

The Courier

October 2, 2024 Volume 25 Number 5



Literacy - September was Literacy Month and members of the Republican Women of Worcester (RWWC) took part by donating to the five Worcester County Libraries in appreciation for their countywide service. Standing left to right are RWWC President **Jean Delcher**, RWWC member **Linda Sirianni**, Ocean Pines Branch Manager **Harry Burkett**, RWWC Literacy Chair **Susan Ostrowski**, Worcester Library Director **Jennifer Ranck**.

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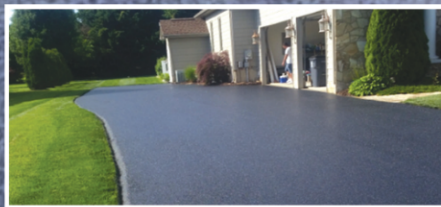
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Board of Elections highlights information, deadlines

The Maryland State Board of Elections (SBE) last week shared important voting information for the 2024 Presidential General Election, including the three ways to vote and important deadlines every Marylander should remember to ensure a successful voting experience.

“With three ways to vote, I encourage every Marylander to have a plan for how and when they will cast their ballot,” said State Administrator Jared DeMarinis. “Be sure to remember Maryland’s registration and voting deadlines and contact SBE or your local board of elections with questions you may have about Maryland’s election process.”

Marylanders have three ways to vote: in-person early voting, mail-in voting, and in-person voting on Election Day, Tuesday, November 5, 2024.

Important Deadlines

Vote Early In-Person: Early voting will be held from Thursday, October 24 through Thursday, October 31. Early voting centers will be open each day from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Mail-In Voting: To receive a mail-in ballot by mail, your request must be received (not just mailed) by October 29. The deadline to request a web delivery mail-in ballot is November 1. Visit SBE’s mail-in ballot webpage to request a ballot. Mail-in ballots returned by mail must be postmarked by or before 8 p.m. on November 5. If returned by hand, ballots must be dropped at a ballot drop box or local board of elections by 8 p.m. on November 5.

Vote on Election Day: To find your Election Day polling place, visit SBE’s Find My Polling Place portal. Election Day polling places will be open November 5 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Some polling place locations changed following July’s Primary Election.

Register to Vote

The advanced voter registration deadline is October 15. Registrations being mailed must be postmarked by this date. To register or check that your registration is up to

date, use SBE’s online registration system. Those who prefer not to register online may print the registration form (English version and Spanish version) and submit it at their local board of elections office.

Marylanders can also register the same day they vote. Make sure to bring a document that proves where you live when you visit your local polling place.

Ballot drop boxes installed

SBE has installed 286 ballot drop boxes in all counties and the City of Baltimore. A list of locations is available online. Voters who utilize drop boxes may submit their completed mail-in ballot at any official drop box in their county of residence through November 5 at 8 p.m.

Additional information about Maryland’s General Election can be found at vote.md.gov/vote2024. Part of the SBE’s VOTE!MD campaign, the website includes a voting checklist, important deadlines that can be added to your calendar, and information on how to apply to be an election judge or election page.

Darby to speak at event

On Saturday, November 23, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., guest speaker Darby Slaton will minister at Shiloh Ministries located at 209 West Street in Berlin. The event is free and open to the public.

From Frederick, MD, Darby is a graduate of Graham Cooke’s Deeper School of the Supernatural Life. He trains people in the prophetic, equips them to fulfill their destiny, and helps them identify their mountain of influence. Darby is insightful, fun, and has a personal word for everyone. His prophecies are accurate and timely. Lunch is included. Bring food to share and bring a friend.

Shiloh Ministries is a home fellowship which holds periodic meetings with guest speakers at the home of Randy Walter. For more information call 443-513-6285 or email shilohministries@comcast.net. Lunch is included. Bring food to share and bring a friend.



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Speak Up - At their annual Stand Up, Speak Up assembly on September 26, Ocean City Elementary School fourth grade students and school counselor, Linda McGean presented a skit to teach strategies for dealing with bullying situations. The skit was presented to the entire school and students had the opportunity to sing and dance to the Stand Up Speak Up song.

Research shows that the key to eliminating bullying is in empowering people to stand up and speak up for themselves and others when confronted with bullying. The goal at Ocean City Elementary is to directly teach the students the strategies they need to demonstrate positive leadership as bystanders to stand up and speak up to bullies.

Above: 4th grade students (left to right) Front: **Niko Drakos, Angie Raffo, Ariel Deisem. Sebastian Martinez-Fallas, Berkay Cakir** Back: **Kerrigan Carroll, Charlie Poulin, Yali Cohen, Ama Agyei-Mensah and Amelia Purnell.**

Youth golf tournament returns

Join Worcester County Recreation & Parks (WCRP) for the 12th annual Tee Off for Youth Golf Tournament Fundraiser at the Ocean City Golf Club on Friday, November 1, 2024. Check-in begins at 9:30 a.m., with a shotgun start to follow at 11:00 a.m.

The cost to participate is \$90 per golfer, and all proceeds generated by this event will benefit underprivileged youth who participate in WCRP youth programs, leagues, after school activities, and summer camps. Over one-third of the children participating in WCRP's programs are considered underprivileged, and tournament proceeds provide scholarships to assure all children can participate in recreation programs year-round.

Register a team for this year's Tee Off for Youth Golf Tournament and Fundraiser. Forms to register your 4-man scramble are available on the WCRP website or pick one up in person at the Worcester County Recreation Center, located at 6030 Public

Landing Road, Snow Hill, Maryland 21863. The registration deadline is Friday, October 25.

Sponsors, auction baskets, volunteers, and donations are needed to run this year's tournament. Promote your organization by signing up to be a sponsor. Options include dinner sponsorship, lunch sponsorship, beverage cart sponsorship, tee sign(s) sponsorship, and other donations sponsorships.

"The Tee off for Youth Golf Tournament is the main fundraiser for the Worcester County Recreation Boosters," Recreation and Parks Director Kelly Rados said. "All proceeds go directly to the Boosters so that they can assist local youth and families to participate in WCRP programs and activities."

For more information contact Ben Kirk at 410-632-2144, x2520 or bkirk@co.worcester.md.us. Learn more about WCRP special events at www.playmarylandscoast.org.

Meet the Team

Michelle Hitchens: longtime aquatics teacher and lifeguard

By **Josh Davis**

When Michelle Hitchens became the Ocean Pines Aquatics Director in February, it was the latest step up the ladder for a woman who started working as a lifeguard at age 15.

Hitchens was born in Norristown, Pennsylvania. She moved to the Eastern Shore in 2004 and started working at a fitness center in nearby Bethany Beach.

“My mom grew up here and we have family nearby,” she said. “I started out in the fitness center at Sea



Michelle Hitchens

Colony doing activities around the complex, and then I also lifeguarded on the side because they needed more guards.”

Hitchens occasionally worked other jobs out of the water, but something always seemed to pull her back in.

“I would take a little break, but then always go back to it,” she said. “Even in college, I worked at a YMCA and guarded and taught some lessons. For some reason, I always gravitated back to doing it.”

