

The Courier

September 10, 2025 Volume 26 Number 2

One of a kind

It's All About...

Joe Reynolds

By Chip Bertino

Finding words to write this week has been difficult - an exercise in futility akin to chasing a raindrop in a storm.

My friend passed away last week. More accurately, my *very good* friend Joe Reynolds died last Wednesday afternoon.



I am sad. I am feeling a great big empty. I am not alone.

I ask your indulgence as I reminisce about some experiences shared with Joe through the decades. Despite his public persona, Joe was a private person. Hopefully he wouldn't mind my brief walk down memory lane.

The first thing to know about Joe is that he was very fortunate to have Jeanette as a wife. They were together 66 years. Jeanette rounded out any sharp edges Joe may have had - not all of them, but a great many. In their presence, you felt the good fortune Joe had with Jeanette.

Joe had a sense of humor and appreciated it in others. If humor is an indication of intelligence, Joe had both in abundance.

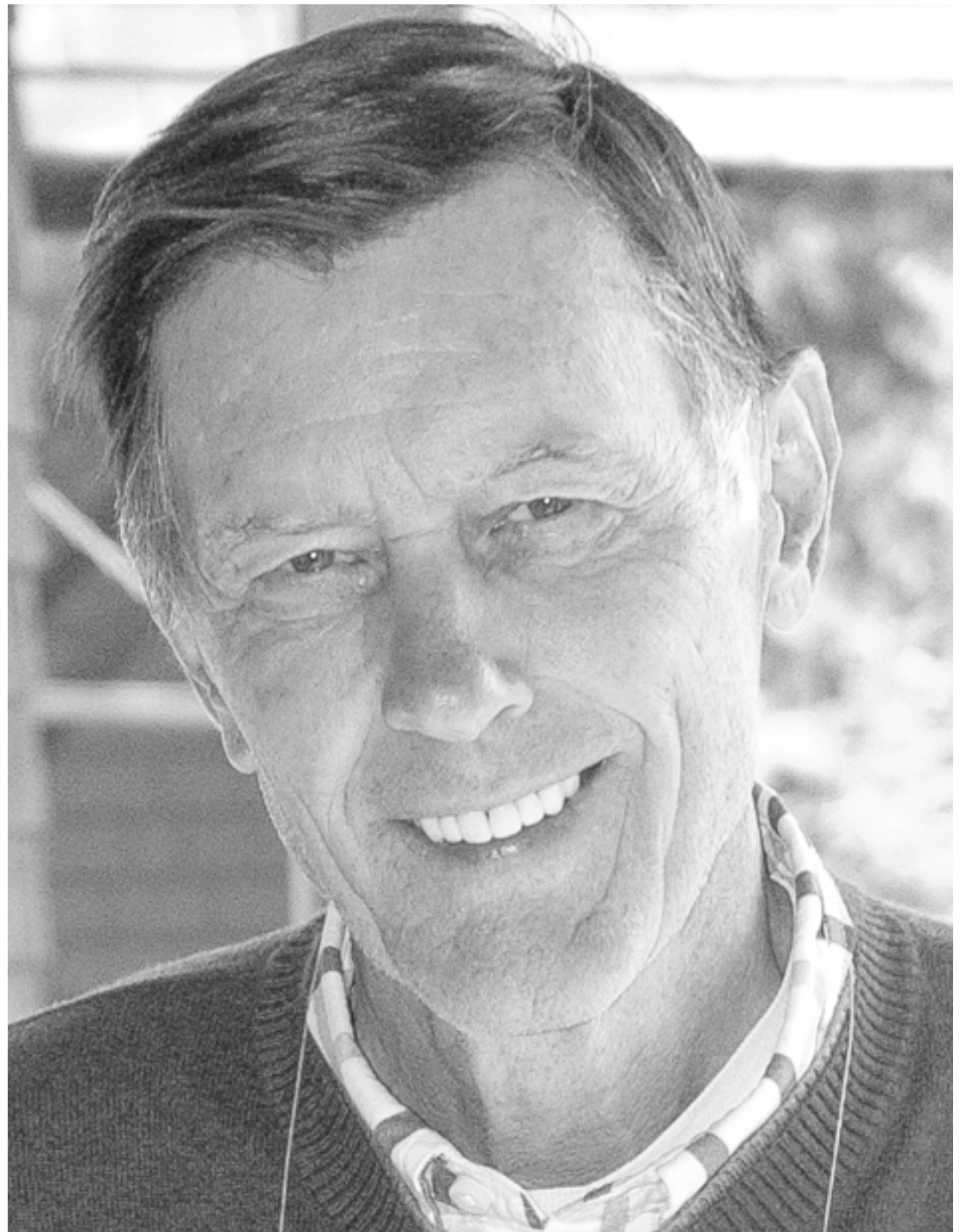
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Publisher's Note: This week's issue of *The Courier* is a special tribute edition to Joe Reynolds who passed away Wednesday, September 3. He was 86.

As host of *OceanPinesForum.com*, a site he created more than 20 years ago, Joe was a fixture in the Ocean Pines community. He avidly covered and commented on Ocean Pines Association meetings and politics.

