

The Courier

June 14, 2023 Volume 23 Number 34

GOD SAVE ME FROM EVER...
CAFFEYS INLET

Bunk Mann

His third book is released
See story on page 12





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Donation - Belinda Gulyas (left), principal of Cedar Chapel Special School, accepts a check for \$11,000 from Ocean City-Berlin Optimist Club President **Christina Dolomount Brown**. The check will fund: a wheel chair accessible basketball net; rubber decking; and, benches for their playground. Cedar Chapel Special School teaches children from age 3 to 21 years old.

Women's Club sets record donation amount

The Women's Club of Ocean Pines on Thursday presented more than \$10,000 in annual scholarships and community donations.

The club, active since 1974 and boasting more than 100 members, offers local women an outlet both to socialize and give back to their community.

To raise money, the club each year hosts game parties, fashion shows, bake sales, restaurant of the month dinners, garage sales, and other social events.

Students receiving scholarships this year were:

- Julia Carlson, Stephen Decatur High School, \$1,500
- Cadence Hughes, Stephen Decatur High School, \$1,500
- Cayden Wallace, Worcester Preparatory School, \$1,500
- Rina Dirickson, Stephen Decatur High School, \$3,000

Dirickson was the recipient of the Gloria Moyer Memorial Scholarship, which honored Moyer as a vital member of the organization as a former officer, editor, and leader.

"We were so pleased to award this scholarship in Gloria's memory to Rina Dirickson as a talented young woman who demonstrates, like Gloria, leadership skills," club member

Diane McGraw said.

Additionally, community donations this year included:

- Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department - \$700
- Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks - \$700
- 4 Steps Therapeutic Riding Program - \$250
- Coastal Hospice - \$200
- Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation - \$200
- Sarah's Pantry - \$200
- Delmarva Chorus - \$200
- Stories Love Music - \$150
- Women Supporting Women - \$150
- U.S. Kennels - \$150
- Town Cats - \$100

McGraw said the nonprofit organizations were awarded community donations to benefit Ocean Pines residents and upon the recommendations from members.

The Women's Club is always looking for new members, as well as new donors. Members meet on the first Thursday of each month, except for July and August. Annual dues are \$10.

For anyone interested, contact Club President Karin Benton at 610-730-6706, or email karinhessbenton@gmail.com.

BPW approves funding for the Ocean City Life-Saving Museum

The Maryland Board of Public Works has approved \$600,000 to the Town of Ocean City for the Ocean City Life-Saving Museum to become ADA compliant by installing an elevator, elevator lobby, and emergency exit stairs. The funding was approved at the June 7 BPW meeting. Senator Mary Beth Carozza requested and secured this funding for the improvements to the Ocean City Life-Saving Museum through the capital bonds process in 2021.

"More than any other place in Ocean City, this Life-Saving Museum tells the story of Ocean City's history and the role of the U.S. Life-Saving Service dating back to 1891," said Carozza, who represents Ocean City in the Maryland State Senate. "It's been a special place, overlooking our scenic Inlet at the south end of the Boardwalk, for both visitors and locals to enjoy and experience the 'Ocean City' Story, with an amazing early surfing display and a

unique exhibit on the history of the pioneering women of Ocean City."

The Ocean City Life-Saving Museum is a facility that is owned and operated by the Town of Ocean City that showcases both the history of Ocean City and the Life-Saving profession which predates the U.S. Coast Guard.

Senator Carozza also sponsored legislation in 2022, Senate Bill 64, to allow the Ocean City Life-Saving Museum to move forward with construction. The legislation required the Maryland Department of Natural Resources' approval for the construction of this project within the State-Ocean City Beach Erosion Control District. After the Department's careful review of the legislation, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources supported SB 64 which unanimously passed both chambers of the Maryland General Assembly and was signed into law on May 16, 2022 by Governor Larry Hogan.

Board statement on Daly resignation

The following is a statement from Ocean Pines Association President Doug Parks:

"The Board has acknowledged the resignation of Director Frank Daly, effective Tuesday, June 6. Frank and his wife, Irene, have sold their house in Ocean Pines and are moving to Florida to be close to their family in that area. Given that Frank is no longer a homeowner in Ocean Pines, he, per our governing documents, is now ineligible to serve on the Board.

"I can speak for the rest of the Directors in thanking Frank for the work he has done during his tenure

on the Board and appreciating the years of service he has devoted to the Ocean Pines community. We extend best wishes to Frank and Irene in their new endeavors."

In a separate statement, Parks announced:

"After discussion and consideration, the Board has decided that we will not fill the vacancy on the Board at this time. The consensus was that it is the best interest of the community to leave the decision in the hands of the membership, and that the vacancy is better suited to be decided by the upcoming election."

OPA candidate forum set

The Ocean Pines Elections Committee will host a candidate forum on Wednesday, June 21 at 6 p.m. in the Clubhouse Meeting Room on 100 Clubhouse Drive.

All four candidates for the 2023 Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors Election are expected to take part in the forum. Candidates, in ballot order, are John Latham, Jerry Murphy, Elaine Brady, and

Jeffrey Heavner.

The Elections Committee is seeking homeowner input on questions for the forum. To submit a question, contact elections@oceanpines.org.

For questions about the election, email elections@oceanpines.org.

If you live in Ocean Pines and would like home delivery of *The Courier*, call 410-629-5906.

First responders to receive discounted access to state parks

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources announced that state resident first responders and law enforcement officers will receive a \$40 discount for an Annual State Park and Trail Passport. The passport, which allows unlimited day-use entry for all of Maryland's state parks and park facilities for one year, is otherwise available for \$75 for in-state residents.

