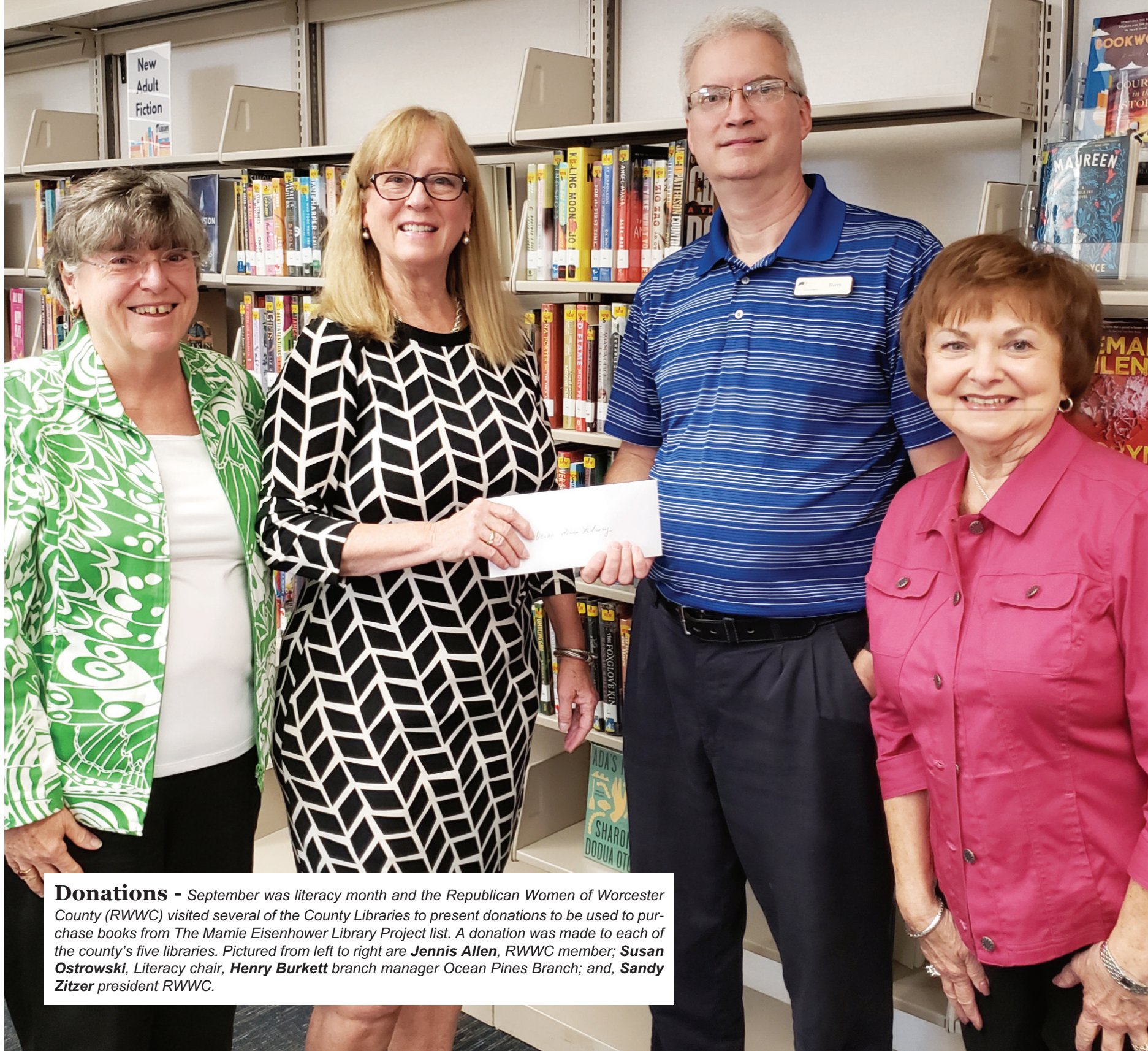


The Courier

October 4, 2023 Volume 24 Number 5



Donations - September was literacy month and the Republican Women of Worcester County (RWWC) visited several of the County Libraries to present donations to be used to purchase books from The Mamie Eisenhower Library Project list. A donation was made to each of the county's five libraries. Pictured from left to right are **Jennis Allen**, RWWC member; **Susan Ostrowski**, Literacy chair, **Henry Burkett** branch manager Ocean Pines Branch; and, **Sandy Zitzer** president RWWC.



Thank You

The Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines 16th Annual Golf Tournament held September 20 at Ocean Pines Golf Club, was a marvelous success because of the generosity of many community individuals and businesses.

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The Original Green Turtle
The Surfside Rooster
Vernon Powell Shoes



Presentation - The Ocean City - Berlin Rotary Club recently helped serve dinner and presented a check to Believe in Tomorrow's Children House by the Sea representatives. From left to right, Past District Governor **Cliff Berg**, **Mary Brown**, **Donna Berg** and **Amanda Koontz**. The Club meets the first and third Wednesday of each month at Don's Seafood at the south gate in Ocean Pines. For more information email ocberlinrotary@gmail.com

Help honor U.S. troops at Ocean Pines Yacht Club event

Steel Blu Vodka, in partnership with The Matt Ortt Companies, recently announced a care package event to aid U.S. troops serving locally and abroad.

The event is set for Sunday, October 8, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club.

Steel Blu, based in Delaware, donates 10% of the company's profits toward care packages for those serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

With those funds, the company purchases nonperishable goods – such as toiletries, snacks, and office supplies – and packages them with the help from local volunteers.

Volunteers are needed to help prepare the packages, and those who pitch in will be treated to a day filled with meaningful activities and entertainment. Live performances by Cup O' Joe will help keep spirits high, while a range of happy hour food and drink specials, exciting giveaways, engaging

games, and enticing raffles will add to the festivities.

The event is made possible through the sponsorship of Steel Blu Vodka, Big Wave Marketing, Fully Promoted branded apparel, and Ocean Pines Get Involved.

Chelsey Chmelik, a Matt Ortt Companies manager, helped to organize the event.

"We are thrilled to support our troops and make a difference through the Steel Blu Vodka Care Package Project," Chmelik said. "This event is a testament to our commitment to giving back to the community and expressing our gratitude to the brave individuals who serve our country."

For more information, contact Chmelik at chelsey@mattorttcompanies.com.

Additional donations and handwritten letters for U.S. troops can be mailed to American Heroes, 810 Ocean Parkway, Berlin, MD, 21811.

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Spooky, spellbinding, festive fun to take over Farmers & Artisans Market

Get ready for an enchanting experience at the Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market on Saturday, October 21.

For this special day, the market will be transformed into a “Broomstick Bazaar” where artisan “witches” will work their magic, offering a bewitching array of holiday gifts.

Expect to find a spellbinding selection of candles, clothing, jewelry, wood crafts, soaps, flowers, and more.

