

The Courier

October 23, 2024 Volume 25 Number 7



Art Matters

Lisa Guerriero (l) is an artist finding passion in volunteerism. See story on 9

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Paid for by the Worcester County Democratic Women's Club; Treasurer Maggie Miller and the Democratic Club of Worcester County; Treasurer Vicky Wallace. Not affiliated with any campaign or campaign committee.



Donation - American Legion Post 166 Leathernecks at its October meeting presented Worcester County GOLD with a donation of \$1,000.

Worcester County GOLD provides emergency financial assistance and basic needs items for Worcester County residents living with low-income.

The Post 166 Leathernecks raise funds for veteran and local charities in Ocean City, Worcester County, and Southern Sussex County, and support local community organizations as volunteers. Members are veterans of all military branches of service, the Post Auxiliary, and Sons of the American Legion.

Above: Accepting the donation from Leathernecks **Vic Freeman** and **Jon Pearl** were GOLD board members **Amber Ray** and **Joe Schanno**.

Junior lifeguard programs offered on school closure days

Starting this month, the Ocean Pines Aquatics Department will offer both single-day and six-session versions of its popular Junior Lifeguard Program, designed for children ages seven and up.

Aquatics Director Michelle Hitchens said the courses are intended to be both fun and educational, and they are scheduled on school closure days to support local parents.

“The Junior Guard program focuses on essential life skills such as water safety, teamwork, problem-solving, swimming endurance, and self-confidence, while incorporating a variety of games and activities to keep the children engaged. It’s also a great opportunity for kids to enhance their water skills when schools are closed.”

To participate, children must be strong swimmers who can swim the length of the pool and tread water for at least one minute. Most the class will take place in the deep end of the

pool.

Single-day courses will be held at the Sports Core Pool on the following dates from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.: Tuesday, November 5, Monday, January 27, Monday, February 17 and Friday, April 4.

The program is led by Steve Yarzinsky and his team of instructors. Participants will receive a Junior Lifeguard t-shirt and whistle. The cost is \$75 for Ocean Pines residents and \$80 for non-residents.

Additionally, a six-class Junior Lifeguard session will be offered every other Sunday from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., starting October 20 through December 29, and again from January 19 through March 30.

Each session includes six two-hour classes, totaling 12 hours of instruction. The cost for this extended program is \$135 for residents and \$150 for non-residents, and it also includes a t-shirt and whistle.

For more information or to register, call 410-641-5255.



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Opening comments by OPA Director Jeff Heavner

OPA Board Member Jeff Heavner addressed the audience during Friday's town meeting. This is the text of his comments.

My name is Jeff Heavner. I reside at 415 Ocean Parkway. I am a member of the Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors, and I am speaking this morning on behalf of your Board.

Our community has been very pleased with Republic Services for the past few years. However, we seem to



Jeff Heavner

be at an inflection point due to the current changes being made to your services. This has become a concern for our community.

You must be aware that our community consists of about 50% of part-time residents and our full-time residents have an average age of 62. In whole, our community is one that is happy and very satisfied with life in the Pines. Why? The Association is focused on providing superior safety, top-tier amenities, quality governance and administration, well-managed infrastructure maintenance, community beautification, and the availability of necessary services. I must add that this is accomplished for a very fair and community-competitive homeowner association fee.

The Association is well in-tune with the needs and sentiment of the community. This is accomplished through our administration's attention to robust social media platforms. The pulse of the community is also monitored by the Board of directors through our connection and interaction as we listen to our neighbors.

The changes in your service that are causing this inflection point are the transition to larger trash cans, discon-

tinuing the use of smaller trash cans, and no pick-up of trash bags.

The larger cans are creating problematic issues with some due to the size and weight of the can itself and with others due to the inability to properly store this larger can.

To some, the size and weight of the can is just too large due to physical limitations.

To others, the size and weight of the can is just too difficult to roll over gravel driveways.

Many residents use their own smaller cans because the size and weight of the previous can make it unmanageable.

We also have several townhome neighborhoods that do not have the space to either store the larger cans in a small one-car garage or the space to adequately screen the cans from the front view. Additionally, we have single-family homes with smaller garages or those without garages and the same issue exists. The Parke is a good example.