"The Moore-Miller Administration is proud to recognize and honor Maryland residents who selflessly put themselves in harm's way in order to protect others," said Maryland Department of Natural Resources Secretary Josh Kurtz. "I want to thank the General Assembly for passing this legislation, Senator Mary Beth Carozza for leading the charge, our Maryland park rangers and volunteers who work hard to protect and provide access to our natural spaces, and all who vigilantly serve their communities as first responders."

This discount is available to Maryland residents who serve as law enforcement officers, emergency medical technicians, firefighters, and similar emergency personnel. Legislation proposing this initiative was signed into law by Governor Wes Moore after

passing through the General Assembly with bipartisan support. The bill was sponsored by state Senator Carozza, along with 13 cosponsors.

The annual pass offers unlimited day-use admission for everyone in a single vehicle (up to 10 people) to Maryland's state parks and facilities, unlimited boat launching at all applicable state park facilities, and a 10% discount on state-operated concession items and boat rentals.

"We are pleased to offer our first responders a discounted Maryland State Park and Trail Passport so that they can enjoy our beautiful parks with their family and friends," said Maryland Park Service Acting Superintendent and Ranger Angela Crenshaw. "As stewards of our public lands, we greatly appreciate the people who keep us all safe."

Park passes may be purchased at the Maryland Department of Natural Resources online store. To be eligible for the discounted price of \$35, the purchaser will be required to present identification or other credentials as a first responder along with proof of Maryland residency.

Recovery scholarship deadline approaches

Atlantic Club and Worcester Goes Purple are offering two \$1000 scholarships to a person in recovery (minimum of one year) who seeks tuition assistance with college or trade school in the fall. This will require an application and very brief essay. It is anonymous. Only one individual will see your name, members of the selection committee will read essays that are blinded. Contact Colleen Wareing at cwareing56@gmail.com or 410-430-6896 for an application. The deadline is June 30.

These and other scholarships are funded through proceeds raised at the annual Walk for Recovery. High school scholarships have already been awarded this year and other funds have helped both non-profits provide support for prevention, recovery and awareness of the disease of substance abuse.

Support these efforts by joining in

the next Walk for Recovery - A celebration of Hope on September 9 at 9 a.m. on the Ocean City Boardwalk.

For more information go to our website, www.atlanticclub.org to register, donate or support another team.

End of school kick-off is Saturday

The Germantown School celebrates the end of school with its annual Summer Fun Kickoff, a traditional celebration held at the historic Rosenwald School at the end of each school year. This year's celebration to be held Saturday, June 17 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. will feature arts and crafts, face painting, a moon bounce, animal encounters, train rides, museum tours and much more. The event is free and open to everyone. Germantown School is located at 10223 Trappe Rd in Berlin. For more information, call (410) 641-0638 or (443) 235-9803.



Learning about arthritis

The guest speaker at the weekly Wednesday morning meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines - Ocean City on May 24th was Dr. Angela Gibbs. Dr. Gibbs is a board-certified family practice physician who earned her medical degree from the Military Medical School in Bethesda, MD after achieving her undergraduate degree from the University of Washington.

She spent most of her adult life in the military. Since 2018 she has had her concierge practice on Racetrack Road in Berlin. She spoke about Osteoarthritis, a very common condition for people as they age. There are over 100 types of arthritis affecting the joints. This chronic pain can also be associated with depression. She talked about treatments and how people can do things to improve the quality of their lives. She emphasized the importance of being active and exercise as well as proper diet.

Above (L-R) are **Dr. Angela Gibbs** and Past President of the club **Tim Lund**.



Speaker - The Republican Women of Worcester County (RWWC) held their monthly general meeting and luncheon on Thursday, May 25 at the Worcester Technical High School in Newark. The attendees were treated to a buffet luncheon prepared by Chef Phil Cropper and his staff. The guest speaker was Nicole Bennett. Ms. Bennett is currently 1st Vice President of the MDGOP. Ms. Bennett spoke on the qualities of leadership. Pictured left to right are: **Liz Mumford**, RWWC 1st vice president, **Nicole Bennett** and **Sandy Zitzer**, RWWC president.

The kids are coming! The kids are coming!

As I write this, I am very excited because for the first time in a long while, my children and grandchildren will visit us at the same time, arriving this week.



It's All About...
By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

The reason for the gathering is the baptism of my youngest grandson, Rhys Anthony, who is nine months old. There is another, less important, but no less noteworthy occasion that will be celebrated. The day before the baptism, we'll christen the new boat – whose name will not be revealed until then.

There's always preparation when family comes to visit: beds readied; bathrooms cleaned; and, extra and various foods stocked. On Rhys' behalf, a couple months ago his mother asked if the baptism party could be held on the The Piazza. My wife and I were not expecting the request but we were pleased. As a result, even more preparation is necessary including extra attention to the garden to ensure it is tiptop. Such things are no bother at all when family is involved, especially my grandson.

My oldest grandson, Ben, age eight, wrote me a letter (a real letter – in an envelope stamped and addressed) requesting that a special menfolk dinner be held sometime while he's visiting. We held such a dinner several years ago so he'd like to do it again. He said he would host it. Fine with me. He's asked his mother to take care of the invitations and to do the cooking. Even at a young age, he's learning to delegate.

I called Ben a couple weeks ago telling him that I had ordered and received a new box of his favorite cigars, El Bubble (bubble gun cigars). He was pleased and quickly followed up by asking whether his "brewskis" would be stocked in the fridge. Brewskis? Root beer. And not just any brewskis, bottled root beer. Yes, I told him. It goes without saying that the only reason I agreed was because he's my grandson. Had either one of my sons made such a request of me at his age, I would have pointed them to the garden hose.