He was an avid fisherman, photographer and conversationalist, known to many as the "Great Stirrer" for his habit, and some say enjoyment, of asking questions about and providing commentary on controversial topics.

Some regular features do not appear this week and will return in next week's edition.



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For reasons I don't understand, much less can explain, when Joe and I were together, we often wound up laughing. Our wives said we giggled like children. Although I cannot share the story here, Joe once attempted to



to a frustrating degree.

On primary election night 2014 when I first ran for commissioner, a group of friends gathered at my house on The Piazza to await the returns. When they came in, I was ahead by only eight votes. While everyone else was bucking up my spirits with predictions of ultimate victory following the absentee ballot count, Joe said, "You know you can still lose." Thanks Joe.

Joe once invited me to go fishing on his boat.

Joe and I laughing about something during my birthday party a number of years ago

If my memory is correct the boat was an 18-foot catamaran type with an outboard motor. "I caught fish off the coast last week," he told me. So, out we went through the inlet into the ocean. I don't know how far we went. Land was not in

sight. Joe concentrated on his fish finder. Eventually, we stopped and threw our lines over. Nothing. We moved. Nothing again. We moved about three times with the same results. Joe decided we'd try another location. We pulled in our lines. He turned the ignition key. Nothing. Joe tried again. Nothing. I'm thinking this is quite a mess we're in. We can't see land. We're in a small boat with an engine held together with chewing gum, spit and wire. Calmly, Joe went back to the engine, removed the cowl and with a screw driver adjusted something or other. The engine started and we headed in.

A couple days later, Joe wondered why he had caught fish the week before but caught nothing when he and I went out. His conclusion? I was to blame - not only for the lack of fish but the problems with the engine. He never invited me to go fishing again.

Nearly 20 years ago, the Republican Women of Worcester County hosted a delegation of Mongolian women who were running for office in their native land. The intent of the visit was to show them American politics as well as the American way of life. Much to my wife's initial chagrin, I offered to host a dinner for the dele-

gation. Because we were in the middle of some home renovations, I imposed on our friends Bob and Sheri Lassahn to have the event at their house. My wife was not happy with me. Fortunately, Bob and Sheri were good sports and liked the idea.

We decided to serve a traditional Thanksgiving dinner.

Among those in attendance were Joe and Jeanette Reynolds, Jack and Andrea Barnes, Bill and Dolores Pike, Al and Roseann Bridgman and Sharyn O'Hare. In total there were about 40 people sitting at a very long, cloth covered expanse of cobbled together folding tables that extended from the dining room through to the living room. The Mongolian women were pleasant but even though they spoke English the conversation was stilted. Finally, Joe asked one of the women what she liked to drink at home. She answered vodka. Joe turned to Bob, "Bob, do you have vodka?" Without missing a beat, Bob went to his freezer and pulled out a bottle of vodka. Sheri grabbed a bunch of glasses and we were off to the races. After a couple of toasts, the stiffness dissolved into laughter and song and dance - yes dancing. One of the Mongolian women grabbed Joe and started twirling him around teaching him a traditional Mongolian dance. He loved it.

Baagi, a woman of presence, was the delegation leader. At one point in the evening, she presented my wife and me with gifts to thank us for hosting them. During her post-vodka remarks, she commented that I had a "big fat nose" which brought the house down with laughter. A week or so later, after the delegation had departed, a bunch of us gathered at the Marina Deck restaurant that used to be in Pennington Commons. My wife and I were the last to arrive. When we entered, there was Joe, and everyone else, wearing a red foam clown nose to remind me that I had a "big fat nose."

Denovo's restaurant was a favorite gathering place for many years. At



"King Joe" with his court at breakfast around 2010. Dave Stevens, Jack Barnes, me and Jeff Knepper.

first they were open only for lunch and dinner. Eventually Bob and Kelli Beck decided to serve breakfast. On that first morning, Joe had the idea that a group of us should show up at 6 a.m. still dressed in our pajamas and bathrobes to have breakfast. And that's what we did. He had a blast.



Bob Lassahn and Joe at the "pajama breakfast" at Denovo's.

Fifteen or so years ago, Joe set up a weekly Friday morning breakfast group. He referred to himself as "The King" at these gatherings. The original regulars were Jeff Knepper, Dave Stevens, Jack Barnes, Ron Fisher and me. The conversation was diverse and at times spirited. Inevitably, Joe would say something to spark animated discourse, as if throwing a lighted match into a pool of gasoline. Then he sat back satisfied to watch the spectacle. Each breakfast normally ended when Ron told a silly joke. "What did the salmon say when he hit a concrete wall? Dam."

There were two rules that governed the breakfast: what was said at the table, stayed at the table and, you had

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Joe learning a traditional Mongolian dance

When he spoke, he did not pepper his discourse with expletives. Rather, he seasoned his comments with reason, logic, fairness and fact, leaving rancor and malice untouched. He could detect phoniness a mile away. He was straightforward - sometimes

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to tip \$5 to the server regardless of how small your tab was.

