

The Courier

July 9, 2025 Volume 25 Number 38



Catch - The Ocean Pines Anglers Club recently hosted its annual Summer Flounder Tournament with close to 40 anglers participating.

Above: The top three winners (left to right): 1st place, **Josh Fallon** (20 1/2") 2nd place, **Budd Heim** (20 1/8") 3rd place, **Ron Kuhar** and **John Rokowski** (18 3/4").

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Wor-Wic to join Aspen Institute program for student success

Wor-Wic Community College has been selected as part of the Aspen Institute College Excellence program's Presidents & Trustees Collaborative for community college leadership development. Ten colleges from across the United States were chosen to participate.

"Wor-Wic is honored to be selected to be a part of this inaugural national cohort. Embedding student success into college governance with strong alignment with our board of trustees is crucial to our mission fulfillment for our local communities and workforce," said Deborah Casey, Ph.D., president of Wor-Wic.

The initiative is designed to strengthen the capacity of community college presidents and their boards of trustees to sustain systemic reform that improves student outcomes. Aspen's research into community college excellence reveals that long-term, scaled change depends on college presidents and trustees having a shared under-

standing of why student-outcome reforms are needed, agreeing on prioritized reform strategies and aligning their review of metrics, policies and budgets to those priorities.

Through a year-long series of sessions, presidents and trustees are guided through Aspen's trustee framework and learn lessons from Aspen prize-winning colleges, with the goal of strengthening their capacity to align decision-making with their colleges' student-success reform priorities.

Other participating colleges include Cerritos College, El Camino Community College District and Santa Rosa Junior College in California; Forsyth Technical Community College and Vance-Granville Community College in North Carolina; Monroe Community College in New York; Northeast Wisconsin Technical College in Wisconsin; Tulsa Community College in Oklahoma; and UCNJ Union College of Union County, New Jersey.



Award - Emily Ferguson, high school graduate from Stephen Decatur High School, was awarded a STAR scholarship for \$2,500. The Philanthropic Educational Organization (P.E.O.) STAR scholarship is awarded to women in their final year of high school who demonstrate outstanding leadership, academic achievement, extracurricular activities, community service and plan to pursue post-secondary education. Emily will attend the University of Maryland and major in cell biology and genetics. Her plans are to become a Nurse Practitioner and return to the Eastern Shore to practice medicine. P. E.O. has contributed over \$435 million through scholarships, grants, awards, and loans towards helping advance women's education.

Above are **Emily Ferguson** (award winner), **Linda Baker**, **Gail Philippi** and **Carlyn Crout**.

Arts Council presents 'Travels'

The Worcester County Arts Council (WCAC) announced its featured summer exhibition, "Travels," on view from through August 31 at the WCAC Gallery in Berlin.

This juried exhibit showcases a vibrant and diverse collection of artwork in various media, created by both emerging and established artists. Each piece reflects a unique interpretation of the central theme - travel - inviting visitors to explore journeys through physical landscapes, life experiences, and the imagination.

Juried by local artist Doris Glover, the exhibition highlights the many ways artists interpret movement, exploration, and personal discovery.

The public is invited to attend the opening reception on Friday, July 11, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Visitors will enjoy light refreshments, meet participating artists,

and hear juror remarks. Awards and juror's remarks will be presented at 5 p.m., recognizing outstanding artistic interpretations of the "Travels" theme.

In addition to the special exhibition, visitors can view and purchase original works by over 30 members of the WCAC Artists Co-Op Gallery, also on display throughout the gallery. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Admission is free and open to the public.

"This exhibit speaks to the universal human experience of movement - whether it's through space, time, or imagination, said Anna Mullis, executive Director of the Worcester County Arts Council. We're excited to offer a platform for artists to share their unique journeys and to invite the community to be inspired by the many forms travel can take."

If your organization has an event to promote, send your press release to *The Courier* at thecourier@delmarvacourier.com

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A soaring success

Maryland's Bald Eagle population recovery

By **Joe Zimmermann**

For 18 years, Glenn Therres watched the recovery of Maryland's bald eagles from the window of a four-seater plane.

The long-time bald eagle biologist for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Therres had



counted nests for the department's annual bald eagle survey since 1985, when there were only 62 breeding pairs in the state. Every year, he would cross the watery parts of Maryland from 200 feet above in a Cessna, scanning the treetops for bald eagle nests.

A few months later, he would come back to count the nestlings.

"Every year we would find additional nests and map the new locations," said Therres, who retired from DNR in 2021.

For a while, a few more active nests would appear each year, but by 1990 they found 123 breeding pairs, and 200 only six years later.

"In the early days, we flew three days, then another three [for the young eagles]," he said. "By the end, we were flying nine or 10 days each survey period just to cover all the nests."

By 2004, DNR found 390 breeding pairs of bald eagles in Maryland. Therres ended the department's survey after that - the species had well surpassed its recovery goals in the Chesapeake Bay region. In 2025, the Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership estimates there are over 1,400 breeding pairs in Maryland.

