

The Courier

October 27, 2021 Volume 22 Number 8



Pumpkin Palooza

On October 18, Oakley's Mobile Pumpkin Palooza out of Hebron, MD visited Worcester Preparatory School (WPS) educating students on the different types of pumpkins, squash, gourds and more!

Each Lower School grade attended the Mobile Pumpkin Palooza to learn about the different vegetable types in the squash family that help makes the Fall season so special. Students also participated in other sensory activities, and selected a pumpkin of their own to take home.

*Above **Luca DiFebo** and siblings **Jad** and **Jamil Salem** picked their pumpkins together from the patch.*



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OPA favorable to budget in August and September

Ocean Pines kept its positive financial streak going, with more good news in August and September, based on General Manager John Viola's monthly recent report to the Board.

Viola, in his report, said the Association was \$1.122 million favorable to budget as of August.

That number increased a further \$176,600 in September, according to a flash estimate of the monthly financial report. The full report should be released this week.

Viola said September budget favorability was led by Public Works/General Maintenance/CPI (\$50,700), Marinas (\$44,600), Police (\$23,200), Golf Operations and Maintenance (\$22,500), Aquatics (\$12,500), Beach Parking (\$9,000), Recreation and Parks (\$6,700) and the Beach Club (\$6,300).

In other highlights of the monthly report, Viola said the Clubhouse Bar and Grille continues to offer the NFL Sunday Ticket each week, which includes food and drink specials.

"The Clubhouse Grille has been doing excellent," he said. "The food is great, we have the NFL [Sunday] Ticket, and the place has been packed."

New railing was installed for the Clubhouse patio area, and Viola said Clubhouse Bar and Grille Manager Judie Scotti reported that the upgrade is helping to boost business.

"[She is] doing a tremendous job [and] is telling me that that opens up everything. They're able to serve all the golfers or everybody else out there, whether it's brunch, burgers, beers or whatever, and everybody's having a good time," Viola said. "There's really

a great patio there."

New interior doors are also planned for the Clubhouse Meeting Room. Viola said the doors would help cut down on noise and distractions in that area.

On Northstar software systems, Viola said overall system stability "has been trending in the right direction." Outstanding support tickets submitted to Northstar have been significantly reduced since the summer, and a team of Northstar users finished a thorough testing plan last week for the software company's next update, scheduled for release in early November.

Viola credited Finance Director Steve Phillips with "rolling up his sleeves" and taking that project on.

"I'm getting exactly what I've been looking for," he said. "The ball is definitely moving forward with Northstar ... They put more resources [on the project] and the tickets are getting completed. And, certainly, if you talk to any of my direct reports they will tell you, yes, we're moving forward."

Viola said Ocean Pines is waiting on permits for new pickleball courts, adding he's received several questions about the project from eager Racquet Sports players.

"I'm being told that we are close, but we've done everything possible," he said. "I hope to be able to come forward [during] the next Board meeting with the proposed Pickleball court that was approved in the budget."

Viola said Public Works recently finished some "badly needed" drainage and cleanup maintenance of the Manklin Creek Road area.

"We did have a lot of pine trees

*please see **financials** on page 14*



New Showell Elementary School celebrated with ribbon cutting

State and local officials gathered to finally cut the ribbon on the replacement Showell Elementary School today. While the new Showell Elementary School officially opened its doors to students in September 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic made today the first available time that officials could safely gather to celebrate the new school. The joy of this delayed celebration wasn't lost on Showell Elementary School Principal Diane Shorts.

"We know this day is long overdue, but we appreciate your patience and understanding along this journey," Shorts said from the podium as she looked out on one of the school's showstopping features, it's outdoor amphitheater. "I'm very excited to hold our celebration here in particular today because it is in one of the most exciting and forward-thinking projects of this new school. In a stroke of architectural genius, we are able to open up this beautiful wall of windows to transform our indoor stage to this outdoor amphitheater, where we can showcase our fantastic student performers."

Following Shorts' welcome was a presentation of colors from the Stephen Decatur High School JROTC Color Guard and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Showell Elementary School fourth grader Joni Michalski, and a beautiful performance from the third and fourth grade chorus.

Superintendent of Schools Lou Taylor addressed the crowd and expressed his thanks to the elected officials and construction team that brought the Showell Elementary replacement school to vibrant life.

"We believe that our students and staff need facilities that mirror the workspaces of tomorrow, workspaces that adapt to new and changing standards and technologies," Taylor said. "As you can see, the new Showell Elementary School truly embodies this kind of learning environment."

Board of Education President Elena McComas and County Commissioner President Joseph Mitrecic reinforced to the crowd their commitment to ensuring the young people of Worcester County have the facilities and tools necessary to prepare them for their futures.

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Updates given on reserve study, CPI violations and bulkheads

Public Works Office Manager Linda Martin on October 16 led an update on the "DMA Lite Study" of Ocean Pines' reserves.

The final draft of the updated study comes after several months of work and research by Virginia-based firm Design Management Associates Inc., the Budget and Finance Committee, and Ocean Pines staff. The study was first commissioned in 2015 and completed in 2018.

Martin, during the regular Board meeting on Saturday, said Ocean Pines received the updated study in September. The Association supplied copies to the Budget and Finance Committee, which reviewed the document and sent back several questions

last week.

She said those questions will be reviewed and addressed during a public working session hosted by the committee and scheduled on Wednesday, November 10 at 9 a.m. in the Clubhouse Meeting Room.

Martin also offered updates on recent Compliance, Permit and Inspections (CPI) activities, which she said have been very busy during the last several months.

Year to date, she said the department received 478 violations, with 410 of those having been closed out. CPI received 29 new violations in September and closed out 48 cases.

"We do appreciate everyone that has reported violations to us, because

we do follow up on everything that comes through," she said.

Martin said work to repair Golf Course bulkheads started in August and wrapped up on Oct. 8. The total cost of the repairs was just over

\$200,000.

She added emergency bulkhead repairs are ongoing at two homes on Goldeneye Court. Bulkhead work will next move to Pintail Drive and Crab Cay Court.

Public working session to review DMA reserve study

The Ocean Pines Budget and Finance Committee will host a working session to review the updated Design Management Associates Inc. (DMA) reserve study on Wednesday, November 10 at 9 a.m. in the Clubhouse meeting room.