Through the years faces around the table changed. So did the venue when Denovo's closed. We moved to the Country Club. When it closed temporarily, the breakfast moved to Abi's Diner.



"Big Fat Nose" reminder at the Marina Deck restaurant.

Through the years, Joe always kept the conversation interesting by bringing up controversial topics or asking pointed questions – always with a glint in his eyes. He loved to be the "Great Stirrer."

Joe was best known locally for *OceanPinesForum.com*, a site he hosted for more than 20 years. *OceanPinesForum.com* was a go-to source for information, news and community opinion within our Ocean Pines community. The *Forum* gave members space to comment, rant,



Joe and I enjoying dessert a couple years before the "lemon meringue" incident.

question and debate topics of wide range. In the center of it all was Joe. He was a fixture around the community and at OPA board meetings. He raised and illuminated issues of consequence and nonsense seven days a week, 365 days.

Joe never allowed the *Forum* to toil in the long shadows of low-road rant. He allowed no foul language or personal attacks. He welcomed controversial discussion but forbade disrespectful discourse.

Joe did not hold a grudge. He just didn't have it in him to do so which proves two things. First, he was a decent man. Second, he wasn't Italian.

He questioned, debated and sometimes even mocked issues and ideas. But when it came to individuals, regardless of their politics or beliefs, he was accepting to a fault. He was unique that way. Unfortunately, not everyone felt the same way about him.

During the recent OPA election his commentaries, straightforward and unbiased as always, rankled some folks. At this year's annual meeting, he extended his hand in friendship to three individuals. Each one rebuffed him with unkind comments. Joe was bothered by the experience and uncharacteristically shared his dismay with some of us.

Joe and I were friends a long time before I was elected Commissioner in 2014. After I was elected, he did not shy away from expressing his ire about particular issues, usually when they had to do with the Ocean Pines water/wastewater plant. Whenever there was a commissioner meeting agenda item about the Ocean Pines plant, I knew Joe would be calling me to question in detail the county's intentions. And, when I write 'in detail' that's an understatement. Admittedly, there were times when I saw his name flash on my caller ID that I didn't want to answer. I always did, well, not always. Sometimes I called him back later.

For many years, a group of us spent New Year's Eve at Bob and Sheri Lassahn's home. Even after Bob passed away, we still gathered. The group eventually included Joe and Jeanette, Bob and Sheri, Sheri's sister Peg, Judy

Giffin, Bob and Marie Gilmore and my wife and me.

One year, we arrived at around 4 p.m. planning to stay only until about 8 or so. Before we knew it, it was just a couple minutes before midnight. Food, drink, storytelling and conversation made time fly. Joe had a way of prodding everyone around the table to tell a story. He especially prodded Bob Gilmore who tells the funniest stories about his experiences working with Bell Telephone. Joe would ask Bob to tell the same stories over and over, year after year. Joe laughed hard with each telling. It was as if he was hearing the story for the first time. Joe had a contagious laugh. He also had a sweet tooth.

One of Joe's favorite desserts was lemon meringue pie, mine as well. I learned this when my wife and I joined Joe and Jeanette at Denovo's for dinner. After the meal, the waitress asked about dessert. Joe and I both said we'd like the lemon meringue. The waitress returned apologetically with the only remaining slice. Joe didn't miss a beat, "I'll take it." I don't remember what I had as a substitute but I do remember Joe making sure I saw how much he was enjoying his pie.

Through years, Joe special-requested from my wife homemade lemon meringue pies, usually for his birthday but other times as well. It was just a few weeks ago when she delivered a last pie.

As a gifted photographer, Joe was seemingly always snapping pictures. These past few days I've been sifting through photos, recalling parties, holidays, gatherings and events shared with Joe and Jeanette. I realized that many of the pictures were taken by Joe and so he was not in the picture. I also realized that three of my favorite pictures of my wife and me, framed and hanging in our house, were taken through the years by Joe.

Joe enjoyed good company, good conversation, good food and good times. During one of those New Year's gatherings at Bob and Sheri's, someone pondered what is the definition of fine dining. Is it linen napkins and fine china? Expensive fare? Joe lis-

tened to all of us before answering. "Fine dining is this," he said, "Sitting around this table enjoying the company of these people." That was one of Joe's many talents, cutting through the superfluous to state what was important.

Life is a sequence of experiences forged by trial and tribulation, success and failure, joy and sorrow. It is cast with main and supporting characters who enter and exit the stage that is our life. As a result, we are influenced and molded by those interactions. Joe was a main character on my stage who exited too soon.

Last Friday, the remaining regulars of the Friday breakfast - John and Camille Viola, Elaine Brady, Ken Koroknay, Jack Barnes and me - Linda Martin could not make it - met for breakfast to toast Joe. At his place was

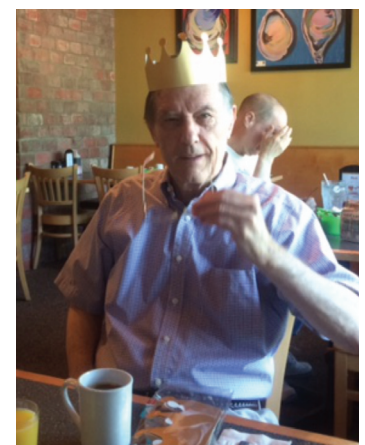


The Group - (seated) Marie Gilmore, Sheri Lassahn and Peggy Davis. (standing) Joe, Judy Giffin, me, Jeanette, Susan Bertino and Bob Gilmore.

served a cup of coffee, a glass of orange juice and a blueberry pancake.