It was a long way to come for a bird of prey that had struggled for decades in the state and throughout the country. Across much of their range, bald

eagles had fallen to near-extinction levels due to the effects of pesticides, as well as other factors like habitat loss and illegal shooting. In 1963, only 417 nesting pairs had been documented in the lower 48 states.

Scientists have attributed the large part of the recovery of bald eagles to the banning of DDT, a common pesticide that built up in the bodies of many birds and resulted in reproductive failure and the thinning of eggshells. The amounts of pesticide in the eggs of Chesapeake Bay area eagles were some of the highest in the country. In 1972, after decades of advocacy and debate, the Environmental Protection Agency banned DDT from most uses, and the populations of bald eagles, ospreys, and other birds slowly began to bounce back.

Bald eagles and other raptors are often considered a success story of protections like the Endangered Species Act, as well as an example of society collectively taking action to address a pressing problem.

"Bald eagles are a very good example of what happens when you find the

solutions and take action, and now you can look at how they've come back," said Dave Brinker, a DNR conservation ecologist. "If we could do the same thing with something like climate change, we could start to see changes. But we're in denial. We were in denial about eagles for a long time."

Gwen Brewer, a DNR science program manager, said the recovery of the iconic bird of prey is a testament to changes people were willing to make across broad sectors of society.

"To recover a species that is so widely distributed and that declined to such a serious level, that is something to celebrate," Brewer said. She also noted the symbolic importance of taking action for a bird that holds a lot of cultural significance, both to the United States and to many Native American traditions.

Aside from pesticide restrictions, actions to restore the Chesapeake Bay and protect nest sites helped the eagles in Maryland. The Chesapeake Bay Protection Act of 1984 established protections for "critical areas" within

*please see **success** on page 12*

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Put a lid on it

Three plastic bowls filled with leftovers sit on the counter after dinner. One is square, one is round and one is sort of oblong. The problem? Finding the correct lid

based on the volume of food to be saved. Saving a half pint of string beans in a quart container has not been an uncommon occurrence for me. Also not uncommon has been my wife's reaction to my poor judgment. "Really? That's just like you to think objects are bigger than they are."

There are ways to get around the whole finding the right lid for the appropriate bottom debacle.

Aluminum foil is very forgiving when it comes to storing leftovers. There is no need to match a top with a bottom. If you tear off too large a sheet, all you have to do is fold it over a couple times. If the sheet is too small, tear off another one. Either way is quicker than finding the right lid. However, saving soup and other liquid leftovers in foil is messy.

Zippered plastic bags offer a solution of sorts. They're fast and easy to use - think yellow and blue make green. They do have limitations. From experience I know that pouring spaghetti sauce into a Ziploc bag presents challenges.

Of course, the ultimate solution is to have no leftovers at all at the conclusion of a meal. But that would no doubt lead to waste. Which brings me to another point. For all the hair-pulling time spent attempting to find a lid that is proper in size and shape, let's face it, once a container is placed in the refrigerator, it is forgotten and lost, pushed to the back with each successive leftover container that is shoved in. Is it any wonder why I can't find the exact lids I need? I'm looking in the wrong place. Instead of scavenging through the kitchen drawer I should be rummaging through the back of the refrigerator. Not only will I find sought after lids but I'm sure I'd be able to find a science project or two.

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It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

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for each. It sounds like a simple enough task doesn't it? All that is required is to put a square, round and oblong lid on their respective containers. Well things aren't always as easy as they look.

Part of a deep drawer in our kitchen is dedicated to storage containers and lids. Without exaggeration we must have seventy-five to a hundred lids of varying shapes and sizes. We have dark red ones and light red ones. There are pink ones and some that are multiple shades of blue. Some are white, some are clear. All are lined up on their sides jammed into a cardboard box. In a nod toward hoped-for organization and simplification, small ones are in the front and large ones are in the back. Sort of like the recess line at St. Albert the Great elementary school back in the old days when nuns who wore full habits used measuring sticks to ensure conformity.

Through the years my wife has purchased various sets of "storage systems," ultimately discarding the collection of Cool Whip containers that once served as our leftover holders. We have several Tupperware containers as well as an array of Glad, Rubbermaid and Ziploc. Each bottom requires its respective lid; there is no uniformity among the different brands, so using a Ziploc lid on a Rubbermaid bottom is out of the question even if they're both round. I miss the good old Cool Whip bowl days: one size container and one universal size lid. Bada bing, bada boom!

Thinking back, the whole endeavor of saving food as leftovers has often been a struggle for me. Not just finding the proper lid to go with the correct container but also judging the appropriate size to use

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Commentary

By Joe Reynolds
OceanPinesForum.com

OPA board election

Ballots for the election of candidates for three open seats on the Ocean Pines Board of Directors will be in the mail shortly to all association members eligible to vote.

Four candidates are on the ballot: Steve Jacobs, Stuart Lakernick, and Monica Rakowski are incumbents seeking re-election. Association member Amy Peck is the fourth candidate.

OceanPinesForum.com is endorsing candidates Steve Jacobs, Amy Peck, and Monica Rakowski, and suggests you cast your vote for these three candidates.

