

The Courier

May 22, 2024 Volume 24 Number 35



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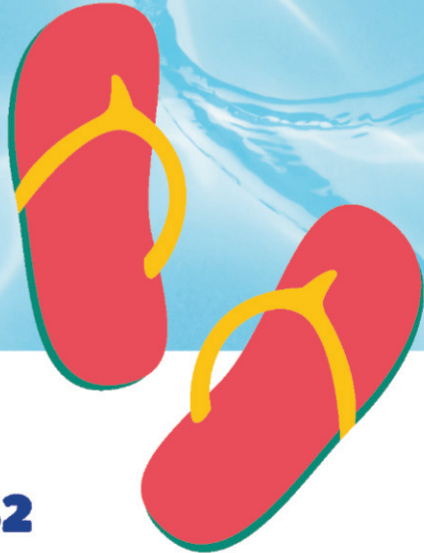
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SATURDAY, JUNE 15 5-8PM

MUSIC

FOOD

GAMES



**NON-RESIDENT \$8 RESIDENT \$6
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BRING A TOWEL



Five candidates certified for OPA Board election

Ocean Pines Association Secretary John Latham this week announced that he has certified five candidates as eligible to run in the 2024 Board of Directors election.

The candidates, in alphabetical order, are: Sherrie Clifford, Rick Farr, Jeff Heavner, Jerry Murphy, and Amy Peck.

This year, two seats on the Board will be up for election: those currently held by Farr and Heavner. The seven-member volunteer board is the governing body of Ocean Pines.

Important upcoming election dates include:

-*Eligible Candidate Draw and Workshop* (to determine ballot order and seating during candidate forums) – Friday, May 31 at 2 p.m. in the Blue Room of the Administration Building

-*Voter eligibility deadline* – Tuesday, July 2

-*Candidate Forum* – TBD

-*Ballot deadline* – Tuesday, Aug. 6 by 4 p.m.

-*Ballots counted and vote totals announced* – Thursday, Aug 8

-*Annual Meeting* – Saturday, Aug. 10

Elections Committee Chair Tom Piatti asked for homeowners to submit questions for upcoming candidate forums by email, at elections@oceanpines.org.

For questions about the election, contact the Elections Committee at elections@oceanpines.org.

Negro baseball to be commemorated

Negro League Baseball Celebration Day will be held Sunday, May 26 at Delmarva Shorebirds Arthur W. Perdue Stadium in Salisbury. The Delmarva Shorebirds will take on the Columbia Fireflies. The event, sponsored by McDonald's Corporation and the Delmarva Shorebirds, will begin at 2:05 p.m.

For more information, contact NAACP President Ivory Smith at 443-944-6701.



Presentation - Clinical Herbalist Michaela Eggers was the guest speaker at a recent meeting of the Worcester County Garden Club. Owner of the Little Green Witch Apothecary in Berlin, Eggers informed members about the medicinal benefits of some common herbs and shared samples of several delicious teas available in her store.

Above are Worcester County Garden Club President **Joan LaHayne** (l) and **Michaela Eggers** (r).



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Now open - Expansion of the Tiki Bar at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club was completed recently and a ribbon cutting took place Sunday.

Above (left to right) are former board member **Doug Parks**, board members **Elaine Brady**, **John Latham**, General Manager **John Viola**, board members **Jeff Heavner**, **Rick Farr** (president), **Monica Rakowski** and **Stuart Rakowski**. Photo by Chip Bertino.

OPA ends FY24 with positive variance

The unaudited forecast (estimate) for fiscal year 2023-2024 shows Ocean Pines with a positive variance to

budget of just over \$1.1 million. The results mark the sixth consecutive year with a positive variance to budget, and the fourth-straight year with a favorability greater than \$1 million.

General Manager John Viola said nearly half that was based on the positive performance by amenities, including Golf favorable to budget by \$224,100 and Aquatics favorable by \$111,242. He said the \$45,460 favorability at the Clubhouse Grille was a function of the Golf Club's success, with compliments to the food and beverage grill team.

OPA also lowered the assessment, and increased spending on public safety, maintenance, and drainage, among other areas.

To view the FY24 unaudited financials and other Ocean Pines Association financial reports, visit www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/finance.



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Call of duty

From the time the ink dried on the final signature affixed to the Declaration of Independence in 1776, our nation has expected much of those who have worn a military uniform in service of this country.

We demand valor in the heat of bat-

can make one a target for vengeance and terrorism. For that matter just being an American can make one a target.

It is easy to forget that the liberty we take for granted was secured by fellow citizens who took up arms and laid down their lives to defend this country.

During the fall of Saigon in 1975 people were so desperate to escape communism that they ran alongside taxiing jets attempting to jump aboard or latch onto landing gear so when it retracted they would be scooped into the underbelly of the plane and

into the bosom of freedom. Many never made it.

During the Cold War no one tried to escape West Germany into East Germany over or under the Berlin Wall. People were shot dead fleeing the other way though. When was the last time you heard or saw someone attempt to escape the freedom of the United States? There are some who should because they express so much disdain for what makes this nation great.

Monday is Memorial Day. It is more than a three-day weekend, more than a series of holiday sales and more than the beginning of the summer season. It is a day to honor the common people who, in extraordinary, frightening situations, died on beaches, in foxholes, in rice patties, in jungles, in urban settings, on the open sea and in P.O.W. camps while in service to this nation under God. It is a day to remember men and women who never returned to their families because they gave their lives protecting our way of life.

These heroes never had another opportunity to take for granted the pleasantness of playing catch in the backyard with a child, dancing spontaneously in the kitchen with a spouse when a favorite song comes on the radio or deciding which fishing hole would be best. Instead their images are frozen in time within the pages of school yearbooks and family albums. Their memories are animated in the faraway glances of saddened parents, spouses, siblings or children.

Memorial Day is a reminder that sacrifice is the ballast of liberty. We should keep that in mind as we enjoy a holiday barbecue in the company of friends and family, deciding whether to have another hamburger or hot dog.

May the brave men and women we honor Monday rest in peace and their memory be as vibrant as they once were. God bless!



It's All About...

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

tle. We expect success to be wrestled from the grip of defeat. And as if that were not enough, we demand self-sacrifice in pursuit or defense of a fundamental right we often take for granted, liberty.

From declared wars such as the American Revolution, the War of 1812, the Mexican War, the Civil War, the Spanish American War, World War I and World War II to undeclared conflicts such as the naval war with France, the First and Second Barbary Wars, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, the most recent conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq and other periods of conflict throughout our history, our nation has been blessed to have defenders step forward from the ranks of the citizenry.

Whether wearing the uniform of the Army, Marines, Air Force, Navy or Coast Guard, the sons and daughters of this nation put themselves between the enemy and our country.

Although the motives of political leaders who deploy our military are sometimes questioned, there is no questioning the resolve and dedication of the individuals who serve in our military. All nationalities, races, creeds and colors have worn the nation's uniform. Two of my boys serve our country, my son and son-in-law. We should be thankful for their service and the service of millions of others who respond to the call of duty. I am.

Some Americans were drafted, others volunteered. Regardless, they took up the banner of the United States and served our country. They did a job that was thankless, harrowing, heroic and dangerous.

Understood by everyone who has worn a military uniform is the reality that they may not return or may return with broken body and spirit.

This reality is not just for those going off to war. It is also a reality for those stationed around the world. Sometimes just wearing an American military uniform

Annual Memorial Day Ceremony

Monday, May 27, 2024 11 a.m.



*Honoring Those
Who Made the
Ultimate Sacrifice
and their Families*

In the event of inclement weather the ceremony will move to the Ocean Pines Community Center.

Check Oceanpines.org, WoCoVets.org. or Facebook for weather related changes.

All are welcome - please bring your lawn chairs.



