



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Bouncy house exuberance is on display during the children's event preceding the Fourth of July fireworks show on Sunday at Veterans Memorial Park in Ocean Pines.

Second election forum set July 13

Voters get another opportunity to ask candidates their thoughts on issues

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(July 8, 2021) The second installment of the Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors election forum is scheduled for July 13 at 7 p.m. in the Golf Clubhouse.

The entire candidate field of Rick Farr, David Hardy, Stuart Lakernick and incumbent Director Frank Daly attending the initial forum on June 9.

Elections Committee Chairman Steve Habeger said residents have submitted many questions in the follow-up to the two-plus hour affair last month.

"We put out the word that we are interested in what members want to hear about and we've gotten a couple of pages," he said.

To limit redundancies, the pool of questions will be grouped by common themes.

"We're going to have to skinny them down, but

See FORUM Page 2

Thousands watch fireworks

Ocean Pines holiday celebration breaks record for attendance

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(July 8, 2021) Following the sudden cancellation of Fourth of July firework displays in Ocean City on Sunday, corresponding crowd surge was seen at the Independence Day festivities in Ocean Pines.

Recreation and Parks Director Debbie Donahue said the return of pyrotechnics at Veterans Memorial Park after a covid-19-induced hiatus, attracted a record-breaking turnout of roughly 3,000 people.

"Ocean City's unfortunate situation probably contributed to our big crowds, and there's no way to tell how many people were parked in surrounding areas and probably watching from their homes," Donahue said in a news release.

Prior to dusk, children celebrated the holiday with a huge array of inflatable slides and bounce houses.

Other highlights included carnival games, food and drink vendors, along with DJ Rupe

spinning tunes.

Donahue applauded Schaefer Fireworks for staging a successful and safe display.

She also credited the Ocean Pines Police, the public works department and the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department for helping to produce the July 4 celebration.

"It takes all of us, it's not just a Recreation and Parks event," she said. "I really want to thank all the different departments that helped us pull this off."

Police Chief Leo Ehrisman noted the affair involved an early preparation team comprised of staff from Public Works, Recreation and Parks and the fire department.

Ehrisman said the Worcester County Sheriff's Office assisted with traffic control before and after the fireworks.

Additionally, Public Works Director Eddie Wells said his staff took care of safety-based road blockages and delivering food and beverages to volunteers working the event.

"We took care of the police, and the neighborhood watch guys and anybody else that was working," Wells said. "We were riding

See CELEBRATION'S Page 4



PHOTO COURTESY OCEAN PINES ASSOCIATION

The sky above Ocean Pines Veterans Memorial Park was awash in color and sound during a well-attended Independence Day firework display Sunday.



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Forum gives voters chance to pose questions

Continued from Page 1

it's good to know what the voters want to know about," he said.

Along with covering fresh topics, certain issues discussed during the last forum could be revisited.

"The very first question we asked at the first forum was about short-term rentals," he said.

Just three days after the candidates' were heard on the matter, the association staged a town hall meeting on the subject on June 12.

"Then the next Saturday was the town hall meeting and things seemed to have changed a bit," he said.

Round two of the board election forum also includes a venue change because of a scheduling conflict.

Unlike the June affair, which was



Rick Farr



David Hardy



Stuart Lakernick



Frank Daly

held in the Assateague Room of the community center, the July 13 event will be held at the Golf Clubhouse.

"The Power Squadron had the Assateague Room," he said.

The booking dilemma arose after the originally selected date proved untenable.

"A year ago, we set the schedule and we chose the Saturday morning when the [OC] Airshow showed up,"

he said. "That was just a non-starter."

Habeger said election committee members concluded that coinciding with the annual aerial extravaganza in late June was a bad move.

"It's a busy weekend for a lot of people," he said. "It sweeps the bandwidth."

Despite going four-for-four in terms of candidate participation during the June forum, the attendance picture next week remains unclear.

Habeger said although the occasion provides candidates another op-

portunity to engage with constituents, their participation is not required.

"Once their name is on the ballot, they don't have to show up at the candidate draw or any of the forums," he said. "They'll make their decisions ... every candidate in every election does that."

Election ballots, which will be mailed next week, are due by Aug. 11, to be followed by a vote count on Aug. 13 beginning at 10 a.m.

The OPA Annual Homeowners Meeting will take place on Aug. 14 at 9 a.m. in the Assateague Room.

For questions about the election, or to submit questions for the second candidate forum email elections@oceanpines.org.

Ocean Pines Players now holding auditions

(July 8, 2021) The Ocean Pines Players are holding general auditions for actors, prospective actors, and singers for the upcoming season by appointment between July 5 and July 17.

Locations may vary by day, but will all be in Ocean Pines. These auditions are open to everyone and are

designed to be casual and fun.

Depending on availability, up to four people may be scheduled to audition simultaneously, which often creates a more relaxed, creative, and informal dynamic.

There is no need to prepare anything in advance. Monologs, resumes and head shots are welcome, but not

required. Everyone will be asked to participate in an acting audition.

Actors may also audition as singers, if desired. Casting decisions always focus as much on attitude, potential, and willingness to take direction as on experience, so beginners are encouraged to try out.

To schedule an audition, contact

Karen McClure at 703-727-0528.

The Ocean Pines Players is a local all-volunteer 501(c)3 non-profit organization. More information about the upcoming season and the Players can be found at www.oceanpinesplayers.com or by following the Ocean Pines Players on Facebook.

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Berlin Bathtub Races, Second Friday married

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(July 8, 2021) After hitting pause in 2020 because of covid-19, the Berlin Bathtub Races return for their 31st edition tomorrow and piggybacks on the Second Friday monthly celebration for an evening of family-friendly activities starting at 5 p.m.

Berlin Chamber of Commerce Deputy Director Steve Frene said the dual events would provide an array of sights and sounds.

"In addition to the colorful bathtubs and teams that will be here for the event, there will also be artists," he said.

Roads that will be closed from noon to 9 p.m. are Main Street between West and Jefferson streets, along with one block on Broad, Commerce and Pitt streets.

"In that block, we'll feature several artists that will have works on display and for sale," he said.

Returning to defend its 2019 bathtub race victory is Deeley Insurance Group, which edged out previous two-time winner H.T. Harrison and Sons that year.

Several new contestants are on board this year, including the Bearded Men's

Society of Ocean City.

"We don't know what their racer is going to look like," he said. "Some of the other folks have competed before and might have made some improvements."

The late Jesse Turner, former proprietor of the Berlin Shoebox, originated the tub races in 1989 to provide a friendly competition between area merchants.

"Originally, it was part of its own event, the Village Fair, and has been on a variety of dates," he said.

The highly revered bathtub races require participants to think outside the box.

"You can't go out to Wal-Mart and buy a bathtub," he said. "There is some technology and engineering that goes into the making of a bathtub racer."

Bathtub entries run the range from functional to eye-catching.

"You'll see some that are sort of bicycles that are welded together and there are others that are platforms with wheels," he said.

Frene said mobile bathtub creations tend to fall into one of two categories.

"Those that are built for show and those that are built to go," he said.

Also new this year, providing a colorful distraction between tub heats is Nolah Walton, a flow artist, who employs hula-hoops and flags in movement and dance disciplines.

Besides the tub competition, the Second Friday event also provides entertainment for children.

"We're also working with Worcester Youth & Family Counseling to do a kids zone," he said.

Frene said craft activities would be staged in front of Worcester Youth & Family Counseling at 124 North Main St.

"They will have crafts for kids and will also bring in a technology group from Salisbury called M4 Reactor," he said. "They create space for people to discover and explore technology through computer and science-oriented displays."

Competitors can drop off bathtubs at the Berlin Welcome Center at 14 S. Main

St between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Mandatory racer check-in, vehicle inspections and a driver's meeting begin promptly at 5:30 p.m.

The Bathtub Parade, which runs between the Welcome Center and Commerce Street, starts at 6 p.m. with heats will start at 6:15 p.m.

Race action will take place on Main Street between Commerce and Jefferson streets.

Frene thanked a host of Bathtub Race sponsors, including Bradley Atlantic Insurance Management, Taylor Bank, Berlin Auto Wash, and the Sterling Tavern.

The Bathtub Races and Second Friday, which also coincided in 2019, look to stay linked for the foreseeable future.

"It was a good combination and that's why we rescheduled it for this year," he said. "It seems to have found a home on Second Friday now."



FILE PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Pictured in 2019 is the winning team from Deeley Insurance Group, including Trevor Frederick pushing and Delaney Manning driving, who will return to defend its title during the 31st annual Bathtub Races in downtown Berlin on Friday.

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PHOTO COURTESY OCEAN PINES ASSOCIATION

Great Train Robbery provided rhythms to move feet and delight eardrums at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club during Independence Day festivities on Sunday.



PHOTO COURTESY OCEAN PINES ASSOCIATION

Children of all ages enjoy an array of activities at Veterans Memorial Park in Ocean Pines on Sunday prior to the evening fireworks display.

Celebration's return exhilarating

Continued from Page 1
around with coolers of water and food and keeping everybody happy.”

Donahue said after the lull in activities last year made the return of celebration this year exhilarating.

“It was a spectacular event,” she said.

The anticipated surge of people after resort officials shuttered Fourth of July fireworks was challenging, Donahue said.

“I just kept saying, ‘Where are they all coming from?’ [and] ‘What am I going to do with all these people?’” she said.

Despite the curveball, Donahue said association staff excelled at handling the crowd.

“Traffic made it out perfectly at the end of the night,” she said.

Better yet, Donahue said post event cleanup was done in less than an hour.

“It was crazy,” she said.

General Manager John Viola said overall the holiday weekend proved to be both a financial boon and return to form for the community after the covid-19 pandemic.

“Across the board, we saw people coming back out in large numbers to enjoy our amenities,” he said. “We were happy to see everyone again, we’re grateful for the good weather on Sunday, and we’re looking forward to a busy rest of the summer in Ocean Pines.”



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OP Board ethics resolution work continues

Following recent repeal of B-08 guidelines, potential revisions now under review

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(July 8, 2021) Time frames remain hazy to revise guidelines for ethics complaints against sitting directors after the Ocean Pines Board voted unanimously last month to repeal resolution B-08.

In May, Director Frank Daly introduced a motion to rescind the resolution regarding board member and officer ethics and conduct. The measure was passed on second reading by the board on June 16.

“It was the poster child of unintended consequences,” Daly said.

Originally approved in 2018, resolution B-08 was proposed by Director Dr. Colette Horn and approved by a 5-1 vote with then-Director Slobodan Trendic opposed.

“It was well-intended from day one, but the application is extremely difficult,” he said.

Although the measure was established to address actions between directors or association staff, it was difficult to apply from a practical

standpoint, Daly said.

“When you consider all the things that could happen ... and did happen, it’s good to get rid of,” he said.

In total, three B-08 complaints were lodged following the resolutions passage: one was filed in February against Association President Larry Perrone by Colby Phillips, another was filed last November involving General Manager John Viola and Director Tom Janasek, and in 2019 former OPA Human Resources manager Nate Douty filed a complaint that resulted in a wrongful termination lawsuit.

