

# The Courier

July 20, 2016 Volume 16 Number 47

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## Christmas in July Swim Party is Saturday

Santa will be cooling off in the pool at Ocean Pines Aquatics' Christmas in July Swim Party on Sunday, July 24 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Swim & Racquet Club Pool, located at 10 Seabreeze Road in Ocean Pines.



This fun family event will include open swim time as well as a moon bounce, DJ and face painting. The snack bar will be open for food and beverage purchases or guests may bring their own.

The cost per person is \$3 for Ocean Pines swim members, \$5 for Ocean Pines residents and \$7 for non-residents. Families of more than four may pay a flat rate of \$20.

For more information, contact the Ocean Pines Aquatics Department at 410-641-5255.

## Arts and crafts festival scheduled

Shop the unique handcrafted items of over 100 artisans and crafters at the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Pine'er Arts & Crafts Festival on Saturday, August 6 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at White Horse Park in Ocean Pines.

The festival, hosted by the Pine'er Craft Club, will feature vendors from Maryland, Delaware, Virginia and Pennsylvania selected for their fine craftsmanship and talents.

The event will also include a live concert by Saltwater Stringband from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and a bake sale. Food vendors will be selling refreshments.

The Ocean Pines Farmers Market will also be open for extended hours from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. in conjunction with the festival. Farmers Market vendors will be selling seasonal fresh produce, meats, eggs, seafood, baked goods and more. The Ocean Pines Farmers Market regularly operates every Saturday year-round from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at White Horse Park.

The Pine'er Craft Club also operates The Gift Shop in White Horse Park. The shop features handcrafted items by club members and is open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.



**Candidate Forum** - Six of the the eleven candidates running for the Ocean Pines Board of Directors participated in a candidates' forum Saturday. Above are **Brett Hill, Tom Janasek, Doug Parks, Slobodan Trendic, and Larry Perrone** See story on page 7. Photo by Chip Bertino.



# County photo contest deadline nears

Worcester County Tourism wants to know what you consider to be the perfect day-trip to Worcester County. Do you search for ponies at Assateague Island, shop 'til you drop in Berlin, explore the Old-Growth Forest of Snow Hill, take a River Cruise down the Pocomoke, or take in the beaches, boardwalk and entertainment in Ocean City? Tell the county about it and you could be a winner in the Beach and Beyond "Best Summer Day-Trip Contest."

"We are looking for your perfect Worcester day trip," Worcester County Tourism Director Lisa Challenger said. "Anything goes, so get creative, wacky, frugal, decadent, fun. You've got the experience, and we want it."

Here is what you need to know to take part in the contest. The day-trip must take place entirely in Worcester County. The day-trip must be able to be completed in 12 hours or less. Tell us about your day-trip in 300 words or less.

Submissions are due by noon on

July 25. One entry per person. Once you click submit, no other changes can be made. On Tuesday, July 26, the top 12 submissions, chosen for their awesomeness, feasibility and uniqueness, will be published on the Beach and Beyond Facebook Page to be voted on by the public through midnight on Friday, July 29.

Three winners will be announced on Saturday, July 30. First place will receive a GoPro HERO Session. Second place will receive a Fitbit Charge HR Wireless Activity Wristband. Third place will receive a FujiFilm Instax Mini 8 with case, film and batteries.

Worcester County employees and their families are not eligible to participate in the contest. To sign up, go to [www.visitworcester.org](http://www.visitworcester.org) or [www.visitworcester.org](http://www.visitworcester.org). For more information, contact Worcester County Tourism at (410) 632-3110 or visit @beachandbeyond on Facebook and Instagram.



## Players president speaks to Kiwanis

Kiwanis Speakers and Programs Chair **J. Graham Caldwell**, Ocean Pines Players President **Karen McClure** and President of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines - Ocean City **Mark Joseph** pose after McClure spoke at the club's July 13 weekly meeting. She talked about the Players' goals and purpose. The Players are trying different types of plays than in the past as evidenced by the next play called "The Whole Shebang," a 50-minute main production at St. Peter's Lutheran Church at 103rd Street in Ocean City on July 22 through 24 and July 29 through 31. Before that performance there will be another one act play called "I'm Herbert." Admission is \$15, payable at the door. Reservations are available by calling 410-208-6787. Doors open one hour earlier for open seating, free refreshments and entertainment.

McClure also made the Kiwanians aware of the Berlin Heritage Festival on August 6 from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. where the Players will do three street performances as part of the celebration. The annual Berlin Peach Festival will take place at the same time.

## Wor-Wic offers express registration

Wor-Wic Community College is offering "Smart Start Express Registration" for new students to complete the fall credit registration process in one campus visit. Students can choose Wednesday, August 10, Thursday, August 18, or Thursday, August 25, beginning at either 9 a.m. or 1 p.m. Smart Start Express Registration will also be held on Saturday, August 20, at 9 a.m.

Participants will be able to attend an orientation session, apply for financial aid, take the placement test, talk to an advisor, register for classes, make payment arrangements, visit the bookstore and learn about child care opportunities.

To RSVP, visit the college's website at [www.worwic.edu](http://www.worwic.edu) or call the college at 410-334-2800.



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# Annual library book sale starts Friday

In July 2000 the Friends of Ocean Pines Library (FOPL) inaugurated what would become an annual event anticipated by book lovers from

donated by generous patrons of the library. The biggest single category is fiction and the FOPL volunteers have sorted the books alphabetically for ease of reference. Nonfiction categories include gardening, sports, history, travel, biographies, nature, health, family, pets and science fiction. There are also many holiday-related craft books, and cookbooks covering every imaginable genre. Many of these books are do-

books among the offerings. Finally, there will be a variety of coffee table books covering such topics as photography, architecture, world history. The sale starts on Friday evening, July 22, from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. for FOPL members only but participants may join at the door for \$5 (individual membership) and \$10 (family membership). The Saturday, July 23, hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and open to the public, and the Monday, July 25, hours of 10 p.m. to 4 p.m. are

again open to the public. Monday's sale has the added benefit of all books being sold at half price. This 2016 sale is the single biggest source of income for the Friends. The funds are used to help the Ocean Pines library in many ways, including upgrades of the computer system and electronic equipment. The FOPL tends the garden outside the library and supports children and adult reading programs.



Ocean City to Snow Hill, Ocean Pines to Pocomoke, Salisbury to Cambridge to Easton. At that first sale, there was an advertised 10,000 books for sale.

The 2016 Book Sale has well over 10,000 books all of which have been

nated in pristine condition and would make wonderful holiday gifts for the readers in any family.

There will be a children's corner with books for the youngest readers. In addition there will be CDs, DVDs for adults and children, and audio

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# The Courier

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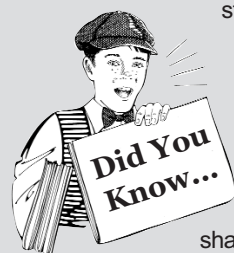
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Robert B. Adair 1938-2007

## 2012 Business of the Year

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Waves don't always break evenly along the shore. And when they don't — i.e., when they break more strongly in some areas than others — it can cause a circulation in the water that produces a rip current (basically a



strong channel of water extending from the shore out into the water). Rip currents also tend to form near a shallow point in the water, such as a sandbar, or close to jetties and piers and can happen at any beach with breaking waves (including the Great Lakes!). They're the number one hazard for beachgoers and can pull even the strongest swimmers out to sea.