Steve Jacobs is a truly independent board member, among a group of six other sitting board members who for nearly two years voted unanimously on every motion to come before the board. As the only director elected

three years ago who was not supported by Stuart Lakernick's wife Esther Diller on her Get Involved Facebook page, Jacobs at times faced harassment and ridicule from the majority board members. His quiet, thoughtful demeanor was on display during the recent Candidates Forum. Jacobs deserves your vote and re-election.

Monica Rakowski over the last three years performed her role as a director and OPA Treasurer with quiet dignity. She never became involved to any extent in public board squabbles. While elected three years ago with strong support of the Get Involved group, Rakowski seems to have moved further and further away from her association with that group. Rakowski deserves your vote and re-election.

Amy Peck is passionate about OPA issues. Electing Peck would insure less

rubber-stamping of almost every board motion without a full analysis of the pros and cons. Peck researches every issue. Many times her views diverge from those of the sitting board majority of six, but are frequently on target. Whether one agrees with her or not, it is important to have at least one board member who is inclined to passionately challenge fellow board members with alternative researched views and opinion on important OPA issues. Peck deserves your vote and election.

There is a certainty Peck or Lakernick will be elected. There are three open seats and four candidates. Why not choose Lakernick?

Stuart Lakernick was elected three years ago, with strong support of his wife's Get Involved group. He is currently serving as OPA's President and Chairman of the Board of Directors. It cannot be said that Lakernick did a bad job as a director. However, during the course of the election campaign, Lakernick made some troubling statements regarding candidate Peck, not to mention publicly expressing strong support for the Elections Committee chairman who has expressed negative opinions about Peck.

Informed sources also tell *OceanPinesForum.com* that Lakernick was very supportive of just giving Matt Ortt a new contract as opposed to seeking bids from other companies. Those same sources say Esther Diller was somehow involved in advising Ortt regarding the abuse he was wrongfully submitted to during a controversy over an Ortt employee involved in a hit-and-run death. Lakernick did eventually vote to hire Touch of Italy.

Lakernick stated during the Candidate Forum that this current board does not always agree. Yet, the six board members other than Jacobs voted the same on every motion for nearly two years.

Then there is Lakernick's strange insistence on disagreeing publicly with Peck on *OceanPinesForum.com* and during the Candidates Forum, about issues Peck raised.

Peck publicly stated there were 435

CPI/DR violations handed out to association members in March of 2025. Lakernick wrote, "Contrary to what has been spouted on social media about 435 record breaking new violations in March. I have to tell you that that is flat out false." He also followed up and repeated that fake line during the Candidates Forum.

Why he would do so is strange in that Peck was quoting from statistics provided by OPA staff during a board meeting.

There is also the issue of handing out violations to association members with lots in a forest because they have leaves on their property. Lakernick, writing publicly, said it is only about cleaning ditches. Again, totally incorrect. OPA's own violation statistics show his comment as incorrect.

During the Candidates Forum, Lakernick publicly accused Peck of supporting a boycott of the Yacht Club and other Matt Ortt Companies operations in OPA during the major controversy around a tragic hit-and-run death involving an Ortt employee. Lakernick provided no facts to support his accusation. Peck denied the charge, saying her only comments about the Ortt management were relative to her desire to see the OPA Board of Directors seek bids on food and beverage service operations. The Board of Directors did exactly that and replaced Ortt with Touch of Italy.

At any rate, that is the background on the endorsements.

Agree or disagree with the endorsements. Just be sure to vote.

Finally, but very important, the election package will contain a ballot to vote on a referendum to fund about \$4 million for a new southside firehouse. It is sorely needed. A full explanation will be in the ballot package. Please vote YES on that referendum question.

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Courier Almanac

On July 9, 1993 British forensic scientists announce that they have positively identified the remains of Russia's last czar, Nicholas II; his wife, Czarina Alexandra; and three of their daughters. The scientists used mitochondria DNA fingerprinting to identify the bones, which had been excavated from a mass grave near Yekaterinburg in 1991.



Usage of over-the-counter headache medicines might be widely associated with adults, but children get headaches as well, and parents may wonder if youngsters can lean on the same remedies their parents look to when seeking relief. Nationwide Children's Hospital notes rest and relaxation is the best way to treat a headache, but parents also can utilize OTC medications like ibuprofen (Motrin, Advil), acetaminophen (Tylenol) or naproxen (Aleve) to help mitigate the symptoms of headache in children. Children's versions of popular OTC headache medicines such as Motrin can be utilized. Parents are urged to read all product labels and speak with their children's pediatricians before administering children's headache medicines. Such discussions are particularly important before giving older kids and adolescents OTC medications that are not designated as children's remedies.

**The
Courier**

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Plein air competition returns

The Worcester County Arts Council announced the return of its annual Paint Worcester County Plein Air Competition to be held September 14 to 19. The competition offers \$2,650 in cash prizes.

Artist registration is now open. The deadline is August 31.

Presented in partnership with the Worcester County Library Foundation, this competition invites artists to paint “en plein air” - the French term for painting outdoors - at locations of their choice throughout scenic Worcester County.

Artists are encouraged to capture the beauty and character of the local landscape, architecture, and community life in real time and natural light.