He is gone. He is not forgotten. As long as he is remembered fondly by someone with whom he came in contact, his memory will endure. Given the impressions Joe made on so many people during his time among us, his memory will live forever and a day.

All hail "The King!"



Obituary

John Joseph Reynolds III (Joe) passed away peacefully on Wednesday, September 3, 2025 at his home in Ocean Pines. He was 86. He was the son of the late John Joseph Reynolds, Jr. and Dorothy (McKenna) Reynolds.

During a long career in writing and photography, Reynolds was an active member of the Outdoor Writers Association of America and served on the association's Board of Directors. After a successful career as a full-time freelance writer and photographer, including an eight-year stint as Eastern Editor for *Field & Stream* magazine, Joe and his wife Jeanette moved to Ocean Pines on Maryland's Eastern Shore in 1989.

Reynolds received numerous awards for his writing and photography, including selection for the coveted Nikon Outdoors Photographers Showcase. The State of Maryland selected Reynolds as Travel Writer of the Year in 1982. He also received the Gurney Godfrey Award, presented by the Maryland Fly Anglers, for "Outstanding Achievements and Continued Dedication to Conservation as Related to Maryland Fishing."

In 1985 he was given an Honorary Life Membership in the Canadian Master Anglers Association, known as "the world's most exclusive group of sport fishermen."

He was a lifelong, avid fly fisherman, and hosted the Maryland Public Television series *Goin' Fishin'* produced by Anne Darlington in the early 1970s.

Reynolds was one of the pioneers in developing online communities, beginning in the early 1980s with outdoors-related forums on CompuServe. Those communities became some of the most popular on CompuServe until Reynolds left in 2000. He also developed successful forums on The Microsoft Network over a two-year period. A Microsoft press release at the time called Reynolds one of the "super stars" of the Internet. In 1995, Reynolds and Outdoors Network received accolades and a nomination for the coveted ComputerWorld-Smithsonian Awards for "Heroic Achievement in Information Technology" for creating Outdoor Bytes, a magazine-on-a-disk. A copy of the project is in a time capsule at the Smithsonian.

In 2004 Reynolds created the *OceanPinesForum.com* website where for over 20 years community members and officials of the Ocean Pines Association, the second largest HOA in Maryland, discussed issues related to all aspects of the community and management of the HOA. As publisher and editor, he wrote extensively about news, life and politics in Ocean Pines. He doggedly pursued presenting facts to his readership. *OceanPinesForum.com* was named Business of the Year by the Ocean Pines Area Chamber of Commerce in 2007.

Working with local community leaders and state legislators, Joe was instrumental in ensuring passage of state legislation to provide the Ocean Pines Association with annual impact funding from Ocean Downs Casino.

Joe is remembered for his sense of humor, integrity, fairness and humility. He enjoyed boating and spending time with his family most of all.

He is survived by his wife of 66 years Jeanette (Daum), daughter Jennifer (Christopher), three granddaughters, Julia, Jessica and Anna, as well as his brothers Michael, Mark (Jean) Paul (Marie) and Carroll (Paulette).

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his son, John Joseph Reynolds IV.

Services will be announced at a later time.



Remembrances

The Courier invited members of Joe's family and friends to share remembrances about Joe.

Living with Joe for 66 years
was quite an adventure. It was never dull. He was like a box of chocolates. You never knew what you were going to get.

As an avid fisherman, he fished often. He and a buddy would usually leave early in the morning about 4 a.m. to fish. Well, on one of their trips they headed for the Susquehanna River. When they got there the floodgates were open and the river was high.

I received a call from Joe about 4:30 in the afternoon and I asked him where he was. His answer? I'm in Florida. What? Florida? He said the fishing was bad so they went to BWI, hopped on a plane and went to Florida where the fishing is good. He told me he would wouldn't be home that night.

And so it was with Joe.

Jeanette Reynolds

My dad was many things. He was an outdoorsman, a photographer, a writer, a moderator, and most of all an innovator. He started off studying



engineering, and at the heart, I believe that's what he was. In the true sense of an engineer, he was a problem-solver. A man of action. Wherever he saw there was a need, he filled it.

Wherever he saw there was a problem, he solved it. He LIVED a full life. He lived a big life. He left a big space. For now, we will try to fill this space with stories and memories. My dad led by

example. He raised me to believe I could be anything and do anything - because he always did. And if he did, then so could anyone else. From his beginnings as a development estimator, he couldn't deny his passions for the outdoors and that eventually took over his career. He confidently hosted a TV show, published a magazine and launched his career as an outdoor photo-journalist. As the innovator that he always was, he saw the future online and quickly pivoted his written publications into online forums where he led thousands of people in a variety of online forums sharing their passion for the outdoors. As his passion grew to include Ocean Pines, he founded the Ocean Pines forum to support and serve the community.