Commentary

By Joe Reynolds
OceanPinesForum.com

OPA and leaks

No governing body likes leaks. However, leaks about secret deliberations or secret actions by any governing body, including an HOA Board of Directors like that of the Ocean Pines Association, are a fact of life. If leaks were actually water, this place would be underwater.

On one occasion, asked for comments about what transpired during a closed board session, then OPA board member Dave Stevens replied, "I won't comment, but you will probably be able to read all about it in the next issue of the *Bayside Gazette*."

In 2004 this commentator began

shooting video of OPA board meetings. There were rumors the board president wanted to prevent video recordings of board meetings. An article in a local paper about this contained an interview with the board president where he denied even thinking about taking such a dastardly position.

A week or two later another board member came to me in the parking lot after an evening board meeting, handed me an envelope, and said, "Read what's inside when you get home." The envelope contained a legal opinion from OPA's attorney responding to the board president's request for

an opinion on whether he could prevent me from doing video of the meetings. That OPA president flat-out lied to the reporter.

Then there was a staff reporter with a local newspaper who wrote nothing but glowing articles about the Board of Directors. Out of the blue, the reporter befriended this commentator for initially unknown reasons. At the time, board meetings were sometimes held on weekday mornings. After the meetings, the reporter and I would sometimes have lunch together. On occasions when the board went into closed session, the reporter would typically receive a phone call while we were at lunch - a call from the board president who told the reporter everything that went on in the closed session.

A sidebar to that reporter's activity is when he began authoring news articles with quotes from association members saying their computers were infected with a virus after joining the forum [OceanPinesForum.com]. There were many individuals quoted. I asked the reporter about the sources of his quotes. Foolishly, he sent me copies of emails he claimed to have received from association members.

The kicker was these emails contained the Internet IP address of those sending the emails. That IP address was the same on every email, and the same as the reporter's! He had set up fake email addresses and then sent himself emails from those to use as quotes in his reporting. Quite unbelievable. Supplied with copies of those emails, the reporter's editor fired him on the spot.

A publisher of another paper is supposed to have said he knew the results of an important closed-session topic before the board members ever left the parking lot after the meeting.

Then there is a former board member who, to his credit, would on occasion simply provide direct quotes in his name to newspaper reporters on some issue that might be going on behind closed doors. His reasoning? He thought it was in the best interests of the Ocean Pines Association membership to do so.

One board president liked to tell new board members anything said in a closed meeting would probably end up in the local papers. He was known to leak information to local papers on a regular basis.

The current board recently put out a statement signed by six of the seven sitting directors. The only director's signature missing on the OPA-released statement was that of Director Steve Jacobs. The statement was in response to public revelations that the Board of Directors, in secret, wanted to send some sort of "cease and desist" letter to three women, essentially accusing them of making defamatory comments about the board on Facebook. Heavy-duty stuff.

The statement said, among other things, "We also wish to express our collective dismay and disappointment in regard to disclosures of confidential OPA information leaking improperly from this Board to members of the media and others, in an apparent attempt to disrupt and undermine the legitimate deliberative processes of this corporate Board."

The statement never mentioned Jacobs. However, as former Director Marty Clarke said a decade or so ago when the board president started talking about removing a director for leaking information but mentioned no name, "Everybody in the room knows who you are talking about."

Is closed session discussion of what three women are posting on Facebook part of the "legitimate deliberative processes of this corporate Board?"

While the statement by "the six" mentioned no one by name, a recent newspaper article announcing the five candidates, insinuated the statement of the six board members was directed specifically at two women currently running as candidates for the Board of Directors, women who as board candidates, oppose the six members who signed the statement.

Leaks from the OPA Board of Directors have been a constant staple of local newspaper coverage since the election of the first OPA Board of Di-

please see leaks on page 8

Courier Almanac

On May 22, 1972, President Richard Nixon arrived in Moscow for a summit with Soviet leaders.

Superfood or super fooled? It is common knowledge that enjoying a well-rounded diet of foods that boast diverse nutrient profiles can help give the body what it needs to stay healthy. Many foods are healthy, some less so. But are there really "superfoods" that are much healthier than others? For some time people were led to believe so, but nutrition is much more complex. Foods touted to knock out free radicals in the body, which are believed to contribute to various illnesses, are often characterized as superfoods. According to author Ben Goldacre, author of *Bad Science*, the body actually uses free radicals to kill bacteria, and Goldacre notes they may not be so bad in certain amounts. Every food producer wants to expand sales, and it's great marketing to refer to a particular food as a superfood. The Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health says that there's no scientifically based or regulated definition of the term superfood, despite widespread use of the term and even its inclusion in the Merriam-Webster Dictionary. It's believed



the term superfood originated in the early twentieth century as part of a food marketing strategy by the United Fruit Company to promote its major import of bananas around the time of World War I. Later, bananas were touted as superfoods in medical journals, which gave the term some additional credibility. Seeing as the superfood moniker translates to superior sales, it's had some staying power, if also a little controversy. Consumers must wade through the hype and realize they can vary their diets accordingly to maximize nutritional focus without being lured in by a superfood characterization. Many foods are beneficial. And as always, questions regarding health and nutrition can be discussed with a health care provider.

The Courier

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MEMORIAL DAY WE REMEMBER



*American Legion
Post 166*

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And Are Serving,
We Remember
And
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Who Gave All
With this Pledge,
To Live Up To
The Ideals
You Sacrificed
To Preserve.

In God We Trust

On our Servicemen and Women We Rely



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Jolly Roger Parks to celebrate 60th season

Jolly Roger Amusement Parks will mark its 60th anniversary and the start of the summer this Memorial Day weekend. Splash Mountain Water Park will officially open on Saturday, May 25 at 10 a.m., joining the four other Jolly Roger Parks that are already open for limited hours.

Be a part of this historic moment as we pay homage to our history, enjoying the nostalgia and embracing the exhilarating prospects that lie ahead.

“This is a milestone moment where our community gets to honor and reflect on an Ocean City classic,

one that has driven our resort forward,” said Steve Pastusak, Vice President of Jolly Roger Amusement Parks. “It’s a joy for us to commemorate six decades of bringing families together, serving as a pillar of our community, and welcoming guests from around the world to enjoy our specialty — thrills, and adventures at our family-friendly parks.”

Ride enthusiasts, game lovers, and their families are invited to join Jolly Roger Parks in celebrating with giveaways and fun surprises throughout the upcoming #MyJollySummer!

The official 60th Anniversary Celebration event will take place on June 4 at 5 p.m.

For more information on Jolly

Roger Amusement Parks 60th Anniversary visit <https://jollyrogerpark.com/60th-anniversary/>.



Shelton Leslie thanks supporters

Editor:

Now that the primary voting is over, I want to thank all the hard working, kind people that supported me in the recent primary for Board of Education in District 5.

On Tuesday, April 30, 2024, the Republican Committee sponsored a Forum. All three of the candidates for District 5's Board of Education for Worcester County

were there. I want to thank the Republican Committee for sponsoring this event and thank all the many people that came to hear what each of the three candidates had to say.

I want to thank all of the voters that voted for me. Without you I would not have won the primary and made it to the general election. I feel confident your votes are saying that my conservative, common sense message is what you want to hear and support. Thank you. This is a very critical election. We need to take back our board of education and our schools. We are headed in the wrong direction, but if we work together, Worcester County Public Schools can once again become the best in the state of Maryland and in the country.

