

Schools transition to virtual learning

Increased COVID positivity rates spur decision

Citing an increase in COVID-19 cases within the county, late Sunday afternoon, Worcester County Superintendent of Schools Lou Taylor made the decision to transition students to virtual learning, closing schools within the district.

"As outlined in the guidance provided by the Maryland Department of Health and the Maryland Department of Education, our leadership team has been closely following the community statistics for COVID-19. Today,

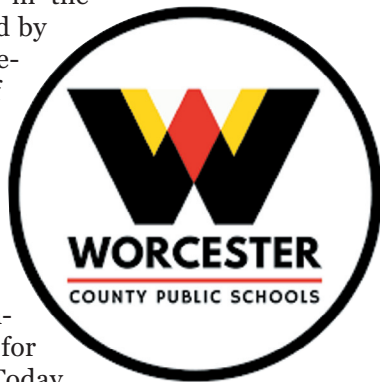
Worcester has crossed a critical threshold as the numbers have hit a 6.6% daily positivity rate and 18.3 cases per 100,000 people. These numbers are above the metrics these agencies have recommended for a reexamination of our Responsible Return," Taylor said in a statement.

Since September, on a gradual basis, some students have been returning to the classroom. At mid-week last week, the Worcester County Technical High School and Stephen Decatur High School and classrooms in two additional schools were closed because of positive COVID cases.

Mr. Taylor said, "I am announcing that effective tomorrow, November 16, all Worcester County Public Schools will transition to distance learning until Tuesday, December 1. This also means that all after school activities and athletics are virtual during this time. We will be monitoring our community statistics closely throughout this two-week period, and we will communicate to you any changes to our Return as soon as decisions are made."

He encouraged affected families to look for specific communication from their schools or teachers regarding logging in for distance learning. Arrangements would be made if a child's device or other materials necessary for distance learning needed to be picked up from schools.

"We recognize the inconvenience that this sudden announcement may cause, but we thank you for your understanding as we put the health and safety of our students, staff and community first," Mr. Taylor concluded.



Post 166 pays tribute to MIAs

In a moving tribute during its Veterans Day program, Ocean City American Legion Post 166 remembered those who are still Missing in Action in America's wars. Explained by Post Sergeant-at-Arms **Bob Gilmore**, the simple but emotional tribute consisted of a small dinner table that "symbolizes the fact that members of our armed forces are missing from our ranks." Gilmore's table setting explanation follows:

The small table symbolizes the frailty of the prisoner. Its white tablecloth is symbolic of their intentions to respond to the country's call to arms. A single rose in the vase speaks to the blood they may have shed. A vase with a red ribbon represents an unyielding determination for a proper accounting of MIAs. A slice of lemon on the plate is to remind everyone of their bitter fate and salt sprinkled on the plate represents fallen tears of their families. "The glass is inverted. They cannot toast with us at this time. The chair is empty. They are not here," Gilmore said. He finished by explaining the candle is the light of hope "to illuminate their way home, away from their captors," and the American Flag "reminds us that many of them may never return and have paid the supreme sacrifice to insure our freedoms."

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OP staff to expand holiday gift giving

After a difficult year like no other, Ocean Pines Association staff are banding together to try and expand holiday gift-giving outreach to more local people than ever.

The once-in-a-century impact of the COVID-19 pandemic not only affected the health and safety of people in Ocean Pines and throughout the world, but it also devastated the economy and left many people struggling to pay bills and put food on the table.

As the holiday season approaches, many in Ocean Pines continue to feel the effects of COVID-19, from families wondering how they'll manage to put gifts under trees for their children, to the large senior population that all year has struggled with health concerns and extended periods of isolation.

Because of that, Senior Executive Assistant Michelle Bennett is leading an effort to help brighten the holidays, an effort that started by reaching out to local nonprofits and other agencies to find those in the community who

are most in need.

"This year has been particularly hard on our local community, and I would like to help ease the burden at least a little," Bennett said.

Bennett said Ocean Pines is seeking donations of nonperishable food and pet supplies, as well as new toys, clothing and blankets to distribute to organizations like Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services, and Worcester County Social Services.

Donations may be dropped off at the Ocean Pines Administration Building, Community Center, Public Works Building, Golf Clubhouse, or Sports Core Pool during normal business hours.

Other holiday drives sponsored by individual Ocean Pines departments this year include:

Angel Tree

The Ocean Pines Aquatics Department will continue its Angel Tree program, begun in 2014.

please see holiday on page 6

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Initiative launched to curb scams

The Worcester County Vulnerable Adult Task Force announced the continued efforts of this multi-disciplinary team to educate and raise awareness about common fraud schemes with the “No-Scam November” Initiative. The focus of “No-Scam November” is prevention of scams before they cause financial damage to the victim, as inherent difficulties exist in the investigation and identification of high-tech scammers and in the attempts to recover the victim’s money. Sheriff Matt Crisafulli emphasized allied agency partnership to address these concerns, stating, “We are proud to part-



Matt Crisafulli

ner with our allied agencies to help educate our residents about the ongoing scams that victimize them. Education is a key component in the reduction of these crimes, and partnering agencies make our residents much safer.”



Kris Heiser

In 2020, law enforcement has seen a dramatic increase in the number of reported fraud cases, and senior citizens are the most frequent target. In Worcester County, the most common types of fraud currently experienced are gift card scams. Scammers have been targeting victims either by phone or by email, often claiming that there is an emergency situation the

victim must buy gift cards to resolve. The scammer typically then requests the code on the back of the gift card so they can use it online. D/Sgt. Mike Mann, Assistant Barrack Commander of the Berlin Barrack, has seen cases where the scammer claims to be a computer company demanding thousands in gift cards to remove a virus from the victim’s computer. He cautions, “A legitimate computer or software company is NEVER going to demand payment in gift cards. Scammers instead actually send a message to your computer making you think it has a virus and that the only solution is to pay them in gift cards. Don’t fall for it!”