It's expected that my granddaugh-

ter Giana will spend several nights with us. No doubt she'll sneak out after bedtime, when everyone else has retired, to sit and watch television with me, just the two of us. I always enjoy that.

We're not only preparing for family of the biped variety, we're also preparing for the arrival of a grand-dog, Bombur, who will arrive from Florida with my son and his significant other, Ari, whom my wife and I like a lot. Bombur has visited a few times in the past. He's a friendly sort who enjoys roughhousing with our dog, Chooch. It's fun to watch. This visit though will be different because since the last time Bombur visited, we adopted another dog, Pyper, a border collie who believes she is queen. It will be interesting to see her initial reaction when the two meet. My money's on Pyper taking charge even though she's less than half Bombur's size. She's a wily one who I believe will very quickly show who's boss.

If history is any guide, many pictures throughout the visit will be snapped. I know this because I'm usually the one taking pictures, often setting up the tripod to get group shots. And again, if history is any guide, everyone will hem and haw and complain that they have to be in the picture. Interestingly though, despite their faux reluctance, they'll all want copies of the group family picture. I'll share them but I may charge a processing fee.

One the experiences I enjoy most when everyone is together, is watching all the kids interact with one another as adults. For the most part, they've known each other since they were kids. Now, they're each successful in their own ways, yet they all support, encourage and engage with one another. As a father, I treasure that because there will come a time – in the very distant future – when my wife and I will have faded from the scene and they'll be on their own. Knowing that they have one another to rely upon makes me feel blessed in the here and now.

Enough with the sentimentality. They'll all be here for Father's Day. I will be taking notes on how they celebrate the occasion and what gifts are offered. I mean after all, as I've intimated to them for years, they're lucky to have a father like me if I do say so myself – and I do.

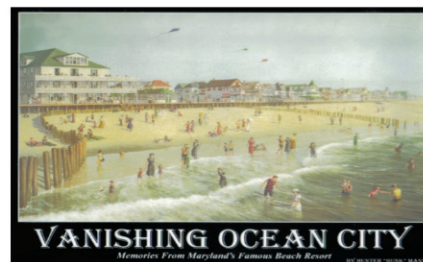
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Ocean City Chronicles is the final book in Bunk Mann's three volume historical series which began with "Vanishing Ocean City" in 2014 and continued with "Ghosts in the Surf" in 2019. Centered around his articles in the Maryland Coast Dispatch newspaper, his latest book features 285 of the most popular ones over the past eleven years. It includes hundreds of photos of long vanished hotels and restaurants, the great storms and fires, deep sea fishing, Boardwalk attractions and amusements, and stories of the people who turned a small 19th century fishing village into a modern year-round destination. "Ocean City Chronicles" is a comprehensive history of Maryland's famous oceanfront resort in a hardbound coffee table book featuring cover art by noted artist Paul McGehee. Supplies are limited so order your copy today!



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Commentary

By Joe Reynolds
OceanPinesForum.com

Secret questions?

Claims were made last year that one or more OPA Board of Directors candidates were provided advance copies of the questions to be asked during the Candidates Forum. Candidate Amy Peck was the object of much speculation since she came prepared with researched notes on potential questions. There was not, nor is there today, any factual information that any candidates were provided the questions in advance. The feigned outrage was more or less political paranoia.

Unfortunately, the charges continue to be made this year. However, the larger, more important question, is what authority does the Election Committee operate under that allows it to meet privately and decide on what questions it will ask?

Back in June of 2013, I attended an Elections Committee meeting. After some discussion related to the upcoming Candidates Forum run by the Elections Committee, the chairwoman said she would have to ask me to leave the room as they would be moving to a closed session to discuss the questions to ask board candidates at the Candidates Forum.

My question then was, "Would you please tell me which of the specific au-

thorizations in the Maryland HOA Act you intend to invoke to go into closed session?"

Around that point, a committee member angrily replied, "We're not operating under Maryland law."

With that bombshell delivered, any further protestations from me would have been useless. To my surprise, the chairwoman then said the meeting was over and the committee would not be going into closed session to discuss Candidate Forum questions.

With the committee meeting over, it was time for the announced 4:00 P.M. drawing by the board candidates to set the order their names would appear on the ballot. When that concluded, the entire committee met again behind a locked door, an obvious and flagrant violation of the HOA Act.

Ten years later the Elections Committee still meets in private to determine what questions it will ask during the Candidates Forum. One difference from 2013 is recently the Elections Committee does not even announce a meeting where it intends to go into closed session to select questions.

Ten years later the question remains - What specific authorization in

please see commentary on page 12

Voting ID is necessary to protect elections

Editor:

Fair and free voting is the most important activity the citizens of a free society can engage in. Without this, we lose our republic. Everything that the government does can be changed or supported by means of citizens voting the associated law-maker in or out of power. There is substantial evidence that the trend in early voting and election day voting are being reversed when the mail-in ballots are counted. This was found to be evident with 17 Maryland statewide contests. All Republican candidates were leading but were all reversed after the mail-in ballots were counted. Coincidence? I think not! We need to adopt paper ballots, single day voting and eliminate mail-in ballots, drop boxes and voting machines.

What I want to take issue with here is the fact that we do not have mandatory ID requirements when we vote. Our Worcester County Board of elections are in favor of this but were stymied by the state claiming imposing such a requirement on our citizens is discriminatory. Oh really, then let me show you what other activities in our society are discriminatory.