She came to Ocean Pines in 2012, again with family in the area, and right away started teaching swim lessons. From there, she became more and more active in aquatics programs and lessons, and she was the Aquatics Department manager prior to her promotion.

“The department has mostly been the same over the years – only little things have changed,” she said. “We’re constantly trying to improve classes

and lessons, but I’ve always had my hand in lots of things. I organized exercise classes, I organized swim lessons, and I taught them, and I taught aquatics bike classes.

“I did all of that and helped to run certain things, so there wasn’t that much of a learning curve when it came to changing over to director, because I had been here for 12 years,” she added.

During and even after the pandemic, the Aquatics Department struggled to keep all five pools open during the summer because of a perpetual shortage of lifeguards. This summer, finally, things got back to normal.

“COVID didn’t help, but we didn’t have many guards in general. I feel like people just didn’t want to guard for some reason,” she said.

Hitchens went the usual route of attending job fairs, and she was able to build on her connections as a longtime swim instructor. She also recruited some of her daughter’s friends from a local high school swim team. “A lot of them took our lifeguarding classes this year, so

that was a big benefit – having that big lifeguarding class,” she said. “We also had a strong group of people returning that were very reliable, and they already knew how things ran. I’m hoping a lot of those people return again next year.”

During the summer, she also expanded offerings and hours at many of the pools, trying to give swim members and guests more value for their dollar.

“We do offer a lot of classes,” she said. “We also tried to do little things this summer, like keeping certain pools open later and giving people an opportunity to spend more time there. We opened the snack bar at the Swim and Racquet Club, and people really liked that. So, we’re hoping to do that again next year and to just keep improving things in small ways.”

Now, turning toward the fall and winter, Hitchens said she’s focused on creating a robust lineup of aquatics classes and programs geared toward

all ages and skill levels. That includes daylong programs for grade-schoolers.

“We’ll have a junior lifeguard program that we didn’t have last winter, and we’ll schedule those on certain days when kids have off of school,” she said. “It’s always 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and it’s something for the parents to sign their kids up for where they don’t have to really worry about them for the whole day.”

Hitchens is also planning a Halloween swimming event, and more swim lessons to meet the high demand.

“We’re trying to get more instructors and finding ways to fit more classes in between other events happening in our pools,” she said.

All of that, and Hitchens balances being a mother of four. She said there’s slightly more flexibility running the Aquatics Department, rather than being the jack-of-all-trades holding it together.

“Two of my kids are older now and in high school, so it’s a little easier,” she said. “And with the younger two, my parents help me a little bit. But I’m trying to be more involved with their stuff after school this year.”

As for the future of Ocean Pines Aquatics, Hitchens said she just wants to keep building and improving the programming.

“We’re always trying to think of new things,” she said. “It’s a balance of seeing what people want and are will-

ing to become involved in. We tried a few things over the summer, and we’ll hopefully continue to add new things that are a little bit different and eye-catching.”

Being a busy mother and working in pools since she was a teenager, Hitchens said, has certainly helped prepare her.

“Between having kids and doing lifeguarding and teaching, it comes pretty easy. And we’re always looking for things that are working elsewhere that we can incorporate,” she said.

For residents and homeowners, Hitchens said there’s almost always something going on at the pools – and the first class is always free.

“People should come out and try the classes!” she said. “For anything without equipment, you can come and try the first class for free and see which classes you would like to keep up with.”

Church dinner scheduled

Bethany United Methodist Church will host a roast beef and chicken parmesan dinner with sides and dessert on Saturday, October 19. The event begins at 5 p.m. until sold out. The cost is \$15. The church is located at 8648 Stephen Decatur Highway in Berlin. Dine in or take out. Pre-orders recommended, contact 410-614-2186 or Bethany 21811@gmail.com.



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EOE



Commentary

By Joe Reynolds
OceanPinesForum.com

What was Parks thinking?

OPA, at the specific direction of the Board of Directors, is soliciting proposals for a new contract to manage food and beverage services. The proposals are due on October 18. With that as a backdrop, Doug Parks' comments at a recent Budget & Finance Committee meeting about Matt Ortt Companies were stunning and potentially threatened the integrity of the entire process.

During a discussion of OPA's August financial report, as some committee members raised questions about financial results at the Yacht Club, Parks blurted out, "I'll go on record saying I want to see Matt Ortt stay as our food and beverage operator."

Incredibly, Parks also seemed to suggest Yacht Club banquet numbers will be down because the request for proposals is "out there on the street." The request was not even made public until September 13th.

Barely were the words out of Parks' mouth when OPA General Manager John Viola's face popped up on the committee video feed. Viola said something like - "Doug, I gotta step in here." Parks seemed surprised. Another committee member said, "He wants to step in." Parks ignored Viola.

Viola instinctively knew what Parks said could undermine the Board of Directors' decision to seek proposals for food and beverage management, at several levels.

If Parks intended to help his friend, Matt Ortt, he did not. Instead, his comment may make some association members view the board's decision to seek proposals for food and beverage operations as a bit of a charade. Unfortunately, management companies that are considering submitting proposals might come to the same conclusion.

Later, Parks would say he is only one person out of 8,500 and the board

decides on any new food and beverage contract.

Factually correct. However, it would be foolish to think any opinion expressed by Parks has no more influence on board members than that of any other association member. Also, given his close personal friendship with at least six of the seven sitting board members, it would also be foolish to discount any deeper significance to his statement.

Parks is the Parliamentarian for the Board of Directors; Chairman of the powerful Budget & Finance Committee; served as a member of the Board of Directors for seven years, at least three as president. He was a member of the board that originally voted to hire Matt Ortt Companies some years ago.

During the committee meeting, Parks clearly acted as a bit of a cheerleader for Matt Ortt Companies. He mentions having private discussions with Ortt.

Some sitting board members have previously expressed a desire to renew the food and beverage contract with Matt Ortt. For example, the September 2024 issue of the *Ocean Pines Progress* contains an article by Cindy Hoffman where she quotes OPA president Stuart Lakernick saying, "We have heard nothing but rave reviews of his [Matt Ortt] management of all three of our food outlets. We want to continue that process and that relationship."

The issue of relationships between Matt Ortt Companies and members of the OPA Board of Directors goes back almost five years.

During a board meeting in October 2020, a bit of a public bombshell took place when directors began discussing

please see **commentary** on page 16

This school year could be amazing

Editor:

We are now in the opening of schools season. Welcome back to all the dedicated teachers and the hard working students as well as all the school employees that work so

hard to make the opening of school a good experience for all.

The beginning of school each year is a new start for everyone. Students, make a pledge to yourself that you will work hard and learn as much as you possibly can. Promise that you will not bully anyone and will defend those that are being bullied. Promise yourself that you will be polite, do what is right, pay attention in class, and do your homework on time and to the best of your ability.

Teachers, make a promise to yourself that you will love all your students and develop the most interesting and

learning experience you can without putting your own prejudice or political or social feelings into your lessons. Promise that you will help every student to learn as much as they possibly can and help those that fall behind. Promise that you will communicate with each child's parents as frequently as you can so they know how to help their child and how their child is doing.