Other common schemes include the scammer claiming to be the IRS, or claiming a family member of the victim has been arrested or needs bail money. In another frequent scam, the victim is told that they have won a contest or prize money, but in order to collect their winnings, they must buy gift cards totaling a small portion of the total prize they will eventually be sent by the scammer. In yet another example, a scammer spoofed the victim’s boss’s email address and sent the victim an email (which the victim believed was from his boss instructing the victim to go and buy gift cards and then text the codes on the back of the card to a different phone number because the boss lost his phone. The victim did so, believing he was following his boss’s instructions, and only found out he had been scammed when he spoke to his boss in person. Many times, the scammer stays on the phone with the victim while the victim travels to the store to purchase the gift cards, to make sure that the scam is successful and that the victim cannot pause to consider whether they should actually go through with the purchase. Ocean Pines Police Chief Leo Ehrisman warns Ocean Pines residents about these scams, stating, “Residents in our community have unfortunately fallen victim to all of the scams being

described. Recovering funds after someone is victimized is very difficult, if not impossible, so being aware of these scams and not becoming a victim is a priority in our community.”

To combat these gift card scams, beginning in the month of November, local law enforcement, to include the Maryland State Police, Worcester County Sheriff’s Office and Ocean Pines Police Department, will be conducting community outreach efforts and providing local businesses with free signage, provided by the Office of the State’s Attorney, that can be attached to any gift card display case. These warning signs are designed to shake would-be victims into realizing and recognizing the scam in the moment, especially if they are still on the phone with the scammer, and encourage them to press pause and exercise caution before making a purchase. These signs, along with outreach by prosecutors and police will also help local businesses and shop owners to educate their staff to know the signs of a gift card scam before ringing up the victim’s purchase, and to contact police whenever they suspect a scam.

State’s Attorney Heiser remarked, “The Office of the State’s Attorney is thankful for the continued partnership that lead to this innovative idea for preventing gift card scams. As was our goal last year when we created the Task Force, we will continue to provide this type of outreach and education to the benefit of our senior citizens and shine a light on the issues and problems affecting them.” Businesses wishing to participate in “No-Scam November” can request their free gift card scam signage from either the Berlin Barrack, the Ocean Pines Police Department, or the Worcester County Sheriff’s Office depending upon their location. To report any type of suspected elder abuse, including suspected gift card scams, please contact your local law enforcement agency.

Courier Almanac

At exactly noon on November 18, 1883 American and Canadian railroads begin using four continental time zones to end the confusion of dealing with thousands of local times. The bold move was emblematic of the power shared by the railroad companies.

The need for continental time zones stemmed directly from the problems of moving passengers and freight over the thousands of miles of rail line that covered North America by the 1880s. Since human beings had first begun keeping track of time, they set their clocks to the local movement of the sun. Even as late as the 1880s, most towns in the U.S. had their own local time, generally based on “high noon,” or the time when the sun was at its highest point in the sky. As railroads began to shrink the travel time between cities from days or months to mere hours, however, these local times became a scheduling nightmare. Railroad timetables in major cities listed dozens of different arrival and departure times for the same train, each linked to a different local time zone.

While Orville and Wilbur Wright, otherwise known as the Wright Brothers, may be the most widely recognized brothers associated with aeronautics, a pair of French brothers’ accomplishments in the 18th century should not be overlooked. According to Britannica.com, in 1782, nearly a century before the Wright Brothers

were even born, Joseph and Etienne Montgolfier discovered that heated air, when collected inside a large lightweight paper or fabric bag, caused the bag to rise into the air. Various successful experiments preceded the Montgolfiers’ flight on November 21, 1783. That flight, a 5.5-mile journey over Paris that lasted roughly 25 minutes, was the first manned untethered flight in history, firmly establishing the Montgolfier brothers as true pioneers in the field of aeronautics.



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Making a list

It's not yet Thanksgiving and already my grandchildren are slipping into their conversations what they'd like their grandparents to get for them



It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

for Christmas. In the interest of full disclosure many of the items they mention I have no idea what they're talking about. I just nod as if I do, knowing my wife will save the day.

Back in the Dark Ages of my youth when Jiffy Pop reigned supreme, Mod Squad was a hit and Pat Paulsen was running for president, items that could be found on lists prepared by my brother and me included recognizable, low tech toys such as an Erector Set, Matchbox or Hot Wheels cars, toy boats, Tinker Toys, Lincoln Logs and Legos (or the closest facsimile). This was long before Cabbage Patch Kids or Furbies.

We would page through the Sears catalog writing down what we wanted, sometimes even referencing page numbers.

One year I asked for and received a record player. Jackpot! For quite a while I played the only record I owned, "Josie and the Pussycats." It was a 45 which I got by sending in a certain number of Kellogg's Raisin Brad box tops.

Another year I got a new red bicycle with a banana seat. Life was good! Many a mile I rode on that bike. I learned maintenance with that bike. And I learned that clothes-pinning to the fender a playing card instead of a baseball card made a much sharper noise against the spokes. I also learned a little something about the Big Bang Theory when my brother and I once raced up the driveway attempting to be the first one to reach the garage. We collided midway; each thrown from our bikes. My handle bars twisted and I think his pedal broke. Or maybe it was the other way

around. We were a little scraped up but really none the worse for wear.

One year I saw the wonders of Old Faithful through the lens of a GAF Viewmaster that I received in my stocking. If memory serves there were several Viewmaster reels in the box including "The Flintstone's" and "The Three Stooges," and a reel on American treasures such as the Statue of Liberty, Mt.

Rushmore and the Golden Gate Bridge. I don't know that such a primitive toy would be at all interesting to my grandchildren's generation so accustomed to hi definition cell phone videos. But at that time, for me, a GAF Viewmaster was mesmerizing.