Speaking this week, Daly said in all three instances that B-08 proceedings occurred, “one ... or both parties didn’t think it was fair.

“When you go into a process, if anyone complains it’s unfair ... then

I think it’s time to get a new process,” he said.

Aspects that troubled Daly regarding resolution B-08 included limited public disclosure, along with the absence of detailed information on how to draft complaints and conduct investigations.

Daly said a board work group is developing a revamped version of the B-08 procedure to enhance public disclosure elements, among other things.

“There’s a whole bunch of things that have to be spelled out in meticulous detail,” he said.

Daly said an initial consideration should be what parties are eligible to lodge ethics or conduct complaints.

“Exactly what would a complaint look like and who does it have to be written by,” he said.

Elements involving public disclosures include who would conduct the investigation of the complaint and which parties would be interviewed.

Daly has reservations about whether the work group can produce an amended resolution that will be practical and effective.

“There a lot of things that it would need to address that I don’t think ... are realistic that it can address,” he said. “If they come up with something, I’ll certainly consider it.”

Daly reiterated an earlier criticism that B-08 complaints created an additional procedural level already covered within existing bylaws.

“It just fell completely short of what I would consider to be a fair, equitable [and] easy to understand process,” he said. “All three times we had problems with it.”

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First round completed at Bainbridge Pond

Major project wraps at site with smaller scale repairs still looming in near future

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(July 8, 2021) With the initial round of drainage repairs at Bainbridge Pond completed, Ocean Pines officials are now looking to replace associated piping running underneath three adjacent roadways this fall.

General Manager John Viola said contractor EQR has finished retrofitting Bainbridge Pond to improve water quality and to boost outfall capacity.

“They’ve basically completed the contract for the pond,” he said. “All the filtrations, that’s all completed.”

Viola said the project was financed primarily through a grant of more than \$480,000 from the Department of Natural Resources to address flooding and groundwater overflow.

The Bainbridge project was originally intended to increase downstream flow through swales and ditches to alleviate pond overflows, which drift towards homes west of the park.

“It’s really a filtration project,” he said.

The work completed by EQR



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Work to improve water quality and boost outfall capacity at Bainbridge Pond is completed with Ocean Pines looking to replace underground pipe at three adjacent locations in the future.

sought to bring Bainbridge in compliance with Maryland pond regulations.

Upgrades included installing both a smaller pond in front of Bainbridge Pond and wetland aquatic benches, which are plants used to assist water filtration.

In addition to the grant, Ocean Pines previously reallocated \$325,000 intended for road repairs to aid the effort, for an overall budget of just over \$800,000.

“If you just take what’s completed now, that’s filtration,” he said.

Viola said the total cost for EQR’s work is about \$550,000, with a second phase planned to replace culvert piping underneath Sandyhook, Pinehurst and Beaconhill roads.

“We’ll start bidding that out,” he said.

The pipe work, originally intended for EQR to handle, hit a hurdle after underground utility lines were located.

“There are many utilities along those roads that are affecting putting in the pipes,” he said. “Those utilities have to be moved and, because of that, we also have to use different size pipes.”

A larger number of smaller capacity pipes are now required to circumvent the various water and sewer lines running below the three roads.

Estimated costs are up to \$75,000 to relocate the utilities, with pipe installations running about \$100,000.

“We’ll start after Labor Day. If we get someone in there right away, we’ll be done by October,” he said.

Bainbridge Pond affects roughly 12 percent of the Ocean Pines community with filtration upgrades that are anticipated to reduce total nitrogen by 1,535 pounds, phosphorous by 174 pounds and total suspended solids by 90 tons annually.

While the first phase focused on filtration issues, the pipe work should improve drainage.

“It’s existing drainage that we’re going to make better, so it helps some,” he said.

Viola said the Bainbridge work is one part of a larger effort to address drainage and flooding problems, which also includes maintaining ditches free of debris.

“It’s drainage updating and maintenance,” he said. “It’s one small piece, but it’s one more step in the right direction.”



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Pines amenities back on track after covid

Membership sales poured in at high rates during May as summer season begins

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(July 8, 2021) Ocean Pines appears to be springing back to life in the aftermath of covid-19 with amenity memberships higher than average through May and revamped beautification efforts underway.

General Manager John Viola said revenues from pool memberships and beach parking leveled off during June after starting strong this spring.

“Some of it was timing where we would have had some of those memberships in June, because people came and bought them early,” he said.

Viola attributed the early buy-in to pent-up demand following the covid-19 pandemic.

“We figure when the two months are combined, we will still be favorable,” he said.

As for individual amenities, Viola

said the Aquatics Department has noted a sharp uptick in the number of swimmers using the pool facilities.

The Ocean Pines Golf Course has also experienced a surge in play.



John Viola

“I went by yesterday and asked about the number of rounds,” he said. “You can just see it compared to other years ... they’re up.”

Viola said course action started subpar during May, but after a soggy Memorial Day Weekend, greens and fairways have been packed.

“The course is in the best shape in all of the years that I’ve been down here,” he said.

Also on the upswing this year are tennis and pickleball competition at the Manklin Meadows Racquet Sports Complex.

“Racquet sports is doing well,” he said.

The Matt Ortt Companies, the association’s Food and beverage con-

tractor, have also witnessed a strong turnaround from 2020.

“Matt Ortt has booked a high dollar number of banquets,” he said.

The return of weekend musical offerings without capacity restrictions at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club has also drawn healthy crowds.

“They have signed up some really good bands,” he said.

The Clubhouse Bar and Grille has also gained in popularity this year.

“If you go in there on Sunday morning, between the breakfast and the golfers, it’s packed,” he said.

Aesthetical upgrades are also underway with a large batch of cherry blossom trees recently planted at the South Gate Pond near Veterans Memorial Park.

Viola said roughly 120 cherry blossoms were purchased through the Public Works Department in lieu of annual plantings at the Beach Club.

“Last year, with covid, I reallocated money we usually spend on palm trees,” he said.

Overseeing the recent tree installations were Public Works Director Eddie Wells and Public Works Operations Manager Nobie Violante.

“Everybody liked it and we consulted with the [Ocean Pines] Garden Club,” he said.

The initial rounds of cherry blos-

soms are rooting by the South Gate Pond along the walkway closest to Route 589.

“We got the same ones as in D.C.,” he said.

Flowering cherry trees generally grow up to two-feet annually.

The beautification campaign is slated to continue in subsequent years with continued assistance from Public Works staff and Garden Club members.

“They’re going to come back and give me some ideas for the North Gate Pond,” he said. “Right now we want to get more money for cherry blossom trees to finish out the two ponds.”

Besides financial considerations, future plantings will be delayed until Mother Nature is more accommodating.

“Right now it’s a tough time to plant,” he said.

Viola said updates on costs and ideal locations would be forthcoming later this year.

“We will have some maintenance work to clear growth,” he said.

From all indicators, Ocean Pines amenities are back to previous form as covid considerations gradually fade from the collective conscious.

“Amenities are popping off after covid,” he said. “It’s firing on all cylinders.”



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Questions raised over county agritourism bill

Commissioners concerned about how legislation could change greater Worcester

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer

(July 8, 2021) The Worcester County Commissioners returned a proposal for agritourism legislation to a work session during their Tuesday meeting.

The proposal, which was devised by the Office of Tourism and Economic Development and the Office of Development, Review and Planning, sought to create a new definition for agricultural alcohol production.

“(This definition would be) more inclusive,” planning department Deputy Director Jennifer Keene told the commissioners. “It includes wineries, farm breweries, distilleries — anything you can get a state manufacturing license for on a farm. It includes this under a definition for an agritourism use.”

The proposal also sought to eliminate “old definitions” of “agritainment” exceptions in the current zoning code and replace them as agritourism accessory uses.

For agritourism facilities, the proposal called for a 30-percent threshold based on the size of a given farm. It would allow for activities such as

“open-air events, corn mazes, hayrides, buildings of any size so we’re not nitpicking the particulars of a tasting room versus a farm event,” Keener said.

“We are not recommending making changes to the commercial hosting for non-agricultural functions and events. That will remain a special exemption as it stands today (in the existing zoning code).”

Commissioner Jim Bunting asked if the proposal included terminology that established what constituted a “festival.”

“A festival isn’t necessarily defined,” Keener replied. “The (state of Maryland allows) for farm and alcohol production, three days for an event, or a promotional type of event. It could also be related to the farm’s activities. A dairy farm could have a dairy festival for three days (for example.)”

Bunting asked how many times a given farm would be able to have a festival in a year.

“Under the current agritainment facility use, we limit it to four. Under this proposal, that cap has been eliminated,” Keener said.

Keener explained that the proposal would allow for farms to offer tastings and sales of products they produce. The proposal also does not establish a limit on crowd sizes or



PHOTO COURTESY WONDERLANE

Agritourism includes an assortment of events and functions including weddings, wine tastings, corn mazes and petting zoos. Proponents point to it as a way to create vital revenue for farmers.

parking regulations.

Bunting asked if the proposal allows for a commercial enterprise to establish itself. Keener said the proposal does not specifically bar it from happening.

“In my opinion, this weakens our agricultural districts,” Bunting said.

Bunting asked Keener, as a professional, what her opinion was.

“I think it gives some value for agricultural benefits,” Keener replied. “But yes, there are some commercial aspects that it opens up here.”

Bunting made clear that one of his chief concerns with the proposal was that the setback requirements outlined in it were inadequate.

“If there’s no limit on how many people can be (at a given festival) ... your (proposed 35-foot) setbacks are nowhere near where they need to be, to be away from another farm or property if (that farmer) is trying to

do work,” Bunting said.

“This whole thing is ridiculous. ... I haven’t had one farmer say it’s a good idea. I don’t know why we’re weakening our agricultural zoning. We’ve put a lot of work into it over the year. I’ve put a lot of work into it. This is just opening the doors for (a slippery slope) ... This is wrong, it shouldn’t be in any agricultural zone. We have plenty of commercial property in Worcester County if you need to do something like this. The only thing I really approve of is the fact that a farmer should be able to produce ethanol or that’s it. That’s the only thing I see good about this deal.”

Commissioner President Joe Mitrecic said that he objected to the 30 percent threshold on farm size because it could open up the definition of agritourism events to the planning department’s interpretation.

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Proposal 'weakens our agricultural districts'

"I think we need a hard number, whether it's 20 percent of the entire property or whatever (number we can agree on)," Mitrecic said. "I think that any time that we open your department up to interpreting what (which) part of a farm is active and what's not, I think it opens us up to issues down the road. It could put (the planning department) in the hotspot more so than anyone else. I want this number to be (somewhere) where it doesn't put (the department) in the middle."

Commissioner Chip Bertino agreed and asked if there's a way to address both concerns.

"This seems like it could certainly change the complexion and ambiance of the agricultural areas within our county," Bertino said. "(It seems to me this proposal) basically takes all the regulations, everything that makes the character of our agricultural areas, what they are and what attracts people, and throws them out the window."

