

The Courier

October 9, 2024 Volume 25 Number 6



WPS festivities

Worcester Preparatory School (WPS) Upper School dedicated the second week of September to celebrate Homecoming. Festivities kicked off September 16 with an activity-packed Spirit Week. The celebration culminated with an alumni/family cookout and home games for varsity volleyball and boys' and girls' soccer on Friday, September 20, followed by the Homecoming dance on Saturday, September 21.

Above: The Balloon Brothers, WPS sophomore **Ronen Poddar** and 7th grader **Ronit Poddar** both of Ocean Pines made balloon art for the festivities. The brothers are pictured in front of their balloon art booth.

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Kiwanians of the Month - (L-R) Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines - Ocean City members **John Hanberry** and **Geoffrey Goodson** and Kiwanis Club President **Bob Wolfing** who recognized the two as Kiwanians of the Month for their dedicated work as part of the Dawg Team concessions members. They work at most of the 20 events where the Kiwanis Club prepares and sells food throughout the year.

Local nonprofit seeks donations

Worcester County GOLD (Giving Other Lives Dignity), a local nonprofit organization, is seeking donations of new basic needs items for its annual "VAULToberfest" fundraiser.

The VAULT (Vast Amounts of Useful Little Things) is a room in GOLD's office where eligible residents can privately shop for necessities like diapers, wipes, car seats, clothing, household items, hygiene products, and shelf-stable food. "In Snow Hill and Pocomoke, 50% of households don't earn enough to afford their basic needs, with even more one step away from an emergency. Last year, GOLD's VAULT served 227 households with \$20,000 worth of items we believe all people should have access to", said GOLD's Executive Director, Nick Cranford.

"Our clients are referred to us by agents employed with our fourteen community partners including the Department of Social Services,

Health Department, and Diakonia. During our over 25 years of experience in Worcester County, we've developed strong relationships and an effective and efficient system for impactful and immediate assistance. Our neighbors are desperate for help, so we're asking for donations of items to keep the VAULT's shelves from going bare."

To support this fundraising effort, supporters can drop off items at GOLD's office at 201 River Street in Snow Hill, MD 21863 on weekdays from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm, or you can visit their website at www.WorcesterGOLD.org to donate online or shop their Walmart or Amazon registries and have items shipped directly to GOLD's office.

Worcester County GOLD is a nonprofit organization improving the quality of life for Worcester County residents living in low-income circumstances by providing emergency financial assistance and items to meet basic needs.

October is Fire Prevention Month



Joe Enste

Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department President Joe Enste spoke on September 30 about Fire Prevention Month in October, and Fire Prevention Week running Oct. 6-12.

He said the theme this year is “Smoke Alarms – Make them WORK for you!”

“Smoke alarms can really be the difference between life or death when it comes down to a fire,” he said. “Number one, you need to make sure that you have smoke alarms in your house.”

Enste said OPVFD often respond to calls where the homeowner did not have smoke alarms installed.

Equally important, he said, is making sure they work properly.

“Every smoke alarm has a particular position where they should be placed,” he said. “Some should be up high. Some should be down on a wall. Some should be on a ceiling. So, if you need assistance with that, we can always come by, look at the instructions and help you. Or just call a local contractor, and they can gladly install it for you.”

He said smoke alarms should be installed in every bedroom, outside of each sleeping area, and there should be at least one smoke alarm per floor. That includes extra rooms over garages.

“That way, if there is a fire anywhere in your house, it’s going to get detected, and then you’re going to be alerted to make sure that you can escape,” he said.

Additionally, Enste said smoke alarms should be tested regularly.

“We recommend testing them monthly, and then all new smoke alarms have a sealed 10-year battery,” he said. “Smoke alarms in general are only good for about 10 years.”

Older smoke alarms, he said, should be replaced.

“The other thing that’s important is,

if you have your smoke alarms and they’re working, that is great, but you need to know what to do when that smoke alarm goes off,” Enste said. “So, you need to have an escape plan.”

Enste said a good rule of thumb is to have two ways out of every room. That may mean leaving through the doorway, or from a nearby window.

“Practice those escape plans at least twice a year,” he said. “That way ... your family members [and] you know what to do.

“And, if you have anybody that needs assistance getting out of the house, make sure that you can communicate that to 911 when you’re calling them and letting them know,” he continued. “That way, when we arrive, we can go directly to where they are in the house and help them get out.”

Enste said for those with visual or other impairments, there are specialty alarms that can use strobes, vibrations, or other means to alert residents during an emergency.

Along with education initiatives, the Fire Department is continuing its fundraising operations. That includes the annual fund drive, which will have

notice out during the next few weeks.

“All the funds from that fund drive will be going into ... a central account for apparatus replacement and for necessary tools, and then anything left over will go towards the south station building fund,” Enste said.

OPVFD is also running the annual truck raffle. Tickets are \$100 and only 2,500 tickets will be sold.

The raffle this year feature a 2024 Ford F-150 valued at \$54,045. Along with the truck, the winner will have all taxes and other expenses associated with winning the vehicle paid for – a potential savings of \$18,000 for the winner.

For more information on the truck raffle, visit opvfd.com/f-150.

OPVFD is also doing a weekly “Queen of Hearts” tournament, similar to games played at local Elks Lodges or VFWs. Tickets are \$5 and the jackpot is now over \$35,000, Enste said.

Drawings are held at 5:30 p.m. each Tuesday and are livestreamed on the OPVFD Facebook page.

For more information, visit opvfd.com/queen-of-hearts.

For more information on OPVFD, visit opvfd.com or call 410-641-8272.

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Anglers to meet

The Ocean Pines Anglers Club will meet on Saturday, October 12 at 9:30 a.m. in the Ocean Pines library. The speaker will be Dave Allen, a resident of Ocean Pines and former chairman of the Ocean Pines Marine Activities Advisory committee. Dave became interested in growing oysters to assist in cleaning the local waterways of pollution. He has been growing oysters off his dock for the past three years. Dave will talk about the program, process, and his own experiences with the oyster restoration program. Also, charter fishing opportunities, regulation updates and all things fishing will be discussed. All are welcome.