One year my brother and I shared a gift, an AMX slot race car track. We had a blast racing our cars around the figure eight track, especially when we paced them to reach the intersection simultaneously and cause a crash. Yeah!

Along the same lines, we asked for and got, SSP race cars. From opposite sides of the room, we would pull the cords and head our cars toward one another hoping for a spectacular smash up. We'd also build a ramp with our blocks and launch our racers into the air toward a stack of letter blocks or some Lincoln Log walls. What fun it was to witness the blocks or logs explode upon impact.

On my brother's list one year was a Hippity Hoppity Horse which he received. He would sit and bounce that horse as high as possible. I don't remember the horse surviving beyond New Year's.

We didn't get everything on our lists. We probably only got one, maybe two items we wrote down. Interestingly, although never on our lists, we always seemed to get underwear, socks and a handknitted sweater from our grandmother.

Times have certainly changed since Rock-em Sock em Robots last stood in the ring. Our toy requests didn't require operating systems or internet access; downloads or gigabytes. All we needed was just a little imagination.

Those were the days!



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holiday
from page 3

Director of Amenities and Operational Logistics Colby Phillips said the program collects specific items for local families. To take part, simply visit the Sports Core Pool on 11144 Cathell Road, take an angel from the tree that lists an item, and then donate wrapped items back to the Sports Core Pool office.

“Once we receive everything back, we drop off those gift items for the individual families,” Phillips said. “The Aquatics Department started the Angel Tree and we have been helping multiple local families through Worcester County GOLD for the last six years. The angels on our tree go super-fast, and the community is extremely giving, which has made this event a success.”

Be a Santa to a Senior

Since 2016, the Recreation and Parks Department has partnered with Home Instead Senior Care during what can be an especially tough season for many seniors.

Similar to the Angel Tree concept, Recreation and Parks Director Debbie Donahue said each year Home Instead Senior Care brings a Christmas tree to

the Community Center on 235 Ocean Parkway. The foundation hangs several name tags on the tree, with each including the wants and needs of a local senior.

“You can stop by and grab a name tag, and then return the wrapped gifts to the Community Center to be picked up by Home Instead to be delivered,” Donahue said.

“We love offering this program to the community,” she continued. “This year, we were not sure they would be able to continue to offer this to the community, but we are so glad that they contacted us and asked if we would still participate. This program offers those seniors something to look forward to during the holiday season.”

Help brighten the holidays

Bennett said the goal of each program is to help make the holidays just a little more cheerful for Ocean Pines residents in need, from families with young children, to local seniors.

Virtually all Ocean Pines departments will take part in the effort, including Police, Public Works, Administration, Finance, Public Relations, and the various amenities.

“My motto is ‘Carry out a random act of kindness, with no expectation of reward, safe in the knowledge that one day someone might do the same for you,’” Bennett said, citing the late Diana, Princess of Wales.

For more information or questions, contact Bennett at mbennett@ocean-pines.org, or call 410-641-7717.

Registration open for umpire clinic

Worcester County Recreation and Parks staff members invite all interested participants to join them for the USA Softball of Maryland-DC-Delaware, Umpire Clinic. This clinic will take place at the Worcester County Recreation Center in Snow Hill on Saturday and Sunday, February 20-21, 2021.

Game management, differences in codes, difficult calls, mechanics in a gym session, and an introduction to USA Softball and future plans will be covered fully in this clinic. Space is available on a first-come, first-served basis, so early registration is encouraged.

For those who are interested, a host hotel is available to those traveling in for the clinic from out of the area: Holiday Inn Express, which is located at

*please see **clinic** on page 14*

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A note of thanks - In honor of Veterans Day, Melanie Coleman's first grade class at Ocean City Elementary, sent thank you letters to her cousin's Marine squadron. Mrs. Coleman's cousin is the Lieutenant Colonel of VMM-163 Evil Eyes at Miramar Military Base in San Diego, California.

Phlebotomy information session offered

The continuing education division at Wor-Wic Community College is offering a free information session on Friday, December 4, from 10 to 11:30 a.m., via Zoom.

Mandatory for anyone interested in registering for phlebotomy training, attendees can learn the requirements and expectations of the training, as well as about financial aid. The same session will also be held on Wednesday, December 16, from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

For more information or for the Zoom link, email tstevenson@worwic.edu or call 410-334-6780.

CNA information session to be held

The continuing education division at Wor-Wic Community College is offering a free information session on Tuesday, December 1, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., via Zoom.

Mandatory for anyone interested in registering for certified nursing assistant (CNA) training, attendees can learn the requirements and expectations of the training, as well as about financial aid. The same session will also be held on Friday, December 11, from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For more information or for the

Zoom link, email tstevenson@worwic.edu or call 410-334-6780.

Boat Show cancelled

The 38th Ocean City Boat Show sponsored by the Ocean City – Berlin Optimist Club has been cancelled because of Covid-19 concerns. The annual show had been scheduled for February over Presidents Day weekend. Organizers are planning for the show to return in 2022.

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- Gift cards cannot be used to pay taxes OR to fix computer viruses.
- Do not share card numbers or PINS with anyone.
- Do not get scammed. Report any of the above to local authorities.

Why you should ask your financial professional about fees

Presented by **Mark E. Engberg, CFP**

As a financial professional, I know there are many different ways that investment advisors are compensated. Of course, I believe that financial professionals need to be compensated for their time, effort and expertise, but with the various fee structures out there, the question I always encourage my clients to ask is: Are the costs fair, reasonable, transparent and helping to improve your long-term investment results?



MRk Engberg

Keeping this in mind, I encourage people to get gutsy and ask themselves and their financial professional a question they probably haven't asked before: How much am I paying in fees?