Bertino asked if it's possible to refine the proposal to address those concerns.

"Certainly," Keener replied. "We currently have an agritainment definition now that essentially is the agritourism definition, but we added the agricultural alcohol production to it. It is a special exception use now. It has the same setbacks but obviously, we don't address the 50-feet for alcohol production and it limits the festivals to four per year. You already

have that in your code. Unfortunately, no one has ever taken advantage of it (before). We don't have an existing agritainment facility (in the rural county)."

"If you feel it's not even necessary to touch that, we don't have to. We can simply go back and refine the scope of agricultural alcohol production, which I do think we need to address, to be more inclusive of just wineries."

Bertino then moved to "send the issue back to the drawing board."

Before the commissioners ruled on the proposal, Commissioner Ted Elder echoed setback concerns.

"It's nowhere near sufficient for a farm," Elder said. "Like Commissioner Bunting said, there are several things here that need to be addressed. I'd like to see it (specified) a

lot better than this so we can address these issues."

When Keener was asked by Commissioner Diana Purnell if her department had discussed the proposal with the Worcester County Farm Bureau, Keener replied that it had not.

"Entertainment is what people are looking for in the agricultural district, (but I think you should) check the Farm Bureau to see what farmers are saying," Purnell said.

While pointing out that he understands the concerns raised by the others, Commissioner Josh Nordstrom praised what the proposal does correctly.

"I'm in favor of farmers using their property to do any number of things," Nordstrom said. "There are a lot of farmers who struggle and who, without this bill, may go out of business.

They may have to close down their farms if we don't give them the opportunity to use their property, use their facilities for agritourism and other ways to make income."

Nordstrom asked if another work session on the proposal would consider the concerns raised on Tuesday, and was told that it would.

Mitrecic, however, stressed the need for a decision.

"We can have work session after work session after work session but unless we're going to give (the planning department) some idea of what we're looking for, then there's no sense in having another work session. I'll tell you that now. They're looking for answers. (If you don't want one thing) then what do (we) want? ... These are the questions that they need answered by us."

~ VOTE ~

Rick Farr

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FILE PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Members of the Board of Education and Worcester County Commissioners recently approved an expedited bid from Delmar, Delaware-based Crystal Steel Fabricators to provide steel for a planned addition to Stephen Decatur Middle School.

Steel shortage concerns expedite SDMS bid

By Mallory Panuska
Staff Writer

(July 8, 2021) Fueled by the fear of a dwindling steel supply following plant closures last year because of covid-19, Worcester County officials have fast tracked a construction bid for a planned addition at Stephen Decatur Middle School.

Members of the Worcester County Commissioners voted on Tuesday to approve a bid agreement with Delmar, Delaware-based Crystal Steel Fabricators to provide steel for the project, which is still on track to break ground in November. The action came on the heels of a June 24 special Board of Education held specifically to expedite the bid process.

“The economic slowdown caused by

the pandemic resulted in many steel producers worldwide pulling back production,” said Vince Tolbert, the chief financial officer of Worcester County Public Schools, via email this week.

“Steel production was cut to reflect the depressed construction market conditions,” he continued. “There is now a smaller supply of steel coupled with a rising demand as the economy begins to recover from pandemic conditions.”

The project will eliminate the need for nine portable classrooms that have been accommodating the growing student population at the Berlin school. Tolbert said plans call for 24,800 square feet of added space, including 12 general education classrooms; four science classrooms

and two prep rooms; two girls and two boys restrooms; two storage rooms a conference room; three small meeting rooms; a teacher work room; and an 800 square-foot storage room adjacent to the existing stage in the cafeteria.

Documents for the bid for materials were released May 27 and opened June 17. According to BOE documents, a total of four bids were received. Crystal Steel, which was also the steel contractor for the new Showell Elementary, submitted the lowest bid at \$718,624.

Tolbert explained that school board members were initially set to review and approve the winning bid at their next regular meeting on July 13, but opted to expedite it because of the concerns over

steel availability. He said the contract was the only one that was expedited, with the next opening set to follow the original schedule.

“We will continue with the remaining bid packages on our original bidding schedule,” Tolbert explained. “This schedule includes bid opening in August, Board of Education approval in September, County Commissioner approval in October with actual construction starting in November. Since the project steel will be ordered in August and arrive on site in February/March, we should not encounter any construction delays due to the availability of the project steel.”

Under that schedule, project completion is set for December 2022.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Tranzfusion bassist Al Cook suffered a hand injury moments after stepping off stage last Saturday at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club as intense rain paused the gig and provided the band an unanticipated day off for Independence Day.

Tranzfusion mishap frees up July 4

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(July 8, 2021) Musician Al Cook, who slaps bass for perennial lower shore rockers Tranzfusion, made a brief stop on the injured reserve list after falling and breaking his hand while slipping off stage during a rain-storm last weekend.

Tranzfusion was performing at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club on Saturday when heavy rain stopped the show.

After winding up their take on the

Tom Petty tune "American Girl," a sudden downpour halted the entertainment.

"The official story with me is that I fell and broke a bone in my right hand," Cook said.

Cook said following the freak accident, the storm blew in and caused the show to end prematurely.

Ocean Pines Marketing and Public Relations Director Josh Davis said the crowd emitted an audible gasp as Cook stepped off stage and slipped

while heading inside the Yacht Club.

"I talked to him that night," Davis said, "and he was in good spirits," he said.

Cook's broken bone put the kibosh on Tranzfusion performing on Sunday but Davis said the group's base player is adapting.

"He actually plans to try and learn his bass parts on a keyboard with his good hand," he said.

Cook said he intends to be on See COOK Page 14

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(3) Upcoming Auctions at 8000 Esham Rd, Parsonsburg, MD: Late Sept. 2021 – Multi Estate Auction at the A&M Facility. To Include Glassware, Collectibles, Primitives, Artwork, Furniture & Tools. 22 Oct., 2021 - 16th Annual Decoy & Wildfowl Arts Auction, Live Auction/Live Webcast Bidding – Fri. October 22nd @ 5:03 PM. 4 Feb, 2022 - 16th Annual Firearm & Men's Night Auction. Friday Feb. 4th, 2022 at 5:03 PM (Live Onsite W/Live Online via Proxibid). Already have 130+ Firearms Consigned.

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(July 8, 2021) The US Coast Guard Auxiliary is offering the Maryland Basic Boating Safety Course, July 12-14, at the Ocean Pines Library from 6-9 p.m.

The Maryland Boating Safety Education Act requires that anyone born after July 1, 1972 must possess a Maryland Basic Boating Safety Certificate to operate a boat in the state. Those attending the class, and passing the test will receive a Maryland Boating Certificate which is NASBLA approved and valid in all states.

The cost is \$20 for all three evenings. The library is located at 11107 Cathell Rd., Ocean Pines.

Register or get more information by calling Barry Cohen at 410-935-4807, or email CGAUXOC@gmail.com.

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Cook breaks hand but adapts quick to make next gig

Continued from Page 13
board for subsequent gigs this summer.

"I have ways to work around this," he said. "I refuse to let down the band or the fans."

Matt Ortt Companies CEO Ralph DeAngelus said Cook's injury was unfortunate, but that patrons could look forward to a return engagement by the band later this month.

"Tranzfusion is one of our biggest and best bands, and they'll be back at the Yacht Club on July 23," he said.

Unable to play a private show slated for the Fourth of July, Tranzfusion drummer Bobby Malaby opted to take in Great Train Robbery's set at the Yacht Club.

Sipping a beer stage side on Sunday, Malaby conjectured it was his first Independence Day in four decades not pounding the skins.

DeAngelus said weather has presented challenges at times this season.

"That certainly hurt business on Saturday, but luckily we rebounded in a big way on Sunday," he said. "Despite some bad luck weather, we've been able to set single-day sales records at both the Yacht Club (June 12) and the Beach Club July 4) this summer."

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Ocean Pines Marina helps boost bottom line

Seasoned Dockmaster Ron Fisher oversees operations at recreational boaters site

(July 8, 2021) The Ocean Pines Marina was among the first amenities built in Ocean Pines, opening in 1975 along with the original Yacht Club.

Today, the marina is a dependable moneymaker for the Ocean Pines Association, helping to boost the bottom line by more than \$180,000 in each of the last six years.

Dockmaster and Pennsylvania native Ron Fisher is the mastermind of the operation. The former executive director of the Peninsula Regional Medical Group in Salisbury, Fisher is known for developing benchmarks with other marinas to help set competitive fuel prices.

But credit must also go to several long-time marina employees, who have been a model for consistency and great customer service over the years.

Shift Manager Shirley Figgs

Shirley Figgs grew up in Laurel, Delaware and still lives in the farmhouse she was born in. Her love of boating and being on the water, however, began years ago, when she was young and she and her dad would take boat trips to Assateague.

Figgs previously worked for DuPont and later managed restaurants and bartended in Florida. Her daughter, Teresa Travatello, was the public relations director in Ocean Pines for almost nine years and Figgs has now been a mainstay at the marina for 13 years.

Each day, Figgs runs the register, ties up boats, handles scheduling, and keeps the office in good order. However, that office has undergone plenty of changes during her tenure.

Before the new Yacht Club opened in 2014, marina staff worked out of a “shack” by the docks, Figgs said.

“We had our own little business there – we weren’t associated with



PHOTO COURTESY OCEAN PINES ASSOCIATION

Since opening in the mid-1970s, the Ocean Pines Marina has provided annual dock rentals for vessel owners and in recent years has proven to be a steady profit center among numerous amenity offerings.

the Yacht Club at all,” she said. “But, now we’ve all become friends.”

Figgs said marina business dropped off slightly in 2013, when the old Yacht Club was torn down and the new one was being built. Staff, at the time, often worked out of a temporary quarters.

“We were having to take our money and walk all the way over to the [Mumford’s Landing] pool house,” she said. “There was no air conditioning, it was 100 degrees, and it was just exhausting.”

She said former General Manager Bob Thompson brought in a construction trailer as a temporary work-space. When that went away, Figgs used the trunk of her old Ford Mercury as a makeshift office.

It wasn’t until Fisher came on in 2016 that the marina staff finally got a permanent space.

“When Ron came on board he asked, ‘Where’s all your stuff?’ And I said, ‘Some of it’s in the administration building and the rest is in my trunk,’” Figgs said with a laugh.

Thanks to Fisher, the association converted the extra bar area on the

back corner of the new Yacht Club into the new marina office.

“Ron said, ‘This isn’t going to work – we’ve got to work something out,’” Figgs said. “He fought for us, and finally we got to use this space.”

Today, the marina is busy and bustling again, with an annual boat slip waitlist of around 70 names, and many new and returning customers visiting the fuel docks each day. But even during the leaner times, Figgs

said she never thought about leaving.

“I just like the people,” she said. “There’s not a mean person out there. They’re all happy boaters.”