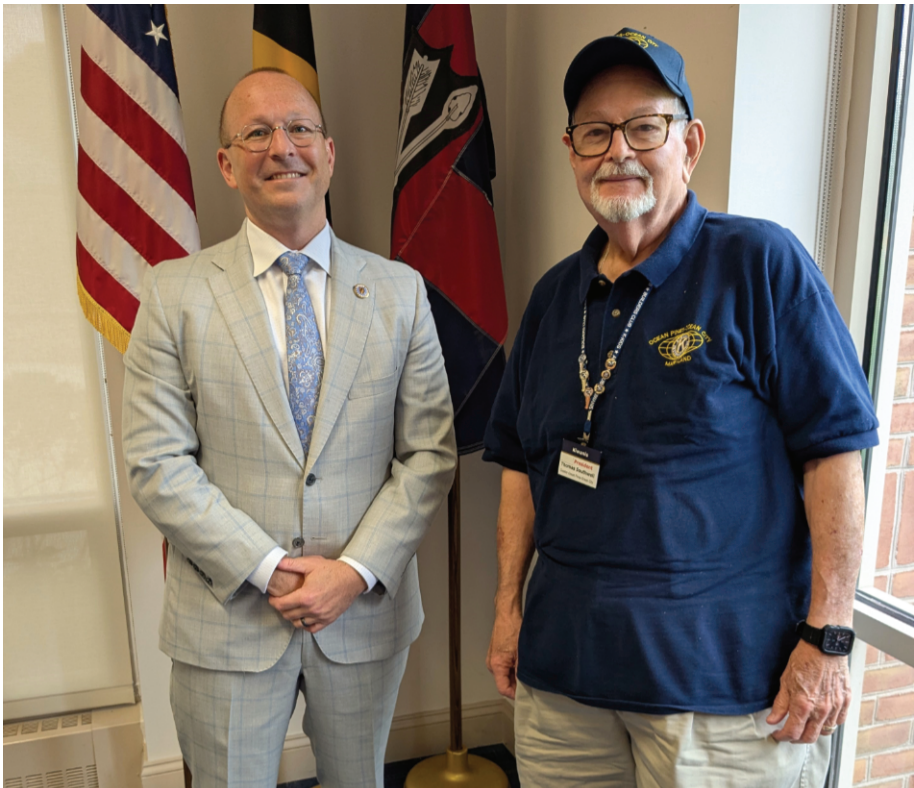
The weeklong event will culminate in a public exhibit and sale on Friday, September 19, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Berlin library meeting room located at 13 Harrison Avenue in Berlin. Cash prizes will be awarded and juror remarks will be

presented during the awards announcement on September 19. The selection of artwork will remain on view at the Berlin Library Gallery through October 22.

The exhibit is free and open to the public, providing a special chance to meet the artists and purchase original plein air artwork. Events like this invite the community to see the world through the eyes of talented artists, capturing the energy, spontaneity, and beauty of the moment through art created on location.

“Paint Worcester County celebrates the vibrant landscapes and artistic spirit of our community,” said Anna Mullis, Executive Director of the Worcester County Arts Council. “We’re thrilled to invite artists and art lovers alike to share in this creative journey.”

For registration details and competition guidelines please visit the Arts Council’s website: www.worcestercountycastle.org.



Worcester CAO informs Kiwanis

The guest speaker at the July 2 weekly meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Ocean Pines-Ocean City was the Worcester County Chief Administrative Officer Weston S. Young who has served for five years.

He spoke about many of the issues he deals with including County taxes, assessments, Homestead rates, water rates, the budget, salaries, schools, offshore wind and recreation and parks.

(L-R) CAO **Weston Young** and Kiwanis Club President **Tom Southwell**.

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Carozza, Hartman meet with feds to stop offshore wind project

Senator Mary Beth Carozza (District 38 – Maryland’s Coast), along with Delegate Wayne Hartman (District 38C), participated in a virtual meeting on June 30 with senior officials of the U.S. Department of the Interior to discuss the continued and growing opposition to the offshore wind project off Maryland’s Coast. Congressman Andy Harris (MD-01), who has been a lead opponent of Maryland’ offshore wind project, arranged the meeting.

During the meeting, Senator Carozza said that “the Town of Ocean City and partners to the lawsuit against Maryland’s offshore wind project were really given no other choice but to file a lawsuit. We have been opposing and raising serious questions and concerns on multiple fronts since 2017 without adequate response to the multiple negative impacts on our Maryland economy, marine environment, and health and safety issues.”

Senator Carozza and Delegate Hartman wrote a joint May 15 letter to U.S. Interior Department Secretary Doug Burgum in support of the Ocean

City and partners’ lawsuit against the Maryland offshore wind project to ensure that the project is reexamined and subjected to the President’s executive order which includes “bringing offshore wind energy approvals and permitting to a halt effective January 21, 2025.” The Maryland Department of the Environment granted the permit to construct to US Wind effective June 6, 2025.