RWWC to meet

The Republican Women of Worcester County's October meeting and luncheon will be held on Thursday, October 24 at Worcester Technical High School located at 6290 Worcester Highway (Rt 113) in Newark. The guest speaker will be Brigadier General (RET) John Tiechert. General Tiechert, a recent Maryland Senate candidate, is an inspirational speaker who has served the United States in various leadership positions. The all-inclusive cost is \$25, tax and gratuity included. To request more information, please go to gopwomenofwc@gmail.com.

Job Fair set for October 23

Calling all job seekers. Meet prospective employers from across Worcester County and choose from hundreds of seasonal and year-round jobs at the Worcester County Job Fair on Wednesday, October 23 at the Snow Hill Volunteer Fire Company from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

This event is free and open to the public. No registration is required. Come prepared, ready to network, and take the next step towards your professional goals. This upcoming Job Fair promises an array of exciting opportunities across various industries. Whether you're an experienced professional looking to advance your career or a recent graduate ready to embark on your first job, this event caters to individuals at every stage of their career journey.

This event is being hosted by Worcester County Tourism and Economic Development (WCTED) in partnership with the Maryland Department of Human Services. For more information, contact WCTED Workforce Development Specialist Nancy Schwendeman at nschwendeman@co.worcester.md.us or (410) 632-3112 x2120.

Trunk or treat event planned

Parents, worrying about your children Trick or Treating on Halloween, bring them out to a Halloween event on Saturday, October 26 between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. at Holy Trinity Cathedral located at 11021 Worcester Highway in Berlin. Come join in the fun. The free event will be in the parking lot and is open to the public. This is a rain or shine event. For more information, call Tuesday through Thursday at (410) 641-4882 or email at trinitycathedralberlin@gmail.com.



Virtual reading to be held

Wor-Wic Community College is inviting the public to a free virtual reading by author David Galef on Thursday, October 10, at 6:30 p.m., via Zoom.

Galef is the author of "Brevity: A Flash Fiction Handbook," as well as novels, short story collections, children's books, poetry books, criticism and translation. He is also a humor columnist for Inside Higher Ed, a higher education publication.

Visit the events section of www.worwic.edu for more information.



Art fun - Clients of the Worcester County Developmental Center recently made colorful pumpkins during a class on felting led by Alicia Rappold at the Ocean City Center for the Arts.

Wor-Wic receives voter-friendly designation

Wor-Wic Community College was one of only two community colleges in Maryland, and one of 258 campuses across the nation, to be designated as a Voter Friendly Campus by the Fair Elections Center's Campus Vote Project and Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education (NASPA).

The initiative recognizes institutions that have planned and implemented practices that encourage their students to register and vote in elections. Its goal is to bolster colleges and universities' efforts to help students overcome barriers to participating in the political process.

Wor-Wic was evaluated based on a written plan for how it planned to register, educate and turn out student voters, how it facilitated voter engagement efforts on our campus and a final analysis of its efforts, which it continues to maintain. During National Voter Registration Day recently, Wor-Wic held an event on campus in tandem with the Wicomico County Board of Elections to allow students to register to vote.

"We are proud to be a place where students can feel their voices

are heard," said Deborah Casey, Ph.D., president of Wor-Wic. "We feel it is important for our students to be engaged in their democracy and is in keeping with our ethos of being a community-focused institution."

The institutions designated Voter Friendly Campuses represent a wide range of two-year, four-year, public, private, rural and urban campuses, collectively serving over 3.5 million students. Fair Elections Center is a national, nonpartisan voting rights and legal support organization that works to eliminate barriers to voting and improve election administration across the United States.

NOTICE

The Courier will be on hiatus next week and will return October 23.

An old course for adventure

Watching television isn't what it used to be. There's nothing that can change things back to the way they once were. Technology has made it so we can now watch programming when we want, on our timeline.



It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

That's rather nice I admit. Yet, if you don't subscribe to the service on which the show everyone is talking about streams, then you're out of luck. It gets expensive signing up for the ever-growing number of streaming services available. There was a time, back in the day, when there was only Netflix which wasn't too expensive relative to the monthly cable or satellite bills. Now, it's very easy to spend as much or more on streaming services per month than the basic cable bill.

How many choices do we need before we become overloaded with options that compel us to spend more time switching among streaming services and scrolling through programming menus than actually watching something, anything? I descent this rabbit hole more times than I care to admit, spending way too much time searching for a movie or series that attracts my attention. A series that has recently snagged my attention is "Tulsa King" with Sylvester Stallone.

There was a time in the not-too-distant past when all we had to do was thumb through *TV Guide* to know what was on and when. There was something comforting about knowing when specific shows aired. Our days and weeks revolved around when our favorite programs would be on. There were only three, later four, broadcast television networks: NBC, CBS, ABC and Fox. Additionally, there was PBS which was good for Sesame Street and Ken Burns' documentaries.

It's been years since the last time I watched a network television show. I have started watching "Blue Bloods," on Paramount+, not on the CBS network. We left cable several years ago

because we realized we were watching less and less "regular" television programming. Yes, we had dozens and dozens of channels (most of which we never watched), but it was harder and harder to justify the monthly cost. There are only so many times a rerun of "Law & Order SVU" is must see. Unfortunately, the cable company was unable to package just the ten or so channels in which we were interested. Even their basic package included too many channels we flipped past to be cost justified. *Snip!*

Binge watching a show on a streaming network is very nice. But once you watch all ten episodes over a weekend, then what? You have to wait a year or more for the next installments to be available. So, it's back to searching.

Time was when you could plan your week around the primetime television schedule. Sunday night: "60 Minutes" and "Movie of the Week"; Monday: "Little House on the Prairie" and "Monday Night Football;" Tuesday: "Happy Days," "Laverne & Shirley," "Three's Company," "Soap" and "Starsky & Hutch;" Wednesday: "Eight Is Enough," "Charlie's Angels" and "Vegas;" Thursday: "The Waltons," "Hawaii Five-o" and "Barnaby Jones;" Friday: "Donny and Marie," "Rockford Files" and "Quincy;" and Saturday: "All in the Family," "The Jefferson's," "Mary Tyler Moore," "Bob Newhart" and "The Carol Burnett Show." Those were the days.