Among Figgs’ many customer service contributions, perhaps her most well-known are the dog biscuits she keeps at the marina for hungry pups to snack on. She stocks extras in that same Ford Mercury trunk, and it’s become a signature of the busi-

See OCEAN Page 16



PHOTO COURTESY OCEAN PINES ASSOCIATION

Ocean Pines Marina fuel attendant Mike Toth mans the pumps dockside for boaters looking to gas up before venturing to open waters.



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Ocean Pines Marina maintains profitability

Continued from Page 15
ness.

"I've got a 15-pound box of dog biscuits and they're all lined up," she said. She keeps certain treats in stock for regular customers, from the "teeny, teeny" ones to the larger dogs like labs and golden retrievers.

"There's a couple of dogs that jump right off the boats and come down the dock before the boat's even tied up," she said. "By the time I get in there with my paperwork, they're just sitting in there and waiting. You can't turn that down!"

In return for her friendliness, Figgs said many boaters bring her already fileted fresh fish – a definite benefit of the job.

"I'm in fish all year," she said. "They file it and bring it to me in a Ziploc bag. I don't even have to leave the dock!"

Figgs said business wasn't much different last year, during the COVID-19 pandemic. The marina was profitable, and the only changes were some of the safety protocols.

"We sold a lot of gas, and the numbers were great," she said. "We just do really good business here."

She expects another strong season in 2021, with a lot of new boats already coming in.

"Fifty percent of the boats I've seen [this year] are brand new," she said, something she attributes to federal stimulus spending. "They weren't cheap, but what are you going to do? You can't go out to dinner, you can't do this, you can't do that, so let's go out on a boat."

With all the new boat handlers, Figgs said the first week or so that the marina was open this year was interesting.

"The wind was so bad, and they were still learning how to drive, so I went home a couple of nights and couldn't walk the next day," she said with a laugh. "But the people were happy."

Fuel Dock Attendant Mike Toth

Originally from the Lehigh Valley area of Pennsylvania, Toth moved to



Shift manager Shirley Figgs, left, and Dockmaster Ron Fisher are familiar faces to patrons at the Ocean Pines Marina who keep boat owners and guests sailing onward.



PHOTOS COURTESY OCEAN PINES ASSOCIATION

the area in 1999 when he bought a condo in Ocean City. He also lived in Marina Village and Wood Duck, in Ocean Pines. Two and a half years ago, he moved to Selbyville.

Toth said the job in Ocean Pines came not long after he retired about 14 years ago.

"I sat around the house for a couple of days and my wife said, 'You need something to do!'" he said.

Not long after, he went to the Ocean Pines administration building, filled out an application, and received a call the next day.

Toth said the old Yacht Club "had a character of its own." He said the marina had a shack with a weigh station and various items for sale, and the Yacht Club had a bigger swimming pool and an outdoor bar.

"I liked it a lot, but I understand that it was in a state of disrepair and needed to be replaced," he said.

Now, with the new Yacht Club running a successful restaurant business, he said the marina can be "chaotic and entertaining at the same time," averaging more than 100 boats at the fuel docks. On a hectic holiday weekend, he said the marina can see close

to 500 boats over four days.

"You're hustling through the whole weekend. There will be a boat at either end [of the fuel dock], two out front, and six or eight just circling and waiting to come in," he said, comparing it to a McDonald's drive-through.

"For a small operation, you'd be amazed at how much gas comes out of here," he continued. "People are just coming in and out, all day. We're running down here, but it makes the time go by."

During the summer, Toth said it's not unusual to see boaters put almost \$1,000 into their gas tanks.

"It's all relative – if you can afford the boat, you can afford the gas," he said. "Once the season starts, you'll see people come in and put in that kind of money, and they don't blink an eye."

Like Figgs, he said the marina was virtually "pandemic proof," with plenty of customers coming in last year despite all the restrictions.

"We probably had a record-breaking year, plus we had good weather," he said. "The price of our gas is right, it's non-ethanol gas, and it's easy to

get in and out of here. People come down from Delaware, because that state doesn't allow the sale of non-ethanol."

Toth said a noticeable effect of the pandemic was the increase of new boats and new boaters. However, he said because of that boom there's now a shortage of new supply.

"These boat dealers, they have no new boats to sell," he said. "One dealer told me that they won't be getting new boats in for a month – that's how far behind they are. But, at the marina, that just means we're going to be busy and we're going to sell a lot of gas."

Weather allowing, Toth expects another huge year at the Ocean Pines Marina.

"We make a lot of money for the association, and we'll probably contribute about \$200,000 [profit] year in and year out," he said.

As a retirement job, the fuel dock attendant position "is all I ever want to be," Toth said.

"I just like meeting all the new people. That's the nice thing about it – it's new every day," he said. "And it's a killer view."

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PHOTO COURTESY ASSATEAGUE ISLAND ALLIANCE FACEBOOK

Four-year-old mare, N2BHS-CKP, Moonshadow, was found dead on July 6, and it is believed that her injuries were due to a hit-and-run automobile accident the previous week.

Assateague mare found dead after being struck by vehicle

(July 8, 2021) Four-year-old mare (N2BHS-CKP, Moonshadow) was found dead on July 6, by a park employee in the Oceanside Campground of Assateague Island National Seashore. It is believed that her injuries were due to a hit-and-run automobile accident the previous week. Both the mare and her foal (N2BHS-CKPT) were likely involved in a low-speed motor vehicle accident last week along Bayberry Drive. N2BHS-CKPT is still lame but has improved noticeably over the past week

and continues to move around with her band. The foal will remain in the wild, but park staff will continue to monitor her condition in the weeks ahead. Visitors are reminded to slow down and always drive with caution along Assateague's roadways. Be on the lookout for horses and other wildlife when visiting the National Seashore. Any road accident within the park, especially those involving wildlife, should be reported to park law enforcement at the Ranger Station.

Pines Platform Tennis Club tournament set for Sept. 25

(July 8, 2021) The Ocean Pines Platform Tennis Club will host its third annual benefit tournament on Sept. 25, at the Ocean Pines Racquet Center. The club has dedicated this year's tournament to Jim Freeman, an active platform tennis member who passed away on March 15 after a battle with cancer. Freeman served the U.S. Marines with honor and later worked for 31 years as a seventh-grade science teacher at Keith Valley Middle School in Horsham, Pennsylvania. He retired to Ocean Pines with his wife, June, and became an active member of the platform tennis community. The Platform Tennis Club will donate all tournament proceeds to Semper Fi & America's Fund, a nonprofit "dedicated to providing immediate financial assistance and lifetime support to combat wounded, critically ill and catastrophically injured members of all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces and their families." "Our friend Jim was a proud Marine, and a multi-term president and passionate advocate for our Platform

Tennis Club," tournament co-organizer Karen Kaplan said. "He is sorely missed. We respectfully request that all entry fees, donations, and sponsorships be donated in honor of Jim to the Semper Fi & America's Fund Charity, which provides many vital layers of services to members of all service branches and their families." All platform tennis clubs in Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey and Pennsylvania may compete. Individual players may also enter. The entry deadline is Sept. 11, and the entry fee is a \$50 donation, per player. Checks may be made payable to Semper Fi/America's Fund, "in Memory of Jim Freeman," mailed with an entry form to Michael Petitto, 4 Long Court, Ocean Pines, Maryland, 21811. To download an entry form, visit <https://oceanpines.org/documents/10184/89280/SemperFi.9.25.21.3.pdf> The Ocean Pines Platform Tennis Club is also seeking sponsors for the event. For questions or more information, email oppaddle2020@gmail.com.

Berlin Police report rates of traffic accidents increased

Total collisions during June higher than previous year

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(July 8, 2021) Berlin Police Chief Arnold Downing is sounding the alarm about the increased number of traffic collisions this summer.

"We have had an increase of accidents with the calming of the epidemic and the changing of the season," he said.

Downing said Berlin Police responded to 20 accidents last month, five of which involved personal injuries.

"We used to average around five every two weeks," he said.

Accident rates last month in Berlin have doubled from the 10 incidents recorded in June 2020.

"Everybody's going back to work in Ocean City," he said. "For us, it's a lot of travel in between and we have all the visitors doing the exact same thing."

Through the first week of this month, another four accidents have occurred, with one of those resulting in serious injuries.

"It's trending to be 25 percent a month," he said.

Downing said most of the crashes result from a motorist's failure to yield the right of way.

"The reason why you fail to yield the right of way is you weren't paying attention," he said.

Common distractions include cell phones, vehicle passengers and loud music.



Arnold Downing

Increasing dependence on GPS devices, which are often used to bypass congested traffic through alternate routes, is also a frequent contributor to accidents.

"We've had some bad accidents where people miss the road they're suppose to turn at while they're being navigated purely by a GPS system," he said. "They're just whipping through and sometimes not even looking where they're going."

Downing also advised that motorists allow themselves ample travel time when they are on the road during peak tourist season.

"Don't be in a rush is the big word of caution," he said. "Give yourself enough time to get to your destination and understand that there will be delays."



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Russo delves into online cults

(July 8, 2021) When local journalist Tony Russo stopped writing about combat veterans and started writing about cults, he thought the stories about horrible incidents and damaged psyches were behind him. Then he heard about internet prophet Sherry Shriner.

Shriner had told one of her acolytes, Steven Mineo, that his girlfriend was a reptilian witch who would kill him. The accusation drove Mineo to the edge, and he led a rebellion against the cult leader that culminated in his death at the hands of his girlfriend, Barbara Rogers, just as Shriner had predicted.

Over the course of his reporting, Russo uncovered a pattern of betrayal, ostracism and death around the cult, but he also was steeped in what would become QAnon conspiracy culture.

His research coincided with a six-part documentary by Vice-TV for its true-crime series, "The Devil You Know Season Two," which featured Russo as the through-line character explaining the workings

of this bizarre and complex cult.

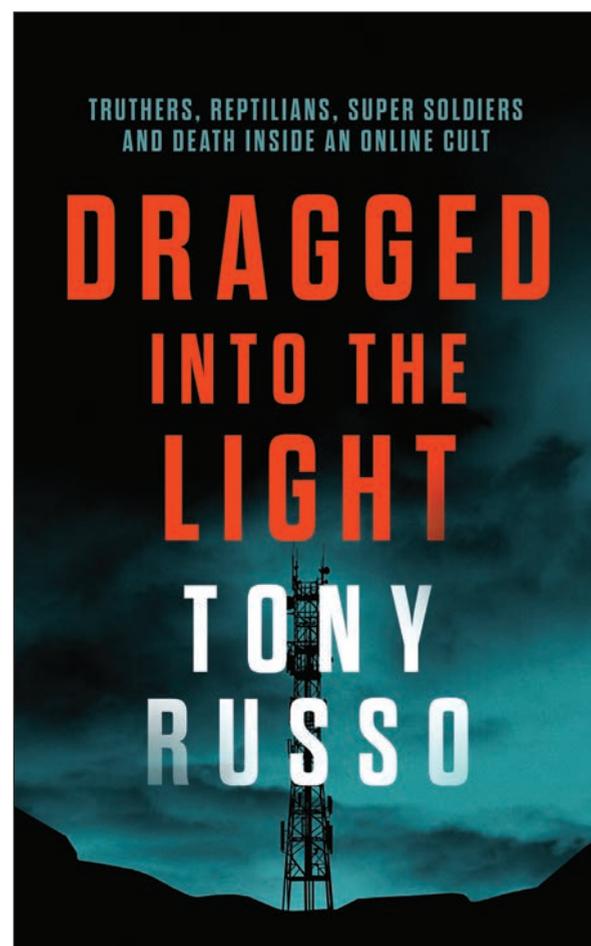
Russo's own work on the subject, "Dragged Into the Light: Truthers, Reptilians, Super Soldiers, and Death Inside an Online Cult," was recently released by Secant Publishing of Salisbury.

