

The Courier

December 10, 2025 Volume 27 Number 14

Addis resigns from school board

At the Worcester County Board of Education's annual public budget input meeting December 2, Katie Addis, elected Board of Education member representing District Six, resigned from her position, effective immediately.



Katie Addis

"From the campaign trail to three years of service, building relationships with the members of this community has truly been an honor of a lifetime, and I am eternally grateful for the trust you placed in me to represent and advocate for the needs of district six," Addis said. "Thank you for the privilege of serving you. As we look ahead, I remain confident in the strength, resilience, and goodness of this community. Let us continue to show up for one another, engage with respect, and work together for a brighter future."

The complete text of Addis' remarks are on page 6.

Addis was elected to the Board of Education in November 2022 and was sworn into office on January 23, 2023, to serve a four-year term. During her tenure she was often a lone voice of opposition on many issues including the school system's annual budget which she believed was too expensive and lacked proper oversight and management by the school administration headed by former Superintendent Lou Taylor and current Superintendent Annette Wallace. She often expressed concerns that the system was management top heavy and that administration salaries were bloated.

"While her resignation was unexpected, we certainly wish Mrs. Addis well," said Board of Education President Todd Ferrante. "She has been a dedicated servant to those who elected her as their representative. I believe Board Member Dr. Jon Andes said it best: while Mrs. Addis and other Board members may disagree on issues, we have never been disagreeable. As a Board, we have valued her voice and perspective."

The Worcester County Board of Education is made up of seven members who serve staggered, four-year terms. Each member is elected from each of the seven election districts. Vacancies that occur between elections – such as the vacancy created by Addis' resignation – are filled by the Worcester County Commissioners.



Familiar Faces - Santa and Mrs. Claus stopped by the Ocean Pines Community Center on Saturday to visit with children and receive wish list requests. Photo by Chip Bertino

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Four generations pave the way

By **Elaine Bean**

Christian Cooper is the fourth generation of his family to be involved in the family business, Accurate Asphalt. And they are already grooming the fifth generation, as Cooper and his brother have seven children between them.

“Whoever shows the most interest when they’re the age will hit the ground running,” he said.

Headquartered on Kent Island, Accurate Asphalt serves all of the Eastern Shore, and keeps equipment on Rt. 611 in West Ocean City for quick response times to the Atlantic side. The company offers commercial paving, driveway paving, parking lot paving, retaining walls, pothole filling, seal-coating, gravel work, and decorative stone work.

Cooper’s great grandfather started Accurate Asphalt after he picked up the skills from working around other contractors. He learned that asphalt has a reputation for durability. A professionally-laid asphalt parking lot that has been well maintained can last for decades. The flexibility of asphalt

means it is more pliable than concrete, allowing it to adjust to minor movements and ground expansion from ice formation.

“[My great grandfather] learned the trade, and the business took off for him,” Cooper said. “In that day and age, there was no such thing as advertising; it was all word of mouth. Honestly, a lot of our business, even though we advertise heavily, is word of mouth and referrals.

“We’re blessed to have good reviews online,” he continued. “Our customers go on there and put feedback for us ... There are a lot of pictures online - before and afters.”

Jim of Ocean Pines posted a review on Nov. 10, 2025 about the company’s customer service:

“My first phone call was actually answered by a person I could talk to and get some questions answered. Yay, that was an excellent start for me, and then when I requested a quote on black top for my driveway, I got that and a date to actually do the job. The job was done quickly and professionally. What a great team of people and

professional leadership. I would definitely recommend this company.”

Mike Turley of Ocean Pines gave this review on Oct. 25, 2025: “I retired as a Global Director of Improvement and Efficiency, and I have not seen any company operate as well as this one as I watched them install my new driveway. Ace Cooper, owner, personally reviewed my driveway and designed a solution for my rain drainage is-

see *pave*
on page 12



Valerie and Christian Cooper with their children



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It was a scrapple kind of day

The day started with frying up some scrapple for breakfast and ended with Thanksgiving dinner. In between, the day unfolded unexpectedly but delightfully.

Because of conflicting work schedules my family wasn't able to

home from Walmart having picked up last minute food items, our youngest son called. During the conversation I mentioned that for breakfast the next morning I would be frying up the leftover scrapple he had given us a couple days before.

Want to join me? Yes, he and his fiancé would be there. After getting off the phone, I decided to invite my eldest son. Again, I got a "yes." He and my daughter-in-law and grandchildren would be there. Great! Breakfast

would be at 10:30.

These unexpected breakfast plans required my wife and me to turn into Food Lion before heading home to buy more eggs and bacon because my wife doesn't care for scrapple not even a little bit. I've enjoyed the ethnic food of the Pennsylvania Dutch since I was a kid as long as it's prepared correctly: crisp on the outside and soft on the inside.

So let me review. My wife and I were already preparing to host everyone for Thanksgiving dinner which just by itself takes time, planning and preparation. Now we would also be hosting breakfast.

While my wife is *the* cook of the family, breakfast is often my domain. My repertoire isn't vast. I'm just a simple kind of breakfast cook: eggs (sunny side up, over or scrambled), fried potatoes and toast. I can whip up pancakes too from a box.

As we hauled in the shopping bags, the reality set in that breakfast the next morning would have to be prepared, eaten and cleared in a timely manner so as not to interfere with my wife's Thanksgiving dinner preparations. After a certain time, I would be an unwanted kitchen intruder and treated as such. Our kitchen is only so big. Let me re-

state that. *My wife's* kitchen is only so big and as history has documented on more than one occasion, there's no room for me when she's on a mission. For that matter, there's no room for anyone in the kitchen when she's on a mission but that's a story for another time.

Up early Sunday I peeled potatoes, set the extended dining room table, retrieved folding chairs from the garage and made sure there was enough soft butter. The coffee pot was ready.

