

The Courier

August 9, 2023 Volume 23 Number 42



Ocean Pines' new police chief **Tim Robinson** and his wife **Angie Robinson** at the National Night Out held in White Horse Park last week. *See story on page 3*



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Ocean Pines Police hosts successful National Night Out

A well-attended National Night Out on Tuesday was highlighted by the introduction of new Ocean Pines Police Chief Tim Robinson.

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live.

Millions of neighbors take part in National Night Out across thousands of communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories and military bases worldwide on the first Tuesday in August.

In Ocean Pines, the event was held in White Horse Park and organized by Ocean Pines Police, with help from the Recreation and Parks Department. It featured law enforcement and fire and emergency services personnel from Ocean Pines, Worcester County, and the State of Maryland, along with dozens of vendors and a team of volunteers helping behind the scenes.

The Kiwanis donated hotdogs, ice cream and cold drinks, and radio station 97.1 The Wave provided music.

Robinson, who brings more than 30 years of experience in law enforcement, capped his first day in Ocean Pines with the National Night Out celebration.

"It makes me excited, and it really warms my heart, the fact that I'm being welcomed with open arms everywhere I go," Robinson said.

Robinson has been involved in National Night Out events for more than

two decades and said the event in Ocean Pines was meaningful as his first as a police chief. He was also able to share in the event with his wife, Angie, and his parents, Fred and Jackie Robinson, who are longtime Ocean Pines residents.

"I've been involved in National Night Out for many, many years in my previous department," he said. "Now, coming here as the police chief, the staff here has done an awesome job setting this up – it's incredible what they've set up! And just to be here with them, supporting them, and meeting everyone in the community was special. That's ultimately why I'm here, is to meet people."

Looking ahead, Robinson said his top priority is to help rebuild the Ocean Pines Police roster.

"One of my most pressing goals is to get staffing up in the Police Department, and to really make sure that we have a number of personnel that can continue doing the good job of keeping Ocean Pines safe," he said.

General Manager John Viola said he was pleased by the strong turnout for National Night Out and the warm reception for his new chief of police.

"We appreciate everyone in the community coming out to support our law enforcement and especially those who warmly greeted our new chief," Viola said. "We're excited to have him here and we think he's going to do great things for Ocean Pines."



Compliant - For years Tom Wengert has been known as the Commandant of Ocean City American Legion Post 166. Now he has taken on a new title and responsibility in addition to leading the Post. He has been sworn in as the Compliance Officer of the Marine Corps League's First State Detachment. As Compliance Officer he is responsible for making sure the Detachment complies with government laws and regulations. Wengert is an Air Force veteran, not a Marine. Marine Corps League by-laws allow members of all U.S. military branches to join as Associate Members.

Above: **Tom Wengert** (L) takes the oath of office as FSD Compliance Officer from **Al Soto**, Commandant of the detachment.

Homeowners responsible for grass cutting around utilities

Grass cutting around fire hydrants in Ocean Pines is the responsibility of homeowners, according to Ocean Pines Declarations of Restrictions and Worcester County Code.

Worcester County asks that all residents clear a five-foot area around water meters, fire hydrants, sewage holding tanks, or other facilities that may be located on your property, to help provide the most effective and efficient service to customers.

Worcester County is responsible for the installation, maintenance, and operation of all public water and sewer facilities in the Ocean Pines service area. These facilities are located within easements that are reserved exclusively for such utilities.

If for any reason Worcester County Public Works needs to access these facilities within this easement area, bushes, plants and all other landscaping materials will be removed and not replaced. WCPW will place topsoil and plant grass seed in the areas disturbed by maintenance and repair activities.

For questions, call WCPW at 410-641-5251 between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. If necessary, WCPW staff may be willing to meet to discuss specific concerns.



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WMO celebrates golden anniversary

The White Marlin Open, a keystone of the summer season in Ocean City, celebrates its fiftieth anniversary this year. The renowned event, which started Monday and ends Friday, draws hundreds of anglers fishing for a chance to win million-dollar purses.

“We’re thrilled to honor 50 years of hosting one of the most exciting and competitive fishing experiences in the world, right here in Ocean City, Maryland,” said Madelyne Rowan, Tournament Director. “Following this year’s tournament, we expect to surpass more than \$100 million in cash rewards to



our anglers, who we cannot thank enough for their continued support. We also want to recognize our long-term sponsors, partners, and most importantly, the amazing community of die-hard fans who show up year after year and make this a truly unforgettable experience.”

In celebration of the anniversary, a new white marlin ‘Winner Take All’ entry category has been added. The \$50,000 category, also known as the “Anniversary Level,” will add to the millions of dollars already at stake for the heaviest white marlin.

“It’s remarkable to reflect on 50

years of tournaments, especially back to our first event held in 1974. We drew 57 boats, and 150 anglers, and paid \$20,000 in prize money,” stated Jim Motsko, Founder of the White Marlin Open. “Fast-forward to today and we continue to stay true to our mission of world-class fishing, with our added entry categories more than doubling that initial payout in 1974. Last year, we drew 408 boats, over 3,500 contestants, and awarded over \$8.6 million in prize money, including the top individual prize of \$4.53 million – a new world record award for the catch of a fish!”

The White Marlin Open invites anglers to donate their catch, making the WMO the largest supplier of protein to food pantries in Maryland an-

nually. This year, the tournament will be partnering with Catch N Carry to clean, portion, flash freeze, and distribute donated fish directly to local food pantries throughout the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

Marlin Fest is held at the Inlet from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. each day of the tournament, the free event welcomes families to bring beach chairs and blankets to spread out and enjoy live music and views of the anglers as they bring in their daily catches to nearby Harbour Island. Vendors will be onsite selling a variety of items including official Marlin Fest merchandise and White Marlin Open gear, as well as food and alcohol.

This year, Marlin Fest will support the Ocean City Reef Foundation, an organization committed to the enhancement, and restoration, of Maryland’s seafloor by deploying reef substrates and monitoring coral coverage. The foundation’s goal is to build living reefs that will help bring back species of fish, lobsters, crab, and shrimp closer to shore.

Marlin Fest is a free event, no ticket or registration is needed. Sponsorship and vendor opportunities are available—for more information contact sashawhitemarlinopen@comcast.net.