I want to thank all the people who put my signs in their yards and on their vehicles, those that waved signs at the South Gate, told people about what I stood for, and knocked on hundreds of doors that I could never have gotten to spreading my message. I want to thank all the people who

wrote generous checks from their dwindling personal budgets. Thank you to all of you who shared with me unfortunate experiences in our schools that made me even more determined to make a difference for our children. Thank you to those that encouraged me in my first run for any office ever. I was completely green and you sent me in the right direction and gave me wonderful ideas and guidance. I also want to say a special thank you to my wonderful husband, Gary, who was with me through it all and worked so hard on my campaign. You are the best partner ever. All of you made it possible for me to get out of the primary and on to the general election. I just want you to know how special you are and that you are the reason for this success. Your hard work and support is much appreciated. We made a great team and the success is due to each of you. I will never be able to say thank you often enough. You are all the highlight of my journey through the primary,

I am praying for our district, our students, our teachers, and our administrators to do what is best for our district. Also, I am praying for all the voters to make the best decision when they vote in the general election. Our work has just gotten started. I just want all of you to know how special you are and how much you are appreciated. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Dorothy Shelton Leslie
Candidate for BOE
District 5

Health Dept. encourages men's wellness

To kick off Men's Health Month, the Worcester County Health Department in collaboration with the City of Pocomoke, is hosting its second *Just Walk for Men's Health* event on June 1, at Cypress Park in Pocomoke City. This event will include a walk, no-cost health screenings, community resources, and more. Pre-registration is encouraged through Google Forms and same-day registration is also available. The first 50 individuals to

pre-register will receive a free commemorative T-shirt. This family and pet-friendly event is open to all county residents.

Registration and check-in will start at 8:30 a.m., followed by a pre-walk warm-up at 9 a.m. with Gary Press, owner of G-Fit Boot Camp. The walk will begin at 9:15 a.m., afterwards participants are encouraged to visit health vendors and participate in free health

please see wellness on page 16

leaks
from page 4

rectors decades ago. Leaks usually happen because some board member believes what the board is discussing secretly is not eligible for secret discussion, or simply wrong.

Whatever the legalities involved, perhaps there are times when board members push the envelope on what they should be discussing in secret. The Maryland HOA Act allows boards to discuss certain issues in private. Any number of board members over the years complained that the board would vote to go into closed session for a specific purpose and then also discuss issues totally unrelated to the publicly specified purpose of the meeting. Doing so is a violation of the HOA Act.

Should an elected board member respect his or her conscience and make public what is going on in secret if he or she believes such secret activity is harmful to the Association? Doing so, of course, leaves the board member

open to potential removal for cause as allowed in the bylaws.

Reasonable association members recognize the need for closed meetings. However, boards should not abuse their legal right to discuss certain matters in closed session. Board members, acting in what they believe is in the best interest of the association or their belief the board is abusing its right, risk retribution from those who disagree.

No director has ever been removed "for cause" related to leaking, even though there have been hundreds of instances of leaking, mostly by members of various board majorities. Any board describing its "collective dismay" over leaks is somewhat amusing in that leaks done over the years by board members in the majority have never been challenged. The only leaks challenged are leaks by board members not in the board majority. There is a word for this - politics.

Any director ever removed by a 2/3rds vote of board members has two choices: Go home or go to court.

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Trails & Waterways

A trail with stunning vistas and amenities

By **Laura Sharle**

This Trails column within the Delmarva Courier typically focuses on trails and greenspaces within Worcester County, but occasionally we like to venture to neighboring counties to highlight more trail variety within the region. While most of the trails we highlight are out in nature, traversing over dirt or sand, just 11 miles north of the state line in Delaware is a concrete trail with stunning, sweeping views of the ocean. This is the Indian River Inlet bridge. Or to be more specific, the Charles W. Cullen bridge. Despite the newest version of this bridge being open for nearly 12 years, many still don't realize that there is a bike and pedestrian path that runs over it, providing a safe and scenic stroll for anyone looking to cross the inlet by foot.

Prior to its construction completion in 2012, getting over the Indian River Inlet by foot was like taking your own life into your hands. The shoulder was narrow and cars zipping by at 60-plus mph were just an arm's length away. Today, the bike and pedestrian path is over 8 feet wide and is separated from traffic by a tall, concrete barrier.

ming in and out of the inlet in the summer. In the winter, it's not uncommon to see seals resting on the rocks of the jetties. A variety of terns are often seen flying in the shadows underneath the bridge in an effort to spot bait fish without the glare of the sun. My favorite wildlife to watch from the bridge shows up in the winter: the long-tailed ducks. I'll watch dozens of them ride the tide through the inlet, then fly back to the other end, just to ride the tide again. They do this over and over again. This behavior reminds me of kids on a slide at the playground.

Speaking of playgrounds, the trail over the bridge connects with two



The bridge itself is less than a quarter mile in length, but the pathway meets up with a sidewalk that meanders down to the beach, the state park campgrounds on both sides of the inlet, and all the way back to the Indian River Marina and Burton Island Nature Preserve. You could honestly spend a half day exploring the whole area by foot if you wanted. Delaware Seashore State Park even offers occasional guided hikes over the bridge, covering the history of the inlet and the range of bridges that predate the current bridge.

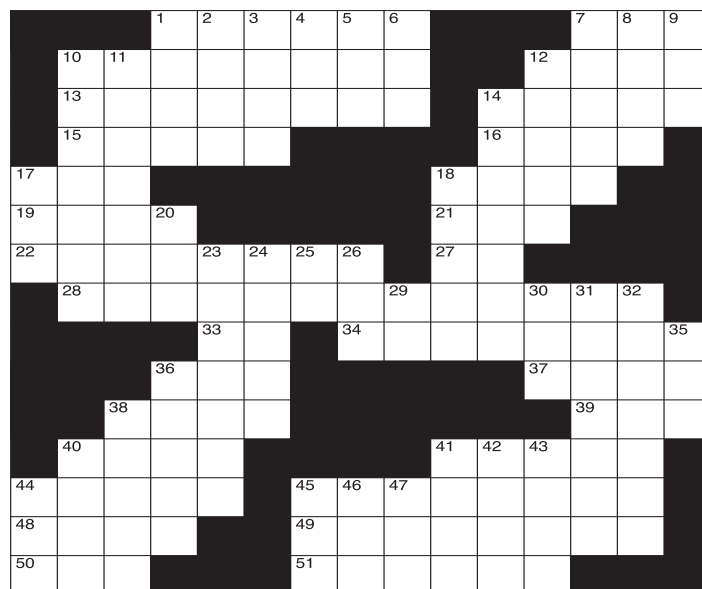
And despite all the concrete (it's needed, given the inlet's harsh and dynamic environment), this walk can be packed with wildlife and scenery. From the top of the bridge, on a clear day, you can see all the way north to Rehoboth Beach and all the way west to the Indian River power station in Millsboro. One of my favorite things to do is to walk up to the top during a full moon to watch the sunset over the bay and the moon rise over the ocean.

playgrounds, one by the Coast Guard station and one by the southside campground, making this trail fun for all ages. And if that's not enough to entice you to walk the bridge, you can combine your adventure with a stop for lunch or even an adult beverage at the Big Chill Beach Club or at Dockside Marina Bar & Grill, both within walking distance of the trail.

There's nothing comparable to the Indian River Inlet pathway here in Worcester County, but it is my dream to one day have a safe bike and pedestrian pathway along the new Route 90 bridge. We too would have restaurants on each end, a connection to a nature preserve, and some great wildlife sightings.

Laura Scharle enjoys all things outdoors and is an avid kayaker. She resides in Ocean Pines with her husband and son. Laura developed www.DelmarvaTrailsandWaterways.com to connect people with trails, beaches, piers, and public lands across the peninsula.