"Dragged Into the Light" considers the political and religious factors that drive conspiracy cults and questions whether there are deeper reasons than madness that causes people to believe that celebrities and members of the political elite are possessed by reptile demons.

Russo has spent his entire professional life writing on or about the Eastern Shore as a journalist and, later, a tourism content creator.

"Dragged Into the Light" is available in hardcover at \$26.95 from major retailers including Amazon, Bookshop.org, IndieBound, BarnesandNoble.com; from The Greyhound in Berlin; and also from the publisher www.secantpublishing.com.

The ebook is available at \$8.99 from all online retailers.



Business Briefs

Joins AGH

Atlantic General Hospital and Health System welcomes Dr. Ellen Rowe, who has joined the medical staff to provide family medicine care at the organization's West Fenwick, Delaware, primary care office alongside nurse practitioner Michael Boyle.



Ellen Rowe

Rowe is a native of Sussex County. She received a Bachelor of Science in interdisciplinary health services and medical ethics from St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia, where she also played Division I field hockey for four years.

She received a Master of Science in biomedical science from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine before starting medical school. In 2018, she graduated from St. George's University School of Medicine, where she was president of the Women in Medicine organization and member of the Gold Humanism Honor Society.

Rowe completed her family medicine residency at VCU-Riverside Regional Medical Center in Newport News, Virginia.

She is a member of the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Medical Association, the American Medical Women's Association and the American College of Physicians. She is board-certified in family medicine.

Appointments can be scheduled by calling 302-564-0004.

Opening soon

Harbor Freight Tools will officially open its new store in Pocomoke City on Saturday, July 17 at 8 a.m.

The Pocomoke City store, located at 110 Newtowne Blvd, is the 13th Harbor Freight Tools store in Maryland.

The store brings approximately 25-30 new jobs to the community. It will be open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday.

The Chamber of Commerce will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Thursday, July 15, at 3 p.m.

"We're ready to serve and deliver value to customers in Pocomoke City and all of Worcester County," said Kelly Jarvis Byrnes, store manager. "At Harbor Freight, we recognize that now, more than ever, our customers depend on Harbor Freight for the tools they need to get the job done at an affordable price. We are the place for quality tools at the lowest prices for mechanics, contractors, homeowners and hobbyists— any tool user who cares about value."

The 15,400-square-foot store will stock a full selection of tools and equipment in categories including automotive, air and power tools, storage, outdoor power equipment, generators, welding supplies, shop equipment and hand tools (which come with a lifetime warranty), among others.

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Community Briefs

Scholarships

The Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City annual awards scholarships to local graduating senior students.

This year, there were also two memorial scholarships offered in honor of Kiwanians Reverend Skip McComas and Pastor Dave Herr, who both passed away. They were influential to the club and community as spiritual leaders.

Much of the funds were raised during covid by the club's now annual "Lottery Raffle" ticket sales.

Students receiving scholarships are: Maeve Donahue, \$2,000, Skip McComas Memorial (William & Mary University); Kellen Catrino, \$2,000, Dave Herr Memorial (Salisbury University); Brooklyn Pugner, \$1,000 (Washington College); Morgan Carlson, \$1,000 (Washington College); Lydia Woodley, \$1,000 (St. John's University Queens Campus); Kathrine Wrench, \$1,000 (West Virginia University); Rafe Parsons, \$1,000 (Bridgewater College); and Evan Truitt, \$1,000 (Charleston Southern University).

Awarded

The General Levin Winder Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) recently sponsored the award of DAR Bronze JROTC Medals to Lanie Gladding at Pocomoke High School and Kristin Braun at Snow Hill High School.

A Silver DAR Outstanding Cadet Medal was awarded to Skylar Wesche at Stephen Decatur High School.

The National Society DAR authorized the award of distinctive ROTC medals in 1967 as a means of recognizing and rewarding student cadets of outstanding ability and achievement in secondary school, junior/community college, college or university ROTC programs.

Students must have demonstrated qualities of dependability and good character, adherence to military discipline, leadership ability, and a fundamental and patriotic understanding of the importance of ROTC training.

The Silver Outstanding Cadet medal was added in 2013 for award to a student participating in a non-ROTC, military-affiliated cadet program funded by the school or privately.

President's List

Several Worcester County residents were named to the president's list at their respective colleges and universities.

Earning a spot on Southern New Hampshire University's winter 2021 list are Berlin residents Christian Davenport, Cristina Jones and Taylor Hershey.

The winter term runs from January to May. Full-time students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above are named to the president's list.

Also from Berlin, Ann Woll scored a spot on James Madison University's list for the spring 2021 semester. Students who earn president's list honors must carry at least 12 graded credit hours and earn a GPA of 3.900 or above. Woll is majoring in history.

Honors

Kai McGovern, of Berlin, class of 2022 at the University of Vermont, was inducted into the Alpha Omicron Chapter of the Xi Sigma Pi National Forestry Honor Society in April, based on his outstanding academic achievement in forestry and related coursework at UVM.

Initiated

Trent Chetelat of Bishopville, was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society. Chetelat was initiated at University of Maryland, College Park.

Chetelat is among approximately 30,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter.

Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students

in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

Dean's List

A number of Worcester County residents were recently named to the dean's list for the spring semester at their respective colleges.

They are:
Sean Vandervelden, Ocean City, East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania; requirements - 3.50 quality point average or better, enrolled full-time; James Church, Ocean City, McDaniel College (dean's list with honors), requirements - grade point average of 3.90 or higher, high honors for a grade point average of 3.70-3.89, and honors for a 3.50-3.69 grade point average; Elsa Quillin, Berlin, College of William & Mary, requirements - at least 12 credit hours and earn a 3.6 Quality Point Average; Kai McGovern, Berlin, University of Vermont Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources, requirements - grade-point average of 3.0 or better, rank in the top 20 percent of their class.

In addition, James Madison University students: Caroline Pasquariello, Berlin, marketing major; Corinne Krasner, Berlin, musical theatre; and Alexa

Upperman, Berlin, nursing, requirements - 12 graded credit hours and earn a GPA of between 3.5 and 3.899.

Master's degrees

Worcester County residents who recently earned master's degrees from McDaniel College are: Amy Lauren Wright, Ocean City, school librarianship; Beau Williams, Berlin, school librarianship; and Jackson Mumford, Ocean City, teaching.

Bachelor's degrees

Worcester County residents who recently earned bachelor's degrees from their respective colleges and universities are: Andrew S. Gottfried, Berlin, cinema, McDaniel College; James Wyatt Church, Ocean City, environmental studies, McDaniel College; Stella Cunningham, Berlin, bachelor of arts, University of Vermont; Shuvan Shrestha, Berlin, bachelor of arts, University of Vermont; Seth Lewis, Berlin, bachelor of science, commercial real estate finance, College of Charleston; Max Bisaha, Berlin, graduated cum laude, bachelor of arts, political science, College of Charleston; Ann Woll, Berlin, degree in history, James Madison University; Whitney Van Kirk, Ocean City, degree in writing, rhetoric and technical communication, James Madison University.

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Opinion

Please send all letters and other editorial submissions to editor@baysidegazette.com by 5 p.m. Monday.

Board should protect itself in ethics cases

The most critical aspect of any ethics requirement is not its standards or how well they are applied, but is the governing body's handling of a case no matter who it involves and whatever risk that might pose to friendships, associations and alliances.

It's a highly uncomfortable circumstance when people who work alongside each other are called upon to decide whether one of their number has stepped out of line.

The influences of friendships, alliances, politics and personalities are difficult to avoid in a situation where everyone knows everyone else, regardless of how well the rules are written. It's also because of the small town nature of the community that deciding a breach-of-ethics case is one of the more certain ways to make an enemy for life.

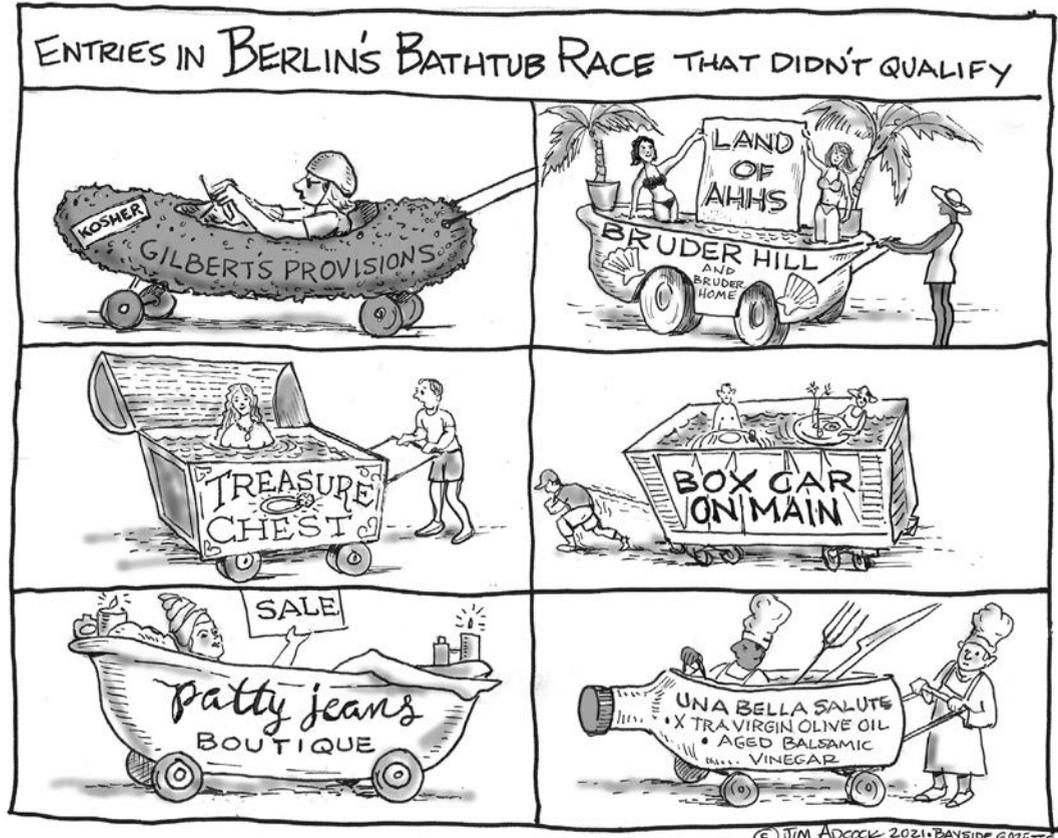
Still, that doesn't mean the Ocean Pines Association shouldn't have tough ethics requirements written into the bylaws, as not everyone can resist the urge to meddle in staff affairs, or in the worst case, do something truly untoward.