The final draft of the updated re-

serve study comes after several months of challenging work and research by DMA, the Budget and Finance Committee, and Ocean Pines employees, including all the department heads. The study was originally commissioned in 2015 and completed in 2018.

"This is a valuable financial tool when we prepare our budget and to evaluate our reserves. I had this as a key objective for this fiscal year and our entire senior management team participated, and the effort was led by Linda Martin," General Manager John Viola said.

Finance Director Steve Phillips added that the updated study, "is important in order to ensure that OPA has adequate reserves (general, bulkheads, drainage and roads) on hand to replace existing assets/infrastructure at the end of their useful life."

Following the working session, the Association will host a presentation for the Ocean Pines Board later in November.

Holiday craft fair scheduled

The Pine'er Craft Club will host the 10th annual Winter Wonderland Holiday Craft Fair on Saturday, November 6 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Ocean Pines Community Center.

The event is free and open to the public.

"We are excited to host the event this year after having to cancel in 2020, because of the COVID-19 pandemic," Nancy Burkett, the event

please see **fair** on page 14

Board election vote totals announced

The Ocean Pines Elections Committee counted ballots and announced the voting totals during an open meeting last Wednesday in the Clubhouse Meeting Room.

Results of the ballot count were as follows:

- Frank Daly: 1,571
- Stuart Lakernick: 1,511
- David C. Hardy: 941
- Richard Farr: 1,629

"The next step in this election will be determined at a later date," Elections Committee Chairperson Steve Habeger said. "We express our appreciation to all the candidates who have volunteered to serve our Association."

Habeger said the committee mailed 7,999 ballots, counted 3,041 and ruled 38 as invalid.

Last year, the number of ballots mailed was affected by later assessment due dates because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The committee mailed 6,975 ballots, counted 2,759 and ruled 20 invalid.

In 2019, 7,957 ballots were mailed, 3,073 were counted and 7 were invalid.

To view a video of the ballot count, visit <https://youtu.be/alolQo6-QoE>.

Courier Almanac

At 2:35 on the afternoon of October 27, 1904, New York City Mayor George McClellan took the controls on the inaugural run of the city's innovative new rapid transit system: the subway.

While London boasts the world's oldest underground train network (opened in 1863) and Boston built the first subway in the United States in 1897, the New York City subway soon became the largest American system. The first line, operated by the Interborough Rapid Transit Company (IRT), traveled 9.1 miles through 28 stations. Running from City Hall in lower Manhattan to Grand Central Terminal in midtown, and then heading west along 42nd Street to Times Square, the line finished by zipping north, all the way to 145th Street and Broadway in Harlem. On opening day, Mayor McClellan so enjoyed his stint as engineer that he stayed at the controls all the way from City Hall to 103rd Street.



Parents who want to encourage their children to volunteer may find their efforts at doing so are more convincing if they volunteer themselves. A 2013 study published in the Journal of Adolescence examined the effects that parents who volunteer and talk about volunteering have on children. Researchers found that the children of volunteers were 27 percent more likely to volunteer than children whose parents did not volunteer. In addition, adolescents were 47 percent more likely to volunteer when their parents volunteered and talked about volunteering with their children.

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Chip Bertino Publisher/Editor

Mary Adair Comptroller Linda Knight Advertising Representative

Contributing Writers

Dan Collins, Ron Fisher, Douglas Hemmick, Jean Marx

Robert B. Adair 1938-2007

P.O. Box 1326 Ocean Pines, MD 21811

410-629-5906

thecourier@delmarvacourier.com

www.delmarvacourier.com

[facebook@TheCourierofOceanPines](https://www.facebook.com/TheCourierofOceanPines)

Shoes, shoes everywhere no glasses to be found

I have a tendency to channel Mr. Rogers, kicking off my shoes wherever I'm standing at the time and retrieving my slippers which are always found

again promising silently that from now on each time I took off my shoes I would return them to where they should always go when not on my feet.



It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

under my bed. The result is that at the dawn of each day, finding my shoes is a scavenger hunt because I don't recall where I took them off. I could have done so in the living room, bedroom, family room, sun room or the hallway. I know it would make more sense to take off my shoes, place them in the closet and then slip on my slippers. But I don't do that.

The result - searching the house in stocking feet looking for the brown loafers I kicked off two days before. While going from one room to another, it's inevitable that I think to myself, "why don't I just put my shoes in the closet so I can retrieve them quickly? From now on, that's what I'm going to do." It never happens. Such thoughts rescind to the shadows as soon as the loafers are found.

On an early Sunday morning not long ago, while walking through the family room, still dark because the blinds were closed, I

tripped, nearly doing a Dick Van Dyke ottoman fall. "What the h*** was that?" I muttered after regaining my balance. Snapping on the light, it became all too obvious what the h*** it was. There, built up beside the coffee table was a pile of shoes. Judging from the height, it appeared to be about four-days-worth of kicked-off shoes: sneakers, deck shoes, boondockers and black dress shoes. I couldn't help but chuckle. I scooped them up and took them to my bedroom closet, yet

The hope of that promise evaporated more quickly than a New Year's promise to exercise more and eat less.

The irony of all this is that when my children were living at home, I was on them constantly to put their shoes in their room when they took them off. Our youngest son was the worst offender. Not only would he discard his shoes anywhere in the house, it wasn't uncommon to find his left shoe in one part of the house and the right shoe in another room. How could this be? Your guess is as good as mine. When I would ask him in a tone that all parents express when they are exasperated, "Why did I trip over your left shoe in the living room and your right shoe in the dining room?" He would look at me with his familiar, "I'm going to make you laugh," expression and respond, "I don't know."



The reality of those exchanges was this: he really couldn't explain the shoe separation phenomenon and I would laugh at his response.

As I think about this situation more, I realize it's not just shoes with which I have an issue. Challenges exist with my reading glasses. I have multiple pairs of reading glasses positioned strategically around the house so that wherever I am, they are handy, or at least should be. A pair is kept in, among other places, the family room,

next to my rocker in the sunroom, on the kitchen counter and on my night stand. I also keep a pair on the garage workbench and in the truck. As you read this, you may be thinking, that's what you do or that I'm onto a good idea, one you should try yourself. Let me let you in on the Achilles heel of my strategy. During the day, I absentmindedly collect my reading glasses. When finished reading in the sunroom, I'll fold my glasses and drop them in my pocket and head out to the garage where I'll wear that pair glasses while working on a project. When done, I'll fold the glasses and hang them from my shirt collar, forgetting that I already have a pair in my pocket. At the end of the day when changing into my pajamas, I realize I've collected multiple pairs of glasses, sometimes with two pair hanging from my shirt collar. The next day, not only can't I find my shoes, but when I sit down to read, I can't find my glasses.