In the world of financial services, there are different kinds of fees: trade commissions, mutual fund loads and fees, and advisory or management fees to name a few. While cost is only one factor when it comes to dissecting the value of an investment or your relationship with a financial professional, it's important for investors to understand what they're paying, why and how these costs impact their returns.

According to a 2013 Schwab study¹, 83 percent of investors do research before making a major purchase. Yet, just half of investors say they know how much they pay for their investments and only 16 percent who work with an investment professional have asked how fees and com-

missions impact their portfolio's returns. The fact is, a seemingly small difference in fees can make a potentially big difference in your return, especially over time. I personally believe we are in a lower investment return environment, especially considering the historically low interest rate environment. Therefore, reducing costs becomes more important than ever.

It's important to understand, however, that not all investing fees are bad. It's really a matter of understanding the value you are getting from what you pay. You might be willing to pay a slightly higher fee for different kinds of services that add value, such as more personalized financial planning or a higher-touch relationship. Maybe you're a small business owner with a specialized set of financial needs that require more help and attention from a financial professional.

A couple ways to be more aware of the fees you're paying is to regularly review your statement and ask your financial advisor directly about what fees you're paying, why you're paying them and how they are impacting your financial goals.

Starting with these questions will help you become more knowledgeable and confident about your finances and the value you're receiving, but don't stop there. Keep asking questions and stay engaged, because your portfolio may be your most valuable assets when it comes to achieving long-term financial success.

If you're curious to learn more, please give me a call today. Here at Charles Schwab we offer complimen-

tary, no obligation financial consultations and portfolio reviews. Our goal is to make investing more affordable and accessible to everyday investors.

Mark Engberg, CFP® is an Independent Branch Leader at the Charles Schwab Independent Branch located in Rehoboth Beach, DE with over 20 years of experience helping clients achieve their financial goals. Some content provided here has been compiled from previously published articles authored by various parties at Schwab. For more information visit the Rehoboth Beach Independent Branch Website at www.schwab.com/rehobothbeach or call (302) 260-8731.

¹ Today's Engaged Investor study was conducted by Koski Research (Now Logica) from April 8-17, 2013, among 1,000 Americans ages 25-75 with \$250,000 or more in investable assets and who are highly engaged in their lives. The study was conducted using an online panel of investors. The margin of error for the sample is three percentage points.

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Fishing Report: November is here and although the temperature has been mild there has not been much activity for Striper fishing. They seem to be holding in the New Jersey area and are just starting to migrate in our direction. There have been a few keeper Stripers caught around the Rt. 50 Bridge and quite a few shorts there and around the Rt. 90 Bridge. Some nice keeper Tog along the jetties from the 2nd to 4th streets bulkhead on crab and sand fleas. No one can predict this fishing from day to day you just need to go fishing and hope for good luck. Offshore fishing is hot with limits of sea bass being caught along with Trigger Fish and Flounder when the weather cooperates. A 9lb. flounder was caught on the party boat the Angler. Let's hope for some continued mild and calm weather? That being said it's time to think about going Crappie Fishing.

Fall Crappie Fishing: It's this time of year I like to start Crappie fishing. In our area we have white and black crappie many times they are the same colors and most can't tell them apart. Black crappie have seven or eight dorsal spines and white only six. They also have many different names such as calico bass, white perch, croppie, and papermouth to name a few. They grow three to five inches their first year and to seven to eight inches their second year. Most crappie caught are in the range of one half to one pound.

Where to go? One area I found to be a hot spot is the Pocomoke River at Shad Landing Just off MD Route 113. You will need a Maryland Freshwater Fishing License to fish this area. Check the current regulations but usually there is no closed season and no size requirement. Also, you are allowed 15 fish per day or 30 possession in aggregate

What equipment do I need? An ultra-light spinning outfit spooled with 4lb test monofilament line is best. The rod can be 5.5 or 6' you will also need a good assortment of fine quality bobbers and size 6 and 8 short shank hooks.

What bait should I use? Crappie feed primarily on small minnows and insects. The bait of choice in my opinion is small live minnows of on to two inch maximum. These can be hooked through

the lips on a size 8 hook with a bobber a couple feet above the minnow. Some fishermen prefer to jig for them and an assortment of crappie jigs can be found at local tackle shops.

Where should I fish? They prefer structure. Drop your minnow or jig next to boat docks, trees or cypress roots and wait for the bite with minnows are move you jig in a jigging motion slowly so it looks like a minnow. Don't hesitate to move around until you find them. They are a schooling fish so when you catch one there are likely to more in the area.

What about eating? How can I prepare them? Crappie are one of the best eating fish around. Here are a few recipes.

Pope's Texas Crappie
provided by Russell Pope.
This recipe uses the whole fish cleaned and scaled.

Coat crappie in sour cream (don't thin the sour cream)

Roll in mixture of salt pepper and corn meal

Deep fry or skillet fry till light brown

Get out of the way or your own loving kin and friends will run over you to get to it.

Sharp's crappie recipe
provided by Douglas Sharp
This recipe uses fillets
Fillet your catch the way you like them

Take equal parts of yellow corn meal and Parmesian cheese.

Add a tablespoon of dill weed (freeze-dried or fresh)

Salt and pepper to taste

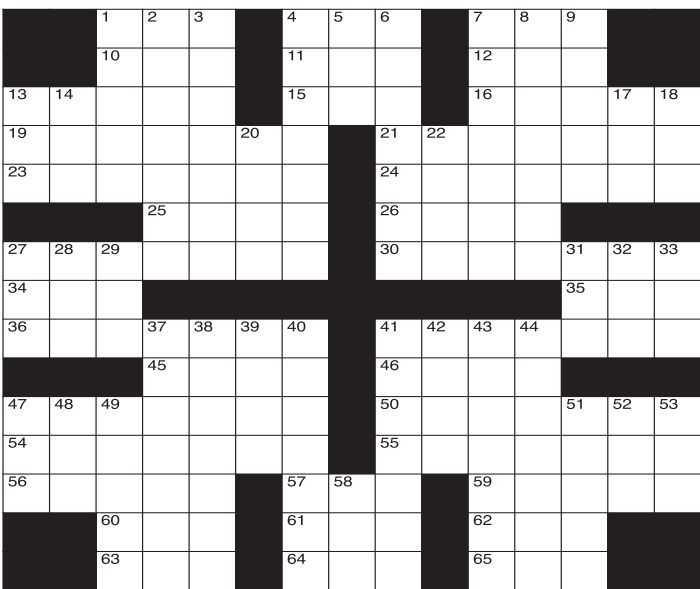
Mix the above according to how much you'll need to cover your fillets.