This isn't an accusation that this sort of thing is happening now or has happened on the current board, but instead recognizes that it has happened in the past and will probably happen again because that's the way people are.

The purpose of ethics statutes, or resolutions, isn't just to protect the public from unscrupulous or unhelpful behavior by people in authority, but also to shield those in authority from repercussions that might result from the actions of others.

To accomplish that, however, the board of directors needs to remove itself from the equation by passing the responsibility for ethics rules enforcement to a completely separate body.

No matter how the ethics bylaws are written or revamped, establishing this independent review is the only way the board can protect itself from the personally uncomfortable and politically fraught business of considering the public future of one of its own.



(c) JIM ADcock 2021 BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Oversand vehicle zone work planned

(July 8, 2021) The National Park Service (NPS) will be working on improvements to the entrance area of the Maryland Oversand Vehicle Zone (OSV), starting July 12.

There will be occasional delays (10-15 minutes) to both inbound and outbound traffic to and from the OSV beach. Hours of work may vary due to weather or traffic. Work will take place Monday through Thursday only and should be completed by Thursday, July 22.

These improvements are funded by Oversand Vehicle permit revenue and should result in a smoother process of entering the OSV area.

The work will involve moving and replacing the entry/exit gates about 200 hundred yards closer to the beach and paving the area from the current gates to the new gates with clay and clamshell (similar to the current South Ocean Beach parking lot). The limit of vehicles in the Maryland OSV zone will remain the same at 145.

In the summer season of 2020, the National Seashore saw an 81 percent increase to OSV Zone use from the average use over the last five years. This high level of use has continued during the Spring and early Summer of 2021.

These improvements will

enhance safety by keeping the entrance lines further away from the congested area around the South Beach parking lot and decreasing the interaction between the OSV lines and pedestrian and bicycle traffic.

OSV permits may be purchased at Toms Cove Visitor Center in Virginia and at the North Beach Visitor Contact Station in Maryland. For OSV permit information and current access conditions call 410-641-3030 in Maryland or 757-336-6577 in Virginia.

For general information about the Seashore and park activities access the park's web site at www.nps.gov/asis or call 410-641-1441.

Anglers' youth fishing contest July 17

(July 8, 2021) The Ocean Pines Anglers Club will host the annual Art Hansen Memorial Youth Fishing Contest on Saturday, July 17, at the South Gate Pond near Sports Core Pool, in Ocean Pines.

Registration is from 8:30-9:30 a.m. The contest will run from 9-10:30 a.m. Youth should bring their own fish-

ing rod and reel. Bait will be provided.

There are three age groups: 4-7, 8-11, and 12-16. A trophy will be awarded for the biggest fish in each age group, with special awards for the top three.

Children younger than age 4 can fish but will not be eligible for a trophy.

A drawing will be held for

two grand prizes – a deep sea fishing trip aboard The Angler, and a custom Mike Vitak fishing rod.

All participants will receive a prize compliments of the Anglers Club and the Ocean City-Berlin Optimist Club.

This is a free event. For more information, call John McFalls at 610-505-1697.

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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Jesse Klump fund suicide prevention honored by state

Comptroller Franchot gives nonprofit accolade for work

(July 8, 2021) Maryland Comptroller Peter Franchot annually recognizes one agency in each county that demonstrates “an unwavering commitment to helping others.”

The 2021 award for Worcester County was given to the Jesse Klump Memorial Fund for its work in suicide prevention education and support for local mental health services and training.

The Jesse Klump Memorial Fund was founded in 2009 following the death by suicide of a 17-year-old Snow Hill High School senior.

In the years since, the fund’s Jesse Klump Suicide Awareness & Prevention Program has become the leading nonprofit on the lower Eastern Shore focusing on suicide prevention, with a variety of services, classes and a support group for those who have lost loved ones to suicide.

“We are delighted that the comptroller has chosen to recognize our work, but the real reward comes when someone says to us at a class, or at a community event, that we have saved lives and given others hope of a brighter future,” said Jesse Klump

Memorial Fund President Kim Klump. “Those kind words, plus the honor of this award, are the things that keep us committed to protecting other families from the tragedy suffered by mine.”

Following a year that tested the mental health of many, the Jesse Klump Memorial Fund plans to strengthen and broaden outreach as opportunities for teaching and counseling open again.

“In the coming school year, the Jesse Klump Memorial Fund will make possible the implementation of a new program with the aim of healing those families of elementary-aged students that have experienced severe trauma,” said fund Corresponding Secretary Ron Pilling. “Bounce Back’ is a proven counseling practice that, with the help of our partners at the board of education and the health department, will be in place in two Worcester County elementary schools, with the hope of expanding to every school in years to come.”

To learn more about the work of the Jesse Klump Memorial Fund, including news about the 13th annual Jesse’s Paddle fellowship and fundraising gathering in September, visit www.jessespaddle.org.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

BLUE SUPPORT

Caryn Abbott, president of Worcester Backs The Blue, and her husband founded the nonprofit organization in April after seeing what law enforcement officers were going through nationwide. It has now grown to 18-plus volunteers. The group recently held a drawing for an offshore tuna fishing trip donated by Capt. Rob Skillman. Dean Bennett won the prize. Pictured, from left, are Worcester County Sheriff Matt Crisafulli, Abbott, Skillman and Scott Gettier, owner of the boat Reel Fun.



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Saturday, 1-4pm	81 Wood Duck Dr., Ocean Pines	3-4BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$990,000	Greg Erdie/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday, 1-4pm	81 Wood Duck Dr., Ocean Pines	3-4BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$990,000	Matthew Shawn/Coldwell Banker Realty





SUBMITTED PHOTOS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

TOP TEAMS

Wor-Wic Community College recently held its 19th annual golf tournament at the college's Ocean Resorts Golf Club in Berlin. Proceeds from the tournament benefit the college's on-campus child development center. (Left) This year's top team with the lowest gross score was the Delmarva Power team of, from left, Joe and Renee Sheehy, George Vogelsang and John Petito. (Right) The top team with the lowest net score was the Long and Foster team of, from left, Mike Sullivan, Rich Barr, Ryan Johnson and Andrew Wagner.

Entries sought for West OC Harbor Day poster artwork

(July 8, 2021) Harbor Day at the Docks will take place in the West Ocean City Commercial Harbor on Saturday, Oct. 16 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and the Art League of Ocean City is issuing a "call for entries" for original artwork to be used on the 2021 official event poster.

Located along Sunset Avenue in West Ocean City, this annual waterfront festival celebrates the area's rich history and maritime heritage, as well as the sport fishing and commercial fishing industries.

Highlights of the day include seafood cooking demonstrations, crab picking contests, fish cleaning demonstrations, local fisherman displays, nautical artisans, educational exhibits, entertainment, food, activities for children, and a traditional Blessing of the Fleet.

Poster artwork must pertain to the West Ocean City harbor and/or local fishing industries. All media will be accepted, including photography, painting, drawing, mixed media, etc., and the artwork must be an original image produced by the submitting artist.

The Art League will award \$250 to the winning entry, which will also be professionally printed and sold as a signed, limited edition poster at Harbor Day.

The deadline to enter is July 30. Entries must be submitted as digital files to Art League Gallery Director Katie Brown at katie@artleagueofoceancity.org along with name, address, phone number, e-mail address, artwork title, and medium. Images submitted must be suitable for printing, at least 300 dpi at 11x14 inches.

More information is available from Brown at 410-524-9433 or katie@artleagueofoceancity.org.

The Art League of Ocean City is a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing the visual arts to the community through education, exhibits, scholarship, programs and community art projects. Financial support comes primarily through membership dues from individuals and corporate sponsors. More information is available at 410-524-9433 or www.artleagueofoceancity.org.

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Bayside Skillet
Newt and Sharon Chandler
Annabelle C. Dix
Dave and Renee Esham
Alan and William Hyle
Joseph & Susan Moore
John and Avery Morris
Tammy A. Patrick
G. Marvin & Beverly Steen
IN HONOR OF
The Late Cindy Anderson
Alane & Ralph Capen
The Late Leroy E. "Lee" Duggan
Peter Ayers Wimbrow, III
The Late Robert "Boomer" Freeman
Tuesday Golf "The Stone Group"

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Calendar

Please send calendar items to editor@baysidegazette.com by 5 p.m. Monday. All community-related activities will be published at no charge.

Thurs., July 8

TEDDY BEAR PICNIC

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., Snow Hill, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Children, 2-5 years, bring your favorite stuffed animal for an outdoor picnic featuring songs, stories and rhymes. A take-home activity included. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under events. 410-632-2600

NATURE SCAVENGER HUNT

Cypress Park Playground, 7 Bridge St., Pocomoke City, 2-3 p.m. Families are welcome to walk along the Pocomoke Nature Trail and look for a variety of plants and animals. Weather permitting. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under events. 410-632-2600

ZUMBA FOR ALL LEVELS

Webinar style program meeting via Zoom, 4-5 p.m. These classes uplift and improve mood. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under events. 410-632-2600

FAMILY BEACH GAMES

Carousel Hotel, 11700 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Free interactive fun for the whole family. Games include sand castle contests, tug-of-war, relays and more. Parents must stay with their children. Weather pending. <http://www.ococean.com>.

CONCERT IN THE PARK

Cypress Park, 7 Bridge St., Pocomoke City, 7-8:30 p.m. Featuring Bayside Worship Team. Pack a picnic and bring lawn chairs. Admission is free. downtownpocomoke.com, 410-957-1333, Ext. 111.

SUNSET PARK PARTY NIGHTS

Sunset Park, 700 S. Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, 7-9 p.m. Featuring "Johnny Bling" (dance music). Admission to the park is free, while beverages, including beer, are available for purchase. Bring your own seating. <http://www.ocdc.org>, 410-289-7739

OC BEACH DANCE PARTY

Caroline St. Stage, 2 N. Atlantic Ave., Ocean City, 7:30-9:30 p.m. A DJ hits the Caroline Street Stage where attendees can dance under the lights on the beach. Followed by the new drone show at 9:30 p.m. 410-250-0125

OC DRONE SHOW

North Division Street Beach, Ocean City, 9:30-10 p.m. Come experience Ocean City's new drone show. <https://www.ococean.com/events/oc-drone-shows2021>

Fri., July 9

DEADLINE TO REGISTER FOR 4TH ANNUAL OCEAN CITY FILM CHALLENGE

Filmmakers must register for the challenge by July 9 at [https://forms.gle/pKGGGeo\(sbP-](https://forms.gle/pKGGGeo(sbP-)

wDBYa7. Complete rules and entry details are available at <http://www.ocmofilmfestival.com/ocean-city-film-challenge>. Additional information: 410-524-9433.

