, you may even consider volunteering at one of these gems, or a museum near home.

More information on this program and Beach to Bays Heritage Area can be found at BeachesBayswaterways.org.



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Plan your dream wedding with Maryland's Coast Guide

Planning a wedding or vow renewal? Look no further than Worcester County. From Ocean City to Pocomoke City and every town in between, you'll find picturesque venues and specialized vendors ready to transform your big day into a dream come true.

Maryland's Coast is the ultimate wedding destination, and the Worcester County Tourism and Economic Development just released "Say 'I Do' on Maryland's Coast," A new publication designed to help you select the ideal setting for your special day. This 16-page booklet features stunning local photography and a directory showcasing the diverse range of venue options, from scenic waterfronts to rustic barns, all brimming with historic charm.

Need chair rentals, shuttles, or a florist? The guide has it covered! The final section lists vendors for all

rental and hiring needs.

"We are thrilled to launch this guide and look forward to engaging with couples and those seeking venues for their special occasions," Advertising and Destination Marketing Specialist Brianna Dix said. "After a roundtable discussion at our office, we recognized the need for a resource to invite couples to explore this area and take advantage of our variety of accommodations."

Businesses interested in being listed in the next guide issue, please contact Dix at bdix@maryland-scoast.org or 410-632-3110, ext. 2123. To have a hard copy of the guide mailed to you, call the Tourism and Economic Development Office at 410-632-3110. To view the digital version, complete with links to each business, visit <https://tinyurl.com/Weddings-on-Marylands-Coast>.

Bauer joins Art League

The Art League of Ocean City welcomes Jessica Bauer as their new Director of Development. She will be responsible for fundraising for the nonprofit organization and fostering partnerships and support from the community.



Jessica Bauer

"Jessica has more than 20 years of marketing experience and many

local connections," Rina Thaler, executive director of the Art League, said. "She will be a major asset to our team as the Art League looks to the future and new outreach opportunities."

Bauer, who lives in Public Landing, Md., studied fine art at West Chester University and graphic design at Pennsylvania College of Art & Design. Formerly Director of Marketing at Trimper Rides, she has led companies through successful ad campaigns, events, and new platform rollouts. Development is a natural progression for Bauer, giving her the opportunity to educate, illuminate, and demonstrate how the Art League is a setting for fostering creativity and building relationships.

"I am seeing firsthand how the Art League helps the community at large," Bauer said. "I am happy to have the chance to tout the accomplishments and benefits of the Art League. None of this is possible without the generous contributions from patrons, members, and corporate sponsors. I feel privileged to show people how their dollars are and can continue to positively impact their elderly neighbor, the child waiting for the school bus, and the sad-eyed doggy in the shelter."



Left to right, Leatherneck Lynda Kundrat drew the winning ticket for the special edition bottle of bourbon, held by Milt Warren, with Leathernecks Vic Freeman and Dave Kline looking on.

Bourbon bottle has roots to 9-11

Dave Majewski of New Castle, DE was the lucky winner of a special edition bottle of bourbon raffled off for charity by the Post 166 Leathernecks club. The metal label was stamped from a mold made from debris recovered from the Twin Towers. The bottle is signed by the leaders of the first military foray into Afghanistan after 9/11 terror attack on the U.S.

The Leathernecks were given the bottle as a gift to raise money for local charities. Tickets were sold over several months this year, raising more than \$6,000 that the group voted to give to the Semper-Fi & Americas Fund, Believe in Tomorrow, Easter Seals of the Maryland Eastern Shore and Delaware, the Worcester County Veterans Memorial, Worcester County Gold, and the Cricket Center.

Majewski purchased his ticket at the Ocean City Boat show in February. When reached by telephone informing him he was the winner, he said he is not sure whether he will open the bottle to drink the bourbon or just keep it as a collector's item.