It dawns on me that I often take my shoes off where I pick up and use my

reading glasses. Wait a minute. A solution could be at hand. I should make a concerted effort to return my glasses to the side table when I'm finished reading and pick up my shoes to put them in the closet. This would avoid a



collection of reading glasses on my bureau and shoes scattered around the house. Will I remember to do this? I'm reminded of my son's response when I asked him why he left his shoes around the house - I don't know. The more accurate answer: I doubt it.

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Veterans Day ceremony to return

The Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation announced it will once again host a traditional, in-person ceremony to commemorate Veterans Day on Thursday, November 11, starting at 11 a.m. at the memorial grounds in Ocean Pines.

Annual Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies have been a hallmark of the foundation, and the events typically draw thousands of people from across the region.

“We are very pleased to be able to present our traditional program, when we will honor all of our veterans,” Memorial Foundation President Marie Gilmore said. “Veterans Day observances gives us the opportunity to say ‘thank you for your service.’ We should also reflect on the sacrifices made by the families of each and every veteran as they wait, and pray, for the safe re-

turn of their loved one.

“We invite you to join with us as we honor and recognize the sacrifices of all who have served to protect our freedoms,” she added.

The program this year will feature guest speaker Col. Craig M. Harmon, vice-commander of the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. Additionally, the Delmarva Chorus will provide patriotic music.

Seating is limited and those attending are encouraged to bring a chair. The ceremony will move to the Ocean Pines Community Center in the event of inclement weather.

For more information on the Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines and the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation, visit www.opvets.org.

AGH selects search firm

As the next step in the process to identify a new president and chief executive officer, Atlantic General Hospital’s CEO Search Committee has retained the national executive search firm WittKieffer.

WittKieffer will launch their national recruitment efforts in November. The firm’s senior partner, Rachel Polhemus, will work with the search committee through the New Year to identify four to six semi-finalist candidates for interviews, with the goal of selecting the new president and CEO by spring.

Polhemus has vast experience as an executive recruiter, including more than 17 years of experience at WittKieffer, combined with management consulting experience for leading healthcare and Fortune 500 firms.

Based in Bethesda, Polhemus recruits for key senior leadership roles in healthcare and the not-for-profit sector, with particular expertise in identifying CEOs and C-suite executives in the areas of strategy, operations, nursing, and marketing.

While the Atlantic General Hospital Board of Trustees will ultimately appoint the organization’s next chief executive officer, the CEO Search Committee will play a significant role in shaping the candidate criteria and in the review and assessment of applicants.

“We look forward to having a well-planned, thorough process that

will ultimately help identify an outstanding CEO for Atlantic General Hospital,” said Charlotte Cathell, chair of the CEO Search Committee.

The target start date for the new leader of Atlantic General Hospital and Health System is May 2022 at the latest.

Boating course offered

This is the last chance to take the Boat Safety Course this year, and it is a great time to review the experiences of the past season, and prepare for the future.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary will offer the Maryland Safe Boating Course virtually between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. November 2, 3 and 4.

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 of Maryland. Those attending the class, and passing the test will receive a Maryland Boating Certificate which is NASBLA approved and valid in all states.

A fee of \$20 covers the cost of the course and materials. Checks should be made payable to: USGCAUX 12-05 and mailed to: USGCAUX 12-05, PO Box 1682, Berlin, MD 21811.

Payment via PayPal is also accepted. For more information or to register please contact: Barry Cohen at 410-935-4807 or E-mail CGAUXOC@Gmail.com.



Soccer Challenge

Most Blessed Sacrament Catholic School recently hosted the Knights of Columbus Council #9053 for their Soccer Challenge. This event allows students the opportunity to demonstrate the most important skill in soccer – shooting accuracy on the penalty kick. Students compete within their own gender and age to progress from the local level to district, regional and state competitions. Once their scores are presented to the district level, some of students may move forward to the next level.

The local Knights of Columbus council visited the school this year to share this special program as part of their “Faith in Action” initiative. In addition to the annual soccer challenge, they provide support to the school through donations of time, talent and treasure.

Above is fourth grader **Dylan Gunther**.

State hits milestone vaccination rate

Governor Larry Hogan announced that, according to official CDC data, the State of Maryland has achieved the milestone of vaccinating more than 85% of adults with at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. The state is outpacing the national rate of 78.9% of adults with at least one dose.

“Thanks to the millions of Marylanders who have rolled up their sleeves over the past 10 months, Maryland is one of the most vaccinated states in America,” said Governor Hogan. “We have achieved these numbers with strong public health outreach, innovative lottery and scholarship promotions, and a relentless focus on equity.”

State health officials continue to finalize plans for the approval of booster shots for the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines, as well as the authorization of vaccines for five- to 11-year-olds.

To find a vaccine clinic, visit covidvax.maryland.gov or visit 1-855-MD-GOVAX (1-855-634-6829).

The state’s COVID-19 health metrics continue to decline across the board:

Maryland’s COVID-19 positivity rate (3.50%) has declined by 31.5% since August 22.

Maryland’s COVID-19 case rate per 100K (14.7) has declined by 29.1% since September 15.

Maryland’s COVID-19 hospitalizations (685) have declined by 18.9% since September 9, and are down 64.9% from their peak.

Official data is available at coronavirus.maryland.gov.

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MCBP to host Living Local Farm visits

The Maryland Coastal Bays Program is hosting two local farm visits for our community to learn the beneficial impacts of small-scale farming with sustainable practices.

The first visit is slated for Thursday, October 28 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Farmer Jeanne Vander Clute is providing a tour of Splendid Earth Farm in Berlin. She will discuss her farming journey including her passion for soil health. Lower Shore Land Trust's Land Stewardship Manager Frank Deuter will also share his wisdom regarding soil health at this event.

The second visit will be held Wednesday, November 3 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Farmer Matthew Harhai is providing a tour of the Goat Plum Tree Farm in Berlin, Maryland. Harhai will be sharing his vast knowledge of local fungi and their ecosystem benefits. Participants will have to chance to go foraging with Matthew's guidance and see a cooking demonstration.