**If you see a current of choppy, off-colored water extending from the shore, steer clear.** If you do get pulled out, stay calm, save your energy (let the current carry you for a while), and keep breathing. Don't try to swim against the current! Gain your composure and start swimming horizontal to the shore until you're out of the current. Then turn and swim diagonally towards the shore. If you can't make it to the shore, wave your arms and make noise so someone can see or hear you and get help.

## Carbon monoxide detector requirements vary

### Editor:

In response to growing safety concerns, Sen. Jim Mathias sponsored a bill during this year's Legislative Session of the Maryland General Assembly



that puts in place new requirements regarding carbon monoxide detectors in certain rental units. Local media outlets have covered the passage of Senate Bill 182 (Public Safety – Rental Dwelling Units – Carbon Monoxide Alarms) extensively.

While our senator's efforts and success should be very much applauded, the local real estate industry feels that

many media outlets have withheld a very important element of the bill — these detectors are not required in all rental units. Certainly there are some municipalities that do require detectors in all rental units, but this Maryland law specifically states that it only applies to "a dwelling that relies on the combustion of a fossil fuel for heat, ventilation, hot water, or clothes dryer operation."

We have confirmed with the senator and with the state fire marshal that the new law only applies to units containing carbon monoxide-emitting devices and/or have an attached parking garage. Installing detectors in rental units that do not contain appliances emitting carbon monoxide would not be practical.

The Coastal Association of REAL-

TORS® thanks Sen. Mathias for this bill and will continue to educate its membership so their clients are safe and their businesses continue to contribute greatly to the economy on the Lower Eastern Shore.

### Joseph Wilson

Chair, Coastal Association of REALTORS  
Government Affairs and RPAC Committees  
Director, Coastal Association of REALTORS  
Board of Directors

## Anglers thankful for success event

### Editor:

The Ocean Pines Anglers Club held a successful Teach A Kid To Fish event on Saturday, June 18 and want to thank our sponsors; the Ocean City-Berlin Optimist Club and the Maryland Saltwater Sportsfishermen's Association (MSSA) for proving financial support for this event. We also thank the Maryland Natural Resources Police for providing all sorts of handouts and helpful information booklets for the kids, the Ocean Pines Fire Department for safety standby and the Ocean Pines Association for great logistic and advertising support.

### Walt Boge

Administrator



Pictured from L to R: **Bett Weaver**, RN case manager; DAISY Award Honoree **Patty Tull**, RN; **Colleen Wareing**, vice president, Patient Care Services

## AGH, nurse recognized

Atlantic General Hospital awarded the DAISY Award for excellence in nursing to Patty Tull, RN at a recent presentation.

Tull currently works in Surgical Services and has worked at Atlantic General Hospital since 2006. Winning the Daisy award was unexpected. Deciding to go back to school and changing my life and career, I always hoped to change and add to someone's life. This award makes me feel like I am becoming the nurse I always dreamed of hopefully being one day. I hope to continue being just that nurse," said Tull.

The DAISY Award, created by The

DAISY Foundation in Memory of J. Patrick Barnes, honors the extraordinary work nurses do for patients and families each day. Hospital leadership brought the awards program to Atlantic General to recognize the compassion and high level of care its nurses provide to residents and visitors of the community.

Patients and visitors can nominate an Atlantic General Hospital and Health System nurse for the DAISY Award at any time. Nomination forms are available in every hospital department and health system physician office. Awards are bestowed quarterly.

## Otters coming to Discovery Center

The Delmarva Discovery Center & Museum has announced the opening dates for the new Wally Gordon River Otter Exhibit, which will house two North American River Otters. The exhibit will open to the public on Monday July 25 between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.



The museum will be closed on Sunday July 24, except for a special member's only event. Members are invited to an exclusive viewing from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. on July 24th. If you are not a member and still want to see the otters that Sunday, you can become a member and get your invite to the event. Members also have free admission to the museum, discounted rates for certain programs, and a discount on qualifying store purchases. Call (410) 957-9933 or e-mailamy@DelmarvaDiscoveryCenter.org for more information.



# Give me the simple life

The older I get the less I need or want to be happy. I certainly don't need the riches of the world, a sports car or a jet setting lifestyle for fulfillment. Of course it's easy to admit such a sentiment when the likelihood of such riches are as remote as a deserted

two of the three chairs and I'm looking forward to taking on the third one. There's a heightened level of satisfaction when I complete a project or in this case a chair. I can behold the efforts of my labor. Or in the case of the chairs, I can sit on the efforts of my labor.



## It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

island. Give me a good day puttering in the garage or getting my hands dirty in the garden and I'm one happy camper. I'll take good conversation, an adult beverage and a cigar while sitting on the back porch over dining on pheasant, something that admittedly I've never had. But it sounds fancy.

I derive a lot of satisfaction from taking on an outdoors project, big or small. Everyone has their Zen. For me it's sawing wood while building a new creation or opening an old can of paint to reinvigorate the colors of something old.

For instance, not long ago I came across on the side of the road three old kitchen chairs made of wood. Someone had taped a "Free" sign on them. I pulled over to check them out. Other than peeling varnish and discoloration, they were solid so I threw them in the back of the truck. I'd figure out something to do with them.

After spending a couple days thinking about what to do with them, I decided that I would paint them and use them for additional seating on the Piazza. With sandpaper in hand, I undertook the task. The time spent removing the old varnish was cathartic. It took some time but I didn't care. It's during efforts like this when I'm able to turn over in my mind things I've been thinking about, a family or work situation or a problem. Sometimes it's an opportunity for me to compare and contrast the traits of superheroes like Superman and Batman. In case you're wondering, inevitably I come down on the side of Superman. Come on, he has the word "super" in his name.

But I digress. So far, I've rehabbed

ally had a tree growing through its roof. I acquired the well earlier this summer. A good bit of the wood was rotted, requiring replacement. Resurrecting the well was an enjoyable undertaking. Having worked with my father-in-law on many projects over many years in his garage, I recognized his construction techniques as I went about the task of rehabbing the well. Sporting a new roof and base as well as a new paint scheme to cover the old cedar-tinted stain, the well now sits in our backyard; a project completed and a



sentimental reminder of my father-in-law. That to me is worth a million bucks. Hmm. If someone were to offer me a million bucks for the well, I'm sure my father-in-law would understand.

When I was a kid I used to sit with my grandfather behind the house and watch the sun set over the bay. We'd just watch the sun slowly descend, inflaming the sky all shades of purples and oranges and yellows as it made its exit. Other than the sun's grand finale, the experience was unadorned. We just sat in our chairs watching until finally Gramps uttered to himself, "that was beautiful." It was just that simple.

Maybe it's the mood I'm in as I write but as I wrap this up I'm reminded of the Rube Bloom lyrics:

*I don't believe in frettin' and  
grievin';  
Why mess around with strife?  
I never was cut out to  
step and strut out.  
Give me the simple life.*

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# PRMC breaks ground on new Pines cancer center

Peninsula Regional Medical Center, in partnership with Gillis Gilkerson, a leading Delmarva construction management firm, today broke ground for its new comprehensive cancer services center, which will be located in a newly constructed second building at the Delmarva Health Pavilion Ocean Pines.