The story behind the bottle began days after the 9/11 attack. That's when elite teams of Green Berets and CIA operatives were inserted into Afghanistan on a mis-

sion to seek and destroy the Taliban. Some on horseback became known as Horse Soldiers. Their exploits were retold in the Hollywood blockbuster film "12 Strong" and the CNN documentary "Legion of Brothers." It also was memorialized with the creation of the Horse Soldier statue at the American Response Monument erected at Ground Zero in New York City.

The two leaders of the commando unit, Mark Nutsch, commander of the 595 Operational Detachment Alpha, and Alex Herdsnez, the CIA ground team commander, signed the bottle that Majewski won.

Knights offer seafood meals

The Knights of Columbus is hosting a Seafood Night with the Knights each Tuesday during August. The menu includes steamed crabs and steamed shrimp. If you want steamed crabs, you must call the Knights on Monday or Tuesday morning to pre-order. Meals are served between 5 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday evening at 9901 Coastal Highway behind St. Luke's Church. Call 410-524-7994 with questions and to pre-order steamed crabs.



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Kiwanis Scholarship Committee

The Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City, MD is dedicated to “Serving the Children of the World.” Club members work very hard to raise funds to support their scholarship program. In May 2024, \$16,000 was awarded to Worcester County graduating senior students from Pocomoke High School, Snow Hill High School and Stephen Decatur High School. Pictured are some of the club’s Scholarship Committee who evaluated the applications and decided to whom the awards would be given. (L-R) **Mary Page**, chair **Jim Maratea**, **Kathy Hill**, **Jack McLaughlin** with Kiwanis Club President **Bob Wolfing** who presented each with a Certificate of Appreciation at the July 24 weekly meeting.

‘The Woods in Your Backyard’ course offered

Registration is now open for the fall 2024 session of “The Woods in Your Backyard” online course from the University of Maryland Extension’s Woodland Stewardship Education program. The self-directed, non-credit course runs 10 weeks from September 9 to November 18. The course will help landowners convert lawn to natural areas and enhance stewardship of existing natural areas. The course provides strategies to landowners of small parcels of land (1-10 acres) that improve the stewardship of their property for personal enjoyment and environmental quality. It uses a hands-on learning approach to help participants develop and implement a plan for their property. Activities include how to map habitat areas, understand basic ecological principles about woodland and wildlife, choose and implement a few habitat management projects, and how to set a timetable and record your progress. Online discussion groups will allow participants to interact with

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For more information, go to https://go.umd.edu/the_course, or contact course coordinator Andrew Kling, University of Maryland Extension, akling1@umd.edu, 301-226-7564.

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Wor-Wic announces inauguration date

Wor-Wic Community College will hold an inauguration ceremony for its third president, Deborah Casey, Ph.D., at the Wicomico Youth & Civic Center in Salisbury on Friday, September 20, at 10 a.m. The public is invited to join the celebration, which will feature local and national speakers, community performances, community service activities and a formal investiture.



Dr. Deb Casey

The event will cap off several weeks of events and activities at the college, which will include a national poet and performer; community service efforts by employees and students such as a blood drive, beach cleanup and a food drive; a STEAMposium highlighting faculty and student innovation and research; a community arts and music showcase and more. Look for more information about these events, which are also open to the public, closer to their mid-September dates.



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Wor-Wic graduates celebrated

The following Worcester County students completed their program requirements to graduate with a certificate (CT), associate of applied science (AAS), associate of arts in teaching (AAT), associate of science (AS) or associate of arts (AA) degree from Wor-Wic Community College this past fall and spring.