The Ocean Pines Declaration of Restrictions requires all cans to be stored in a manner so the cans are not visible from the front view. Many store their cans in a garage or other indoor space or take the extra step to provide an acceptable screen.

The inability to use larger cans results in our residents using smaller cans, trash bags or taking their trash to the Berlin Transfer Station.

The recent transition to larger cans and not allowing our residents to either use smaller cans or bagged trash is negatively impacting our community. This inconvenience will force the use of other alternatives, and we imagine it will also negatively impact Republic revenues.

Since the recent change, I've seen a substantial number of cans either left at the curb or placed in yards in full view. This is a safety hazard for walkers, runners, and bike riders. Our General Manager and his operational team, supported by the Board, have worked hard to beautify our community. Now, as you go down the Parkway or travel the streets in the neighborhood, what you see is a line of bright blue cans.

To conclude, we ask consideration to allow alternative methods for trash collection to remain as it has been in the past.



Talking trash - During an Ocean Pines Association town meeting held Friday at the Golf and Country Club, General Manager Joe Viola led a discussion with representatives of Republic Services to work through issues related to the company's decision to provide customers with 90-gallon trash carts to replace all other trash receptacles.

In a statement at the top of the meeting, OPA board member Jeff Heavner expressed the board's concern of the issue and their interest in a resolution. Heavner's comments are nearby.

In response to resident concerns about the larger size and weight of the new carts, the company announced the availability of a smaller 36-gallon cart that will be available in six to eight weeks. Customers will be able to request an exchange of carts. For more information, customers may call 443-210-3505.

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Commentary

By Joe Reynolds
OceanPinesForum.com

Food & Beverage contract flap A review of the forum discussion

Recent commentary from *OceanPinesForum.com* about OPA seeking proposals from vendors interested in managing all of OPA's food and beverage operations as the current contract with Matt Ortt Companies (MOC) expires next year sparked a great deal of interest on the forum message board.

Vendors must have those proposals in the hands of OPA by the end of business on October 18. Word is several vendors may submit proposals in addition to a likely proposal from MOC, the current contract holder.

Much of the resultant forum message board discussion revolved around the issue of a 2022 private session board "compromise" (not a formal motion) where board members at that time voted 5-2 to allow board members to accept free food and booze from MOC operations outside Ocean Pines, but not at OPA venues operated by MOC.

Always articulate association member Steve Lind, in a sarcastic/mockery forum response clearly and inappropriately suggested current board members were accepting free food and booze from MOC.

OPA Vice-President Rick Farr responded to Lind, writing: "I read your response and I find it outrageous and unprofessional that you accuse or even insinuate that members of this board takes free food and booze from the Matt Ortt Companies restaurants to include any of Ocean Pines food and beverage amenities. Show me your proof this is happening. This board has and will remain professional and serve at the best interest of Ocean Pines. You owe members of this board that possess the highest integrity an apology for making such outrageous and accusatory remarks regarding free food and booze at any MOC run restaurants."

Then OPA legal counsel Bruce Bright posted a forum response to Lind. Bright told Lind his response on the forum was "irresponsible."

Bright added in his reply to

Lind: *But, in any event, do not attempt to run and hide from what you were irresponsibly suggesting in your initial post. By "recommend[ing] to any company that applies for the [F&B] 'job' that they make it known that they too will provide free food and booze to the board members who make the decisions re awarding contracts," you plainly inferred (without basis) that the current Board is engaged in conduct you further characterized as "bribery or graft." You have and had no basis to make such a suggestion, and your follow up post does nothing to course correct.*

OPA Director Steve Jacobs also responded to Lind on the forum message board.

Jacobs wrote: "As I have stated in the past, I try to avoid commenting on social media. On this occasion, I would like to make one or two points. I took most of what Mr. Lind said in the original post as 'tongue-in-cheek.' Some similar comments at the time the expansion of the Tiki Bar was considered also raised the specter of shenanigans between MOC and some Board members. Let me be very clear, I am confident that no current Board member or any prior Board member I served with, has been bribed, paid for or received any benefit from MOC. Bruce Bright's comments regarding what took place some years back as a 'compromise' is not a policy nor is it part of our governing documents. Beyond question, it was a very thoughtless and ridiculous action. I have had my differences of opinion with my colleagues on the Board, including an ethics resolution. While I would not suggest that an apology to the Board is necessary, I would like all OP members to know we are trying to do what is best for our association, that our GM and his staff are handling the RFP process properly and the Board will act at the appropriate time."