A valid ID is required for: driving, boarding an airplane, purchasing a car, getting a car registration, renting anything, buying insurance and plane tickets, obtaining a passport, picking up mail from Fed X, UPS and the post

office, visiting a doctor's office or hospital, getting outpatient testing, donating blood, getting a prescription, buying certain over-the-counter products, applying for a job or a school, applying for a professional license, getting married, checking out a library book, joining the military, adopting a child, transacting with a bank, sending a wire transfer, applying for online banking, applying for store credit, establishing a utilities account, getting a credit card, opening a retirement account, applying for a mortgage, buying a house, applying for apartment rentals, renting a hotel room, buying a cell phone, going to court, entering federal buildings, getting a business license, getting a state ID, cashing a large lottery ticket win, obtaining Medicare and Medicaid, applying for food stamps and welfare, applying for unemployment, using social security services, applying for section 8 housing, applying for a H-18 Visa or Green card, holding a rally or protest, buying a firearm, applying for a hunting or fishing license, joining a gym, using a pawn shop, entering a night club, volunteering at non-profit organizations, voting in a union election, buying cigarettes or liquor, visiting a casino, buying an M rated video game, going to jail, participating in outdoor dangerous activities, buying annual tickets

please see letter on page 12

It's hard to imagine a backyard barbecue without hot dogs, even though a lot of people may be hard pressed to name just what hot dogs are made of. According to The Humane League, hot dogs are made from the emulsified meat trimmings of chicken, beef and pork. That mixture is then blended with ingredients such as preservatives, spices and coloring and made into a substance similar to batter. Once that substance is produced, it is stuffed into casings, not unlike those used when creating sausages. The casings are made from processed collagen or collagen from animal intestines. Though the ingredients and process used to create hot dogs may not sound very appetizing, that has done little to affect the popularity of this beloved backyard barbecue staple. In fact, the National Hot Dog & Sausage Council estimates that Americans consume more than 20 billion hot dogs each year.



Courier Almanac

On June 14, 1922, President Warren G. Harding, while addressing a crowd at the dedication of a memorial site for the composer of the "Star Spangled Banner," Francis Scott Key, became the first president to have his voice transmitted by radio. The broadcast heralded a revolutionary shift in how presidents addressed the American public. It was not until three years later, however, that a president would deliver a radio-specific address. That honor went to President Calvin Coolidge.

The
Courier

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- FRI, JUNE 30** THE FUNSTERS



Worcester County approves Fiscal 24 budget, no tax increase

On June 6, the Worcester County Commissioners approved the Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) Operating Budget of \$235,890,227 in appropriations for the coming fiscal year. This reflects an increase of \$8,833,449 or 4% more than the FY23 budget while reducing the requested expenditures of \$241 million by \$5.8 million. Budget decisions were based upon current and projected trends.

The FY24 budget maintains the real property tax rate of 84.5¢ per \$100 of assessed value and the County's local income tax rate of 2.25%. Worcester County residents will continue to benefit from the lowest income tax rate and the 3rd lowest real property tax rate as compared to all other counties in Maryland. This fiscally conservative budget maintains funding for valuable public services that residents can count on, such as public safety, education, and infrastructure.

Anticipated General Fund Revenues

-Based on the Real Property tax rate of \$0.845, NET property taxes increased by \$6,913,316.

-The Homestead Credit cap remains unchanged at 3% and is estimated to be \$2,948,889 for the County's qualified principal resident homeowners effective July 1, 2023.

-Income Tax revenue increased by \$2,000,000 and is estimated at \$40,000,000 and remains the same at 2.25%. Revenues are based on the market conditions and estimates for the current year. The pass through to Municipalities is included for \$2.7 million.

-Revenue from Other Local Taxes decreased by \$3,566,000 for the following: \$2,000,000 decrease in Recordation Tax and \$2,000,000 decrease in Transfer Tax. Both estimates are based on the current market trends.

-State Shared Revenues increased by \$297,423 due to an increased estimate for Highway User revenue and 911 fees.

-Licenses and Permits increased by \$228,159 overall. Significant changes include increases of \$150,000 for liquor licenses, \$26,000 for occupational licenses, \$20,000 for rental licenses, and \$30,000 for environmental review fee permits.

-Charges for Services increased by \$133,860 with an increase of \$73,000 in Sheriff Contractual Services with the Board of Education for school security. There are also significant increases of \$47,345 in Recreation Fees and \$53,200 in Recycling Revenue.

-Interest on Investments increased by \$4,900,000 based on current rates of return.

-Federal Grants project an increase of \$507,553. There is an increase of \$461,890 in revenue due to a new grant program in the State's Attorney's Office.

-State Grants increased overall by \$2,417,163. Major increases include \$641,395 in Program Open Space Grants, \$1,508,500 in Environmental Programs Coastal Zone Grant, \$96,000 in Environmental Programs Greys Creek Grant, and \$84,213 in a Maryland Court Security grant.

-Transfers In decreased by \$5,033,696.

-No prior year surplus was used to balance the FY24 budget. This means prior year surplus decreased by \$4,182,639 and Casino/Local Impact Grant Funds decreased by \$851,057.

Major Approved General Fund Expenditures County Departments and Agencies

A summary of significant increases and decreases in approved expenditures include the following:

Circuit Court increased by \$129,101.

-Increased by \$84,214 for a new Maryland Court Security Grant.

-Increased by \$32,415 for the Family Support Services Grant.

State's Attorney's Office increased by \$578,612.

-Increased by \$626,057 in salaries and includes \$410,000 in grant funding towards salaries.

-Increased by \$43,000 for a purchase of a replacement vehicle.