Parents promise that you will make certain your child is in school every day that they are able and that you will get them there on time. Promise that you will have a reasonable bedtime for your child each school night and will develop a routine for them to complete their homework for you to check. Promise that you will read to your child or with your child as often as possible (3 to 4 times a week minimum). Promise that you will support them throughout the year to have the

please see **letters** on page 16



Courier Almanac

On October 2, 1965, a team of scientists invent Gatorade, a sports drink to quench thirst, in a University of Florida lab. The name "Gatorade" is derived from the nickname of the university's sports teams. Eventually, the drink becomes a phenomenon and makes its inventors wealthy.

Breast cancer incidence rates vary by age and location. BreastCancer.org reports that breast cancer incidence rates in the United States began decreasing in 2000 after increasing for the previous two decades. Some researchers believe the decrease was partially due to the reduced use of hormone replacement therapy (HRT). Even if breast cancer incidence rates in the U.S. are down overall, researchers at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis have found diagnoses of

breast cancer have increased steadily in women under age 50 over the past two decades. For most women, regular breast cancer screening does not begin until at least age 40, so younger women diagnosed with breast cancer tend to have later-stage tumors and a more advanced disease. Similar findings have been noticed in Canada. An Ottawa-based study published in the *Canadian Association of Radiologists Journal* found that rates of breast cancer in women as young as their twenties have been increasing. The research team

behind the study discovered a 45 percent increase in cases over the past 35 years. Many women have no identifiable risk factors prior to diagnosis, so what is fueling the increase remains a mystery.



I'll get to it

There's no question that at times I turn a blind eye to something that needs doing around the house. It's not that I can't undertake the task, it's that I am not motivated to do so. There have been times when I've been un-

a second bulb went dark. Despite the obvious evidence that it was becoming necessary to replace the bulbs, motivation escaped me. About a week or so after the second bulb blew out, the third bulb finally went dark. So there



It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

motivated for years. There's really no rhyme or reason to what tasks I'll tackle quickly and those that can linger undone longer than the aroma of Limburger cheese on a warm day.

For instance, I'll quickly tackle remodeling a bedroom to include fresh paint, installing hardwood floors and adding crown molding. However, taking 15 minutes to fix an electrical cord on a lamp can wait and wait. Why? I have no idea. Maybe it has to do with preferring adventure to mundane. Of course, you may think redoing a bedroom is not adventurous at all and that I should broaden my horizons.

There is a section of front door trim that has been screaming for a coat of paint for I can't tell you how long. It would take no more than a couple minutes to apply the paint, yet there it remains uncoated because, well, I have no good reason. It's a quick project I say that to myself each time I go out or come in through the front door. However, another part of me, the lazy part, has convinced the rest of me that rummaging in the garage to find the correct paint can, spending time to pry open the dried-paint encrusted lid so I can spend an hour to stir the congealed paint is not worth the hassle. Not to mention the fact that although it would take no more than four strokes of the brush to coat the trim, much more time would be required for prep and clean-up which begs the question: who really sees the unpainted trim anyway? Is the effort really worth it? If history provides any guide the answer is no.

On one occasion one of the three bulbs in our bathroom light fixture went dark. Each time I flicked the switch to partially illuminate the room I falsely convinced myself I'd replace the bulb forthwith. About a week later

I was plunged into darkness while conducting business. Although disorienting at first, I was able to complete my intended task without complication. You might think the experience of being surrounded in darkness while in the bath-

room would hasten my pace to resolve the situation. You would be wrong. In the interest of full disclosure once I left the bathroom I quickly forgot about the extinguished bulbs. It was not until the next, more urgent time I entered the bathroom that I remembered what I had forgotten to take care of previously. Let's just say my motivation to replace the bulbs was quite high. The bulbs were finally replaced, just in the nick of time.

Gutter cleaning is another one of those tasks that I know needs to be undertaken regularly but I sometimes let slip longer than I should. There's only one person who suffers as a result of my procrastination – me, a reality that has been slow to sink in through the years. Usually by the time I go up the ladder to remove the debris, the gutters are packed with sappy leaves and pine cones. There is sometimes a stench that makes Limburger cheese on a warm day preferable.

You would think after all these years I would learn. Well, one of these days I'll get around to doing just that. Eventually.

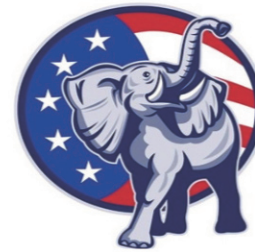
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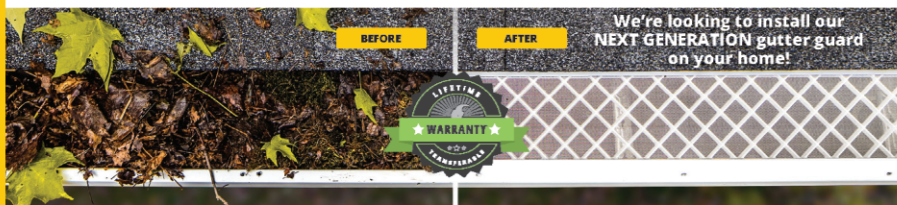


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Dept. of Budget and Management offers funding guidance to organizations

The Maryland Department of Budget and Management is offering guidance to organizations seeking funding in the FY 2026 Capital Budget. To be considered for funding, requests from non-governmental organizations must align with the role of state government and directly support a public purpose.

“Partnership produces progress – and nothing else does. By working together, we will continue our administration’s track record of building fiscally responsible budgets that follow the data, meet the needs of our communities, and deliver results for Marylanders,” said Governor Moore. “In this moment of

fiscal challenge, we must make difficult choices about which priorities to elevate. But our administration will never waver in our commitment to heeding the input and guidance of Marylanders across the state.”

All requests for funding in the FY 2026 Capital Budget must be submitted to the Department of Budget and Management at FY2026Funding.Requests@Maryland.gov by November 1.

Organizations that have already submitted requests for funding in the governor’s FY 2026 Capital Budget may resubmit with additional information to address the evaluation criteria in the DBM guidance.

Harbor Day at the docks returns

Celebrate maritime history during Harbor Day at the Docks on Saturday, October 12, 2024 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. This free, family-friendly festival will take place along Sunset Avenue in the West Ocean City commercial harbor.

Complimentary bus service will be available to shuttle patrons to and from the OC Park N’ Ride to the event parking lot.

“Harbor Day at the Docks is such a unique Maryland’s Coast event,” Recreation and Parks Director Kelly Rados said. “It allows the opportunity to not only celebrate our maritime history but to educate attendees and bring some recognition to all things marine and coastal through demonstrations, activities, vendors and the food.”

Festivities kick off at 10 a.m. with the Blessing of the Fleet, followed by live musical performances by the Funsters, and the Jimmy Charles Band will be taking the stage at noon. At 2:45pm a crab cake eating contest will take place on the main stage, and participation is available on a first-come, first-served basis where you can test your competitive eating skills against Jimmy Charles himself.