“It was so refreshing to be in a meeting with federal officials and know that they truly were listening to our specific concerns about the negative impacts of the offshore wind project off Maryland’s Coast,” said Senator Carozza. “In the past, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management officials dismissed several ‘unavoidable’ negative impacts of Maryland’s offshore wind project as only small possibilities or having little impact. Now, we have federal officials who are doing a hard and detailed review of the many negative impacts of offshore wind genera-


please see meeting page 12



Luncheon - On Thursday, June 26 the Republican Women of Worcester County (RWWC), held their Annual June Red, White and Blue Luncheon at the Lighthouse Sound Restaurant. The guest speaker was Julie Harris, President of the National Federation of Republic Women (NFRW).

Seated left to right are NFRW President **Julie Harris** and **Sharon Carrick**, president of the Maryland Federation of Republican Women and standing left to right are Maryland State Senator, **Mary Beth Carozza**, RWWC President **Jean Delcher**, Worcester County Commissioner **Chip Bertino**, **Carol Frazier**, RWWC 1st vice president, **Nikki Beaver** of NFRW and **Gwen Crisafulli**, RWWC recording secretary.

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Recreational v. commercial vessel safety inspections

There are probably a half a million commercial vessels – freighters, cruise ships, tug boats, barges, dredges, ferries, excursion boats, police and fire department boats, commercial fishing boats and research

vessels - plowing US waters that need to be kept safe and secure. It's a daunting task for the 44,500 active duty members of the US Coast Guard who are responsible for maritime safety along 100,000 miles of coastline and on 500,000 square miles of water.

hailing device (flares, flags, SOS lantern), backfire flame arrestor on inboard gasoline engines, etc.



By comparison, the commercial vessels have more demanding requirements. Depending on their size and activity they may need to be documented with the federal authorities rather than registered with the state and display placards for garbage, oil, waste and injury. They will also be required to have a properly installed marine sanitation device, a boarding ladder, and lots of flares and smoke signals and may even be required to have an alcohol testing kit on board.

But the biggest difference between recreational and commercial vessel safety requirements is the extra personal gear that is required on commercial boats because of their inherently dangerous environs. For example, a 60-foot fishing trawler working out of West Ocean City with a crew of four that fish up to one hundred miles off shore must have an exposure suit for each person on board as well as a personal floatation device equipped with a light, a ring life buoy with 60' of line, a life raft, a marine radio and an automatically activated emergency position indicating radio beacon that will float free of a sinking vessel.

To help protect the recreational boating public from marine dangers and their own human errors, safe boating classes have been mandated and free vessel inspections have been codified to establish a minimum standard of expectation.

For the 11,000,000 boats, the free vessel inspections are conducted by either the USCG Auxiliary or the US Power Squadron. The inspections are voluntary and the reward for passing the inspection is the privilege of displaying a decal that lets the authorities know you are currently in compliance. It also makes it less likely that you will be selected for a random on-the-water inspection.

Recreation boat safety inspections are rather straight forward: current registration paperwork and boat number signage, working navigational lights, adequate personal flotation devices (life jackets and throwable cushions), sound producing device, anchor, fire extinguisher, emergency

Safety is so important. The bigger the boat, the more critical the issue such as fire. Either you get the fire out or you lose the ship. Recreational boats under 25' are required to carry one "5B" fire extinguisher. In a best case scenario, a "5B" will knock down about 5 square feet of a burning surface; but if the fire survives the onslaught of the extinguisher and a few desperate buckets of water, it will grow exponentially. At that point, life jackets and "mayday" calls may be the next plan of action.

Commercial vessels are better equipped to attack a fire at sea. Engine rooms such as on our sixty-foot fishing boat example are required to have a fixed fire suppression system installed that is inspected annually plus at least two type "5B" portable fire extinguishers.

Like the courtesy recreational boat safety inspections, the commercial dockside version is also free; but, un-

like a recreational boat, the commercial fishing boats must pass their inspection in order to do business and, in fact, can be fined for violations.

Besides scheduled inspections, the Coast Guard also performs random inspections of vessels that are underway and the boarding officer can order a vessel to return to port for certain deficiencies. Recreational boats that are overloaded, or taking on water or leaking fuel can be ordered off the water. A commercial vessel can have its voyage terminated if the vessel is deemed unseaworthy, or the crew fitness or citizenship is suspect or the monthly safety drills have not been documented.

Regardless of your size, get your boat inspected. It's free and it's important.

Stay safe. Stay dry.

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

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Film festival awards local production

“Warriors Beyond the Battlefield” was awarded Best Documentary in June 2025 at the Black Filmmakers Festival in Toronto, Canada. Beach to Bay Heritage Area helped produce the documentary with Unscene Productions. “Warriors Beyond the Battlefield: African Americans in the Armed Forces,” debuted at the Ocean City Film Festival in March of this year and won the Audience Choice Award for best short documentary.

The film highlights the untold stories of brave African Americans who have served in the United States military from the Civil War to present day. Featuring personal, emotional narratives and archival resources, the documentary explores struggles against racial injus-

tice, key contributions to American history, and the complex legacy of service and sacrifice.

The film has been entered in multiple other festivals throughout the country. The project was funded by a grant from the Maryland Department of Commerce and the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority.