MARYLAND CRAB CAKE DINNER

Stevenson United Methodist Church, 123 N. Main St., Berlin, 4-6:30 p.m. Carryout only. Cost is \$12 for a platter with one crab cake, \$20 for a platter with two crab cakes and \$8 for a single sandwich. There will be a bake table. <https://www.stevensonchurch.org/contact>. 410-641-1137

ANNUAL BATHTUB RACES

Berlin Main Street, Berlin, 6-8 p.m. The parade will begin at 6 p.m. with races starting at 6:15 p.m. There will also be a Kid Zone with arts and crafts. <https://berlinchamber.org/events/bathtub-races/>, 410-641-4775

MOVIE ON THE BEACH

27th Street Beach, Ocean City, 8:30 p.m. Featuring "Sonic The Hedgehog." Weather permitting. Ocean City Recreation & Parks, 410-250-0125, <http://www.oceancitymd.gov>

Sat., July 10

OCEAN PINES ANGLERS CLUB MEETING

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, Berlin, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Cpl. Gina Tyler and Dr. Roman Jesien will discuss bay dredging, water quality and more. Angler members will provide updates on current fishing issues. All welcome. Jack Barnes, 410-641-7662

OYSTER FRITTERS & FISH FRY FUNDRAISER

Calvary United Methodist Church, 8607 Ironshire Station Road, Berlin, 10:30 a.m. Sandwiches cost \$9. Platters cost \$12 and include one side and one soda. Info: Tom, 443-783-6024.

CAPTAIN CRAIG SWIM

14th Street and beach, Ocean City, 6 p.m. Competitors will swim a measured mile to a finish line located at 14th Street and the beach. The Ginny Craig quarter mile swim will also finish in the area of 14th Street. 410-289-7556

Sun., July 11

SUNDAES IN THE PARK

Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City, 7-9 p.m. Enjoy free music and each week children are offered various free activities and entertainment. Ice Cream and beverages available for purchase. Followed by the new drone show. <https://www.ococean.com>.

OC DRONE SHOW

Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City, 9-9:30 p.m. Come experience Ocean City's

new drone show.

<https://www.ococean.com/events/oc-drone-shows2021>

Mon., July 12

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY MEETING

Atlantic General Hospital, Conference Room 1, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 5-6:30 p.m. Meeting in-person and via conference call. For call-in option, dial 605-472-5789, wait for voice command, then press 944874. Support and educational group. Rose Campion, 443-880-8884

MARYLAND BASIC BOATING SAFETY COURSE

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, Berlin, 6-9 p.m. Cost is \$20 for all three evenings, July 12-14. Register: Barry Cohen, 410-935-4807, CGAUXOC@gmail.com

MOVIE ON THE BEACH

27th Street Beach, Ocean City, 8:30 p.m. Featuring "Playing With Fire." Weather permitting. Ocean City Recreation & Parks, 410-250-0125, <http://www.oceancitymd.gov>

Tues., July 13

FIRST ANNUAL CANOE RACE

Atlantic Beach House, 115 75th St., Ocean City, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Cash prizes, drink specials and free T-shirts for participants. Cost is \$100 per team of four. Pre-register: www.abhcanoerace.com. 410-524-7575

UNCLE TYRONE KID'S COMEDIAN OUTDOOR PROGRAM

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., Berlin, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Uncle Ty-Rone is a ventriloquist, puppeteer and kid's comedian with a hilarious act that inspires kids to reach their goals through reading. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under events. 410-632-2600

UNCLE TYRONE KID'S COMEDIAN OUTDOOR PROGRAM

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, Berlin, 2-3 p.m. Uncle Ty-Rone is a ventriloquist, puppeteer and kid's comedian with a hilarious act that inspires kids to reach their goals through reading. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under events. 410-632-2600

PARKINSON'S SUPPORT GROUP

The Macky & Pam Stansell House Coastal Hospice, 1500 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines, 3:15-4 p.m. Group provides discussions and mutual support, as well as education on exercise, nutrition, coping techniques and more. To reserve: Kay Kinnikin, 410-641-4765, kkinnikin@atlantic-general.org

FAMILY BEACH GAMES

27th Street Beach, Ocean City, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Free interactive fun for the whole family. Games include sand castle contests, tug-of-war, relays and more. Parents must stay with their children. Weather permitting. <http://www.ococean.com>

SECOND CANDIDATE FORUM

Ocean Pines Golf Club, 100 Clubhouse Drive, Ocean Pines, 7-9 p.m. Candidates this year are Frank Daly, Stuart Lakernick, David C. Hardy and Richard Farr. To submit questions for the forum, email elections@oceanpines.org. www.oceanpines.org, 410-641-7717

ATLANTIC COAST SPORTFISHING ASSOCIATION MONTHLY MEETING

American Legion Post 123, Old Ocean City Blvd., 7:30 p.m. Dave Wilson will be speaking on the current status of wind energy. Guest are welcome. Ron Smith, smitty3894@aol.com

Wed., July 14

UNCLE TYRONE KID'S COMEDIAN INDOOR PROGRAM

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 10-11 a.m. Uncle Ty-Rone is a ventriloquist, puppeteer and kid's comedian with a hilarious act that inspires kids to reach their goals through reading. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under events. 410-632-2600

OPEN AIR JOB FAIR

Elks Lodge #1624, 1944 Worcester Highway, Pocomoke City, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Employers offering competitive wages and signing bonuses will be accepting applications and hiring onsite. Come prepared to apply and interview. Takes place rain or shine. jtrieu@co.worcester.md.us, 410-632-3110

ZOOM WITH YOUR BABY

Meeting via Zoom, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Babies under 2 and caregivers join in for songs, rhymes and stories. Optional: have a scarf and rattle/shaker handy. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under events. 410-632-2600

TEEN CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP WITH HONOR MCELROY

Meeting via Zoom, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Write, collaborate, share and explore publication opportunities. Bring your poetry, song lyrics, drawings woven with words, stories and more. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.com under events. 410-632-2600

MOVIE ON THE BEACH

Carousel Hotel, 11700 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 8:30 p.m. Featuring "Ugly Dolls." Weather permitting. Ocean City Recreation & Parks, 410-250-0125, <http://www.oceancitymd.gov>

Cuisine

Suplee offers recipe for chiliguaro drink

Apparently, I left a nice tip at the Rum Bar on one of our first nights in Dominican, Costa Rica. Sometimes the conversion from US dollars to colones gets muddled, but I felt it wasn't a huge tip, although I do know it was decent. I tend to leave notable tips, having spent so many



By Paul Suplee,
MBA, CEC, PC-3

years in the industry.

Regardless, the owner walked over to our table with eight shots of this red drink and said "for you, my friends. Chili Water."

We looked at each other, wondering what it was. We shrugged our shoulders, raised our glasses, the bar owner said "Pura Vida!" and we proceeded to throw back our heads, delighted in our indoctrination into a Costa tradition, the Chiliguaro. A classic shot that we would see quite a few more times last week from gracious hosts, Chiliguaro is the traditional salute.

I am not sure how I have never had this before. Perhaps it's just a "thing" down south. I am probably returning up north later in the year on a business trip, so I will have to test this theory. We shall see. But to make a long story short, it is pretty much a Bloody Mary shot. Yeah, I can live with that.

Enamored by the taste of this beverage, and still having no interest to really cook anything from scratch on vacation, we walked to the supermercado the following morning and browsed the shelves, amassing the cheater ingredients that would at least send us in the right direction. I made a gallon of the stuff and placed it in the refrigerator to stay chilled until we needed it. I am not ashamed to say that it paled in comparison to the Rum Bar's Chiliguaro, but it would suffice for our inaugural batch.

We were incredibly fortunate, as we stayed at a friend's boutique hotel, a 4-unit building quaintly located on nine acres of lush Costa Rican jungle and gardens, complete with its own waterfall, toucans, capybara, Panamanian white-faced monkeys and howler monkeys. With the amount of rain (it is the rainy season, or their winter down there), the venomous snakes have also come out of the hills, and our hosts killed one two days be-



fore we arrived (I managed to not share that with my travel buddies until we were down there).

We saw another on the road out front that had been dispatched by a fast-moving car. No one likes these snakes. They're not good for "keeping the mice out of the house." Their venom is so strong, that without an antidote, you won't be breathing 30 minutes after being bitten.

Needless to say, our host told all of us to make sure the ground wasn't moving as we hiked through the jungle. So, for all of the amazing wildlife that we were able to see, the snake was not quite as welcome a sight.

Everything about the trip was about hospitality. Our friends at the hotel keep one unit for themselves and rent the other three out. We rented the latter, and as they were staying elsewhere in town, we had this amazing sanctuary to ourselves. It was quite the experience. Fifty yards into the jungle, and just around a hill that hid its sound and magnitude, was the waterfall, or cascada. I love waterfalls, having spent the first sixteen vacations of my life in the Skyline Drive in the Appalachian Mountains. Waterfall hikes were always our favorite.

On our first hike, I remember walking back not expecting much, or at least not knowing what we would find. But, when we came around the corner and saw the magnitude of it, it stopped us in our tracks. The breeze coming off of the waterfall was staggering, making this little section of the jungle 20 degrees cooler than the backyard we had just walked through. The rainy season had effectively channeled a massive amount of water down the cascada solely for our enjoyment.

We walked over the moss-covered rocks and stepped into the cool water, enjoying the breeze and sights. It was wondrous. Alas, neither one of us thought about bug spray, so the mosquitoes made quick work of our visit and we turned around and backed out of the jungle, going back to the unit for some fresh coffee.

As the day wore on, we saw the beach, the mountains and the pool. And the chiliguaro came back out. Yes, I could get used to this place.

Pura Vida.

Chiliguaro on-the-fly

Makes about 1 gallon
1 bottle (750 ml) Cacique

- Juice of 2 limes
- 1 Tbsp. Tajin seasoning
- 1 Tbsp. Hot sauce
- 1 bunch Cilantro leaves and stems, washed
- 1 white onion, diced
- 1 carrot, diced
- 1 Qt. Tomato juice (spicy if you can find it)
- 2 Tbsp. Sazon Completa or similar seasoning from the Latin section
 1. Combine everything in a pitcher and mix well.
 2. Let it sit in the icebox for at least three hours or overnight to let the mixture steep.
 3. Strain and place back in icebox until ready to serve.
 4. You are done. This is a cheater recipe, based on our trip. If you want to be a little more elaborate, or 'Gucci' as I put it, do the whole mess from scratch. There are plenty of recipes out there.
 5. When ready to drink, amass friends and line up the shot glasses. Pura Vida!

—Paul Suplee is a Professor of Culinary Arts at Wor-Wic Community College and owner of boxcar40.

Visit him at www.boxcar40.com.