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 scrumptious foods and refreshing beverages with a special brew, Harbor Daze from Burley Oaked brewing company. The Coast Guard will provide on-site water safety information and Coast Guard boat tours.

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

“Come out and join us for some family friendly fun, as we honor Worcester County’s vibrant maritime past,” Recreation and Parks Deputy Director Jacob Stephens said.

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

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Trump will cut taxes!

Donald Trump (R)

Donald Trump would impose a universal baseline tariff on all US imports, impose a 60 percent tariff on all US imports from China, make the individual and estate tax cuts of the TCJA permanent (potentially without reinstating the cap on itemized deductions for state and local taxes), lower the corporate income tax rate from 21 percent to 20 percent or 15 percent (potentially for domestic production only), tax large private university endowments, consider replacing the income tax with tariffs, exempt tip income from taxation, exempt Social Security benefits from taxation, and exempt overtime pay from taxation. Trump is considering expanding the child tax credit to a \$5,000 universal credit.



Business Taxes:

- Lower the corporate income tax rate from 21 percent to 20 percent.
- Lower the corporate income tax rate to 15 percent for companies that make their products in the US.

Credits, Deductions, and Exemptions:

- VP candidate JD Vance has discussed increasing the child tax credit to \$5,000.
- Reinstating an unlimited itemized deduction for state and local taxes (SALT) paid or discontinue the cap as part of TCJA extension.

Estate and Wealth Taxes:

- Make the expiring estate tax cuts from the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act permanent.

Excise Taxes:

- Tax large private university endowments.

Individual Income Taxes:

- Make the expiring individual income tax cuts from the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act permanent.
- Consider replacing personal income taxes with increased tariffs.
- Reinstating an unlimited itemized deduction for state and local taxes (SALT) paid or discontinue the cap as part of TCJA extension.
- Exempt Social Security benefits from taxation.
- Exempt tip income from taxation.
- Exempt overtime pay from taxation.

Payroll Taxes:

- Exempt Social Security benefits from taxation.
- Exempt overtime pay from taxation.

Tariffs and Trade:

- Impose a universal baseline tariff on all US imports of 10 percent to 20 percent.
- Impose a 60 percent tariff on all US imports from China.
- Consider replacing personal income taxes with increased tariffs



Kamala Harris (D)

Kamala Harris has announced new tax and economic policies as part of her campaign platform, including exempting tip income from taxation; expanding the child tax credit, earned income tax credit, and premium tax credits; and implementing new tax incentives for housing. She may continue the same policies put forth in the FY 2025 budget of the Biden-Harris administration or may propose tax policy changes that differ from the budget, as in the case of her proposal to raise the top tax rate on capital gains income to 28 percent. See the corresponding "Biden-Harris Administration" tab for reference. Tax Foundation will update this page accordingly with the latest tax policy developments of the 2024 campaign.



Business Taxes:

- Increase the corporate income tax rate to 28 percent.

Capital Gains and Dividend Taxes:

- Increase the top tax rate on long-term capital gains to 28 percent for taxable income above \$1 million.
- Increase the net investment income tax (NIIT) to reach 5 percent on income above \$400,000

Credits, Deductions, and Exemptions:

- Exempt tip income from taxation.
- Expand the child tax credit to \$6,000 for children under age 1, \$3,600 for children 2-5, and \$3,000 for older children.
- Expand the earned income tax credit for filers who do not claim children.
- Expand premium tax credits.
- Expand housing tax credits, including the low-income housing tax credit, a credit for new homebuyers, and a credit for the construction of started homes.
- Claw back deductions for depreciation and interest for certain rental construction investment.
- Increase the \$5,000 deduction for startup costs to \$50,000.

Estate and Wealth Taxes:

- To be determined.

Excise Taxes:

- To be determined.

Individual Income Taxes:

- Exempt tips from the income tax.
- Expand the child tax credit to \$6,000 for children under age 1, \$3,600 for children 2-5, and \$3,000 for older children.
- Expand the earned income tax credit for filers who do not claim children.
- Expand housing tax credits, including the low-income housing tax credit, a credit for new homebuyers, and a credit for the construction of started homes.
- Increase the Medicare tax to reach 5 percent on income above \$400,000.

Payroll Taxes:

- To be determined.

Tariffs and Trade:

- To be determined.

Trump is good for the economy & you!

My Backyard... sponsored by Maureen Kennedy

The Raven

The intriguing Common Raven has accompanied people around the Northern Hemisphere for centuries, following their wagons, sleds, sleighs, and hunting parties in hopes of a quick meal. Ravens are among the smartest of all birds, gaining a reputation for solving ever more complicated problems invented by ever more creative scientists. These big, sooty birds thrive among humans stretching across the sky on easy, flowing wingbeats and filling the empty spaces with an echoing croak.

Look for ravens anywhere from the outskirts of towns (particularly landfills) to foothill forests or scrub, and out to the deep woods of mountains and national parks. If they're around you're likely to hear a deep gurgling croak from far overhead: look for a long-tailed black bird flying on long wings and easy, graceful wingbeats. When driving, keep an eye out for them on the roadsides, gathered at roadkill, or flying straight down the center line on the lookout.



You can attract ravens to your yard by leaving out large amounts of seed, grain, or pet food, or simply by not putting the top securely on your garbage can. These tactics might cause more trouble than they're worth, though, attracting rodents and other pest animals or luring in ravens that may then raid nests in your yard.

The Common Raven is an acrobatic flier, often doing rolls and somersaults in the air. One bird was seen flying upside down for more than a half-mile. Young birds are fond of playing games with sticks, repeatedly dropping them, then diving to catch them in midair.

Breeding pairs of Common Ravens hold territories and try to exclude all

other ravens throughout the year. In winter, young ravens finding a carcass will call other ravens to the prize.

Common Ravens are smart, which makes them dangerous predators. They sometimes work in pairs to raid seabird colonies, with one bird distracting an incubating adult and the other waiting to grab an egg or chick as soon as it's uncovered. They've been seen waiting in trees as ewes give birth, then attacking the newborn lambs.

They also use their intellect to put together cause and effect. A study in Wyoming discovered that during hunting season, the sound of a gunshot draws ravens in to investigate a presumed carcass, whereas the birds ignore sounds that are just as loud but harmless, such as an airhorn or a car door slamming.

People the world over sense a certain kind of personality in ravens. Edgar Allan Poe clearly found them a little creepy. The captive ravens at the Tower of London are beloved and perhaps a little feared: legend has it that if they ever leave the tower, the British Empire will crumble. Native people of the Pacific Northwest regard the raven as an incurable trickster, bringing fire to people by stealing it from the sun, and stealing salmon only to drop them in rivers all over the world.

Common Ravens can mimic the calls of other bird species. When raised in captivity, they can even imitate human words; one Common Raven raised from birth was taught to mimic the word "nevermore."

The oldest known wild Common Raven was at least 22 years, 7 months old. It was banded and found again in Nova Scotia.