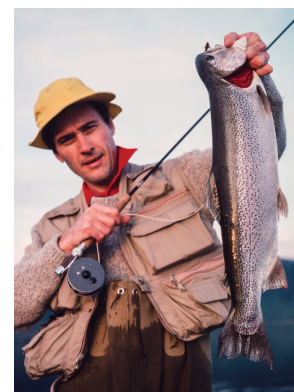
Above all, my dad was a family man. He loved his family deeply. Not a day would pass that he wouldn't ask about his granddaughters, of whom he was so proud. And as we know, my mom was his world. He was a great man. He inspired me every day. I am forever grateful and proud to be his daughter.

Jennifer Fucci

Joe and Jeanette's daughter

Joe was a world class fly fisherman and caught many record

breaking fish. One day he caught a Maryland record breaking fish and at the end of the day, packed up his fishing equipment and the fish and put them in the trunk of his car. Two



days later he gets in the car and the smell of rotten fish grosses him out. Instead of checking the fish at the weigh-in station to get the record, he wound up with a smelly car. Joe was the smartest person I've ever know, but even he forgot the big fish.

Mark Reynolds

Joe's brother



The Reynolds family - Joey, Jennifer, Joe and Jeanette

Uncle Joe had an off the charts level of curiosity and love of learning new things with zero fear. Just asked questions, researched and learned anything he found interesting. Amazingly bold in a quiet way. One of a kind.

Kristy Brown
Joe's niece

Joe was a man of action! He could quickly assess any problem and he would step right up to help solve it.



He would never allow anyone to be taken advantage of or bullied. He was a knight in shining armor. He was very intelligent and approached every situation smoothly and knowledgeably - not emotionally. For example: My mother & I had a water issue in our basement. A company offered to come in and fix it for \$14K. Joe knew that we were being taken advantage of, knew how much it should have cost (\$4K) and took control of the situation by calling the company and shaming them for taking advantage of women in need. Then declined the lesser offer of \$4K.

Fran Daum
Joe's sister-in-law

The best times with Joe. We would sit around our dining room table with our dinner group and Joe would ask what is fine dining. Every-

one would get a good laugh. We would sit around the dining room table from 5 o'clock to at least 10 o'clock and never ran out of things to say. At some time in the night the camera would come out and it would take a long time to get the perfect picture. Joe would then look over the table and say to Peggy you are talking too much. So many laughs.

Sheri Lassahn

It's so hard when we lose a good friend, but especially hard when that person had such a dynamic personality. He was so much a part of our lives, for so many years, that I think we will always feel his presence when we gather together. The conversations will inevitably gravitate toward "what Joe would have said" about this or that. And that's a good thing!

Joe loved for me to prepare Italian dishes. It gave me great joy to cook for my friends and Joe never failed to compliment me. Each one of the ladies in our little group of friends had specialties that we liked to prepare, or treats we knew he liked. He always reminded us when he was in the mood for, whatever. And we always did our best to accommodate him.

Joe was a mentor. Not just to me, I know that. His advice was "usually" sound, and often taken. I miss that already! He was my sounding board.

We loved him. We will miss him terribly, but we have Jeanette to hold close, hug more often and remind us of Joe. RIP dear friend! "

Marie Gilmore

It had always been a pleasure to be in the company of Joe and

Jeanette Reynolds! I'll fondly remember relaying comical stories that would tickle his funny bone. When together with friends he would frequently ask me to repeat some of the favorites that he truly enjoyed! I will miss him!

Bob Gilmore

Joe made me feel special when we had a conversation ... he listened. Joe was at most OP meetings, celebrations and memorial events with ... his camera. Joe always asked the hard question determined to receive ... an answer. Joe loved his family, his friends and ... Susan's lemon meringue pie. Joe and Jeanette are an important part of my life and he will be missed ... by many.

Judy Giffin

Time with Joe was never boring. The conversation was always interesting and lively. His love of life was contagious. He was a gracious, kind, funny, wonderful gentleman. Joe was all about good friends, good food and good times. My greatest hope is that he is enjoying his lemon meringue pie right now.

Susan Bertino



Joe Reynolds will be missed. Due to his tremendous impact on Ocean Pines over the years, Joe's passing will leave a lasting impact. It's more than sentiment; it's truth. He wasn't just a resident, he was a pillar of the community, passionate and outspoken about his vision for its future shared on his Ocean Pines Forum or personally. His legacy lives on not only through his family, but through the community he helped shape. Attending more Board meetings than anyone else I know, a keen memory for detail and an uncanny ability to not hold personal grudges regardless of those with whom he may disagree. In many ways Joe was a legend who leaves a legacy without compare. In Joe's own words that I heard many times throughout the years "That's a fact."

