

The Courier

October 1, 2025 Volume 26 Number 5

The Kozmas are your local mom and pop jeweler

By Elaine Bean

At five years old, Dan Kozma was collecting shells on the Ocean City beach and hawking them to tourists on the Boardwalk.

Kozma likes to sell things, and he's good at it. "I guess I have something in there," he said. "I tried to earn some money."

Back home across the bridge, the boy was collecting rocks in his neighborhood creeks, finding quartz crystals and other fascinating stones near his home in Ellicott City. Eventually, Kozma got a tumbler and began cutting agate, opal, jasper, and petrified wood into polished cabochon stones. His stones needed to be displayed somehow, so Kozma logically moved to the next step of creating jewelry settings for his collections.

Dan and Adrienne Kozma with their children **Julia and William**

"I liked cutting stones, and I created simple settings for them, selling them at craft shows, flea markets, every week usually," he said.

In 1978 as a summer adventure, Kozma and a friend opened a small jewelry store on Somerset St. near the Ocean City Boardwalk. They did well enough that first year to expand - and kept expanding. Summers became longer and longer year after year as the business grew, and soon Dan Kozma and his wife Adrienne were on the Shore full time running a 52-week-a-year store. "It became full-time, and there was no going back to school," she said. "The business was too demanding."

In 1980, the pair moved their jewelry store to the 45th St. Village in Ocean City. They were there 25 years until that shopping center was redeveloped, and the Kozmas moved to West Ocean City. "When we were at 45th St., we had resort customers, sum-

please see **kozma** on page 6



Spirit - Worcester Prep's (WPS) Upper School students recently celebrated Spirit Week, dressing according to each day's theme in the lead-up to Homecoming on September 20. The week concluded with a spirited pep rally, where students showcased their Mallard enthusiasm through class games and activities.

Pictures are WPS sophomores **Ellie Phillips**, **Nora Gorfinkel** and **Harper Hertrich** showing off their favorite characters on Disney Day.

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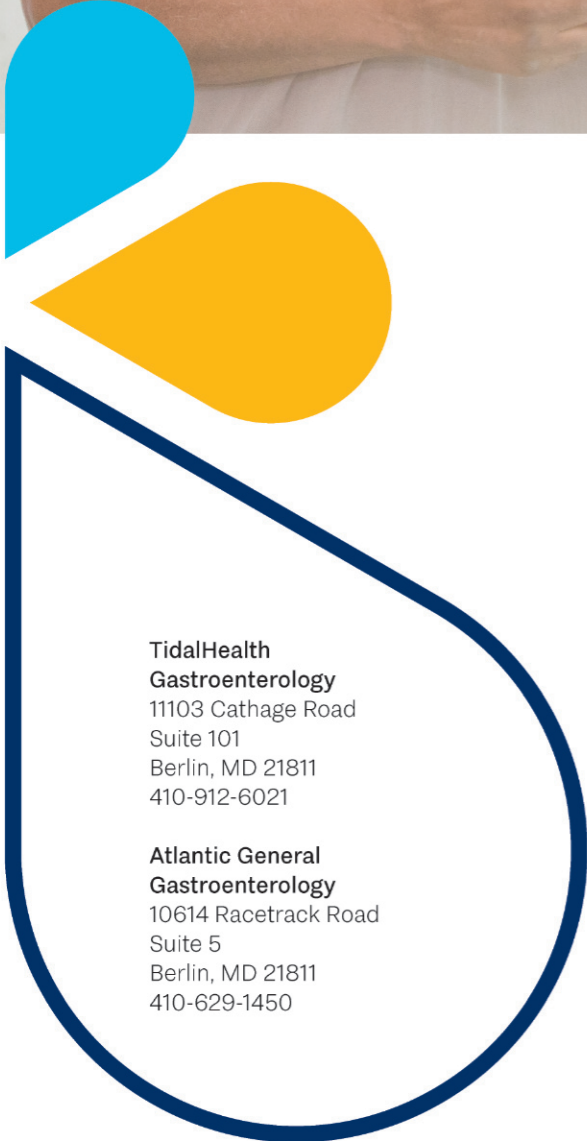
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Wings and Wheels event is this weekend

If you're looking for something interesting to do this week and like vintage planes and classic cars, you may want to head to the Wings & Wheels event taking place this Friday and Saturday at the Delaware Coastal Airport in Georgetown, DE.

Sponsored by the Greater Georgetown Chamber of Commerce, Delaware Aviation Museum and the Historical Vintage Car Club of Delaware, the event will include World War II era aircraft, a classic car show, the US Naval Academy Parachute Team, pilot competitions and live entertainment.

