

The Courier

August 14, 2024 Volume 24 Number 45



Donation - The Ocean City Fishing Center chose the Seaside Athletic Center to be the 37th Annual Ocean City Tuna Tournament charity recipient this year.
Above Seaside Christian Academy students **Charley Davis, Josie Davis, Ivy Clemente, Winnie Davis, Lilly Pollmeier, and Piper Blunt** with a check for \$4,500.

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Twilight Wish brightens lives of seniors

By **Chip Bertino**

"It just found me," confides Carolyn Dryzga about her involvement in the Twilight Wish Foundation (TWF), an organization that grants wishes to economically-disadvantaged seniors.

Long associated with the local Kiwanis organization and her fundraising prowess as well as being a board member of the Worcester County Commission on Aging (WorCOA), Dryzga, seeking new challenges, learned about TWF through her son-in-law who lives in Pennsylvania. "He said I should look into the organization." With just a little research, Dryzga was hooked.

TWF was founded in 2003 by Cass

for 13 years, launched the local chapter in March of this year. It is the only one on the Eastern Shore.

"I love interacting with new people," Dryzga said during a recent interview. "It's like magic." So far, Dryzga with the assistance of Barb Peletier, have fulfilled the wishes a several individuals. The first wish granted was to a Berlin senior, Virginia Clark, who wanted to meet Minnie Mouse. Clark, 82, is a resident of the Worcester County Developmental Center. A huge Minnie Mouse fan, Clark often dresses as the character for Halloween. On July 17, Clark received a surprise visit from the beloved character.

So how are wish recipients selected? The Wish Committee meets on a monthly basis to review applications and determine eligibility. Dryzga said the review process does not take long, often within 24 to 48 hours. For Dryzga, identifying worthy recipients has been through her personal interactions. Recently, while assisting with food delivery of the Meals on Wheels program, Dryzga met John Joseph Dyer III, a 95-year-old Korean War veteran who is bedridden. Dryzga learned the gentleman would like to have a meal out. When asked at what restaurant, the man told Dryzga without hesitation, he wanted to dine at Harrison's Harbor Watch in Ocean City. Dryzga, with the help of WorCOA and the Harrison Group, worked through logistic considerations, including transportation, to make the dinner happen last week for John, his daughter Joann White and caretaker. Despite the hazy weather, John was able to watch the parade of fishing boats return from the 4th day of the White Marlin Fishing Tournament. Interestingly, John was one of the original anglers to participate in the very first White Marlin Fishing Tournament in 1974.

The mission of Twilight Wish is to honor and enrich the lives of seniors through inter-generational Twilight Wish celebrations. The vision is to make the world a nicer place to age, one Twilight Wish at a time.

Twilight Wish focuses on the women and men who have paved the way for generations to follow: veterans, teachers, nurses, foster parents,

civil servants, and grandparents. They have simple wishes, but getting by on a low-fixed income makes the smallest of treats difficult and many of our deserving seniors wonder if anyone out there truly cares. That's why Twilight Wish acknowledges the elders' importance to society: to show them their works, influence and kindness are remembered.

TWF accepts tax deductible donations through its website at



John Dyer (seated) with his daughter **Joanne White** (center) and **Carolyn Dryzga** at Harrison's Harbor Watch.

Forkin in Bucks County, PA following a life-changing encounter with several elderly women in a diner the previous year. It was clear to Forkin, as the women were counting out their change that they could barely afford even a simple buffet lunch in a diner, so she anonymously paid their bill. The women insisted on knowing who treated them and approached Forkin's table saying, "We didn't know there were still people out there like you. We thought you had forgotten us."

From that encounter, TWF officially became a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization for granting wishes to seniors, more than 6,000 to date.

Dryzga, an Ocean Pines resident

TWF has two programs that meet specific needs of the elderly: Wish Grant Program and Veterans Program. TWF grants wishes to seniors age 65 and older, who earn less than 200% of the poverty level or who live in a nursing facility.

The Veterans Program, established in 2012, provides a meaningful "thank you" to service men and women for their dedication and selfless service to our country.

Wish recipients should have a documented positive history of giving back to the community, and be cognitively, emotionally and physically able to communicate and experience the wish.



Virginia Clark at her "Minnie Mouse party."

www.twilightwish.org or by check at P.O. Box 1042, Doylestown, PA 18901.

It's a lost cause to deny Dryzga's enthusiasm for the organization and its impact on recipients. To learn more about the Twilight Wish reach out to Dryzga at 215-519-3670 or via email at twfworcoa@gmail.com.

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Veterans Memorial Foundation annual golf tournament returns

The Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation announced the 17th annual Veterans Memorial Tournament, Wednesday, September 18 at the Ocean Pines Golf Club.

The event will benefit education programs of the Memorial Foundation that include annual tours of the memorial grounds by all fifth-grade students in Worcester County.

The annual tours are part of a collaboration between the Worcester County Board of Education and the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation. Tours are led by dedicated volunteer docents who share their knowledge of veterans' sacrifices, the history of different service branches, and flag etiquette.

Complementing these sessions, JROTC cadets from Stephen Decatur High School, Snow Hill High School, and Pocomoke High School provide hands-on guidance in proper flag handling and folding, helping to foster intergenerational connections and respect for the nation's heritage.

All students also receive an activity guide to reinforce those lessons and encourage ongoing conversations about their family's contributions and military service history.

The annual golf tournament is the major fundraiser for Memorial Foundation education programs.

The tournament will feature a scramble best ball format with a 9 a.m. shotgun start.

Registration is \$125 per player and includes tournament entry, golf cart, lunch, and access to tournament prizes.

Sponsorship opportunities are available at various levels, ranging from \$100 to \$2,000, with each offering distinct benefits.

The foundation also welcomes donations, gift certificates, and prizes for the tournament's silent auction. All contributions are tax-deductible.

For more information, contact Marie Gilmore at 410-726-2881 or opmarie@aol.com, or Don McMullen at 443-388-2941 or dmcullen1@aol.com.

Help keep community clean

The Ocean Pines Association is urging residents and visitors to take an active role in keeping the community clean, particularly in and around the Yacht Club premises.

Concerns have been raised about the accumulation of debris, including beverage cans, cups, napkins, cigarette butts, cigarette packages and dog waste left behind during peak weekend activities.

"Maintaining a clean and safe environment is crucial for the well-being of all who visit or live in Ocean Pines," General Manager John Viola said. "We have noticed that the issue is more prevalent during the summer months when many visitors frequent the Yacht Club, often leaving behind litter that not only tarnishes the beauty of our community, but also poses health risks."

To help combat these issues, Viola said the Association will increase signage at the Yacht Club, install additional trash cans, and attempt to raise public awareness through online and social media posts.

"We believe that by working together, we can maintain the beauty and cleanliness of Ocean Pines for everyone to enjoy," he said.

The Association invites all members of the community to be part of the solution by disposing of their trash properly and picking up after their pets.

RWWC dinner meeting scheduled

The Republican Women of Worcester County will hold their August meeting and dinner at the Ocean City Golf Club located at 11401 Country Club Drive in Berlin on Thursday, August 22. Guest speakers will be Liliana Norkaitis, 4th vice president of the Maryland Federation of Republican Women and chair of the Maryland Federation of College Republicans. Also speaking will be Maria Sofia, Government Affairs manager at the Cato Institute and former chair of the Maryland Young Republicans. Doors will open at 5 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. Cost is \$35 per person, tax and gratuity included. For more information and/or to register for the dinner, please email gopwomenofwc@gmail.com.



Worcester Fair – The Ocean Pines Parks and Recreation Department participated in this past weekend's Worcester County Fair.

Above are **Maia Holland**, **Makinley Conway** and **Khanihya Johnson** who worked the game booths for the event.

OPA board make up remains unchanged

By **Chip Bertino**

Change may be a constant in life but not when it comes to the Ocean Pines Board of Directors following last week's ballot tally of the election.