-allaboutbirds.com

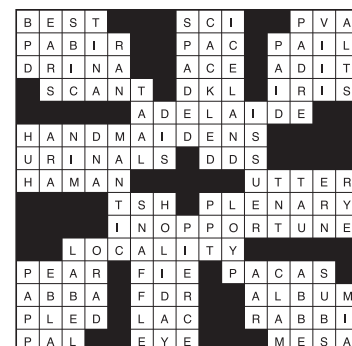


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Separate with an instrument
- 5. State clearly
- 11. One-time MLB speedster Gordon
- 14. Broad in scope
- 15. Lacking social polish
- 16. Amount of time
- 17. Frame
- 19. Automobile
- 20. Caps
- 21. High school dances
- 22. Utilize
- 23. Checked
- 25. One-sided
- 27. Having an extreme greed for wealth
- 31. Potted plants
- 34. We all have one
- 35. Lake north of the Kalahari
- 38. Unidentified flying object
- 39. Aging persons
- 41. Small amount
- 42. Mother of Perseus
- 44. Ornamental waist box
- 45. Officials
- 46. Uncertain
- 49. A cotton fabric with a satiny finish
- 51. Extensive, treeless plains
- 55. Your consciousness of your own identity
- 56. Consumer advocate Ralph
- 60. Notable Spanish sports club
- 61. Body part
- 62. One's responsiveness
- 64. Woman (French)
- 65. Ready and willing to be taught
- 66. Muslim ruler title
- 67. Unhappy
- 68. Gradually disappeared
- 69. Able to think clearly

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Brushed
- 2. Water sprite
- 3. Ones to look up to
- 4. Monetary units
- 5. We all have one
- 6. Marine invertebrate
- 7. One who institutes a legal proceeding
- 8. Outer
- 9. Parallelograms
- 10. Uncomfortable feelings
- 11. Cross to form an X
- 12. Remove
- 13. Some pages are dog-__
- 18. Capital of Ukraine
- 24. A citizen of Denmark
- 26. Eighth month (abbr.)
- 28. Hindu queens
- 29. Acids structurally related to amino acids
- 31. Wet dirt
- 32. Russian city
- 33. Observed
- 36. Irrate
- 37. Travelers need them
- 39. Musical composition
- 40. Auction
- 43. Form of "to be"
- 45. Women
- 47. Inspire with love
- 48. Think Japanese ankle sock
- 49. Appears
- 50. Old World lizard
- 52. The lead dancer: __ ballerina
- 53. Protein involved in motion
- 54. Rosalind Franklin biographer
- 57. Popular 1920s style art __
- 58. __ Blyton, children's author
- 59. Abnormal breathing
- 63. A place to rest



Answers for September 25



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Women's Club of Ocean Pines celebrates golden anniversary

By **Josh Davis**

Since 1974, the Women's Club of Ocean Pines has raised tens of thousands of dollars for area scholarships and offered countless local women an outlet both to socialize and give back to the community.

Now in its 50th year, the Women's

Club boasts a roster of more than 100 members.

The club began to develop in 1972, when a group of women met to play cards, sew and talk about their new community. Originally known as the "Year Rounders Club," the group raised \$500 for the Ocean Pines Association from two bazaars they organized, with that money going toward a living community Christmas tree and card tables for the new community center. At the time, the primary purpose of the club was to acquaint new residents with the community and to promote social and civic activities.

The Women's Club of Ocean Pines was officially established in 1974.

In 1975, the club bought an "electro-printer" to aid in the publishing of the first Ocean Pines Homeowners Directory. The directory sold for \$1 and included listings for 106 full-time homeowner residents and 66 long-term renters. Club dues were \$3 per year.

By 1981, total Women's Club charitable donations topped \$2,000. Just seven years later, in 1988, the club donated \$19,000 from its Memorial Fund toward construction of the White Horse Park pavilion, marking the single-largest donation for that project.

The Women's Club continued to thrive and provide scholarships and community donations during the 2020 COVID pandemic. Meetings were held via ZOOM and fundraising was a particular challenge. During this time the club originated the "Cash for

Winners" raffle, which continues to be an annual fundraising event. This year's raffle will have a 50th Anniversary theme.

Today, the Women's Club focuses on scholarships for high school seniors living in Ocean Pines. To help fund those scholarships, the club hosts game nights, fashion shows, bake sales, garage sales, and other social events.

Scholarships are awarded each May to local high school seniors based on academic achievement, extracurricular involvement, and dedication to the community.

Scholarship amounts vary, depending on the fundraising success each year. The Women's Club has provided as much as \$7,500 for scholarships in a single year.

One student recipient who received a \$1,000 scholarship in 2002 has "given back" more than \$4,000 to the Women's Club scholarship program since 2016. He currently owns a business in Salisbury, where he lives with his wife and two daughters.

Since 2007, the club has awarded \$69,650 in scholarships to 58 high school seniors. During the same period, the Women's Club donated \$35,315 to more than a dozen local groups, from Ocean Pines' Recreation and Parks, Police and Fire departments, to Star Charities, Women Supporting Women, Costal Hospice, and Worcester Youth and Family Counsel-

ing Services. The Women's Club has also supported initiatives like the Ocean Pines Skateboard Park and the Worcester County Veterans Memorial.

There is only one stipulation to become a recipient of a Women's Club donation: the money must benefit Ocean Pines residents.

Today, the Women's Club continues to be a way for neighbors to meet while supporting their local community. The group is always looking for new members, as well as donors.

Members meet on the first Thursday of each month, except July and August. Regular meetings host a quest speaker or occasionally the making of a craft item. Annual membership dues are \$10.

For more information about the Women's Club of Ocean Pines, contact Theresa Solyak at 717-471-0703 or tsolyak@gmail.com.





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Voices from the Women's Club of Ocean Pines

"One of the first things I did when I moved to Ocean Pines from Rockville was to join the Women's Club of Ocean Pines. What better way is there to make new friends and give back to the Community? Since 2006, I have been first and second vice president, president once, and co-president once and now serve as parliamentarian."

-Susann Palamara

"Shortly after moving to Ocean Pines full time in 2009, I joined the Women's Club of Ocean Pines. It was a way for me to meet new women and become involved in its giving program. I have served on several committees, which enabled me to work closely with like-minded women. I also served as co-president, from 2016-2018, and, most recently, as recording secretary."

"As an educator, my priority has always been helping students. In 2018, I became chair of the scholarship committee. With the help of a committee member, a rubric was designed to give fair and impartial judging of each applicant. Each year we are impressed by the amazing talent and skills of these Ocean Pines seniors. It is always with great pride that the Women's Club of Ocean Pines awards scholarships to deserving applicants during our Spring Awards Ceremony." **- Donna Potenza**

Plein Air competition winners announced

Local and regional plein air artists from four different states painted their hearts out from September 15 -20 and competed for attractive cash prizes in the Paint Worcester County, plein air event sponsored by Worcester County Arts Council.

This event, presented in partnership with the Worcester County Library Foundation, culminated on Friday, September 20 at the Berlin Library branch with an open to public Art Sale and Exhibit showcasing artwork created during this event. Completed work in this competition was judged by award-winning, accomplished plein air artist, Jim Rehak. The competition awarded \$2,650 in cash prizes.