Tickets are available for a Dinner Show on Friday, October 3. The event will be catered by Lighthouse Catering with entertainment from the 287th Army Band (both jazz and rock bands). Tickets can be purchased online at www.wings-wheels.com.

On tap for Saturday October 4 are DE Army and National Guard's C130 and

black hawk helicopter along with other WWII era aircraft. For the first time the Air Force Performance Lab will be onsite offering visitors the experience of interacting with a virtual world. There will be a classic car show, entertainment from the "Flipside Band" and more than 70 food, craft and information vendors.

The parachute team will jump throughout the day. There will be a WWII re-enactors camp. In the afternoon there will be a "Les Nessman World Championship Invitational turkey drop." Spoiler alert, the "turkeys" are actually rubber chickens.

The Saturday event runs from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. with free admission. Available parking is \$5 per vehicle at Sussex Academy where you can then hop a tram or do a short walk to the airport.

For information and to purchase tickets for the dinner show go to www.wings-wheels.com.



Craft club installs bench donation

The Pine'eer Craft Club is culminating its fiftieth anniversary with a special gift to the Ocean Pines community: a newly donated bench

Club President Sharon Puser says this donation is just one of many ways the club has given back to the community through the years. Installed next to the side entrance of the Artisan Gift Shop in White Horse Park, Puser adds that the bench has already become a popular spot for visitors, especially during the weekly Farmers Market.

Established in 1974, the Pine'eer Craft Club is known for creating handmade gifts, home décor, jewelry, and more. These items are sold at the Artisan Gift Shop, with proceeds donated back into the community. Since its inception, the club has contributed more than \$196,000 to local initiatives, including the Ocean Pines Police and Fire departments, Recreation and Parks programs, Summer Concerts in the Park, the Veterans Memorial, and other community projects.

For more information on becoming a member, contact Program Chair Sherry Waskey at 919-291-6566.

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Are we losing touch?

Before sitting down to read this column how many of you took a moment or two to send or receive a text message from someone somewhere?

It really has become a way of life for all of us to rely on electronic devices to

with a text message no matter how many emojis are included.

Sure it can be said that a letter or a note lacks the immediacy of a Tweet or a text message. But when you get right down to it, is it necessary to transmit immediately to the virtual galaxy every little thought or emotion we have? After a while such babbling expressions become white noise and block out substantive thoughts and ideas.

Letter writing takes time. It requires us to think

about what thoughts we want to express and how best to articulate them. The person on the receiving end can feel the paper and may even smell the perfume scent of the one who sent it. Most importantly, you can save a letter in a scrapbook or in a box squirreled away in the attic, giving you and possibly generations to come the opportunity to re-read it, to relive that moment in time. Certainly, there are some letters you don't want anyone else to read but I think you understand what I'm attempting to convey. At least I hope so.

In some ways, I wonder if we're losing touch with people despite all the communicating, texting, Facebooking and Tweeting that's goes on. In the effort to remain constantly in touch, are we actually losing touch with what's important in a personal relationship? Are we expressing ourselves more but saying less? I don't have the answer to that question but I do wonder about it.

Not long ago my wife and I were having dinner at a restaurant. At a nearby table there was a family of four – a mother, father and two young boys about eight and ten. In each of their hands was an electronic device. It appeared the mother was texting, while her husband and sons were playing video games on their phones. The sounds of beeps and blips had replaced conversation and laughter. How sad!

So what is it that I'm trying to write? I guess it's this: available to us are many communication options. Each has its place and there is no substitute for personal engagement with those around us. We should keep in mind that as we journey through life – walking through fields of opportunity, traversing byways both high and low – that we express ourselves in ways that are meaningful and lasting.



It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

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communicate with people either across the country or in some cases, just across the room.

I don't keep up with all the latest technologies and apps that are available and are designed to make my life easier. I'm sure each of you is lightyears ahead of me when it comes to communicating via social media. It took me years to become familiar with Facebook.

During recent years I have been fascinated and somewhat concerned when I have come in contact with young people, not all but some, who are unable to communicate effectively person to person because they're accustomed to communicating via their phone screen.

It's unfortunate for them because although they may have several hundred friends on Facebook or whatever social media they are using, when it comes to one on one encounters, they are stymied, lost as to how to have a conversation, how to express themselves intelligently. And just as importantly, how to listen.

For many, interpersonal communication skills are stunted. And that's unfortunate for them and for the rest of us. The skills I learned from my mother and the grade school nuns such as maintaining eye contact when speaking to someone and listening seem lost on some many people these days.

When was the last time you sat down at a desk or table to write a letter using a pen and paper? Unfortunately, handwritten correspondence has gone the way of the dinosaurs. There is something powerful and intimate about a letter written in one's hand that is absent from a text message or social media post.