Berlin: Gabriel Aluma, CT, Criminal Justice; Rumina Bowers, AAS, Chemical Dependency Counseling; Kayla Camarillo, AS, Nursing; Serena Sarem Camilleri, AAS, Chemical Dependency Counseling; Alexander Bresnahan Cushwa, AA, Computer Studies; Sierra Nicole Dacre, AS, Nursing; Joshua D. Glaub, CT, Criminal Justice; Kelly Rae Hendrix, CT, Nursing; Jennifer Giselle Hernandez, AA, General Studies; Jarrett Todd Humphress, AAS, Business; Mahreen Ishfaq, AA, General Studies; Keyosha Tashai Johnson, AAS, Chemical Dependency Counseling; Anamelina Juarez, AA, Business; Nicholas L. Kinhart, AAS, Fire Science Technology; Tetiana Kovaliuk, AS, Nursing; Lauren Melnick, AA, Computer Studies; Isaiah A. Morris, CT, Criminal Justice; Julia Nickey, AA, Education, AA, General Studies; Chase Henry Pillsbury, AA, General Studies; Anthony Irving Rozaieski, AS, STEM; Amanda Josephine Schmidt, AS, STEM; Michael Lee Sellers Jr., AA, General Studies; Jessica Emily Shoemaker, AAS, Emergency Medical Services; Alicia Kelli Thomas, AA, General Studies; and Haley Nicole Triplett, AS, Nursing.

Bishopville: Morgan Renee

Cullen, AS, Nursing; Cole M. Espy, AAS, Radiologic Technology; and Brian Patrick Savage, AA, Business.

Girdletree: Kellyann T. Belka, AAS, Business.

Newark: Justin Newsome, CT, Criminal Justice; Joshua L. Shockley, CT, Criminal Justice; and Ogheneruona Eva Young, AS, Nursing.

Ocean City: Nathaniel Anton Elko, AS, STEM; Kathleen Eleanora Ewing, AA, General Studies; Dylan Gipe, CT, Criminal Justice; April J. Knudson, CT, Criminal Justice; Jack Stewart Lowe, CT, Criminal Justice; Jacob McElfish, CT, Criminal Justice; Emily Kathleen Myers, AS, Nursing; Timothy Passarello, CT, Criminal Justice; Abigail M. Stabinski, AA, General Studies; Bonnie S. Stockton, AA, General Studies; and Victor Orpheus Willowdean, AA, General Studies.

Pocomoke City: Samantha Nicole Baysinger, CT, Nursing; Bradley Woody Bloomfield, AA, General Studies; Michelle Craig, AAS, Chemical Dependency Counseling; Emily Elizabeth Hutchinson, AAS, Culinary Arts; Jason Thomas Palmer, AA, General Studies; and Toi Stewart, AS, Nursing.

Snow Hill: Krystal Lynnette Beall, AA, General Studies; Lawrence J. Bonneville, CT, Criminal Justice; Bridget V. Bullis, AS, STEM; Jacob Laygah Gordon, AA, Computer Studies; and Chad Luzader, CT, Criminal Justice.

Stockton: Brandon Mason, CT, Criminal Justice.



The month of August has been home to many historical events over the years. Here's a look at some that helped to shape the world in August 1924.

Three people are killed and 10 others are injured when a boiler fire erupts on the French battleship Courbet on August 1. The Courbet survives the fire and is eventually utilized during World War II.

Boca Raton, Florida, is incorporated as "Bocaraton" on August 2. The name is changed to "Boca Raton" less than a year later.

John Carroll O'Connor is born on August 2 in Manhattan. O'Connor would become one of the most memorable television actors of all time, notably portraying Archie Bunker in the sitcoms "All in the Family" and "Archie Bunker's Place" in the 1970s and early 1980s.

Berlin Jews hold a memorial service for Jewish soldiers who died during World War I on August 3. The Jewish service takes place after a Jewish preacher was forbidden from delivering a prayer during a similar service held outside the Reichstag commemorating German soldiers who died during the war.

Women from six European nations compete in the first Women's International and British Games in London on August 4. The competition is held because track and field events at the Summer Olympics were limited to men only.

Confidence man Charles Ponzi is released from prison in Plymouth, Massachusetts on August 6. Ponzi served less than four years of a five-year sentence for financial crimes.