Everyone arrived. And in a scene repeated many times before, the adults congregated in and around the kitchen as the grandchildren ran around as grandchildren should.

There was a lot of talk and laughter and inside family jokes retold for the umpteenth time as I made eggs to order and kept tabs on the scrapple.

Following breakfast, everyone helped clear the table and clean the kitchen. Wait, that's not accurate. What really happened was the girls (my daughter-in-law, son's fiancé and wife) cleaned up as my sons and I sat at the table talking. Then everyone dispersed. My grandchildren went home to take a nap.

Several hours later we reassembled for the main feast. Again, there was talk and laughter and even more inside family jokes and stories told for the umpteenth time around the table. My 13-month granddaughter sat in her highchair next to me taking everything in. There were times when a look came across her face that led me to believe she was thinking, "This is the family I'm stuck with?"

After dinner, just my sons and I retired to the sunroom for conversation. It wasn't planned. It just happened. And this for me was a high point of the day because the conversation was meaningful in a father and sons sort of way. There was no rhyme or reason to the dialogue. It just flowed.

Eventually the evening drew to a close. Leftovers were divvied up and goodbyes were exchanged in the driveway as the grandkids were fastened into their car seats. In the glow of the porch light, my wife and I waved as the cars pulled away.

The day was over. The memories will last. What was expected to be just a holiday dinner gathering evolved into a full day family affair because of some leftover scrapple.



It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

assemble at our home for Thanksgiving dinner until the following Sunday. Dinner was set for 4 p.m. Plans unfolded accordingly.

My daughter-in-law coordinated menu preparations with my wife who would make the family standards including mash potato casserole, sausage stuffing and cheese cake. Added to the list this year was a sweet potato and marshmallow casserole dish, a favorite of my son's fiancé.

Having people to the house, even when it's just the kids requires some prep work. Bathrooms have to be cleaned. Leaves must be added to the dining room table and folding chairs retrieved from the garage. The special holiday dishes and flatware used only for Thanksgiving and Christmas are taken from the cabinet above the refrigerator.

The holiday, even though celebrated a few days later, was excitedly anticipated by my wife and me. It was the first time in many years both our sons would be able to join us. Such occasions are not as common as we would like so when opportunities present themselves, we grasp them enthusiastically.

Just an aside. At the time, it seemed like the days when our children were young and just in the next room watching television or sitting on the couch reading a book or fighting with one another would last forever. They didn't. Those days are now in the rearview mirror, many miles back. So, when, even just for a few hours, we can be together, it's special.

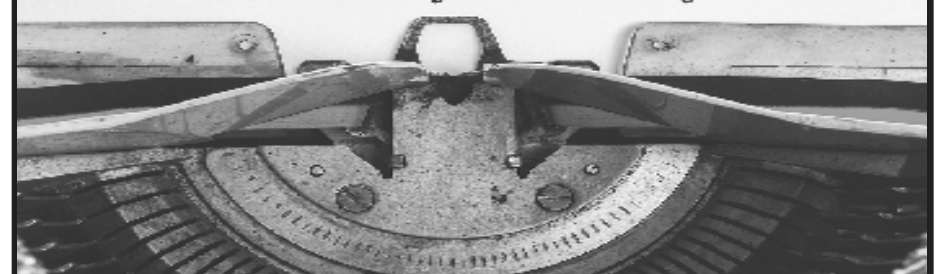
Getting back to my story. On the Saturday before the big dinner while my wife and I were driving

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Addis speaks her mind in resignation comments

Editor's Note: Katie Addis resigned last week from the Board of Education during the board's regular meeting. What follows are her unedited and unabridged remarks announcing her decision.

Since the beginning of my time on the board, I've always said I would be in this seat to try and invoke change for the greater good of Worcester County. I wanted this so badly because I wanted my children to eventually go to school here.

After sitting on the board for 3 years, I've come to realize that this won't be possible. Our public school system has many desirable programs that meet the needs of many children, but it still does not meet the needs of my children- and many others in this county.

This job has been an eye-opening experience in many ways. My trust in our local media outlets and journalists have disappointed me in their need to sway the public on matters that were many times written and covered in a way that led the public to be swayed away from the truth. In the next year's election, stay vigilant and question what the media and newspapers are putting out to the public. Worcester County

journalism is very much a part of the 'Good Ol' Boy' network. Question who the news outlets and newspapers are praising. Discern the truth and do not be swayed.

I have watched our district's Teachers' Association pressure educators into believing the association is their only source of protection and support—yet time and again, their actions have shown otherwise. Teachers deserve to know they *do* have options. Please don't feel that joining the Teacher Association is the sole path to advocacy or safety. If you want to stand up for what's happening in our schools, that change begins with reconsidering your membership and directing your support elsewhere. As election season approaches, remember: a candidate without the backing of WCTA is not a candidate without the backing of Worcester County's dedicated teachers. The "Red Apple Endorsement" reflects only a small portion of the incredible educators and staff who serve our students every day.

Many of the aspirations I had as a board member, aspirations I campaigned on and that my constituency supported, were not

supported by my fellow board members. While we do not live in a democracy but rather a Constitutional Republic—if we can keep it—our board is structured to reflect democratic principles of shared responsibility and majority rule. Nothing I do here will change the destructive culture of this school system. We have a teacher who implied he wanted students dead, and instead of firing him, our Superintendent rewarded him with a paid vacation, I mean, administrative leave. Board members who voice agreement with me in Closed Session often refuse to speak up in Open Session, even on issues as clear-cut as the unnecessary extravagance of administration vehicles.