-Decrease of \$45,064 in dues, licenses, and subscriptions through eliminating one-time departmental costs.

-Decrease of \$31,302 in supplies and equipment office furniture, due to being unable to locate additional space for staff.

Elections Office increased by \$95,526.

-Increased by \$60,034 in salary increases by the State Board of Elections in FY24.

-Increased by \$36,404 in supplies and materials mainly due to election judge expenses rising.

Environmental Programs increased by \$1,694,122.

-Increased by \$1,508,500 for a new DNR Coastal Zone Grant.

-Increased by \$96,000 for a new Greys Creek Grant.

Sheriff's Office increased by \$1,236,600.

-Increased by \$782,832 in salaries and includes a one grade increase for all sworn personnel.

-Increased by \$303,984 in capital equipment, which includes eight replacement vehicles, an armored rescue vehicle and a replacement incinerator for Animal Control.

Jail increased by \$592,295.

-Increased by \$304,882 in salaries and includes promoting 26 corporals to senior corporals.

-Increased by \$325,000 in capital equipment for new camera upgrades to the security system and a metal detector and conveyor belt equipment.

Fire Company Grant is included for \$2,500,000 based on the current funding of \$250,000 to each fire company.

Ambulance Grants is included for \$7,221,068, an increase of \$737,825 and includes supplemental funding for 10 EMS companies to assist with personnel, ambulance, mileage and run costs.

Public Works Roads Division increased by \$214,265.

-Increased by \$69,946 in supplies and materials for tools, software upgrades, and pipe cost increase.

-Increased by \$86,204 in maintenance and services for fuel and increase in road maintenance agreement with Ocean Pines.

-Increased by \$48,283 in capital equipment for a replacement vehicle and two replacement dump trucks.

Recreation increased by

\$144,414.

-Increased by \$127,982 in personnel, which includes additional hours for part-time program managers and swim instructors.

Parks increased by \$714,498.

-Increased by \$686,004 in supplies and materials, which includes an increase of \$529,401 in new park development grant programs and \$160,849 in program open space grants.

-Increase of \$35,000 in capital equipment for a replacement vehicle, a replacement mower and a laser grade machine.

Taxes Shared with Towns increased by \$176,800.

-Increased by \$176,800 for the pass through of the Income Tax distribution to the Towns.

Grants to Towns decreased by \$191,492.

-Decreased by \$199,492 in grants to Towns. Town of Pocomoke, Town of Snow Hill and Town of Ocean City were flat funded from the previous year's budget and the Town of Berlin request was \$195,796 less than the prior year budget, which contributed to the overall grant decrease.

-Increased by \$8,000 restricted fire grant to the towns funding based on the current formula.

Insurance & Benefits increased by \$2,662,401.

-Increased by \$300,000 for a new benefit match to Deferred Compensation.

-Increased by \$689,287 for Hospitalization Insurance.

-Increased by \$885,818 for Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) for a total of \$10,385,818.

Additional OPEB is provided to the Board of Education for total County OPEB funding of \$13,253,964 in FY24.

-Increased by \$684,890 for the retirement plan based on State rates.

-Increased by \$54,671 for social security taxes based on the estimated payroll.

-Decreased by \$30,292 for Workers' Compensation insurance plan.

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Visiting

Kapama River Lodge in South Africa

By Kurt and Jean Marx

In our last column on South Africa, we began describing our first safari experience in Hoedspruit at the Kapama River Lodge. This column continues where we left off, to describe more about the safari schedule as well as some of our other amazing animal encounters.

Our day at Kapama started with a 5:30 a.m. wake-up call. We then dressed for the morning safari, got coffee or tea and a pastry, and then met up with our guide and tracker. If it was especially chilly, our tracker, Give, handed us blankets and hot water bottles to ward off the cold. As we had traveled to South Africa last July, this was during their winter, and as such the temperatures usually ranged from the 40s to the 60s Fahrenheit.

On our first morning safari, Give spotted some lion tracks and we followed them until we came upon a pride of lions eating a Cape Buffalo. While most of the pride slept with their bellies distended due to the meat they had consumed, there were two lionesses still feeding on the buffalo's carcass. It was amazing! After seeing the lions, we came to a small lake with seven hippos relaxing in the water. The highlight was seeing a small juvenile hippo standing on a small island in the middle of the water. The juvenile almost looked like he was smiling because his mouth stood open.

We then returned from our safari and had breakfast. Breakfast at Kapama was delicious with a buffet of meats, cheeses, and fruits and ala carte choices. After breakfast, we had a few hours until lunch. You can go to the gym, spa, pool, your room, or roam the grounds. While we were eating lunch, a group of Nyalas (in the antelope family) came to the watering hole below the patio.

On our evening safari which began around 4 p.m., we came upon a herd of Cape Buffalo. One young male kept rubbing against a branch, which we found very funny. Typically, the evening safaris last until 6:30 p.m. and you will get the chance to see breathtaking sunsets and enjoy an evening cocktail on the savanna. Upon returning to the lodge, you are treated to a delicious dinner with a few choices of unique appe-

tizer, entree, and dessert combinations.