The Ocean Pines Elections Committee on Thursday announced voting totals for the 2024 Board of Directors Election. Voting totals were as follows: Sherrie Clifford, 936; Jeff Heavner, 1,868; Rick Farr, 1,933; Amy Peck, 1,270; and, Jerry Murphy: 293

Elections Committee Chairperson Steve Ransdell said Farr and Heavner had each earned three-year terms on the Board.

Per Ocean Pines Bylaws, because a quorum was not present during the Annual Meeting held Saturday, a special meeting was scheduled for Monday evening where it was expected that the election results would be validated.

In a written statement to *The Courier*, Rick Farr, the current Ocean Pines Association president, wrote that he was "humbled by the confidence" the membership showed in him and that he is "committed to upholding the responsibilities of this position with integrity, dedication and transparency."

He went on to say, "I believe that together, and working in partnership with our general manager we can con-

tinue to achieve great things and make a meaningful impact on the lives of all Ocean Pines residents. I remain dedicated to listening to your voices, advocating for your interests, and working collaboratively to build a stronger community for us all."

Jeff Heavner told *The Courier* Monday morning: "This Board sets policy and approves wide spending to focus on community-affirmed strategic pillars of quality governance, exceptional safety, top tier amenities, disciplined infrastructure maintenance and community appearance."

"I want to personally congratulate Rick and Jeff on their re-election," Sherrie Clifford said in a statement to *The Courier*. "As we move forward, I encourage open communication and collaboration to keep our community strong and thriving." She thanked her supporters and everyone who participated in this year's election.

When contacted Monday morning, Amy Peck congratulated the incumbents and said she was "proud of the race we ran and appreciate the support. I am hopeful that the Board will consider the issues that I brought up when campaigning."

With regard to leadership positions within the Board, an organizational meeting is scheduled for September 3.

Local Authors book tour scheduled

The Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market this week announced a Local Authors Book Tour, bringing together 14 local authors for a special showcase over several weeks.

The event will run on Saturday, August 31, Saturday, September 14, and Saturday, September 28.

Visitors to the market will have the opportunity to meet and chat with each author, purchase books, and have

them signed. Participating authors represent a variety of genres, including children's fiction, horror, mystery, faith-based works, romance, historical fiction, and poetry.

Market Manager David Bean said each author brings a unique story and perspective to the greater Ocean Pines Community.

"We are thrilled to host this incredible lineup of local authors," Bean

said. "There's something for everyone, and it's a perfect opportunity to meet the talent behind these works and discover new favorites."

Featured authors include:

August 31, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.: Grace Murdock (Children's), Katherine Ruskey (Children's), Shelly Lovelace (Romance), K.L. Montgomery (Mystery/Romance), Robert Nock (Historical Fiction)

September 14, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.: Jay Veloso Batista (Historical Fantasy & Sci-Fi), Denise Harper (Faith-Based), Aileen Rodrigues Price (Faith-Based), Amber Nicole (Mainstream/Women's Fiction), Maria Coccodrilli (Children's)

September 28, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.:

Diana McDonough (Historical/Creative Fiction), Alyssa Hazel (Horror), Danisha Tate (Children's), Shakira Henderson (Poetry)

Don't miss the chance to meet local talents such as Maria Coccodrilli, author of "Iccup Has the Hiccups," a delightful children's book inspired by her own parenting experiences, and Denise Harper, known for her book "Treasure Inside" and her role as director of the "Morning Show with Denise and Chris" on The Bridge Radio Station.

For more information on the Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market, visit www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/farmers-artisans-market.

Marine debris cleanup set

Join Captain Jack Sparrow, the Maryland Coastal Bays Program, and the Ocean Pines community for the Fourth Annual Marine Debris Plunder on Sunday, September 22, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Participants will help clean up marine debris from local

bays, beaches, and streets.

Both boaters and land-based volunteers are encouraged to join the cleanup effort. Gather collected debris and bring it to the Ocean Pines White Horse Park Boat Ramp for a weigh-in. Captain Jack Sparrow and his pirate crew will assist with the weigh-in and ensure proper disposal of the debris.

Preregistration is encouraged and can be completed online at the Maryland Coastal Bays Program website, www.mdcoastalbays.org, or by calling Sandi Smith at 410-213-2297, ext. 106.

Thanks to a sponsorship from Ron Jon Surf Shop, supplies will be provided to those who preregister, while supplies last. Supply packets can be picked up at the Yacht Club Marina on a pre-arranged date.

Participants who bring their collected debris to the weigh-in will receive an event T-shirt, while supplies last.

The goal of this event is to engage the community in cleaning up our waterways and streets and to collect data on the debris. Participants will be asked to fill out data sheets, which will be used for an outreach campaign next year to remind visitors of the importance of keeping local waterways clean.

Boaters will receive specific instructions on identifying marine debris and avoiding live traps, as crabbing season is in effect. It is illegal to tamper with live traps.

Natural Resource Police will be present to answer any questions about what constitutes marine debris.

Boaters are encouraged to collect abandoned and derelict crab pots, which often become ghost pots that trap and kill marine life, including crabs, terrapins, otters, and fish.

For more information, visit www.mdcoastalbays.org or contact mcbp@mdcoastalbays.org.

Vienna Boys Choir to perform in Ocean City

The Vienna Boys Choir, one of the world's most renowned choirs, will perform at the Ocean City Convention Center on December 10 at 7 p.m.

This event, presented by the Ocean Pines Association Recreation and Parks Department, promises a memorable evening of Christmas music and classical masterpieces.

Event Coordinator Kevin Powell said he was asked to think outside the box to develop fresh and new event programming.

"Having heard them perform in 2022, I thought this would be a great event for Ocean Pines and the surrounding area," Powell said. "It would be enjoyed by many people as a Christmas concert, and it would also bring some revenue to the Rec Department and potentially build a relationship with their management agency. We would love to be able to do this sort of thing more often and bring more world-renowned artists to our area."

Powell said the demand for tickets has already been high.

"I've had people clamoring for tickets already because it's the first time they've ever come to our area, and they are one of the finest choirs on the planet," he said.

The event will be held at the Roland E. Powell Convention Center in Ocean City, because of the lack of an adequate venue in Ocean Pines for a concert this large.

The Vienna Boys Choir has been delighting music lovers across the

globe for six centuries with their purity of tone, distinctive charm, and popular repertoire. The enormously popular chorus is composed of four touring choirs that hail from dozens of nations and together give over 300 concerts a year around the world.

Christmas in Vienna showcases these gifted musicians with voices of unforgettable beauty in an extraordinary program featuring Austrian folk songs, classical masterpieces, popular songs, and, of course, holiday favorites.

The Vienna Boys Choir is a private, nonprofit organization that relies on sponsorship and donations. The Choir maintains a primary school, a junior, and a senior high school. Three hundred boys and girls between the ages of six and 19 attend the Choir's Schools in Vienna's Augarten park. All receive individual voice lessons and sing in one of the choirs. About a third of the students go on to become music professionals.

The 100 boy choristers, between the ages of nine and fourteen, are divided into four choirs. Since 1924, the boys have sung over 1,000 tours in 100 different countries, resulting in 29,000 performances. The Vienna Boys Choir's singing tradition is listed by UNESCO as intangible cultural heritage in Austria.

Tickets range from \$40-\$70. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact the Ocean Pines Association Recreation and Parks Department at 410-641-7052.

Bus trip to Washington Commanders offered

The Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department will host a bus trip to the highly anticipated Washington Commanders home opener against the New York Giants on Sunday, September 15.

Event Coordinator Kevin Powell said the trip offers unique opportunity for both New York natives and locals.

"It's a great chance for New York fans to see their team in action, and for locals to catch a glimpse of the new-look Commanders," Powell said. "It's their home opener, with a new franchise QB, a new coach, new owner, and they're playing a division rival. What could be better?"