Every year as Budget season approaches, we have a board and top administration who refuse to take responsibility for the overspending being done, and are constantly pushing staff and community members to vilify local elected officials to force their hand to "fully fund" the board of education. Every year, an indoctrination campaign takes place to make the public believe the Board of Education is not fully funded. This is grossly false and dangerously incorrect. A Maintenance of Effort budget IS a fully funded budget. Anything over a Maintenance of Effort Budget is a fully funded budget and then some. Unfortunately, our top level administration has been allowed to say what they want to say, without consequence. Not only is this false information morally wrong to spread, it has caused countless years of vitriol to be unnecessarily spread between family and neighbors in our community. You all are coming here today with 'Wish Lists' for your schools. Just like Christmas, not everyone gets what they want on their wish list. Maybe we need to start urging our Board of Education administration to stop building Taj Mahal schools that cost the taxpayers exorbitant amounts of money, and start asking them to build modest buildings so our tax money can go to funding students in the classrooms instead.

Our community as a whole needs to take an active interest in local issues. I urge and challenge everyone to step into the public square and contribute to the betterment of our community. We need more face-to-face dialogue and fewer keyboard warriors. Rather than shying away from debate, I encourage each of us to engage with a genuine desire to understand one another — always with respect and civility.

The Board of Education has been my Mission Field. I found a place where I was not welcome in many ways, and certainly not celebrated as I spread the word of God and His truths. I continue to stand behind those truths and pray our community will find its voice to stand behind those truths as well, for the safety, security, and prosperity of this generation of children, and generations to come.

I am honored to have helped so many teachers, staff, parents, students, and community members during my time on this board. Thank you for trusting me with your issues and concerns, and I hope I have served you in a manner that changes your outlook on public servants, as that has been my goal from day 1: to serve the community. If we don't shine in the public square, then darkness will fill the void.

From the campaign trail to three years of service, building relationships with the members of this community has truly been the honor of a lifetime. I am eternally grateful for the trust you placed in me to represent and advocate for the needs of District 6. Thank you for the privilege of serving you. As we look ahead, I remain confident in the strength, resilience, and goodness of this community. Let us continue to show up for one another, engage with respect, and work together for a brighter future. The work doesn't end here—and neither does my commitment to this community. Effective immediately, I will be resigning my position as District 6 School Board Representative and stepping down.

Courier Almanac

On December 10, 1922, the Canton Bulldogs defeat the Toledo Ma- roons, 19-0, and are declared the first champion of the newly re- named National Football League. Canton finishes the season 10-0-2, allowing 15 points and producing nine shutouts. The league cham- pion is determined by best regular-season record.



Regular physical activity is often associated with immediate effects, and rightfully so. According to the Centers for Dis- ease Control and Prevention, physical activity can improve cognition and thinking, reduce short-term feelings of anxiety, and make it easier for people to manage their weight. But physical activity also boasts some notable long-term benefits, particularly in regard to disease prevention. The CDC notes that regular exercise can reduce risk for cardiovascular dis- ease, type 2 diabetes and metabolic syndrome, infectious diseases like COVID-19 and pneumonia, and various forms of cancer, including cancers of the breast, colon, kidneys, and lungs.

**The
Courier**

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Ocean Downs revenue down for November

With its 900 slot machines and 18 table games, Ocean Downs Casino reported revenue of \$6,452,522 in November, a 1.9% decrease (\$125,335) from the same period last year.

Maryland's six casinos combined to generate \$158.7 million in revenue from slot machines and table games during November 2025. The statewide total was an increase of \$644,521 (0.4%) compared to November 2024.

Casino gaming contributions to the state during November 2025 totaled \$68,548,425, a decrease of \$331,164 (-0.5%) compared to November 2024. The November 2025 contributions included \$49,447,720 to the Education Trust Fund, a decrease of \$235,066 (-0.5%) compared to November 2024.

Through the first five months of Fiscal Year 2026 (July 1 through November 30), casino gaming revenue is

\$808,291,568, down 1.7% compared to the same period in FY2025; and contributions to the state are \$347,691,906, down 1.2% year-over-year.

In addition to the Education Trust Fund, casino gaming revenues support the communities and jurisdictions where the casinos are located, Maryland's horse racing industry, and small, minority- and women-owned businesses.

Maryland's six privately owned casinos offer both slot machines and table games: MGM National Harbor in Prince George's County; Live! Casino & Hotel in Anne Arundel County; Horseshoe Casino Baltimore in Baltimore City; Ocean Downs Casino in Worcester County; Hollywood Casino Perryville in Cecil County; and Rocky Gap Casino Resort in Allegany County.



Reading - Republican Women of Worcester County's Red Shoe Book Club met at Ocean Pines library recently to discuss "Plan Red" by Gordon Chang.

Pictured are (front row): **Jean Scanlon**, **Yvonne Babcock** and **Deb Dills**. (Back row): **Susan Ostrowski**, Literacy Chair, **Julie Koehler**, **Linda Sirianni** and **Nina Willett**.

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Library art exhibit offers gift ideas

Do you know a fan of the Baltimore Orioles or Baltimore Ravens? Or someone who enjoys Ocean City nostalgia? Bob Capece is exhibiting watercolor art at the Ocean Pines Branch of the Worcester County Library through the end of December. With 20 percent of proceeds to support the Friends of the Ocean Pines Library's fundraising efforts, this is the perfect time to purchase beautiful artwork in time for the holidays.

Whimsical renderings of boardwalk institutions such as Ripley's Believe It and Dumser's Ice Cream, in addition to portraits of sports celebrities such as Cal Ripken Jr. and Ray Lewis, adorn the main library. Know a military enthusiast? Depictions of World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War as well as the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are on display.

Mr. Capece studied at the Ducret School of Art in Plainfield, New Jersey, working as a freelance artist for three decades, including the past 18 years on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

For more information, call the Ocean Pines Library at 410-208-4014.



Anglers to meet

The Ocean Pines Anglers Club will meet on Saturday, December 13 at 9:30 a.m. in the Ocean Pines library. Interested in the Anglers Club? Come see a special slide and video presentation of the year in review, the Walt Boge 2025 tournament winners and all things fishing. Please bring a non-perishable food item for Diakonia. All are welcome.