Jack Barnes



Joe and Jeanette with their son-law **Chris**, daughter **Jenny** and their granddaughters **Julia**, **Jessica** and **Anna**



Joe with his brothers

Enough can't be said about Joe Reynolds. As we have all witnessed, his love of our Ocean Pines community was evident. Whether he spoke or wrote, he expressed his views in an honest, but respectful, manner to make Ocean Pines the best that it could be. Joe Reynolds will forever be Ocean Pines.

On a personal level, John and I held Joe in high regard, as a friend and mentor. Our prayers and thoughts are with Jeannette and Jennifer and the Reynolds family during this more than difficult time.

John and Camille Viola

Joe loved a good debate with good reasoning and facts on both sides. He liked when people challenged his viewpoint with facts and not just opinion. He was a wealth of information about Ocean Pines. He forgot more about the history of Ocean Pines than most of us will ever know.

Joe expressed strong feelings about a few people on his way out. He left on his terms.

Ken Koroknay

Joe and I may not have agreed on various topics over the years, but he served our community well for many years. Ocean Pines is a much better place for the service he provided. I learned an enormous amount of history by following The Forum. His institutional knowledge of OP was amazing. I'll miss the breakfast conversations and fun banter.

John Latham

Joe was instrumental in bringing our community together when he developed the Ocean Pines Forum in 2004. The Forum gave us an outlet not only for information but also became a space to share opinions and lively debates. His offer to

have me do the final post in honor of my dad is something I will cherish. Joe was one of a kind and will be remembered fondly by many.

Elaine Brady

Joe's passing has left many saddened. While there are many things to say about Joe, I will miss his photography skills. Joe knew just how to use the light, composition and color to tell a story even hundreds of words could not.

Monica Rakowski

I will miss my occasional phone conversation with Joe. We would spend 30 or more minutes on the phone, usually with him telling me what I have done wrong and as I tried to explain the volume would rise just a bit. He reminds me of a family relative that we all have who would be described as "right or wrong but never in doubt". We shared a deep enjoyment about the political machinations that go on here in Ocean Pines and in the county, state and nation.

Early in my time on the Board, I ran afoul of Joe's views when I offered to continue previous work done by on an ethics resolution. Joe took to the forum and went after me in no uncertain terms. After a few days I called him and told him that I had just returned from the doctor's office and that the multiple arrows he shot up my a __ has been successfully removed. We both enjoyed a good laugh and went on talking about what was going on in Ocean Pines.

Steve Jacobs

Joe Reynolds created a perfectly named online space where users could share opinions, information and exchange ideas on topics that ultimately affected Ocean Pines. We were reminded of the origin during the last few weeks of the Forum that proved to be the last few weeks of Joe Reynolds. Still hard to process. It was so nice seeing Joe around during those last few weeks and I will miss that. I will also miss Joe's one of kind ability to debate opinion. We all know that opinions are views or judgements that may not be based upon fact or knowledge of the subject. Joe was a master of bringing facts or true statements into opinion sharing. In my opinion, that was the Forum. His deep knowledge, experience, ability to quickly research and ultimately, eloquently write was what I enjoyed and kept me coming back every day to read. His love of his family, the English language, photography, good food and drink, fishing and Ocean Pines were infectious.

Jeff Heavner

Words that come to mind to describe Joe is kind-hearted, compassionate, and caring. He was proud of his family, often talking about his wife or daughter. He was also proud of living in Ocean Pines, taking interest in meetings, articles that he read, and in the last year joining Facebook to keep up with the other side of the story, occasionally commenting that "you can't make this stuff up" — a phrase he mentioned numerous times on the Ocean Pines Forum.

Joe had a way of trying to get a reaction out of people, which we referred to as "stirring the pot". While his opinions were not meant to be mean-spirited, they did not set well with some, but knowingly he just did so to start a conversation with sometimes even changing his mind and finally agreeing with the other person.

I will miss Joe, his infectious smile and laugh, and mostly his support of not only me but all the OPA employees.

Linda Martin

I was assigned to cover Ocean Pines for the *Bayside Gazette* in 2014 — and at the time all I knew about the place was the guitar player from "Tranzfusion" used to live there. Joe Reynolds' "Ocean Pines Forum" was my version of Cliff Notes, and I joined and almost instantly regretted it.

There was so much CONTENT! It was almost impenetrable at first. But, for a determined reporter, it was also a goldmine. Two years later, I had on my wall at work a printed out exchange from The Forum between Joe and then OPA President Dave Stevens. Joe asked about the content of a recent closed Board meeting. Dave told him, "I'm sure you can read all about it in the Gazette tomorrow." I was a quick study — but Joe was a fantastic teacher.

When I started showing promise as a reporter, Joe quickly warmed up to me. We would talk about photography — I ALWAYS envied his talent and tried to learn what I could from him. He was also a fantastic writer with a particular knack for summing up complex, sometimes quite obscure topics in a way that was both highly readable — and often very witty and funny.

Over the years, friends and colleagues complained about Joe's razor-sharp satire. "The thing about Joe," I would tell them, "is he's only really in it to amuse himself — don't take it too personally."

Behind all that, Joe was a sweet, kind, and warm guy. I miss my friend. I'll miss trying to make him laugh (he had an excellent laugh)! I'll miss bouncing ideas off of him, and I'll miss sitting back and watching him stir the pot into a frenzied boil.