“Shoppers are encouraged to wear their costumes, hats and brooms, and let their inner witch shine, all while wandering the bewitching marketplace pathways,” Market Manager David Bean said.

For those looking to add a touch of autumn charm to their homes, local-



grown mums, asters, and pansies will be available alongside an assortment of pumpkins, gourds, and other seasonal decorations.

“As you peruse the enchanting wares, let loose and dance your way

into the spirit of the season,” Bean said. “Join us in shaking your BOOty to the hauntingly delightful country bluegrass tunes performed by singer Sarah Campbell on the haunted Market Stage from 9 a.m. to noon.

“And don’t worry, we haven’t forgotten about the treats!” Bean continued. “Our green market stands will be stocked with seasonal produce, orchard fruits, apple cider, and a plethora of sweet delights from our

talented bakeries.”

The Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market is open Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in White Horse Park, next to the Ocean Pines Administration Building and Police Department

The market returns to its off-season hours of 9 a.m. to noon, starting on Saturday, Oct 7

For more information, visit www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/farmers-artisans-market.

Harbor Day Festival returns

Celebrate maritime history during the 2023 Harbor Day at the Docks on Saturday, October 14 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event will take place along Sunset Avenue in the West Ocean City commercial harbor.

Entrance to this family-friendly festival is free, and complimentary bus service will be available to shuttle patrons to and from the OC Park N’ Ride to the event parking lot.

Festivities kick off at 10 a.m. with the Blessing of the Fleet, followed by live musical performances by Trinidad and Tobago, and then Randy Lee Ashcraft and the Saltwater Cowboys from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. At noon, Hooper’s Crab House will sponsor a crab eating contest, and participation is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Other activities will include local fisherman displays, vendor demonstrations, nautical artisans, educational exhibits, and activities galore for children.

There will be plenty of vendors selling foods and beverages. The Coast Guard will provide on-site water safety information and Coast Guard boat tours.

Those seeking a unique water experience will have opportunities to tour the harbor on the Salty Siren.

“Come out and join us for this annual festival celebrating the rich history, culture, and heritage of both the sport and commercial fishing industries right here in Worcester County,” Recreation Superintendent Ben Kirk said.

Harbor Day at the Docks is sponsored by Worcester County Recreation and Parks and other area partners. More information is available at www.harbor-dayoc.com, on social media at @harbor-dayoc, or by contacting Ben Kirk at 410-632-2144, ext. 2520 or bkirk@co.worcester.md.us.



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The year was 1974

Prices at the pump have been fluctuating a lot lately. There are times when the price at 7-11 is lower than Royal Farms by ten cents or more. or vice versa. Usually, they're back to equal within a day. It bothers me some that I'm getting accus-

handlebars, to the grocery market. Living on Verree Road in Northeast Philadelphia, the market wasn't all that close but she did it anyway.

I remember one morning waiting for the school bus; the other kids and I marveling at a new, bright yellow Datsun B210 parked in the Griegle's driveway on the corner. It had two doors and looked puny parked beside the family's other car, a Ford LTD station wagon. The family had five children. As an eight-year-old, I couldn't



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

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

tomed to a per gallon price in excess of \$3.50. There was a time that I could buy lunch for \$3.50. Admittedly that was a time long ago when my hair was black and my waist was trim.

Like faded Kodachrome photos in a long put away album, memories of spiking gas prices at the pump have been on my mind of late. Yours as well, I suspect.

The year was 1974. I was nine, my brother was six. Richard Nixon was in the White House. Archie Bunker ruled the airwaves and Walter Cronkite told us how it was, each evening used words like OPEC, ra-

fathom how all the kids were going to fit in this new car. Images of circus clowns in a Volkswagen came to mind.

Despite efforts to employ alternate modes of transportation - biking, walking and taking SEPTA - so the blue behemoth could sit quietly



in the driveway there were still times when the old Olds needed to be gassed up. With Mom behind the wheel and my brother and me in the backseat with Matchbox cars to keep us occupied and a Speed Racer lunch box filled with food to keep us nour-

ished, off to Walt's Gulf gas station on Krewstown Road we headed. Once there we waited and waited and waited a little time more, slowly inching our way up to the pump. There was a limit to how many gallons could be purchased, and it wasn't enough to fill the 25-gallon tank. So, the exercise was repeated two days later to ensure there was enough fuel to get to the shore. Odd-even license plate numbers dictated



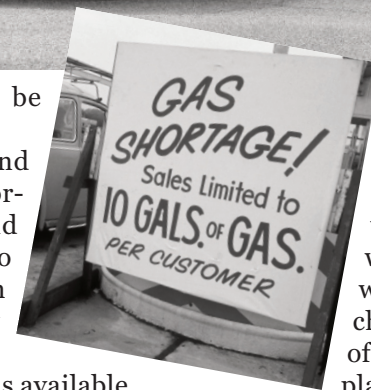
on what days fuel could be purchased.

While my parents, and every other car owner, worried whether there would be enough gas available to fill the tank, the concern rattling around in my eight-year-old head was whether there would be gas available for my grandfather's boat so we could go fishing. It was important to keep priorities straight. When Gramps visited, he assured me there would always be gas available for the boat. Not to worry he told me. And I believed him.

It wasn't until years later when I learned that after coming home from the gas station, Gramps would siphon fuel from the car to use in the boat. Then he'd head back to another gas station to refill the tank. When Gramps had the will, he always found a way. No boating time was missed that summer (or any other) because of a lack of fuel.

Through the lens of nearly fifty years, it's hard to understand all the hubbub about spending fifty-two cents for a gallon of gas. Yet, a fuss was made. It seemed like overnight car commercials went from touting large highway cruisers (think Cadillac Eldorado) to authoritatively discussing the frugality of four-cylinder puddle jumpers (think Ford Pinto).

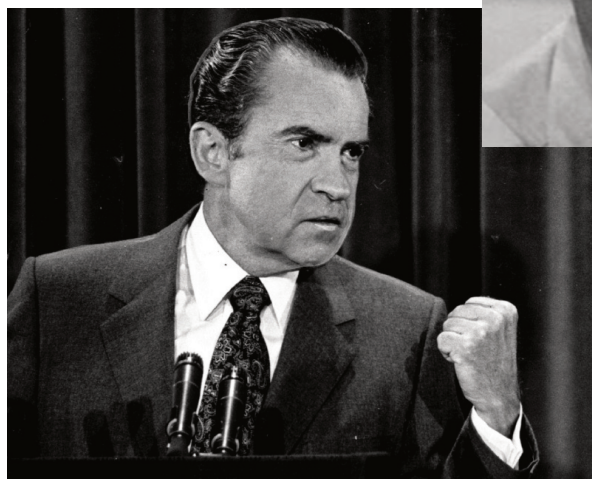
A memorable ad from Bell Telephone encouraged people to "let your fingers do the walking."