Quit smoking, vaping classes offered

Quit smoking or vaping this new year with the help of the Worcester County Health Department's free Quit Smoking/Vaping Classes. Youth and adult sessions are available at locations throughout the county. Trained instructors will help break the nicotine addiction by focusing on topics like stress management, assertive communication, creating a quit plan, relapse prevention, and more.

Worcester Health is committed to preventing tobacco use and helping everyone live a tobacco-free lifestyle. Join one of the Quit Smoking/Vaping classes starting next month:

Adult Classes

-Tuesdays, 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m., (January 6, 2026 - March 24, 2026) at the Snow Hill Health Department, 6040 Public Landing Rd.

-Wednesdays, 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m., (January 7, 2026 - March 25, 2026) at the Pocomoke Health Center, 400-A Walnut St.

-Thursdays, 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m., (January 8, 2026 - March 26, 2026) at the Berlin Health Center, 9730 Healthway Dr.

Youth Classes

-Mondays, 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m., (January 5, 2026 - March 23, 2026) held virtually.

"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."

To register for adult classes, visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CPVMVS3>. To register for youth classes, visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LN8GHRH>. For more information or to register by phone, call 410-632-1100 Ext. 1103.

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Worcester Wednesday aids Children's Beach House

On Worcester Wednesday, November 19, students and faculty at Worcester Preparatory School (WPS) came together to support Children's Beach House with a blue dress-down day fundraiser.

Participants donated \$5 to benefit the Children's Beach House and its program to help improve the lives of children, youth, families, and communities by helping them to identify, understand, and utilize their own strengths, talents, and resources. Through early-childhood education, after-school programming, residential camps, and family wrap-around services, Children's Beach House helps children, families, and communities build futures of hope and transformation.

Each month, WPS students nominate charitable organizations for the school's Worcester Wednesday fundraiser. Special thanks to WPS seniors Anisha Batra and Ansh Batra for bringing awareness to this important cause and leading the effort to support Children's Beach House.

Pictured are WPS kindergartners Ethan Fortunato, Crew Sands, Otis Evans, Brady Mancini, Colton Shapiro, and Colton McCready. proudly sported their blue attire to show support for Children's House by the Sea during Worcester Wednesday.



Animal facts - Mrs. Zavodny's kindergarten class at Ocean City Elementary created their very own animal fact cards using key details from their non-fiction Farm Animals book. The students have been working on finding evidence in the text and supporting it by drawing, labeling, and writing.

A firsthand look from a local travel agent

Why now is the time to return to Jamaica

By **Cindy McCabe**

“Should I travel to Jamaica right now?”

It's one of the most common questions travelers are asking these days, and coming from a first-hand knowledge from a local agency owner who was selected as one of the first travel agents invited back to the island, she is thrilled to share the answer: Absolutely YES.

*Cindy McCabe*

As someone currently on the ground in Jamaica, she had the unique opportunity to see the island's recovery firsthand. After her ride from the airport to Sandals Dunn's River, I was genuinely relieved and encouraged to see how quickly the landscape is returning to its lush beauty. The greenery is vibrant again, and the roads leading to the resort are already looking as strong as they did before the hurricane.

Of course, like any destination recovering from a major storm, there are areas still rebuilding. But what impressed me most was the resilience and warmth of the Jamaican people. Recovery is underway, and we continue to support that effort through the Sandals Foundation and other charitable causes. Your visit helps too, tourism is the heart of Jamaica's economy, and your presence makes a meaningful difference.

And here's the good news: The resorts that are open are fully ready to give you the amazing vacation experience you've been dreaming about. The moment I stepped onto the property, the staff greeted us with song, smiles, and a genuine joy that can only be described as “coming home.” Their excitement to welcome guests back is undeniable, and their dedication to hospitality is as strong as ever.

If you've been waiting for a sign that it's safe and worthwhile to return to Jamaica, this is it.

Plan ahead, availability is limited: Because some resorts need a little

more time before reopening, availability is tighter than usual. If Jamaica is on your wish list, don't wait to secure your dates. The great news? Reservations are open all the way through 2028, giving you plenty of flexibility to plan ahead.

Resort reopening dates

December 6, 2025:

- Sandals Dunn's River
- Sandals Royal Plantation
- Sandals Ochi
- Sandals Negril
- Beaches Negril

May 30, 2026:

- Sandals Royal Caribbean
- Sandals Montego Bay
- Sandals South Coast

These resorts are eagerly preparing to welcome guests with refreshed spaces, enhanced experiences, and the warm Jamaican spirit that keeps travelers returning year after year.

Trust a local, family-run travel agency. If you're considering a Jamaica getaway whether this year or in the years ahead you don't have to navi-

gate it alone. Working with a local, family-run travel agency gives you access to firsthand knowledge, personal experience, and someone who truly cares about getting every detail right.

Being selected to be among the first travel professionals invited back to Jamaica is an honor. It allows me to guide you with real, current insight into what the island is like right now.

Jamaica is ready for you. And when you're ready for Jamaica, we're here to help you plan a trip filled with beauty, relaxation, and the unforgettable warmth of the island.

Cindy McCabe is owner of Bethany Travel and can be reached at 302-933-0955. Bethany Travel is one of the top 10 travel agencies in the world selling Sandals & Beaches.

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Toys for Tots Toy drive scheduled

The Ocean Pines Yacht Club is hosting a Toys for Tots Toy Drive on Friday, December 12, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Come out for a complimentary festive evening featuring dinner and dancing, all to support Toys for Tots. The event will feature live music with Randy Lee Ashcraft, a free buffet, and cash bar.

Attendees are asked to bring an unwrapped toy for a boy and a girl. For more information, contact the Yacht Club at 410-641-7501.