Tickets are \$135 per person, which includes round-trip bus transportation. Guests will depart from the Ocean Pines Community Center at 8:30 a.m. on September 15.

In addition to enjoying the game, attendees will have the opportunity to participate in a postgame group photo on the field.

Please note that anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

To purchase tickets or for more information, call 410-641-7052.

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Commentary

By Joe Reynolds
OceanPinesForum.com

Ortt contract

It happened late on a dark, cold night in March 2018 at the Community Center. The OPA Board of Directors met to discuss whether or not to hire Matt Ortt Companies (MOC) to manage the food and beverage operations at the Yacht Club and Beach Club.

The meeting began in open session. The few association members in attendance went home after the board voted to go into closed session. After about an hour of waiting, Director Slobodan Trendic opened the door to the Assateague Room to announce the board was going back into open session. This commentator was the only regular association member present when the board publicly announced its decision to hire MOC.

The Board of Directors then publicly announced a unanimous vote to

approve a contract with MOC to manage the food and beverage operations at all OPA food and beverage operations except for the Golf Clubhouse. It was a historic decision, passed after decades of brutal financial losses, especially at the Yacht Club. Operational losses there were too frequently in the \$200,000 range.

The initial contract terms called for MOC to receive a \$100,000 per year management fee and roughly 50% of all operational profits. MOC had no financial risk. OPA created a special bank account and maintains enough money in it to cover all expenses related to the Yacht Club and the Beach Club. MOC just writes checks on that account to pay all costs, including labor. To use a phrase spoken by a board member in another recent contract negotiation, MOC has “no skin in the game.”

MOC’s financial success at the

Yacht Club became astounding, beyond any expectation back in March 2018. In the first full year of operations (fiscal 2018-2019), the Yacht Club produced a then exceptional low operational loss of only \$86,777. Last Year, all three venues produced an operational profit of around \$1 million. MOC’s total, no-risk compensation for the audited fiscal year 2023-2024 was \$535,591!

Most of the increased operational profit came from the Yacht Club, with the Beach Club and Golf Clubhouse (added to the MOC contract in fiscal 2020-2021) contributing to the bottom line but not any dramatic increase as at the Yacht Club. The Board of Directors also doubled MOC’s management fee from \$100,000 yearly to \$200,000.

It is also worth noting that, contrary to what many association members may believe, OPA’s own end-of-year operational profits at the Yacht Club have declined in the last three fiscal years:

Fiscal 2021-2022 - \$212,142

Fiscal 2022-2023 - \$188,980

Fiscal 2023-2024 - \$158,442

OPA’s contract with MOC expires in June of 2025. Negotiations with MOC for a new contract must conclude in September or October of 2024 to allow OPA time to find new outside management should negotiation over the new contract completely fail for some unknown reason. Such a thought may be anathema to many association members yet any reasonable look at the numbers must lead the Board of Directors to negotiate in the best interest of OPA, and that must include a more equitable sharing of operational profits.

For example, perhaps MOC should receive 50% of operational profits up to some amount and thereafter a reduced percentage. The goal for OPA should be to provide MOC with a contract allowing MOC and OPA to more equitably split an overall operational profit that now runs in excess of \$1 million. Last year, for example, OPA made little or no profit after depreciation, while MOC pocketed \$535,591. Depreciation must be considered.

The upcoming negotiation will not

be easy for the seven members of the Board of Directors. Four or more directors, and even a director’s spouse or two, are said to have become personally friendly with MOC owner Matt Ortt. Negotiations between friends are not easy, for either side. Looking at the numbers, an equitable arrangement might be taking a roughly \$1 million overall operational profit, subtracting the depreciation from the three venues, and then splitting up the remainder between OPA and MOC, with MOC receiving somewhat more than OPA.

This will be a new contract and should be based on an equitable sharing of profits based on the current level of operational profits, not on the disaster they were in fiscal 2017-2018 and earlier.

The OPA Board of Directors would best serve association members by allowing General Manager John Viola to negotiate the terms of any new contract with MOC rather than involving any individual directors or their spouses.

ENAC: Off the rails

During a meeting on July 24, 2024, members of the OPA Environment & Natural Assessts Committee (ENAC) trashed the Board of Directors, the General Manager, the Director of Public Works, and perhaps a few others.

The ENAC is off the rails.

The board should consider eliminating the committee or removing all members and starting from scratch. ENAC is an advisory committee. Why is an advisory committee dealing directly with Public Works, with County and/or Maryland officials, with the General Manager, with nearby land-owners?

It is a Board of Directors Advisory Committee, not an advisory committee to Public Works, the General Manager, or any other entity or individual. Their point of contact with the board they are appointed to advise is board liaison Jeff Heavner. Any committee also has every opportunity to request to make a presentation to the board

please see **reynolds** on page 16

Courier Almanac

On August 14, 1971, St. Louis Cardinals ace Bob Gibson threw the first no-hitter of his storied career. Gibson’s heroics helped his team sail to an 11-0 victory over the Pittsburgh Pirates.

As women enter perimenopause and begin the transition that will ultimately lead to menopause, many doctors prescribe hormone pills to help regulate menstruation cycles and ease certain symptoms. Compared to regular birth control pills that contain 30 to 50 micrograms of estrogen, a doctor may suggest a low-dose pill that contains between 10 and 35 micrograms of estrogen. These levels can be increased as needed. WebMD says that, in addition to preventing pregnancy, which can still occur in perimenopause, low dose pills often regulate heavy or irregular menstrual periods and may offer protection from ovarian and uterine cancers. The pills also may prevent bone loss, which leads to osteoporosis. It’s important to note that contraceptives come with an elevated risk for breast cancer and blood clots, particularly for those with a history of heart disease and



breast cancer. So, doctors should be consulted about the pros and cons and women should initiate an open and honest dialogue with their physicians to avoid any complications.

The
Courier

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Proud lefty

Throw me a ball and I'll catch it with my left hand. Yet, take me golfing and you'll watch me swing right-handed clubs. I write left-handed, always have. The world in which I live discriminates against me and

Barak Obama. And if that's not enough to impress you, so were Albert Einstein and Ben Franklin.

When I was learning scales on the piano, it took time for me to coordinate my right hand. On those occasions when I was picked to play ball in the school yard, there was never a glove I could borrow because all the other players were righties. When I got my own glove, I was never asked to borrow it because, well, there were no other



It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

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those like me because I'm left handed.

Right-handed people don't appreciate that the world we share discriminates against left-handers. We lefties are forced to adapt to right-handed scissors, right-handed looseleaf binders, right-handed lawn mower pull starts and laptop touch pads comfortably situated for right-handers.

That I recall, I was one of the few left-handed children in grade school. Despite hearing horror stories of nuns forcing lefties to write with their right hands, that fortunately was not something I experienced. However, I still struggled because I had no place to rest my elbow when writing. I had to learn to keep it level with the desk without the support afforded my right-handed classmates who sat in desks made for righthies.

At the turn of the last century, nuns persecuted my naturally born left-handed paternal grandfather, forcing him to learn penmanship with his right hand. Other than him, I was the only lefty in my family, until my granddaughter came along. She's a lefty as well, taking after both her grandfathers. That's why she's my favorite granddaughter.

Interestingly, each of my wife's married siblings married a lefty, exemplifying the adage that opposites attract.

I recently read research indicating that lefthanded people possess more developed right-brain hemispheres thus making us more creative and better able to grasp abstract thoughts. It's also believed we're independent thinkers, and don't as easily subscribe to "group think." I agree.

Several presidents have been left-handed including Gerald Ford, George W. Bush, Bill Clinton and

lefties on the team.

As a kid, I had an old Evinrude five horsepower outboard on the back of my rowboat. Because of the way the steering arm was positioned (for a right-handed person), I had to adapt, sitting in an uncomfortable position so as not to capsize the boat. In time, it became second nature and I thought no more about it.