The appeal of cable television and then streaming networks was that it offered viewers hundreds, thousands, millions of viewing options. But there's a part of me that yearns for the era when I knew that when, on Saturday nights, I turned the dial to ABC (channel 6 in Philadelphia) at 9 p.m. I would hear Jack Jones sing to a disco beat the "Love Boat" theme while that episode's guest stars smiled through the credits, expecting us to "come aboard for something exciting and new." Or to hear once again at about seven minutes to ten on Thursday nights, "Book 'em Dano!"

That's a course for adventure I wouldn't mind travelling again.

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OCEAN PINES LIBRARY

Readers Comments

Books should be age appropriate Community helps ravaged towns

Editor:

It has gotten back to me that I am being labeled a "book banner" by certain groups of people. I am not a book banner and never will be. However, I do support a parent's right to choose what they want, and do not want their child to know and experience.

My concern about books in schools is that they need to be age appropriate: both subject and children's interest. Any book that cannot be read aloud at a school board meeting because it is too offensive, should certainly not be found in our schools. That does not mean that a parent cannot choose to expose their child to any book they want. However, these sexually explicit books should not be out for all children to see and check out of the library because there are parents who do not want their child exposed to these books and they also have rights. Since our state is pushing this open policy, there certainly are ways of compromising and protecting our children's innocence and our parents right to choose what is appropriate for their child.

At a previous Worcester County Board of Education (WCBE) meeting, an attempt was made for a compromise to help solve this dilemma. A motion was made to have a special room created in each school that children, with written permission from their parent or guardian, could use and where such sexually explicit books would be housed. This was voted down by all but one of our board members. This meant that these sexually explicit books are still allowed in the general book population and all children have access to them. My opponent voted against it and when asked by Mike Bradley on the radio why she voted against this, her response was that, "There was not a detailed plan for this." My response is, get the

motion passed and the district administrators and librarians will work out the details. The board's job is policy, not detailed plans.

We must remember that some books are fine for high school students but not for first graders, as an example. That is not book banning. That is choosing books that are age appropriate. However, our current policy does not stipulate the difference. I am not a book banner. I received an Administrator of the Year Award from the Delaware Librarian Association for my work with libraries in Delaware. I do not think they would have given this award to someone who banned books.

This genuine concern for so many of our parents must be addressed. There is a compromise out there that can solve this controversy and protect parents' rights to choose for their child what materials they want their child to read and be exposed to.

As a taxpayer, an educator, a parent and grandparent, I want my tax dollars to be spent on books and materials that benefit our student's learning and are age appropriate. I believe that there should be a committee of parents, librarians, taxpayers, administrators and teachers that support the book choices for the library and that the administrator responsible for this subject area should be the final check to make sure the books are age appropriate and support the curriculum of the school within which the library resides.

I do not agree with book banning, but I do support parent's rights to choose for their child and placing age appropriate materials in correct age level schools is critical.

Dorothy Shelton Leslie
Candidate for Worcester County School Board District 5

Editor:

On Thursday and Friday, October 4 and 5 a plea for help was issued to citizens of Worcester County to bring much needed supplies that were needed in North Carolina for towns that were ravaged by the remnants of hurricane Helene. Large amounts of rain, wind and horrific flooding literally wiped out small towns in the hills and valleys near Asheville, NC. Roads and bridges disappeared, homes, cars and businesses were washed away and many lives were lost in the disastrous conditions that sprang up so quickly. There was no electric, food, drinking water, wi-fi and most roads were impassible. News of the disastrous conditions were slow to come forward as there was basically very little means of communication.

As updates were reported, pleas went out for help for emergency services, rescue, utilities and basic every day needs for those who lost everything. Ocean Pines jumped in.

I am a volunteer at the Ocean Pines library and was happy to help receive and sort donations. I cannot tell you

enough about the overwhelming response from people and businesses around Ocean Pines who so very generously donated in a matter of 24 hours half of a trailer load of diapers, food, dog and cat food, bottled water, medicine and medicinal needs, paper goods, buckets, shovels, baby food, snacks, canned goods, gloves, socks, bedding, eating utensils, Depends, flashlights, gloves, bug repellent and the list goes on. On Friday afternoon the donated materials were loaded and early Saturday morning it was on the way to the unfortunate victims of the hurricane.

People and Businesses of Ocean Pines, you deserve a huge pat on the back and many accolades for your compassion, generosity, kindness and efforts. On behalf of those who are in a state of shock and despair, thank you, thank you, thank you. God bless all of you and know that someone is very thankful for your efforts and understanding.

Jim Meckley
President of Friends of the Ocean Pines Library (FOPL)

Courier Almanac

On October 9, 1974 German businessman Oskar Schindler, credited with saving 1,200 Jews from the Holocaust, dies at the age of 66.

Domestic violence is a growing concern in some areas of North America. According to Statistics Canada, in 2021 there were 127,082 victims of police-reported family violence (violence committed by a spouse, parent, child, sibling, or extended family member), a rate of 336 victims per 100,000 population. Data indicates this was the fifth consecutive year that domestic violence incidents rose in Canada. In addition, 114,132 individuals age 12 years and older were victims of intimate partner violence (violence committed by a current and former legally married spouse, common-law partner, dating partner, or other intimate partner). The National Domestic Violence Hotline indicates an average of 24 people per minute are victims of rape, physical violence or stalking by an intimate partner in the United States. That adds up to more than 12 million male and female victims in a single year. One in four women and one in seven men age 18 and older in the United States have been victims of domestic abuse in their lifetimes.





Gazebo construction underway at Veterans Memorial

Construction is well underway for a new gazebo at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines.

The project is slated to wrap in time for the annual Veterans Day ceremony in November, and work is currently on schedule, according to Ocean Pines General Manager John Viola.

“Thanks to the planning, coordination and execution of the Ocean Pines team and Whayland and all their hard work, we are on track at this time and encouraged by the results that we will meet our timeline,” Viola said.

Senior Public Works Director

Eddie Wells, who has been overseeing the project, said it will be a welcome addition to the Veterans Memorial.