Athlete commits to UMBC men’s lacrosse

Worcester Preparatory School (WPS) junior student-athlete Karrigan Russell-Wood of Berlin, has announced his commitment to play NCAA Division I Men’s Lacrosse at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County in Baltimore, Maryland, where he will be pursuing a dual degree in Finance and Economics.

A member of the Class of 2027, Karrigan Russell-Wood has earned Academic Head of School Honors for the past three years. At Worcester Prep, Karrigan is a standout multi-sport varsity athlete, competing in both varsity lacrosse and varsity golf, and has earned ESIAC All-Conference honors in both sports. Outside of school, he continues to sharpen his skills as a member of the Pro Start travel lacrosse program.



Karrigan is the son of Karsten and Lauren Russell-Wood.

Volunteers sought for Administrative Charging Committee

The Worcester County Commissioners seek interested area residents to serve on the Administrative Charging Committee under the State Police Accountability Act. There is one vacant position on this board.



The Administrative Charging Committee consists of five members who review complaints and investigations of police misconduct, determine whether an officer should be charged with misconduct, and, if charged, recommend discipline from the State-created matrix.

Members of the board must receive 40 hours of training before beginning service.

To apply for this board, visit co.worcester.md.us/PAB, click on “Attached Files,” and then click on “Application for Accountability Charging Committee.” Send the completed application along with a letter of interest and a resume or cover letter outlining any pertinent experience to khammer@co.worcester.md.us or Worcester County Administration at One West Market Street, Room 1103, Snow Hill, Maryland 21863.



Tina Celia

Celia named Crafter of the Month

The Pine’er Craft Club has selected Tina Celia as its December Crafter of the Month.

Celia, a Berlin resident for the past five years, has been creating handmade items throughout her life. Her work includes sewn handbags and wallets, beaded jewelry, decoupage bottles, candles, Christmas décor, framed dried pressed flowers and mittens crafted from recycled sweaters.

A Washington, DC native, Celia has lived in Maryland for most of her life. She spent 20 years as an administrator for a private audiology company before retiring and moving to Berlin to be closer to her daughter, son-in-law and their dog, Dexter.

Celia joined the Pine’er Craft Club in 2021 and continues to share her creativity with fellow members. She also assists with displays at the Pine’er Artisan Gift Shop, a role she said she thoroughly enjoys. Celia regularly travels to craft shows across Maryland and Delaware, where she values meeting customers and connecting with other makers.

Her passion for crafting has grown into a successful small business, allowing her to share her one-of-a-kind designs with the community. Many of her creations are currently featured at the Pine’er Artisan Gift Shop.

Celia’s handmade items are available at the Pine’er Craft Club Artisan Gift Shop, located in White Horse Park in Ocean Pines. The shop is open Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For the month of December, the shop will offer extended hours on Fridays before Christmas from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Founded more than 50 years ago, the Pine’er Craft Club has donated over \$201,000 to the Ocean Pines community. The club welcomes new members and meets on the third Thursday of each month.

Artisans interested in selling their work at the shop may contact shop managers Debbie Jiwa or Barbara Herzog, or email opcraftclub@aol.com. For more information, visit oceanpines.org/web/pages/artisan-gift-shop.

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Knots & Knots by Dan Collins

Hypothermia

Santa Claus is coming to town. He'll dash around the world 'in the blink of an eye' visiting every time zone at exactly midnight. His annual sojourn will be a cold and windy ride in his open-air sleigh but Santa knows what's naughty and nice when it comes to avoiding hypothermia.

Hypothermia occurs from exposure to cold, wet or windy conditions that sap the stored body energy required to keep warm. It is a medical emergency and left unabated, it will progress in stages with well-defined symptoms and eventually turn fatal. Between 700 and 1,500 people die every year in America from hypothermia, many of them as a result of water immersion.

Mild hypothermia, stage one, occurs when the body temperature drops below 95°F. Our normal body temperature is about 98.6 degrees but at 95 degrees, we begin to shiver. We become clumsy, confused and lose awareness. Our teeth may chatter and we have trouble speaking. Our heart rate and breathing increase. Our pulse weakens and, in time, exhaustion sets in.

Moderate hypothermia occurs when the body temperature continues to fall below 89.6°F. Here the body begins to shut down. Now the earlier rapid breathing and heart rate slow down as does the shivering because the body is running out of energy. Mental functions decline, and the skin turns a bluish color. Muscles stiffen, pupils dilate, and reflexes weaken. Loss of consciousness is possible.

Finally, if the body temperature drops below 82.4°F, severe hypothermia is present. The shivering stops. Blood pressure drops. Muscles become rigid. The heart stops beating and the victim may be in a coma or dead.

The bleak reality is that virtually all

mild cases of hypothermia recover with proper medical attention but less than 50% of the moderate or severe victims survive.

Therefore, it's important to recognize the symptoms as described above and know what to do to treat it. The physiology of cold-water immersion is time dependent. At first, the victim will experience "cold shock" for two to five minutes depending of the water's temperature. During this period the person-in-the-water (PIW) needs to



USCG Auxiliaries **Bob Sheehan, Dirk Esham and Al Parra** tests their cold-water suits.

get organized and hopefully get rescued. After that, there is a five to 20 minute period called "swim failure" where muscles will gradually lose functionality. At this point, it is critical to be wearing a personal floatation device, a life jacket, that is designed to keep the wearer's head face up in order to breathe. After the "swim failure" stage, the PIW is at the mercy of the elements and hypothermia is unstoppable short of rescue.