Heat your frying oil to at least 375 degrees, drop those fillets in, and let'em fry till brown. Take'em out and squeeze some fresh lemon on them! Your tongue will slap your face! Hope you enjoy.

Did you know? Crappies are less active during the day, they feed mostly at dawn & dusk.

Have a very happy holiday season. Keep well and remember to take a kid fishing.

Capt. Ron

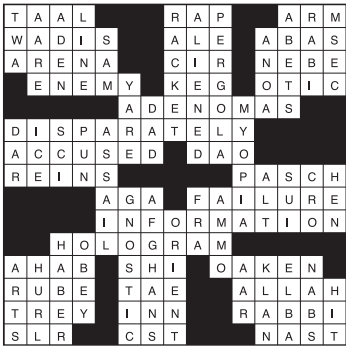


CLUES ACROSS

1. Autonomic nervous system
4. At or near the stern
7. Adenosine triphosphate
10. Polynesian garland of flowers
11. Chinese revolutionary
12. Green veggie
13. Large group
15. Swiss river
16. Semiaquatic mammal
19. Wrongdoers
21. Home to Disney World
23. Spanish doctors
24. Newborn child
25. Absence of difficulty
26. Large, stocky lizard
27. Earned top billing
30. A long wandering and eventful journey
34. Water (French)
35. Brew
36. Winged horse
41. A usually malignant tumor
45. Alfred __, American actor
46. Austrian river
47. A reminder of past events
50. Connected with
54. Status
55. Dean residence
56. Egyptian city
57. Boxing's GOAT
59. Straits along the Red Sea
60. "The Partridge Family" actress Susan
61. Get some color
62. Facilitates hearing
63. Commercials
64. A team's best pitcher
65. Patti Hearst's captors

CLUES DOWN

1. Speak up
2. More informative
3. Where passengers sit
4. Gathered
5. Supervises flying
6. Home of the Blue Jays
7. Public statement of regret
8. Lockjaw
9. Indian city
13. Patriots' Newton
14. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
17. Sun up in New York
18. Eggs in female fish
20. Stood up
22. NBA legend Willis
27. Calendar month (abbr.)
28. Exercise regimen __-bo
29. The 8th month (abbr.)
31. __ Paulo, city
32. Tall deciduous tree
33. Affirmative
37. Notified of danger
38. NFL game days
39. Archaic term for "to"
40. Plant pores
41. Canned fish
42. Phil __, former CIA
43. Connects with
44. Of the skull
47. Time zone (abbr.)
48. When you hope to get there
49. Hindu goddess
51. Land
52. Pitching stat
53. Field force unit
58. Lakers' crosstown rivals



Answers for November 11



DAR inducts new member

The General Levin Winder Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) welcomed member Jane Buntings, daughter, Beth Seise as a new member, during a meeting celebrating Veterans Day at the Ocean Pines White Horse Park pavilion. Regent Gail Weldin and Chaplain Barbara Rusko administered the oath of membership.

The DAR is a women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and securing America's future through better education. For more information, visit www.dar.org.

Above: (L-R) Jane Bunting, Beth Seise, Chaplain Barbara Rusko and Regent Gail Weldin.

Fall leaf collection scheduled

The Ocean Pines Association has announced leaf collection procedures for its residents this fall.

Public Works will collect leaves and other yard debris from November 23 through December 18, on opposite days from Republic Services collection days.

The department will only pick up leaves placed in paper bags that residents place curbside. Thirty-gallon paper bags are available at Public Works in bundles of five for \$10.

Republic Services will pick up paper and plastic bags on scheduled pick-up days, limit four bags of leaves per scheduled pick up. Republic Services will also accept branches tied in bundles no longer than four feet.

Additionally, Ocean Pines residents may bring leaves and yard debris in bulk or paper bags to the Public Works yard at 1 Firehouse Lane, near the south Fire Department. The yard will be open November 28 through December 31, Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. until 3 p.m., and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

There will be no collection or drop off on Thursday, November 26 or Friday, November 27 because of the Thanksgiving holiday. The yard also will be closed

for drop off on Thursday, December 24, Friday, December 25 and Saturday, December 26 because of the Christmas holiday.

Public Works will also vacuum leaves. Residents should refrain from blowing leaves directly into the ditches, as this can lead to clogging of pipes as well as difficulty in water flow.

For more information, contact Public Works at 410-641-7425.

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Smoke-free day returns

The National Great American Smokeout Day returns on November 19. For individuals thinking about quitting smoking, this is the perfect time to take that first step. Resources and support for smoking cessation are available through the Worcester County Health Department.

“The Great American Smokeout offers people trying to quit smoking the support they need by knowing that other smokers are also giving up cigarettes for the same day. This is an annual event that encourages smokers to make a plan to quit smoking,” said Crystal Bell, Chronic Disease and Tobacco Supervisor at the Worcester County Health Department.

To help county residents in their attempt to be smoke-free, the Worcester County Health Department will be distributing Quit Smoking Kits to several locations including the Snow Hill Health Center, Worcester County Dental Clinic, WACS Center, and Chesapeake Healthcare for patients and clients.