The Black Filmmakers Festival is a monthly Documentary Film Festival in the heart of downtown Toronto at the Carlton Cinemas.

Showings of the documentary will be scheduled locally in early 2026.

For more information about the Beach to Bay Heritage Area visit beachesbayswaterways.org and to learn more about Unscene Productions visit unsceneproductions.com.

meeting

from page 10

tion off Maryland’s Coast.”

During the meeting, both Senator Carozza and Delegate Hartman underscored the strength of the partners in the Stop Offshore Wind movement including the Town of Ocean City; Worcester County, Maryland; Sussex County, Delaware; Maryland’s Coast State Delegation (Carozza and Hartman); Maryland’s federal representative Congressman Andy Harris; the tourism/hotel-motel-restaurant-business community; the commercial fishing industry, including horseshoe crab harvesting for life-saving medicines; the boating industry; the White Marlin Open Tournament and other local marinas and fishing tournaments; and thousands of residents from Maryland and beyond who have signed the Stop Offshore Wind petition.

“The U.S. Interior Department officials now are allowing us to

make the specific unique case for Maryland in opposing the offshore wind project,” said Senator Carozza. “We will continue making the case that the earlier process was rushed during the closing days of the Biden Administration with the economic impact numbers grossly underestimated when you factor in the loss of our West Ocean City Harbor and impact on our commercial fishing industry; devalued Ocean City residential and commercial properties; and the risk to our military operations given the presence of Patuxent River Naval Air Station in Maryland.”

“We want to thank Congressman Andy Harris for his leadership in opposing the offshore wind project in Maryland and in arranging this meeting for us with the U.S. Department of the Interior so we could continue to bring new information about the devastating impact of the offshore wind energy project on Maryland’s Coast,” said Senator Carozza and Delegate Hartman.

Kiwanis pancake breakfast returns

The Kiwanis Club of Ocean Pines-Ocean City will host their annual Summer Pancake Breakfast on Saturday July 12 in the Ocean Pines Community Center from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. The cost for adults is \$9 and admission for kids under 12 is \$5. Pancakes, sausages, scrambled eggs, orange juice, coffee and tea will be offered. Carryout is available. Proceeds benefit the youth of the community.

Quarter auction returns

The Church of the Holy Spirit, at 100th Street and Coastal Highway in Ocean City will host their annual fundraising quarter auction on July 28. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the games begin at 7 p.m. Attendees must be at least 18 years old.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call Jackie at 443-735-4275 or Marena at 443-944-3276.

success

from page 4

1,000 feet of tidal waters, which safeguarded bald eagle nest sites from development and disturbances.

DNR biologists and staff like Therres assisted both in on-the-ground nest protection and in collecting the data to track how the population was adjusting.

The department began its aerial surveys in 1977, taking over from earlier surveys conducted by the Audubon Naturalist Society (now Nature Forward). That year, scientists found only 44 breeding pairs, the lowest on record.

The survey ran for nearly 30 years, with one biologist and one pilot on each flight. They patrolled the areas within a few miles from large bodies of water, including the Bay, major tributaries, and reservoirs.

“It took a strong stomach and inner ear because we were flying donuts around the nests,” Therres said. The biologists would rely on their eyesight to see the nests; binoculars in the small moving plane would only increase the chances of making yourself sick. Luckily the nests were large, and the planes had high wings to increase visibility. The pilot was always someone skilled in flying low.

After an initial run in February or March, they would come back in May or early June to count the young eagles, when they were almost the size of adults but not yet flying. That made it “a little easier to see than when they’re a puffball the size of a grapefruit in a nest,” Therres said.

Bald eagles now nest in every county in Maryland and in Baltimore City. Nationally, bald eagles had been reclassified as “threatened” rather than “endangered” in 1995, and they were delisted in 2007.

Since DNR’s aerial surveys ended, the Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership (MBCP) has coordinated a nest monitoring program for bald eagles in the state. Volunteers submit nest locations and can act as nest monitors, providing valuable information into the regional status of the species.

“MBCP’s Bald Eagle Nest Monitoring Program is a great example of how anyone can help make sure eagles remain a common sight in Maryland,” said Gabriel Foley, executive director of the partnership. “The data our nest monitors provide help us understand nest success, population trends, and any potential threats to eagles. This information helps ensure effective conservation efforts.”

Though bald eagles face continued challenges, including avian flu’s still unclear effect on regional populations, bald eagle chicks across Maryland are leaving their nests this June and July. The Chesapeake Bay area is home to the highest concentration of bald eagles in the United States outside of Alaska, with its food system sustaining eagles from far and wide.

“Through the year, we have three pretty unique populations of bald eagles,” Brinker said. “There are local birds that are here all year long. Then southern breeding eagles disperse to the Chesapeake Bay to spend summer here because food resources are so good. And in the winter, northern populations that need a warmer place, they come down to the Chesapeake Bay.”

Joe Zimmermann is a science writer with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

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Kiwanis scholarships for SDHS students

Every year the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City, MD works hard to raise funds for scholarships awarded to graduating senior students in Worcester County.