I frequently spot dolphins swim-



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Lunatic
- 7. Doctor of Education
- 10. Able to make amends
- 12. Tight-knit group
- 13. Gland
- 14. Intestinal pouches
- 15. Fungal spores
- 16. Erstwhile
- 17. Engine additive
- 18. Nasal mucus
- 19. Fit a horse with footwear
- 21. Consumed
- 22. Settle
- 27. Larry and Curly's pal
- 28. Basketball's GOAT
- 33. Exclamation of surprise
- 34. Made tight
- 36. Before
- 37. Actor Nicolas
- 38. Not hot
- 39. Talk
- 40. Pledge
- 41. Abandon a mission
- 44. Trims by cutting
- 45. Aspects of one's character
- 48. Boxing GOAT's former surname
- 49. Holy places
- 50. Body art (slang)
- 51. Attributes

CLUES DOWN

- 1. How one feels
- 2. American Nat'l Standards Institute
- 3. Information
- 4. Licensed for Wall Street
- 5. Keyboard key
- 6. Born of
- 7. Choose to represent
- 8. Small European freshwater fish
- 9. Everyone has their own
- 10. Line from the center of a polygon
- 11. Lebanese city
- 12. Type of watercraft
- 14. A way to twist
- 17. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 18. Greek island
- 20. Medical practitioner
- 23. ___ DeGaulle, French President
- 24. Partner to "oohed"
- 25. Atomic #52
- 26. Santa's helper
- 29. Rapper ___ Rule
- 30. Month
- 31. Word formed by rearranging letters
- 32. Nullifies
- 35. Young woman ready to enter society
- 36. Unemployment
- 38. Weight unit
- 40. Formal party
- 41. Computer language
- 42. Residue formula in math
- 43. Duty or responsibility
- 44. Part of (abbr.)
- 45. Time zone
- 46. Body part
- 47. Nucleic acid



Answers for May 15

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RESPECT, COMPASSION
COMMUNITY SERVICE**

Wild Blue Yonder

The B-17G Nine O Nine

By **Ralph Ferrusi**

Thursday morning, October 14, 1943 383 8th Air Force heavy bombers—B-17's and B-24's—lifted off from nineteen bases in southeastern

17F Sizzle. Schweinfurt was his sixth mission.

Sixty B-17's with 600 men failed to return to England. Thirteen of the 364th's B-17's never even reached

of 73 years after October 14, 1943, I clambered into the rear hatch of the Collings Foundation B-17G *Nine O Nine* at New York's Dutchess County Airport, hitting my back and then banging my head in the process. I couldn't imagine what it was like in the cold, thin air at 25,000 feet in the flak- and fighter-filled skies over Germany in 1943. A big part of the reason I was here today was to *try* to imagine this.

Rides in the *Nine O Nine* ran \$450. My birthday was the coming up: hmmm, maybe I should take a B-17 ride as an early birthday present? I called the Collings Foundation and reserved a spot on the *Nine O Nine* for a flight at 5 p.m. on September 9

At 5 p.m. I joined Paul Kollor, his son Mark, and seven others gathering, as ordered, next to the rear hatch of the *Nine O Nine* for a "briefing". We were told under no circumstances to touch any of the cables running through the fuselage, or "*We would be flying the plane.*" And, not to step on the bomb bays doors, or we might become a bomb.

When we boarded, five lucky people were positioned forward, and five of us, including Paul, Mark, and myself sat on the floor on makeshift seats in the waist gunner's area.

The engines fired up, and the plane started vibrating, but us five couldn't see anything. The four Wright Cyclone R-1820 1200 horsepower engines eventually opened up full throttle, and we were off! I was very impressed by the acceleration; we were actually pushed towards the rear of the plane. The five of us were all grinning like kids on Christmas morning.

We finally leveled off at 3,000 feet

and we five were told we could walk around. Two things: the plane is very cramped: I banged my head about a dozen times, and we had to do a lot of dodging and tap-dancing not to knock each other over in our excitement to take it all in, and, take pictures.

First, I looked out the waist gunner's windows, then threaded around the ball turret, through the bomb bay on a very narrow catwalk, and into the radio compartment, that had an opening to the sky. We'd been warned the 160-mph slipstream could tear off our hats, glasses, and, our cameras. I took some pictures, carefully, then went up into the top turret, with its 360-degree view above the plane, and then to the flight deck.

We had been told not to talk to the pilots, so I took some pictures, then dropped down into the navigator/bombardier's compartment right in the nose. What a view! We were heading up the Hudson. I'd lived in the Hudson Valley all my life, but in all the excitement, I couldn't place any landmarks and figure out exactly where we were. We swung majestically around, and headed back to the airport.

All in all, it was an awesome, I'd have to say thrilling, experience: loud, cramped, a lot of vibration, but, awesome. If you have the inclination, just do it.

Ralph Ferrusi is a World War II aviation enthusiast. His all-time favorite aircraft is the North American P-51D Mustang. He has actually flown in a P-51D, and, a B-17G and B-25H. Born and raised in New York, he and his wife currently reside in Ocean Pines. Questions, comments; rjferrusi@frontiernet.net.



England, destination, the ball-bearing factories in Schweinfurt, central Germany. Sixteen 305th Bomb Group, 364th Bomb Squadron B-17's lifted off the runway in Chelveston. My wife's uncle, Staff Sergeant Russell Joseph Kiggins was a flight engineer on the B-

Schweinfurt, lost to machine guns, cannons, and rockets fired by swarms of German fighters. Only two B-17's returned to Chelveston that evening; 130 men didn't. Sergeant Kiggins was one of them.

September 9, 2016, a month short

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Interesting facts related to Memorial Day

Memorial Day is celebrated annually on the last Monday of May across the United States. The proximity of Memorial Day to the summer solstice has led many to view the weekend pre-



ceding the holiday as the unofficial kickoff to summer. However, Memorial Day is about more than backyard barbecues and weekend getaways.

Memorial Day honors service members who died while serving in the United States military. Though Memorial Day traces its origins to the

years following the American Civil War in the mid-nineteenth century, it did not become an official federal holiday until 1971. That's one of just many interesting facts about Memorial Day that are worth noting as the United States prepares to commemorate the sacrifices of military personnel who died in service of the country.

Memorial Day began as something of a grass roots movement. According to History.com, by the late 1860s individuals in towns across the war-ravaged United States began holding springtime tributes to soldiers who lost their lives during the American Civil War.

Among the more notable postwar commemorations was one organized

by former slaves in Charleston, South Carolina. That commemoration occurred less than a month after the Confederate forces surrendered in 1865. Despite that, History.com notes that in 1966 the federal government declared Waterloo, New York, the birthplace of Memorial Day.

Postwar commemorations also were organized by northern veterans of the Civil War. General John A. Logan, who led an organization of Union veterans, called for a nationwide day of remembrance in May 1868. General Logan referred to the holiday as Declaration Day and chose May 30 because it was not the anniversary of any specific battle and therefore unlikely to be viewed by some as controversial.

Early commemorations of Decoration Day, which gradually came to be known as Memorial Day, initially honored only those soldiers who died during the American Civil War. However, that changed over time as American servicemen fought in various wars, including both World Wars, the Vietnam War, the Korean War, and other con-

flicts.

The red poppy has become a symbol of Memorial Day. That red poppy can be traced to a poem by Canadian John McCrae, who served as a Lieutenant Colonel in World War I. "In Flanders Field" notes the red poppies that grew in fields where countless soldiers had been buried in modern-day Belgium. The poem was published in 1915, three years before the war ended. Sadly, McCrae himself was a casualty of the war, succumbing to pneumonia in France in 1918 while still in the service.

Memorial Day honors service personnel who lost their lives while serving in the U.S. military. The holiday's inspiration and lengthy history merits consideration as the nation prepares to commemorate countless soldiers' sacrifices once more.

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."

- John F. Kennedy

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- Joseph Campbell

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May We Never Forget Those Who Made the Ultimate Sacrifice

-Rick Farr
President,
Ocean Pines Association

How to help deployed military troops

The nation’s military is comprised of millions of brave men and women who stand for the country’s freedoms by serving domestically and abroad. Whether during war or in peacetime, the military plays an important role in protecting the nation and its interests.