In addition, county residents can also contact the health department to receive an additional Tobacco resource kit. All kits will be mailed upon requests.

To further assist you in your attempt to quit, check out the tips listed below:

-Make a firm commitment to quit and set a date.

-Join a smoking cessation class- for more information about classes; please call the Worcester County Health Department’s Tobacco Program at 410-632-1100 ext. 1102.

-Enlist support.

-Drink lots of water.

-Munch on low-cal snacks.

-Chew on a toothpick or cinnamon stick.

-Throw out the ash tray and cigarettes.

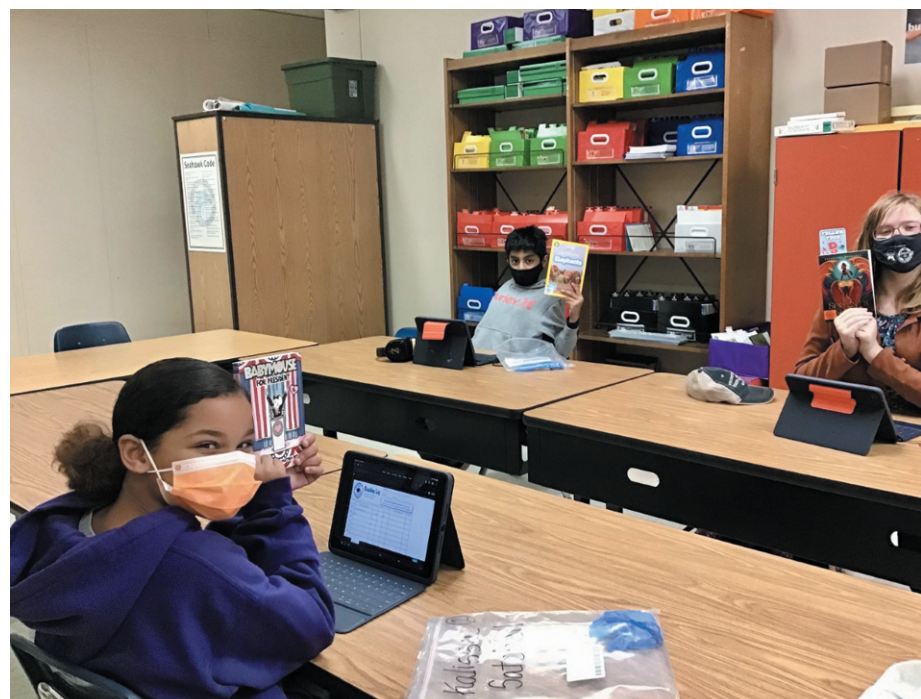
-Vacuum the car.

-Wash your clothes.

-Air out the house.

-Become physically active- join one of the several physical activity and nutrition programs sponsored by the Worcester County Health Department such as the Just Walk, Worcester Wellness Weigh, or Lifestyle Balance program.

For more information about quitting smoking or to register for a smoking cessation class, please call the Worcester County Health Department at 410-632-1100 ext. 1102 or go to www.worcesterhealth.org. YOU can quit and have the power to become a non-smoker. Remember you don’t have to stop smoking in one day. Start with one day.



Review – Sixth grade students in Carolyn Mitrecic’s class are having a Book Talk. They are sharing the book they are currently reading and giving it either a “thumbs up or thumbs down” review. Pictured are **Kalissa Satchell, Israel Hernandez-Carrillo, and Taylor Jacobs.**

Programs to benefit Diakonia launched

The Art League of Ocean City has launched two programs that will benefit Diakonia and the Worcester County community.

The Empty Bowl Project, a benefit for the Diakonia food pantry and the programs of the Art League, is being celebrated locally with the sale of 150 handmade pottery bowls for \$25. Bowls are available for purchase at the Ocean City Center for the Arts and also online at www.biddingowl.com/ArtLeagueOfOceanCity.

The Empty Bowl Project is an international grassroots effort to fight hunger and a unique opportunity to use art in a way that helps the community. The project is a collaborative effort between the Art League and Diakonia to raise awareness and funds for hunger through creative engagement. Sponsors are First Shore Federal Bank and Shore United Bank.

The Art League is also collecting coats that will be passed on to Diakonia for their annual coat drive. Both new and used coats are welcomed in children’s and adult sizes, but coats should be clean and in good condition. Coats may be dropped off at the Arts Center on 94th St.

The Art League will accept bowl purchases and coat donations at the Ocean City Center for the Arts, 502 94th St. bayside, during normal business hours: Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

More information is available at 410-524-9433 or www.artleagueofoceancity.org.

‘How to Complete the FAFSA’ to be held

Wor-Wic Community College is inviting prospective students and their families to learn more about applying for financial aid and how to submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on Wednesday, November 18, at 6:30 p.m., via Zoom.

Visit the events section of www.worwic.edu <<http://www.worwic.edu>> for more information or to register.

Credit student help available

The student services office at Wor-Wic Community College will be open on Saturday, November 21, from 9 a.m. to noon, to help current and prospective credit students with the application process, enrollment coaching, financial aid and academic advising. For more information, call 410-334-2800.

‘Light up the Pines’ returns

In a time when COVID-19 has changed many holiday traditions, one annual favorite - “Light Up the Pines” – is returning to bring cheer to the Ocean Pines community.

Residents who have decked out their homes for the holidays are encouraged to share their outdoor displays with others by registering for the program. Participants will be featured on an online Google map, which will include locations of the decorated homes.

As an added incentive, as of Monday, program sponsor Choptank Electric Cooperative started giving holiday gift baskets to the first 20 households that sign up beginning.

“Choptank Electric Cooperative is pleased to be part of the holiday spirit in Ocean Pines with the ‘Light Up the Pines’ event,” said Elizabeth Hallett, manager of marketing and communications. “We hope our members enjoy bringing holiday fun to the neighborhood!”