Once the PIW has been recovered, the fundamental objective is to prevent further heat loss and begin the re-warming process. First, move the person to a warm, dry environment. Then remove wet clothing and replace with dry clothing. Next cover them with a blanket or a hat and jacket. And finally, apply external heat to their skin such as a hot pack or maybe even lying next to them under the blanket to

please see knots on page 12

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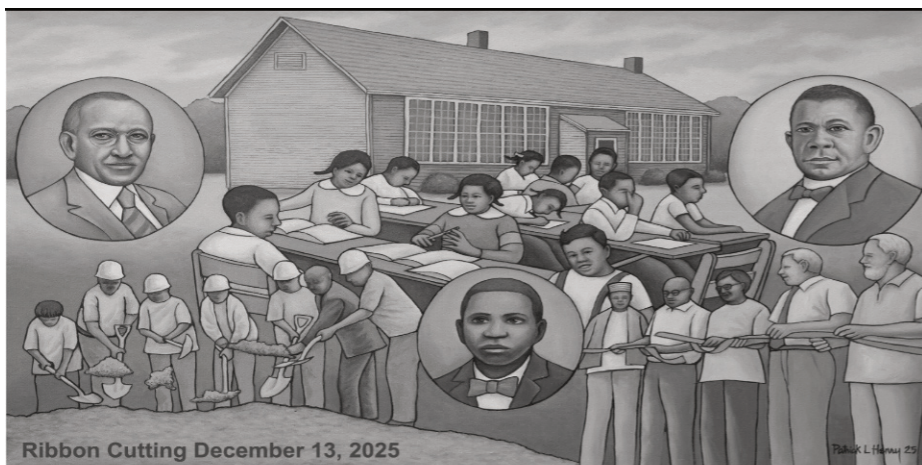


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Decorating - The republican Women of Worcester County (RWWC) decorated a Christmas tree in White Horse Park.

Pictured are (left to right) RWWC members **Deb Dil, Mary Adair, President Jean Delcher, Jane Wolnik and Jennie Allen.**



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knots
from page 11

share your body heat. If this does not stop the advancement of the cold, call for help and get the victim to medical providers.

In the case of severe hypothermia symptoms, call the healthcare provider (911) immediately. You are dealing with a life or death situation and advanced procedures to warm the blood by an IV injection and/or breathing warm oxygen may be the best course of action.

Even if the mild hypothermia event seems to have passed, it is prudent to stand down from the day's activities and monitor the victim for 24 hours because there is an above average risk of cardiac arrest caused by different internal parts of the body re-warming at different rates.

Obviously, the better course of action is not to not suffer hypothermia in the first place, especially on the water. A man overboard event in cold water is far worse than Santa's windy ride through the air. The reason is that water has a 25 to 1 greater effect than air. That means, for example, if you stand on the beach in your bathing suit when the air temperature is 40°F you will feel some level of 'cold' after 25 minutes. You will feel that same level of 'cold' after only one minute if you went swimming in 40°F water.

This phenomenon is caused by the difference in mass and heat content between water and air. We see the same ratio when calculating boat drift. One knot of current will push a boat at

the same rate as a 25 knot wind.

So here are some preventive tips to keep you safe and minimize the hypothermia potential if you insist on boating in cold weather:

Wear a life jacket. The initial cold-water shock when you first fall into frigid water can incapacitate you; and, according to Murphy's Law, you would bob face down and drown before others could get to you.

Check the weather forecast and make conservative go-no go decisions before pushing off.

Dress in layers. Consider wearing foul weather gear such as float coat.

Keep on board an extra set of dry cloths in a waterproof bag.

Have a well stocked first-aid kit.

Have a survival ditty bag that includes, among other gear, a blanket, calorie-dense food and the makings for a warm beverage like coffee or cocoa.

Do not boat solo. You will need help getting back into the boat and administering first-aid.

Make sure that a means to re-board the boat is always available.

Avoid alcohol, opioids, and certain medications that effect mental functions.

Take the safe boating class as well as a first-aid and CPR course.

If you really like cold weather boating, maybe you should ask Santa for a Mustang wet suit.

Merry Christmas, and as always... Stay safe. Stay dry.

Dan Collins can be reached for comment at dancollins.ocean-pines@gmail.com.

pave
from page 4

sues and directed his team how he wanted this driveway done. The whole team went about getting things done without being told ... What a great job done by a great company and led by great leadership. I would recommend this company to anybody."

While the company appreciates the referrals and positive reviews from satisfied customers, customer service is still what closes the deal.

"Even if it is a referral, that doesn't mean much," Cooper said. "You still want to deal with that person one-on-one."

Their website states: "Our customers know they can count on our

work ethic, craftsmanship, and dedication to excellent service. Our family-owned and operated business is locally based and dedicated to customer service and satisfaction above all else."

Their asphalt work is beginning to come full circle, with the current Accurate Asphalt crew working on the same jobs as earlier generations of the company.

"Back in the day, my father and grandfather did driveways that we are working at now," he said. "They're hitting their life span - 25 to 30 years - and we're starting to repave them."

More information about the company is available at accurate-asphalt.com or by calling 410-697-3167.



Donation - The Republican Women of Worcester County presented a check for \$1,000 to Jimmy McKenzie, Stephen Decatur High School (SDHS) Band Director to help with expenses toward the entire band's trip to Hawaii to participate in the Pearl Harbor Day parade on December 7. Only one high school from each state was chosen to participate and march in the parade and the honor in Maryland was given to SDHS.

Pictured is **Carol Frazier**, RWWC first VP presenting the check to **Jimmy McKinzie**.

Commissioners elect new president and vice president

On December 2, the Worcester County Commissioners re-elected Commissioner Theodore J. Elder to serve as president and elected Commissioner Madison J. Bunting, Jr. to serve as vice president of the board.

Commissioner Elder represents the Western District (District Four), and he is currently serving his third term. He was elected to the Worcester County Board of Commissioners in 2014 and has been serving as president since December 2024. He also served as vice president from 2017 through 2018 and again from 2019 through 2022. Commissioner Elder currently represents the board as a voting member of the Tri-County Council (TCC) for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland and as a member of the Health Planning Advisory Council.