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Homeowners encouraged to update email address

Ocean Pines homeowners are encouraged to update the email address associated with their homeowner account.

This can be done by contacting the Ocean Pines membership office at member@oceanpines.org and including first and last name and lot number in the email, along with the preferred email address.

Homeowners can also change their email by logging into their account at oceanpines.org and clicking on “My Profile.”

Email addresses on file with Ocean Pines are primarily used for billing purposes and can also be used in official correspondence.

Emails associated with homeowner accounts are different than emails associated with the weekly e-blast distributed by the Ocean Pines Public Relations Department.

A view of the future

There's something, I don't know, call it mesmerizing or fascinating, about watching a small child become acquainted with the world. It's especially true when that young child is a grandchild. True, I watched my own children during this phase but I guess because of the

ple around but fortunately it wasn't too crowded.

My grandson Rhys, soon to be 11 months, watched from his chair the goings-on swirling around him. It's hard to imagine that last year at this time, we were anticipating his arrival. Now, it's hard to remember a time when he wasn't with us.

In short order, our site was arranged. Rhys eventually found his way onto my wife's lap, a perch he finds most comfortable. I enjoyed observing him watching the

seagulls, the water lapping on the beach, the boat going up and down against the current. Eventually, he dropped down from my wife's lap and started crawling on the beach; his movements reminding me of a horseshoe crab. He seemed fascinated by the sand's texture, grabbing fistfuls and then releasing them. Soon he reached the bay's edge, the water gliding over his hands and arms. Unphased, he continued to crawl toward the water, eventually reaching where the small waves crashed on the beach. He was fascinated, as was I watching him.

My son grilled hot dogs and

when they were done, Rhys sat in his special chair folding chair that had a tray on which his mother placed a cut-up hot dog. He was in his glory: picking up pieces of hot dog and taking sips of water through the straw of his translucent green water bottle. He really enjoyed when my wife gave him blueberries which are a favorite of his.

Sitting on the beach watching Rhys so content, I couldn't help imagining the future - who this little guy will become and our times together yet to be. First, there's no doubt in my mind that he'll be a looker. That's really not a stretch of the imagination because he already is. Also, he'll blend the best attributes of his mother and father.

I envisioned times when he'll ask to sleep over at our house so he can get some time away from his parents. He and I will make popcorn and watch classic movies like "The Bad News Bears" (the original with Walter Matthau) and "The Sandlot." There will be the times when I'll sit in the stands watching him play little league baseball, cheering him on when he's at bat and cheering him up should his team lose.

There will be times when he and I will go out to lunch and he'll tell me all about what's going on in his world, how he dislikes math but likes the blonde-haired girl sitting across the room. I'll go enthusiastically to his school concerts and plays. He'll give me a smile when he sees me in the audience. At the Thanksgiving performance, I'll turn with pride to the person sitting next to me and say, "that's my grandson, the third Pilgrim on the right. Isn't he wonderful?" And they'll respond, "he's the best Pilgrim of them all." Don't I know it.

When his father will be occupied or working, Rhys and I will go fish-

ing, just the two of us. I'll share with him stories of when I was young, fishing with my grandfather and how, when I wasn't looking, he'd pull hard on my line making me think I had hooked a big fish.

He'll get older, learn to drive, and ask to borrow my car for prom



It's All About...

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

hectic swirl of parental responsibility, I didn't take the time then to appreciate the process that I do now with my grandchildren. It's a gift to have the time and opportunity to enjoy such experiences. I relish them.

On a Sunday afternoon not long ago, my wife and I joined our son, his wife and our grandson on their boat to cruise down behind Assateague for some on the beach. Once anchored, we unloaded the boat and set ourselves up on the beach - chairs, umbrella, cooler, towels and grill. Despite the lateness of the day, there were still peo-



because his parent won't let him use their car. I'll probably allow him. Then he'll be off to college, graduating top of his class. He'll meet a nice girl and bring her home to meet the family. "I'd like you to meet Nino," he'll say, and the young lady will respond, "It's so nice to meet you, Rhys talks about you all the time." I'll smile.

Decades from now, when I've faded from the scene, Rhys will sit around the dinner table with his own children regaling them with merry tales of his grandfather Nino. They'll all laugh.

Back on the beach, Rhys was getting tired, the signal that it was time to go. We packed everything up and got on the boat. The water and breeze were calm. I sat at the back of the boat with my wife who was holding Rhys who was dozing off as we cruised toward home. It was a memorable scene watching this little fella nestled in his grandmother's arms, the fading glow of the setting sun behind them.

What the future holds is anyone's guess. But on that recent late afternoon, I had it all planned out and I liked what I saw.



Commentary

By Joe Reynolds
OceanPinesForum.com

Board removes committee member

On July 30, 2023, *OceanPinesForum.com* informed association members of the illegal removal of Amy Peck from the Recreation & Parks Committee on a split vote of the Ocean Pines Board of Directors. The decision was made outside a board meeting via emails a week earlier. OPA never announced the removal. Maryland law and OPA bylaws require a unanimous vote for board actions taken outside a board meeting.

In a phone interview, board member Colette Horn said OPA president Doug Parks notified the Board of Directors via email that he unilaterally removed Amy Peck from the Recreation & Parks Committee. Other sources say there was a 4-2 email vote to remove Peck.

"This is absolutely wrong," Horn said. "I objected to Peck's unilateral removal because I believe such removal requires a vote of the Board of Directors. My objections fell on deaf ears."

Peck was appointed to the committee by a vote of the Board of Directors at a public board meeting a month or two ago. All directors at the meeting voted to approve Peck except Doug Parks who abstained, saying he had concerns about her appointment.

The OPA bylaws say committee members "serve at the pleasure of the Board and may be removed by the Board, with or without cause, at any time."

It certainly appears Parks and the Board of Directors violated the bylaws in removing Peck, either without a unanimous email vote or unilaterally by Parks, as Horn claims. Sources say some board majority members said there was no sense in holding a meeting to vote

since there were four votes to remove her anyway. A vote for removal outside a board meeting would require all six sitting board members to vote for removal. Maryland corporate law requires any action taken by the board outside a meeting to be done unanimously.