The winners are:

First Place: "High Tide" by Rhonda Ford of Easton, MD

Second Place: "Harvest Sun" by Ed Lewandowski of Bridgeville, DE

Third Place: "Last Light" by Homer Proctor of Seaford, DE

Honorable Mention: "Welcome Home" by Lori Yates of Easton, MD
Maryland Legislators' Choice:

"North Eastern" by Gerilyn Gaskill of Georgetown, DE

Worcester County Commissioners' Choice: "Rain, Fog Again" by Nancy Fine of Hampstead, MD

Library Foundation Choice: "Windmill Creek Winery" by Judith Loeber of Millsboro, DE

Berlin Mayor's Choice: "Sam & Sam Get Married" by Taylor Collins of Dover, DE

Horizon Farm Choice and Artists'

Choice: "Harvest Sun" by Ed Lewandowski of Bridgeville, DE

WCAC Board of Directors Choice: "Squirrel!!" by Matthew Amey of Berlin, MD

Selection of paintings created during the Paint Worcester County, plein air event remains on public display at the Worcester County Library, Berlin branch until October 22nd. All artwork in the exhibit is

available for sale.

For more information on exhibited artwork or to make a purchase, please contact the Worcester County Arts Council at 410-641-0809 or curator@worcestercountyartscouncil.org

The Worcester County Arts Council extends thanks and appreciation to many volunteers who contributed to another Paint Worcester County Plein Air success.

Free prostate cancer screening offered

Burbage Regional Cancer Care Center will host a free prostate cancer screening event on October 17 between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m.

An estimated one in eight American men will develop prostate cancer in his lifetime, according to the American Cancer Society. While research has shown that some prostate cancers grow slowly and may never cause problems, the disease is the second leading cause of cancer death in men, only behind lung cancer.

Prostate cancer doesn't have symptoms at first, so early detection through screening gives affected

men and their healthcare providers the information they need to make the best decision regarding their health. That's why Atlantic General Hospital's John H. 'Jack' Burbage, Jr. Regional Cancer Care Center is holding a free screening event in October for men at risk for prostate cancer.

Radiation oncologist Manoj Jain, M.D., urologist Jason Smith, D.O. and nurse practitioner Nettie Widgeon will be on-hand to provide education and conduct digital rectal exams; blood draws will be available to test PSA, or prostate-specific an-

tigen levels. PSA is a substance produced by the prostate gland. Increased amounts of PSA may indicate prostate cancer or other prostate disease.

Men over 50 years of age, those with a family history of the disease, and African American men are at increased risk of developing prostate cancer.

The event will occur at the John H. 'Jack' Burbage, Jr. Regional Cancer Care Center located at 9707 Healthway Drive in Berlin.

Pre-registration is required. To pre-register, call 410-629-6313.

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Youth golf tournament returns November 1

Join Worcester County Recreation & Parks (WCRP) for the 12th annual Tee Off for Youth Golf Tournament Fundraiser at the Ocean City Golf Club on Friday, November 1, 2024. Check-in begins at 9:30 a.m., with a shotgun start to follow at 11:00 a.m.

The cost to participate is \$90 per golfer, and all proceeds generated by this event will benefit underprivileged youth who participate in WCRP youth programs, leagues, after school activities, and summer

camp. Over one-third of the children participating in WCRP's programs are considered underprivileged, and tournament proceeds provide scholarships to assure all children can participate in recreation programs year-round.

Register a team for this year's Tee Off for Youth Golf Tournament and Fundraiser. Forms to register your 4-man scramble are available on the WCRP website or pick one up in person at the Worcester County Recreation Center, located at 6030

Public Landing Road, Snow Hill, Maryland 21863. The registration deadline is Friday, October 25.

Sponsors, auction baskets, volunteers, and donations are needed to run this year's tournament. Promote your organization by signing up to be a sponsor. Options include dinner sponsorship, lunch sponsorship, beverage cart sponsorship, tee sign(s) sponsorship, and other donations sponsorships.

"The Tee off for Youth Golf Tour-

namment is the main fundraiser for the Worcester County Recreation Boosters," Recreation and Parks Director Kelly Rados said. "All proceeds go directly to the Boosters so that they can assist local youth and families to participate in WCRP programs and activities."

For more information contact Ben Kirk at 410-632-2144, x2520 or bkirk@co.worcester.md.us. Learn more about WCRP special events at www.playmarylandscoast.org.

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BJ's membership offer is back

BJ's Wholesale Club is once again partnering with the Ocean Pines Association to bring a special membership offer, effective October 1 to 31, to benefit the Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines Foundation.

With this offer, new members receive a 12-month BJ's Club Card Membership for \$20 or a BJ's Club+ Card Membership, which earns 2% cash back on most BJ's purchases, instant 5-cent discount at BJS Gas, and rewards that never expire, for \$60 with BJ's Easy Renewal.

Existing Club Card members can purchase a 12-month renewal for \$50. Existing Club+ Card members can purchase a 12-month renewal for \$100, with BJ's Easy Renewal.

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 existing 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 (Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.).

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 Oct. 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.

To download an application, visit oceanpines.org and click on the "News" section. 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 2025.

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.

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Astronomy & Spaceflight

By Douglas Hemmick, Ph.D.



Boiling surface seen on Red Giant star

For the first time ever, astronomers have captured detailed views of turbulent “boiling” on a star other than our sun. According to research published in the September edition of “Nature,” new high-resolution imaging of the red giant star R Doradus has revealed the motion of bubbling gas on its surface.

The research group, led by astronomers from the Chalmers University of Technology in Sweden, obtained images from the Atacama Large Array (ALMA) radio telescopes

to study the star R Doradus.

A co-author of the new study, Behzard Bojnodi Arhan said: “It is spectacular that we can now directly image the details on the surface of stars so far away.” According to lead author Wouter Vlemmings: “We had never expected the data to be of such high quality that we could see so many details of the convection on the stellar surface.”

The red giant star R Doradus makes a likely target: its diameter is about 350 times that of the Sun, and it is relatively nearby, at just 180

Things to consider before warming up next to your first fire this winter

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 accessi-

ble 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,

please see first fire page 16

light years away. For comparison, the famous red giant star Betelgeuse is about triple that, at 642 light years distant.

However, even a large star such as this is not easily studied, and the research depends on so-called “interferometry.” This technique allows images taken by individual members of the telescope array to be combined in a very special way. The final result appears with the same quality as an image taken by a telescope as large as the entire host of instruments. In this way, the very sharp, high-resolution images may be achieved.