“Whayland has been a great contractor to deal with, and they have a track record with us of very good quality and workmanship,” he said.

“We have something special here in Ocean Pines, and this is another prime example,” Viola added.

The Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation, which hosts the annual Veterans Day ceremony, also plans to hold a dedication ceremony for the new gazebo on November 11.

Storybook Walk ribbon cutting is Sunday

There will be a ribbon cutting event for the unveiling of a new Storybook Walk Sunday, October 13 at 11 a.m. at Ocean City’s newly renovated downtown Bayside Park located on 3rd Street.

What started as an idea to further promote local stewardship and awareness surrounding trash clean ups, has metamorphosed into a multi-partner endeavor to bring a story to life. Maryland Coastal Bays Program, in collaboration with the Town of Ocean City, Plak That, 1% for the Planet, and Di angelo Publications, has implemented a Storybook Walk for the locally authored “Keep Our Beaches Clean! What If Everybody Did That?” at the newly renovated Bayside Park at 3rd Street in downtown Ocean City.

Storybook Walks are a wonderful way to expand literacy all the while enjoying some outdoor exercise. They typically feature large scale pages of a book chronologically placed along a trail, or, in this case, a bayside boardwalk. This specific walk spotlights, “Keep Our Beaches Clean! What If Everybody Did That?”, a book written by an inspiring class of Showell Elementary School 2nd graders in collaboration with professional surfer

Kelly Slater. The book was released this past spring by Di angelo Publications. Mackenzie Keyser, the facilitating teacher from Showell Elementary says, “the students and I are so thrilled, and honored, to have ‘Keep Our Beaches Clean! What If Everybody Did That?’ made into a Storybook Walk! Our hopes are that through this extension of the book, children from all over will be eager to help do their part to keep our beaches clean!”

As they approach the Storybook Walk, visitors will encounter a panel that outlines how to use the walk. As they continue, readers will embark on a story about how the choices we make can impact the beach and the critters that live there. It ends with a panel that includes a QR code that links to more resources such as a lesson plan that compliments the book. These panels were created with ideas from all the partners and brought to life by local graphic designer Mark Huey. The event will feature guest speakers, including Mackenzie Keyser, an official ribbon cutting, and a book signing by the student authors themselves! There will be books on site for purchase from Coastal Bays, or attendees can bring their own to get signed.



Dorothy Shelton-Leslie
Board of Education
District 5 | Ocean Pines

VOTE: November 5th

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Authority: People For D Shelton-Leslie | Grant Helvey, Treasurer

Because Every Child Matters...

It's Time For Dorothy!

- Take Politics OUT of our schools. Focus on Core Subjects & Academic Proficiency!
- Allow ONLY GIRLS in the Girls Bathrooms and in Girls Sports!
- Require Parental Approval for Curriculum and/or Books with Sexually Explicit Content!
- Improve School Safety through Consistent Consequences for Unacceptable Student Behavior!
- Advocate for Teacher Compensation!
- More Evening School Board Meetings so Parents can be Involved!

CONNECT WITH DOROTHY
Facebook: Dorothy For BOE
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*** HEADS-UP ***

Those in my opponent's camp are spreading the lie that I am a book burner to disparage me and my campaign. This is made-up propaganda. As a 40+ year Educator, I will never vote for banning any books! I call this a despicable tactic in their effort to try and win at any cost.

YOU DECIDE BY YOUR VOTE

DOROTHY Shelton-Leslie
SCHOOL BOARD
Student Success & Safety

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**WORCESTER COUNTY
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FREE Household Hazardous Waste Collection

**Saturday, October 26, 2024
10 AM-2 PM**

Collections to be held at
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All of these materials will go to a HAZ MAT disposal site.

Dispose of **solidified** water based paint in trash. (to solidify – add dirt, sand, kitty litter, mulch, etc.)

THESE ITEMS WILL BE ACCEPTED AT

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NEWARK, MD 21841
OCTOBER 26, 2024 10AM-2PM**

WHAT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED:

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- Televisions • TV Remotes • Keyboards
- Mouse • Printers • Modems • Scanners • Cables
- Misc. Computer Parts • VCR's • CD Player's
- Calculators • Cell Phones • Radios • Stereos
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ELECTRONICS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

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Chief Robinson offers updates

Ocean Pines Police Chief Tim Robinson addressed traffic issues, a recent series of grants received from the state, and the status of cell service in the community during the September 28 Ocean Pines Association board meeting.

Robinson said traffic activity and complaints are the subject many complaints in Ocean Pines.

Since July, he said Ocean Pines Police made 210 traffic stops, including 58 for speeding and 40 for failing to obey road signs.

During those stops, Robinson said police found four suspended drivers, two unregistered vehicles, and one each driving without a license, driving without insurance, and one DUI.

"The officers are doing their best ... keeping the citizens and residents here safe," Robinson said.

Robinson has also been focused on securing grants to keep police operations running smoothly, and to help curb rising public safety costs.

That includes several recent grants obtained from the Maryland Governor's Office of Crime, Crime Control and Prevention that totaled more

than \$60,000. Grants will be used for officer recruitment and retention, special event policing, and body cameras.

"We also got some grants for highway safety to go out there and do some more speed enforcement, to go do some DUI enforcement, and to also make sure you folks are all wearing your seat belts, which is also important," Robinson said. "Combined with the grant that I wrote when I first came here, that's almost \$84,000 in grant money that we'll bring into the Ocean Pines Police Department, to help out with various things."

Additionally, Robinson gave a brief update on efforts to improve cellphone service in Ocean Pines.

He said poor service can be a safety issue, especially when someone is trying to call 911 during an emergency. To address the problem, Robinson said he and General Manager John Viola had productive talks with Worcester County officials.

"We have identified a couple places here that are Ocean Pines property, and we've already gone so far that we are in contact with Verizon Wireless," Robinson said. "We've had very positive conversations with them. We've even spoken already to a contractor who is interested in possibly building a tower."

"Things are in motion. Hopefully by this time next year, we're going to have a different situation," he added.