Grand Duke Kirill Vladimirovich of Russia, a first cousin of the late Tsar Nicholas II, declares himself "Guardian of the Throne" for the Russian Empire on August 8. Two years later, the Grand Duke would declare himself the emperor-in-exile.

On August 10, Austrian police claim they discovered a Soviet slush fund for stirring up unrest and revolt in the Balkans.

The earliest sound film footage of an American president is recorded on Au-

gust 11 when Lee de Forest films U.S. President Calvin Coolidge on the White House lawn. De Forest uses his experimental Phonofilm process to make the recording.

Andrew S. Anderson, the Democratic Party nominee for South Dakota Governor, is gored by a bull on his property on August 11. Anderson does not survive the attack.

Former world middleweight title holder Kid McCoy shoots his lover, Teresa Mors, on August 12 in Los Angeles. McCoy, retired from boxing at the time of the shooting, shot Mors in a drunken rage after she told him what her friends thought of him.

Anthropologist Margaret Mead arrives in Samoa on August 17. Mead proceeds to begin working on her book, "Coming of Age in Samoa: A Psychological Study of Primitive Youth for Western Civilization," which became a landmark text and sparked years of ongoing, intense debate upon its publication in 1928.

Canadian mountaineers complete the first ascent of the 2,603-meters-tall Mount Fitzsimmons in British Columbia on August 19.

United States Senator Nathaniel B. Dial and John J. McMahan, his challenger for the Democratic Party nomination in an upcoming election, are each arrested for disorderly conduct in South Carolina on August 20. Dial approached McMahan brandishing a chair during a campaign meeting that became contentious.

On August 23, the planets Mars and Earth are the closest they had been since August 18, 1945. The two planets, which were the equivalent of around 34.6 million miles from one another, would not be as close again until August 2003.

On August 26, The Montreal Star publishes an interview with American automotive executive Henry Ford in which the industrialist claims the Ku Klux Klan was a patriotic organization and "a victim of lying propaganda."

Director John Ford's first major film, "The Iron Horse," premieres in New York City on August 28.

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How to prevent hot car emergencies

Parents often do everything within their means to keep their children safe in and outside of their homes. Throughout the years, child safety seats have helped reduce the risk of serious injuries to children



times faster than an adult's. When a child remains in a vehicle without ample ventilation, that child's body temperature can rise quickly, turning into a dangerous situation. Heatstroke begins when the core body temperature reaches about 104 F.

Many children who were injured or killed in PVH incidents have parents and caregivers who are thoughtful guardians. No one sets out to forget their child in a car. Since younger children sit rear-facing in safety seats, sometimes their

presence is obscured. Those who are rushing around or parents with miscommunication may not realize their child is in the car seat. It is essential that parents and caregivers get in the habit of always checking the back seat before locking the car doors. Heeding some additional tips also can prevent PVH.

while riding in vehicles. However, incidents of hot car injuries and deaths have increased. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration indicates about 40 children a year die from heatstroke after they were left or became trapped in a car. Roughly one child every 10 days loses his or her life in a hot car. The NHTSA also says there have been more than 950 hot car deaths among children since 1998. The National Safety Council says nearly every state has experienced at least one death of a child succumbing to heat stroke in a hot car since 1998. The agency reports that a record number of 53 children died after being left in hot vehicles in 2018 and 2019.

Pediatric vehicular heatstroke (PVH) poses a serious threat. Health experts warn that a child's body temperature rises three to five

times faster than an adult's. When a child remains in a vehicle without ample ventilation, that child's body temperature can rise quickly, turning into a dangerous situation. Heatstroke begins when the core body temperature reaches about 104 F.

Leave your purse, wallet or another item in the back seat so you are forced to go in the back to retrieve it. This is an added security measure to check the back seat and ensure the car seat is empty.

Never leave a child in a vehicle unattended for any length of time, even if you only intend to run into a store for a few minutes. Rolling down the windows or parking the car in the shade does little to adjust the interior temperature of the vehicle.