Deployed military personnel face numerous and notable challenges. Every deployment is different, but community support can make deployment easier on military personnel and

more easily if they know their loved ones are happy and safe. Individuals can offer to babysit, run chores, share meals, and engage in other supportive acts with parents or spouses of the deployed.

Check in when you can. Some deployed troops have the ability to check in through video chats. Set aside regular times to touch base even if it is inconvenient. Seeing a familiar face can be a huge pick-me-up.



Offer a listening ear. Venting to a judgment-free ear can help reduce the stress of deployment. It’s not necessary to provide feedback. Sometimes getting thoughts out and just having a supportive shoulder to lean on can help mitigate stress and worry.

Set up resources. Once deployed military return home they may need certain services, such as qualified counseling or assistance finding a home. Having a list of people and resources at the ready can

make assimilation back into domestic life easier.

Send cards and letters. Any correspondence can be a welcome change for deployed personnel. Whether you have a service member deployed or not, you can adopt one and provide assistance and support. Many troops miss huge life events with their families, or may have no family back home. So even one letter or card can make a world of difference.

Send care packages. Care packages provide some of the comforts of home to deployed troops. They also let troops know that they are being thought of even if they are thousands of miles away. To facilitate the process of sending care packages, work with an organization that routinely delivers items to troops. One option is to donate money to the USO, which can send care packages on your behalf.

Support can make deployment a little easier as soldiers cope with the challenges that life in the military can present.

Care for the families left at home. Deployed troops may be able to rest

Decoration Day

On May 5, 1868, General John A. Logan, leader of an organization for Northern Civil War veterans, called for a nationwide day of remembrance later that month. “The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land,” he proclaimed.

The date of Decoration Day, as he called it, was chosen because it wasn’t the anniversary of any particular battle.

On the first Decoration Day, General James Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery, and 5,000 participants decorated the graves of the 20,000 Civil War soldiers buried there.

Many Northern states held similar commemorative events and reprised the tradition in subsequent years; by 1890 each one had made Decoration Day an official state holiday. Southern states, on the other hand, continued to honor the dead on separate days until after World War I.

What families can do to honor fallen veterans

The freedoms people living in the United States are afforded would not have been possible to provide if not for the brave efforts and undying commitment of the many individuals who have served in the nation's armed forces. American military personnel have played vital roles in securing freedoms for their fellow citizens as well as individuals overseas.

Each year on the final Monday in May, the United States commemo-



rates military personnel who lost their lives while serving in the armed forces. Those individuals made the ultimate sacrifice, and Memorial Day is a way to honor them and thank their families for their selfless acts. This Memorial Day, families can embrace various measures to honor fallen veterans.

Visit a local veterans cemetery. The United Service Organization (USO) notes that most states have national veterans cemeteries. Though some veterans cemeteries are open only to family members of service personnel, others are open to the general public. Visiting a veterans cemetery is a great way to honor fallen military members and ensure the memory of their service and sacrifice is not forgotten on Memorial Day.

Celebrate veterans over Memorial Day weekend. Memorial Day weekend is now synonymous with getaways and backyard barbecues. By taking time out during the weekend to honor fallen veterans, families can ensure the meaning behind the holiday is not lost in the midst of celebrations with family and friends. Take time out during a family barbecue to discuss a family member who served or, if traveling, make an effort to visit a veterans memorial along your travel route.

Help raise funds for veterans organizations. Fun runs or community Memorial Day walks may benefit local veterans organizations that help service members in need. Many service members may need help dealing with the deaths of friends or family members who died while serving in the armed forces, and veterans organizations may provide such help or direct funds to groups that do. That makes participation in events that benefit veterans organizations a great way to honor current military personnel and those who have served in the past, including those who died in service of their country.

Teach youngsters about the role of the armed forces. There's a lot competing for the attention of today's young people, and that can make it easy to overlook the very freedoms that make the United States such a unique country throughout world history. Parents and guardians can emphasize the role the armed forces play in procuring and protecting freedoms in the United States and emphasize the significance of the sacrifices of those who gave their lives to ensure a higher quality of life for all U.S. residents.

Memorial Day commemorates military personnel who died while serving in the armed forces. There is much families can do to ensure those sacrifices are never forgotten or taken for granted.

For decades, Memorial Day continued to be observed on May 30, the date General Logan had selected for the first Decoration Day. But in 1968, Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, which established Memorial Day as the last Monday in May in order to create a three-day weekend for federal employees. The change went into effect in 1971. The same law also declared Memorial Day a federal holiday.

Remember...Thank...Support...

Our Troops



I don't have to tell you how fragile this precious gift of freedom is. Every time we hear, watch, or read the news, we are reminded that liberty is a rare commodity in this world.

– President Ronald Reagan

The Republican Women of Worcester County

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We here highly resolve these dead shall not have died in vain; that the nation shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth.

*President Abraham Lincoln
The Gettysburg Address*

On Memorial Day, may we always remember the sacrifices made by the men and women of our Armed Forces.

Senator Mary Beth Carozza
District 38 Worcester/Wicomico/Somerset

Friends of Mary Beth Carozza, James R. Bergey, Jr. CPA, Treasurer

Arts Council undertakes impact study

The Worcester County Arts Council announced it is conducting a first-ever Economic Impact Study of the Arts in Worcester County. The purpose of the study is to measure the economic and social value of the Arts, Artists, and Arts Council's programming and contributions to the local Community.

The Council's Executive Director, Anna Mullis said "We are proud to work on this important research with the Salisbury University Perdue School of Business BEACON team, Salisbury University students, and our partners at Worcester County Tourism. The study will continue through FY 2025 and the analysis will serve as an advocacy tool and important resource for the Wor-

cester County Communities."

Founded in 1976, the Worcester County Arts Council is a non-profit organization whose mission is to support, promote, and encourage visual, performing, and literary arts in Worcester County. As designated by the Maryland State Arts Council County arts agency, the Worcester County Arts Council is committed to fostering the excellence, diversity, and vitality of arts, artists, and arts organizations and increasing access to the arts for all members of our community. The Worcester County Arts Council is funded by a Maryland State Arts Council grant and supported by memberships, donations, and local sponsorships.

Tips to care for outdoor cats

Pet preferences vary across the world, but dogs and cats are beloved companion animals in many corners of the globe. According to the 2022 Statista Global Consumer Survey, dogs have a good lead over their feline counterparts in the United States, mainland China, the United Kingdom, and Japan. However, in Germany, cats and dogs are kept by a nearly equal number of pet owners.



Even though cats may not be as popular as dogs, they are widely found in homes. They also may be spending time outside of homes. While there are plenty of feral cats, or those that have grown up outdoors with little to no social interaction with humans, even many domesticated cats spend ample time outdoors.

Most veterinarians feel it is safer to

please see cats on page 18



(left to right) Jiyeong Yun, Jinchul Kim, Jason Giusti, Anna Mullis, Gail Stern and Isabel Morris.

Competition winners announced

The Worcester County Arts Council announced winners in the juried art competition: "Seasons." Entries in this competition are featured in the exhibit at the Arts Council's Gallery and include thirty-two pieces of artwork submitted by twenty-two established and emerging artists with work in all media. Entries were judged by talented artist and Salisbury University art Professor, Jinchul Kim.

The following artists have been awarded:

- 1st Place - "Dune Fence" (pastel) - Gail Stern
- 2nd Place - "Apple Harvest" (mixed media) - Kathy Gibson
- 3rd Place - "Scion" (blown glass) -

Jason Giusti

Honorable Mention awards were presented to:

- "Glen's Wharf" (oil) - Isabel Morris;
- "Winter Watch" (watercolor) - Ellen Lawler, and
- "Sound of Moon III" (mixed media) - Jiyeong Yun

The exhibit will continue to be on display through June 30th. The artwork is available for purchase. The Gallery hours are Tuesday - Sunday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

wellness

from page 8

screenings, including blood pressure and a diabetes risk assessment. Nutritionist Kelly Williams will provide a taste-testing of a healthy recipe. Other community resources in attendance will be Atlantic General Hospital, Corner Sanctuary Pocomoke Community Garden, and the Lower Shore Health Insurance Assistance Program.