A handwritten note conveys the author's personality, something absent

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Arts Council announces Plein Air winners

Local and regional talented plein air artists painted from September 14 to 19, competing for cash prizes in the annual Paint Worcester County Plein Air Competition, sponsored by the Worcester County Arts Council.

Presented in partnership with the Worcester County Library Foundation, the event culminated on Friday, September 19, at the Berlin Library branch with a public art sale and exhibit showcasing artwork created during the week. The sale offered art lovers the opportunity to purchase an original piece of art, fresh off the easel, and meet the artist who painted it.

Completed works were judged by accomplished local artist and art educator, William Buchanan, with a total of \$2,800 in prizes awarded.

The winners were:

First Place: "Sunday's Last Light" by Homer Proctor

Second Place: "Reflecting on the Farm Pond" by Rebecca Morgan

Third Place: "The Yield and the Yonder" by Ed Lewandowski

Honorable Mention: "Dune Bound" by Rhonda Ford

Maryland Legislators' and Worcester County Commissioners' Choice: "Fishing Boats West OC Harbor" by Jose Ramirez

Library Foundation Choice: "Assa-teague Welcome Tree" by Homer Proctor

Berlin Mayor's Choice: "Whispers of Eternity" by John Schisler

Agribusiness Choice: "The Yield and the Yonder" by Ed Lewandowski

Artists' Choice: "Where the Light Lingers" by Ed Lewandowski

WCAC Board of Directors Choice: "Eternal Spirit of the WCAC" by Jiyeong Yun

A selection of paintings created during Paint Worcester County will remain on public display at the Worcester County Library, Berlin branch, until October 22. All artwork is available for purchase.

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.

kozma
from page 1

mer people," Adrienne Kozma said. "We've always had some local trade, but in Ocean City it was mostly resort. When we came to West Ocean City, it switched. We gained more of a local clientele and didn't have as much resort business."

The Kozmas first stop in West Ocean City was in the White Marlin Mall, until Tanger Outlets took over management. "Tanger wanted national chains and didn't want to deal with mom and pops, and that's all we've ever been," Adrienne Kozma said.

The jewelry store then headed slightly south and opened their doors next to Food Lion on Stephen Decatur Hwy. where they have been ever since. And 47 years after opening in 1978, Dan and Adrienne Kozma find themselves the proprietors of an inviting and busy jewelry store in West Ocean City. It's stocked with sparkling jewels, silver and gold, vintage jewelry, artifacts including a mammoth amethyst geode – and, in the corner as you walk in the door, a working jewelry smith complete with eye shade.

Much of the Kozma's business these days is repair and repurpose of family jewelry and heirlooms, and they do all the work in-house.

"You can't usually get [in-house repair] from a regular jewelry store, because they send it out," Adrienne Kozma said. "We do our work on premise, even though we're little. If people want custom work, they want to speak to somebody. They like to come in and see it and touch it. They want to take their jewelry they've accumulated – either what they've bought or inherited through the years – and turn it into something fresh and more up-to-date."

The Kozmas have seen the jewelry

business evolve over their 47 years in business. "In the 1970s and 1980s, people bought a lot more jewelry," she continued. "That was the beginning of home shopping and QVC – direct competition. People didn't buy from little independent jewelry stores as much as they used to ... Then the internet set in, and that has grown and grown and grown, and takes more and more away from local anything. Just the way people shop has evolved throughout the decades.

"Now we're extremely busy doing service work, because you can't get that on the internet."

Buying gold from consumers has also become a big part of business for the Kozmas. "Gold buying came about in 2009 when metals started to move," Adrienne Kozma said. "Prior to that, metals were no big deal. Back then, gold was maybe \$375 an ounce. Gold today is \$3,700 an ounce. That's how much the commodity has changed. Gold is used for many other things besides jewelry. The governments are buying it. It's an asset, a safe haven. People always have confidence in gold."

Coin buying and trading is also a part of their business these days.

"My rock and gem collections were number one on my collecting list," Dan Kozma said. "Moving down here, there are really no rocks to collect, so I moved into coins." The Kozmas evaluate the coins customers bring in – people who are getting out of coin collecting or older people who are selling off their collections – and then generally resell them to other collectors.

"Dan's personal interests turn into his business interests," Adrienne Kozma said.

D.A. Kozma Jewelers is located in 9936 Stephen Decatur Hwy. with information available at kozmajewelers.com.

Courier Almanac

On October 1, 1961, in New York's final game of the regular season, Yankees slugger Roger Maris hits his 61st home run, becoming the first player in Major League Baseball to hit more than 60 in a season. He tops former Yankees great Babe Ruth, who hit 60 home runs in 1927.