This was during the days before deregulation broke up Ma Bell which makes me wonder whether it was actually cheaper to drive out of town than it was to place a long-distance call.

There was a joke at the time that went something like this. A guy was filling up his car and the gas price changed three times as he was doing so. I've been feeling like that guy lately, noticing that the price per gallon at the local station increases between a nickel to a quarter between dawn and dusk, only to be repeated the next morning. Unlike my childhood experiences, to date, I've not witnessed any lines at the pump.

When they get to be my age, I wonder how much my grandchildren will pay for fuel (if cars are still powered by internal combustion engines). I'll have to remember to tell them about the times when I paid upwards of four dollars a gallon. Then I'll have them take me to lunch.



tioning, miles per gallon, Saudi Arabia and carpooling.

The family car at the time was a four door 1970 Oldsmobile Delta 88, sea foam blue with a black vinyl top and black cloth interior. It was a behemoth that got about eight miles to a gallon heading downhill with a tailwind. To save money and reserve fuel for weekend trips to Villas, NJ, my mother would ride her bike, with a big basket attached to the



Boardroom replacement?

According to reliable sources, OPA is considering the construction of a larger dedicated Board of Directors meeting room. Such a boardroom replacement is long overdue.

The general room layout provides a dias for board members and staff, along with a podium for public comments or other presentations, similar to the Worcester County Commis-

bench seats as used at the county. It is important to have this room dedicated to board meetings, town hall meetings, and other such large-gathering events related to the management of OPA, not for card parties, pancake breakfasts, or other such community group functions.

A dedicated board room will allow for the installation of a high-quality audio/video system, perhaps a 100% outsourced setup similar to the excellent system used by the county. No need to reinvent the wheel. It is likely OPA would also want to include live streaming, but the board should consider eliminating live streaming and just make video available for viewing shortly after the meeting. Again, this is what the county does. Board meetings are not live contact-sport events, contrary to what some may believe. Watching live is not critical in any way.

Sources say the general idea is to do the architectural design in conjunction with that of the new firehouse and then contract out the construction of both buildings to one builder in the

same sort of process used so successfully to save money when building the new golf clubhouse and cart barn.

Initial high-level cost estimates range from \$450,000 to \$650,000 with funding to come from replacement reserves and not require any assessment increase. These estimates also include about \$120,000 in a required sprinkler system. The expectation is to see both the firehouse and new board room constructed in fiscal 2025/2026.

While the new firehouse will need an OPA contribution of \$4 million, or more, and most likely require a referendum approval vote of the OPA membership (depending on a number of issues), the board room addition will not require a referendum as it is under the \$1 million referendum-triggering threshold.

Association members will be hearing more on all this in the near future.

Let's hope our new board under the leadership of OPA president Rick Farr gives this boardroom project its full support.



Commentary

By Joe Reynolds
OceanPinesForum.com

The idea is to incorporate the board meeting room in some way on the east side of the existing administration building, possibly with a breezeway between the two buildings.

sioners meeting room.

These sources also say the structure would seat 150 audience members using chairs. However, planners will hopefully consider fixed

Courier Almanac

On October 4, 1957, the Soviet Union inaugurates the "Space Age" with its launch of Sputnik, the world's first artificial satellite. The spacecraft, named Sputnik after the Russian word for "satellite," was launched at 10:29 p.m. Moscow time from the Tyuratam launch base in the Kazakh Republic. Sputnik had a diameter of 22 inches and weighed 184 pounds and circled Earth once every hour and 36 minutes. Traveling at 18,000 miles an hour, its elliptical orbit had an apogee (farthest point from Earth) of 584 miles and a perigee (nearest point) of 143 miles. Visible with binoculars before sunrise or after sunset, Sputnik transmitted radio signals back to Earth strong enough to be picked up by amateur radio operators. Those in the United States with access to such equipment tuned in and listened in awe as the beeping Soviet spacecraft passed over America several times a day. In January 1958, Sputnik's orbit deteriorated, as expected, and the spacecraft burned up in the atmosphere.

Americans need to understand the horrors going on

Editor:

I have been baffled for the last 2-1/2 years by the apparent acceptance by some Americans of the horrible things occurring here in America. I can only assume that approximately half the population is unaware of these matters, either from lack of curiosity or from watching media which deliberately refuses to report the truth. It's a mystery.

In any event, I just want to make sure people have the opportunity to learn a few facts.

One of our major problems is the situation on our southern border. The DHS Secretary Mayorkas keeps saying the border is closed and President Biden keeps blaming the Republicans

for the open border. So, which is it? All I know is that over seven million people have flooded across the border in the last 2-1/2 years. Included in this number are people on the terrorist watch list, MS-13 gang members, human traffickers, unaccompanied minors and tons of fentanyl which is being marketed here in America and has killed over 75,000 Americans by drug overdose in the last year. Children are drowning trying to cross the Rio Grande. Women are being raped and trafficked by the cartels. We have recently discovered that there are active tuberculosis cases among the migrants, and we have no way of knowing whether any of the migrants are vaccinated against anything, including COVID. As a matter of fact,

please see horrors on page 16



Formal dining rooms were once a must-have in homes, but that popularity has waned in recent decades. Dining rooms were the spaces to host holiday dinners or family birthday parties. Slowly but surely, dining rooms became obsolete in modern homes that favored open-concept layouts. And in those homes that had formal dining areas, the need for home office spaces or playrooms for children saw many dining rooms repurposed. According to the National Association of Home Builders, 43 percent of millennials prefer the look and feel of an open-concept layout and casual dinner parties. However, even though dining rooms may no longer be de rigueur, designers are noticing an increase in clients requesting formal dining spaces, according to a report in Southern Living. Perhaps it's a matter of open-concept fatigue. After spending a year or more during the height of the pandemic at home with few to no barriers between rooms, homeowners may be looking for homes that carve out niches for specific tasks (and privacy) once more. It may not be long until homes come back to including more traditional layouts with separate dining spaces to make hosting a little more intimate.



The Courier

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BJ's membership offer returns to assist Veterans Memorial

BJ's Wholesale Club is once again partnering with the Ocean Pines Association to bring a special membership offer, effective through October 31, to benefit the Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines Foundation.

With this offer, new members receive a 12-month BJ's Inner Circle Membership for \$25 and \$10 in cash awards to be used at the register, or a BJ's Perks Rewards Membership, which earns 2% cash back on most BJ's purchases, for \$75 and \$20 in cash awards, with BJ's Easy Renewal.

Existing Inner Circle members can purchase a 12-month renewal for \$55 and receive \$10 in cash awards to be used at the register. Existing Perks Rewards members can purchase a 12-month renewal for \$110 and receive \$20 in cash awards, with BJ's Easy Renewal.

Cash awards will be added to the member's primary membership account 24 hours after enrollment and must be used within 30 days from the membership enrollment date.