Horn said the reason given by Parks for his unilateral action was that Peck contacted an applicant for the position of police chief and then publicly announced his hiring prior to the hiring actually taking place. She said other board members then supported the Parks action because they said Peck often "spoke out against the board."

All committee members should take note: do not say anything negative about the Board of Directors. There may be consequences.

Horn believed Peck's removal via email vote was a clear violation of OPA bylaws and very likely Maryland law. Horn said the board has every right to remove any committee member, but faulted the unilateral action taken by Parks. "No board vote was taken," she said. "Parks never even asked the board to vote."

Parks had new OPA counsel Bruce Bright write a letter to Peck. Nearly two pages of single-space type. An elephant gun to kill an ant. The letter was also leaked to a local paper and published. Association member Ken Koroknay wrote, "Amy, I read the letter to you from Bruce Bright. He neglected to include your presence behind the picket fence on the grassy knoll in Dallas."

The board email discussion of removing Peck revealed the intense

please see commentary on page 19

Offshore wind will disrupt fishing, recreation

Editor:

Does anyone else find it interesting that the Federal Agencies charged with leasing our ocean to foreign companies



seeking to construct Offshore Wind Power Plants is laden with former employees of one of, if not the largest, lobbying firm for Offshore Wind Developers; Latham & Watkins? Mr. Tommy Beaudreau, The Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, Ms. Laura Daniel-Davis, who signs BOEMs Record of Decisions and most importantly, Liz Klein, the Director of The Bureau of Ocean & Energy Management (BOEM).

I find this particularly disturbing as I read the latest press release from

BOEM announcing its plans to lease another 356,550 acres of the Atlantic Ocean off of Delaware, Maryland and Virginia. These lease areas flank our fishing canyons.

The Danish company, Orsted and the Italian company US Wind, (collectively, the developers) in their documents, under "Unavoidable Adverse Impacts of the Proposed Action" state in bullets: "Loss of employment or income due to disruption to commercial fishing, for-hire recreational fishing, or marine recreation business. Hindrances to subsistence fishing due to offshore construction and operation of the offshore wind facilities." Additionally, these OSW Power Plants will be "no fly zones" for boats during construction and as we are learning

please see letters on page 16

Courier Almanac

In accordance with his statement of resignation the previous evening, Richard M. Nixon officially ended his term as the 37th president of the United States at noon on August 9, 1974. Before departing with his family in a helicopter from the White House lawn, he smiled farewell and enigmatically raised his arms in a victory or peace salute. The helicopter door was then closed, and the Nixon family began their journey home to San Clemente, California. Richard Nixon was the first U.S. president to resign from office.

Minutes later, Vice President Gerald R. Ford was sworn in as the 38th president of the United States in the East Room of the White House. After taking the oath of office, President Ford spoke to the nation in a television address, declaring, "My fellow Americans, our long national nightmare is over."



Local businesses contribute to greater wealth in their communities. According to data from Civic Economics, for every \$100 spent at local businesses, around \$73 remains in the local economy. By comparison, only \$43 remains in the local economy when people shop at non-locally-owned businesses. Proceeds come from paying taxes that support the community, and local businesses buy supplies from other local businesses, further benefitting their economies. All of this keeps much more money within local communities.

The
Courier

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Author - Local author **Dr Cynthia Roman** displays her latest book at the Ocean Pines library, "Don't Call Me a Ghost, Growing Up with Albinism Around the World." A Virginia native, Dr. Roman is a retired university professor, executive coach and the author of numerous academic books and novels. She and her husband, Jim, have lived in Ocean Pines since 2014 and she is a past president of the Friends of the Ocean Pines Library.

Rotary to host End Polio event

Rotary International District 7630 will host a "Strike Out Polio" event at the Delmarva Shorebirds game on Friday, August 18. Join District Governor John Mager for a night at the ballpark and contribute to Rotary's efforts to end polio worldwide. Tickets are \$35 for the game, and include a menu of BBQ pulled chicken, grilled hamburgers and hotdogs, baked mac and cheese, potato chips, watermelon, and popcorn. A portion of each ticket will be donated to Rotary International District 7630 Polio Plus Fund. For tickets, email stevegrossmande@gmail.com.

Auditions scheduled

The Ocean Pines will hold auditions for two shows, Monday, August 14 and Tuesday, August 15 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Ocean Pines Community Center. No appointment is required.

The first show, "Petticoat Regime," requires four females and one male. The audition will be a cold read from the script. The show will be performed October 7 on the Ocean City boardwalk. The second show, "The British Invasion," requires sopranos, altos, tenors and basses who can read music. Bring your own selection to sig. The show will be performed November 18 at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club.

Email info@oceanpinesplayers.org for more information.

Anglers to meet

The Ocean Pines Anglers Club will meet on Saturday, August 12 at 9:30 a.m. in the Ocean Pines library. The speaker will be charter boat Captain Bill Duncan who has been plying Ocean City waters for more than thirty years and has seen and experienced it all aboard his *Islander* and *Islander II*. Also, there will be updates on fishing regulations and planned fishing trips. All are welcome.



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Hero Run to be held

The Wor-Wic Community College Foundation is sponsoring a 5K Hero Run or two-mile walk, along with the 2023 First Responder Team Cup Challenge, on Saturday, October 7, at 9 a.m., at the college campus on the corner of Route 50 and Walston Switch Road in Salisbury. Check-in and registration begin at 8 a.m.

The 5K run and two-mile walk are open to the public. The First Responder Team Cup Challenge is open to employees of any law enforcement, fire or emergency medical services agency. They will compete in teams of two to three runners for the coveted cup currently held by the Salisbury Police Department.

All 5K runners and first responder team members will be eligible for first-place overall male and female trophies, as well as medals for the top three male and female finishers in multiple age categories.

For children ages nine and under, a Kids' Hero Run and obstacle course will be held at 9:45 a.m.

The first 100 registrants will receive an event shirt. All participants are invited to stay afterward for the awards ceremony, refreshments, music and fun activities for the whole family.

The entry fee is \$25 per person, or \$35 per person after Oct. 4, and \$5 for the kids' event. Proceeds will benefit the students of Wor-Wic. For more information or a registration form, visit www.worwic.edu/5K or call 410-334-2807.