At a recent Wednesday morning meeting scholarships were awarded to Stephen Decatur High School recipients.

(L-R) Kiwanis Club Scholarship Committee Chair **James Maratea**, recipients **Owen Sperry** (York College of Pennsylvania), **Payton Piercey** (Stevenson University), **Lily Olsen** (Salisbury University), **Lucas Magathan** (University of Maryland College Park), **Tirzah Hill** (Liberty University), **Graham Geiser** (University of Tennessee), **Ava Snelshire** received the Robert Wolfing Honor Scholarship (Hood College), **Angelina Li** received a Patricia Winkelmayer Memorial Scholarship (University of Maryland College Park), **Brooke Berquist** received the Roy Foreman Memorial Scholarship (University of Maryland College Park) and Kiwanis Club President **Tom Southwell**.

Art League awards college scholarships

The Art League of Ocean has awarded its 100th scholarship to Worcester County students seeking a degree or career in the visual or performing arts, continuing a tradition that began in 1991.

"The Art League's scholarship program has made significant community impact over the years and remains an important part of our mission," Amy Rothermel, Art League board member and chair of the scholarship selection committee, said. "Thanks to the generous support from our members and tributes to memorialize loved ones, we awarded our 100th scholarship this year."

The winners for 2025 are:

-Sascha Mete, Stephen Decatur High School, \$5,000 scholarship from the Sidney Beckstead Award.

-Tirzah Hill, Stephen Decatur High School, \$1,000 scholarship from the Katherine Ellen Brown Fund at the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore.

-Ana Pen Rodriguez, Stephen Decatur High School, \$1,000 scholarship from the Eva Fox Award.

-Ja'Mari Savage, Snow Hill High School, \$1,000 scholarship from the Jim Adcock Award.

-Ella Schloesser, Snow Hill High School, \$1,000 scholarship from the Inga Tuvevson Award.

-Jessica Beck, returning scholarship recipient, \$1,000 from the Schwab Family Scholarship, Paul & Emily Schwab.

-Aiden Clayton, returning college recipient, \$1,000 from the Katherine Ellen Brown Fund at the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore.

-Savannah Chisholm, returning college recipient, \$1,000 from the Macon Katherine Chandler Fund.

-Abbigale Weeks, returning college recipient, \$1,000 from the Vera Cross Scholarship, Virginia and Wayne Outten.

The Art League scholarship programs adhere to a nondiscrimination policy, in both principle and practice, and do not discriminate against candidates on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, marital status, or physical challenge.

Solembrino is new VP at Wor-Wic

Dr. Karie Solembrino, dean of health professions, was recently selected to fill the position of vice president for academic affairs at Wor-Wic Community College.

Solembrino has 25 years of higher education experience, starting in 2000 as a part-time faculty member at Wor-Wic. In 2007, she became department head and assistant professor of radiologic technology, and in 2019, she was appointed dean of health professions. She was a first-generation college student at Wor-Wic, where she was the board of trustees scholarship recipient for Wicomico County, and received her associate of applied science in radiologic technology. She has a bachelor of science degree from AdventHealth University in Orlando, Fla., and master of science and doctor of education degrees from Capella University in Minneapolis, Minn.

"As a community college president, it is not often you can celebrate a

person who started as a student and has risen through the ranks to an executive leader. I am incredibly excited for Dr. Solembrino both personally and professionally," said Deborah Casey, Ph.D., president of Wor-Wic. "She is truly inspiring and I look forward to her complementing the outstanding executive leadership team of Wor-Wic Community College."

Solembrino will be responsible for academic affairs and the continuing education and workforce development division, overseeing curriculum and course planning, as well as the development and evaluation of all programs and the coordination of the collegewide accreditation process.

"I am deeply honored to be selected as the next vice president for academic affairs," Solembrino said. "It is my privilege to serve the Wor-Wic faculty as we work together to support student success. I will partner with our outstanding faculty in creating positive learning experiences for students and providing relevant academic programs, certifications and continuing education opportunities to meet community needs."



Karie Solembrino

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What is a quiet room?

Why you should create one at home

Home for most people is a sanctuary that offers comfort, familiarity and a place to gather with family and friends. Although home can be a welcoming place, with so many people in the average household humming along from day to day, it may not always be the most serene setting.

From teenagers playing video games to video meetings in a home office to dogs barking at the postal worker doing daily rounds, there are plenty of potentially distracting sounds in and around a home. Lawn care workers with their mowers and blowers also may contribute to ambient noise. A dedicated quiet room can be beneficial for anyone, and most especially for people who experience sensory issues.

What is a quiet room? A quiet room is a space where a person can enjoy peace and quiet in a distraction-free environment. According to designer Rachel Cannon, “a quiet room is a sanctuary from the stimulation and overwhelm that we encounter every day.” A quiet room may go by various names, including a mindfulness room or cozy cove, but the common goal is to remove as many sensory distractions as possible so that an individual can disconnect from the outside world and reap some calming benefits. According to School Specialty, LLC, an education resource provider, schools are now providing quiet rooms for over-stimulated students, and homeowners can take similar cues to create these relaxing retreats at home.