In addition to offering special membership discounts, BJ's will donate \$10 for each completed new BJ's Inner Circle application, or \$5 for each completed BJ's renewal membership application received, to the Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines Foundation.

To take advantage of this special offer by phone, call 800-313-8887 and use promo code 100407. Phones are open Monday through

Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. EST.

BJ's membership applications are also available at the Ocean Pines Association Administration Building at 239 Ocean Parkway and online at oceanpines.org. Applications must be returned with payment by October 31. Check and credit card payments will be accepted.

Applications may be dropped off at the administration building front desk or mailed to Ocean Pines Association, Attn: Marketing, 239 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines, MD 21811.

This offer is not available online, at any BJ's location, or for any current Easy Renewal members.

This special promotion is only

offered through Ocean Pines two times a year. The next promotion will be in April 2024.

Current BJ's members whose memberships will expire before then are encouraged to renew during the fall offer. Members can check their current expiration dates by checking their BJ's receipts or the BJ's app, or by calling 800-313-8887.

BJ's operates over 200 clubs in 15 states from Maine to Florida, including a location in Millsboro, Delaware. The wholesale club offers a large assortment of products for home and business, savings of up to 25% off supermarket prices, a mobile app with digital coupons and online shopping at BJs.com.

Blessing of the Animals is Sunday

St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church on Third Street in Ocean City will bless the animals in celebration of the Feast of St. Francis of

Assisi on Sunday, October 8, during the 10 a.m. service. Animals must be leashed or crated. All creatures great and small are invited. If bringing your pet is too much of a challenge, you are welcome to bring a picture or artifacts.

This special service will be an opportunity to give thanks to God for the gift of creation; recommit ourselves to being good stewards of the share of the world's resources that we enjoy; and to offer a blessing to our pet friends, who demonstrate for us so wonderfully the unconditional love of God.

St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church is located at 302 N. Baltimore Avenue in Ocean City.

Anglers to meet

The Ocean Pines Anglers Club will meet on Saturday, October 14 at 9:30 a.m. in the Ocean Pines library. The speaker will be award-winning Captain Ken Thompson who will discuss the process of planning, preparing and fishing in the world's richest billfish tournament, the White Marlin Open. Also, there will be member updates on all things fishing. All are welcome.

Barbecue is Saturday

New Bethel UM church will hold a Tindley Celebration Barbeque on Saturday, October 7 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Germantown School. Barbeque is available to eat in at the Tindley gospel celebration or for take-out. The cost is \$10. The Germantown School is located at 10223 Trappe Rd in Berlin. For more information call (410) 641-0638.

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Spec Tennis Club hosts successful tournament

The Ocean Pines Racquet Center was awash with goodwill on September 23 as the community came together for the Friends of Dee Bohanan Benefit Tournament for Parkinson's Research.

The event, organized by the Ocean Pines Platform Tennis and Spec Tennis clubs, was a heartfelt tribute to long-time member Dee Bohanan, who battled Parkinson's until her unfortunate passing on September 14.

The tournament drew more than

40 players, including 10 participants in the "Newbie Round Robin" category. Spectators also flocked to the courts, with roughly 75 attendees helping to create an atmosphere of positivity.

Because of the strong turnout and the support of sponsors, the event raised nearly \$4,000 for the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's research.

Karen Kaplan, president of the Platform Tennis and Spec Tennis clubs, called the tournament a big success.

"The positive energy on and off the courts was amazing," she said. "There was so much fun, laughs, camaraderie, and friendly competition. And it was an especially poignant moment when Dee's husband, Bo, joined us to present the medals."

Kaplan thanked Cel Popen for helping to organize the tournament, as well as the Racquet Sports members and other volunteers who helped bring in sponsors and donors.

"To all the players and friends who donated, thank you so much!" she said. "A special thanks goes to our sponsors The Assateague Coastal Trust, Chop-tank Electric, the Bohanan Family, Sen. Mary Beth Carozza, Carrie R. Dupuie/CDR Financial, the MaryMac Foundation, A Bagel and..., the Hersheys, the Flanagans, and the Kent County Tennis Association."

The Spec Tennis Club remains committed to honoring Dee Bohanan's memory, supporting Parkinson's research, and fostering a strong sense of community through sport.

For more information on Spec Tennis programs at the Ocean Pines Racquet Center, visit www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/spec-tennis.



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Crows

Crows are common, widespread birds found in a number of different continents and countries. They are commonly used as symbols in mythology, religion, and pop culture – frequently in association with death. These misunderstood birds are actually extremely intelligent.

There are a wide variety of crow species, all members of the taxonomical genus *Corvus*. For the most part, crows have black-colored feathers, commonly with an iridescent shine to them. Some crow species also have other colors, like white patches, on



their feathers. Crows also have relatively thick beaks, known as “bills.”

These seemingly mundane birds are actually incredibly smart and charismatic. Crows are some of the smartest birds in the world, and can rival parrots in their intellect.

Quoth the Raven, Nevermore – The famous poem by Edgar Allen Poe wasn’t that far off of the mark. Many different crow species, including ravens, are capable of mimicking human speech quite well.

Never Forget a Face – Scientists in

Seattle performed an experiment with wild crows on a college campus, and discovered something astounding. The scientists would capture and tag crows wearing masks, and in later instances the crows would dive bomb the scientists with masks while letting college students walk by peacefully. The crows were able to successfully identify different faces as a threat, and others as harmless.

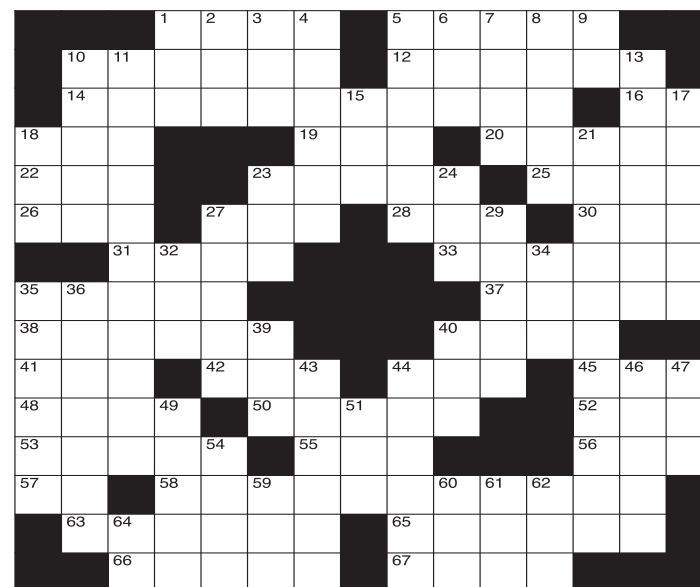
Corvid Communication – In the above experiment, another phenomenon began to occur in addition to the facial recognition. Birds that were never associated with the original captures began to also dive bomb scientists wearing masks. This means that the crows were able to successfully communicate to naïve individuals that the masks were a danger!