NAACP to host MADD

The Worcester County NAACP will host Amy Davis and Tom McKnight, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), who will share their stories about impaired drivers and how they were personally affected. Founded September 5, 1980 by Candace Lightener, the MADD organization now has an office in each state and works diligently to stop drunk driving. Volunteers of the organization share their messages to any and all groups including Impact Panels where offenders are ordered to attend.

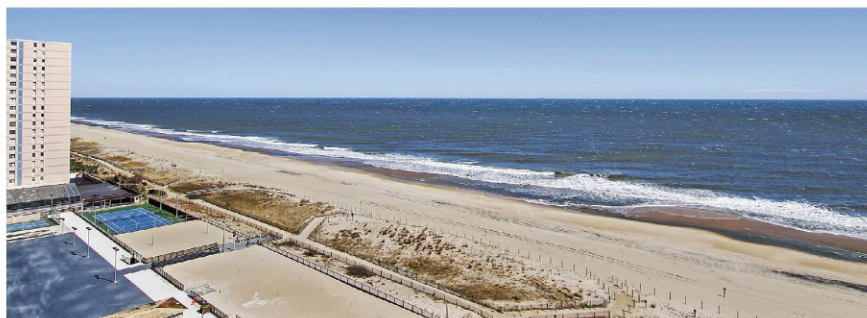
The meeting takes place Thursday, August 17 at 7 p.m. at the Berlin 50+ Center located at 10129 Old Ocean City Road in Berlin. Attendees will receive a goodie bag. Call 443-944-6701 for more information.



Get your hot dogs - Pictured is the Kiwanis Crew who donated and made 200 hotdogs for the Ocean Pines National Night Out Celebration in White Horse Park on August 1.

(L-R) Kiwanians **Dave Landis, Mark Page, Bob Wolfing, Sue Wineke, Kitty Wrench, Tim Hill and Mike Castoro.** Photo by Mary Page.

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Hoopers' suffers fire damage

The Worcester County Fire Marshal's Office investigated a commercial structure fire at Hooper's Restaurant located at 12913 Ocean Gateway in West Ocean City earlier this evening.

The Ocean City Fire Department was dispatched for an appliance fire in the kitchen at 7:32 p.m. Upon arrival, crews quickly located a fire in the kitchen behind a cooking appliance. Firefighters from Ocean City and Berlin worked meticulously to contain the fire that extended into the walls for approximately three hours.

The restaurant was at full capacity at the time of the fire and an orderly evacuation led by restaurant staff resulted in no injuries being reported.

The Worcester County Fire Marshal's Office responded to the scene and conducted a fire scene examination. The exact cause of the fire considered accidental originating in an area near the cooking appliance that was involved.

The restaurant is expected to remain closed for repairs for several days.

Board election dates, Annual Meeting date extended two weeks

Dates for the 2023 Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors election and Annual Meeting were changed this week because of concerns related to ballot delays.

Based on the discussion of Board members during a special meeting on Tuesday night and email confirmation on Wednesday, the new dates are as follows:

- Ballot deadline: August 22
- Ballots counted: August 24
- Annual meeting: August 26 at the Clubhouse meeting room on 100 Clubhouse Drive

To view a video of the meeting, visit <https://youtu.be/qUEXiYu3iG4>.



From left: **Ryan Wilde**; **Cheryl Nottingham**, AGH vice president of finance; **Steven Green**, AGH Foundation Board chair; **Steven Tyson**, AGH donor relations officer; **J.T. Wilde**; **Dean Lewis**, AGH Foundation Board treasurer.

AGH receives donation from local charity organization

The Atlantic General Hospital Foundation recently received a donation of \$25,000 from the Wilde

Charitable Foundation to be used for the programs and services offered by the hospital and health system. The Wilde Charitable Foundation's giving to Atlantic General Hospital (AGH) now totals over \$75,000.

"Hugh F. Wilde, Sr. started the Wilde Charitable Foundation to support organizations that greatly impact the communities they serve," said Ryan Wilde. "We support and recognize the value of having a local hospital and health system in Worcester County. With our additional pledge, we hope to aid the hospital in continuing their vital work in the community, including their expansion of facilities, updating and replacing much needed equipment and adding state of the art practices and technology."

The Wilde family has a long-standing history in Berlin and Ocean City, and continues to operate commercial property in the Ocean City area.

Donations to Atlantic General Hospital and Health System assure the continued provision of a coordinated health care system with access to quality care, personalized service and education for the residents and visitors of Worcester, Wicomico, Somerset, Accomack, and Sussex counties.

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Donation - A \$500 donation from American Legion Post 166 in Ocean City was presented by Donation Committee Chair **Bo Spicer** (l), and Post Treasurer **George Barstis** (r), to Ocean Pines Players President **Frank Pasqualino** (center) on July 26 prior to the Post's monthly meeting.

Worcester native named dean

Cape Fear Community College announced that Lucinda McNamara has been named Dean of University Transfer and Partnerships and will work with the transfer department of the North Carolina college. She also will build relationships with other colleges, universities and high schools throughout the state.

McNamara, a Worcester County native and daughter of Madison "Jim" and Elisabeth Bunting, Jr., holds a master's degree in Television and Film from San Diego State University. She has worked in education for 23 years and taught courses in scriptwriting, history of cinema, documentary production, war in film, introduction to film and advanced film. She is a graduate of Stephen Decatur High School.

"Lucinda has proven to be an exceptional leader during her tenure at Cape Fear Community College," Brandon Guthrie, CFCC vice president of academic affairs, said. "We are excited

to see her step into the role of Dean, where we are confident that her vision and dedication will elevate the achievements of CFCC."