The 20,000-square-foot facility is expected to be complete within 12 to 15 months. The new center will bring Peninsula Regional's comprehensive cancer services to Worcester County, along with access to the Johns Hopkins Clinical Research Network National Cancer Institute (NCI) and pharmaceutical sponsored studies. Peninsula Regional has participated in clinical trials since the early 1990s, and the research program is consistently growing over time. With the

new facility in Ocean Pines, patients will be provided cutting-edge treatment in a local setting.

"Radiation Oncology services in Ocean Pines will provide the latest technology in radiation medicine," said Dr. John Mansueti, Medical Director of Radiation Oncology. "We will be using the TrueBeam Linear Accelerator, which provides the most advanced image-guided radiotherapy and radiosurgery treatment modalities available. The TrueBeam system provides extremely precise and accurate therapeutic radiation to the cancer while sparing surrounding normal tissues to excessive radiation doses." The TrueBeam system can be used for all forms of advanced external-beam radiotherapy, including image-guided radiotherapy and radiosurgery (IGRT and IGRS), intensity-modulated radiotherapy (IMRT), stereotactic body radiotherapy (SBRT) and RapidArc® radiotherapy.

Peninsula Regional Oncology and Hematology, which has been providing medical oncology and chemotherapy infusion services in Berlin for 8 years, will relocate and significantly expand its capacity, allowing at least 12 patients to be



comfortably treated at one time in a state-of-the-art center.

The new center will provide Worcester County residents the most complete cancer care ever available in the region, including access to a cancer exercise and pulmonary rehabilitation center, nutritional consultants and a resource center.

"Our multidisciplinary team approach, which brings specialists together to collaborate on and individualize each patient's care, is a distinctive feature that our patients value. We are committed to providing access to this patient-centered care team," said Dr. Thomas DeMarco, the Richard A. Henson Cancer Institute's Medical Director.

"We are glad to bring the experience and complex care of the Richard A. Henson Cancer Institute closer to the homes of our many Worcester County patients," said Joan Mischtschuk, Executive Director.

Peninsula Regional has been accredited by the American College of Surgeons' Commission on Cancer since 1970 and offers the widest array of cancer services on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

"I am excited that Peninsula Regional

Medical Center is bringing a comprehensive cancer institute to Worcester County. With the help of a \$2 million matching grant from the Richard A. Henson Foundation, we will be able to provide outstanding cancer care close to home," said Leighton Moore, Chairman of the Peninsula Regional Medical Center Foundation. "I am grateful to the Richard A. Henson Foundation for their generosity, and very proud that the PRMC Foundation is raising funds for two diseases that touch all of us: cancer and mental health."

The Delmarva Health Pavilion Ocean Pines is located at Route 589 near the North Gate of the Ocean Pines residential community. Gillis Gilkerson is developing the site and plans additional buildings depending on the needs of the area. The first building in the complex opened in fall 2015, and houses Peninsula Regional Family Medicine Ocean Pines, PRMC's FamilyLab, PRMC Home Scripts, the Guerrieri Heart & Vascular Institute's Ocean Pines Adult Fitness program and the Junior Auxiliary Board Pines Café.



## July Drinks of the Month

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# OPA candidates discuss issues at community forum

By **Chip Bertino**

“Whenever people are well informed they can be trusted with their own government.” That is a sentiment articulated by Thomas Jefferson and

posed to the candidates was whether they would have supported the current OPA board’s recent decision to renew General Manager Bob Thompson’s employment contract.

“No,” was the



Steve Tuttle welcomes candidates and audience to Saturday’s forum. Left to right: **Tom Janasek, Doug Parks, Steve Tuttle, Larry Perrone and Slobodan Trendic.** Photo by Chip Bertino

repeated by Steve Habeger who moderated a two hour candidates’ forum Saturday at the Ocean Pines library.

Six of eleven candidates running for the three open positions on the Ocean Pines Association (OPA) Board of Directors participated in the event hosted by OPA member Steve Tuttle. It was a capacity audience.

Frank Daly, Brett Hill, Tom Janasek, Doug Parks, Larry Perrone and Slobodan Trendic answered questions and gave remarks on topics ranging from the management of the golf course, the general manager’s employment contract, the condition of the Country and Beach clubs and civility among the board members.

During his welcoming remarks Tuttle noted the candidates who were not in attendance. Jack Collins said he had a previous family commitment in Baltimore. Pat Supik also had a scheduling conflict. He quoted George Simon who said, “I don’t think I’ll be able to attend. It’s unfortunate it wasn’t planned earlier with the rest of the forums so everyone could have saved the date.”

Tuttle said Steve Lind had hoped to be there but had volunteered to assist in the Ocean City Games and was unable to back out.

Ray Unger had been expected to attend the event. A place at the candidate’s table was set for him. Tuttle had no information as to why Unger was not in attendance.

## General Manager

Out the gate, the first question

sentiment of the candidates. Hill said he had a “major” issue with the bonus component of the contract when “we’re not making money.” He stated, “I don’t think there was any real reevaluation of other options ... that’s

please see **forum** on page 8

for Atlantic General Hospital

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**forum**

from page 7

a continuing habit that we've seen out of the current board of directors." Hill doesn't believe the board is doing their job in determining "what other options are out there for any purchase, contract or anything. The contract with the general manager is just another example of that."

"How is it success when you lose less money than you budgeted to lose. It makes absolutely no sense. It's ridiculous," he concluded.

"I would have never supported the contract," responded Janasek who believed it should have been reviewed. He agreed with Board Member Tom Herrick's idea to look at management companies to get ideas of "what else is out there." He went on to say that the employment contract should be performance based. "You can't just continue to give him [Thompson] a bonus or continue to raise his salary when we're losing money hand over fist," he said, adding that the general manager makes too much money. "It's just ridiculous."

"It needed to be looked at again," said Parks. He too believes in performance based metrics. "Budgeting for loss and then taking less of a loss is not considered success in my mind," he added. He believes that the board needs to "chart the right direction" in

its management of the general manager.

Perrone provided a varied reason for his lack of support for not renewing the contract. "I don't think a decision needed to be made at the time. I think it is unfair for the current board to go ahead and renew, to go ahead and renegotiate a contract." He said it should have been "tabled" to allow the new board to take up the issue. With the nine-month severance provision in the contract, Perrone felt there was "no rush to get this contract negotiated." He too supports performance metrics.

"No, I would not support it for a couple of reasons," said Trendic. "Let's face it, the compensation package of our general manager is just outrageous. It's not his fault. It's the board's fault for setting it. That needs to be corrected." He went on to provide information from the U.S. Bureau of Statistics on salaries for community managers across the country. "It's around \$63,000," he reported. "The top ten percent of community managers in the country earn on the average \$123,000; in Maryland, \$88,000. The numbers speak for itself [sic]. These are the things we need to correct."

Trendic did not provide information on the level of services, dynamics or populations of the communities included in the federal statistics.