Households interested in participating should submit a name, address and phone number via email to info@oceanpines.org or by calling 410-641-7717.

The initial deadline to register is Friday, December 4, although residents may continue to sign up through the holiday season to have their homes included on the online map.



TheCourierofOceanPines

Review of

Bowlaway

By **Jean Marx**

If you have been to a bowling alley in New England, chances are you have encountered candlestick bowling where the bowling pins are tall and slender and the ball is small as in duckpin bowling. Such is the setting and was the allure to me of reading Elizabeth McCracken's novel set at the turn on the 20th century. "Bowlaway" centers on what they called "candlepin" bowling in a bowling alley bearing Bowlaway as its name.

The bowling alley's owner is Bertha Truitt, who arrived in the town of Salford, Massachusetts under mysterious circumstances. She is discovered unconscious in a cemetery with her meager belongings in a bag next to her which consist of a bowling ball, a single candlepin, an old corset, and 15 pounds of gold in the bag under a false bottom. She is wearing a blouse and a long skirt that is divided down the middle.

A young man named Joe Wear discovers Bertha and seeks help for her by locating another man in the cemetery, Leviticus Sprague. Leviticus is black and he informs Joe that he is a doctor hailing from Glasgow. As both men assist Bertha, they form an unlikely friendship. Love blossoms over time between Bertha and Leviticus and despite the consternation of the townspeople, they get married. Never one to care about what other people

think, Bertha draws up plans to build her dream bowling alley as well as the home she and Leviticus will live in, which is octagonal in shape.

As time goes on, Bertha becomes pregnant and goes into labor on the circular stairwell that she climbs in the center of the house in search of Leviticus to help her deliver her baby. Leviticus calls for the help of a midwife and their live-in maid named Margaret Vanetten. Fortunately, all are able to haul Bertha onto a landing where she delivers a beautiful baby girl whom they name Minna. In her childhood, Minna displays traits from both parents including an innate love and talent for music and poetry that she acquires from her doting father.

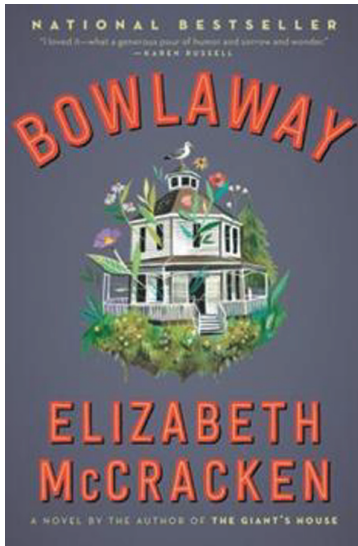
Bertha runs the bowling alley successfully, allowing both men and women to participate. This is during a time where it is fashionable for only men to bowl, yet this is part of Bertha's unique charm. She is impervious to people's stares, any rumors about her, and any gossip the townspeople choose to dish out. She dotes on her daughter as well, but her first love does always seem to be the bowling alley. She hires Joe Wear to first be one of the pinsetters and then she promotes him to be the manager of the male pinsetting staff. Another of her proteges who is a pinsetter is Jephtha Arrison who comes to love his job so

much that he considers it an art to set down the pins just right.

Bertha is the first owner of Bowlaway, but she won't be the last. The book introduces a cast of interesting yet strange characters that each have some kind of connection, though some quite remote, back to Bertha. It is as if her spirit is forever embedded in its walls. On the whole, I found the book to be odd – from its quirky characters, to its strange twists and meandering plot lines, and all the way to its ending.

The author's dialogue and the personality traits she gave to her characters were witty and clever, but I found myself to always be rather confused by the book than finding it a satisfying read. The author, Elizabeth McCracken, does come with credentials, having written five books of which three have been named to the *New York Times*' list of "Notable Books." As a result, perhaps you may have a more favorable opinion of the book in its totality than I did. I will say that it is definitely not a dull book.

Happy reading!



Tides for Ocean City Inlet

Day	High /Low	Tide Time
Th 19	Low	4:15 AM
19	High	10:56 AM
19	Low	5:21 PM
19	High	11:19 PM
F 20	Low	5:12 AM
20	High	11:51 AM
20	Low	6:21 PM
Sa 21	High	12:17 AM
21	Low	6:13 AM
21	High	12:49 PM
21	Low	7:20 PM
Su 22	High	1:21 AM
22	Low	7:15 AM
22	High	1:50 PM
22	Low	8:16 PM
M 23	High	2:28 AM
23	Low	8:18 AM
23	High	2:51 PM
23	Low	9:07 PM
Tu 24	High	3:29 AM
24	Low	9:19 AM
24	High	3:45 PM
24	Low	9:52 PM
W 25	High	4:19 AM
25	Low	10:15 AM
25	High	4:32 PM
25	Low	10:32 PM

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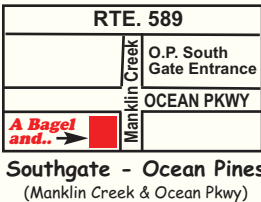
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Time Capsule

Garfield presidency short but productive

James Garfield was elected as the United States' 20th President in 1881, after nine terms in the U.S. House of Representatives. His Presidency was impactful, but cut short after 200 days when he was assassinated.

As the last of the log cabin presidents, James A. Garfield attacked political corruption and won back for the Presidency a measure of prestige it had lost during the Reconstruction period.

He was born in Cuyahoga County, Ohio, in 1831. Fatherless at two, he later drove canal boat teams, somehow earning enough money for an education. He was graduated from Williams College in Massachusetts in 1856, and he returned to the Western Reserve Eclectic Institute (later Hiram College) in Ohio as a Classics professor. Within a year he was made its president.

Garfield was elected to the Ohio Senate in 1859 as a Republican. During the secession crisis, he advocated coercing the seceding states back into the Union.