Write a note or place a stuffed

animal in the passenger's seat to remind you that a child is in the back seat.

Keep the car locked and keys out of reach. Children being forgotten in the car is not the only cause of PVH incidences. Sometimes kids hide or play in cars and become trapped. The NHTSA says 25 percent of PVH deaths occur after kids gain access to unattended vehicles.

Be an observant bystander at all times. If you see a child alone in a vehicle, make sure the child is al-

right and responsive, then attempt to locate the parents. If the child seems in distress, attempt to break the window of the car and call for emergency services immediately.

Instances of PVH and similar accidents are not exclusive to summertime. A car can become hot quickly even if the temperature outdoors seems relatively mild, says Consumer Reports.

Various strategies can help prevent hot car injuries and deaths in children.

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Smoking food for beginners

There's no shortage of ways to impart flavor to foods when cooking at home. Smoking food is one method that has grown increasingly popular in recent years.

Smoking imparts unique flavor to a wide variety of foods. Like other approaches to cooking, smoking involves a learning curve that may include some trial and error. Grilling enthusiasts who want to try their hand at smoking food can keep these tips in mind.

Remember the mantra "low and slow." Low and slow is the preferred method among cooks experienced in smoking. The method involves cooking foods at low temperatures for long periods of time. When smoking, unlike with traditional grilling, cooks want to ensure



the food is not directly over a flame. Smoking stones can be used to absorb and deflect heat, and similar products can accomplish the same. That absorption and deflection allows foods to cook slowly, which in turns helps impart the smoky flavor people love.

Consider adding water to create moisture. A water pan inside the smoker can ensure foods remain moist while smoking. Long cooking times can dry foods out, but the water in a water pan can make the environment inside the grill more humid.

Add flavor with wood. Seasoned wood chunks and wood chips can add flavor to foods, and such products are readily available at many grocery stores and home improvement retailers. Choice of chunk or chips depends on which type of smoker individuals have. The grilling experts at Weber advise using chips when light smoking for less than an hour. If smoking for an hour or more, Weber advises using chunks.

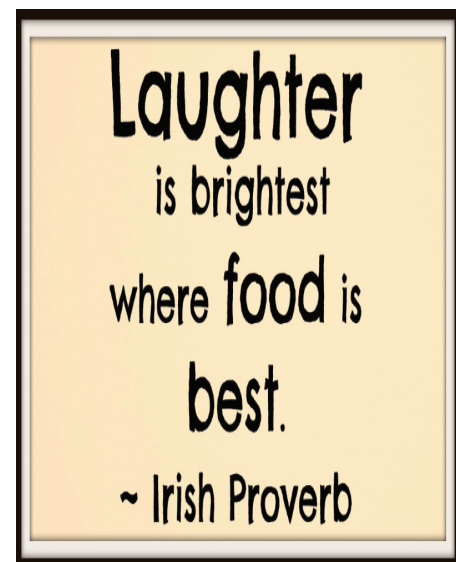
Consider accessorizing an existing grill. Smokers or grills that can accommodate smoking can be expensive, and cooks who already have reliable charcoal or gas grills may not be able to justify such an investment. In such instances, smoker boxes, which sit right on an

existing grill grate and make it easy to transform grills into makeshift smokers, can do the trick. In addition, smoker attachments that can be attached to gas and charcoal grills can enable a less expensive introduction to smoking foods.

Monitor temperatures. Temperature is important when smoking foods. If temperatures rise too quickly, foods can quickly become dry and overcooked. If temperatures do not rise, foods can sit on the grill

for hours on end. Each recipe is unique and will suggest an ideal temperature range when cooking foods slow. That may require staying home and monitoring the grill temperature, periodically adjusting vents to maintain a steady temperature. Many smokers now enable users to monitor temperatures via a smartphone app, and those can be useful for cooks who cannot stick around the house for the duration of the smoking.

Smoking is a popular way to cook foods over an open flame. Smoking may involve some initial trial and error, but the results are well worth navigating one's way through the learning curve.