A 2023 meta-analysis published in the journal *Reviews on Environmental Health* found that excessive screen exposure may be a significant contributor to the development of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in children. The report analyzed nine studies that examined more than 81,000 children, including nearly 29,000 who had been diagnosed with ADHD. The analysis found that children exposed to more than two hours of screen time each day had significantly higher rates of ADHD than youngsters whose daily screen time was limited to two hours or less. Researchers behind the analysis ultimately concluded reducing children's screen time could prevent the occurrence of ADHD.

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State boat registration fees increase significantly

Maryland boaters will pay more, a lot more, to title and register their vessels effective October 1.

As a result of a fee revisions law approved by the Maryland General Assembly and signed by Governor Wes Moore in April, the two-year registration fee will increase nearly 300% from the current \$24 to \$70.

According to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the state's boating title and registration fees were last increased in 1983. In a statement released last week, DNR said, "In the past 42 years, there have been significant increases to costs associated with providing support and administration of boating titles and registrations."

This revenue primarily funds Maryland Department of Natural Resources units involved in boating activities including Fishing and Boating Services, Licensing and Registration Service, and the Natural Resources Police. Registration fees, in particular, are federally required to fund only the administration of the registrations, managed by the Licensing and Registration Service. The costs of administering registrations has increased dramatically since 1983.

The new fees and structure were discussed with the Boat Act Advisory Committee's leadership and representatives of industry groups. The most significant increase is the increase from \$24 every two years to \$70 every two years for boat registrations. This number was derived from using inflation to determine what the commen-

surate amount should be today compared to the 1983 level. The exact inflation-adjusted amount is higher (approximately \$73), but the cost was rounded down to \$70. There is also a voluntary \$12 registration if individuals want to register their non-motorized vessels such as canoes and kayaks, so that the Natural Resource Police can easily identify owners if these vessels become loose during flooding or other events.

Because the fees had not increased in more than forty years, the agency had to use other funds to cover costs. Additional revenue will free up funds for projects that would provide additional and/or improved boating access in Maryland.

The new rules require owners to pay a registration fee for a vessel that is 16 feet or less and powered by a 7.5HP motor or less. Those registrations were previously issued without having to pay a registration fee.

In its statement DNR said, "It takes DNR employees the same amount of time and supplies to issue registration documents for a vessel that is 16 feet or less with a 7.5HP motor as it does to issue those documents for a larger vessel. DNR can no longer afford to do business this way."

What about vessels documented through the U.S. Coast Guard? Owners will now have to pay the same amount to obtain Maryland registration decals that had been provided at a reduced fee.

"In order to issue Maryland registration stickers, DNR employees have to input the same information for your documented vessel as they do for a vessel which is state registered only. The previous fee no longer covers the cost of salaries, supplies, and postage," said DNR.

The benefit to the owner of a voluntarily registered non-motorized vessel is that if the vessel is found unattended the owner can be contacted in a timely fashion and a determination can be made as to whether or not the vessel drifted away, was stolen, or if there is a missing person/boater in distress. The voluntary registration will allow the boat owner to be reunited with their watercraft, without wasting search and rescue resources.

-Chip Bertino

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Atlantic General Hospital Flu Clinics

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AGH's flu clinics are free of charge and open to anyone ages 12 and older. Individuals under age 18 must bring a parent or legal guardian to sign consent.

- Tuesday, Sept. 30, 2025, 5:30 to 8 pm at the John H. 'Jack' Burbage, Jr. Regional Cancer Care Center (9707 Healthway Drive, Berlin, MD 21811). **This event is a drive-thru flu clinic.**
- Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2025, from 10:30 am to 1 pm at St. Peter's Lutheran Church (10301 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD 21842).
- Thursday, Oct. 2, 2025, from 9 am to 1 pm at the Pocomoke City Volunteer Fire Company (1410 Market St., Pocomoke City, MD 21851).
- Friday, Oct. 3, 2025, from 8 am to noon at the Ocean Pines Community Center's Assateague Room (235 Ocean Parkway, Berlin, MD 21811).
- Wednesday, Oct. 8, 2025, from 11 am to 1 pm at Stevenson United Methodist Church Spirit Kitchen (123 N. Main St., Berlin, MD 21811).

- Thursday, Oct. 9, 2025, from 10 am to 1 pm at Holy Savior Catholic Church (1705 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, MD 21842).
- Friday, Oct. 10, 2025, from 8 am to noon at the Ocean Pines Community Center (235 Ocean Parkway, Berlin, MD 21811). **This event is a drive-thru flu clinic.**
- Saturday, Oct. 11, 2025, from 8 am to noon at the Gudelsky Family Medical Center (10614 Racetrack Road, Berlin, MD 21811). **This event is a drive-thru flu clinic.**
- Thursday, Oct. 16, 2025, from 11:30 am to 3:30 pm at the Atlantic Club (11827 Ocean Gateway, Ocean City, MD 21842).
- Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025, from 10 am to 2 pm at the Snow Hill Volunteer Fire Department (4718 Snow Hill Road, Snow Hill, MD 21863).