Daly said he would have supported renewing the general manager's contract because the "board had failed to have proper plans and preparations in place to do otherwise." He went on to say that "the next time, whenever that is, and that could be soon, we need a

compensation and benefit evaluation in place to make sure that we pay this person correctly. We need performance measurements in place. We need an interim person in place to be able to function in support of these things should the board elect to terminate the GM." He also advocated reaching

out to a management consultant, at least on an interim basis, should an acceptable contract not be negotiated with the general manager.

### Golf Course Operations

Should the community continue to operate a golf course, was the question asked to the candidates.

Janasek believes the management company, Landscapes Unlimited (LU), should be "allowed to work the way it's supposed to." He went on to say that LU was expected to "bring back membership." He questioned how that was to occur when OPA never asked to see a plan to make that happen. "I haven't seen it anywhere until this month, we gave them 30 days to give us a plan." He considered the motivation of the timing ironic as it was so close to the election. "Why wasn't this done in the beginning?"

"There needs to be some standards set for LU if they're going to stay on as our management company," he concluded.

Parks believes it is important to bring in professional managers to run the golf course to ensure proficient operations. He said that growing membership should be the objective of the operation so that the amenity provides value to the "membership who is subsidizing it."

"LU has an opportunity to step up

and put together a sound business plan with those goals in mind," he said. He said he would "absolutely" keep the course.

Perrone questioned why LU's marketing plan is so "proprietary" that they could not share it with the board. He chastised the board for not demanding LU provide the plan and not moving on to another management company when it failed to do so. "Here we are a year later, and this so called proprietary plan, in my opinion, doesn't exist." He stated strongly that OPA should not have signed a contract with LU until the marketing plan had been provided.

Trendic believes OPA should not be in the golf management business. He went to say that as an industry, golf suffers from oversaturation. "I'm a total proponent of 100% outsourcing of the golf course operation." Getting into the dollars and sense, he said the membership could have saved this year about \$625,000 in the operation if it had been outsourced: \$500,000 in losses and \$125,000 in the purchase of three lawn mowers that, according to Trendic, LU said were not needed but the "board and the general manager felt we do."

"Yes, we should keep it," said Daly. Yet, he believes it is "another failure" of the board. He said the golf group he belongs to is unable to get a tee time on the Ocean Pines course and that the course cannot be competitive in pricing. "I will tell you this. The golf club is managed worse than the Yacht Club. And it all starts with the board."

Hill challenged the comments made that "none of the candidates have the expertise to do X. Be that run the golf course or the police department or public works. I'm offended by that statement." He went on to say, "A good executive and a good leader can

please see **forum** on page 11

**The LORD will surely save me  
So we will play my songs on  
stringed instruments Isaiah 38:20**



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**Happy Birthday!** The Ladies Weekly Pinochle Club celebrated four birthdays at Ruth's Chris restaurant. (L-R) **Vicky Wallace, Cathy Cannon**, club's director **Pam Estes, Mary Evans** and **Peg Graybill**. Photo by Anna Foulz

## SAT prep course to be held Monday

The continuing education division at Wor-Wic Community College is offering an SAT Prep course for students interested in preparing for the redesigned evidence-based reading, writing and math SAT. The one-week course is being offered Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Fulton-Owen Hall on the college campus on the corner of Route 50 and Walston Switch Road in Salisbury. Students can attend the first session that begins July 25 or the sec-

ond session beginning on Aug. 1.

Information will be provided about the format of the test and strategies for taking the test. Participants will prepare for questions on reading, editing and revising, and analytical writing. They will also review topics from pre-algebra, algebra and geometry, as well as engage in an SAT simulation.

For more information or to reserve a seat, call Wor-Wic's continuing education division at 410-334-6780.

## MSSA to meet

The Maryland Saltwater Sportfishing Association's Atlantic Coast Chapter is having its July meeting on Tuesday July 26. The meeting will be held at the Lion's Club on Airport Road in West Ocean City. There will be two guest speakers: Justin Heart will speak on a variety of fishing subjects; and, Kathy Phillips from the Assateague Coastal Trust will speak on a new cooperative program between recreational and commercial fisherman. The meeting is open to the public and guest are welcome. The meeting starts at 7:30 p.m., doors to the facility open at 7 p.m.



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# Bad Angel

By **Dr. Joe Palmisano**

"Bad Angel" is the name Lieutenant Louis Curdes gave to the P-51 Mustang he piloted in World War II. It is restored and on display at the Pima Air and Space Museum in Tucson, Arizona.

This aircraft is one that helped turn the tide against the Axis Powers. It was the match for the German Messerschmidt and Japanese Zero but wasn't operational until the middle of the war. "Bad Angel" is unique in that the displayed kills on its fuselage lists seven German aircraft, one Italian, one Japanese, and one American. How could this be? An American plane shot down by another American plane? I decided to decipher this mystery and the following story unfolded.

Louis Curdes was an engineering student at Purdue University in Lafayette, Indiana who volunteered early in the war for pilot training. After flight training, Lieutenant Curdes was assigned to the European Theater of Operations. Within a few months he had downed seven German aircraft and one Italian fighter. He was flying a P-38 Lightning.

On his last mission his plane was shot down and he was captured. He spent months in prison, escaped and eventually found his way to his unit. He received several decorations, including the Purple Heart. He was sent back to the States on leave and as an instructor.

After about five months, he volunteered for another combat tour. This time he was sent to the Pacific Theater of Operations. His plane was the newest P-51 Mustang. He reveled in the new plane and displayed his kills on the fuselage, even though they were accomplished with a different aircraft. While on patrol he shot down a Japanese plane making him one of only three American aces to have downed aircraft of all three Axis Powers.

While flying reconnaissance near Formosa with three other planes, one of the planes was hit by anti-aircraft fire and the pilot had to bail out over the ocean. The pilot managed to escape from the plane and climb into the small rubber raft attached to his para-

chute.

Curdes radioed for a PBY to pick up the downed airman while he provided cover. While he was circling, he saw an American transport plane preparing to land on the Japanese airstrip. Aware of the terrible consequences of being taken prisoner by the Japanese, Curdes tried to radio the transport but got no reply. The plane continued its descent. He tried shooting a burst across the nose but that didn't work either. He decided to force the plane to ditch in the ocean. He shot out the right engine, then the left. The plane hit the water and stopped just 50 yards from the previously downed pilot. Two large rafts were deployed from the transport, and 12 passengers safely got into them before the transport sank. The downed P-51 pilot was able to paddle to the larger rafts and



pulled into one.