Then association member George

Rooker posted the following:

"If you think back to a meeting where board member Steve Jacobs was trying to get the board to sign on to a code of ethics you might recall Rick Farr stating that he didn't want to have to worry about violating some code of ethics when Matt Ortt comped his drinks on occasion. We don't know about other board members but we do know that Matt Ortt has comped Rick Farr's drinks on occasion because Farr himself has said so."

Those comments by Farr are not to be found in the video of the board meeting Rooker referenced. Challenged about this, Rooker researched and found the original source of his information.

Turns out Rooker was referencing an article in the February 2024 edition of the *Ocean Pines Progress*. On page 22 publisher Tom Stauss writes: "Farr said the amended B-08 (The ethics resolution mentioned by Jacobs) includes some language that would have the effect of banning the

Matt Ortt Companies from comping directors free drinks at the Yacht Club or other MOC-managed venues, which he said might occur from time to time but isn't a widespread practice."

Any contract for the management of OPA food and beverage operations over the next five years is a major issue for all association members.

To repeat the conclusion in my recent commentary on the issue:

Assuming OPA receives viable proposals from management firms other than MOC, the Board of Directors should receive whatever recommendation the General Manager proposes, MOC or otherwise, and approve it. Given John Viola's incredible success at handling OPA finances, amenity operations, and overall infrastructure maintenance while simultaneously lowering assessments, increasing reserves, and retained earnings, he is the professional whose final advice on this issue should be followed.

The voting process

Editor:

As the opportunity to vote in national and local elections approaches, it is important to note how our local voting is supported by Worcester County elections teams. The teams of Election Judges arrive at various polling stations, at 6 a.m., to assure that all is set. Voter check - in terminals . . . check.

Ballots arranged and available for the voters . . . check. Election Judges on site, and ready for the Polls to open at 7 AM . . . check. Ballot counting equipment powered up . . . check. Coffee pot charged and 'on' to perk... check. Weather cooperating...hopefully!

The above short list enumerates some of the tasks that a polling location needs to attend to before the voters arrive. Details, details, details. The Chief Judges scan the room, noting that all is indeed ready. 7 AM arrives, the polls open. Yet. The day is young, the time is early.

Toward 9:30 AM, indeed, the voters begin to arrive. Often as individuals, maybe two, or rarely three, at a time, but the voters do arrive. The occasional first-time voter registers to applause from the Election Judges. Even young, you, as a new voter, are engaged in a very important thing . . . WELCOME! A quick check in, a quick decision to use a touch screen device to mark one's ballot, or the traditional pen and paper option, then a short walk to the ballot counting machines, and one more vote is tallied. The important point is that the vote has been CAST and COUNTED.

The day progresses one vote at a time. Lots of conversation, many trips to the coffee pot, work with the voters one at a time... and, so the day progresses to closing the polls at 8 PM. The voters come, actually rather evenly throughout the day, but the voters come. The Elections Judges did what was required to support the vote. It is late in the day, but too early in the days long election cycle to announce results. The victors will appear, perhaps early, on another day.

Please join your fellow citizens, and VOTE. Your vote does count, but only if you cast it.

Robert Pellenbarg
Ocean Pines



Readers Comments

BOE candidate explains absence *Focus on the children*

Editor:

I have received a lot of criticism for not attending the Democratic Forum held at the Ocean Pines Community Center recently. I accepted the first date they gave me and then they told me that date had been canceled and they would get back to me with a new date. They never did. I found out about the date the week before when I was talking to someone walking their dog. At this point I had already committed to a meeting of other constituents and was not about to cancel that meeting that I had promised to attend to go to a meeting that no one had bothered to tell me about. I honor my word and a promise is a promise. Should I have told them that I had a more important meeting than theirs to attend and cancel theirs? I don't think so. I did not know who I should tell that I could not come, so I left a message of why I would not be there on my Facebook page. I did not know what else to do since I had no contact person. The democrats made sure I received bad press for not being there, but never mentioned why or about their lack of communication.