In 1862, when Union military

victories had been few, he successfully led a brigade at Middle Creek, Kentucky, against Confederate troops. At 31, Garfield became a brigadier general, two years later a major general of volunteers.

Meanwhile, in 1862, Ohioans elected him to Congress. President Lincoln persuaded him to resign his commission: It was easier to find major generals than to obtain effective Republicans for Congress. Garfield repeatedly won re-election for 18 years, and became the leading Republican in the House.

At the 1880 Republican Convention, Garfield failed to win the presidential nomination for his friend John Sherman. Finally, on the 36th ballot, Garfield himself became the "dark horse" nominee.

By a margin of only 10,000 popular votes, Garfield defeated the Democratic nominee, General Win-

field Scott Hancock.

As president, Garfield strengthened Federal authority over the New York Customs House, stronghold of Senator Roscoe Conkling, who was



Conkling maneuvered to have the Senate confirm Garfield's uncontested nominations and adjourn without acting on Robertson. Garfield countered by withdrawing all nominations except Robertson's; the Senators would have to confirm him or sacrifice all the appointments of Conkling's friends. In a final desperate move, Conkling and his fellow-Senator from New York resigned, confident that their legislature would vindicate their stand and re-elect them. Instead, the legislature elected two other men; the Senate confirmed Robertson. Garfield's victory was complete.

In foreign affairs, Garfield's Secretary of State invited all American republics to a conference to meet in Washington in 1882. But the conference never took place. On July 2, 1881, in a Washington railroad station, an embittered attorney who had sought a consular post shot the president.

Mortally wounded, Garfield lay in the White House for weeks. Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone, tried unsuccessfully to find the bullet with an induction-balance electrical device which he had designed. On September 6, Garfield was taken to the New Jersey seaside. For a few days he seemed to be recuperating, but on September 19, 1881, he died from an infection and internal hemorrhage.

The Presidential biographies on WhiteHouse.gov are from "The Presidents of the United States of America," by Frank Freidel and Hugh Sidey. Copyright 2006 by the White House Historical Association.

clinic

from page 6

12601 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD 21842. For a discounted price, call 410-250-7800 and use code word "USA Softball."

USA Softball Commissioner Jack Hutcherson and Steve Zawierucha, of USA Softball of MD-DC-DE UIC, will be in attendance for this clinic. The price per participant is \$125 and includes lunch, school shirt, and photo.

The registration deadline is December 11. After this deadline date, the registration fee will increase to \$150. All checks must be made payable to: USA Softball of Maryland DC Delaware.

To register please contact Event Coordinator Ralph Eggen at rweggen@cablespeed.com or 410-925-2031. The registration form is available at www.worcesterrecandparks.org.

leader of the Stalwart Republicans and dispenser of patronage in New York. When Garfield submitted to the Senate a list of appointments including many of Conkling's friends, he named Conkling's arch-rival William H. Robertson to run the Customs House. Conkling contested the nomination, tried to persuade the Senate to block it, and appealed to the Republican caucus to compel its withdrawal.

But Garfield would not submit: "This...will settle the question whether the president is registering clerk of the Senate or the Executive of the United States.... shall the principal port of entry ... be under the control of the administration or under the local control of a factional senator."

Wor-Wic seeks input on strategic plan

Wor-Wic Community College is looking forward to developing its next three-year strategic plan in 2021, and community members on the Lower Eastern Shore are invited to provide feedback about what they think the college is doing well and what they would like to see the college focus on in the next three years.

The college's planning cycle starts this fall with surveys to gather the perceptions of employees, students, local

business people and other members of the community, as well as a review of college and local area trends. Widespread community participation is encouraged so that Wor-Wic can continue to provide high-quality educational programs and services that meet the needs of the local community. The survey will be open through the end of the month.

Go to worwic.edu/Community-Survey to complete the survey.

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Art, recipe book published

The Art League of Ocean City has published a new book pairing the visual and culinary arts entitled "We Made It," now available in the Gift Shop of the Ocean City Center for the Arts on 94th St. The book sells for \$29.95, and all proceeds will fund the programs of the Art League.

The 132-page, full-color book merges the visual and culinary arts into a feast for the eyes and palate. Sixty artists shared original and cherished family recipes paired with a piece of their original art in colorful page spreads, coupled with the stories behind the recipes and art. Featured are appetizers, entrées, side dishes, and desserts.

"The concept for the cookbook came from our weekly drop-in painting group who had been meeting on Zoom during the quarantine," Rina Thaler, Executive Director of the Art League, said. "The artists felt that painting and cooking helped them get through the shutdown, and they suggested publishing a book filled with recipes and art as a fundraiser for the Art League."

"This book was 100% funded by

the generous artists who participated. You'll discover unique recipes handed down from generations and the sweet family stories behind them. The 60 artists also shared a piece of their beautiful original art and what inspired them to create it. This book makes a perfect holiday gift and supports the Art League at the same time."

Susan Jones, Executive Director of the Ocean City Hotel-Motel-Restaurant Assn., called the book, "An awesome example of making lemonade out of lemons!"

Phil Cropper, Chef at Worcester Technical High School, said it's "a wonderful collection ... to inspire everyone who loves art and food — in my world the two best things on the Earth!"

Denver Gerhart, General Manager at Liquid Assets, said the book "... gives you a deep appreciation for the recipes and family traditions brought to the Eastern Shore from around the world."

For questions or to place an order, contact the Arts Center at 410-524-9433 or ArtLeagueOfOceanCity.org.



Donations - Between 9 a.m. and noon every Wednesday in November the Kiwanis Club is accepting donations of new and used coats and unwrapped new toys in the parking lot of the Ocean Pines Community Center. Pictured are (L-R) Co-chair of the Coat Drive **Sue Winekek** and **Dave Landis**, chair of the Toy Drive. Look for the Kiwanis Club signs on the two cars accepting the donations.

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