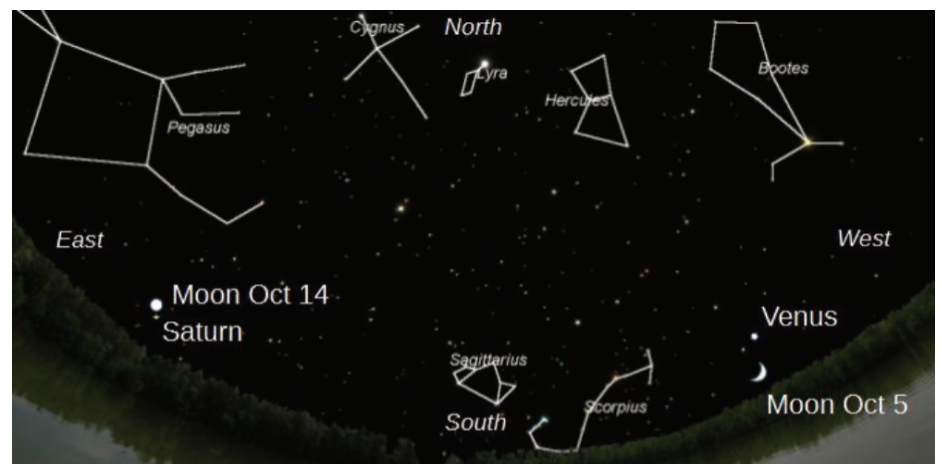
The radio telescope array ALMA, located in Chile, developed highly-detailed images of the stellar surface with large bubbles emerging and

“With ALMA, we have now been able to not only directly see convective granules ... but also measure how fast they move for the first time.”

The individual images have been combined into a time-lapse video which may be seen on the internet.

The secrets of the stars are becoming known to us at last. Radio telescopes seem to be leading the way, having offered up the first image of a black hole event horizon in 2019, and now the surface turmoil of a red giant star in 2024.

October’s stargazing begins about 6:45 p.m., with Venus hovering over the western horizon. Look quickly, prior to 7:15 p.m., as the planet will soon be setting. In addition to the return of Venus to convenient location and time, this month also



sinking again into the interior. The pictures, taken in July, August 2023, show that these surface swellings are each as large as 75 times the size of the Sun.

Unlike planets, stars are violently active places with scorchingly hot cores of ten million degrees or hotter. This heat is generated by the process of “nuclear fusion” in which nuclei of Hydrogen atoms fuse to Helium thus generating energetic photons which keep the core temperature so high.

By a process called “convection,” the heat is then carried out from the core toward the star’s surface. Convection is familiar to anyone who has seen water boiling in a pot, with hot bubbles of steam rising to the surface. Our own local star, the Sun, exhibits such convection cells, as astronomers have known for many decades.

“Convection creates the beautiful granular structure seen on the surface of our Sun, but it is hard to see on other stars,” adds Theo Khouri, a researcher at Chalmers who is a co-author of the study.

brings the planet Saturn back for evening viewing as well.

As the skies grow fully dark, after about 7:30 p.m., the “teapot” of Sagittarius appears near the southern horizon, along with Scorpius the Scorpion. High overhead Cygnus the Swan (Northern Cross) appears, along with Hercules the Hero and Bootes the Herdsman.

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.

After 8 p.m., look for the planet Saturn to the south of Pegasus, hovering about 25 degrees above the southern horizon. Once again, the moon dances with the planets. On October 5, the crescent moon hovers three degrees south of Venus, and then on the 14th, it will float just one tenth of a degree north of Saturn.

Wishing good luck and clear skies to all stargazers.



Celebration - On September 26, students in Mrs. Marshall's first grade class at Ocean City Elementary School celebrated John Chapman's birthday. The students read about how he got the nickname Johnny Appleseed, explored different apple tastes, and experimented with different apple treats.

Public can now apply for electrical and one-day liquor per diem permits online

As part of ongoing efforts to simplify and expedite the permitting process, Worcester County Development Review and Permitting (DRP) is now accepting applications for electrical and one-day liquor per diem permits online.

"We're listening to our constituents and looking for better ways to do business," DRP Deputy Director Matthew Laick said. "Making it possible for our constituents to go online, fill out a form, and submit it whenever and wherever is most convenient to them is just that. Good business."

A one-day per diem permit allows any qualified, bona fide religious, fraternal, veterans, political, civic, or other nonprofit organization to sell and serve beer, wine, or liquor at a one-time event. Applicants are able to fill out and submit the application and upload required documentation. Once

applications are processed, approved permits are emailed.

Registered electricians may apply for electrical permits, attach any necessary documentation, and click submit. DRP staff will follow up with applicants if additional information is needed.

"You submit the information, and we'll work with you," Laick said. "This new process allows DRP staff to better document and communicate with each electrician and to work with the electrical inspection agency of each electrician's choosing to inspect the work once it is completed. The two processes work well together and make what was once a manual, time-consuming process far more streamlined."

There is a three percent service fee for credit and debit cards. However, there is no service fee for utilizing the automatic checking option.

first fire

from page 15

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.

Pet blessing to be offered

St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Berlin is hosting their annual Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, October 6 at 2 p.m. in front of the church located at 3 Church Street. Come for a brief prayer service and then get individual blessings for your pets. Pets in photos or in person are accepted.

Christmas bazaar set

The Community Church at Ocean Pines will hold its annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, November 2, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the church Family Life Center. The address is 11227 Racetrack Road. Come join in the fun and shop for bargains at these many tables: table top decorations, linens, new and gently used clothing, gifts, ornaments, wreaths, trees, children's books and toys. There will also be a bake sale.



commentary

from page 6

whether board members could accept free booze and food from Matt Ortt Companies. Unsurprisingly, the board quickly decided to move further discussion of this obviously sensitive issue to a closed session.

As is often the case, word was leaked about that closed-door discussion - board members could not accept free booze and food at Ortt facilities in Ocean Pines but could do so at Ortt restaurants outside Ocean Pines. The board never officially made any such decision public.

Director Frank Daly later publicly confirmed the closed-door discussion resulted in a "compromise" allowing Directors to accept free booze and food at Matt Ortt restaurants outside Ocean Pines. Daly wrote, "That is my understanding of our policy."

Several directors voting at that closed session in 2020 have confirmed the "compromise" allowing Directors to accept free booze and food from Matt Ortt establishments outside Ocean Pines took place.

D a l y

letter

from page 6

best school year possible. Promise that you will meet with your child's teacher when they request and if they do not, then you will contact them. Promise that you will attend as many of your child's school activities as you possibly can to show your interest and support.

School and district administrators promise that you will spend as much time as possible in the classrooms under your supervision. That you will make certain that all classrooms are teaching appropriate lessons for the age group and subject that they are teaching. Promise that you will support all teachers with staff development and materials where needed so that they do not have to buy materials from their own pocket. Promise that you will spend your budget wisely and with the best interest of your students in mind at all times.

If everyone keeps these promises, this year will be amazing. Thank all of the above for all that you do. Have a wonderful school year.

Dorothy Shelton Leslie
Candidate for Board of Education,
District 5

told *OceanPinesForum.com* that those in favor of the Daly proposed "compromise" were Frank Daly, Camilla Rogers, Tom Janasek, Doug Parks, and Steve Tuttle. Those opposing were Colette Horn and Larry Perrone.

Rick Farr was not involved in OPA politics at the time. Asked recently what he thought about such a policy or "compromise," as Daly put it, Farr replied, "That would be crazy." A succinct and accurate observation. Another good description would be "unbelievable."

Former Bylaws & Resolutions Committee Chairman Jim Trummel wrote, "A director accepting gifts and gratuities from a company doing business with OPA can be perceived to be compromising the best interests of the Association in favor of his interests in actions regarding the business relationship."