"Participating in regular physical activity can help improve health and quality of life for individuals of all ages. Recent community health data found that about one in three men in Worcester County do not participate in physical activity and nearly 29 percent of Worcester County adults are not active. This event is a great opportunity to engage in activity with friends, family, and the community in the beautiful Cypress Park," said Rebecca Jones, Health Officer for Worcester County.

For more information about the event, please call 410-632-1100 extension 1108.



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WCDC golf tourney returns

The Worcester County Developmental Center (WCDC) announces its annual Bill Gibbs Memorial Golf Tournament to be held Tuesday, June 11, at the Ocean City Golf Club.

Over the past 15 years, this charity outing has raised funds to provide supports to the clients of WCDC—adults with intellectual disabilities—which has enabled them to become more independent and more actively involved in the community.

This year's event is sponsored by Pam and Mackey Stansell, long-time friends of WCDC.

This good time for a good cause begins at 12:30 p.m. with a lunch prepared and served by the clients and staff of WCDC. Golfing begins at 1:30 p.m. with a shotgun start.

A dinner will be provided post play by the Dough Roller and served by WCDC clients and staff. The day ends with an awards ceremony.

Throughout the day complimentary beverages will be provided.

For registration forms on golfing and sponsorship opportunities, please contact tournament director Cecil Tull at ABC Printers at 410.213.2022 or Jack Ferry at 570-956-4722.

Tunis recognized as Rising Star

Hardwire, LLC announced its president and chief operating officer, Emily Tunis, was honored with the 2024 Rising Star Award by the Maryland Chamber of Commerce. This recognition highlights Tunis' exceptional leadership, innovative vision, and significant contributions to both the business landscape and the community at large. Tunis was recognized by the Maryland Chamber of Commerce at its annual Inspire MD dinner on May 9 in Baltimore.

Emily Tunis has been instrumental in driving Hardwire's success as a leading manufacturing firm specializing in critical armor systems for military, law enforcement, and security applications. Her strategic direction has not only expanded the company's product lines to include groundbreaking innovations such as the world's lightest body armor and the Emergency Response Shield, but it has also fostered substantial job creation in an area historically marked by seasonal employment. Under Emily's guidance, Hardwire has flourished with a reputation for unparalleled quality and innovation in its field.

Moreover, Emily's passion for STEM education and workforce development is evident in Hardwire's initiatives, including internships and partnerships with educational institutions. Her advocacy for regional economic progress further underscores her dedication to fostering growth and opportunity.

Beyond her role as an executive, Emily remains deeply involved in supporting local organizations through board service and philanthropic endeavors, demonstrating her profound commitment to the betterment of her community. She is involved in the leadership of the Atlantic General Hospital Foundation, the Maryland Manufacturing Extension Partnership, Washington and Lee University's Science Advisory Board, and Worcester Preparatory School.

Art League welcomes Carter

The Art League of Ocean City announced recently that artist Jennifer Carter will serve as the 2024 Orem and Harriet Robinson Fellow for Contemporary Art and Community Engagement. The fellowship comes with a stipend, a solo gallery art show, and opportunities to curate, judge, and create additional programming for the Art League.

Carter, envisions her fellowship to center on healing from experiences with trauma and loss through positive artistic expression.

Carter will create a body of work representing her personal journey through the fellowship year, incorporating art and music.



Bread for sale - Worcester Preparatory School (WPS) teachers Annie Seipp, Hannah Purnell, Alexis Absher and Maureen Raines and their students, hosted this year's third grade Bread Sale as part of a hands-on learning lesson combining English, Science, Social Studies (civics and community), Mathematics and Philanthropy.

The project is modeled like a small business, with the young entrepreneurs baking bread and donating the proceeds to charity. The project involved researching ingredients, creating posters, presenting oral reports, and rotating jobs - from baker to cashier - to learn all the facets of running a business. The class partnered with Bad Monkey in West Ocean City where they learned how to make and bake the bread. At the end of the Bread Sale, students count the money and will donate the proceeds to Atlantic General Hospital (AGH).

Above: **Zia Salem, Ellie Bookwalter, Emery Anthony and Adee Carmean** took turns serving bread to guests during this year's bread sale.

cats
from page 16

keep cats indoors, where they are not exposed to disease or trauma. However, many cats are simply not happy without fresh air. In such instances, here's how pet parents can care for cats who need some breathing room.

Leash-train the cat. The American Humane Society suggests leash-training cats that want to be outdoors. Much like having a dog on a leash prevents the pet from running off and getting lost or injured, cats who may be a little too independent for their own good can be curtailed with leashes.

Vaccinate and fix the animal. Cats that are exposed to the outdoors are more susceptible to diseases that can be harmful or even fatal. Speak with a vet about which vaccines the cat will require if he or she is going to be spending considerable time outdoors.

Also, while it is recommended for all companion animals to be spayed or neutered, it is especially important for those with access to the outdoors to prevent unwanted mating that can exacerbate overpopulation issues. Plus, animals that are fixed are less likely to roam or fight.

Create a shelter. In addition to providing free access to the home by way of a cat door, outdoor access cats may benefit from a home in the yard. This can protect the cat from weather or other animals. A pet owner can build a shelter or purchase pre-made varieties that resemble a chicken coop. It's also best to ensure cats have access to fresh water while outside. Regularly inspect the shelter to keep it clean and in good repair.

Consider a "catio." Some cats will be satisfied with something that lets fresh air in without having to be completely outdoors. A catio is an outdoor ledge or enclosure for cats that is covered by grating or mesh, according to Habitat Have. It can be attached to a window or be freestanding in an area of the yard, providing a lounging spot that is outdoors but protected.

Provide identification. Cat caregivers can microchip cats and ensure they are wearing the proper identification. If the cat cannot find its way home, there is a greater chance the animal will be found if identification is present or a chip has been installed.

Although cats are safest indoors, with some precautions, cats can enjoy the fresh air and sunshine.

Talk to your family about wealth transfer

Submitted by **John Bennish**
Financial Advisor, Edward Jones



John Bennish

Are you anticipating an inheritance someday? If so, you may want to discuss it with your parents or other family members who may be leaving you the assets — because early, open communication will benefit everyone involved.

However, many people are reluctant to have these conversations. More than a third of Americans do not plan on discussing a transfer of wealth with their families, according to a recent study by Edward Jones in partnership with NEXT 360 Partners and Morning Consult. And the same study found that only about a quarter of Americans have actually discussed generational wealth transfer with their families.

Perhaps this low level of communication is not surprising — clearly, talking about wealth transfer and estate plans can be emotional. But having these discussions is important, for several reasons:

- *Strengthening family bonds* — Generational wealth transfer shouldn't be seen simply as a transactional event. By discussing your parents' plans and wishes, and your own expectations, you can build a sense of unity and shared purpose. And you can develop a common philosophy about how your family's legacy goals will be carried forward through the succeeding generations.

Avoiding unpleasant surprises — If you or other family members are expecting a certain inheritance and things turn out differently, disappointment and bad feelings may occur. But this can be avoided by having a discussion beforehand that clearly outlines your parents' intentions. You still may not agree with them, but at least you'll know what to expect — and you won't make the mistake of acting in advance on any assumptions about what you'll inherit.