Like most if not all lefties, I've learned to get along in a world that discriminates against me. So accustomed have I become in this right-handed universe that doing some things lefthanded is now uncomfortable. Many years after learning to golf with righthanded clubs, I attempted to play lefthanded using a friend's clubs. I couldn't get the hang of it. I'd like to say my game was impaired, but in that regard, I'm ambidextrous.

When I go down a list to check off completed tasks, my check marks look backwards to some. They are not. When sitting at a dining table among all righties, I've learned to bring my left elbow in when eating so as not to bump the rightie eating next to me. Many times, I try to sit at the end of the table so there's plenty of elbow room.

Years ago, when I learned to drive stick shift my learning curve was twofold. There was learning to coordinate the depression of the clutch with the movement of the gear shift. And, then there was learning to "think" with my right arm. The sensation was uncomfortable and unnatural but I eventually got the hang of it.

As a representative of South Paws hither and yon, I am reminded of a quote I once read: "God created a few perfect people, and the rest will just have to live being right handed."



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Wor-Wic 5K Hero Run returns

The Wor-Wic Community College Foundation is sponsoring a 5K Hero Run or 2-mile walk, along with the 2024 First Responder Team Cup Challenge, on Saturday, October 5, at 9 a.m., at the college campus on the corner of Route 50 and Walston Switch Road in Salisbury. Check-in and registration begin at 8 a.m.

The 5K run and 2-mile walk are open to the public. The First Responder Team Cup Challenge is open to employees of any law enforcement, fire or emergency medical services agency. They will compete in teams of two to three runners for the coveted cup currently held by the Ocean City Police Department.

All 5K runners and first responder team members will be eligible for first-place overall male and female trophies, as well as medals

for the top three male and female finishers in multiple age categories, from age 9 and under to 60-plus. For children ages 9 and under, a Kids' Hero Run and obstacle course will be held at 9:15 a.m.

The first 100 registrants are guaranteed to receive an event shirt. All participants are invited to stay afterward for the awards ceremony and refreshments.

The entry fee is \$25 per person, or \$35 per person after October 2, and \$5 for the kids' event. Third-party processing fees will be applied to online registrations. Proceeds will benefit the students of Wor-Wic. For more information to register, visit www.worwic.edu/5K or call 410-334-2965.

RWWC to host meet and greet

The Republican Women of Worcester County invite you to their Happy Hour to greet old friends and meet new friends at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club on Thursday, September 19 between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m.



Kiwanis and OPPD Night Out

August 6 was "National Night Out." During the event, police, fireman and first responders and families are treated to festivities. The Ocean Pines Police Department sponsored an event in Ocean Pines' Whitehorse Park. The Kiwanis Club cooked hotdogs and served other concessions. Pictured are group of mostly children enjoying the food.

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Green. Right. Returning.

Everybody who has taken a safe boating class has heard the catch phrase, Red, Right, Returning. It means that the red lateral buoys are on the right side of the channel when coming in from open waters and, complementarily, the green buoys are on the left side.

This is one of the first points that is made in the coastal navigation portion of any safe boating class: Keep the red buoys on the right side and the green buoys on the left when returning from the open waters. The R-R-R limerick makes it easy to remember but there is

A pleasant surprise was the very modest and respectful demeanor that was demonstrated by most American tourists with one exception. I counted more than a hundred New York Yankee baseball caps and only one Phillies hat. Don't these sports fans read the box scores and check the standings? The Phillies are number one! Joe DiMaggio has gone away! But then again, Caesar is still packing them in at Rome's Coliseum and Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas so something can be said for product branding.

When I wasn't annoyed by the per-



Lateral buoys at entrance to Naples Is it 'Green, right, returning' or is it 'Red, left, returning' or maybe 'green, left leaving' or 'red, right, leaving'

a caveat. It only applies to US waters. It's green, right, returning in Europe, the Mediterranean, the South Seas, and most or the rest of the world.

This can be a bit unsettling if you are navigating overseas waters but you can get used to it if you're only along for the ride. Case in point, Nancy and I took a bucket list cruise in the Mediterranean last month. In ten days, we made port calls in Barcelona, Marseille, Monte Carlo, Florence, Rome (Civitavecchia), Naples, Greece, Croatia (Dubrovnik and Split) and Venice. At one point, I thought our captain was speed dating with the harbor pilots in each port.

We converted untold number of dollars into Euros, gained 11 Kilos (that's 5 pounds – US) and heard and forgot more facts about churches, museums, fountains, statues, fortresses, castles and empires than one can absorb without taking pre-cruise classes in art and world history.

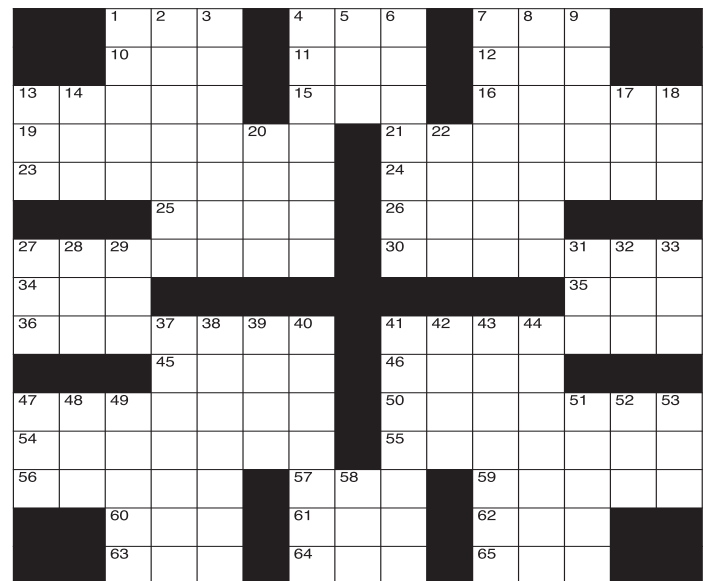
vasiveness of NY Yankee caps or overwhelmed by bouillabaisse, crème brûlée, tiramisu, escargot, smoked salmon, shumai dumplings, madeleine cookies, tapas toothpick food, and endless access to gelato, I tried to watch the marine goings-on.

Our skipper was good, real good. The day we pulled into Marseille, there were wind gusts to 40 knots but with the help of two tug boats he nailed the docking without spilling a drop of espresso. We were the only cruise ship to make it into Marseille that day. Four others cancelled their port calls and probably had to double down on their lunch buffets for an unscheduled additional day at sea.

We also experienced some very interesting and somewhat rare phenomena.

First, our boat, the Gastronomy of the Sea, responded to an SOS. We

please see *knots* on page 16



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Major American automaker (abbr.)
- 4. Pressure measurement
- 7. Two-year-old sheep
- 10. Indigenous person from Laos or Thailand
- 11. Up in the air (abbr.)
- 12. Actress de Armas
- 13. Not moving
- 15. Cool!
- 16. Bog arum genus
- 19. Perceptible by touch
- 21. Type of test
- 23. Monetary units
- 24. Collection of various things
- 25. Sum of five and one
- 26. Type of sword
- 27. Hates
- 30. Immobile
- 34. Pie __ mode
- 35. Moved quickly
- 36. Passenger's place on a motorbike
- 41. A way through
- 45. Former US Secretary of Education Duncan
- 46. Leader
- 47. Flowing
- 50. Greetings
- 54. Remedy
- 55. Soft lightweight fabric
- 56. Building material
- 57. Sea bream
- 59. A way to cause to be swollen
- 60. One and only
- 61. People get one in summer
- 62. Wrath
- 63. Thus far
- 64. They __
- 65. Sea eagle