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EOE



New members - The Ocean City – Berlin Optimist Club recently welcomed new members to the club. Pictured are **Gary** and **Candy Thumser**.

Quit smoking, vaping classes offered

Commit to quitting smoking/vaping with the help of The Worcester County Health Department's free *Adult Quit Smoking/Vaping Classes*. The newest session of classes begins in October at varying locations throughout the county. Participants will work with professionally trained instructors who will help break the nicotine addiction. The course consists of eight core sessions covering stress management, weight control, assertive communication, how to develop a quit plan, relapse prevention, and physical activity.

Join one of the smoking cessation classes available throughout Worcester County starting next month:

-Tuesdays, 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., (October 8 -January 7) at the Snow Hill Health Center, 6040 Public Landing Rd.

-Wednesdays, 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m., (October 9 - January 8) at the Pocumoke Health Center, 400-A Walnut St.

-Thursdays, 3:00 p.m. - 4 p.m., (October 10 - January 9) at the Atlantic Club, 11827 Ocean Gateway.

-Thursdays, 5 p.m. - 6 p.m., (October 10 - January 9) at the Gudelsky Family Medical Center, 10614 Race-track Rd.

-Distance Learning options are available upon request.

"No matter how long you've smoked or vaped, there are health benefits to quitting," said Crystal Bell, Chronic Disease and Tobacco Supervisor at The Worcester County Health Department. "If a person is thinking about quitting, we want them set up for success by enrolling in our free smoking cessation program. We want residents to know we are here to help them through their quit journey."

Worcester Health is committed to helping smokers and vapers establish new behavior patterns that lead to a tobacco-free lifestyle.

To register call 410-632-1100 Ext. 1103.

NOTICE

The Courier will be on hiatus next week and will return October 23.

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Surfmen

The Ocean City Life-Saving Station Museum is an enlightening experience that sits conspicuously at the south end of the Ocean City boardwalk. Like all museums, it is a tribute to the past; and, like all museums, it exudes of quiet passion.

Ever since man discovered the principle of buoyancy, mariners have gone to sea; and, from the beginning, many have not returned. Some have been lost to giant icebergs or vanished in the Bermuda Triangle. Others have been victims of collisions or equipment failures. And still others have gotten lost or disabled and foundered onto sandbars or reefs or beaches.

In the millenniums before mechanical engine power, radios, satellite navigation, and EPIRBs (Emergency Position Indication Radio Beacon), those who incurred King Neptune's wrath far out at sea ended up like Moby Dick's Ishmael – floating aimlessly amongst ship wreckage. However, there was hope for those whose fate was to run aground near the shore.

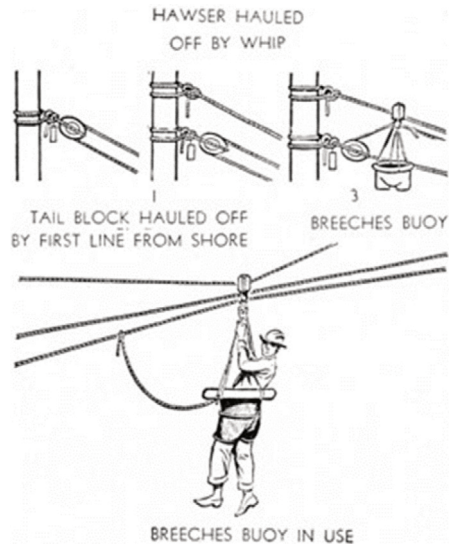
Starting in the late nineteenth century, the U.S. Life-Saving Service was the first organization in the United States to provide rescue for shipwrecked souls whose vessels foundered on beaches or close-in shoals. From their 280 lifesaving stations, keepers would patrol the beaches on foot or maintain vigilance from watch towers like the one still standing at the end of the OC boardwalk that overlooks our inlet. There were 19 stations on Delmarva from Lewes, Delaware, to Smith Island, Virginia.

When the keeper came upon a disastrous situation, he would muster (without the use of a cell phone) the surfmen. They were a hardy and athletic group of well trained, highly motivated volunteers who would lug the rescue apparatus to the scene in a manually pulled beach wagon because most of the stations did not have horses. Just getting the men and equipment to the scene was quite challenging and exhausting since ship

wrecks typically happened during ugly stormy weather and the stations were, on average, seven miles apart.

There were two approaches to a rescue and both methods are on display in the OC museum.

If the endangered vessel was close enough to shore, a 'breeches-buoy' could be rigged. A breeches-buoy was a one-person contraption in which the stranded seafarer sat safe and secure with his/her legs dangling out through holes or sleeves while surfmen hauled it ashore.

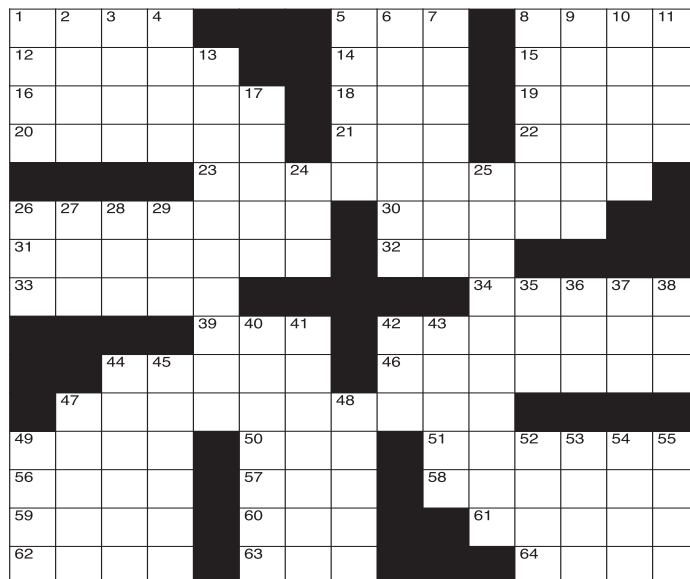


The procedure to rig a breeches-buoy began by shooting a light weight line from the beach to the grounded vessel. A small cannon called a Lyle Gun that was specifically designed for this task could accurately project the 'shot line' up to 300 yards.