Lucinda McNamara

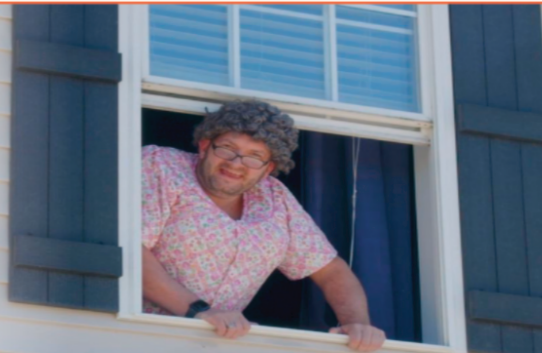
Boxing event scheduled

A "Gloves Up Guns Down" workshop will take place Saturday, August 19 between noon and 4 p.m. at the Germantown School Community Heritage Center located at 10223 Trappe Road in Berlin. Hosted by Lamar Sturgis of Stop the Violence, this event will enhance boxing skills while gathering people in the community. The event is free and lunch will be served. For more information, phone 443-477-8675.

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Visiting Rhino Ridge Lodge in South Africa

By **Kurt and Jean Marx**

This will be the last of our South Africa articles describing the sights and sounds from our incredible safari trip last summer. The Rhino Ridge safari lodge is set on a ridge overlooking the Hluhluwe-

Lmfolozzi Park. The altitude of the ridge, combined with the excellent architecture of the lodge, allows for magnificent views of the park and the wildlife in it. We found the food to be delicious and the staff to be very kind, but one distinct

drawback from our perspective was the traffic from the general public because it is an open park.

On our first morning safari, we headed out with our guide, Simo, and a family of four from Belgium. Simo was solicitous and knowledgeable. He first showed us wildebeests, giraffes, and rhinos, and then he then spotted a large elephant eating by the road. Simo got us very close and we were able to see and hear the elephant eating. We relaxed and took pictures of the elephant. Simo began to get nervous when a family in a rental car pulled up behind us and then another car pulled up in front of us. Simo decided to leave, explaining that the cars were boxing us in and that if the elephant had charged, we would have no way to escape. He said it doesn't happen often, but a month prior, an elephant had flipped a car in a similar situation. We appreciated his concern and professionalism.

After our morning safari, we went to the pool and from the ridge balcony, we were able to view zebras, impalas, and giraffes. We watched two elephants emerge from the bush and begin to eat. Then they walked to the watering hole and we watched them drinking from it using their trunks. It was a beautiful view. Lunch at Rhino Ridge is served in a very interesting way. A three-tiered serving dish is brought to your table. One tier has salad, one has the entree, and one has desserts. Our afternoon safari was highlighted by a large herd of buffalos passing right in front of us, no more than 10 - 15 feet from the front of the jeep. It was an amazing spectacle.

As at the Kapama River Lodge that we had visited previously, your day starts with a 5:30 a.m. wake-up call and then coffee or tea before the morning game drive. On our second morning, Simo picked us up and we saw zebras, njalas (similar to wildebeest), and impalas. Then Simo positioned us to see a large herd of elephants. It was awesome, especially when we saw two juveniles. We then saw two rhinos emerging from the mud, providing a fantastic view of the mud in the folds of their skin. After returning from the game drive, we were again treated to an entertaining view of the animals. The view from the ridge is what makes Rhino Ridge so special. You can sit on your balcony, eat lunch or relax at the pool, and view animals in their natural habitat, and the sunsets are spectacular.

On our last evening game drive, Simo

spotted a baby crocodile on a rock, although it was incredibly well-camouflaged and very still. On our way back to the lodge, Simo spotted an enormous elephant. He was very close to us and we just sat and filmed him for 15 minutes. It was just us and the elephant, and it was an amazing sight to behold. We enjoyed a bottle of South African wine as we ate our last delicious dinner.

Don't plan on losing weight in South Africa. The food is excellent and dessert is served with every meal. The next morning our driver, Israel, picked us up to take us to Durban. He was late because he got caught behind some wildlife. That's a South African issue, quite different from anything we typically ever encounter. On the way Israel regaled us with Zulu wedding stories. They were interesting and he told them in a humorous way. He also told us that his two daughters love KFC. It really is a small world.

We hope we have given you a flavor for the spectacular sights and sounds that can await you should you decide to embark on a similar trip. You will be so happy you did.

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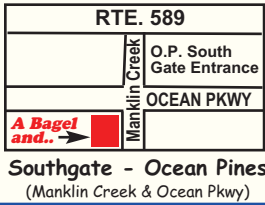
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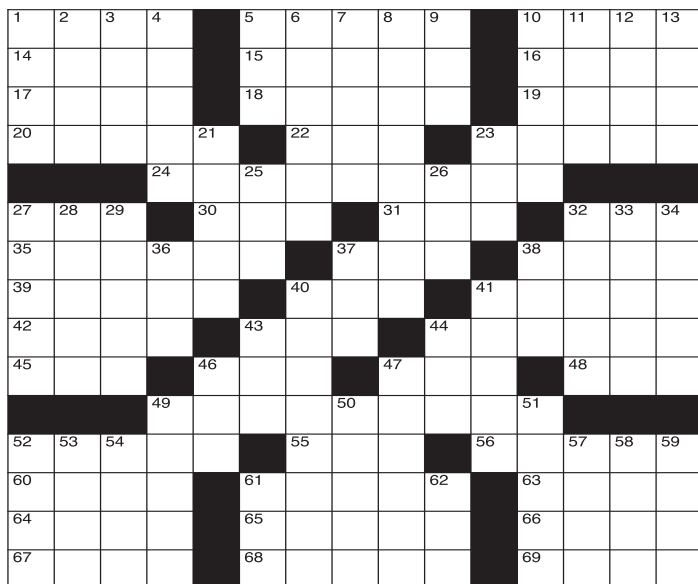

AGES 2.5 THRU ADULT

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10	Low	9:37 AM
10	High	4:34 PM
10	Low	11:01 PM
F 11	High	4:49 AM
11	Low	10:34 AM
11	High	5:33 PM
Sa 12	Low	12:03 AM
12	High	5:45 AM
12	Low	11:30 AM
12	High	6:24 PM
Su 13	Low	12:54 AM
13	High	6:33 AM
13	Low	12:21 PM
13	High	7:08 PM
M 14	Low	1:34 AM
14	High	7:17 AM
14	Low	1:07 PM
14	High	7:49 PM
Tu 15	Low	2:08 AM
15	High	7:58 AM
15	Low	1:49 PM
15	High	8:28 PM
W 16	Low	2:40 AM
16	High	8:38 AM
16	Low	2:29 PM
16	High	9:06 PM