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Tournament raises money for education programs
The Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation held its 18th annual Veterans Memorial Golf Tournament on September 17, at the Ocean Pines Golf Club.
The annual tournament was a success, with breakfast and lunch provided by Touch of Italy. A total of 132 golfers participated.
Funds raised through this tournament benefit the Educational Outreach program for Worcester County fifth graders. More than 700 students will visit the Veterans Memorial this school year, where they will learn about the sacrifices of our veterans, as well as the history of the United States in terms of conflicts, flag history, and protocol.
For more information about the Veterans Memorial Foundation or how to get involved, contact Marie Gilmore at 410-726-2881 or opmarie@aol.com, or Don McMullen at 443-388-2941 or dmcullen1@aol.com.
To learn more about the Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines, visit wocovets.org.

FAFSA opens, Marylanders encouraged to apply early

The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) is encouraging Maryland students and families to complete the 2026-2027 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) early. The form will open to the public on October 1.

“Students and families should complete the FAFSA as soon as it opens, no matter what postsecondary education plans they are considering,” said Dr. Sanjay Rai, Secretary of Higher Education. “By submitting the FAFSA, students know how much financial aid they qualify for through state, federal, and institutional programs.”

Affordability remains one of the main barriers to obtaining a postsecondary credential in Maryland. The FAFSA helps many students access money for college they otherwise could

not.

MHEC awards over \$30 million in scholarships each year, but students must complete the FAFSA to maximize their financial aid opportunities.

To prepare for the launch of this year’s form, students and families should follow these tips:

- Create a StudentAid.gov account (if you don’t already have one).
- Create your MDCAPS Account to access the Maryland College Aid Processing System (MDCAPS).
- Learn about the documents you may need to fill out the FAFSA form.
- Determine your dependency status and whether your parent(s) or spouse will be required to contribute information on your FAFSA form.

Pet blessing to be offered

St. Paul’s Episcopal Church will offer a Blessing for the Animals on Sunday, October 5 at 2 p.m. All pets are welcome as long as they are on a leash or otherwise contained. The church is located at 3 Church Street in Berlin.

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GM report provides updates, highlights upcoming projects

General Manager John Viola gave his monthly report at the September 20 Ocean Pines Association (OPA) Board of Directors meeting.

An update was provided regarding the new south Fire Station, with construction slated to begin in Winter 2026. A Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for October 2, after which the plans for construction permits will be submitted, and costs on plumbing and mechanicals will be confirmed.

Plans are also underway to construct a new Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department (OPVFD) helicopter pad, as the county requested a larger area. The estimated cost is \$10,000 to \$15,000, and the fire department is applying for a grant.

During the meeting, Viola discussed several upcoming proposed renovations to the Ocean Pines food and beverage facilities. This includes basement renovations, an elevator, second floor deck addition, and accordion doors at the Beach Club, an outdoor kitchen facility at the Yacht Club, as well as a shade structure at the Clubhouse with a pizza oven.

Viola clarified that this discussion was a request for permission from the Board to obtain proposals, bids, and contracts to present at the later date, not approval for actual spend. The high-level estimate of the potential capital spend at the Beach Club is still to be determined, but an estimate has been provided for the elevator at \$225,000. The estimated potential capital spend at the Yacht Club for the outdoor kitchen is \$125,000, and \$75,000 to 100,000 at the Clubhouse for the shade structure. The Board did approve \$75,000 for the basement work and architectural/engineering plans at the Beach Club.

“I did not seek approval for actual spend, that would be next step after a process to obtain. My understanding is the board’s intent was to approve that process and certainly showed interest in the next step of possibly approving the eventual documented capital spend,” Viola commented.

Several maintenance projects are already underway on the golf course, including greens and sand trap maintenance, fairway aerifying and seeding, and the irrigation project on holes

four to eight and the front nine. Bulkhead replacement on the 18th green and fairway is planned for 2026.

Mulch is being placed at both the dog park and playgrounds, and pavers are scheduled to be installed in October at the Bocce courts. Crack repair is beginning at the Pickleball Courts on Monday, September 22, with a total of 10 courts to be repaired and restriped.

The DMA Study will take place October 14 to 16, with the draft report to be released prior to budget, likely mid-end December. The goal of the study is to develop budget estimates with an updated report and update the strategic plan with the DMA study.