Using the light weight shot line, the stranded sailors would haul in the first of two larger lines called the 'whip.' It was actually a block with a line threaded through it and both ends extending back to shore that would allow the surfmen to muscle the breeches-buoy to and from the distressed vessel. Also attached to the block would be a paddle about the size of a small oar with inscribed instructions to inform the distressed souls onboard to make the block fast to a structurally sound part of the ship.

Once the whip was secured, the on-

please see knots on page 14

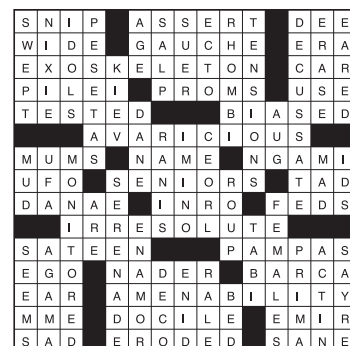


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Unsheared sheep
- 5. Rock TV channel
- 8. Streetcar
- 12. Concerning
- 14. Exclamation
- 15. Greek goddess of youth
- 16. Popular type of device
- 18. Alcoholic beverage
- 19. Ancient Olympic Site
- 20. Sharpshoots
- 21. Tyrion Lannister was characterized as one
- 22. Pointed ends of pens
- 23. Measuring instruments
- 26. Midsection body part
- 30. Made a mistake
- 31. Adjusted
- 32. "Partridge" actress Susan
- 33. Yell
- 34. Civil rights city in Alabama
- 39. Young boy
- 42. Type of sea bass
- 44. To call (archaic)
- 46. Unfortunate
- 47. Separate oneself from others
- 49. Hero sandwiches
- 50. Spy group
- 51. Florida is famous for them
- 56. Irritating individuals
- 57. Luck
- 58. Hunting expedition
- 59. WWII diarist Frank
- 60. Peyton's younger brother
- 61. Type of wrap
- 62. Type of overseas tax or levy
- 63. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 64. Wake up

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Works of body art
- 2. Israeli politician Abba
- 3. Renowned desert
- 4. Eat greedily
- 5. She didn't make it through the Fr. Revolution
- 6. Beat
- 7. Bloodsucker
- 8. From a place already noted
- 9. Counted on
- 10. Alberta Assn. of Baccalaureate World Schools
- 11. Something one can make
- 13. One who abstains
- 17. Wild ox
- 24. Type of student
- 25. Bacterial infection of the skin
- 26. Expresses surprise
- 27. What engaged couples ultimately say
- 28. Crony
- 29. Where one begins (abbr.)
- 35. Architectural designation
- 36. "Matt Houston" actor Horsley
- 37. More (Spanish)
- 38. Autonomic nervous system
- 40. Indigenous peoples
- 41. Deflections
- 42. Circulating life force
- 43. Executes with a rope
- 44. Natives of an island nation
- 45. Girls
- 47. Logician and philosopher
- 48. Nocturnal hoofed animal
- 49. Relaxing spaces
- 52. From a distance
- 53. Form of Persian language
- 54. Amounts of time
- 55. Mathematical designation



Answers for October 2

Hatcheries shifting towards stocking larger trout

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will begin fall trout stocking in early October as soon as water levels and temperatures are acceptable for trout.

Department crews will transport thousands of state hatchery-raised brown, golden rainbow, and rainbow trout and release them statewide in select creeks, rivers, lakes, and ponds.

The department is making changes to trout stocking in 2024 into 2025 in response to survey feedback from trout anglers as well as heat and drought-induced challenges faced at the hatcheries this past summer. DNR Fishing and Boating Services periodically surveys anglers and incorporates the results into the agency's operations.

"Anglers' preferences and opinions help guide our management approach and inform the services we provide," said John Mullican, director of DNR's Freshwater Fisheries and Hatcheries Division. "We heard from many put-and-take trout anglers that they would prefer to catch larger trout, even if they caught fewer trout overall, so we are adjusting the stocking strategy to achieve that end result."

Three of DNR's four cold water hatcheries use water sourced from natural springs and creeks to hatch and raise trout. Relying on natural water sources comes with significant management challenges because the quantity and temperature of the water flowing into the hatchery are determined by environmental factors. Hatcheries can produce a given poundage of fish based on water quantity and quality at each facility. This ultimately determines how many and what size trout are produced each season.

For the fall 2024 stocking, the

hatcheries will place about 3,000 brown trout and 12,000 rainbow trout in select waters across the state. This represents a 30% decrease from 2023, but the trout will be larger, averaging slightly more than a pound each. Additional fish will be held until the spring 2025 stocking to increase the number of trout available and allow for several more months of growth in the hatchery. Hatcheries are also working to increase the number of trophy-sized trout stocked, mostly with fish in the three- to four-pound range.

Based on additional angler feedback, DNR is also planning to stock more brown trout in the future. Anglers can look forward to about 12,000 brown trout during the spring 2025 season with an additional 2,000 "holdover" brown trout that will average about a pound each, new for 2025. All brown trout are reared at Albert Powell Hatchery's satellite facility, Cushwa.

Stocking sites and times are announced after each day's stockings are complete. Anglers are encouraged to sign up for email updates to receive the latest stocking information.

Starting in October, anglers can call the trout stocking hotline at 800-688-3467 on Fridays for a weekly update on all locations stocked. The department publishes daily stocking updates on its trout stocking webpage and posts them on Facebook and X.

Information on fishing licenses, trout stamps, and other related products is available on the online licensing portal or the Department of Natural Resources Licensing and Reg-

istration Services website.

As a reminder, regulations are in effect requiring catch-and-release fishing only for brook trout in all put-and-take trout areas and all waters east of Interstate 81. Anglers should take time to properly identify brook trout, which are not stocked by the Department of Natural Resources. Some stocked streams have seasonal restrictions so anglers should consult the current Maryland Guide to Fishing and Crabbing for all rules.

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Celiac-safe food choices

Gluten intolerance has gained greater recognition in recent years, as many people have transformed their diets to include fewer foods that contain gluten. Although many avoid gluten as a personal choice, people with Celiac disease must avoid gluten to stay healthy.