Problem Solving Skills – Another unrelated study of rooks (members of the crow family) found that crows are extremely capable problem solvers. Scientists took four separate birds and conducted an experiment with a tube of water, worms, and a pile of pebbles. The premise? The tube of water contained worms just out of reach, but when pebbles are added to the water in enough quantity the worms are easily accessible. All four rooks solved the problem and got the worms, and half of them did it on their first try!

Crows are distributed across the planet in virtually every environment. These extremely adaptable birds can be found in urban environments as well, utilizing every habitat possible. They can be found in forests, grasslands, agricultural areas and farmland, mountains, deserts, arctic tundra, and rocky cliffs.

Not only are there many different species that utilize these various habitats, but individual species can also

please see crows on page 19

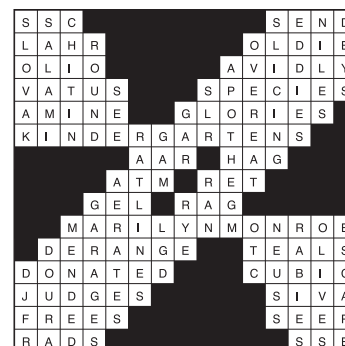


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Flat tableland with steep edges
- 5. Byproduct of fire
- 10. Talked
- 12. Unique skill
- 14. Unembarrassed
- 16. Where teenagers go
- 18. Boxing’s GOAT
- 19. Used to anoint
- 20. Reproductive structure found in rust fungi
- 22. Auburn great Newton
- 23. Some are for Christmas
- 25. Dried, split pulses
- 26. Self
- 27. Where to get your mail
- 28. High schoolers’ test
- 30. Flightless bird
- 31. Expectorated
- 33. Practice of misrepresenting the truth
- 35. Type of patch
- 37. French river
- 38. Told on
- 40. Hillside
- 41. Peyton’s little brother
- 42. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 44. Progressive country musician
- 45. Witness
- 48. Brews
- 50. Yellowish-brown
- 52. Arctic explorers (abbr.)
- 53. Mexican agave
- 55. Type of “cast”
- 56. Popular breakfast food
- 57. Atomic #52
- 58. Position north or south of the equator
- 63. Gadget
- 65. Another recording
- 66. Irregular bulges in cell membranes
- 67. Dark brown

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Licensed for Wall Street
- 2. Partner to flow
- 3. A very large body of water
- 4. Accumulate on the surface of
- 5. Central cores of stems
- 6. Angry
- 7. Spanish stew: ___ podrida
- 8. Fastened with a pin
- 9. On your way: ___ route
- 10. Soviet labor camp system
- 11. Enmities
- 13. B complex vitamin
- 15. Go quickly
- 17. Toast
- 18. A team’s best pitcher
- 21. Philly culinary specialty
- 23. Small child
- 24. Unhappy
- 27. Trims away
- 29. Full of tears
- 32. Touch softly
- 34. Former OSS
- 35. A person’s chest
- 36. Came from behind
- 39. Fall back
- 40. Nellie ___, journalist
- 43. A part of a river where the current is very fast
- 44. Weather
- 46. Sports broadcaster Ian
- 47. Electroencephalograph
- 49. Phenyl salicylate
- 51. Web of Things
- 54. Ship goods as cargo
- 59. The bill in a restaurant
- 60. Young female
- 61. OJ trial judge
- 62. One’s grandmother
- 64. West Siberian river



Answers for September 27



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Proper fireplace maintenance makes winters days enjoyable

A warm fire can make even the coldest winter day more enjoyable. Fireplaces may not get much use in spring or summer, but come late fall and throughout the winter, the fireplace can be a great place for families to gather.

Before fireplace season hits full swing, homeowners might want to

brush up on a few fireplace facts so they can safely enjoy nights spent sitting by the crackling flames.

The Chimney Safety Institute of America advises homeowners with fireplaces to hire a CSIA-certified chimney sweep to clean their fireplaces. After a lengthy period of non-use, various issues could be affecting

the chimney, many of which might not be noticeable to an untrained eye. Professional, certified chimney sweeps have extensive knowledge of fireplaces, making them valuable resources who can let homeowners know if any safety issues developed since fireplaces were last used. The National Protection Agency recommends that chimneys be swept at least once per

year.

A full inspection of the chimney might be in order as well. Chimney service technicians will conduct thorough examinations of readily accessible portions of the chimney exterior and interior and accessible portions of the appliance and the chimney connection. The CSIA recommends that homeowners who plan to use their chimneys as they have in the past request a Level 1 inspection, which will examine the soundness of the chimney structure and flue as well as the basic appliance installation and connections. Technicians also will verify if the chimney is free of obstruction and combustible deposits.

Homeowners also should inspect their chimney dampers before lighting their first fires of the season. Dampers should open and close smoothly. If not, a service technician can help fix or replace the damper.

Firewood is another thing homeowners must consider before lighting their first fires of the season. The CSIA says that well-seasoned firewood works best, noting that wood

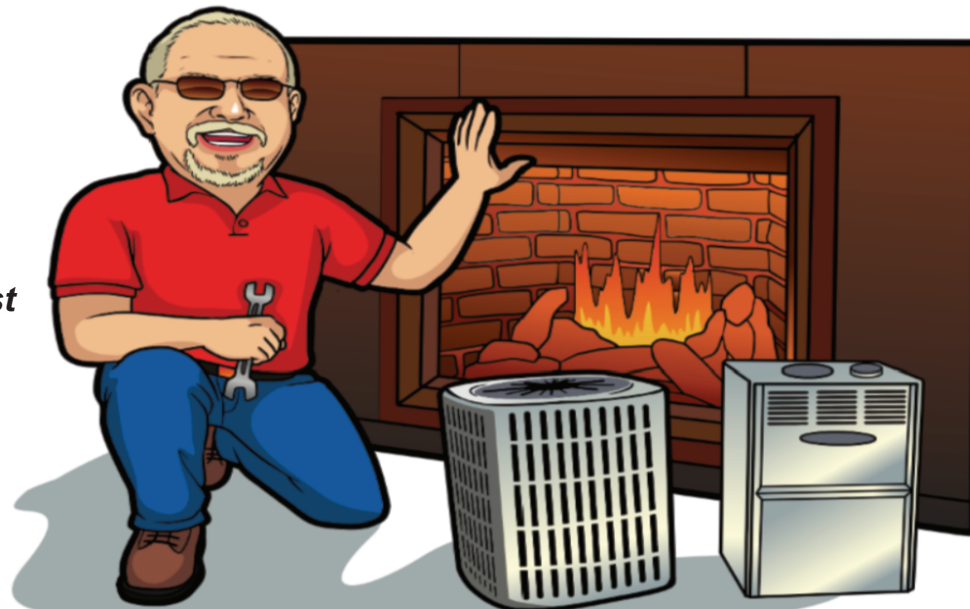
that is not well-seasoned will produce more smoke than heat. In addition, the home improvement resource This Old House recommends using dense wood that's been split and stored in a high and dry place for at least six months. Oak is an example of dense wood that, when stored properly, can make for an enjoyable fireplace experience. Avoid softwoods like pine. Pine can produce a lot of creosote, which is a byproduct of wood combustion. Creosote is highly flammable, and as it builds up in a chimney, the risk for a chimney fire increases. Choosing the right wood, making sure it's well-seasoned and having a chimney professionally cleaned can reduce the risk of a creosote-related chimney fire. A Level 1 inspection should determine if there are potentially dangerous levels of creosote deposits in the chimney.