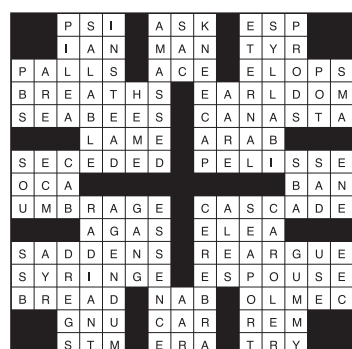


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. A way to pick up
- 5. Presents
- 10. Type of guitar
- 14. Actor Idris
- 15. A citizen of Iran
- 16. Creative
- 17. Harness
- 18. Weight unit
- 19. You better call him
- 20. Utterly devoted
- 22. Male cat
- 23. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- 24. Risk-taker
- 27. A team's best pitcher
- 30. Cool!
- 31. Women's ___ movement
- 32. Georgia rockers
- 35. Step-shaped recess
- 37. The princess could detect its presence
- 38. Type of truck
- 39. Butterhead lettuces
- 40. Angry people see it
- 41. Lines where two fabrics are sewn together
- 42. Soviet city
- 43. Carpet
- 44. Traveled all over
- 45. Thin, straight bar
- 46. Body art (slang)
- 47. Congressman (abbr.)
- 48. No seats available
- 49. Breaks apart
- 52. Arabic name
- 55. Ballplayer's tool
- 56. Type of sword
- 60. Baseball team
- 61. Upper bract of grass floret
- 63. Italian Seaport
- 64. Ancient Syrian city
- 65. Shoelace tube
- 66. The Miami mascot is one
- 67. South American nation
- 68. Popular video game "Max ___"
- 69. Body part

CLUES DOWN

- 1. German courtesy title
- 2. Ancient Greek City
- 3. Ancient Hebrew calendar month
- 4. Long-legged frog family
- 5. Photo
- 6. Delivered a speech
- 7. Lute in classical Indian music
- 8. Decorated
- 9. Take a seat
- 10. Belonging to a bottom layer
- 11. Member of a Semitic people
- 12. Part of a ticket
- 13. Defunct Guinean money
- 21. Challenges
- 23. Popular BBQ food
- 25. Subway dweller
- 26. By way of
- 27. Shady garden alcove
- 28. Egyptian city
- 29. Partner to "flowed"
- 32. Widens
- 33. Old Eurasian wheat
- 34. Act incorrectly
- 36. European pipeline
- 37. Al Bundy's wife
- 38. Ocean
- 40. Root eaten as a vegetable
- 41. Sound units
- 43. Style of music
- 44. A way to drench
- 46. Hot beverage
- 47. A cotton fabric with a satiny finish
- 49. Rumanian city
- 50. Urge to action
- 51. Vaccine developer
- 52. Canadian law enforcers
- 53. Wings
- 54. "Perry Mason" actor Raymond
- 57. Small fry
- 58. ___ Clapton, musician
- 59. Take a chance
- 61. Bland food
- 62. Consumed



Answers for August 2



Our 'Fifty' Bridge

What gives a bridge distinction and character? Is it its name, its color, its size, its endurance, its notorious traffic jams, its esthetic appeal?

Let's talk about our 'Fifty' bridge. No not that other 'Fifty' bridge. That other 'Fifty' bridge is the majestic and scary structure that spans the Chesapeake

The Golden Gate bridge does not have one that reads, "Annapolis = 2,862 miles." Does that give our bridge more or less character?

Or does the character come from within? Is it the fishermen hanging along the pedestrian walkways staring at their lines and checking the tides?

Is it the small boats with tall antennas chipping the rust off the bottom of our beloved bridge as they pass under or is it the bigger boats that have to wait patiently for the scheduled bridge opening five minutes before the hour and the half hour? Or the stopped traffic on the bridge where drivers sit and dream of being on one of those big boats?



Like the volume of car traffic, the volume of boat traffic has also grown dramatically since 1942.

I'm sure the placard that warns jet skiers to avoid the main channel under the bridge was not original signage. Likewise, the 6 MPH speed limit was problematic in the era of gas rationing.

Somehow, just talking about class and character doesn't get the job done. The bridge is 10 years older than the other Fifty bridge but seniority doesn't seem to matter. What we need is something that every famous bridge has. The Golden Gate Bridge, the Chesapeake Bay Bridge, the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, the Delaware Memorial Bridge all have one thing in common, one thing that we can correct. They all have toll-booths.

Our Fifty bridge is, in a word, iconic. It was opened in 1942 and replaced the first automobile bridge that had opened in 1916. That span crossed the Sinexuxent Bay at Route 707 about a quarter of a mile south of our Fifty bridge. Built by the Army Corps of Engineers, the new bridge was the state of the art and rugged enough to support a military defense if WWII went bad. It has been painted and repainted and has withstood ferocious storms like the 1962 Nor'easter and Hurricane Sandy.

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No doubt, it's iconic but what about character? The bridge has a sign that reads, "Sacramento = 3,073 miles."

But we can do them one better. We can make our bridge infamous by installing tollbooths that collect fees for passing under the bridge. Of course, we'll have to have an EZ pass lane, a cash and credit card lane and an express lane for White Marlin Tournament participants.

As a side benefit, we will be able to control boat traffic such as charging an additional fee for drift fishing in the

Make your dog a better leash-walker

Walking a dog on a leash is required by law in many towns and cities. Leashing a dog prevents the animal from trespassing on neighbor's property and keeps it from jumping on people or other animals.



A leashed dog can be restrained from sniffing the waste of other animals, which may help curb the spread of diseases like distemper or parvo. Leashing also can reduce the propensity for the dog to run away from an owner and get lost.

Despite the benefits of walking

dogs on a leash, some dogs are not too keen on the idea. Puppies may acclimate to it over time, but circumstances can make any dog want to escape a leash. The following are some issues that may arise and how to remedy them.

Pulling. The vast assortment of collars and harnesses billed as “no pull” suggests the issue of dogs pulling on the leash is common. Dogs on leashes that are too long may be distracted and pull more readily. Start out with a short leash and only allow a longer slack when the dog has exhibited an ability to walk diligently on the shorter leash.