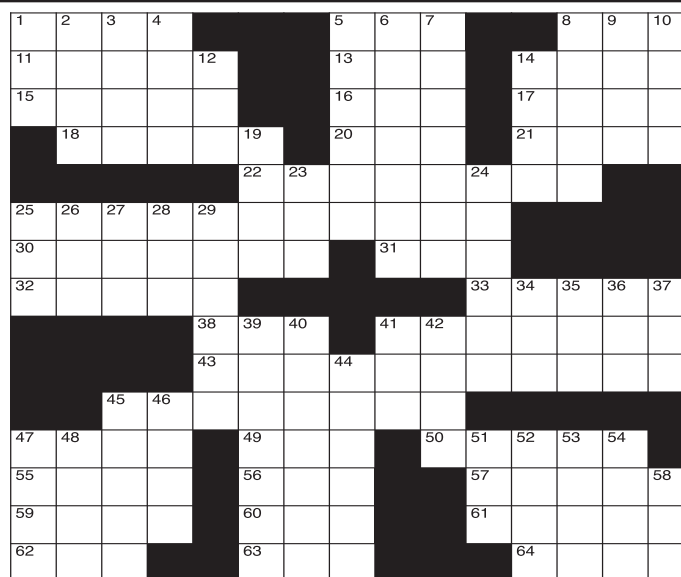
We were at Kapama for five days and it was spectacular. If you have had similar ideas of one day going on a safari, we can't say enough good things about the Kapama River Lodge. We could write page after page about our experiences; however, two were very memorable.

We hadn't seen any rhinos yet, and our guide, Ruan, and Give put to use their excellent tracking skills. We finally came upon some rhino tracks, and we followed them until we saw three by a watering hole. Ruan indicated that he thought the rhinos would walk up a hill to the left of the water, and so we drove over and waited. Ruan reminded us to be still, seated and quiet. We did and were rewarded with the rhinos walking right by the jeep. It was awe-inspiring.

Another awesome experience was the day we were planning to go on a bush walk with Ruan and another guide named Clayton. We first headed out of the lodge by jeep, but as soon as we left the gate, we immediately saw a lioness. We followed her for about 10 minutes and then stopped to exit the jeep to begin the walk. At that point, we heard roaring. Ruan asked if we wanted to follow the sound in the jeep and we agreed. He then drove through the bush and we came upon a male lion facing off against three hyenas. There was roaring and shrieking between the animals and we were able to witness it from a distance. Ruan then said he thought there were more lions ahead. We drove a short distance and we saw the pride of 7 lionesses lying about looking like large house cats. Then the male arrived and joined the lionesses. After the earlier excitement, seeing the pride lounge together was very serene.

We can't say enough about the Kapama River Lodge as well as our talented guide and tracker. Ruan and Give showed us an outstanding time, with memories and laughter that we will carry with us always.

In our next column, we will wrap up our trip to South Africa by describing the other safari lodge we visited, Rhino Ridge. It was a little different than Kapama but had its own charm and incredible animal sightings.

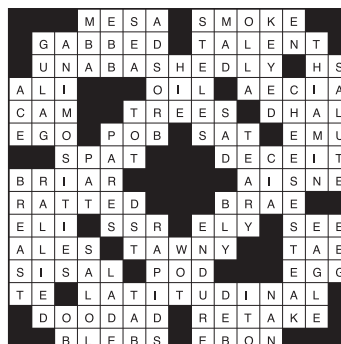


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. In a place to sleep
- 5. Chemical compound (abbr.)
- 8. A way to fish
- 11. Classic Linklater film “___ and Confused”
- 13. Legume
- 14. Indonesian island
- 15. Smooth, creamy substance
- 16. Arctic
- 17. Wood sorrels
- 18. Defied
- 20. Cattle
- 21. Tableland
- 22. Honorably retired and retaining one's title
- 25. Repossession
- 30. Danced
- 31. Adult males
- 32. A type of section
- 33. Type of Japanese animation
- 38. Satisfaction
- 41. Fit
- 43. “Ain't No Sunshine” singer
- 45. Failure
- 47. Israeli city
- 49. French river
- 50. Cavalry-sword
- 55. Nocturnal S. American rodent
- 56. Liquefied natural gas
- 57. Afflicted
- 59. Electronic counter-countermeasures
- 60. Popular HBO fantasy series (abbr)
- 61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- 62. Large body of water
- 63. ___kosh, near Lake Winnebago
- 64. Impudence

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Payroll firm
- 2. Unit of transmission
- 3. Rockers Better Than ___
- 4. Bambi is one
- 5. Highest parts of something
- 6. Correct behavior
- 7. Batty
- 8. Cyprinid fishes
- 9. Expression of sorrow or pity
- 10. Site of the famous Leaning Tower
- 12. American rocker Snider
- 14. W. African language
- 19. Symbol to mark for removal
- 23. ___ Squad
- 24. Resident
- 25. Federal savings bank
- 26. Paddle
- 27. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
- 28. One point south of due east
- 29. Winter melon
- 34. Last or greatest in an indefinitely large series
- 35. Anger
- 36. Central European river
- 37. First responders
- 39. Spanish noble
- 40. Persons with absence of skin pigment
- 41. Defunct airline
- 42. Small island (British)
- 44. The extent of something from beginning to end
- 45. Capital of Bangladesh
- 46. Dutch cheese
- 47. Imitates
- 48. A contest of speed
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Prejudice
- 53. Actor Idris
- 54. UNLV's are Runnin'
- 58. Criticize



Answers for June 7

County seeks Spirit Awards nominations

To honor volunteers whose contributions help improve the quality of life locally, Worcester County residents are invited to nominate individuals, organizations, and businesses for the Volunteer Spirit of Worcester County awards. The nomination period is open June 7 – August 25 at 4:30 p.m.

"This past year, we have started to move towards a new normal, and residents are volunteering in the community again," Human Resources Specialist Kelly Brinkley said. "It is wonderful to see the full support for our local nonprofits return, and nominating an individual, group, or business for the 2023 Volunteer Spirit of Worcester County is the perfect opportunity to showcase their dedicated service."