Dredging began in early September at 42-46 Clubhouse Drive, 18 Dove Lane, 48 Drawbridge Road, 13 Driftwood Lane, 28 Grand Port Road, 3 & 5 Harborview Drive, 4 Ivanhoe Court, 100 & 102 Newport Drive, 320 Ocean Parkway, 90 Teal Circle, 35 & 37 Watergreen Lane, and 33 White Sail Circle.

Fisher Marine is slated to begin Fiscal Year 25/26 bulkhead replace-

ment this month, including the odd number homes from 49-91 Clubhouse Drive.

In terms of financials, for the month of August, OPA finished with \$107,000 favorable to budget, with year-to-date favorability of \$274,000. Viola emphasized that favorability doesn’t necessarily mean surplus, but money that will be reinvested.



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Exciting happenings at the farmers market this fall

There’s lots to do and see at the Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market this fall season. The Harvest & Flannel Market kicks off the fall fun on Saturday, October 18. Wear your favorite flannel and check out festive market stand displays as well as seasonal goodies such as pumpkins, gourds, and mums. Local singer Sara Campbell will take the Market Stage, performing blue-

WCDC to host auction

The Worcester County Developmental Center (WCDC) will host its second annual Quarter Auction on Thursday, October 9. Funds raised for the event will be used to fund activities and travel to support a meaningful life for the individuals WCDC supports. Tickets are available for \$10 each. Each ticket includes one paddle. Additional paddles can be purchased for \$5 each. All In Paddles for \$50 are available for those attending or those who are unable to attend but would like to participate. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the

grass and country music that is sure to get everyone in the mood for the autumn season. October 25 is the annual Halloween Market, featuring lots of Halloween fun, along with the usual marketplace goodies and extra treats. Costumes are encouraged! Get ready for Turkey Day at the Thanksgiving Festival, happening from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, No-

vember 22 and Tuesday, November 25. Bakers will be offering a variety of delicious treats, and special orders are welcome. On Tuesday, shoppers can pick up special ordered baked goods, plus grab any last-minute items from the green market merchants. Artisans will also be in attendance with unique, handmade hostess gifts, such as candles and florals. The Hometown Holiday Marketplace takes place December 6, 13, and 20, offering lots of festive fun and one-of-a-kind gifts. Shoppers might even spot Mrs. Claus. The Farmers & Artisans Market happens every Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon during the offseason (September through March), and 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. from April through August. More information can be found at <https://www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/farmers-artisans-market>

event begins at 6 p.m. Bring your quarters, but extra rolls of quarters will be available for purchase. There will be a 50/50 raffle, a table of raffle items, and vendors. Light refreshments and beverages will be available for purchase, and limited WCDC merchandise will be available for sale. Tickets can be purchased at WCDC or on Eventbrite at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2nd-annual-wcdc-quarter-auction-tickets-1477830052469?aff=oddttdcreator>.

If you are unable to attend and would like to donate, donations should be sent to WCDC and mailed to P.O. Box 70 Newark, MD 21841. All donations to the 2nd Annual Quarter Auction are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Worcester County Developmental Center, Inc. is exempt for federal taxes under section 501c(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. In accordance with IRS rules and regulations, a tax-exempt determination letter is available to you upon request. WCDC is located at 8545 Newark Road in Newark, MD.

Wor-Wic to offer classes in Scotland

Wor-Wic Community College will offer its credit degree students the opportunity to study abroad in January. A special seven-week program will bring students to Stirling, Scotland, to live in a residence hall for two weeks for both classroom and field-based learning. From January 3- to 17, students will live at the University of Stirling. They will attend classes taught by Wor-Wic professors, and take excursions to Edinburgh, Glasgow and the Highlands, as well as the nearby historic Stirling Castle, which dates back to the 1100s and is where Mary, Queen of Scots, was crowned in 1543. Students will also have some free time for

please see **scotland** on page 13

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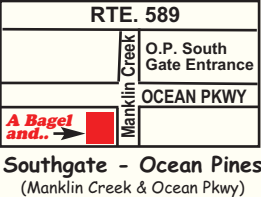
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Fore - Ocean City - Berlin Rotary Club co-president **Cliff Berg** and his wife **Donna** attended the Worcester County Chamber of Commerce in Ocean Pines Mini-Golf tournament and business after hours at Nick's Mini Golf, taking first place. The club meets the first and third Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. at Don's Seafood at the South Gate of Ocean Pines. For more information email ocberlinrotary@gmail.com

scotland
from page 12

exploration on their own.
Upon returning to the United States, students will continue studies for five weeks in an online program that will earn them six credits, in communications and history (COM 102 and HIS 101). Participants must be enrolled in a degree program and in good standing. Financial aid may be applied to the program. A passport, health insurance and visa waiver are required.