Rather than punish bad behavior like pulling, many dog trainers recommend rewarding the good behavior, such as walking without pulling at your side. This praise can be delivered verbally and with plenty of treats.

Lunging and leash reactivity.

Dogs may behave differently on a leash than they do when off them. Most dogs who lunge at passersby or bark or snarl may actually crave the attention of other companions but not have the social skills to engage in a proper meet and greet, according to the American Kennel Club. Should the

dog be off-leash, he or she may not behave in the same way.

Lunging and other behaviors may stem from aggression, but it's more likely a cause of fear, says the AKC. It's a mentality marked by an “I'll get that thing before it gets me” outlook designed to make the feared person, dog or object go away. A leash also may cause frustration that the dog can't get to a desired pet or person, and the animal loses emotional control.

A trainer can help owners learn to distract the dog on the leash from others with high quality treats. Strategies to remove leash tension also can cut down on leash reactivity.

Right equipment. Dog owners can experiment with gear to make leash-walking go more smoothly. Traditional collars may put too much pressure on a dog's throat, particularly those who pull. A harness can be a better option. Gentle leaders are a type of head gear that enables pet owners to redirect their dogs more readily. Because they resemble muzzles, some owners may hesitate to use them despite their efficacy. Front clip harnesses and correctional collars might help as well. Consult with a veterinarian or trainer for the best options.

It pays to invest some time teaching dogs to walk calmly on leashes.

bridge

from page 12

bridge channel.

It can also be a vehicle to enforce Coast Guard rule number 9 that says, “When two vessels are going under a bridge in opposite directions, the vessel that has the current pushing it from behind has the right of way, or is the stand-on vessel.” That's a big deal when the current is running at six knots and the oblivious boat rental customers are admiring the bridge barnacles.

The toll revenue can go to infrastructure enhancements like funding additional signs to tell the motoring customers that Salisbury is 28 miles ahead on route 50 and Honolulu is 4,940 miles as the seagull flies.

More importantly, our Fifty bridge is scheduled for replacement around 2035. The toll money would certainly help fund the project and make the Worcester County commissioners as infamous as Mayor Kelley. Maybe we could name the new bridge the ‘Worcester 7.’

Stay safe. Stay dry.

Dan Collins can be reached for comment at dancollins.ocean-pines@gmail.com

Publisher's Note: The Route 50 bridge is maintained by the State Highway Administration. The Worcester County Commissioners have no jurisdiction over the bridge.

letter

from page 6

from Europe, during operations as well, which will increase a trip to the canyons by nothing less than 30 nautical miles round trip.

The three Wind Energy Areas (WEAs) total approximately 356,550 acres. The first WEA (A-2) is 101,767 acres and is located 26 nautical miles (nm) from Delaware Bay. The second WEA (B-1) is 78,285 acres and is 23.5 nm offshore Ocean City, Md. The third WEA (C) is 176,506 acres offshore and is located about 35 nm offshore of the Chesapeake Bay, Va.

Areas E and F could put six species of Pterodroma Petrel in peril, per the Audubon Society.

Per the Fisheries Survival Fund: The cumulative impacts of offshore wind arrays on the local maritime ecosystem are far more pervasive than previously understood. All of Areas A (scallop and surfclam, summer flounder and black seabass, B

(dredge fishery, pot and trap, gill net and trawl), and C (surfclam, pt, and squid/butterfish/mackerel trawling) because of high fisheries interactions. There will be a high economic fisheries exposure risk from wind development for small coastal communities.

With all of the information available regarding the devastating affects offshore wind electrical power plants have on the environment and coastal economies, does anyone else find it curious those who have spent years representing and profiting from offshore wind construction companies have now found their way into government agencies responsible for improving the projects?

Dianna Harris
Ocean City

Book sale successful

Editor:

Last weekend was the largest annual event held at the Ocean Pines Library. The volunteer organization “Friends of the Ocean Pines Library” sets up a Book Sale that encompasses over 25,000 books, DVD's, Audio Books and Music CD's divided into approximately 25 categories. Most are sold over a 3-day period with all proceeds going to benefit the Ocean Pines library and is used for buying equipment, sponsoring programs offered at the library and supplementing the budget provided by the Worcester County Commissioners.

This year was the 23rd Annual Book Sale and was put together by nearly 90 volunteers who donated more than 500 hours to make this sale possible. Throughout the year, patrons, estate closings and organizations donate 95 % of the books, DVD's and CD's that are

sorted, evaluated and categorized for the sale. This year's sale was one of the largest ever with about 1600 patrons attending and spending nearly \$16,000.00.

On behalf of the FOPL and the Ocean Pines Library, we would like to thank all those who donated books throughout the year, the volunteers who assist with the library every day and at the sale, the staff of the OP library who are so gracious with our activities. To all of you who came out to support the sale that benefits the library and its programs – thank you, thank you, thank you. Donations of books, DVD's, CD's and audio books are now being accepted for next year's sale. Donations can be left at the front check-out counter or in the back of the library on the loading dock.

See you all in July 2024!

Jim Meckley and
Eileen Leonhart
Book Sale Co-Chairs

When to test your home water supply

Water quality is not something people think about all that much, especially in developed nations. Though it can be easy to take water quality for granted in countries with ample regulation and sophisticated filtering systems, there are times when anyone, regardless of where they live, should take stock of the water in their homes.

Frequency of testing. One of the variables for individuals to consider is how long it's been since they last tested the water quality in their homes. For those who have never done so, those who have done it but can't recall precisely when or those who know it's been more than a year since the last test, then it's a good time to test the water. In fact, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recommends annual testing for coliform bacteria, nitrates, total dissolved solids, and pH levels. The EPA notes this testing is especially important for anyone who is using a new well or has replaced or repaired pipes, pumps or the well casing.

What about public water supply

systems? Testing may not be necessary for individuals who get their water from public water supplies.

The EPA notes that anyone who pays a water bill gets their water from a public supply system, which is responsible for monitoring and testing water and reporting the results of those tests to the appropriate agencies as well as the individuals who use the water. Homeowners and tenants who pay a water bill should receive an annual

water quality report from their water supply utility, while renters can request a copy of that report from their landlords if they do not pay the bill themselves.