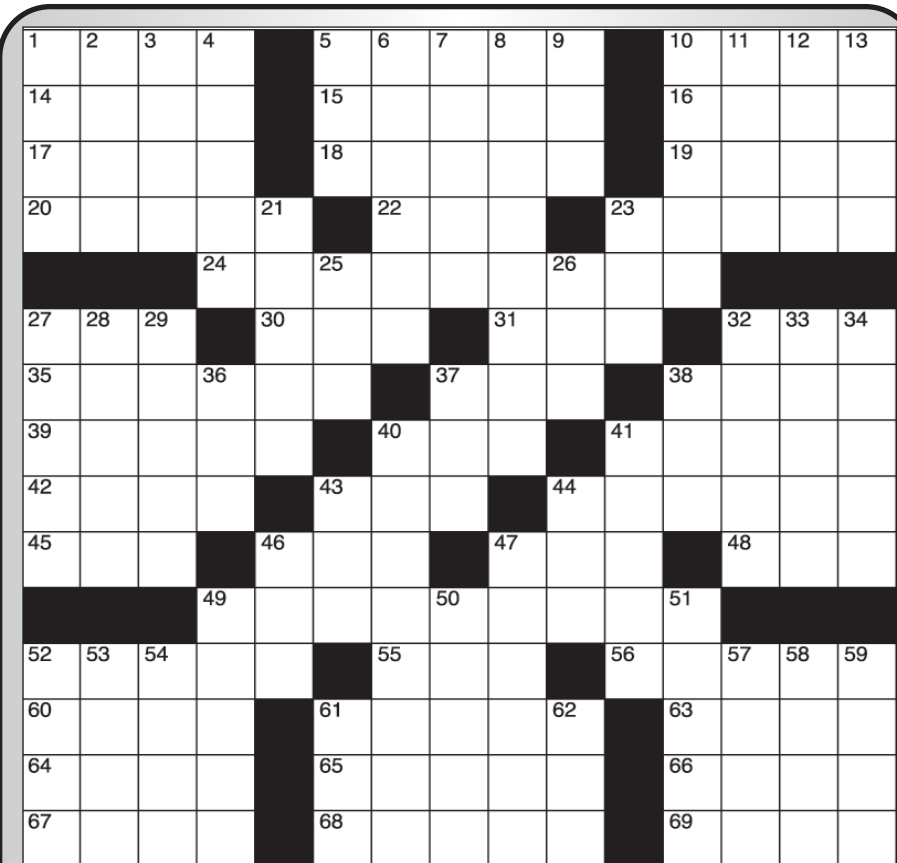
Curdes continued to provide cover until the PBY came and picked up the survivors. There were no casualties from either incident.

But that's not the end of the story. When Curdes returned to base, he looked up the names of the transport passengers and was startled to find that one of them was an Army nurse he had dated the night before. He renewed their relationship and fell in love. After the war, he married the nurse, raised a family and eventually retired from the Air Force as a Lieutenant Colonel.

This is the most bizarre story I've heard of from a conflict that seems to grow more fascinating as I delve into it.

*Dr. Joseph Palmisano resides in Ocean Pines and is the author of "Doctor Joe, A Family Doctor in the Twentieth Century."*





**ACROSS**  
1. "ER" actress  
Leslie  
5. The Ibo tribe  
10. Weapon  
14. Olympian  
Jones  
15. Moth genus  
16. In addition  
17. Neighborhood in Rio  
18. Anoint  
19. Insect repellent  
20. Indigenous person  
22. Tooth caregiver  
23. Vacation here  
24. Aware  
27. 7th letter  
Greek alphabet  
30. Actress Ling  
31. Gandalf's real name  
32. Luxury car  
35. Evil doer  
37. Cricket term (abbr.)  
38. Primal goddess of the Earth  
39. More depressed  
40. Cattle genus  
41. Dish  
42. Not west  
43. Founder of Babism  
44. Speak rapidly and foolishly  
45. Fall back, spring forward

46. Where you sleep  
47. Inform  
48. Former CIA  
49. Salts  
52. Bleated  
55. Never sleeps  
56. Cavalry sword  
60. Ceramic jar  
61. Cyprinid fishes  
63. Home to Cathedral of San Sabino  
64. Edible Indian fruit  
65. Lake in Botswana  
66. University of Miami mascot  
67. Perceives  
68. Yellow-fever mosquitos  
69. All humans have one

**DOWN**  
1. Reveal secrets  
2. Private school in New York  
3. Pancake  
4. Cichlid fish  
5. Independent Voters Association  
6. Nonviolent advocate  
7. Suburb in Copenhagen  
8. Heavy cotton garments  
9. Self-addressed envelope  
10. A way to make wet  
11. Genus of trees  
12. Millisecond  
13. Kiss ballad  
21. Unlock  
23. \_\_\_ mot  
25. "Joy Luck Club" author Amy  
26. Catch  
27. \_\_\_ and flowed  
28. Monetary units  
29. Scorched  
32. Italian aviator  
33. Things to eat  
34. Waddles  
36. A Queens ballplayer  
37. It's on your driver's license  
38. Talk

40. Witty conversation  
41. Satisfies  
43. Sound unit  
44. Placental mammal  
46. Offer  
47. Flower cluster  
49. Stamps  
50. Palmlike plant  
51. Developed poliomyelitis vaccine  
52. Newhart, Marley, Dylan  
53. Wings  
54. Away from wind  
57. Slugger Ruth  
58. Musician  
Clapton  
59. Gamble  
61. Desoxyribonucleic acid  
62. Female sibling



Answers for July 13

# Captain Ron's Fish Tales

By Ron Fisher

Sponsored by Peninsula Rehab and Sport Medicine

## Croaker fishing is fun for both adults and kids

**What is a Croaker?** The Atlantic croaker is one of the most abundant fish in North American coastal waters and is important as a commercial fish as well as a sport fish. Locally they can be caught from fishing piers as well as the surf and by boat in both the ocean and coastal bays. Although usually arriving in our bays in late July this year they seem to be just arriving in any numbers. Just keep up to date with the fishing reports to find out when the action starts. Croaker will not remain in the bays for long. Usually, two or three weeks at the most then they will migrate offshore to the shoals.

Croakers are bottom feeders and a close relative of spot and red drum. They are given their name because of the unique sound they make when caught. However, they are fun to catch and tasty to eat. Kids love to catch them because when they are biting it can be non-stop action.

**Maryland Regulations:** In the state of Maryland croaker must be a minimum of nine inches in length to keep and the limit is 25/per person/per day. I must admit I usually do not keep croaker less than 13 inches as I like to fillet croaker and you need larger fish for a reasonable size fillet. Also keep in mind that in Maryland a 14 inch croaker will get you a citation and a 17 inch croaker will get you a patch.

**What type rig should you use?** Croakers are one of the easiest fish to catch as they are bottom feeders. The best way to catch them is with a stan-

dard two-hook high-low rig with a 2-3 oz bank sinker. Hook size is important as you need to use a smaller hook in the size 4-6 range. Usually either a wide gap or (long shank) hook will do the job.

**What bait should you use?** Expensive bait is not necessary when fishing for croaker. A small piece of squid, shrimp, cut bait such as spot or mullet or a piece of clam will do just fine for these hungry fish but like any other fish if you want a bigger fish put on a bigger piece of bait. If you are also fishing for flounder you can also catch them on frozen shiners and squid combination.

**When is the best time to fish?** I personally have had my best luck on the early outgoing tide but most fishermen feel you should fish the same tide as you would for flounder. That is the last two hours of the incoming tide and the first two hours of the outgoing tide.

**Where is the best place to fish?** Any of the local fishing piers, Route 50 Bridge or surf but if you are surf fishing be certain to comply with local regulations as to when and where you can fish. Behind the convention center, along the bulkhead from Second to Fourth Streets or the public fishing pier at Ninth Street. Also, check with your local tackle shops as they will give you great advice as to where the bite is best. If fishing by boat try the area around Harbor Island

please see **croaker** on page 13

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**forum**  
from page 8

run anything because they know how to ask for help. They know how to make people accountable. Maybe some of the candidates don't know how to do that but I believe I do."