There will never be another Joe Reynolds.

Josh Davis

It's challenging for me to put in a statement my thoughts and feelings for Joe Reynolds; how good a dear friend, family man, dedicated Ocean Pines and Worcester County community person, leader, straight shooter, and decent soul Joe was.

Joe's brand of politics and the political choices he based his decisions and choices upon were the "person;" their genuineness, work ethic, integrity, and who they were as a person not parties or brands.

My visual of Joe is "an on the scene reporter," camera hanging around his neck, note pad and pen in hand, to catch and report the action and real time candid atmosphere of the specific happening/situation.

May God bless Joe with peace and eternal rest while comforting and strengthening Jeanette, his daughter, family, love ones, and friends at this time and always.

Jim Mathias



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Corbett finds bluebird of happiness in the Pines

By **Elaine Bean**

Nancie Corbett always had dreams. She wanted to run a nursery and farm stand similar to the popular Valley View Farms in Cockeysville, Maryland where she worked at her very first job. She wanted to grow the perfect tomato. She wanted a garden where the public could cut their own flowers. And she wanted to support local farmers and artisans.

In 2013, Corbett opened Bluebird Farms on Racetrack Rd. in Ocean Pines, and 12 years later, has fulfilled all but one of those dreams. She gave up on growing the perfect tomato. “It was a lot of time,” she said. “I have real respect for the growers I

get tomatoes from. I sell from local and regional farmers rather than try to grow them myself.”

Corbett has created a space at Bluebird Farms where farmers, many who may not have the means to operate a farm stand or be members of a farmers’ market, are able to sell their products to local consumers. She buys produce from as close to home as possible so it will be the perfect ripeness and freshness, and she follows the growing seasons.

Areas providing produce to Blue-

bird Farms include southern Delaware, the Salisbury area, and southern Pennsylvania. For some items, like peaches, she’ll buy all the way from Georgia. “We don’t buy from too far away, Corbett said. “Sometimes, they’ll grow things for shipping but not for the taste. That’s why we try to buy as close as possible. And it keeps the cost down to procure it.”

In addition to an array of fresh seasonal produce, Bluebird Farms fea-

tures a large cutting garden currently blooming with lisianthus, sunflowers and zinnias, baked goods, and local honey, and the public is welcome to come and cut bouquets.

“Since we opened, I’ve added artisan and different vendors,” she said. “That’s always been my business model – for people to have a space to sell their products.”

please see happiness page 13



Courier Almanac

On September 10, 1977, at Baumettes Prison in Marseille, France, Hamida Djandoubi, a Tunisian immigrant convicted of murder, becomes the last person executed by guillotine.

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Professionals might be returning to work in offices after years of pandemic-related remote work, but that doesn't mean home buyers aren't still prioritizing home office space when shopping for a new place to call their own. According to a recent survey of home buyers conducted by the National Association of Home Builders, 66 percent would prefer to buy a home with exactly one home office space and 13 percent want at least two offices. Just one in five buyers indicated they do not want any home office space. The majority of buyers who want home office space prefer a medium-sized space, which the NAHB defined as between 100 and 150 square feet. Just 22 percent of buyers prefer a home office space larger than 150 square feet, while only 19 percent want a small space (less than 100 square feet). The NAHB survey indicates the enduring popularity of home office spaces, recognition of which can be particularly useful for current homeowners preparing to put their homes on the market as well as those looking to add office space.



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With great excitement, we are thrilled to announce the return of a beloved tradition, our 2025 Bethany Travel Three-Day Travel Show! Before COVID, this event was a major highlight and a driving force for our business, and now, with more and more people discovering the beauty of Southern Delaware and Maryland's Eastern Shore, it's the perfect time to bring it back, bigger and better than ever. The shows will take place from 4:00 to 8:00 pm. Some of the top travel companies will be in attendance, including Norwegian Cruise Line, TTC Tour Brands (Trafalgar, Insight Vacations, Luxury Gold, Brendan Vacations), Princess Cruises, Sandals and Beaches Resorts, Collette Vacations, Disney Destinations, Pleasant Holidays & Journese, CIE Tours, Virgin Voyages, Globus Family of Brands, AmaWaterways, Viking, Jamaica Tourist Board, Hilton All-Inclusive, British Virgin Islands Tourist Board, and The Islands of The Bahamas. Don't miss your chance to meet with these top vendors and start planning your next unforgettable journey!



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✉ Cindy@bethanytravel.net ☎ 302-933-0955 🏠 28436 Dupont Blvd, Millsboro, DE 19966

happiness
from page 10

Three local bakers keep Bluebird Farms stocked with fresh baked goods. The Ugly Pie from Salisbury makes pies and cookies. Sweets by Roger makes mini cakes in blueberry, lemon and strawberry. Abby makes banana and zucchini bread.

Fall is the ideal time for planting, Corbett said, and Bluebird Farms is stocked with trees, shrubs and perennials recommended to be planted this time of year. "We encourage it. A lot of things are about to go dormant anyway. So it's a nice time to plant where the plant doesn't have to go through a hot summer. They go dormant, then have a fresh start for spring."