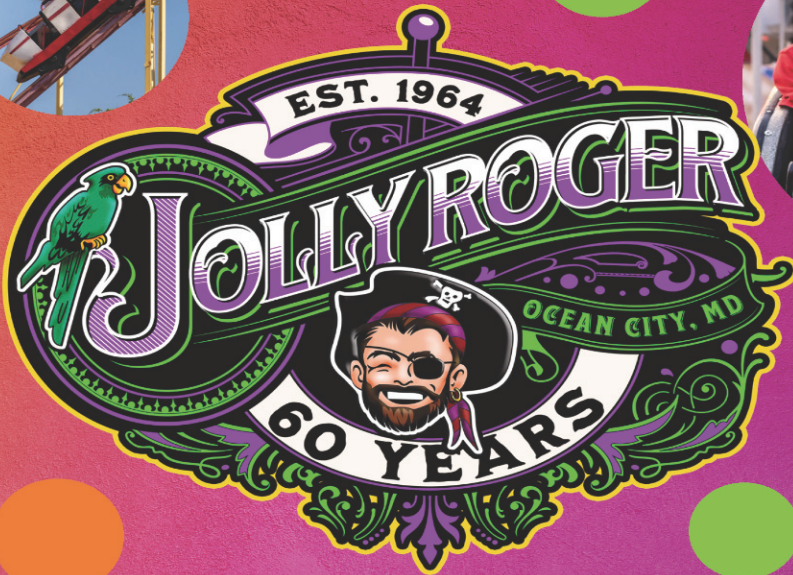
CLUES DOWN

- 1. Policemen (French)
- 2. Toy dog
- 3. Inflamed colon disease
- 4. Can't move
- 5. Helps little firms
- 6. Lists of names, subjects, etc.
- 7. Takes down
- 8. Makes possible
- 9. Wife of Julius Constantius
- 13. Engine additive
- 14. Arctic explorers (abbr.)
- 17. Written account
- 18. Consumed
- 20. Something the first shall be
- 22. No (slang)
- 27. Gov't lawyers
- 28. Peyton's little brother
- 29. Small amount
- 31. Investment vehicle
- 32. Fall behind
- 33. Midway between northeast and east
- 37. Head pain
- 38. Popular sport in England and India
- 39. King Charles's sister
- 40. Boat race
- 41. About fish
- 42. Maidservant
- 43. Able to be marketed
- 44. Tinier
- 47. Parts per billion (abbr.)
- 48. Paddle
- 49. Oneness
- 51. Bitter chemical
- 52. Not around
- 53. Very fast airplane
- 58. Swiss river



Answers for August 7

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Pickleball tips to build skills safely

By **Rachel Mavity**
Aquacare Physical Therapy

Let's pickle-fy your game with some zesty strategies to boost your skills and have a blast on the court!

Pickleball is the fastest-growing sport in America, however, injuries from playing pickleball are also growing quickly. Before you start playing, always make sure to stretch and warm up your body.

Here are some tips to improve your game and build skills safely.

Dance to the beat with footwork: Ever feel like your feet are stuck in place? Quick feet are your ticket to snagging those shots like a pro. When warming up, make sure to practice quick feet. Dive into drills like ladders, slalom through cones, or do short sprints to practice keeping your keep moving and warm up your body like a pro.

Plot your court conquest with precision positioning: You wouldn't wander into a deli without knowing where the pickles are, right? Similarly, knowing where to stand on the court can be a game-changer. Anticipating shots can instantly improve your game. Practice tips: Try drills like the "3 in a row" challenge to perfect your court choreography.

Spice it up with shot variety: Why settle for plain old shots when you can dish out some surprises? Master the art of dinks, volleys, lobs, and drives to keep your opponents guessing. And don't forget to mix up those serves - topspin, backspin, side spin, you name it!

Build mental M=muscles: Pickleball

isn't just about brawn; it's about brain-power too! Stay sharp, stay focused, and keep those positive vibes flowing. Visualize your success, talk yourself up, and shake off any slip-ups like a pro.

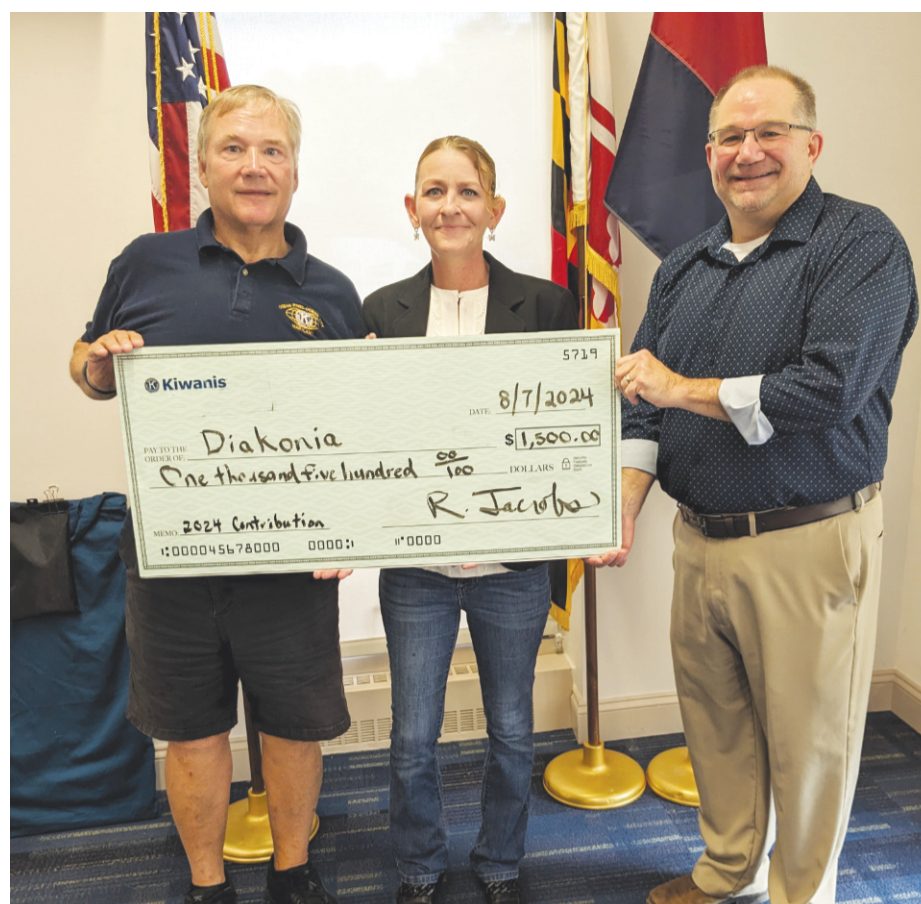
Level up by playing with the pros: Pick out a few players who are better than you and ask them if you can join in for a game. Playing with and against top-notch players is like taking a masterclass in pickleball greatness. Soak up their skills, steal their secrets, and level up your game quickly.

Practice makes perfect: Last but not least, practice makes pickle-perfect! The more you hit the court, the more you'll fool-proof your skills and become one with the paddle. Grab your gear, gather your pals, and get ready to practice your way to perfect.

There you have it, folks - six sizzling steps to take your pickleball game from bland to grand. So, get out there, embrace the pickle power, and let the games begin!

Aquacare has pickleball specialists who can walk you through mobility exercises and ways to regain strength and function. Need support for aches, pains, or injuries? We can help! Call Aquacare - Berlin at 443-513-3910 or schedule online at www.aquacarephysicaltherapy.com.

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Donation - The Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City, MD has worked with and supported Diakonía through the years. Pictured (R-L) are Kiwanis Club President **Bob Wolfing** presenting a \$1500 check to Food Pantry Manager **Lineya Amaya** and Executive Director **Ken Argot**.

Johnny Cash to be discussed

Sometimes rebellious, sometimes religious, Johnny Cash sang about sorrow, redemption, and old-fashioned hell-raising with a bass-baritone voice that resonates to this day. Frank DeLucco and Harry Burkett will discuss the turbulent life and extraordinary career of the "Man in Black" at the Ocean Pines branch of the Worcester County Library on Thursday, August 15, at 2 p.m.