Both visits are open to the public, but registration is required as participation is limited. You can register online at <https://mdcoastalbays.org/event/living-local-farm-visit/>.

These visits are part of the expanded Living Local initiative funded by the Environmental Protection Agency to provide agricultural environmental education in Worcester County through the implementation of educator trainings, student field trips, and community workshops on local farms. These components are designed to address the environmental and human impacts affecting agriculture, as well as the benefits best farm practices have on Maryland's Coastal Bays.

MCBP exists to protect and conserve the waters and surrounding watershed of Maryland's five Coastal Bays. Living Local is an initiative to engage and create more environmentally literate citizens and equip them with tools to help them critically think,

problem solve, and make responsible decisions towards a sustainable future for our local community.

For more information on 2021 Living Local community workshops or upcoming educator trainings, please



Jeanne Vander Clute

email the Living Local grant lead Chandler Joiner, cjoiner@mdcoastalbays.org or (410) 213-2297 ex. 107.

Wor-Wic graduates listed

The following Worcester County students completed their program requirements to graduate with a certificate (CT), associate of applied science (AAS), associate of arts in teaching (AAT), associate of science (AS) or associate of arts (AA) degree from Wor-Wic Community College this past summer.

Berlin: Jurgita Blake, CT, Nursing; Sierra Nicole Dacre, AA, General Studies; Lesley Downes, AS, Nursing; Marie E. Fontello, AA, General Studies; Kevin W. George, AA, General Studies; Patrick M. Keller Jr., CT, Criminal Justice; Patrick J. Maratea, AS, Nursing; Jessica L. Murray, AAS, Education; Jainita Patel, AS, Nursing; Catherine Anne Serio, AS, Nursing;

please see graduates on page 14

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October is Physical Therapy Month

By **Jennifer S. Hamilton, DPT, CHT**

In honor of Physical Therapy month, I wanted to take the opportunity to discuss the history of the profession of Physical Therapy and the many advancements that we have seen over the years.

In the early 1900s, physical therapists started as “Reconstruction Aides” to provide treatments during the polio outbreak in 1916. During the First World War, women were recruited to help restore physical function to injured soldiers. This was when the field of physical therapy was institutionalized. This also gave rise to the first school of physical therapy that was established at Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington, D.C.

In 1921, Mary McMillian helped to organize, and was the first president of the American Women’s Physical Therapeutic Association, now called the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA), with 274 members nationwide. Its name changed to the American Physiotherapy Association (APA) in 1922, allowing men to join, increasing membership to 3,000 nationally. In the mid-1940s, the name changed again to the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA). Currently there are more than 95,000 members in the APTA with 213 schools for physical therapy instruction and 309 schools for physical therapy assistant instruction. The APTA has ten recognized specialties including orthopedics, pediatrics, women’s health, and wound management. This year, the APTA is celebrating its centennial year marking 100 years of growth and advocacy for our profession.

Just as the physical therapy profession has changed over the years, physical therapy education has also changed. When the profession began, physical therapists earned a bachelor’s degree in another closely related field, and a certificate in physical therapy. This later transitioned into an entry-level PT bachelor’s degree. Sometime later, the postbaccalaureate degree, primarily the master’s degree, was adopted. In 1996, Creighton University graduated the first professional Doctor of Physical Therapy class in the nation.

Adoption of the Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree thereby recognized that the complexity of patient care requires a greater understanding of how to treat an individual. Therefore, in January 2016, it was required for all Physical Therapy programs to transition to degree level. The state of Maryland is home to two Doctor of Physical Therapy programs. One is in Baltimore at the University of Maryland at Baltimore and the second is at University of Maryland Eastern Shore in Princess Anne.

One of the best things about the physical therapy profession is how dynamic it is. New research in a variety of topics improves how we care for patients as we follow evidenced-based treatment. We are constantly learning and evolving, which means we are always incorporating new treatments. While the human anatomy stays relatively the same, how we approach treating it never does. This makes each day exciting and new. Another huge advancement in the field is direct access. This means, the public can access physical therapy *without* a physician referral. In most cases, care is covered by insurance, including Medicare. Open access to physical therapy services allows patients to receive treatment sooner preventing their condition from becoming chronic and gets them back to normal function without delay.

Not sure if you could benefit from physical therapy? All it takes is a phone call to discuss your concerns and set up an evaluation.

Here’s to the next 100 years!
Jennifer S. Hamilton, DPT, CHT is owner and president of Hamilton Physical Therapy PA. She can be reached at 410-208-3300.

Chix & dumpling dinner offered

The Bishopville Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary will hold a carry out Chicken & Dumpling Dinner for just \$12 per dinner including green beans and sweet potato sides. Extra pint of dumplings is \$7. Pickup times are 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the main station. Orders must be called in by November 3 to 619-922-9950.



Kiwanis and the birds

The Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City learned about bird care when guest speaker Maureen Kennedy of My Backyard addressed members October 6.

Maureen explained that when she retired, she wanted to do something about her passion, birds. So, she opened her store at the Ocean Pines South Gate. Maureen explained that there are three things to remember about birds. They need water, good food because they burn calories even when resting at night and they need shelter. Maureen suggested putting up birdhouses and roosts and to even keep a brush pile of leaves and twigs on the ground because birds will shelter under it

*Pictured (L-R) Kiwanis Club President **Tim Lund** and **Maureen Kennedy**.*

Keep ditches clear of leaves

Ocean Pines Public Works is reminding residents to keep their ditches clear of leaves throughout the fall and winter months.

“To help with the drainage, we’re encouraging residents to keep their leaves out of drainage ditches by raking them up to the road,” Public Works Director Eddie Wells said.

Wells said residents shouldn’t start that process until Nov. 1, because Public Works are still mowing the easements on the roadside.

He added that keeping the ditches clear can help reduce flooding.

“The more room we have in those ditches, the more stormwater the ditches can hold,” Wells said.

Public Works will collect leaves and other yard debris curbside from residents, from November 22 through December 17. Additionally, Pines residents may bring leaves and yard debris in bulk or paper bags to the Public Works yard from November 28 through December 31.

Public Works will also vacuum leaves. However, 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.

“Bagging them is still the best way to keep the ditches clear, because they’ll get picked up right away,” Wells said. “If you just rake them out, it can take some time for us to get to them.”