Donation - Local businesses and corporate partners of the Art League of Ocean City stepped forward to support the nonprofit organization with "Dine and Donate" events at their locations. Pit & Pub raised \$450 on June 5.

Shown above are bartender **Erin Danaher** (left) and the Art League's **Cassie Wait** (right).

From Boise Cascade to the Pines Players with Marlene Ott

The latest episode of the Ocean Pines Association's exclusive podcast, "PinesCast," features an exclusive interview with longtime resident Marlene Ott.

Hosted by veteran journalist and podcaster Tony Russo, PinesCast each week will celebrate the region, the amenities and, most of all, the people that make and keep Ocean Pines a special place to live. The PinesCast is available on all major podcast platforms.

Ott takes listeners on a journey back to the early days of Ocean Pines, recalling her active involvement in the community through organizing yard sales and the formation of the Ocean Pines Players, as well as her role in advocating for school bus services and addressing the community's needs.

Ott also talks about how Ocean Pines evolved from a small, private community into a flourishing year-

round hub, attracting residents with its unique amenities and unparalleled safety.

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What does a real estate attorney do?

The complexities of the law can be challenging to those outside the legal profession. An attorney on one's side can help individuals ensure their assets and livelihoods are protected, and even help people avoid costly mistakes.

Investing in real estate is a wise but often expensive endeavor. According to the National Association of Realtors, the median home price of existing (not new) homes was \$410,200 in June 2023. With so much money riding on real estate transactions, having

a professional real estate attorney in one's corner is wise. Recognition of what these professionals can do underscores how valuable they can be.

Roles of a real estate attorney. The main job of a real estate attorney is to ensure the legal transfer of property from a seller to a buyer. Real estate attorneys will prepare and review documents, ensure that a home title is clear, and facilitate the transfer of funds between parties, according to the online financial resource NerdWallet. Real estate attorneys will iden-

tify any unpaid loans, liens, litigation or other claims against the property, uncover deed restrictions and covenants, and any breaks in the chain of title.

In addition to these services, attorneys guide their clients through searches for obligations like taxes, utility charges and homeowners' association fees, according to Bankrate. Real estate attorneys also will prepare settlement statements showing the charges to all parties and how the funds will be allocated, including commissions, attorney's fees, underwriting fee, title search fee, taxes, and more.

A real estate attorney can work for those looking to buy or sell a private home, an investment property, a commercial business, or even guide grief-stricken relatives through the process of selling a deceased loved one's home to settle estate obligations.

Who do real estate attorneys work

for? If the real estate attorney is representing a client's interests only, that lawyer will be an advocate to the client and work in his or her best interests. Various attorneys tend to be involved in real estate transactions. One will represent the buyer and another the seller. A lawyer may represent the mortgage lender if financing is involved. Another could potentially represent the title company.

Cost of real estate representation. Certain real estate attorneys will charge a flat fee that encompasses a specific series of jobs, including the preparation of closing documents. Others may charge an hourly rate, particularly if the issue is more complex and involves litigation.

When individuals are selling or investing in property, real estate attorneys can ensure the process goes smoothly and protect their clients if complications arise.

film

from page 6

and we invite everyone to come share the night and see the films with us this year."

The OC Film Festival will announce the winning films on Film Challenge Night and award prizes to the winners.

Prizes include an Ocean City hotel stay, swag bag, and two all-access passes during the 2025 OC Film Festival. The films will also be screened at the Film Festival March 6-9, 2025.

The Ocean City Film Festival and the Ocean City Film Challenge are programs of the Art League of Ocean City.

opa

from page 3

After receiving reports of loose boards and exposed nails at the Beach Club, Viola instructed Public Works to immediately repair those areas. He added OPA would continue to monitor the Beach Club for similar issues, and the entire Beach Club boardwalk is due for replacement within the next few years.