He said the golf course is an example of poor management. He does not believe the community should close the amenity but rather the board should recruit people who know how to run it and can make money. "We can't set budgets for loss."

**Rundown Properties/  
Delinquent Dues**

When asked about how the community should handle rundown properties the candidates universally expressed the need to follow the guidelines.

"We should be putting liens" on properties believes Perrone so that when they are sold OPA can get its money.

Daly said OPA should use the tools at its disposal and to work with the county to address rundown properties. He stressed that issues should be handled in a timely manner so that they do not drag on.

Hill said OPA leadership needs to follow the rules. "If we don't take aggressive action and pursue collections early on then we are the ones that suffer."

Janasek believes the county should be engaged to handle rundown properties. "Take it out of Ocean Pines' hands."

**Reserves**

Peronne believes that reserves need to be looked at more strategically to ensure they are properly funded to meet needs. He cited the example that he has been a property owner for 33 years and has been paying into the reserves, yet when it came time to build the new Yacht Club he had to pay again.

Trendic believes the Reserves Study needs to be completed so that management can get a full picture of funding needs.

Daly is concerned that homeowners are paying as part of their assessments \$150 that had originally been used to fund a five-year funding plan years ago. He questions where that money is being spent. He said he would solve this situation by establishing a cash flow projection, setting operations cost controls and prioritizing capital projects.

"The overall reserves become a slush fund," believes Hill. "We have millions of dollars that come out of our budget every year into this slush fund and yet we put, in the whole scheme of things, we put in pennies into maintenance." He believes it is imperative that maintenance costs be put into the budget so that reserve funding can adequately address needs. He stated that maintenance neglect is wrong.

"Nine million dollars is a lot of money to have sitting in an account for

four board members" to do whatever they want with it said Janasek. He said that if maintenance was handled correctly there would not be a need to have so much money in reserves. "It's too much money for too few people to decide what to do with."

Parks stressed that the service life of assets need to be determined and reserves budgeted accordingly. He questioned what percentage of the OPA budget is devoted to maintenance which he believes should be a focus.

**Beach Club**

The Beach Club is a unique community asset because it provides homeowners with beach/ocean access, a fact recognized by the candidates. However, they believe that the Beach Club has not been maintained properly, especially the restrooms.

"The Beach Club is a chance for the board to do something right," said Daly. "Management needs to determine how to improve the performance for the facility." He

suggested extending hours and implementing a shuttle service to transport people from the Community Center to the Beach Club to help alleviate the parking problem.

Hill said the Beach Club makes up the money lost by other underperforming amenities. "We need to protect that asset," he said. He chided management for dragging its feet on renovating the bathrooms. "So like many of our other projects here, something that should have been done for this summer... so maybe next year, probably June they'll start it."

"How sad is it that one of our employees who works the desk had to paint the doors to the stalls. What a sad state of affairs," said Janasek. He lamented that the employee used her own money and time to do so.

Remembering his first visit to the Beach Club 33 years ago, Perrone said the bathrooms were in rough shape then. "It was like going into a subterranean cave," he said. "And it hasn't changed." He said he could not say at this point whether he would be vote to repair or replace the facility without getting more information.

**Country Club**

There was agreement among the candidates that the Country Club should be repaired and better maintained.

"It's basically unuseable," said Daly.

"We need to fix it." He prefers renovation to replacing it. He also believes the facility should be utilized for meeting space for Pines' clubs and organizations. "Get it functional."

Hill believes that food and beverage operations should be an important component of the Country Club. He chided management for allowing the facility to deteriorate. "We don't need to build a \$4 million facility. We need to maintain a facility we have and make it work."

Janasek said the facility wasn't functional and commented that the downstairs restaurant is too dark because of the tinted windows. He suggested the upstairs be opened up again. He reiterated that the building needs to be better maintained.

Parks advocates renovation. He went on to say that there needs to be an understanding of the functions for the facility. "Is there a desire to have it as a meeting facility," he questioned. He suggested that once the needs are identified then the renovation plans could proceed accordingly.

Perrone said that he has yet to make a decision to repair and replace the club. He wants to see what the study reveals. "We need to have more information to make that decision," he said.

Trendic joked that he had a simple view on the Country Club. He asked how many in the audience had been to Europe. "I'm sure a lot of you. Imagine if you tore down every building that was there. I'm sure you wouldn't want to go there."

He continued that OPA made a mistake tearing down the old Yacht Club and that he would not want the same mistake made with the Country Club. "I simply in favor of smart maintenance."

**Civility and Courtesy  
at Board Meetings**

The tone and management of board proceedings have been a topic of discussion within the community and the during the campaign. During recent years board meetings have appeared to get out of hand. In one instance one board member threatened to put another board member "through a wall." Another observation has been that the body is lax in following Roberts Rules of Order. The candidates took up these concerns.

"We seem to have a hard time following the rules," said Hill. "I don't know how we've strayed so far all these years away from common sense. It's a matter of having people who can work

please see **forum** on page 12

Tide and Sun Chart				
* tide is for Ocean City Fishing Pier. Add two hours for Isle of Wight tide				
DATE	HIGH TIDE	LOW TIDE	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Thur., July 21	9:12 a.m. 9:36 p.m.	3:14 a.m. 3:14 p.m.	5:54 a.m.	8:19 p.m.
Fri., July 22	9:58 a.m. 10:21 p.m.	3:57 a.m. 4:02 p.m.	5:55 a.m.	8:19 p.m.
Sat., July 23	10:45 a.m. 11:07 p.m.	4:42 a.m. 4:53 p.m.	5:56 a.m.	8:18 p.m.
Sun., July 24	11:35 a.m. 11:55 p.m.	5:30 a.m. 5:48 p.m.	5:56 a.m.	8:17 p.m.
Mon., July 25	12:28 p.m.	6:19 a.m. 6:47 p.m.	5:57 a.m.	8:16 p.m.
Tues., July 26	12:47 a.m. 1:25 p.m.	7:12 a.m. 7:49 p.m.	5:58 a.m.	8:15 p.m.
Wed., July 27	1:44 a.m. 2:28 p.m.	8:07 a.m. 8:53 p.m.	5:59 a.m.	8:14 p.m.

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**forum**  
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together.” He went on to say that board members have a responsibility to come to the meetings prepared. He believes that often the meetings are a waste of time and that things do not get done. “What gets accomplished,” he questioned. He believes the board needs to communicate more effectively.

Janasek believes the meetings should be held at a more convenient time for those who work during the day. “The civility of the board is like a sixth grade class,” he said. “It’s just unbelievable.” He suggested that board agendas be made available sooner than the day before and advocated for board work sessions to air issues. He stressed the importance of public comments and said board members should do a better

job of acknowledging those who speak.

The relationship among the board members needs to be cultivated believes Parks. He said there needs to be respect shown for differing opinions which in the long run will make the body more cohesive. He believes it is important that board members listen to one another to understand not to just reply and argue. “We need to police ourselves and understand our responsibilities.”

“There’s no civility. No respect. There’s a clear lack of leadership and a clear lack of ability to negotiate,” said Perrone. “Compromise is something you don’t see on this board,” he continued.