“This is a wonderful opportunity for students to experience a new culture in person and see history firsthand,” said Dr. Deirdra G. Johnson, vice president for strategic initiatives and community engagement.
An information session will be held in room 109 of Shockley Hall at the college on Monday, October 6, at noon, and a virtual information session will be held via Zoom on Tuesday, October 7, at 6 p.m. Visit the events section of worwic.edu for the link.

Ocean Pines gears up for Halloween

Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks will host its annual Trail of Horrors on October 17-18 and October 24-25 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at a new location, the White Horse Park Boat Ramp Trail. Tickets are \$8 per person.
Guests can navigate fog-filled paths and encounter eerie sights and spine-chilling surprises around every corner along the haunted trail.
The department is seeking actors and volunteers ages 16 and older. Actors under 18 must have a parent present.
In addition, Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks will host a Halloween Fall Festival on Saturday, October 25, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at White Horse Park. The family-friendly event will feature carnival games, face painting and costume contests. Admission is free.
Costume contest times are as follows: ages 2 and under at 11:30 a.m.; ages 3 to 4 at noon; ages 5 to 7 at 12:30 p.m.; ages 8 to 10 at 1 p.m.; ages 11 to 17 at 1:30 p.m.; and ages 18 and older at 2 p.m.
Food and refreshments will be available for purchase from The Kiwanis Club.
For more information or to volunteer for either event, contact Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks at 410-641-7052 or email ddonahue@oceanpines.org.

Wor-Wic to hold fall open house

Wor-Wic Community College will hold an open house for prospective students and their families on Wednesday, October 15, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Participants can learn about Wor-Wic’s credit and career programs and get application help. The event will also offer tours, financial aid information, a chance to meet faculty, department heads and deans, club and student organization info and more. The commercial driver’s license program will have its truck driving simulator on hand for those interested in exploring transportation careers. This event will take place rain or shine.
Visit the events page of worwic.edu for more information.



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My Backyard... sponsored by Maureen Kennedy

The Phoenix

This month's column celebrates the mystery and spirit of Halloween by focusing on the mythical bird, the Phoenix.

The Phoenix is a mythical creature that holds a prominent place in various cultures and mythologies. Depicted as a bird with colorful plumage, it symbolizes themes of rebirth, immortality, and transformation.

Associated with the sun, the Phoenix represents the cyclical nature of life and the rejuvenating power of the sun's energy. It appears in Greek, Roman, Egyptian, and Chinese mythologies, each culture imbuing it with unique symbolism.

Its enduring popularity is reflected in art, literature, and popular culture. Its name has inspired the city of Phoenix in Arizona, and it serves as a mascot for institutions like the University of Chicago and the Phoenix Suns basketball team.

It is a mythological creature that appears in various cultures and mythologies. It has a rich history and can be found in different forms across different civilizations.

It is often described as having vibrant feathers in shades of red, gold, and orange. Its appearance is associated with beauty and majesty, capturing the imagination of those who encounter its portrayal in stories, art, and symbolism.

One of the central themes associated with the Phoenix is its symbolism of rebirth and immortality. According to mythology, the Phoenix has the extraordinary ability to regenerate itself.

It lives for hundreds of years before undergoing a transformative process in which it ignites itself in flames and is consumed by fire. From the ashes, a new Phoenix is born, representing a cycle of death and rebirth.

This concept of the Phoenix rising from its own ashes has become a powerful metaphor for renewal, resilience, and the triumph of life over death. The Phoenix's ability to overcome destruction and be reborn underscores its association with immortality and the eternal cycle of life.

The Phoenix is often associated with the sun and is considered a symbol of renewal and transformation. Its connection to the sun stems from its fiery nature and its ability to be consumed by flames only to rise again.

In Egyptian mythology, the Phoenix was known as the Bennu bird. It was closely associated with the sun god Ra and believed to be a manifestation of his spirit. The Bennu bird was often depicted as a heron or a stork-like bird.

It was believed to reside in the sacred Bennu stone, which represented the primordial mound from which the world was created.

Chinese mythology also features a version of the Phoenix known as the Fenghuang. The Fenghuang is often depicted as a composite creature, combining the features of various birds, such as the head of a pheasant, the body of a mandarin duck, the tail of a peacock, and the wings of a golden cockerel. It represents virtue, grace, and the union of yin and yang, symbolizing harmony and balance. It is seen as a benevolent creature associated with positive qualities and is often considered