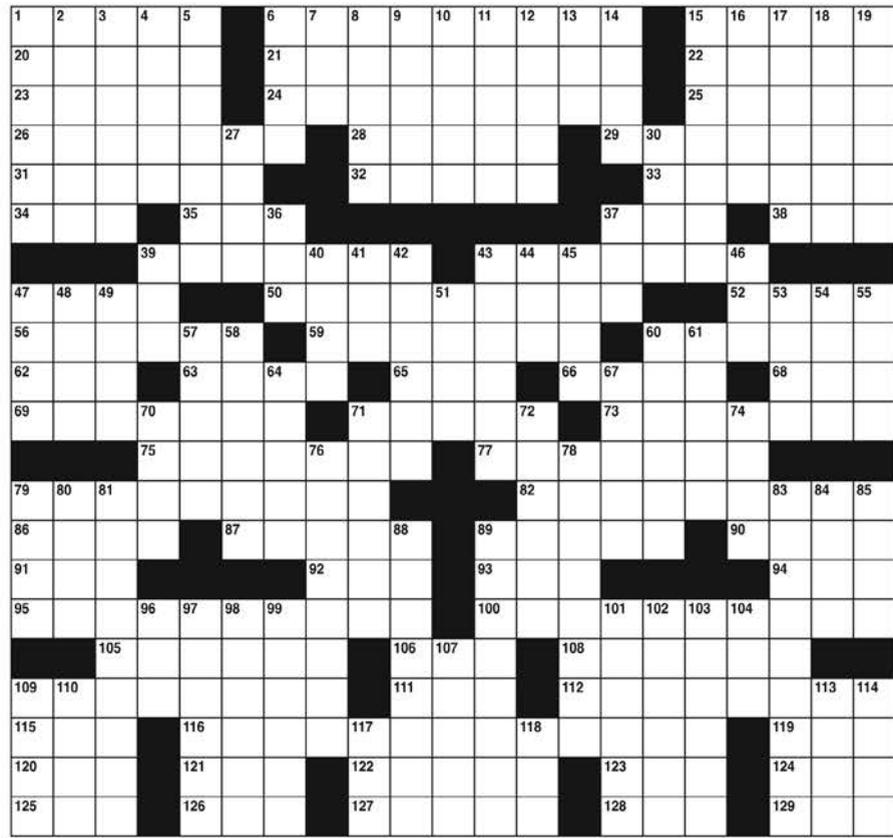
Puzzles

GRAVITY'S RAINBOW

BY ROSS TRUDEAU AND LINDSEY HOBBS / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Ross Trudeau, of Cambridge, Mass., works for a K-12 education nonprofit. Lindsey Hobbs, of Brooklyn, is the head of the Preservation and Conservation department at the New York City Municipal Archives. They met virtually through Facebook's Crossword Puzzle Collaboration Directory. Ross suggested the theme for this puzzle, which relates to an annual June celebration. It was a joint effort thereafter. — W.S.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Rackets
 - 6 Spruce or fir
 - 15 Japanese city that shares its name with a dog breed
 - 20 Home to the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum
 - 21 Homemade headgear for pretend pirates
 - 22 Conducted, as a campaign
 - 23 Undo, legally
 - 24 Highly specialized knowledge
 - 25 Color whose name is derived from "lapis lazuli"
 - 26 Frequent comics collaborator with Jack Kirby
 - 28 Belief
 - 29 Hubbubs
 - 31 "See? I knew what I was talking about!"
 - 32 Gives an edge
 - 33 Indignant denial
 - 34 Bozo
 - 35 "I 30-Down the fool!" speaker
 - 37 GPS suggestion: Abbr.
 - 38 What might follow you
 - 39 1966 Donovan hit
 - 43 Sinatra, to fans
 - 47 Band whose "Gold: Greatest Hits" has sold over 30 million copies
 - 50 Raised a false alarm
 - 52 Tennis's Nadal, informally
 - 56 Fruit with crimson-colored flesh
 - 59 Guest feature?
 - 60 Popular folk-rock duo
 - 62 Place for a canal or a kernel
 - 63 1968 self-titled folk album
 - 65 A.L. West team, on scoreboards
 - 66 Rubik with a cube
 - 68 Ice cream holder
 - 69 Cal's game-winning kickoff return against Stanford in 1982, familiarly
 - 71 World's deepest river
 - 73 Little tasks that crop up
 - 75 Wood-shop item
 - 77 Investigate, à la Sherlock Holmes
 - 79 Wunderkinder
 - 82 Implement for an Amish driver
 - 86 Features of classic cars
 - 87 It's covered in paint in the Sherwin-Williams logo
 - 89 Oscar-winning song from "Slumdog Millionaire"
 - 90 "Likewise"
 - 91 Media watchdog agcy.
 - 92 "Strange Magic" band, for short
 - 93 Medium for Kehinde Wiley's "President Barack Obama"
 - 94 Took a load off
 - 95 Mars
 - 100 Harmful bits of sunlight
 - 105 Remove calcium deposits from
 - 106 Sharp shooter, for short?
 - 108 Harder to grasp
 - 109 Changes by degrees
 - 111 Whole bunch
 - 112 You might cry if you slice it
 - 115 Word rhymed with "ami" by Lafayette in "Hamilton"
 - 116 Like Merriam-Webster's inclusion of the word "irregardless," originally
 - 119 College admissions fig.
 - 120 Delta hub, on luggage tags
 - 121 Birth-control option, briefly
 - 122 In the blink of ____
 - 123 Deli or bar order
 - 124 Stags or bucks
 - 125 Biblical possessive
 - 126 Alcoholic's affliction, briefly
 - 127 Complicated, as a relationship
 - 128 Retired flier, for short
 - 129 Explosive stuff
 - 6 Olympic poker?
 - 7 Military hospitals, briefly
 - 8 Period of history
 - 9 Back in
 - 10 Fresh, in a sense
 - 11 A one and a two
 - 12 Bursts in on
 - 13 And the rest, for short
 - 14 Twin in Genesis
 - 15 Prizewinner
 - 16 Instrument often played for comedic effect
 - 17 Tennessee Williams's "The Night of the ____"
 - 18 Babysitter's handful
 - 19 "____ Fideles"
 - 27 ____ Simmons, real name of the late rapper DMX
 - 30 See 35-Across
 - 36 Affectionate attention, briefly
 - 37 One enforcing traveling rules
 - 39 Kind of jacket
 - 40 "Ish"
 - 41 Xbox 360 competitor
 - 42 Chicken
 - 43 Total domination, in gamer-speak
 - 44 Whole bunch
 - 45 Racy
 - 46 Polite form of address similar to "Mr." or "Ms."
 - 47 Criminally aid
 - 48 Yawn-inducing
 - 49 Make yawn
 - 51 Campus leader
 - 53 With the bow, musically
 - 54 Bungle
 - 55 Vipers with upturned snouts
 - 57 Part of a religious title that means "ocean"
 - 58 Southern California county
 - 60 "Mood ____" (Duke Ellington classic)
 - 61 Quit drinking
 - 64 Golf's ____ Ko, youngest golfer to be ranked No. 1
 - 67 In draft form
 - 70 High degrees, for short
 - 71 Setting for many a Super Mario Bros. level
 - 72 Temporarily out
 - 74 Pesach observers
 - 76 Most peaceful
 - 78 Groups of bees?
 - 79 "You can't expect me to believe that!"
 - 80 Laughable
 - 81 Typical way to take a multivitamin
 - 83 Is legally entitled
 - 84 "It's a possibility for me"
 - 85 Family members that get talked down to?
 - 88 Kind of massage
 - 89 Travels
 - 96 ____ River, part of the Texas/Oklahoma border
 - 97 Even-tempered
 - 98 Skedaddled
 - 99 They might be made after a fight
 - 101 Runs again
 - 102 Without fail
 - 103 State flower of Illinois or New Jersey
 - 104 ____ Faire (event with jousting, for short)
 - 107 Is mad about
 - 109 Source of the milk for chèvre cheese
 - 110 The "R" of R.B.G.
 - 113 Ready for business
 - 114 Condé ____
 - 117 What might make a ewe turn
 - 118 Spanish monarch



- 54 Bungle
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- 118 Spanish monarch

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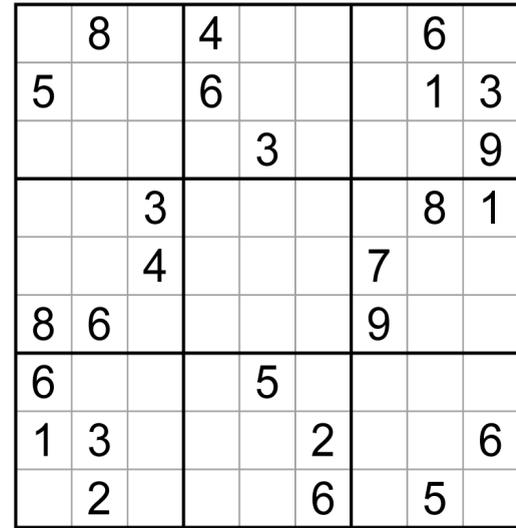
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© Puzzles by Pappocom
HARD - 87

Fill in the blank spaces in the grid so that every vertical column, every horizontal row and every 3 by 3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9, without repeating any. There is really only one solution to each puzzle.



Answers to last week's puzzles

1	7	9	6	8	2	3	4	5
6	5	8	9	4	3	7	2	1
3	2	4	7	1	5	6	9	8
8	4	6	1	9	7	5	3	2
7	3	2	8	5	4	1	6	9
9	1	5	3	2	6	8	7	4
5	6	1	2	7	9	4	8	3
2	8	7	4	3	1	9	5	6
4	9	3	5	6	8	2	1	7

T	A	R	O	T	O	G	R	E	B	A	R	R	E	H	T	M	L		
A	L	A	R	M	O	R	E	L	F	L	E	A	S	A	H	O	Y		
C	O	N	C	O	N	F	U	S	E	S	F	U	S	E	S	V	I	C	
O	H	B	A	B	A	B	E	A	T	S	M	E	L	A	R	K	S		
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L	E	A	V	E	N	E	D	R	E	O	E	L	A	N	T	R	A		
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M	A	N	M	A	N	D	A	T	E	S	D	A	T	E	S	C	A	S	E
E	S	T	A	T	E	A	T	E	M	E	D	M	O	P	E	D			
R	O	T	C	Y	C	L	O	P	S	I	O	N							
C	U	M	I	N	A	H	S	M	M	A	D	O	G	M	A	S			
O	P	I	E	A	N	A	A	N	A	G	R	A	M	S	G	R	A	M	S
B	T	S	A	D	S	I	T	E	I	R	A	A	N	O	N				
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P	O	E	M	G	O	R	E	Y	A	M	E	X	H	E	N	N	A		
O	D	D	S	A	E	T	N	A	R	E	S	T	E	S	S	A	Y		

CLASSIFIED Marketplace

Call **410-723-6397**
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Classifieds appear in Ocean City Today & Bayside Gazette each week and online at oceancitytoday.com & baysideoc.com

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BEACHSTAND JOBS. Work on the beach renting umbrellas. FT, PT, 9-5. Hourly rate plus commission. Message 410-726-0315.

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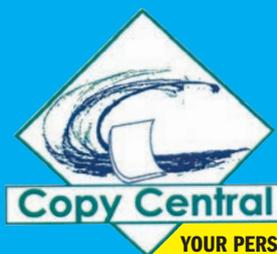
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