Before nestling up to a fireplace this winter, homeowners should consider a host of factors and safety measures to ensure their fireplaces are safe and ready for the season ahead.



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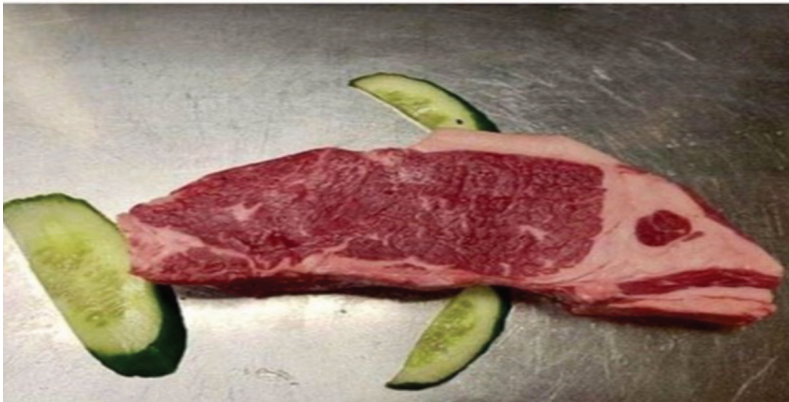
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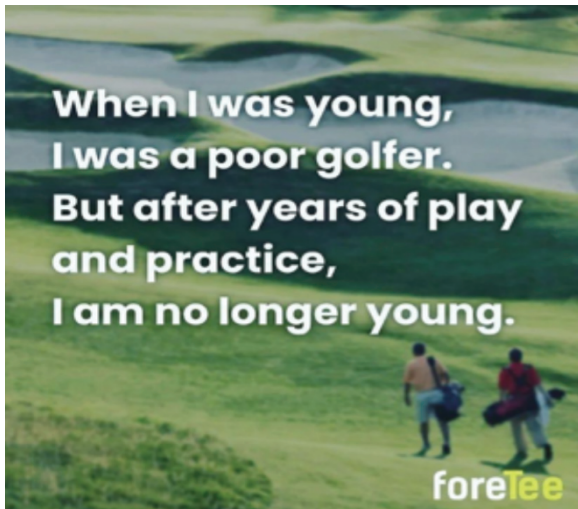
Some things to think about

Gathered from the internet by **Jack Barnes**

The doctor said I need to eat more fish. . . 😊 😂 😂



We don't let athletes bet on games they have the ability to influence... why do we allow congress to invest in companies they regulate!



Something to Think About... Prostate exam

My doctor sent me for a prostate exam to the nearest hospital. I went, reluctantly, got called in the office and patiently suffered through the - frankly very personal - examination. When the examining surgeon left, a nurse came in and asked a question that sent shivers down my soul: "Who the heck was that?"

I found a wood that can lower my score. It's called a pencil.

Found an extra pair of boots at the worksite so I decided to give my boss a heart attack



Two things to make your day better:

- Do not watch the news.
- Stay off the bathroom scales.

From a very patient photographer.



When people tell me "You're gonna regret that in the morning" I sleep in until noon because I'm a problem solver.



Dementia patient and caregiver resource guide available

Coastal Hospice, in collaboration with the National Partnership for Healthcare and Hospice Innovation (NPHI) announced that patients and their caregivers now have access to our Dementia Patient and Caregiver Resource Guide. The guide provides a resource for dementia care and improves quality of life for dementia patients, reduces hospitalizations, and eases burdens for families and

caregivers.

According to the Alzheimer's Association, 6.7 million individuals in the U.S. have dementia, the majority of whom received an Alzheimer's diagnosis, and by 2050, that figure is expected to more than double as the population ages. The New Dementia Patient and Caregiver Resource Guide is designed to support the home care of people living with de-

mentia and to assist caregivers, including families, with the skills and necessary information to care for, manage safety, and provide comfort for their loved one living with dementia within their home. Many people living with dementia frequently visit their doctor's office, emergency room, and hospital due to worsening symptoms or increasing caregiving strain, but these conditions can be prevented or managed with appropriate hospice and palliative care.

Lauren Blair, Community Relations & Development Manager and Dementia Care Program Champion commented, "Dementia is a progressive condition that affects a person's cognition, memory, and ability to perform activities of daily living. Providing the best possible care can

help people living with dementia maintain a higher quality of life by addressing their physical, emotional, and social needs. Let our team of trained experts assist with the challenges associated with this condition, all while supporting the caregivers and loved ones involved."

If you are supporting a loved one who is living with dementia, experiencing challenges with care, or would like to connect with a trusted community-based provider, you do not have to do it alone. To find out if your loved one can benefit from hospice services, call our direct referral line at 410-742-7878. Please visit www.coastalhospice.org/dementia-patient-and-caregiver to learn more and to download our FREE Dementia Patient and Caregiver Resource Guide.

Recycle oyster shells with Worcester County

Area businesses, residents, and visitors are invited to join Worcester County Recycling to recycle oyster shells. Currently, shells can be disposed of in a specially marked recycling bin at the Central Landfill in Newark, with additional oyster recycling sites to be available soon.

"Worcester County has teamed up with Shell Recycling Alliance Oyster Recovery Partnership (ORP) to help replenish the oyster populations in the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays," Recycling Manager Bob Keenan said. "The Central Landfill location is just the start of this vital recycling program. Additional oyster recycling containers will be added to the three manned Transfer Stations in Berlin, Snow Hill, and Pocomoke in the coming weeks."

Recycled oyster shells are the preferred natural substrate for oyster production. Each recycled shell can be used to grow up to ten young oysters (spat), which are then planted by the ORP in the bays to restore declining oyster habitats and improve water

quality. To date, some four billion oysters have been planted on 1,500 acres of oyster reefs, and more than 1,200 tons of shells have been recycled to provide homes for new oysters.

Wireless localization available to breast surgery patients

Women and men preparing for a breast lumpectomy or excisional biopsy at Atlantic General Hospital will encounter a more comfortable pre-surgery experience, thanks to a generous donation from John H. 'Jack' Burbage, Jr. The local businessman and philanthropist's recent \$100,000 gift to the Burbage Regional Cancer Care Center funded the purchase of Merit Medical's SCOUT wireless breast localization for Atlantic General's breast patients, in addition to other technologies.