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SHEro Award honorees announced

The Art League of Ocean City announced the honorees of the 4th Annual 2021 SHEro Awards, honoring Delmarva women who have shown courage in facing adversity and turned that around into something positive. The Art League will present the awards at a special event on Friday from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Ocean City Center for the Arts, 94th St. bayside. The public is welcome to attend the free event.

The SHEro Awards are part of the October-long art exhibition at Arts Center entitled "I Am: Embracing Identity through Art." The award winners were nominated by local community members. "The SHEro Award winners are strong Delmarva women who passionately give back to our community," Rina Thaler, executive director of the Art League, said. "The awards are a recognition of the unsung SHEros who have shown courage in facing adversity and dug in to thrive and persevere."

The Art League will honor 12 nominees from across the Delmarva peninsula.

Atlantic General Hospital SAFE (Sexual Assault Forensic Exam) (Team: Lisa Wood, Nettie Widgeon, and Sarah Esh) was nominated by AGH's Senior Leadership and Care Givers. Andi West-McCabe, Director of Emergency Services at the hospital, said, "These ladies serve the victims of all ages who have endured sexual assault and/or domestic abuse. Doing this type of work is a true calling, a passion. These nurses are true heroes. They diligently listen to the

story, collect the evidence, console the victims and family, ensure they are referred for support and to a safe place to live if necessary, and then they go to court to testify ... to ensure the victims feel justice is being served."

Jean Browne of Cambridge, was nominated by her daughter, Lynne Browne, also of Cambridge. "My mother earned her bachelor's degree in microbiology in the 1950s ... an amazing accomplishment because she had to endure overwhelming discrimination based on her gender. Many university professors refused to teach her, and others verbally abused her during class. Yet she persevered. She inspired me to enter a male-dominated field. Without her example and support, I would never have thought I could obtain a law degree and advance my career to my current position as an Administrative Patent Judge for the United States Patent and Trademark Office."

Barbara Buford of Nassau, DE was nominated by Art League staff members Kacie Neeb and Katrin Huber, both of Berlin. Barbara leads

free, donation-based classes at the Arts Center every month called "heART & Soul" for those dealing with stress, trauma, or grief, and Free Family Art Days for families to make art together. "A student of hers once proclaimed that Barbara was a living angel right here in front of us, and I believe her," Neeb said. Barbara also works with the Worcester Co. Developmental Center teaching adults with intellectual disabilities, at the Salvation Army, and at the Art League's summer children's camp. A mantra Barbara shares with her students and peers is, "Don't let anyone steal your joy."

Michele Ennis of Salisbury, was nominated by actor and producer Ilyana Kadushin. "As Executive Director of Tri Community Mediation, Michele has been a leading force in the community mediation movement in Maryland. She has also spearheaded the Lower Shore Vulnerable Populations Task Force, in response to the need and disparity exposed by the

please see *honorees* page 14

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Review of

The Soul of an Octopus

By **Jean Marx**

The Soul of an Octopus: A Surprising Exploration into the Wonder of Consciousness by Sy Montgomery is an in-depth exploration into the fascinating and remarkable creature, the octopus. Montgomery's book was a 2015 Finalist for the National Book Awards. The author is a naturalist and has authored a total of 28 books to date, including 15 children's books.

Her research into the life of an octopus includes assessing their intelligence firsthand at the New England Aquarium and various scuba expeditions in French Polynesia and the Gulf of Mexico. As Montgomery explains, what first intrigued her about an octopus was that it has "venom like a snake, a beak like a parrot, and ink like an old-fashioned pen." These are only some of their startling attributes, as they can also easily change their color and shape, they can squeeze themselves into tiny crevices to evade predators, and they can taste with their skin.

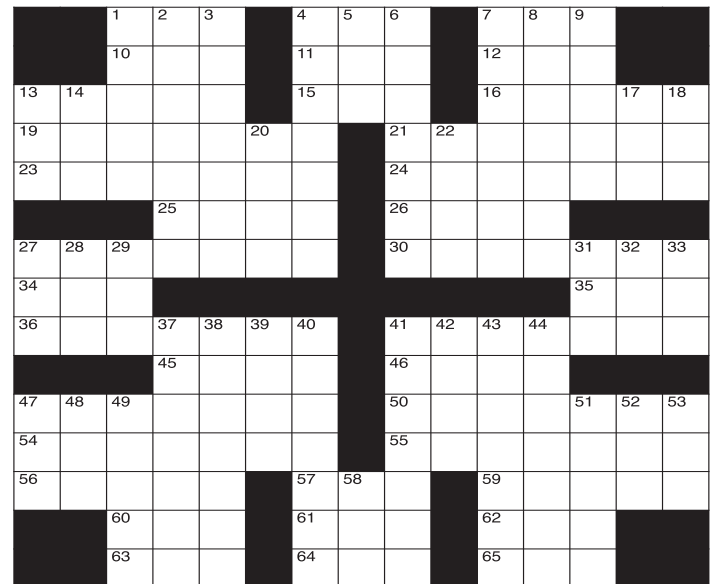
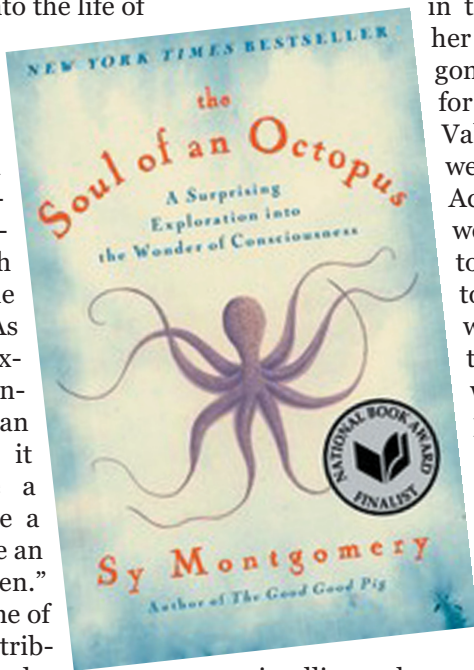
In the book, Montgomery's first encounter with getting to know the personality of an octopus was a Giant Pacific octopus at the New England Aquarium whose name was Athena. Athena had hatched from an egg as small as a grain of rice and within two and half years weighed 40 pounds. She had 1,600 suckers, each capable of lifting up to 35 pounds. Montgomery followed the lead of Athena's caretakers by immersing both of her arms into the top of Athena's tank. Athena had come to trust the staff and so eagerly greeted Montgomery by affixing a couple of her arms to Montgomery's. Athena was not only tasting Montgomery but also reading her mood; Athena would in turn relay her own mood, sometimes turning red when excited and turning white when feeling peaceful.