Volunteer Spirit nominations will be accepted for each of the following eight categories, with one winner to be chosen from each: individual, group/team, emerging leader, faith-based, nonprofit volunteer program, local business, veteran, and lifetime achievement.

Nominees should reside in and represent the volunteer spirit of Worcester County. Nomination forms are found online at www.worcestervolunteer.org. Once there, click on "News." Completed forms may be submitted to the Human Resources Office, Room 1301 in the Worcester County Government Center in Snow

RWWC luncheon scheduled

The Republican Women of Worcester County will host their June (Red, White and Blue) General Meeting and Luncheon at Lighthouse Sound Restaurant located at 12723 St. Martin's Neck Road in Bishopville, on Thursday, June 22. The guest speaker will be Vanessa LaFranco. Ms LaFranco is first vice president of the NFRW (National Federation of Republican Women). Doors open at 10:30 a.m. and the meeting will begin at 11 a.m. The cost for the luncheon is \$35 per person and seating is limited. For more information contact us by email@gopwomenofwc@gmail.com or to submit reservations, go to our website gopwomenofworcester.org.

Hill, or by contacting Brinkley at 410-632-0090 or kbrinkley@co.worcester.md.us.

All five branch libraries – Berlin, Ocean City, Ocean Pines, Pocomoke, and Snow Hill will have paper copies of the nomination form. This year nomination forms may be completed and submitted at any Worcester County branch library.

To highlight the outstanding services of the volunteers, the Worcester County commissioners will be presenting award winners at their September 19 meeting. The Volunteer Spirit of Worcester County takes place in cooperation with the annual Governor's Service Awards program.

Tides for Ocean City Inlet

Day	High / Low	Tide Time
Th 15	Low	12:31 AM
15	High	6:26 AM
15	Low	12:16 PM
15	High	6:58 PM
F 16	Low	1:23 AM
16	High	7:13 AM
16	Low	1:02 PM
16	High	7:43 PM
Sa 17	Low	2:08 AM
17	High	7:59 AM
17	Low	1:46 PM
17	High	8:27 PM
Su 18	Low	2:50 AM
18	High	8:43 AM
18	Low	2:28 PM
18	High	9:10 PM
M 19	Low	3:31 AM
19	High	9:27 AM
19	Low	3:10 PM
19	High	9:53 PM
Tu 20	Low	4:11 AM
20	High	10:10 AM
20	Low	3:52 PM
20	High	10:35 PM
W 21	Low	4:51 AM
21	High	10:53 AM
21	Low	4:35 PM
21	High	11:17 PM

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Ocean City Chronicles Reminiscing Maryland's Beach Resort

“Ocean City Chronicles” completes author Bunk Mann’s historical series of Ocean City, MD.

“Vanishing Ocean City,” “Ghosts in the Surf,” and “Ocean City Chronicles” is a trilogy that represents the people and places that have shaped Ocean

over 200 articles that have been featured in the Maryland Coast Dispatch newspaper. “Ocean City Chronicles serves as a yearbook for our town, representing hundreds of events, businesses, storms, amusements, locals, and so much more,” said Christine Okerblom, Ocean City Life Saving Station Museum curator. Ocean City Chronicles is a hard-bound coffee table book with a stunning cover featuring Paul McGehee’s artwork. Whether you are looking to reminisce or want to learn more about the history of Ocean City, Ocean City Chronicles is the book to have.

Bunk Mann’s books are available for purchase online at www.vanishingoc.com. and are sold at several local locations, including the Ocean City Life Saving Station Museum, Fager’s Island, Donaway Furniture, Mann Properties, Seacrets, Crabs



City over the decades. In gathering research for all three books, Author Bunk Mann conducted over 400 interviews, successfully capturing unique memories and recollections of Ocean City’s past. Readers will learn about their favorite beach town through hundreds of photographs and quotes from those reflecting on their experiences in Ocean City.

This third and final book displays

commentary

from page 6

paragraph (4) of the Maryland Homeowners Association Act does the Elections Committee intend to invoke to go into closed session for purposes of deciding what questions candidates will be asked at the Candidates Forum?

The Maryland HOA Act states: “Subject to the provisions of paragraph (4) of this section, all meetings of the homeowners association, including meetings of the board of directors or other governing body of the homeowners association or a committee of the homeowners association, shall be open to all members of the homeowners association or their agents.”

Back in 2013, I wrote: “Allow me to suggest the very absurdity of keeping the questions secret — First off, the questions from the committee are almost always 100% milquetoast. For

to Go, Wockenfuss Candies, Berlin Auto Wash, M.R. Ducks, The Buzzed Word, O.C. Chamber of Commerce, Malibu’s Surf Shop, OC Art League, Caprichos Books, Kitty’s Flowers, Victorian Charm, Park Place Jewelers, Copy Central, Toy Town/ Snow Hill, Ocean Gallery, Mann & Gray Insurance, The Bay Country Shop, Cambridge, MD.

example, Why do you want to be on the board? Do you support maintaining our infrastructure? Do you love your spouse? Never expect to hear a question like: Do you agree with candidate Langevin that the GM should resign? Or, was president and now candidate Tom Terry right in spending \$11,000 investigating Marty Clarke?

“Secondly, if 150 or so association members show up for the Candidates Forum, it is a big crowd. By comparison, the questions posed to the candidates that go out to all 8440 association members are provided to the candidates in advance. The notion that these candidate forum questions are somehow so important they must be kept secret is ridiculous. The Candidates Forum pales to insignificance when compared to the impact of what candidates write in the paperwork sent to association members with the ballot.”