He is a retired Worcester County bus contractor, where he served as the Bus Contractor's Association president for 20 consecutive terms. He also filled in as a teacher for one term at Worcester Technical High School. Commissioner Elder has been a successful county business owner/operator since 1982. He resides in Whaleyville. He and his late wife, Joyce, have three children, six grandchildren, and six great grandchildren.

Commissioner Bunting was elected to the board in 2010 to represent the Northern District (District Six). He is currently serving his fourth term in office. He previously served as president for three consecutive years from 2014-2016 and as vice president for two con-

secutive years from 2022-2024. Commissioner Bunting is a retired professional land surveyor, and he owned and operated his own surveying and land planning business for 18 years. He represents the commissioners on the Commission for Aging, the Water and Sewer Advisory Committee, and the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) Legislative Committee.

Prior to becoming a commissioner, he served on the Worcester County Planning Commission for four years, leading the board as chair for three years, and six years on the Board of Zoning Appeals, where he served as the chair for four years. Commissioner Bunting also served on the Ocean Pines Comprehensive Planning Committee and is a current member of the Bishopville-St. Martins Neck Association. He is the proud father of two grown children, Lucinda and Madison, III, and he has one granddaughter, Cienna. Commissioner Bunting and his wife, Elisabeth, live in Bishopville.

The Board of Worcester County Commissioners is the seven-member legislative and executive branch of county government. Each commissioner is elected to serve a four-year term, and one representative is elected from each of the seven election districts. The current board was elected to serve the 2022-2026 term. The commissioners meet the first and third Tuesday of each month in the Worcester County Government Center in Snow Hill.

SDOI doubles Bless Our Children donation

The Ocean City Lodge of the Sons and Daughters of Italy (SDOI) has made its largest charitable donation of the year, \$2,000 to the annual WBOC-TV Bless Our Children campaign, twice as much as usual because of a highly successful 2025 St. Joseph's Day Festival.

The festival is the major fund-raiser for SDOI's annual charitable and scholarship programs. While planning was underway for the 14th annual 2026 Festival, Judy Zanetti and Janet Ackerson of SDOI presented the ceremonial \$2,000 check to WBOC's Lisa Bryant and Steve Monz.

The 2026 St. Joseph's Day Festival, one of the most popular ethnic festivals in Ocean City, is slated to open its doors on March 21 at St. Andrews Hall, Sinepuxent Avenue and 144th Street. The huge turnout in 2025 enabled SDOI to donate \$10,000 to 29 charities and award three college scholarships of \$3,000 each to local high school graduates.

Admission to the festival is free. The funds were generated from the sale of home-style Italian foods prepared on-site, pastries and cookies, Italian-themed merchandise, silent auctions, raffles of dozens of gift bas-

kets, a 50-50 raffle, a pick-six game, and sales of beverages, including wine and beer. Throughout the day festival goers were continually entertained with popular Italian music.

For more information about the Festival and the Ocean City Sons and Daughters of Italy, go to www.sonsofi-



(L-R) **Lisa Bryant, Judy Zanetti, Janet Ackerson and Steve Monz.**

talyoceanacity.com.

The Ocean City Lodge of the Sons and Daughters of Italy was started in 1980 and today has over 200 members. Its mission includes increasing awareness of the Italian culture and contributions of Italian Americans to the United States, providing scholarships for high school students of Italian descent and a tradition of charitable giving to support local organizations.

Mossy Meadows workshop planned

Join local artist Joan Guerriero on Saturday, January 10, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., for a magical Mossy Meadows Workshop at the Ocean Pines Community Center.

This hands-on workshop will give participants the chance to design and build their own moss box or fairy garden.

The cost to participate is \$25 for ages seven to 12, and \$35 for adults, with a \$5 discount for those who register by January 3. All proceeds from the workshop benefit the Worcester County Child Advocacy Center. Light snacks will be provided, in addition to extra activities for younger children.

To register, call or text Jess at 443-880-3134. Accepted payments include cash, check, Venmo, or PayPal.

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Maryland Coastal Bays report card unveiling scheduled

The Maryland Coastal Bays Program will unveil the 2024 Coastal Bays Report Card Thursday, December 11, at Mickey Fins in West Ocean City. The public is welcomed and encouraged to attend.

The Report Card provides a transparent and detailed assessment of the current health of the five Coastal Bays and major tributary, the St. Martin River. The overall health of the Coastal Bays is determined by assessing four water quality indicators, and two biotic indicators scientifically derived ecological thresholds or goals. The six indicators are combined into one coastal bays health index, presented as a report card score.

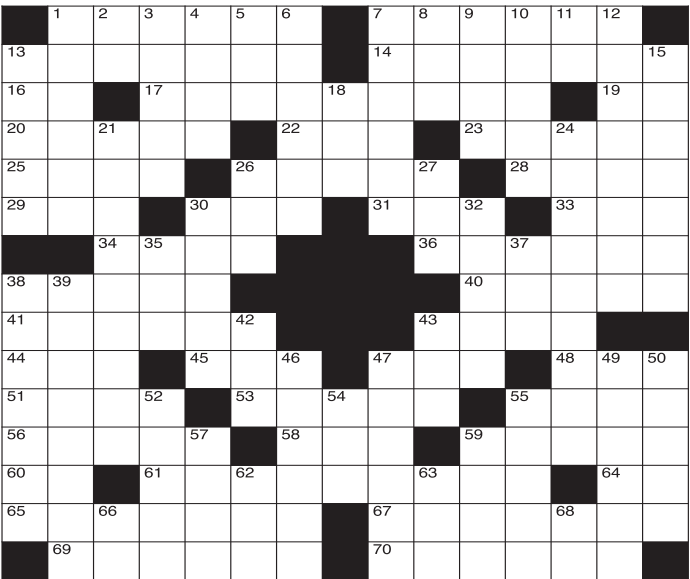
The Report Card is a scientific collaborative effort among the Maryland Coastal Bays Program, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science - Integration and Application Network, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Virginia Institute of Marine Science and the National Park Service. Funding for the publication is provided by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

This year's report card release program includes three Gold Star award presentations to recognize the contributions of partners and individuals, and their efforts to protect the Coastal Bays.