Over time, Montgomery became a regular at the aquarium's octopus ex-

hibit. An octopus typically only lives between 2-3 years, so in her many visits, Montgomery had to say goodbye to Athena and she met the new octopuses the aquarium brought in. In Montgomery's visits, she also came to know Octavia and Kali and observed how they had their own personalities. Kali was the most playful and sometimes displayed irritation or would even poke fun at the staff by shooting water in their faces through her funnel. Montgomery couldn't wait for her visits. One Valentine's Day she went to the Seattle Aquarium when they were hosting an event to try to pair two octopuses together. It was a fun and entertaining experience with the aquarium piping in romantic music. The audience was thrilled because the pairing was a success.

During their brief lives, octopuses reveal how intelligent they are and how they can develop attachment to their humans and become quite sensitive to their emotions. An example of their intelligence is that a single octopus can hunt dozens of different species of prey and can utilize different hunting strategies. The strategies include the ability to change color to camouflage themselves, to shoot ink to confuse their prey, and to build a shelter for themselves to hide until their prey is within reach. Octopuses have been observed hauling rocks and shells to construct their shelters. Because they don't have a shell casing on their bodies for protection, they have adapted extremely well by using their ingenuity.

The author concludes her book with the following, "If I have a soul – and I think I do – I know an octopus has a soul, too." I encourage those of you who want to learn more about these amazing sea creatures and those of you who love marine life in general to read this book. It provides a wonderful inspiration to learn more about the teeming life underwater that exists right at our doorstep.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Pouch
- 4. Cooling device
- 7. Corporate exec (abbr.)
- 10. Antidiuretic hormone
- 11. South American plant
- 12. Adult female bird
- 13. Type of snake
- 15. Soak in water
- 16. Emerge
- 19. Church tower
- 21. Having solidified from lava
- 23. Eye parts
- 24. Natural
- 25. Swiss river
- 26. Require to live
- 27. Obstruct
- 30. Immobile
- 34. Expression of satisfaction
- 35. Moved quickly
- 36. Popular cocktail
- 41. Dish detergent brand
- 45. Waxed finish
- 46. Kyrgyzstan mountain range
- 47. A place to get clean
- 50. Able to be rescued
- 54. Large, open grassland
- 55. Expressions for humorous effect
- 56. Hindu goddess
- 57. Beverage container
- 59. Long narrow hilltop
- 60. Sir (abbr.)
- 61. Data executive
- 62. Doctor of Education
- 63. Car mechanics group
- 64. Autonomic nervous system
- 65. "The Partridge Family" actress

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Cavalry-sword
- 2. Gland above the kidneys
- 3. Hat
- 4. Predict
- 5. A team's best pitcher
- 6. Countries
- 7. Substitutions
- 8. Peruses again
- 9. Popular food
- 13. Reciprocal of a sine
- 14. Of or relating to the ears
- 17. ___ juris: Independent
- 18. Keyboard key
- 20. Fat from a pig
- 22. AC manufacturer
- 27. Organization of N. and S. American countries
- 28. 22nd star of a constellation
- 29. Scoundrel
- 31. A way to save money
- 32. Boy or young man
- 33. Midway between northeast and east
- 37. Egg-laying mammal
- 38. Salt of citric acid
- 39. Barbary sheep
- 40. Actress ___ de Mornay
- 41. Gambling hotspots
- 42. Wing-shaped
- 43. Basked in
- 44. Poison
- 47. Beats per minute
- 48. Macaws
- 49. Military vehicles
- 51. Elderly woman
- 52. Body part
- 53. Midway between east and southeast
- 58. Forearm nerve (abbr.)



Answers for October 20



Cohen becomes Lt. Governor

The Kiwanis year begins on October 1. It's the time when new officers take over. The Kiwanis Capital District has Divisions which exist by geographic territory. Division 5 encompasses 11 clubs on the Eastern Shore of Delaware, Maryland and Virginia which are governed by a Lt. Governor. Steve Cohen, outgoing president of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City has been installed as the new Lt. Governor of Division 5. Pictured are (L-R) **Steve Cohen** and Outgoing Division 5 Lt. Governor **Christine Johnson** holding the Lt. Governor's banner which now resides with the Kiwanis Club of OP-OC.



Kiwanis installs new officers

The Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines - Ocean City Maryland installed new officers during a recent event at the Pavillion in Ocean Pines White Horse Park. Above: (L-R) Board of Directors member **Dick Clagett**, President-Elect **Bob Wolfing**, board member **Tom Southwell**, board member and outgoing President **Steve Cohen**, board member **Jackie Dubin**, Secretary-Treasurer **Carolyn Dryzga**, board member **Dave Landis** and board member **Roy Foreman**. Recording Secretary Pat Winkelmayr, board member Sue Wineke and Assistant Treasurer Patricia Baglieri are not pictured.

Why do we say 'trick or treat'?

Homeowners think nothing of having goblins, nurses, vampires, or astronauts showing up at their doors each October asking for candy. Any other time of the year and these visitors might be turned away. But Halloween is all about the magical and the macabre, and trick-or-treating is a major component of the festivities.

Kids and adults alike cry out 'trick or treat' at each house they visit. Many utter this familiar phrase without a second thought and may have no idea how this familiar custom came to be.

During the Middle Ages, less fortunate individuals would go 'souling,' which was a process of going door-to-door asking for food on November 1 in return for saying prayers for the deceased on All Souls Day on November 2. Many centuries later, the tradition of 'guising' began in Scotland around the same time of year. People began wearing masks and costumes to disguise themselves and prevent evil spirits from harming them. Spirits were thought to cross over more readily around Halloween. The custom also was called 'mumming' and was celebrated in nearby England and Ireland as well.

Costumes were eventually accompanied by hijinks. Mischief makers would sing a rhyme, do a card trick or tell a story in exchange for a treat. If that treat wasn't presented, a 'trick' could be played. For 19th century children, tricks included jamming hot cabbage into a keyhole to stink up a house or frightening passersby.

History.com indicates that when European immigrants arrived in America, they didn't give up their annual mischief or requests for treats, and the custom spread throughout the early 20th century in the United States.