Trendic believes board members need to remind themselves of why they are there in the first place. “It’s not about them. It’s really about representing the community.” He too believes

board members need to come prepared. He said that some board members arrive at meetings without having done their homework. He also expressed concern that the board is not given information in a timely manner so they can be prepared. He stressed the importance of the board setting annual objectives.

Daly is concerned the board goes into closed session at times unnecessarily. He charged that not only is the public not told the reasons why but neither are some board members. “That is totally wrong,” he said. He ran down how closed meetings should be handled. “Communicate in advance what the topic is going to be... communicate the agenda.”

At the conclusion of the forum, as the audience was filing out, it was heard that the meeting had been very informative

and helpful in determining for whom to vote.

Members must have their ballot to the post office by August 11. Ballots may be dropped off in the ballot box located inside the Ocean Pines Police Station at the OPA Administration Building no later than 5 p.m. on August 11. Election results will be announced at the Annual Meeting to be held on August 13 at 10 a.m. at the Ocean Pines Community Center.

If you have questions regarding the status of your owner account, call OPA Administration at 410-641-7717. From July 12 to August 11, the Elections Committee will monitor the Elections telephone (410-208-3989) for questions and/or requests for replacement ballots.

**Editor’s Note:** *Steve Habeger is a contributing writer to The Courier.*

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### SUICIDE PREVENTION OUTREACH COORDINATOR

The Jesse Klump Suicide Awareness and Prevention Program is seeking a skilled public speaker to teach suicide awareness and prevention on the lower Eastern Shore. The ideal candidate will have teaching experience, good people skills, an automobile, and computer skills. Mental health background is a plus. A very flexible schedule is an absolute necessity. The employee will work out of their home approximately 10-15 hours/week. To see the complete job description, go to [www.choose-tolivemaryland.org](http://www.choose-tolivemaryland.org) and look for News and Announcements. Send a resume and cover letter to:

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# Community Calendar

When submitting items for the calendar please include the event name, date, where held, time and a little about the event. Items being considered for the calendar need to be in by noon on Friday. E-mail to [thecourier@delmarvacourier.com](mailto:thecourier@delmarvacourier.com)

## Mondays

### **Ocean Pines Poker Club**

Poker players wanted in Ocean Pines area for Monday evenings. Call 410-208-1928

Open every Monday through October: **Historic St. Martin's Church Museum.** 1-4 pm. 11413 Worcester Highway, Showell, MD. For more information, call 410-251-2849

### **Sweet Adelines**

The Delmarva Sweet Adeline Chorus meets from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Ocean Pines Community Center. Call 410-641-6876.

## Mon. & Tues.

### **Sanctioned Duplicate Bridge**

Open bridge games Monday at 12 p.m., Tuesday at 10 a.m. at OP Community Center. Call Mary Stover 410-726-1795

## Mon., Wed. & Sat.

### **Church Thrift Shop**

OC Baptist Church's Thrift Shop by Seaside Christian Academy behind White Marlin Mall open 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Mon. & Wed., 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sat. Call 410-251-6971.

## Tuesdays

### **Families Anonymous**

From 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at room 37 in the the Community Church at Ocean Pines on Rte. 589. For more information call Carol at 410-208-4515.

**Take off Pounds Sensibly Meeting.** Berlin group No. 331, Worcester County Health Center 9730 Healthway Dr., Berlin, 5:30-7:00 p.m. TOPS is a support and educational group promoting weight loss and healthy lifestyle. It meets weekly on Tuesdays. Info: [jean-duck47@gmail.com](mailto:jean-duck47@gmail.com)

## Tuesdays and Thursdays

**Poker players** wanted for Gentlemen's Poker in North Gate

area Ocean Pines. Game played every Tuesday & Thursday evening 5:45 p.m. to 10:45 p.m. on Pinehurst Rd. Ocean Pines. Call 410-208-0063 for more information.

## Wednesdays

### **Kiwanis Club Meeting**

Weekly meetings at 8 a.m. on Wednesdays in the Ocean Pines Community Center. Doors open 7 a.m. October through April.

### **Elks Bingo**

Ocean City Elks in Ocean City (behind Fenwick Inn) open at 5:30 p.m. Early birds at 6:30 and bingo at 7 p.m. Call 410-250-2645.

### **Delmarva Hand Dancing**

Dancing at The Fenwick Inn in Ocean City from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Contact 302-934-7951 or [info@delmarvahanddancing.com](mailto:info@delmarvahanddancing.com)

### **Rotary Club**

Ocean City/Berlin Rotary Club meetings are held at 5:45 p.m. at the Captains Table in Ocean City. Contact [Stan.Kahn@carouselhotel.com](mailto:Stan.Kahn@carouselhotel.com).

### **Square Dancing**

The Pinesteppers have introduction to square dancing at the OP Community Center at 7 p.m. Call Bruce Barrett at 410-208-6777.

### **AL-Anon/OP-West OC-Berlin**

Wednesday Night Bayside Beginnings Al-Anon family meetings are held at the Ocean Pines Community Center at 7:30 p.m.

## Wed., Thurs., Fri. & Sat.

### **Church Thrift Shop**

The Shepherd's Nook at Community Church at Ocean Pines is open 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call 410-641-5433.

### **Diakonia Thrift Shop**

'Used to be Mine' offers clothing, furniture, household items and more. Proceeds benefit Diakonia shelter and pantry. Located at

Rte. 611 and Sunset Ave. Open 10 - 4. Call 410-213-0243.

## Thursdays

### **Story Time**

Stories, music and crafts at 10:30 a.m. for children ages 3-5 at Ocean Pines library. Call 410-208-4014.

### **Beach Singles**

Beach Singles 45 for Happy Hour at Harpoon Hanna's at 4 p.m. Call Arlene at 302-436-9577, Kate at 410-524-0649 or Dianne at 302-541-4642.

### **Legion Bingo**

American Legion in Ocean City opens doors at 5:30 p.m., games begin at 7. For information call 410-289-3166.

### **Gamblers Anonymous**

Group meets at 8 p.m. at the Atlantic Club, 11827 Ocean Gateway, West Ocean City. Call 888-424-3577 for help.

## Fridays

### **Knights of Columbus Bingo**

Bingo will be held behind St. Luke's Church, 100th St. in Ocean City. Doors open at 5 p.m. and games begin at 6:30 p.m. Refreshments available. Call 410-524-7994.

**croaker**

from page 10

in 12-15 feet of water. Also the thoroughfare around the convention center and the south bay behind Assateague Island is a great location. Move around and watch for the concentration of boats as this is a good indication someone found a school of croaker.

### **My favorite Croaker Recipe:**

Croakers make great fish and chips and they are a tasty fish. I will cut the small fillets off each side and use the following simple recipe:

1 small onion sliced thin  
2 cloves garlic  
Juice of 1/2 fresh lemon  
1 cup bread crumbs  
1 tsp. Old Bay or Cajun Seasoning  
1 dash salt  
1/4 lb. butter or margarine

Sautee the onion and garlic in butter in a medium size frying pan until tender, add the lemon juice to the pan. Combine the bread crumbs, Old Bay or Cajun seasoning along with a dash of salt in a bowl. Dip the fish in the butter mixture and roll in the bread crumbs. Arrange the fillets in a greased baking pan. Drizzle the remaining butter mixture over the fish and bake in a 350 degree oven until done and the fish flake easily, usually 15-20 minutes but check it frequently. Serve with French fries and you will come back for more.