For good fall eating, fresh apples are in right now, as well as pansies that will last in the garden well into winter. Coming soon to Bluebird Farms for the fall decorating season are colorful mums, pumpkins in all shapes and sizes, decorative gourds, fresh apple cider, and butternut squashes.

For the holidays, Bluebird will once again offer fresh-cut Frasier fir Christmas trees and fresh evergreen wreaths and garland. But the big story at Bluebird Farms for Christmas are the two

train gardens, a delight for children. "I've always had a train at the shop," Corbett said. "Each year, it gets bigger and more fun."

Before she opened Bluebird Farms, Corbett graduated from St. Mary's College in Southern Maryland and then explored, working on farming communities as close as North Carolina and as far away as Maui, Hawaii.

Locally, Corbett worked as a furniture refinisher and restorer, doing pieces for the Harrison Group and the historic Atlantic Hotel in Berlin before returning to her passion of farming and growing things.

The foundation of the shop's success is Corbett's passion for environmental stewardship. "I wanted the shop to be something beneficial to the

natural environment," she said. "The eastern bluebird is a symbol. This bird could have been lost if people had not become aware of how to create safe nesting habitats. Bluebird Farms is a manifestation of this; people buy items that not only benefit their own personal growing spaces, but also encourage the environment and other important creatures to thrive."



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Anglers to meet

The Ocean Pines Anglers Club will meet on Saturday, September 13 at 9:30 a.m. in the Ocean Pines library. The speaker, Nancy Gaither, Assateague Island Alliance (AIA) board president, will discuss the history of Assateague Island Refuge and State Park and future plans. There will also be a review of upcoming fishing tournaments, charters, regulations and all things fishing. All are welcome.

Crab feast scheduled

If you're around on September 28, The Church of the Holy Spirit on Coastal Highway at 100th St. is having its annual all-you-can-eat crab feast from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, September 28. The crabs, medium-large to large, will be supplied by Rippon's Seafood. There will also be fried chicken from Higgins Crab House as well corn on the cob, hush puppies, drinks and desserts. Bring your own mallet.

The cost is \$50 for people over 12, \$20 for children age 6 to 12 and free for people under 6. Takeout orders are available and include six crabs, two pieces of chicken, corn on the cob, hush puppies, a drink and dessert.

Limited tickets will be available at the door, but advance sales are always welcome. Refunds will be provided only if the event is cancelled. Need more information? Call Monica at 443-235-8942.

BJs membership offer returns to Pines

BJ's Wholesale Club is again partnering with the Ocean Pines Association to bring a special membership offer, effect October 1 to 30, to benefit the Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines Foundation.

Existing members can purchase a 12-month renewal for The Club Card Membership for \$50, or a 12-month renewal for The Club+ Card Membership for \$100.

To take advantage of this special offer by phone, call 800-313-8887 and use promo code 100407. Phones are open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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Some things to think about

Gathered from the internet
by **Jack Barnes**



"In the old days, your Grandma and I watched TV with rabbit ears."

Quotes of Comedian Steven Wright

- 1 - I'd kill for a Nobel Peace Prize.
- 2 - Borrow money from pessimists — they don't expect it back.
- 3 - Half the people you know are below average.
- 4 - 99% of lawyers give the rest a bad name.
- 5 - 82.7% of all statistics are made up on the spot.
- 6 - A conscience is what hurts when all your other parts feel so good.
- 7 - A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.
- 8 - If you want the rainbow, you got to put up with the rain.
- 9 - All those who believe in psycho kinesis, raise my hand.
- 10 - The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.
- 11 - I almost had a psychic girlfriend, But she left me before we met.
- 12 - OK, so what's the speed of dark?
- 13 - How do you tell when you're out of invisible ink?
- 14 - If everything seems to be going well, you have obviously over-looked something.
- 15 - Depression is merely anger without enthusiasm.
- 16 - When everything is coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.
- 17 - Ambition is a poor excuse for not having enough sense to be lazy.
- 18 - Hard work pays off in the future; laziness pays off now.
- 19 - I intend to live forever ... So far, so good.
- 20 - If Barbie is so popular, why do you have to buy her friends?
- 21 - Eagles may soar, but weasels don't get sucked into jet engines.
- 22 - What happens if you get scared half to death twice?
- 23 - My mechanic told me, "I couldn't repair your brakes, so I made your horn louder."
- 24 - Why do psychics have to ask you for your name
- 25 - If at first you don't succeed, destroy all evidence that you tried.
- 26 - A conclusion is the place where you got tired of thinking.
- 27 - Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.
- 28 - The hardness of the butter is proportional to the softness of the bread.
- 29 - To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism; to steal from many is research.
- 30 - The problem with the gene pool is that there is no lifeguard.
- 31 - The sooner you fall behind, the more time you'll have to catch up.
- 32 - The colder the x-ray table, the more of your body is required to be on it.
- 33 - Everyone has a photographic memory; some just don't have film.
- 34 - If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you.
- 35 - If your car could travel at the speed of light, would your headlights work?

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