While the practice of begging for treats in some shape or form went by many names, Merriam-Webster reports that a newspaper in Saskatchewan, Canada first men-



tioned the words treat and trick together in print. A 1923 article indicated, "Hallowe'en passed off very quietly here. 'Treats' not 'tricks' were the order of the evening." By 1927, more and more children were uttering 'tricks or treats' to solicit candy from their neighbors.

Trick-or-treating gained steam throughout the 1950s, with endorsements by major candy companies. The custom also was showcased in popular comic strips.

Even though there are tricks to be made on Halloween, treats are the real draw of the day.

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Some things to think about

Gathered from the internet by **Jack Barnes**

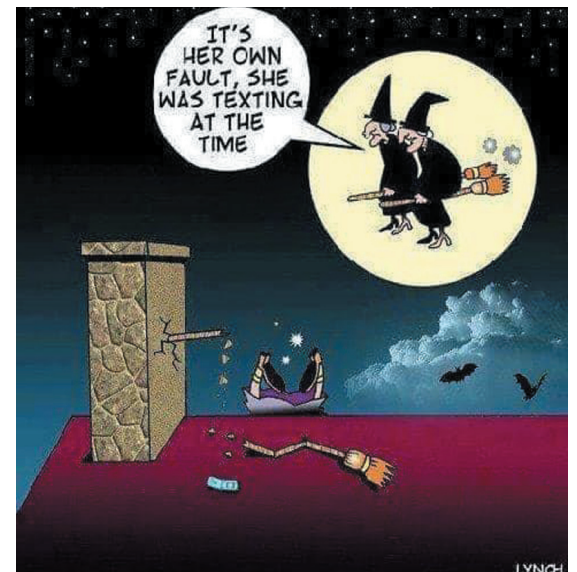


Zilcht

It's finally October! Which means, all of the cobwebs and dust in my house just became Halloween decorations.



I was gonna start dieting, but Halloween is coming up, then Thanksgiving and Christmas candy. Before you know it, it's BBQ season again and I'm not about to turn down a cheeseburger.



How to shop for an insurance policy

Adults need insurance for a variety of reasons. Insurance provides a safety net when accidents or injuries occur, and the right insurance policy can help policy holders make it through such instances as smoothly as possible.

Television commercials promoting insurance companies often tout low rates, but shopping for the right insurance policy is about more than finding the lowest rates. The following are some tips consumers can consider as they shop for insurance policies.

Research ratings. Various groups rate insurance companies based on everything from the usefulness of their websites to how satisfied their customers are with the claims process. J.D. Power conducts surveys of customer satisfaction and product quality for various industries, including insurance. The results of those surveys can be found at www.jdpower.com and can provide valuable insight into insurance providers, giving prospective policy holders a good idea of how their in-

teractions with an assortment of agencies may go.

Emphasize customer service. Customer service reputation should bear considerable weight when shopping for an insurance policy. Many policy holders want readily available access to a human being when they have an insurance question or need to submit a claim. When shopping for policies and seeking estimates, take note of how easy or difficult it is to speak with an agent at each company. Is the quotes process entirely automated, or is an agent walking you through the estimate and carefully explaining each component of the policy? Rating agencies rank companies based on customer service offerings, and those ratings should not be overlooked.

Seek recommendations. Word-of-mouth can go a long way toward finding the right insurance provider. Ask friends or relatives which companies hold their policies and how easy or difficult it's been for them to file claims in the past. Google reviews and other online review boards

also can be great resources to see how existing or past policy holders feel about a given provider. Pay attention to how quickly claims are settled and paid out, as policy holders, in most instances, should not have to wait months or years to be reimbursed for costs covered by their policies.

Avoid being fixated on cost. Cost is a significant consideration when shopping for insurance policies, especially costly policies like homeowners and auto insurance. But cost should not be the deciding factor. A company that offers especially low rates may only do so because it offers very limited coverage, while a more expensive policy may provide more extensive coverage that helps policy holders make it through accidents or injuries with their savings intact. Carefully read estimates to determine how much coverage you will be getting with each policy.

Adults need insurance and have many options at their disposal. Finding the right fit requires careful consideration of a host of factors.

Tides for Ocean City Inlet

Day	High /Low	Tide Time
Th 28	High	1:39 AM
28	Low	7:29 AM
28	High	2:12 PM
28	Low	8:34 PM
F 29	High	2:40 AM
29	Low	8:28 AM
29	High	3:12 PM
29	Low	9:28 PM
Sa 30	High	3:42 AM
30	Low	9:28 AM
30	High	4:10 PM
30	Low	10:20 PM
Su 31	High	4:39 AM
31	Low	10:28 AM
31	High	5:03 PM
31	Low	11:09 PM
M 1	High	5:31 AM
1	Low	11:26 AM
1	High	5:53 PM
1	Low	11:56 PM
Tu 2	High	6:20 AM
2	Low	12:21 PM
2	High	6:41 PM
W 3	Low	12:42 AM
3	High	7:08 AM
3	Low	1:15 PM
3	High	7:29 PM

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honorees

from page 9

COVID-19 pandemic. She has supported people from all walks of life in having tough conversations [about] personal relationships, workplace disputes, to prisoner reentry and more. Michele is the mother of six children, three of whom are trained mediators.”

Kim Klump of Bishopville, was nominated by Donna Gleckler of Girdletree. “In 2009, when 17-year-old Jesse Klump took his own life, his mother Kim chose to use the tragedy to create the Jesse Klump Memorial Fund. Twelve years later, the fund serves those seeking mental health care, teaching suicide prevention first aid, and supporting underserved members of our seaside community.” The main goal of the fund is to stem the rate of suicide loss, and that includes teaching suicide prevention in Worcester Co. schools, training healthcare professionals, and providing support groups, among others. “Kim’s contribution to the community, driven by her loss and her passion, has indeed saved lives and brightened futures.”

Gwen Lehman of Ocean Pines, was nominated by Laura Bren of Ocean City, “My relation to her is that of a student, having been an aspiring thespian at Stephen Decatur High School in the early 1990s. I have first-hand knowledge of her grit and perseverance as she poured her soul into developing the minds and, more importantly, the character of the young people she taught. Gwen gave 110% and expected that in return. She was often in the back row of the auditorium counseling a student in crisis. Years after graduation, Gwen re-

financials

from page 3

there ... they were diseased, they were falling over [and] we had concerns that they would take out the fence that was there and cause more problems,” he said. “We’ve cleaned it up ... [and] there’s a lot more wind and a lot more breeze and a lot more sun going into the garden. I think that was successful and we fixed the drainage there.”