Developing appropriate strategies

— Passing on wealth to a new generation as part of an overall estate plan can be more complex than you might think. Are your parents using tax-smart strategies? Would they benefit from establishing a living trust? Are the beneficiary designations on their retirement accounts and life insurance policies accurate and up to date? If you suspect your parents may not have properly addressed these issues, you may want to bring up the benefits of working with an estate-planning attorney and a tax advisor.

Protecting against incapacitation — Many people go through their senior years with few, if any, physical or mental impairments. But there are no guarantees. If one or both of your

parents were to become incapacitated and unable to handle their financial affairs, it could cause serious problems with their wealth transfer and estate-planning goals. But if you can discuss your parents' plans with them while they are healthy and alert, you can encourage them to take the proper steps, such as reviewing outdated estate-planning documents and designating you or another family member as power of attorney to make health care and financial decisions on their behalf should they become incapacitated.

While the benefits of having wealth-transfer and estate-planning discussions are clear, starting the conversations can be tricky. You need

to show that you want to initiate these talks because you're concerned that proper plans need to be in place and understood by everyone involved. If you have a good relationship with your parents, you should be able to start these conversations, but you'll still need to be sensitive when bringing up the subject.

One final word: Estate plans can take some time to develop — so, the sooner you have these discussions, the better.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor John Bennish, Ocean Pines. He can be reached at 410-208-9083. Edward Jones, Member SIPC.



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GM reports to board at Saturday's meeting

General Manager John Viola's monthly report to the Board on May 18 included updates on OPA financials, ongoing initiatives and maintenance, and preparation for the coming summer season.

Financial updates

Viola said the Association closed the fiscal year on April 30 with \$166,000 favorable variance to budget for the month of April.

The unaudited "flash" estimate for the fiscal year is a \$1.2 million favorability to budget – the fourth straight year of favorability of \$1 million or more.

"That's on top of a budget where we had a decreased assessment, as well as more spending" on items like maintenance and drainage, Viola said. "It's not just that we cut [spending]."

Viola said there are positive and negative factors – what he called headwinds and tailwinds – effecting Ocean Pines financials for the next fiscal year.

Headwinds, or impeding factors, include the increased costs to maintain infrastructure and amenities, statutory minimum wage increases and the need for competitive salaries, and unknowns related to the upcoming reserve study.

Tailwinds, or favorable factors, include the good overall conditions of Ocean Pines' amenities, a motivated staff, and work already done on the prior reserve study.

"This Association, the team, the Budget and Finance [Committee] ... back in 2017-18 we initiated a reserve study, and that put us ahead of the curve with everybody else," he said. "We are position better than we were back then, and the numbers show that."

Viola said work on the new reserve study is scheduled to start at the end of this year.

New OPA podcast

Viola said the Association launched a new podcast on May 7, called "PinesCast," featuring Golf Director Bob Beckelman as the first guest. A second episode featuring Police Chief Tim Robinson is scheduled for release this week.

Viola said he and Public Relations Director Josh Davis had dis-

cussed a podcast, and the Board encouraged the idea. He said veteran journalist and podcaster Tony Russo was brought in to host the show and support the initiative and the expertise already on staff.

"I think we found an excellent individual," Viola said. "That planning, all that comes out of the GM office, with our Public Relations team led by Josh Davis."

Viola said the first episode was very well received, and homeowners can look for future episodes on oceanpines.org or on their favorite podcast site.

Soft Shoreline update

Viola said a scheduled kickoff meeting on the Soft Shoreline project related to the South Gate Pond was rescheduled in May because of a COVID case.

"I just wanted to let everybody know that we are working on that, [and] we have a team in place," he said. "We hope to have more on that next time."

Beautification updates

Viola said new flowers and plantings have gone up all around Ocean Pines. That includes palm trees at the Yacht Club, Racquet Center, and North Gate, and at the Beach Club in Ocean City.

"I'm pretty excited about that," he said.

Public Works also addressed an overgrowth of algae at the North Gate Pond and restored service to both fountains there. The pond was treated on May 6 and the fountains were back on by May 9.

Maintenance updates

Viola said recent maintenance efforts included resurfaced clay courts at the Racquet Center, and a contractor is scheduled to evaluate cracks in the pickleball courts in June.

He said maintenance also focused on the Beach Club, where parts of the deck and railings were replaced as needed, the deck was painted, and all other checklist items were addressed ahead of the summer reopening on Memorial Day Weekend.

Aquatics updates

At the Aquatics Department,

Viola said outdoor pools are scheduled to reopen for the summer on May 25. All four outdoor pools were cleaned, and furniture was put in place. Maintenance is now focusing on minor repairs inside the buildings.

He said lifeguard and front desk training sessions are either scheduled or underway. Lifeguards are fully staffed, but workers are needed for Beach Parking and the front desks at the pools. For more information on job openings, contact hr@oceanpines.org.

Senior Executive Office Manager Linda Martin said classes and lessons are filling up for the summer, with many new classes planned.

A "School's Out Splash Party" is scheduled for June 15, and "Family Splash Nights" are scheduled July 6, August 3, and August 31. Visit www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/aquatics for more information on upcoming Aquatics classes and events.

Recreation and Parks updates

Martin said the May 11 Community Bike Ride was a big success, with Recreation and Parks staff also assisting with the Bay Day event on Sunday.

She said there are plans to upgrade signs at Ocean Pines' parks and playgrounds with QR codes that link to important information on oceanpines.org.

Many new programs are being offered, including yoga, chair yoga, injury prevention classes, and girl's flag football. Visit www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/recreation-parks for more information on upcoming Recreation and Parks programs.

Roads updates

Martin said about three miles of roads were repaved by an outside contractor at a total cost of just over \$350,000. Those included Battersea Road, Canal Road, Deerfield Court, Driftwood Lane, Moonraker Road, St. Martins Lane, Waters Edge Court, and Wharf Court.

Mailbox updates

Martin said the Association continues to work on phase one of the mailbox replacement project, with a dozen mailboxes and 23 pedestals remaining on that schedule.

She said Public Works was able to repair some of the mailboxes, and cleaning of all the mailbox clusters was completed.

However, a few areas had to be cleaned twice because of issues with debris. She said the mailboxes are private property and not to be used for personal display.

CPI and customer service updates

Martin said the Compliance, Permit, and Inspections (CPI) Department issued 246 new violations in April. During the month, 170 violations were brought into compliance and 294 remain open. Also during that period, 132 new work orders were initiated and 114 were closed, with 188 remaining open.

Martin said the customer service team fielded 149 emails in April, including 37 about CPI, 25 about amenities, 18 for Public Works, and three on drainage.

For general questions, contact info@oceanpines.org or call 410-641-7717.



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Several locally sponsored bills signed by governor

Several priority bills were signed into law last week by Governor Wes Moore, including Senate Bill 167 and House Bill 806, the Physician Assistant Modernization Act, which marks the first major change to physician assistant (PA) practice law in Maryland in 25 years. This legislation redefines the relationship between physicians and PAs as collaborative, recognizing the critical role of the more than 3,600 Maryland PAs play in providing healthcare to Maryland patients, particularly in rural areas.

“I have been working with local physician assistants and physicians across the State of Maryland for the past three years on this priority legislation to update and modernize the law between physician assistants and physicians to increase access to quality care for patients,” said Senator Mary Beth Carozza, who represents Worcester, Wicomico, and Somerset counties. “The role of physician assistants is especially important on Maryland’s Eastern Shore where we continue to face an acute shortage of health care providers.”

The United States is facing a pro-

jected workforce shortage of between 37,800 and 124,000 physicians. Overall, Maryland is 16 percent below the national average for number of physicians available for clinical practice. The Physician Assistant Modernization Act proactively addresses this growing issue by enabling PAs to work collaboratively with the medical team and make contributions that they were previously restricted from doing.

