

INSIDE

Editorial 10
 Letters10
 Old Files 12
 Obituaries 13
 Public Notices14
 Around Town 16
 Police Blotter 17
 Classifieds 32
 Sports 34

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Washington Lodge fundraiser

CEED held its first fundraiser for the planned Washington Lodge nature center March 24 at Christ Episcopal Church in Bellport and took an in-depth look at the history behind it. Gerard Cormier, a Marist Brother, decorated artist and on-and-off resident of the Washington Lodge for 50 years, was the special guest of the benefit luncheon. He reminisced about the buildings once on the property: a dormitory-type building, a rec hall, a barn and a silo. The initial owner of the lodge, George Constant Washington, had kept exotic animals on the property in the late 1800s, and Cormier said the cement cages were still there in the 1960s. "It's the first thing you would see behind the house," he said. Cormier also talked about his love for the Bellport area. "All the scenery that you see around you, it drives you to art," he said. John Dietz of the Fireplace History Club presented the history of the Washington Lodge, which was built between 1871 and 1873. Washington made his fortune commercializing instant coffee. The building evolved dramatically over time with several large additions to the main structure, amounting to over 50 rooms.

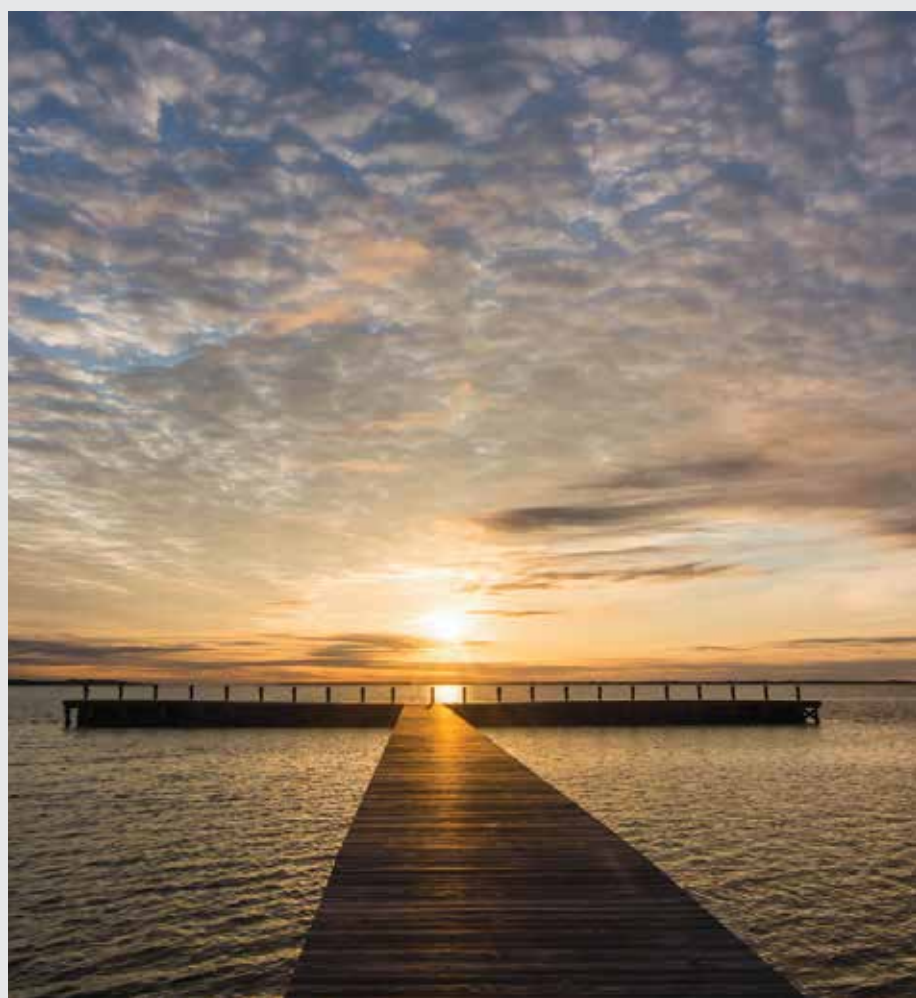
-Randall Waszynski

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COMMUNITY NEWS



Here comes spring, finally

During the equinox, the sun lined up nicely down the center of Osprey Park pier in Mastic Beach on Tuesday, March 20. Equinoxes and solstices are opposite on either side of the equator. The March equinox, also known as the spring (vernal) equinox in the northern hemisphere, marks the start of astronomical spring. In the southern hemisphere, the autumnal (fall) equinox marks the start of fall.

Adv/Trish Collins

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