Remember to take  
a kid fishing,  
Capt. Ron

Letters sent to The Courier for publication consideration must be signed and include



a telephone number where the author can be reached to verify authenticity, if necessary. Letters are not corrected for spelling or grammar and priority will be given to letters of 300 words or less. Letters must be received by Friday at 5 p.m. They can be e-mailed to:

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**Western Night Success** - Star Charities' annual fundraiser was held at Ocean Downs July 14 with proceeds to benefit 4 Steps Therapeutic Riding Program, a nationally recognized equestrian program serving injured and disabled adults and children including military service members and their families. 4 Steps is located on Sixty Foot Rd. in Parsonsburg. The event at Ocean Downs raised \$1,500 for the 4 Steps program and included food, entertainment, and door prizes. Appropriately, the fourth race at the track was named the Star Charities race.

Above, entertainers from Frontier Town are pictured with Star Charities founder **Anna Foulz**. **Nora Hetzler**, **Julie Karson**, **Kate Carpenter**, **Shane Karson**, boy in hat **Clay Karson**, **Anna Foulz**, and **Becca Cossaboom**. Photo by Ted Page.

## ‘Summer Feline Fling’ offers lower adoption fee

With kitten season in full swing, Worcester County Humane Society is offering a lower adoption fee for cats of all ages at the shelter during the “Summer Feline Fling” event. From now until September 30<sup>th</sup> the cat adoption fees will be just \$30. In addition, the shelter is offering adoption of a second cat at no additional cost. The discounted adoption fee includes spay/neuter, immunizations, microchip, FELV/FIV testing and deworming. Adoptions are based on application approval.

“There is no better time than now to adopt from the shelter as it is currently filled to capacity with cats and kittens” says Jessica Summers, WCHS adoption coordinator. “We currently have over 150 cats of all ages at the shelter and more coming in almost daily. So far we’ve already had over 50 kittens turned in and we still have a long way to go before kitten season is over.”

The shelter also has a senior to senior program where any person over the age of 65 adopting a cat over the age of

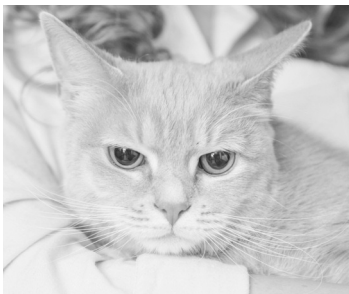
8 will have their adoption fee waived.

Worcester County Humane Society urges all pet owners to spay/neuter their pets. The shelter currently does not have a low cost spay/neuter clinic but is working towards that. There are

several low cost clinics and organizations in the area that are willing to help: Worcester County Animal Control 410-632-1340, Humane Society of Wicomico 410-749-7603, Snip Tuck 410-943-4050, Delaware SPCA 302-856-6361, SNAP, Inc. 410-885-5783.

The Worcester County Humane Society is a private, non-profit, no kill animal shelter located on Eagle’s Nest Road just off Stephen Decatur Highway. The shelter is open 11am to 5 pm on Wed., Thurs., Sat., & Sun., 11am to 7 pm on Tues. & Fri. and closed on Mondays.

For more information on available pets or questions about adoption visit the shelter website [www.worcester-countyhumanesociety.org](http://www.worcester-countyhumanesociety.org) or call 410-213-0146. Follow the shelter on Facebook and Instagram for event updates and available pets.



# Guardianship: 101

By **Mike Mathers**

In several articles I have praised the benefit of a well-drafted power of attorney. Typically I mention in that same column that if you wait until it is too late, the only option left for your family is a guardianship. Today, I want to provide a



little more detail on what a guardianship is and how it differs from a power of attorney.

To illustrate, let’s imagine a retired couple named Tom and Jane. Tom was the breadwinner and so he has a lot of assets in his name only, including retirement accounts. Several years ago Tom was diagnosed with the early signs of Alzheimer’s, but Jane has been so overwhelmed with her other caretaking duties that she never thought to visit a lawyer for estate planning. Now, Tom has taken a turn for the worse and it’s obvious he will need to move to an assisted living home. There is plenty of money available for Tom’s care between retirement accounts, life insurance and other investments, but no one will let Jane withdraw anything. Every time she calls to ask questions about his assets, the companies ask her if she has power of attorney; and when she says no they refuse to tell her anything.

In this scenario, Jane must petition the court to be appointed her husband’s guardian. Anything that a power of attorney can do, a guardianship order can do and so getting that order will give Jane all the power she needs to make sure her husband is taken care of. The reason that a judge is involved is because Jane is past the point that Tom can speak for himself. It is a very serious matter that a judge can appoint Jane with power over Tom’s assets and the court will be careful to appoint the right person.

Obtaining a guardianship order means proving two things; first, that Tom has actually become too disabled to make his own decisions, and second, that Jane is the right person to be the guardian. In some cases, multiple people are good candidates to be the guardian and the judge has to decide who the best person is. If Tom had a son named Billy from a

previous marriage, Billy would certainly be a part of the guardianship hearing. Billy could agree that Jane should be appointed but he could also tell the judge that he was the best person to take care of his father. In that scenario, Billy and Jane would each make their case and the judge would ultimately decide the best candidate. In some instances, if no one can show that they are equipped to be a guardian, then a state agency may be appointed to make decisions

One of the biggest differences between a power of attorney and guardianship is that a guardianship order can actually overturn a power of attorney. Usually, the court will not be convinced that a guardianship is necessary if the disabled person already signed a power of attorney. However, if they chose poorly and the power of attorney is being abused or used to steal money, the guardianship process can be used to give power to the right person.

Most people would prefer to save their family the time and expense of a guardianship hearing, which is why powers of attorney are popular. However, it should give you comfort that there is a system in place to help make sure that care giving powers end up in the hands of the right person.



**Guest speaker** - Founder of the *Juliets*, **Linda Hess**, was the guest speaker at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club for the organization’s 16th Anniversary celebration. Linda is a Judge of the Orphans Court of Worcester County. Photo by Anna Foulz





**Inventory Assistance**

The Republican Women of Worcester County literacy volunteers recently visited Show-ell Elementary School to assist with the school library inventory process. In three hours the women inventoried more than 30% of the collection which equates to more than 3,200 books.

Above are **Joanne Breedlove, Vera Beck, Sharon Byerly, Sandy Zitzer, Kate McCabe and Diane Spartzak.**

**Greek Festival coming next week**

Delmarva's Largest, 27th Annual Greek Festival will take place in the Roland Powell Convention Center July 29 through August 1. There will be authentic Greek foods, Greek pastries, a live Band nightly, unique vendors of art, jewelry and crafts. Admission and parking are free. The event will occur Friday and Saturday noon to 11 p.m. and Sunday and Monday noon to 9 p.m. For more information call 410-524-0990 or email StGeorgeOC@gmail.com, All proceeds benefit St. George Greek Orthodox Church Ministries.

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