Several boards were replaced on the docks and cracks were repaired along the pathway at the Swim and Racquet Club. There are also plans to repair bathroom stall doors and add handrails in the stalls, as requested by the Aquatics Advisory Committee.

Viola said he is also looking into converting several of the slips that are too small for boats into jet ski docks.

"We're getting estimates on that, [and] I already have somebody who is ready to sign up for them," he said, adding he will also consult the Budget and Finance Committee.

Additionally, Viola said Public Works trimmed the grass around the North Gate Pond, to address concerns emailed to info@oceanpines.org.

Recent landscaping efforts have included additional sand and mulch at the dog park, and mulch put in by Public Works at all community playgrounds.

New signs were installed at the Racquet Sports and Recreation and

Parks complex on Manklin Creek Road, and at the Community Gardens.

Yacht Club updates

Viola said new decor was recently added to help enhance the customer experience at the Yacht Club, including panel dividers and artificial plants in the dining room. He said the additions were requested by events manager Lia Isel.

"I think they're pretty nice! Credit to her," he said. "I think it's a big win ... [and] this is enhancing customer service."

Public safety updates

Police Chief Tim Robinson said he's treating poor cell service in the community as a public safety issue and has engaged county officials to try and address the problem.

"One of my biggest worries is that somebody's trying to call for help and [a cell phone is] their only means of communication," he said, adding many local cellphone calls are either dropped or never initiate.

"We've already started having conversations ... with the county administration," he continued. "It's probably something that's not going to be immediate, but hopefully it gets done so that next summer, when everybody is here, we'll be in a better situation."

Robinson said police recently apprehended a suspect of a "mini crime spree" that involved breaking in and stealing cars.

"One of our officers caught them in the act," Robinson said, crediting newly hired Ofc. Freddie Howard.

Speaking of new hires, Robinson said recent additions on the police force brought staff up to necessary levels to return to 24-hour coverage, without the need for outside assistance.

Robinson said Ocean Pines Police will host a National Night Out event on Tuesday, August 6 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at White Horse Park. The event is free and open to the public.

"Come out and visit with the Police Department," he said. "I hope to see everybody out there."

Other updates

Director of Business Administration Linda Martin said the Aquatics Department had a record-breaking Fourth of July Weekend, with about \$20,000 in revenue. She said pool business has been robust all summer.

"If you're a member, we suggest you get there early," she said, adding members can swim from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. each day, before pools open to the public.

Martin said the Association regularly receives requests about beach mats at the Beach Club in Ocean City.

However, Town of Ocean City officials have told the Association that federal guidelines and liability issues rule out that option.

Ocean Pines does offer the use of handicap beach chairs, which can be rented through Beach Club Pool lifeguards.

CPI and customer service updates

Martin said the Compliance, Permit, and Inspections (CPI) Department issued 238 new violations in June. During the month, 224 violations were brought into compliance and 261 remain open. Also, during that period, 107 new work orders were initiated and 105 were closed, with 171 remaining open.

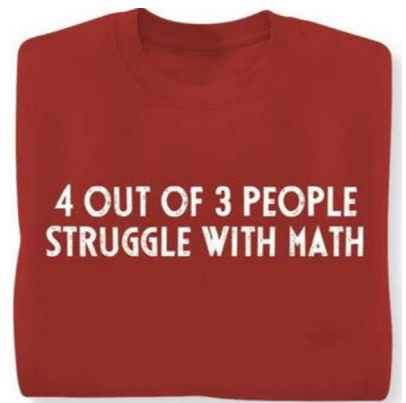
"We do suggest that you read the updated guidelines, especially with the candidate signs," Martin said, adding that campaign signs cannot be placed until 30 days before the presidential election. CPI guidelines can be viewed online at <https://www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/cpi>.

Martin said the customer service team fielded 131 emails in June, including 48 general questions, 38 about amenities, 31 for CPI, 13 for Public Works and one on drainage.

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

Some things to think about


Gathered from the internet
by **Jack Barnes**



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