How to create a quiet room. The first step in establishing a quiet room is to identify a location that is far away from the main action of the household. A bedroom, basement, nook in the garage, or even an attic can be a good spot for a quiet room.

Soundproofing the space can make it even more inviting. Sounds will bounce off walls and floors, but acoustic panels can help muffle noises. If acoustic panels are not in the design plan, thicker draperies, wallpaper, car-

peting, and wall art can help counteract echoes and noise infiltration. Soft furniture also can absorb sound.

Small rooms work better as quiet spaces, as such areas can feel cozier. Less is needed to decorate the space if it is on the smaller side. Bring in warm, soft lighting and soft decor. A sound machine playing favorite ocean or natural sounds also can mask outside noises even more.

Establish rules that govern how the quiet space is to be used. When someone is inside the area, they should not be disturbed. If possible, use the quiet room during naturally quiet times of



the day. Keep the room stocked with books, journals, crafting items, or whatever it is you need to unwind and relax.

Quiet rooms can be special retreats homeowners use to escape the hustle and bustle of a household.

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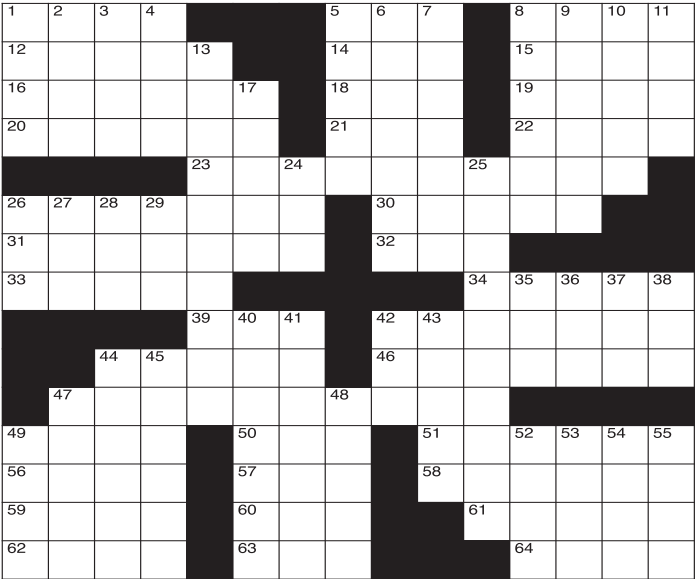
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CLUES ACROSS

1. 50 percent

5. Records electric currents

8. Charlize Theron flick “___ Flux”

12. More frosty

14. Disfigure

15. Sky color

16. A thoroughfare in a town or city

18. Actress de Armas

19. Spend time in a relaxed way

20. California peak

21. Lodging option

22. Small amount of a thing

23. Expresses sorrow

26. Keeps an ear warm

30. Babies (Spanish)

31. A conceited and self-centered person

32. No seats available
33. Pouches

34. Hip joints

39. A place to bathe

42. Evading

44. Minute, one-celled unit

46. Losing one’s hair

47. A country in W Africa

49. One point north of northeast

50. Pointed end of a pen

51. Extreme

56. Norse personification of old age

57. Doctors’ group

58. Member of U.S. Navy

59. Mens’ fashion accessories

60. A way to allow

61. Gloomy

62. Grads wear one

63. Between south and southeast

64. Jaguarundi cat

CLUES DOWN

1. Snakes do it

2. Hormone

3. The standard monetary unit of Turkey

4. Fixed charges

5. Electronic communication

6. Artilleries

7. “Strangers on a Train” actor Farley

8. Burning

9. Makes ecstatically happy

10. Greek liqueurs

11. Tropical Old World tree

13. Someone who takes vengeance

17. Style of cuisine

24. Select

25. Immunized against disease

26. Old world, new

27. Honorable title (Turkish)
28. Court case: ___ v. Wade

29. Supervises interstate commerce

35. Not divisible by two

36. Twelve

37. Commentator Coulter

38. Encourage

40. Plumbing fixtures

41. Early

42. One point north of due east

43. King of Thebes

44. Short-tailed martens

45. Impose a penalty on

47. Consort of Poseidon

48. A way to lessen

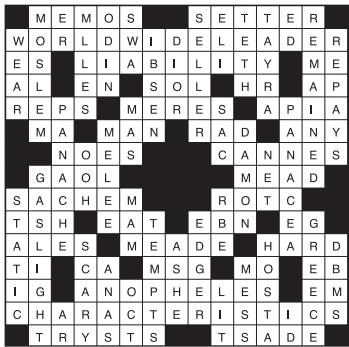
49. Brooklyn hoops team

52. Female of a horse

53. Do as one is told

54. A way to prepare meat

55. Unit of measurement



Answers for July 2

Some things to think about

Gathered from the internet
by **Jack Barnes**



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JUL 10 Uptown Band

JUL 17 Whiskey Graves

JUL 24 Colossal Fossil Sauce

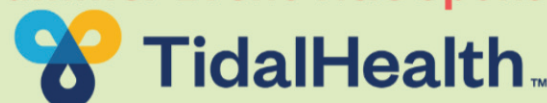
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