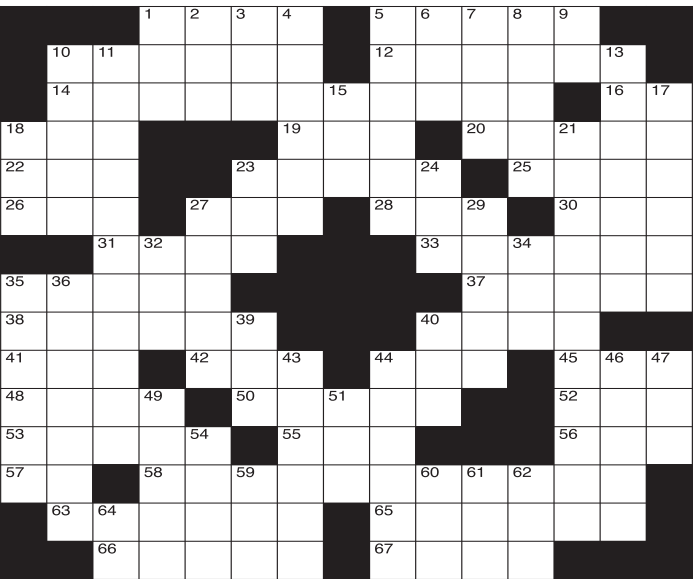
a symbol of good fortune, prosperity, and marital bliss.

The Phoenix's captivating image and symbolism have made it a popular motif in various forms of art, literature, and popular culture. It has appeared in numerous books, poems, paintings, sculptures, and other artistic mediums.

The city of Phoenix, located in the state of Arizona, derives its name from the Phoenix bird. The city's name was chosen to symbolize its growth and development from the ruins of the former settlement of Swilling's Mill.

The Phoenix constellation, also known as the "Bird of Paradise," is a minor constellation in the southern sky. It was first introduced by Dutch astronomer Petrus Plancius in the late 16th century. Although it is not as prominent as some of the major constellations, the Phoenix constellation serves as a celestial representation of the mythical bird.

-Adapted from Havefunwithhistory.com

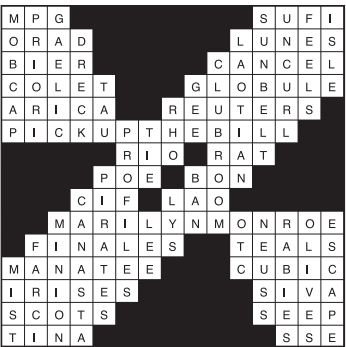


CLUES ACROSS

1. Native American people of CA
5. Long periods of time (Brit.)
10. Classroom tool
12. Rods
14. One who renews
16. They start the alphabet
18. Periodical (slang)
19. Smooth singer Cole
20. Dorsal sclerites in insects
22. One from Utah
23. The world of the dead
25. Singer Redding
26. Mafia head
27. Wrongly
28. Unhappy
30. Anger
31. Dark olive black
33. Places to sit and eat
35. Made a mistake
37. Damp
38. Banned fuel type
40. Actor Damon
41. What thespians do
42. A polite address for a woman
44. Disallow
45. Swiss river
48. A banana has one
50. Afrikaans
52. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
53. Agave
55. Journalist Tarbell
56. One-time tech leader
57. Incidentally (abbr.)
58. Intestinal bacterium
63. Loose sheats around the spinal cord
65. Accompanies nook
66. Vogue
67. Highly excited

CLUES DOWN

1. Witch
2. Utilize
3. Writing utensil
4. Where rockers work
5. Becomes less intense
6. Consume
7. Type of catfish
8. "Horsetown, U.S.A."
9. Atomic #50
10. The Muse of lyric poetry
11. Brings back to life
13. Humorous critiques
15. Cool!
17. Worst
18. Wet dirt
21. Useful
23. Hebrew unit of liquid capacity
24. High schoolers' test
27. Internet device
29. City in India
32. A place to rest
34. Chat responder
35. A way to move on
36. What consumers are given
39. Digital audiotape
40. More (Spanish)
43. Disfigured
44. White (Spanish)
46. Church building
47. Georgia rockers
49. Surgeon's tool
51. "Much ___ about nothing"
54. Make by braiding
59. Local area network
60. Unit of work
61. Indigenous person of Thailand
62. Liquefied natural gas
64. Distance to top



Answers for September 24



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Some things to think about

Gathered from the internet
by *Jack Barnes*



Sometimes instead of cleaning the house I watch an episode of **Hoarders** & then I think my house doesn't look that bad.

PRO-TIP: Carry binoculars when hiking so when you make frequent stops, it looks like you're appreciating nature not fighting for air.

I MAY NOT BE THAT FUNNY OR ATHLETIC OR GOOD LOOKING OR SMART OR TALENTED I FORGOT WHERE I WAS GOING WITH THIS

Daily Feed

I read that, by law, you have to turn on your headlights when it's raining in Sweden. How the hell am I supposed to know if it's raining in Sweden? 🇸🇪 🌧️ 🤔

I took a long, hard look at myself this morning. I won't be doing that again.

The biggest mistake we make in life is thinking we have time. Be present, be kind, love more and love now.

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