“Medicine is now a team sport, and we need to build and train a strong supportive structure that better utilizes our Physician Assistants,” said Carozza. This bipartisan legislation was sponsored by Senator Mary Beth Carozza (R-District 38) and Delegate Ken Kerr (D-District 3) and had the support of both Senate Finance Chair Pamela Beidle (D-District 32) and House Health and Government Operations Chair Joseline Pena-Melnyk (D-District 21).

Senate Bill 1034 and House Bill 1162, which establishes a 9-1-1 Specialist Recruitment and Retention Workgroup to identify and examine recruitment and retention challenges that affect 9-1-1 Specialists in Mary-

land and make related recommendations, was also signed into law. This legislation was sponsored by Senator Carozza and Delegate Mike Rogers (D-District 32).

“A 9-1-1 Specialist is often the first emergency contact for the public in most life and death emergencies. Dispatchers receive frantic calls for help and while remaining calm for the person in distress, determine the nature and classification of the incident in order to provide lifesaving service,” said Carozza.

Recruiting 9-1-1 Specialists has become increasingly difficult across the State of Maryland due to a high burnout rate, the stress and perception of being unsupported and undervalued, and the high number of hours of on-the-job training they are required to complete before being considered full 9-1-1 Specialists. “We need to strengthen recruitment and retention of Maryland’s 9-1-1 Specialists, the first responders for our first responders,” said Carozza.

House Bill 814 makes important strides in reforming juvenile law regarding supervision, detention, and

notification. The Department of Juvenile Services now is required to notify the State’s Attorney Office of all felonies, an important step to ensure children ages 10-12 who commit serious offenses are required to engage with substance abuse or mental health treatment through the juvenile court system. Failing to attend treatment is now considered good cause to extend probation. Courts also have more authority to detain dangerous juveniles.

“This is an important step forward to address the increase in juvenile crime across Maryland, and some of the ideas in the bipartisan anti-crime package that I co-sponsored were included in the final legislation,” said Senator Carozza. “I will continue to push for real accountability and consequences for violent juveniles and repeat serious offenders.”

The bipartisan anti-crime package was introduced by Senators Ron Watson (D-Prince George’s County), Chris West (R-Baltimore County), and Senator Carozza, and was based on substantive anti-crime proposals put forth

please see bills page 22



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Police Report

On May 16, 2024, at 3:45 p.m., an officer from the Ocean Pines Police Department observed a subject known to him as John Pasquariello driving on Mumford's Landing Road in Ocean Pines and initiated a traffic stop. The officer was



John Pasquariello

aware of an open warrant from the State of Pennsylvania for Pasquariello's arrest and that the registration plates on his car were not valid. Instead of stopping, Pasquariello continued driving, making a left onto Carrollton Lane and then proceeded to traverse the neighborhood streets, heading back to his residence at 25 mph with the officer following behind with his emergency equipment activated. Upon reaching his residence back on Fishing Creek Lane, Pasquariello finally stopped and the officer was able to place Pasquariello under arrest.

The arresting officer subsequently discovered that Pasquariello did not have a driver's license. The warrant from Pennsylvania was for a Probation Violation following a previous criminal conviction in a theft case.

Pasquariello was transported to the Ocean Pines Police Department where he was processed and then brought before the District Court Commissioner for an initial appearance. Following that initial appearance, Pasquariello was detained without bond pending extradition back to Pennsylvania.



Outstanding - The Worcester County Garden Club recently recognized member Martha Bennett as its 2024 Mary Ann Royal Award recipient. Established by the club's first president in honor of her friend, Mary Ann Royal, the award is given to a member who has made outstanding contributions to the club. The past three awardees, Pat Arata, Joan LaHayne, and Sandy Buchanan, chose the recipient and presented her with a certificate and trophy bowl beautifully filled with a floral arrangement by member Jackie Davies.

From left to right: Pat Arata, Sandy Buchanan, Martha Bennett and Joan LaHayne.

bills
from page 21

by the Wicomico County State's Attorney office. As a result of persistent statewide calls, grassroots efforts, and multiple ideas put forward to address the increase in juvenile crime by several groups, the leaders of the Senate and House ultimately passed House Bill 814.

During the public bill signing ceremony, House Bill 1340, sponsored by Delegate Carl Anderton (R-District 38B), was signed into law today. This bill supports the Wicomico County Liquor Dispensary System Task Force's recommendation to allow the holder of a Class A, B, C, or D License to purchase alcoholic beverages from a dispensary or a wholesaler, allowing local retailers and restaurants a choice in where to purchase their alcoholic beverages. This legislation had unanimous support from the Wicomico County Council and the Wicomico County Executive.

Four other local bills were signed into law today. House Bill 186, sponsored by Delegate Wayne Hartman (R-District 38C), enables the code counties of the Eastern Shore – Caro-

line, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Worcester – to set a new hotel rental tax rate at a maximum 6 percent rate. The hotel rental tax is a dedicated source of funding for tourism and tourism-related activities necessary to keep Ocean City a clean and safe destination. Senator Carozza was the Senate sponsor of this legislation.

Senate Bill 941, sponsored by Senator Johnny Mautz (R-District 37), authorizes Wicomico County distilleries to sell their own products instead of re-purchasing through a third party at a 15 percent increase. Senate Bill 807 authorizes the Somerset County Commissioners to establish an Emergency Services Advisory Council to provide the County Commissioners with recommendations regarding the operations of fire suppression, emergency medical, and hazardous materials services in the county. Senate Bill 829 allows the Somerset County Commissioners to allocate the appropriate funding for Somerset County's volunteer fire companies from fiscal year 2025 through fiscal year 2030. Both bills were sponsored by Senator Carozza and Delegate Charles Otto (R-District 38A).

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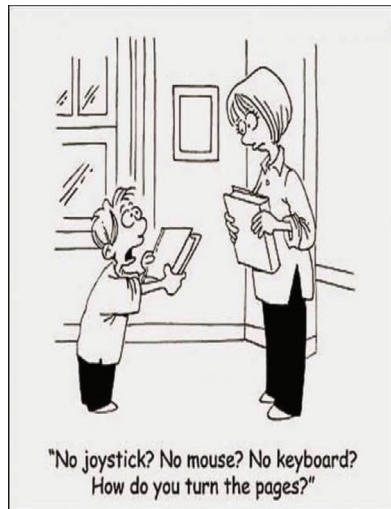
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Some things to think about

Gathered from the internet by **Jack Barnes**

Shhh... She's fixing the world 



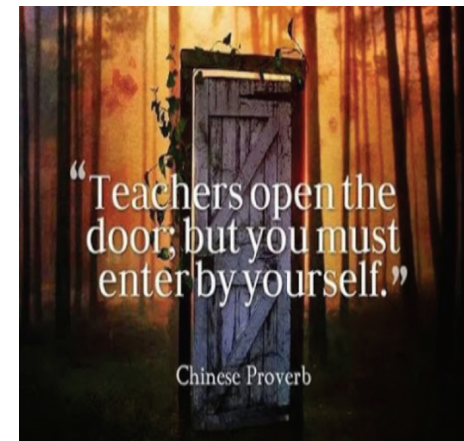
"No joystick? No mouse? No keyboard?
How do you turn the pages?"

Everyone talks about leaving a better planet for our children.
Why doesn't anyone try to leave better children for our planet?

MOM: IF A STRANGER CAME UP TO YOU AND SAID "I'M YOUR MOM'S FRIEND, SHE TOLD ME TO PICK YOU UP." WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?
KID: I'D SAY "YOU'RE LYING, MY MOM HAS NO FRIENDS."
MOM: NOT WHERE I WAS GOING, BUT OK.

On our way to church, we asked our grandchild why is it important to be quiet in church. She said "Because there are people sleeping!"


MY NEIGHBOR JUST YELLED AT HER KIDS SO LOUD THAT EVEN I BRUSHED MY TEETH AND WENT TO BED.



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