Cash overcame an impoverished childhood in Arkansas, picking cotton, enduring a very strict father, and coping with the accidental death of his older brother. After serving in the U.S. Air Force, he earned his big break at Sun Records in Memphis. Then Cash's career rolled down the track with hits such as "Hey, Porter," "Orange Blossom Special," "I Walk the Line," and "Ring of Fire."

His insistence on recording a live album, against the desires of Columbia executives, resulted in "Live at Folsom Prison" and his best-known single, "Folsom Prison Blues."

Amphetamine and alcohol abuse derailed his career and nearly ended his life by the late-1960s. His marriage

to duet partner June Carter Cash and his often-tested devotion to Christianity helped him gain control of his life. Despite some relapses, Cash secured many TV roles in the 1970s and 1980s, and made a musical comeback with "The Highwaymen," along with Willie Nelson, Waylon Jennings, and Kris Kristofferson.

"Most people know Johnny Cash was a great performer, who had some drug issues in his past," said Harry Burkett. "Fewer people realize how many times he hit bottom and was lucky to stay alive. We'll examine how these personal challenges affected his music."

While Cash was plagued by diabetes and neurological problems toward the end of his life, he continued making music and lived long enough to be acknowledged by a new generation. "His collaborations with U2 and Tom Petty kept him relevant," added Frank DeLucco, "and his work with Rick Rubin ended his career on a critical high note."

Cash died September 12, 2003, at age 71, four months after the death of his wife, June.

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Public is invited to two ‘Wet Paint Sales’

The Art League of Ocean City’s 19th annual plein air festival, “Artists Paint OC,” happens August 14 to 18 when 50 professional artists paint local landscapes in the area. The public is invited to view and collect the art during the “Wet Paint Sales” on Saturday and Sunday, August 17 and 18, at the Ocean City Center for the Arts, 502 94th St. bayside.

“Fifty artists will be capturing a moment in time on canvas, and this is your opportunity – one that only happens once a year – to purchase these beautiful original paintings of iconic local scenes that are hot off the easel at very affordable prices,” Rina Thaler, executive director of the Art League, said.

“En plein air” is a French expression that means “in the open air,” used to describe the art of painting outdoors. The annual Artists Paint OC event brings in 50 plein air painters to the resort and features many popular regional artists as well as painters from around the country. Artists will paint Wednesday through Saturday at picturesque spots around the area.

The artists scheduled to paint and exhibit are Carolyn Aberbach, Lissa Abrams, Jon Bandish, Bruno Baran, Judy Benton, Alexandra Bradley, Jacqueline Bruce-Yamin, Andrea Burkom, Erica DeHart, Siobhan Duggan, John Eiseman, Nancy Fine, Rhonda Ford, Gerilyn Gaskill, Kathy Gibson, Jill Glassman, Scott Henderson, Catherine Homens, Betty Huang, Kathy Huegel, Frederick Johnson, Leo Kahl, Rajendra KC, Barbara Kern-Bush, Ed Lewandowski, Bruce Ley, Mimi Little, Liz Maynes, Katherine Miller, Madeline Patsel, Martha Pileggi, Jose Ramirez, Jim Rehak, Russell Reno, Eva Rotolo, Maggii Sarfaty, John Schisler, Jessica Schlegel, Ricky Sears, Al Richards, Rebekah Simonds, David Simpson, Linda Steere, Barbara Stepura, Gail Stern, Nancy R. Thomas, Joel Trotta, Mary Veiga, Cheryl Wisbrock, Judy Wolgast, and Dennis Young.

On Saturday, August 17, the artists will bring their best work to the Arts Center to be judged and participate in the Wet Paint Sale that evening, a celebratory event that brings the artists together with the public. The party

includes live music, complimentary hors d’oeuvres, and a cash bar.

Saturday’s Wet Paint Sale from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. is free and open to the public and an opportunity to collect original artwork of local scenes at affordable prices and meet the artists who painted them. The exhibit and sale continue at the Arts Center on Sunday and until the end of September.

Sunday morning’s Quick Paint and Sale on August 18, sponsored by the Ocean City Development Corp., is an easy opportunity for the public to watch the artists paint. Artists gather in downtown Ocean City near South Division St. and the Boardwalk to paint against the clock from 9-11 a.m. They then bring their work to the Arts Center to be judged and winners announced. The public may purchase this Quick Paint art off-the-easel from 1-3 p.m. at the Arts Center and enjoy live music and a cash bar. There is no charge to attend.

For the second year, the “Kids Paint OC” event joins the festival to feature the plein air artwork of youth ages 6-

17. The children painted outdoors from July 1-31 and brought their work to the Arts Center to be exhibited. Kids Paint OC artwork will be on display on Sunday, August 18, from noon-3 p.m. and cash prizes will be awarded. The event is made possible by a grant from the Worcester County Arts Council.

More information is available at OCart.org or by calling 410-524-9433.





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Peletier given Sam Wilkinson Volunteer Award

On Saturday, Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Director Debbie Donahue named Barbara Peletier as the recipient of the 2023 Sam Wilkinson Volunteer Award.

Since 2003, the award has recognized local people who dedicate their time and talents to help others. The award also honors the memory of its namesake, 8-year-old Sam Wilkinson, who died in a tragic water accident in Ocean City.

Sam played soccer in Ocean Pines and his father, Bob, was a volunteer coach for Ocean Pines Recreation programs. The award was established to recognize a volunteer within the Recreation and Parks Department.

Donahue described Peletier as a tireless volunteer who has spent the last two decades helping groups including the Kiwanis, Worcester GOLD, the AARP, Diakonia, the Cricket Center, Star Charities, and the Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department.

"She learned from her mother at an early age to care for others before herself. The very young and the older folks have always had a special place in Barbara's heart," Donahue said.

As a young mother, Peletier raised three children, volunteered for their sports teams, and worked at a pediatrician's office. She became an office manager for a general practitioner and later managed a cardiology office caring for geriatric patients.

After retiring to Ocean Pines in 2003, Peletier quickly found ways to help the community through volunteer work.

"As a Kiwanis member, she led numerous Kiwanis fundraisers," Donahue said. That included pancake breakfasts, German dinners, fruit sales and raffle ticket sales.

"At the Sunfest beer sales, the Kiwanis station sang and danced and were considered the most fun-loving vendor by the customers," Donahue said. "For years, she ran the Kiwanis Dawg Team and became known for her home-baked mini-pies that the customers requested by name."

She also hosted cleanup days at Horses for the Handicapped events, organized Kiwanis Christmas parties, installation dinners and pancake breakfasts, and served two terms as president of the club.

Donahue said Peletier supported Worcester GOLD for 20 years, donating gifts for two families at Christmas, school supplies in the fall, and turkeys at Thanksgiving. She also participated in AARP food drives and served as event organizer for many of the Star Charities events created by the late Anna Foulz.

In recent years, Peletier ran the Diakonia homeless pantry, distributing bags of food to as many as 20 local families each day. She has participated in Cricket Center walks for abused children on the Ocean City Boardwalk, and she currently works

with the Twilight Wish Foundation to fulfill wishes of local elderly.

Donahue said Peletier has cooked for Recreation and Parks' "Breakfast with Santa" events and helped in the Reindeer Lane gift shop. She also cooked and served breakfast for Easter events and set up and served food at Concerts in the Park.

"Her latest volunteer opportunity came when she came to my office asking for some volunteer work," Donahue said. "She scheduled times throughout a few weeks to come in and help me box up old paperwork, label boxes and make room for new stuff. While she was there, she could be found wandering into the kitchen, tidying things up."

From helping children, to the elderly, to Ocean Pines department heads, Peletier has always shown a giving spirit and boundless energy.