Special event - *The Worcester County Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics was held on June 5. The event engages law enforcement agencies to promote acceptance and inclusion for individuals with intellectual disabilities, starting within their own communities. Participants included the Ocean City Police Department, Worcester County Sheriff’s Office, Maryland State Police Berlin Barrack, the Ocean City Fire Department, and local teachers, students, and athletes. The run started at the boardwalk and continued to Ocean City Elementary, where OCES students, faculty and staff cheered on the runners.*

letter

from page 6

to an amusement park, adopting a pet and the most contradictory requirement demanding ID is the participation in a political event but NOT IN THE POLITICAL EVENT OF VOTING!

So if we are to believe that demanding an ID is discriminatory does that excuse fit all these? Isn’t applying for food stamps and welfare needing an ID discriminatory? You cannot adopt an animal but you can vote without an ID.

Those that are against voter ID are only against it because they want to cheat. This is the ONLY reason; not because they think it is discriminatory which

budget

from page 8

-Increased by \$70,000 for Property & Liability insurance due to an increase in premium.

-Increased by \$8,027 for Long Term Disability Insurance.

Salary accounts increased to include a 2% cost of living adjustment (COLA), a step increase, and longevity pay for those County employees that are eligible. —

Board of Education

The County allocation for the Board of Education’s (BOE) operating budget is

makes no sense.

Right now conservative votes are not being counted or are being drowned in illegal votes by dead people and people that do not exist. We are campaigning against, not other voters but against paper ballots, a printing press in reality. This has been proven!

We must “true the vote” and demand that every voter show a picture ID (like a driver’s license) is the beginning of this. If we don’t, we will lose our republic as Benjamin Franklin forewarned. Remember the expression: “you don’t know what you have until you lose it!”

Dennis Evans
Berlin

\$100,765,319, a decrease of \$218,286 over the current year adopted budget based on a lower student population. School construction debt and Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) is paid by the County on behalf of the BOE. These expenses are not reflected in the BOE’s budget; however, it is included in the County’s operating budget. The BOE’s approved operating budget of \$100,765,319 plus debt service of \$10,797,206 and OPEB of \$8,485,818 totals \$120,048,343 or 51% of the County’s total estimated revenue.

The cost per student increased 4.7% to \$26,884 for fiscal 2024.

Father's Day history

Each year, the third Sunday in June is a time to pay homage to fathers and the millions of other men who have stepped into the role of father. While it may seem as though Father's Day has been around forever, it didn't become a nationally recognized holiday in the United States until 1972, when President Richard Nixon signed Joint Resolution 187 into law.

Many thank Sonora Smart Dodd for making Father's Day happen. In 1909, while attending a Mother's Day sermon in church, Dodd felt fathers were equally deserving of praise. To honor her own father, a Civil War veteran and widower who raised six children alone, Dodd petitioned for a Father's Day on June 5th (the anniversary of her father's death) in her native Spokane, Wash. The celebration was deferred to the third Sunday in June. Another account says Grace Golden Clayton came up with the idea for a Father's Day in 1908 in Fairmont, West Virginia. Clayton was inspired to celebrate fathers after 361



local men perished in a deadly mine explosion. Clayton brought the idea up to the minister of her local church.

Historians say that Father's Day may even be a much older idea. St. Joseph's Day, which was celebrated each year on March 19 in Catholic nations of Europe since the medieval era, and later elsewhere around the world, commemorates Joseph, the husband of Mary and father figure to Jesus. It was said that Joseph should be held up as the ideal example of fatherhood. The Coptic Orthodox Church celebrates St. Joseph's Day on July 20. In the Orthodox Christian Church, the second Sunday before the Nativity is celebrated as the Sunday of the Forefathers, celebrating all of Jesus' male ancestors, with an emphasis on Abraham, the patriarch of the Jewish faith.

County offices closed Monday

Worcester County Government (WCG) offices, including all five Branch Libraries and Recreation and Parks, will be closed Monday, June 19, for Juneteenth, National Freedom Day.

The Central Landfill and Homeowner Convenience Centers will also be closed.

WCG offices will resume standard operating hours on Tuesday, June 20.

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Some things to think about

Gathered from the internet by **Jack Barnes**

Fun for pun lovers

A SIGN IN A SHOE REPAIR STORE IN VANCOUVER READS:

We will heel you
We will save your sole
We will even dye for you.

A SIGN ON A BLINDS AND CURTAIN TRUCK:

Blind man driving.

Sign over a Gynecologist's Office:

Dr. Jones, at your cervix.

In a Podiatrist's office:

Time wounds all heels.

On a Septic Tank Truck:

Yesterday's Meals on Wheels

At an Optometrist's Office:

If you don't see what you're looking for, you've come to the right place.

On a Plumber's truck:

We repair what your husband fixed.

On another Plumber's truck:

Don't sleep with a drip. Call your plumber.

At a Tire Shop in Milwaukee:

"nvite us to your next blowout.

On an Electrician's truck:

Let us remove your shorts.

In a Non-smoking Area:

If we see smoke, we will assume you are on fire and will take appropriate action.

On a Maternity Room door

Push. Push. Push.

At a Car Dealership:

The best way to get back on your feet - miss a car payment.

Outside a Muffler Shop:

No appointment necessary. We hear you coming.

In a Veterinarian's waiting room:

Be back in 5 minutes. Sit! Stay!

At the Electric Company:

We would be delighted if you send in your payment on time. However, if you don't, YOU will be de-lighted.

In a Restaurant window:

Don't stand there and be hungry; come on in and get fed up.

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