Hundreds of volunteers work with MCBP, including residents and visitors, to support environmental initiatives that protect, promote, and preserve our Coastal Bays. Some of the volunteer work includes assisting with population surveys of horseshoe crabs, terrapins, and birds; collecting water samples, working on restoration projects, participating in trash clean ups, and assisting in many other activities.

Part of the National Estuary Program, the Maryland Coastal Bays Program is a non-profit partnership among the towns of Ocean City and Berlin, the National Park Service, Worcester County, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Maryland Departments of Natural Resources, Agriculture, Environment, & Planning. One of only 28 such programs nationwide, the goal of the Maryland Coastal Bays Program is to protect and enhance the 175-square mile watershed, which includes Ocean City, Ocean Pines, Berlin, and Assateague Island National Seashore.

Report cards are available online at www.mdcoastalbays.org. If you would like to obtain copies for school projects and citizen groups, please contact Sandi Smith at sandis@mdcoastalbays.org or by calling 410-213-2297.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Spiritual leaders

7. A type of solution

13. Fortified wine

14. Edible mollusk

16. They precede C

17. A way to compare

19. Government lawyer

20. "Game of Thrones" actor Ciaran

22. The eighth month (abbr.)

23. Very willing

25. ___ ex Machina

26. Makes happy

28. Type of berry

29. A doctrine

30. Popular Dodge truck model

31. Dekagram

33. Naturally occurring solid

34. Company officer

36. Villains

38. Cricket frogs
40. Influential German psychologist

41. Endured

43. A female domestic

44. You can get stuck in one

45. Cigarette (slang)

47. Fiber optics network

48. Group of blood disorders (abbr.)

51. Employee stock ownership plan

53. Belonging to the bottom layer

55. Sound

56. MLB legend Hank

58. Very attractive person

59. Late beloved sportscaster Craig

60. South Dakota

61. Mocking

64. Symbol for gold

65. Longtime Braves pitcher Julio

67. Humor

69. Shawl

70. Preliminary patient assessment

CLUES DOWN

1. Animal disease

2. Commercial

3. Necklace material

4. Containers

5. A way to save for your future

6. Colorado Heisman winner Rashaan

7. Dipped down

8. Head injury (abbr.)

9. Lay about

10. Intestinal

11. Opposite of yes

12. Caused to be loved

13. Spiritual leader of Islam

15. Businesslike

18. Not in

21. Number above the line in a fraction

24. An animal with its own day

26. Pouch

27. Swedish krona

30. Start over

32. Field flowers
35. Fourteen

37. A visual way to interact with a computer

38. Up-to-date

39. Campaigns

42. Touch lightly

43. "Boardwalk Empire" actress Gretchen

46. Violent seizure of property

47. Supporter of the Pope

49. Anxiety

50. Body fluid

52. One who's faking it

54. Title of respect

55. Chilean city

57. City in central Japan

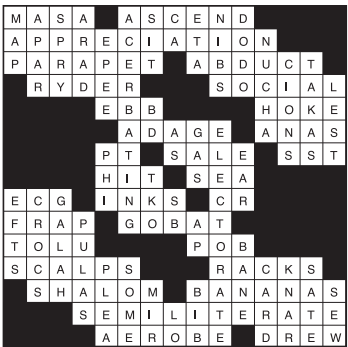
59. Silk garment

62. A form of dance

63. Automobile

66. The man

68. Justice Dept. head honcho



Answers for December 3



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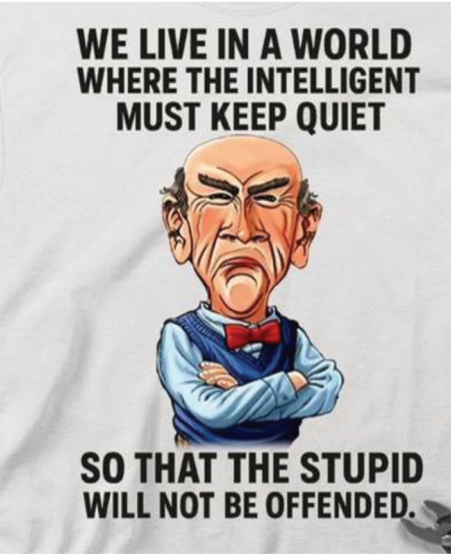
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EOE

Some things to think about

Gathered from the internet
by *Jack Barnes*



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Jazz age-themed murder mystery dinner set

The Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department will host an evening of suspense, laughter, and intrigue with "Death of a Gangster," a 1920s mafia marriage murder mystery dinner, set for Saturday, February 21.

The event will take place in the Assateague Room of the Ocean Pines Community Center. Doors open at 5 p.m. for a buffet dinner catered by Touch of Italy, followed by the interactive murder mystery show at 6 p.m.

Guests will be transported back to the roaring twenties for a night filled with glamour, mobsters, and mystery as they work together to solve a thrilling "whodunit."

Tickets are \$85 per person and include both the show and buffet dinner. Seating is limited, and early reservations are encouraged.

The evening's entertainment will be brought to life by The Murder Mystery Company, a talented troupe based

out of Baltimore. Adding to the fun, audience members will have the opportunity to play roles in the production. Attendees are encouraged to dress in 1920s-inspired costumes, flapper dresses, fedoras, and pin-stripes, though costumes are not required to participate.

For tickets and more information, please contact the Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department at 410-641-7052.

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