"You can always call, and very rarely will she tell you no. She is al-



ways available for us no matter what it is. Today, she actually thought we needed her help for a craft class!" Donahue said with a laugh.

"This year's Volunteer of the Year is an amazing woman that we can always count on being a big part of all that we do here at the Recreation Department," she continued. "We appreciate her more than she will ever know."

Peletier, in accepting the award, said she came there expecting to work.

"Thank you all. I really appreciate it," she said, adding to Donahue with a laugh, "I can't trust you!"

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Surfers Healing Camp returns to Ocean City

The 14th Annual Surfers Healing Camp will take place on the beautiful beach in front of Castle in the Sand from August 13 and 14. This heart-warming event is set to bring joy and unforgettable experiences to children with autism and their families, as professional surfers from California, Hawaii, and beyond take to the waves to share their passion for surfing.

Surfers Healing Camp is a unique opportunity for children with autism to experience the therapeutic benefits of surfing. With fifteen professional surfers, including legendary figures, like Israel "Izzy" Paskowitz, co-founder of Surfers Healing, the event is dedicated to helping hundreds of campers with autism, find their balance on surfboards to ride the waves, standing (or kneeling) proud in the ocean. The camp's mission is simple: "every child deserves their moment in the sun."

Surfers Healing was founded in 1996 by Izzy Paskowitz, inspired by the calming effect surfing had on his son with autism. Since then, the camp has expanded nationwide, offering thousands of children the opportunity to experience the confidence and tranquility that surfing provides. In 2024, the camp made stops in New Zealand, Mexico, and California. After Ocean City, Maryland, organizers will continue to Virginia Beach, North and South Carolina, New Jersey, and New York.

After Woody German, an Ocean City summer regular, volunteered at the Virginia Beach and New Jersey camps and experienced the impact the camp and riding waves together had on children with autism and their families, he played a pivotal role in launching Surfers Healing in Maryland.

"I was like, we have to bring this to Ocean City," said Woody German, co-director, Surfers Healing in Ocean City. "I was on the outside looking in and felt so fortunate to be a part of this world. The ocean really is magic."

Thanks to his efforts and the support of co-director Kat Trammell, who has a personal connection to the camp, Ocean City has become a treasured stop on the Surfers Healing tour.

"We attended the camp for the first time in Belmar, New Jersey when my son was four years old," said Kat Trammell, co-director of Surfers Healing in Ocean City. "Now he is twenty.

He is on the spectrum and non-verbal and as a parent, the experience was amazing. Even more powerful was the progress he made after camp. He was in a speech therapy session and spoke for the very first time. He said, "water" and "surfing." It brought his therapist to tears."

This milestone sparked Trammell to reach out to the organization to find out what she had to do to bring Surfers Healing to Ocean City.



"They said I needed to raise a specific amount of money, handle the permitting and provide boards and free lunch for the campers and their families. I said to Woody, you have been volunteering with this camp and this is my first time, so do you want to help me out?"

The permitting process took an interesting turn when Kat discovered Castle in the Sand Hotel had special permission to host events on the beach between 37th and 38th Street. Permission was granted without hesitation, and one year later, Surfers Healing set up camp in Ocean City, Maryland. The first camp served seventy-five kids and their families. Fourteen years later, the camp has grown to accommodate two hundred campers, with a waiting list of six hundred and growing.

"When new families arrive, we don't know where they are in their autism journey, but the beauty of this camp is that it's a place free of judgment," added Trammell. "I see it as a yearly family reunion. Despite our busy lives with our children, we come together at camp to reconnect and watch the kids grow."

"Whether you are here for the day for the first time or the fourteenth time, whether you are the child, the family, a volunteer or spectator, it's a transformative experience and absolutely heartwarming," said Patricia Smith, event coordinator for Castle in the Sand. "Hosting the Surfers Healing Camp is a privilege for us, as it transforms our beach into a place of joy, courage and incredible community spirit."

when he was ten years old and while he was used to spending time on the beach, the best part for him was when he got out of the water, took off his life vest and started high fiving all his friends. These kids may have never played a sport in their entire life, but this shows them that they are capable."

Tommy Vach, President of the OC Surf Club, emphasized the transformative impact of the camp. "These surfers are nationally recognized and travel with the program all year long. They bring tremendous joy to the kids, lighting up their faces as they ride the waves. Surfers Healing is a testament to the dedication of its organizers and volunteers."

The event will feature activities for the entire family, including arts and crafts, music, volleyball, and a movie night. It is not just about surfing; it is about creating a supportive community where parents can connect, and children can thrive.

The camp is supported by generous donations from The Council of Baltimore Ravens, American Legion, and HMRA. Local businesses have also rallied to provide food, water, and other necessities for the event. If you are interested in supporting or donating to the event, please contact Patricia Smith at 410/289-6846.

Dave Leiderman, another co-organizer of Ocean City's camp was introduced to Surfers Healing in 2011.

"My son has autism, and I heard about it from another family," said Leiderman. "He started attending

For more information visit <https://www.facebook.com/surfer-shalingocmd>.



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EOE

knots

from page 10

were one of three ocean going vessels – ourselves and two freighters - that converged on a small distressed craft. The three big ships took up positions about one mile from the distressed vessel forming an equilateral triangle. We were not called on to provide any additional assistance but, by maritime law, all three ships had to stand by until the Italian Coast Guard arrived

reynolds

from page 6

during a board meeting, as often happened in the past. Not so recently.

Here are some highlights from opening comments by Committee Chair Tim Peck:

- Peck talked about the “Frustration, disappointment, and disillusionment” of committee members.

- Peck said, “As the committee chair, I am highly concerned about the morale” of the committee members ... He said he’s concerned that they can effectively perform “their assigned mission.”

- Peck said committee members see “dysfunction and disrespect” in OPA’s response to committee actions and inquiries.

- Peck said there needs to be a change in the “governance process, otherwise, this committee becomes obsolete.”

- On geese crossing signs, Peck said five signs were removed by OPA administration.

- Peck said committee members did extensive research on the effectiveness of the signs and put in a lot of work and family members also assisted.

- Said Public Works removed signs with no notice to the committee. They asked OPA admin to restore the signs, but were “declined by Ocean Pines.”

- Said later inquiries to info@oceanpines told them signs were removed because they were not on OPA property, and were going to be repurposed elsewhere.

- Said: “These efforts conflict with original efforts by committee members to obtain the signs” and getting permission from the property owners to place the signs.

- Said OPA is “dismantling” a previously approved project that the committee organized and executed.

Here are some additional meeting

on the scene and took the disabled boat in tow.

The second observation was more unnerving. In US waters, the rules of the road for two boats in the same class crossing paths is ‘the boat on the right has the right of way.’ In Venice, boaters play by Boston traffic kamikaze rules: Drive fast and don’t look left or right and don’t make eye contact with the other driver less you may have to yield.

I spoke to a water taxi helmsman

highlights after the chair’s opening comment:

- Committee members talked to MDSHA, Worcester County Public Works and others, and “all of these offices ... granted verbal permission to place these signs off the shoulder” of the roadways.

- One committee member said after they initially turned in their findings and didn’t hear anything, they were pleasantly surprised to hear that “John Viola had ordered eight signs. We were happy about that.”

- Another committee member said he saw a random person just stop and pick up one of the signs.

- Another committee member said: “So frustrated ... irritated.”

- Another committee member said they also advised the Board on egg ad-dling but were told no. We are an advisory committee ... we’re the people with the environmental knowledge ... [but] the Board, in their infinite wisdom, decided we don’t have a goose problem ... why have a committee?” (Note: There is no record of the board saying there is no goose problem. The speaker provided no reference for the comment.)

- Chair: “There’s a communication breakdown, either with Viola and how he responds to any kind of request that comes from the committee, but also how the Board ... pays attention to these things.”

- Another committee member said: “It feels like an antagonistic relationship ... why are we here?”