Rest assured, OPA General Manager John Viola and his staff will handle this request for proposals and any recommendations resulting from those proposals with the utmost professionalism. Then it will be up to seven board members to make an unbiased judgment on any staff recommendation.



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Wor-Wic celebrates presidential inauguration

Wor-Wic Community College recently installed its third president, Deborah Casey, Ph.D., in a ceremony held at the Wicomico Youth & Civic Center. Casey has held the role since August 2023, and in her first year, she has worked to advance the institution, announcing new initiatives and goals for the college as it approaches its 50th anniversary.

During the investiture ceremony before an audience of state and local officials, community members, guests from other colleges and universities as well as Wor-Wic students, faculty and staff, Casey spoke about her vision for ensuring another 50 years of success for the college.

“When I was hired to serve you, the trustees charged me to lead with courage, to inspire with vision and to serve with humility, while upholding the values that have made Wor-Wic Community College a beacon of hope and opportunity in our three counties,” Casey said. “For 50 years, this college has been providing accessible, affordable and high-quality education to countless students and our local workforce. This institution is our place of learning; it is a cornerstone of our communities. Wor-Wic has been pivotal in shaping the futures of individuals and families across the Lower Shore, fostering economic growth, and empowering generations to dream bigger and reach higher.”

Casey noted the many successes that Wor-Wic has had over the past year.

“This fall we offered two seven-week terms or one 15-week term for students to enroll in classes; in partnership with the Maryland Higher Education Commission we financially incentivized full-time student

status; we implemented a standardized course schedule; opened our beautiful Patricia and Alan Guerrieri Technology Center building, offering more credit and non-credit programs; received our first National Science Foundation grant for advanced technologies; started a fire science program; created a new risk management and insurance concentration;

signed a transfer agreement with the University of Maryland Eastern Shore into the School of Pharmacy and a two-way transfer degree with Salisbury University in forensic science; taught at Eastern Correctional Institution; successfully completed 10-year accreditation for occupational therapy assistant and physical therapist assistant programs; our radiologic technology students had a 100% success rate on their licensure exam followed by our licensed practical nursing program being ranked No. 1 nationally by the Mountain Measurement report; and we graduated our 93rd police academy class.”

Casey said she wants the next half century to build upon that success.

As we look ahead, my vision for Wor-Wic is clear,” she said. “Our focus will remain steadfast on our



From left, **Chip Bertino**, president of the Worcester County Commissioners; **Sen. Mary Beth Carozza**; **Dr. Sanjay Rai**, secretary of education, Maryland Higher Education Commission; **Deborah Casey, Ph.D.**, president of Wor-Wic Community College; and **John T. Cannon**, president of the Wicomico County Council pause for a photo before the inauguration ceremony at the Wicomico Youth & Civic Center in Salisbury.

one-college model increasing student access and success while creating pathways from K-12 school districts, dual enrollment, Junior Achievement Center, industry, apprenticeships and career and technical education programs to Wor-Wic and from Wor-Wic to our transfer partners or the workforce. We will continue to create pathways that are flexible, inclusive and innovative, ensuring that every student who walks through our doors has the tools they need to thrive, whether in furthering their education, the workforce or life.”

Some of the possibilities Casey saw on the horizon for Wor-Wic included a new student success and wellness center; the addition of athletics, academic exchange programs in France and India; more partnerships with local industry to continue to meet the needs of the workforce; and attaining a student population of 10,000, with more full-time students and more credentials conferred.

“I invite each of you to join me in this journey as we write the next chapter in the history of Wor-Wic Community College,” Casey said. “We will continue to build programs that respond to the needs of our students and our community, from cutting-edge technology and healthcare,

skilled trades, to the arts and humanities, ensuring that our graduates are prepared to lead and thrive in the 21st century. And most importantly, we will continue to place our students at the center of all that we do, ensuring that they have the resources, support and opportunities they need to succeed.”

Casey, who has encouraged the campus to rally around the college mascot, a dolphin, concluded by leading a cheer of “Go Fins!”

Morgan Hazel, chairperson of the Wor-Wic board of trustees, and president emeritus Dr. Ray Hoy, who retired from Wor-Wic in 2023, performed the official investiture, bestowing the presidential hood and mace.

Dignitaries speaking included Sen. Mary Beth Carozza; John T. Cannon, president of the Wicomico County Council; Julie M. Giordano, Wicomico County executive; and Chip Bertino, president of the Worcester County Commissioners. Community partners who took the podium included Kelley M. Selph, vice chairperson, Wor-Wic Foundation, Pam Gregory, president and CEO of the United Way of the Lower Eastern Shore, and Shawna Nadine Kearsley of Pohanka of Salisbury.

LSLT to host guest bartender fundraiser

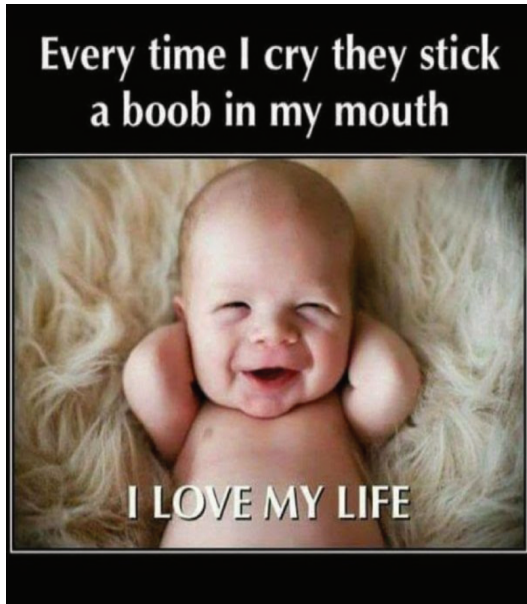
The Lower Shore Land Trust (LSLT) will hold a special Halloween fundraiser, “Haunted Harvest: Pouring for Preservation” in partnership with Burley Oak Brewing Company on Monday, October 28 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Burley Oak Brewery is generously donating a portion of the proceeds to the Lower Shore Land Trust.

In addition to raffle prizes and live music, attendees can enjoy a Burley Oak brew, poured by celebrity guest bartenders, Secretary of Housing and Community Development, Jake Day and former Lower Shore Land Trust Executive Director, Kate Patton. Attendees are encouraged to come in their Halloween costumes.

Both Day and Patton are strong supporters of the Lower Shore Land Trust’s mission to protect and restore the natural resources, wildlife habitat, and working lands of Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties.

Some things to think about

Gathered from the internet by **Jack Barnes**



I told my suitcases that there will be no vacation this year. Now I'm dealing with emotional baggage.



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!"

Sometimes, not saying anything is the best answer. You see, silence can never be misquoted.

It may look like I'm having really deep thoughts but 99% of the time I'm just thinking about what food I'm going to eat later.
SoRelatable.com

I HAVE PUT A LOT OF THOUGHT INTO IT AND I JUST DON'T THINK BEING AN ADULT IS GONNA WORK FOR ME

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