According to the Celiac Disease Foundation, gluten is a general name for the proteins found in various grains. Gluten helps various foods maintain their shape, essentially serving as a glue that holds foods together. While gluten is largely in foods that one expects, including certain pastas and bread products, it also can be hidden in less obvious types of foods.



For those with Celiac disease, eating gluten triggers an immune response to the gluten protein in the small intestine, says the Mayo Clinic. Over time, this reaction damages the lining of the small intestine and prevents it from absorbing nutrients. Gluten also may cause inflammation in other parts of the body.

The current approach to treating Celiac disease is to avoid any foods that contain gluten, and that list is long. Grains that contain gluten include wheat, barley, rye, triticale, farina, spelt, kamut, wheat berries, farro, and couscous. While oats are naturally gluten-free, they often are manufactured and packaged on equipment that also processes other grains, so they can become cross-contaminated. It's essential to look for grains that contain a "certified gluten-free" label.

There are many things those with Celiac disease and gluten intolerances cannot eat, but the good news is there are plenty of gluten-free foods that are

safe and delicious. Foods that make the most sense are those that are naturally gluten-free, including: fruits, vegetables, rice, potatoes, rice noodles, meats and seafood (not battered), corn and corn products like corn starch and corn chips, legumes, nuts, millet, quinoa, amaranth, teff, cassava, tofu and

non-wheat beers and other alcoholic beverages.

Try to avoid pre-mixed or prepared products. Avoid any foods and beverages that you cannot confirm as gluten-free. Soy sauce and teriyaki sauce are traditionally made with fermented crushed wheat, which people who must avoid gluten may not recognize. Soups thickened with a "roux" typically have flour in them. Salad dressings may use malt vinegar or modified food starch that is made from wheat. Some cheeses have added flavors or other ingredients that may contain gluten. Gluten may be in the products used to prevent caking in shredded cheese. Also, some imitation meat products add wheat gluten to bind the "meat" and may use yeast extract for flavor.

Going gluten-free requires vigilance and constant awareness of ingredients. However, there are many foods and recipes that people who must avoid gluten can still enjoy.



Computers - Rotary Clubs of Ocean City - Berlin and Snow Hill provided funding for computers, monitors, and installation of workstations for Worcester County Development Center (WCDC). Pictured left to right are **Bob Smith**, Snow Hill Rotary, **Stephanie James**, Executive Director of WCDC, **Cliff Berg**, Ocean City/Berlin Rotary and **Diana Nolte**, Snow Hill Rotary.



Pine'er president visits Kiwanis

Pine'er Craft Club President Sharon Puser was the guest speaker at the October 2 meeting of the Ocean Pines – Ocean City Kiwanis. Above (L-R) **Candy Foreman** and **Diane Denk**, two Kiwanians who are also crafters, **Sharon Puser** and Kiwanis Club President **Bob Wolfing**.

Sharon shared that her club was formed 50 years ago and that all the items they sell in the store, the Artisan Gift Shop, located in White Horse Park of Ocean Pines, are handmade. The club currently has about 60 members, some of whom are not crafters but help in club activities and come from all over the local area.

The next big event is the "Holiday Craft Fair" on Saturday November 2 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Ocean Pines Community Center.

Kiwanis Club adds one

Adding new members is vital to sustaining the ability to carry out the mission of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines - Ocean City. On October 2 the newest member of the club, Jerry Corso, was inducted. (L-R) Sponsor **Ron Wildgust**, **Jerry Corso** and Kiwanis Club President **Bob Wolfing**.

Think about joining Kiwanis. See www.kiwanisofopoc.org for more information.





Special visitors - Ocean City Elementary School recently had some very special visitors, therapy dogs, Tiffany and Winston, a pair of Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, who are part of Pets on Wheels of Delmarva. Pets on Wheels of Delmarva was founded in 1993 by a group of dedicated individuals and has grown to encompass the Eastern Shore of Maryland, Delaware, and Virginia. The group of volunteer teams (pet and handler) visit nursing homes, assisted living homes, homes for the handicapped, schools, and other facilities.

A therapy dog is a dog that is trained to provide comfort and emotional support to people in a variety of settings. They are often taken to places like hospitals, schools, nursing homes, and disaster areas, and are trained to interact with a wide range of people, not just their owners. They help improve the lives of others, and can have a positive impact on people's behavior, anxiety, self-esteem, and motivation. Pets On Wheels of Delmarva is a non-profit organization, completely staffed by volunteers and dependent on contributions for all costs. Ocean City Elementary is looking forward to visits from Pets on Wheels each week.

Fire Dept. to hold fundraiser

The Bishopville Volunteer Fire Department will hold a Fried Chicken Carryout Dinner fundraiser at the main station. Dinner will include half a chicken (thigh, wing, breast, leg), a slice of ham, string beans, cole slaw, potato salad, roll and dessert. The event will take place Sunday, October 13 between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. The cost is \$15.00 per dinner. The Auxiliary will hold a bake sale and sell their Rada Knives and bingo tickets. Please preorder in advance by Friday, October 11 at 619-922-9950.



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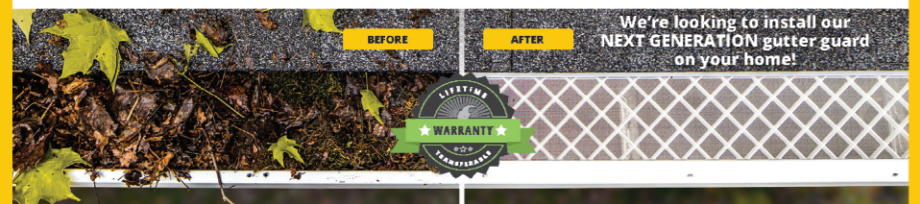
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Small game, turkey seasons provide abundant hunting opportunities

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources reminds hunters that squirrel, rabbit, fall turkey, and other small game seasons are either underway or set to open in the coming weeks. Some of these species offer generous seasons and bag limits and are abundant throughout Maryland.

“Small game hunting can be an enjoyable way to spend time afield for both new and experienced hunters alike,” Wildlife and Heritage Service Director Karina Stonesifer said. “Squirrels and rabbits, in particular, are common throughout Maryland and can provide memorable experiences once located.”