- Another committee member said: “That’s been especially true of Public Works.” Said they’ve had a “contentious relationship” because “what we’re suggesting means more work for them.”

- Another committee member said: “The direction coming from management isn’t strong enough” ... said management is “lukewarm” on their ideas.

- Peck said: “a serious breakdown

after we did not slow down or pass behind another boat when we were the obvious give way boat. In broken English, he got the message across to me that every boat in Venice’s Grand Canal is the stand on boat until someone yells louder than you. At that point, I checked the life jacket locker for crash helmets.

And finally, our American Airline pilot on our Venice to Philly returning leg was making his last flight and retiring after 42 years. As is tradition in

in communication ... we can’t operate” ... said the administration “doesn’t like advisory committees.”

- Peck said: “Give us some respect” ... “It’s really sad. There are some pretty highly paid people in Ocean Pines [and] they need to act like a highly paid executive.” (Note: Another obviously swipe at the GM)

- Another committee member said: “the disrespect is just palpable at this point.”

- A committee member attending remotely asked if the election will shake up the Board and help things. A female committee member responded, “I don’t think so, I think it’s John Viola.” (Note: Yet another attack on the GM.)

- Chair: “It’s a pattern with the Board and the administration” ... said the election could help but, “there’s a longer-term problem,” meaning the GM.

- Patty Gamby, from the committee, later talked about some sediment issues. (Note: Apparently something about dredging the very upper end of Manklin Creek.)

- Peck said: “One thing about contacting Josh Davis: He is very, very careful about communication with committees.” (Note: A sarcastic remark?)

- Peck said the GM at the last Board meeting noted the comments on OceanPinesForum.com about tree removal and said he found it educational (one committee member snickered at that).

- Peck said the committee requested to be informed on the final policy on trees and would like to be consulted on the review of the policy, “but we have little expectation that will happen, given the history of committee experience.”

- Jeff Heavner, in public comments at the end, said “John Viola has committed to engage CPI to make sure that any new homes built will adhere to our guidelines” (about trees).

the airline industry, a retiring pilot is serenaded by the airport fire trucks spraying his plane with an arch of water as he taxis in for the last time. Very cool. There was a bitter sweet celebration amongst his friends, crew and family in the terminal but as the saying goes, any one you walk away from is a good one. And anyone you walk away from and the plane is still flyable is a great one.

That’s also true for cruising in the Med.

Stay safe. Stay dry.

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

Habitat for Humanity to host BINGO

Habitat for Humanity of Worcester County is set to hold its annual fundraising event, BINGO for Homes! on Wednesday, September 25 at Ocean Downs Casino. The event aims to support the organization’s mission of providing affordable housing in Worcester County.

Participants can look forward to an evening of bingo with 19 games offering cash prizes of \$100 to \$200. A special 20th game will also be available for purchase at the door. Tickets are priced at \$35. Reserved tables must be purchased in blocks of eight for those who prefer to sit together. The event begins with check-in at 5 p.m., followed by the start of bingo at 6 p.m. Food and beverages will be available from Poseidon’s Pub. There will be door prizes, a silent auction, and a ticket auction.

All proceeds from BINGO for Homes! will benefit Habitat for Humanity of Worcester County, Inc. Tickets can be purchased online at habitatworcester.org.

In addition to individual participation, Habitat for Humanity is seeking sponsors for the event. Interested parties are encouraged to contact the organization at bingo@habitatworcester.org to explore sponsorship opportunities.

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What to expect at your next eye exam

Regular eye examinations are important components of a personal health regimen. Visiting an eye doctor can alert a person to potential vision impairments, and certain symptoms that show up in the eyes could be indicative of notable health problems. The American Academy of Ophthalmology says everything from brain tumors to aneurysms to high cholesterol can be detected in the eyes.

For those who do not have any apparent vision problems, most doctors recommend following a chart based on age. The insurance experts at Aetna suggest the following age-based intervals:

Ages 20 to 39: Every five years

Ages 40 to 54: Every two to four years

Ages 55 to 64: Every one to three years

Ages 65 and up: Every one to two years

Individuals who wear glasses or contact lenses, have a family history of eye disease, or have a chronic condition that puts them at risk for eye disease, like diabetes, should get vision exams more frequently.

Despite the significance of eye exams, many people do not visit an eye doctor until something is amiss with their vision or eyes. Perhaps individuals would be inclined to visit the eye doctor more frequently if they knew what to expect during an exam. Here's what people can expect the next time they step into a private eye doctor's office or a vision center,

Shop Maryland Tax-Free Week runs this week

During Shop Maryland Tax-Free Week, August 11 to 17, shoppers will not pay Maryland's 6% sales tax on clothing and shoes under \$100 or the first \$40 for backpack sales. The annual sales tax holiday begins the second Sunday in August and coincides with the time many Maryland families shop for items ahead of the new school year.

Any single qualifying article of clothing or footwear priced at \$100 or less will be exempt from sales tax, regardless of the number of items purchased.

For online purchases, items qualify for the sales tax exemption if they are paid for and delivered or paid for and accepted for immediate shipment during the tax-free period.

courtesy of The Cleveland Clinic and Warby Parker.

Visual acuity: The eye doctor will ask you to read an eye chart while looking through a device called a phoropter. This device has several lenses that can be adjusted to help you see better and find the right corrective lens prescription.

Visual field: The doctor will check peripheral vision by holding up a finger or an object and moving it gradually to the side of your face. Additional movements may include up and down. Some offices use a computer program to conduct this test.

Automatic refraction: Visual acuity can be measured with this test, during which an autorefractor shines light into the eye and measures the eye's response. It's commonly used with children or adults who may struggle to communicate what they're seeing.

Pupil function: The eye doctor will briefly shine a handheld light into each eye and then move the light away to watch how the pupils constrict and dilate.

Slit lamp exam: This test involves a slit lamp, which is a type of microscope that enables the eye doctor to see the eyes

in close detail.

Tonometry measurement: Glaucoma occurs when intraocular pressure is high. Some eye doctors will conduct tests to determine the pressure. One way is with a non-contact tonometry test, which is a puff of air squirted at each eye. With applanation tonometry, the doctor first administers a mild numbing agent to the eye, and then uses a pressure-sensitive instrument to gently tap on the surface of the eye to get a pressure reading. A rebound tonometry test requires a hand-

held device that makes brief contact to the eye and doesn't require local anesthesia.

Pupil dilation: The eye doctor will administer eye drops that dilate the pupils, which enables a better view of the retina, optic nerve, cornea, and surrounding blood vessels during an ophthalmoscopy.

Special photography: The eye doctor may utilize specialized imaging equipment that will take digital images of the eyes to diagnose various retinal, optic nerve and corneal conditions.

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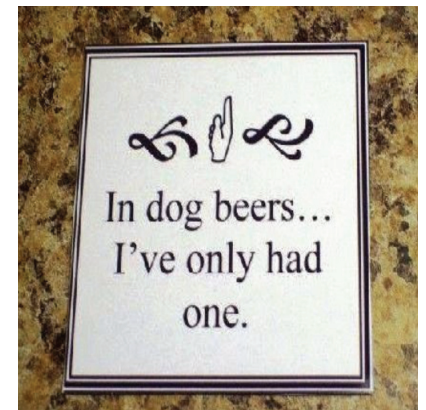
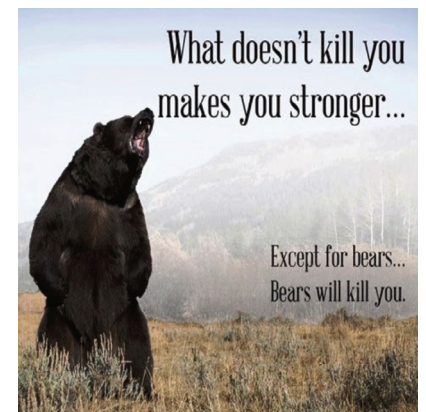
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