Viola also praised Public Works and the large group of volunteers who recently helped put in dozens of plants near Bainbridge Pond.

“This is all for filtration, [and] it really came out nice. Great job by everybody,” he said.

mained an important ‘person’ in the lives of so many ... creating ‘The Gwen Lehman Foundation’ [awarding theater arts scholarships to SDHS grads].”

Melissa Reid of Berlin, was nominated by Tamara Mills, instruction coordinator for Worcester County Schools. “Melissa Reid, an art educator at Buckingham Elementary School, began teaching in 1999. She has spent her entire career at that one school. When I first met Mrs. Reid, I fell in love with her ability to connect with children. For over 20 years, she has given our community children the gift of the arts, personal self-expression, and a foundation of kindness to one another. Melissa also gives of herself and her time.” She is the president of the Board of Directors at the Calvin B. Taylor House Museum, has worked with the Worcester Co. Education Foundation, assisted with food deliveries to students during the pandemic, and is working on her doctorate degree. “I am proud of her hard work, her insightful process, and her tenacity to reach this goal.”

Deborah Rolig of Berlin, was nominated by Cindy Leiner, Diane Gray and Art League gallery director Katie Brown, and executive director Rina Thaler. Rolig is co-founder of the SHEro Awards, started in 2018, and a visionary artist whose compassion has touched many. Her vision can be seen not only in her own artwork but in ex-

fair

from page 4

chairperson, said.

Local crafters and many Craft Club members will be there to display and sell their wares.

“We have a wide variety of items, many with a holiday theme, including jewelry, pottery, paintings, soap and bath products, pet products, American doll clothes, candles, stained glass, pillows, and cross-stitched items,” Burkett said. “All items are handcrafted and make wonderful gifts for the holidays.

“We’ll also have some unusual, one-of-a-kind things,” she continued. “We’ll have fabric decorated plates, quilted items, gourd houses, wood-carved ducks and birds, and so much more.”

The event will also feature local artists like Jim Adcock, who is well known for painting landscape scenes of Ocean Pines, Berlin, Ocean City and

hibits she curated such as “The Divine Feminine,” “SHE,” “RISE,” and “VISSION” at the Ocean City Center for the Arts, shows that empowered women through art. These exhibits expanded beyond art on the walls to include artist talks, healing workshops, and interactive installations. Rolig is also a teacher in visual art and yoga, both of which connect the mind, body, and soul. “Deb’s impact can be seen in how the community rises up around her in times of hardship,” Brown said. “Through loss and health challenges, she continues on with an incredible strength and grace. Deb is a true SHEro.”

Terry Smith of Berlin, was nominated by Laura Jenkins and Robin Tomaselli, both of Berlin. Now retired from teaching and as vice-principal of Buckingham Elementary School, Smith was named Teacher of the Year for Worcester Co. and also earned the National Milken Award. Her passion for giving has called her back to the county schools to mentor girls she calls “at potential” whom she guides to make good life decisions. Within her church, The Tyre AME Church in Berlin, she assists with programs dealing with domestic violence awareness, financial literacy, food drives and distribution, college book scholarships, and after school opportunities. “She radiates joy,” Jenkins said. “More important to Terry are her children ... She shared with me the

other surrounding areas.

Burkett recommended that shoppers come early, as many items sell out quickly.

“This is a popular event, so the earlier the better,” she said. “We’ll also have a bake sale of all homemade goodies. The bake sale is usually sold out by noon!”

Additionally, breakfast and lunch items will be available for sale by the Kiwanis Club.

The Pine’er Craft Club will donate proceeds from the Winter Wonderland Holiday Craft Fair back to the Ocean Pines community. Active since 1974, the Craft Club has donated more than \$170,000 to groups like Ocean Pines’ Recreation and Parks, Police and Fire departments, and the Worcester County Veterans Memorial in Ocean Pines.

For more information on the Pine’er Craft Club, visit <https://www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/artisan-craft-shop>.

tragic loss of her son in 2020. Through that loss, she has found strength to give some more.”

Debbie Smullen of Salisbury, was nominated three times, by Worcester Youth and Family of Berlin, by Tamara Mills and by Katrin Huber. Smullen, Worcester Connects Program Coordinator and the face of Worcester Goes Purple, wears many hats. She is a hard worker, an advocate, a mentor, a helper, a mother, a grandmother, and a sister. She has a heart and the passion to support others and see them succeed. At the start of 2021, Debbie had a series of health problems arise that she faced head on, silently and gracefully. She continued working from home and returned to work earlier than expected. After Debbie’s daughter became ill, she stepped in to help. Debbie understands the impact that the arts can have on the whole person, and has provided art opportunities to county youth, including the impactful Healing through Arts workshops.

graduates

from page 7

Sherri L. Smith, AS, Nursing; Alivia Frances Spagnola, CT, Nursing; Austin M. White, AA, General Studies; and Luke C. Zolenski, AA, General Studies.

Bishopville: Jamie L. Walsh, CT, Nursing.

Newark: Sachin Dhungel, AS, Nursing; and Lauren E. Lewis, CT, Nursing.

Ocean City: Jillian Alascio, CT, Nursing; Rachel N. Dypsky, AA, General Studies; Emma S. Hamilton-Blackford, CT, Criminal Justice; Terrance L. Jankouskas, CT, Criminal Justice; Brittany L. McDaniel, AA, General Studies; Benjamin E. Panitch, CT, Criminal Justice; Jenna L. Radford, CT, Nursing; Ilona Randolph, AS, Nursing; Ean W. Spencer, CT, Criminal Justice; Ryan R. Walker, CT, Criminal Justice; and Jessica N. Wieber, CT, Criminal Justice.

Pocomoke City: Colby R. Speta, AA, General Studies; Devin Grace Thompson Elutrio, AA, General Studies; LaShae Q. Wise, CT, Nursing; and Makayla Wright, AAS, Education.

Snow Hill: Drew Elizabeth Harper, CT, Nursing; Delaney L. Taylor, CT, Nursing; and Bethany Waters, AA, General Studies.

Stockton: Kathryn S. Savage, CT, Nursing.

Whaleyville: Jane C. Failla, CT, Nursing.

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