Like other healthcare facilities in the region, Atlantic General Hospital had relied on traditional wire localization – a procedure performed before breast surgery to mark the location of a tumor or suspicious lesion to guide the surgeon.

During wire localization, a hooked wire is inserted into the breast to mark the location of the lesion. Because the end of the wire protrudes from the breast, it is typically placed on the morning of surgery. Patients must restrict their movement so that the wire is not accidentally displaced. At the time of surgery (which can be several hours after wire placement), the surgeon follows the wire to find and remove the lesion.

With SCOUT wire-free localization, a tiny device smaller than a grain of rice is placed into the abnormal tissue. This "reflector" can be placed any time prior to surgery and later be detected by the surgeon using radar waves. This flexibility allows for easier coordination of the placement procedure and the subsequent surgery, potentially resulting in fewer surgery delays.

During the placement, the radiologist:

- Confirms the location of the abnormal tissue using imaging (mammography or ultrasound)
- Uses a local anesthetic to numb the targeted area of the breast
- Introduces the reflector through a small needle under image guidance
- Confirms the placement of the reflector

The reflector cannot be felt after placement and patients can resume normal activity until surgery. It is completely passive until activated in the operating room. During surgery, the surgeon uses

radar with SCOUT's 360-degree detection capabilities to locate the reflector's exact position, with instant response readings to guide the dissection path.

This precision localization helps increase the likelihood of complete lesion removal, thereby reducing the need for a second surgery and expediting any subsequent treatment at the Burbage Regional Cancer Care Center.

"A positive byproduct of the accuracy of this system is the improved conservation of healthy breast tissue," said Atlantic General breast surgeon Alae Zarif. "This can translate into better cosmetic outcomes and increased confidence for women undergoing surgery."

"Breast cancer surgery can be physically and emotionally distressing. This solution improves surgical outcomes, which result in decreased post-operative complications, allowing us to quickly treat patients in the medical and radiation oncology setting," said Virginia Wildman, CRNP, nurse practitioner at the Burbage Regional Cancer Care Center.

SCOUT wireless localization is now available at Atlantic General Hospital's Eunice Q. Sorin Women's Diagnostic Center for women and men undergoing breast lumpectomy or biopsy. The Sorin center is the only facility on the lower Eastern Shore offering this service. For more information, call the center at (410) 641-9215 or visit www.agh.care/for-women.

New officers

On Wednesday, September 20 the new officers of the Kiwanis Club of Ocean Pines-Ocean City were installed at Lighthouse Sound Restaurant. (L-R) New Board members **John Hanberry**, **Jim Maratea**, **President-Elect Candy Foreman**, **President Bob Wolfing** and **Lt. Governor District 5 Robin Marks**.



Neptune follows 11-year solar cycles

For centuries, astronomers have studied the features of the gas giant planets, for example, the colored bands and great red spot of Jupiter, as well as the constant storm

Astronomy hobbyists generally know that our sun's activity varies in the intensity of its sunspots and solar flares. This solar turbulence builds up over time, and reaches

aligned well with the solar cycles. Data from Neptune's cloud cover and its overall brightness both seemed to be following the sun's lead.

just three degrees away from Saturn.

A special event occurs Saturday October 14, when an "annular" solar eclipse crosses the US, with the full effect only visible in some western states. At its most extreme, 91 percent of the sun's surface will be covered by the moon's disk, leaving only a thin ring, or "annulus" illuminating the sky. But even this is extremely bright and can quickly cause blindness, so that hobbyists are cautioned to never look directly at the sun. Do not rely on sunglasses or camera film negatives. One safe method is to look downwards at the shadow patterns created on the ground by a shade tree; – the small gaps between leaves act like pinhole devices projecting a series of small discs. The event is likely to appear on

Astronomy & Spaceflight

By Douglas Hemmick, Ph.D.



systems in the giant planet's atmosphere. In August this year, researchers announced a fascinating discovery about the cloud patterns in the atmosphere of the planet Neptune.

The team of astronomers led by Imke de Pater at the University of California at Berkeley found that the outermost planet Neptune shows a definite cycle in its cloud formations, falling in line with the 11-year rise and fall of solar activity.

peak activity, before dying down again, and then starting another increase. The full cycle takes 11 years.

The Berkeley team analyzed Neptune's cloud formations using data from the Hubble telescope, the Keck telescopes of Mauna Kea, Hawaii, as well the Lick observatory in Los Angeles. The group examined archived observations from 1994 to 2022 and they found two brightness maxima and two minima that

Professor de Pater said: "These remarkable data give us the strongest evidence yet that Neptune's cloud cover correlates with the Sun's cycle. ... Our findings support the theory that the Sun's UV rays, when strong enough, may be triggering a photo-chemical reaction that produces Neptune's clouds." When the sun is turbulent, more intense ultraviolet (UV) radiation floods the Solar System. Yet the discovery was unexpected due to the icy giant's outermost position from the Sun and the minimal amount of light it receives compared with that taken in on Earth.

Many people are aware that the occasional strong flares from the sun may impact power grids and cell phones. This same solar cycle may be noted in Earth's skies by tracing the intensity and frequency of the northern lights. Now

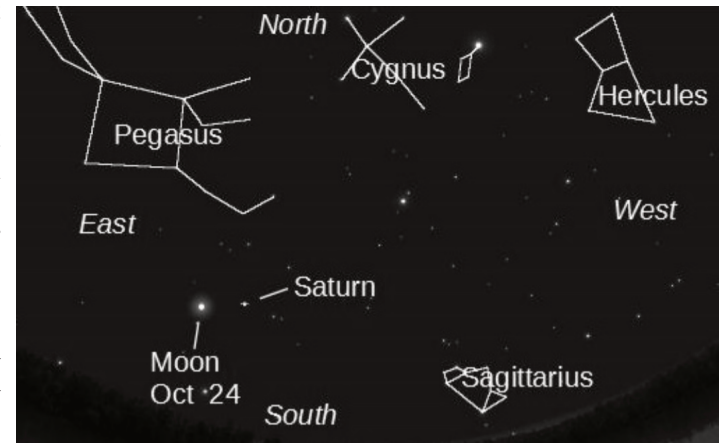
astronomers have seen that Neptune's atmosphere is following a similar pattern.

This research has been reported in the journal "Icarus."

As the October skies grow fully dark, after about 7:30 p.m. Cygnus the Swan (Northern Cross) floats high overhead. To the west appears Hercules the Hero, while the "teapot" of Sagittarius the Archer hovers above the southern horizon.

The familiar fall constellation, the Great Square of Pegasus rides high above the eastern horizon. Sports fans may proclaim that its large square shape outlines a baseball diamond in the sky, celebrating the championship season.