Squirrel season opened September 2 with a bag limit of six per day (The Delmarva fox squirrel is not included in this season; this subspecies remains protected to ensure continued population recovery). Focusing on areas with large mast-producing trees, such as oaks and hickories, is always a good bet when looking for squirrels.

Worcester Health helps youth live smoke-free

Do you have a teen that smokes or vapes? If so, the Worcester County Health Department is offering a Youth Quit Smoking and Vaping Program, beginning this month. Worcester Health is committed to preventing tobacco, and nicotine product use among youth and offering quit resources. This program is designed for youth ages 14-17. Join one of the youth quit smoking and/or vaping classes starting next month:

-Tuesdays, 3 p.m. – 4 p.m., (October 7 - January 9) at the Snow Hill

Rabbit season begins on November 2 with a bag limit of four per day. Rabbits prefer brushy and weedy areas such as overgrown fields and hedgerows. Both rabbit and squirrel seasons are open until February 28.

For hunters in Garrett, Allegany, and Washington counties, the fall turkey hunting season will open on November 2 and continue through November 10 with a bag limit of one turkey per hunter. Summer surveys showed good turkey reproduction in the western mountains this year, which should translate into larger flocks.

Bird hunters should note that the bobwhite quail season remains closed on public lands east of the Susquehanna River and Chesapeake Bay.

Complete hunting regulations, check-in procedures and information on public land hunting can be found in the Guide to Hunting and Trapping in Maryland.

Health Center, 6040 Public Landing Rd.

-Wednesdays, 3 p.m. - 4 p.m., (October 8 - January 10) at the Pocomoke Health Center, 400-A Walnut St.

-Thursdays, 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m., (October 9 - January 11) at the Berlin Health Center, 9730 Healthway Dr.

The program consists of 10 weekly sessions that are 50 minutes in length followed by two (2) support group sessions. Through group support, you are able to meet with a trained tobacco coach who will support you during your quit journey. Key topics of discussion will include stress management, communication, nicotine addiction, effects of smoking and vaping, reasons for quitting, how to develop a quit plan, and relapse prevention.

Enroll today and you will receive weekly handouts, a quit kit, earned prizes for participation, quit resources, and more. To register, please visit this link <https://forms.gle/vbAvtvEg4CVmfnc8> or call 410-632-1100 ext.1102. Pre-registration is encouraged.

The program is supported by funding from the Maryland Cigarette Res-titution Fund.



The captain and his eight surfmen team with the Beach-Apparatus Cart like the one on display in the OC Life-Saving Museum

knots
from page 10

shore surfmen then attached the second line called a ‘hawser’ to the whip and passed it over to the foundering vessel. When the hawser arrived at the ship, it too had an instructional paddle that told those being rescued to secure the hawser at a height above the whip. The hawser would bear the weight of the breeches-buoy chair and its passenger while the whip would be used to move the chair back and forth between the derelict ship and shore.

With both lines - the whip and the hawser - in place, the breeches-buoy chair would be installed. This entailed mounting the traveler-block, the chair’s rollers, onto the overhead hawser to take the load. Next the ends of the whip would be attached to both sides of the breeches-buoy chair creating a loop much like that of a flag pole configuration only horizontal. The surfmen could pull the appropriate side of the whip and move the empty breeches-buoy chair out to the boat and then pull on the other side to bring it back ashore with a passenger – much like raising or lowering a flag. This enabled transporting survivors off the shipwreck one at a time.

If you are curious or just confused by my explanation, there is a short video on YouTube entitled, “The Breeches Buoy in Action.” It shows a Coast Guard team demonstrating this procedure on the beach in front of the OC Life-Saving Museum.

However, if the derelict vessel was out of range for the Lyle Gun, then it would be necessary to row out to the wreck in a specially designed, heavy weather, eight-oar lifeboat like the one on display in the Ocean City Life-Saving Museum. Since ships don’t usually run aground in light wind and good visibility, the sea conditions were always very treacherous.

The Life-Saving Service is credited with coining the ominous saying that you still hear echoed today amongst Coast Guardsmen, “You have to go out but you don’t have to come back.”

The Life-Saving Service was created in 1878. It was merged by Congress in 1915 with the older U.S. Revenue Cutter Service that protected U.S. harbors and collected tariffs since commissioned by the first Secretary of Treasury, Alexander Hamilton (I don’t know for sure but I think it was his response to the Boston Tea Party). The new entity was named the U.S. Coast Guard.

Protecting our shores, maintaining maritime safety, and rescuing stranded mariners remains the modern-day mission of the U.S. Coast Guard.

A visit to the Ocean City Life-Saving Station Museum is both educational and a moment to reflect on our respect for life, the ingenuity of man and the awesome power of the sea. Don’t miss it.

Stay safe. Stay dry.

Dan Collins can be reached for comment at dancollins.oceanpines@gmail.com

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Some things to think about

Gathered from the internet
by **Jack Barnes**

Have you ever noticed that all instruments searching for intelligent life...



Are pointed away from Earth

I see people around my age mountain climbing, I feel good getting my leg through my underwear with out losing my balance

I choked on a carrot this afternoon and all I could think was "I bet a donut wouldn't have done this to me."

Saw a store that has a sign that reads, "We treat you like family!"

Yup, NOT going in there.

You drop something when you were younger, you just pick it up.

When you're older and you drop something, you stare at it for a bit contemplating if you actually need it anymore.

Note to Self:

Do not sit on the floor without a plan on how to get back up.

The coffee shop had a sign that said "No WiFi, pretend it's 1973!" So, I paid 10¢ for my coffee and lit a cigarette.

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FOX NEWS channel

TAKE OUR COUNTRY BACK!



**HE WILL SEAL THE BORDER & STOP THE MIGRANT INVASION.
HE WILL STOP THE MIGRANT CRIME EPIDEMIC &
DEMOLISH THE FOREIGN DRUG CARTELS,
CRUSH GANG VIOLENCE & LOCK UP VIOLENT OFFENDERS.**

★ VOTE FOR PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP ★

Paid for by Worcester County Patriots Club.

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