What about private water supply systems? Individuals who receive their water from a private system, such as a household well, are responsible for conducting their own water supply testing. These tests should be conducted annually and in the aftermath of a spill or other incident that could taint the water supply.

Are there any special circumstances to test the water? The EPA notes that certain situations may call for testing the water supply, even if it's provided by a public supply system. For example, the EPA recommends that expecting parents test their water supply for nitrates in the early months of a

pregnancy. Testing should then be conducted again prior to bringing an infant home and once more during the first six months of the baby's life. The EPA notes nitrate tests are best conducted in spring or summer after periods of rain.

An eye, taste and/or smell test also can indicate if the water supply should be tested. Water that stains, has an unusual taste and/or a conspicuous odor should be tested. In these instances, test for sulfate, chloride, iron, manganese, hardness, and corrosion.

A local chemical or fuel spill also should trigger a test of the water supply. The EPA notes that these tests can be expensive and recommends individuals contact a local expert to determine which contaminants to test for.

Water quality is easily taken for granted. However, various scenarios may necessitate testing the water supply. A local health department office can be a useful resource for individuals who want to confirm that their water supply is safe.

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Some things to think about

Gathered from the internet by **Jack Barnes**

Funny (Corny) Stuff

I once dated a guy who broke up with me because I only have 9 toes. Yes, he was lack toes intolerant

I've started telling everyone about the benefits of eating dried grapes. It's all about raisin awareness.

I've started investing in stocks: beef, vegetable, chicken. One day I hope to be a bouillianaire.

If you boil a funny bone, it becomes a laughing stock. Now that's humerus.

I accidentally rubbed ketchup in my eyes. Now I have Heinzsight.

Did you know muffins spelled backwards is what you do when you take them out of the oven.

I was walking in the jungle and saw a lizard on his hind legs telling jokes. I turned to a local tribal leader and said, "That lizard is really funny!" He replied, "That's not a lizard. He's a stand-up chameleon."

I tried to come up with a carpentry pun that woodwork. I thought I nailed it but nobody saw it.

Singing in the shower is fine until you get soap in your mouth. Then it's a soap opera.

The Black-Eyed Peas can sing us a song but the chick peas can only hummus one.

Then there was the time Fruit of the Loom took Hanes to court... it was a brief case.

How much does a chimney cost? Nothing, it's on the house.

My friend said she wouldn't eat cow's tongue because it came out of a cow's mouth. I gave her an egg.

Once upon a time there was a King who was only 12 inches tall. He was a terrible King but he made a great ruler.

My friend Jack says he can communicate with vegetables. That's right...Jack and the beans talk.

I was struggling to understand how lightning works and then it struck me.

Six cows were smoking joints and playing poker. That's right. The steaks were pretty high.

I went to the paint store to get thinner. It didn't work.

WE HAVE NEVER FOUND A CAVE PAINTING OF A SALAD

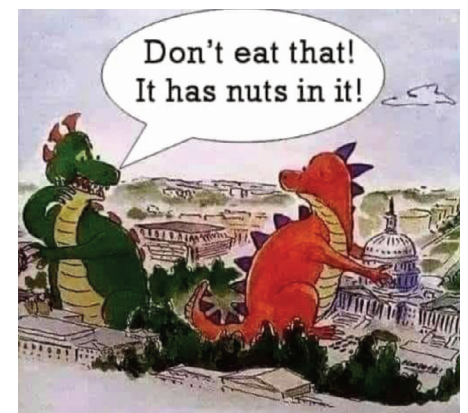


The oldest computer was owned by Adam and Eve.

It was an Apple with very limited memory.

Just 1 byte and everything crashed!

I'VE BEEN TO A LOT OF PLACES BUT I'VE NEVER BEEN IN CAHOOTS. APPARENTLY YOU CAN'T GO ALONE, YOU HAVE TO BE IN CAHOOTS WITH SOMEONE. I'VE ALSO NEVER BEEN IN COGNITO, EITHER. I HEAR NOBODY RECOGNIZES YOU THERE. I HAVE, HOWEVER, BEEN IN SANE. THEY DON'T HAVE AN AIRPORT. YOU HAVE TO BE DRIVEN THERE. I HAVE MADE SEVERAL TRIPS.



The guy at the furniture store told me the sofa would seat 5 people without any problems. Then it occurred to me, I don't think I know 5 people without any problems.

A woman with a salad walked past me in the restaurant and said you know a cow died so you could eat that beefburger. I said if you weren't eating its food it might have lived.

After my prostate exam, the doctor left. Then the nurse came in. As she shut the door, she whispered the three words no man wants to hear: "Who was that?"
PARENTAL ADVISORY, POONS BEWARE © FB

Trying to make protein shakes but they keep coming out as margaritas.



Not saying it's really hot, but I was sweating so much I hydroplaned off the toilet seat and landed in the bath tub.

commentary
from page 6

hatred of some majority board members for Peck - at an extremely personal level. One board member wrote, "I am going to take the advice of council (sic) and cut this cancer out of this committee."

Usurpation of board authority by any

board president or any board majority is not good for OPA. A week ago, any two board members could have called for a special public board meeting to vote on removing Peck and do this properly. That finally happened on August 1, 2023, after the reporting of Peck's removal by *OceanPinesForum.com*.

Steve Jacobs and Colette Horn asked

for a special meeting and Peck's removal was one of two topics. Parks made a motion to remove Peck. Horn and Jacobs spoke against doing so. No other board members said a word. Parks called for a vote. The Get Involved supported board majority voted in lockstep. Peck was officially gone with the 4-2 vote for removal.


Letters sent to The Courier for publication consideration must be signed and include a telephone number where the author can be reached to verify authenticity, if necessary. Letters are not corrected for spelling or grammar and priority will be given to letters of 300 words or less. Letters must be received by Friday at 5 p.m. They can be e-mailed to:

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ANNUAL MEETING



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9A.M.

- ✓ MEMBERS WILL BE CHECKED IN
- ✓ ARRIVE AT LEAST 30 MINUTES EARLY
- ✓ VALID ID WITH PHOTO REQUIRED

**FOR QUESTIONS EMAIL:
ELECTIONS@OCEANPINES.ORG**

FOR INFO ON ATTENDING VIRTUALLY, VISIT OCEANPINES.ORG