Look for the planet Saturn about 25 degrees above the southern horizon, eastward from Sagittarius. On October 24, the moon appears



television news, as well.

The eclipse in the US begins at around 9:16 a.m. Pacific Time as the shadow enters the Pacific coast of Oregon, then moves slowly towards Texas. Other parts of the country will see just a partial eclipse.

Here in our region, we can still experience about a 40 percent effect, and the sun's disk will begin to darken around noon with maximum effect at about 1:15 p.m. The sun will recover its full brightness in our region at about 2:45 p.m.

Meteor shower fans will get a chance to observe the Orionid meteors which peak on the night of October 21 and morning of October 22. Stargazers may expect to see bright meteors (shooting stars) after about 1:45 a.m. in the eastern sky.

Wishing good luck and clear skies to all stargazers.

horrors

from page 6

Biden, as one of the first actions of his presidency, signed an Executive Order ending the DNA testing of children at the border to make sure they are actually with their families, and not human traffickers. The facilities are (and have been for over two years) overflowing, and can hold not one more person, so they are being let go and told to go wherever they want. The Biden administration is flying thousands of migrants all over the country to towns small and large, with no warning to the local governments. Governors Abbott and DeSantis are sending busloads of migrants (at their request) to New York and Chicago and San Francisco. The mayors of these big blue cities and governors of these blue states are crying that they can't afford all these migrants and someone needs to do something. Well, you know, all of these big blue cities are "sanctuary cities" - they've been patting themselves on the back for years for being so open and kind and generous. Reality bites hard, doesn't it? These cities are finally getting a

taste of what small towns in Texas and New Mexico and Arizona and southern California have been suffering.

Eleven thousand illegal migrants have crossed our southern border in the last 24 hours (as I write this on September 25th). Over 2,000 per day are crossing into Eagle Pass, Texas, a town of about 28,000-30,000 (about the size of Salisbury). How is this town supposed to handle this?

So, a couple of questions:

1. How much money do you think this is costing American taxpayers, since we are supporting these people with housing, food, medical care, schools and on and on and on?

2. How many fentanyl overdose deaths are acceptable? Is it acceptable that Mexican drug and human trafficking cartels have control of our border?

3. If you are the leader of a country, and you are allowing this to happen, and lying about it, what does that say about you? And what do you think might be the motivation?

Carol Frazier
Ocean Pines



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Art League special event is Friday

The Art League of Ocean City announced a special First Friday art opening featuring five new art shows plus a special exhibit honoring recovery from addiction. Patty Buchta will provide live music on acoustic guitar during the opening, and PKS Investments is sponsoring complimentary beverages during Friday's event.

The Thaler Gallery will feature large-scale paintings created by Leo Kahl of Ocean View, De. in a show he calls "Coastal Impressions." Born in Baltimore, Md., Kahl was exposed to creativ-

ity and inventiveness at an early age and attended the Maryland Institute College of Art. He would make use of visualization, design, and technical skills for the next four decades envisioning and marketing commercial and industrial products. After moving to Delaware in 2020, Kahl devoted his full attention to making art, and has won awards for his paintings in Art League shows. The light and wildlife of the coastal regions of Maryland and Delaware are a constant source of inspiration for him.

Studio E will feature Beth Deeley of

Ocean City, Md. in a show entitled "Wicked Waves." The artist, who spends several months a year in Costa Rica, is a lifetime crafter and student of macrame but found weaving four years ago. "I love color and nature and try to combine the two in my pieces," she said. "Each strand, each piece of fabric, is a meditation or a thought or a moment in my life."

The Sisson Galleria will feature an all-media group show exhibiting abstract art. The judge for the show is Deborah Rolig of Berlin, Md, who will award cash prizes to the winners.

Rolig is also the artisan for the month of October. A graduate of the Maryland Institute College of Art and daughter of regional artist, Richard Harryman, Rolig blends her traditional training with her love of abstract art to create her own unique style. She defines her process as intuitive and loves the "laying down and taking out [which] leaves me with a surface that has history. Each layer, a moment in time recorded, is like a chapter in a book, and I'm never quite sure how it will end."

The Spotlight Gallery will be home to a special event honoring artists who are in recovery from addiction. The "Art of

Recovery" exhibition challenges misconceptions and negativity towards those battling addiction and displays art created by individuals in recovery from across the Eastern Shore. The Preston Motors "Preston Goes Purple Truck" will be parked in the Arts Center's parking lot for guests to sign with special encouraging messages. This exhibit is a partnership among the Art League, Wor-Wic Community College, Salisbury University, and Worcester Goes Purple.

The Art League also opens two new offsite exhibits in October. Amanda Lind of Berlin, Md. will be exhibiting her abstract and mixed media artwork, inspired by pop and modern art, at the Coffee Beanery on 94th St. and Coastal Hwy. Carol Ward of Salisbury, Md., who is president of the Tidewater Camera Club, will display her photographs, including nighttime astrophotography, in the lobby of the Princess Royale, 9100 Coastal Hwy.

Arts Center shows will be on display until October 28; satellite shows, until December 31. More information is available at OCart.org or by calling 410-524-9433.



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crows
from page 12

adapt to a number of different environments as well.

Humans commonly view crows, of any species, as pests or even bad omens. We have even invented scarecrows with the intention of scaring crows away from our crops! Farmers frequently shoot and kill crows for eating their crops. While crows will take advantage of free food, they often become the victims of false accusations.

Mice and rats will nibble at or eat crops, leading crows to take the blame, and the brunt of the farmers' anger. Large congregations of crows

can also present the problem of damage in the form of poop. Large flocks of birds in and near cities can rain feces down in addition to damaging crops. Oftentimes these birds have been killed in mass numbers to solve this problem.

Individual crow behavior varies based on the species. Many different species of crows are solitary, but roost in groups. Some species will create small groups including a mated pair and their offspring. Younger animals tend to forage and roost together in large groups.

A group of crows is called a "murder," and if a member of the murder is murdered, the crows will

group around the individual. They perform this behavior to determine what killed the crow, and to mob the attacker and chase it away.

Crows are very commonly viewed as a bad omen. They are seen as a harbinger of death, particularly around wars. This unfortunate image possibly originated as a result of crows feeding on those killed in battle during wars. They followed the troops in anticipation of further meals, and became associated with death. Unfortunately for crows this association has stuck, leading to general ill-will towards this "pest" of a bird.

-animals network

Trivia returns to library

Trivia at the Ocean Pines library: "Gridirons, Grand Slams and Goblins" event will be held on Wednesday, October 11 from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the large meeting room. Prizes will be awarded to the top three finishers with refreshments served. The event is free with no registration necessary. No team is too big or small. Bring your friends, neighbors, siblings, in-laws or come and form a team at the event. Sponsored by Friends of the Ocean Pines Library.

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