Then the Democrat Committee decided to have another Forum. This one was a pancake breakfast. Again, no one told me about this. I happen to see a sign at the end of St. Martin Road. I thought that it was just a fundraiser for the Democratic Committee and since I do not eat pancakes and am not a Democrat I did not plan on attending. Then I saw a small article in the local paper a few days ago calling it a Forum. I immediately called the number and talked to the contact person. I told her that I, once again, could not come and if I hadn't read the article in the paper, I would not have even known I was expected to be there.

I told her that the reason I was unable to attend was because my

best friend, since the first grade, lost her husband last week. Not only do we have many years of history, but our children also grew up together. Her husband's funeral is this Saturday and I will not miss being with her or support her and her dear family. When my late husband was sick, she and her husband were such a support for me and for him and I have to be there for her and her family on their day of need. Therefore, I was unable to go to this event.

When a forum was done at the Primary for Elena, John and me, the people who organized it called the three of us first to find out what dates would work and notified us all personally, well in advance as to the final date. We all knew when and where and that we were expected to be there. Maybe next time the Democratic Committee will try that approach and make sure that the people they want there know about it and can come.

I feel badly about missing both of these, but it does not appear they were that sincere about wanting me to attend. If they had been they would have made certain that I was informed about the meeting and could attend. It was only by accident that I even knew about it, yet they criticized me in the newspaper for missing the meeting.

Elena and I will both be in the studio for the Mike Bradley radio show on October 23 at 8:10 a.m. to talk about the issues. Hopefully, people will tune in to hear the discussion.

Dorothy Shelton-Leslie
Candidate for Worcester
County Board of Education
(District 5)

Editor:

Our community is kind and generous. We see it time and time again, when we rally to support fellow locals in need. This is why I am so disheartened to see the addition to Dorothy Shelton-Leslie's campaign sign at the entrance to North Gate in Ocean Pines. No matter your feelings on transgender rights, there are very real children in our community who will see this sign. Small children who will wonder at the meaning, teens whose hearts will ache for their friends, and trans children who will begin to think their community hates them. Has Mrs. Shelton-Leslie, who is running for a seat on the Board of Education, not considered the children? There

are other ways to fight a crusade against transgender equality than this boorish display. There is enough vitriol at the national level. Let's keep our local elections civil and positive.

Furthermore, as a parent, I am not interested in the triviality of who uses what bathroom but how we can hire and retain excellent teachers, keep class sizes small, and provide opportunities for all students to excel. These are the real issues facing our Board of Education. Mrs. Shelton-Leslie, let's see your plan for these goals on your signs instead of provocative and insensitive nonsense.

Rachel Geiger
West Ocean City

Courier Almanac

On October 23, 1993, Toronto Blue Jay Joe Carter wins the World Series for his team by whacking a ninth-inning home run over the SkyDome's left-field wall. It was the first time the World Series had ended with a home run since Pittsburgh's Bill Mazeroski homered to break a 9-9 tie with the Yankees in the seventh game of the 1960 series, and it was the first time in baseball history that a team won the championship with a come-from-behind home run.

Bullying continues to make headlines for the way it affects people of all ages, but notably kids. In fact, bullying is a top concern for parents. According to a 2022 Pew Research Center survey of U.S. parents with children under age 18, 35 percent of respondents said they are extremely or very worried that their children might be bullied. Thirty-nine percent said they were somewhat worried. Bullying is quite common. The National Center for Educational Statistics indicated in 2019 that one out of every five students reported being bullied, and a slightly higher percentage of girls reported being bullied than boys (24 percent versus 17 percent). Cyberbullying is of paramount concern. Pew Research Center indicates 46 percent of teen respondents said they have encountered at least one cyberbullying behavior, while 28 percent have experienced multiple. The most common type of cyberbullying is being called an offensive name, followed by being victimized by the spread of false rumors online.



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The Courier

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A-P-P-R-E-C-I-A-T-E

One of the lessons drilled into me over and over and over again when I was a student at St. Albert the Great grade School was the importance of spelling words correctly and employing proper grammar when writing

when I read something rife with poor grammar and spelling, especially a piece written by a high school or college graduate. Somewhere along the line, the opportunity to learn how to construct a sentence properly or spell



It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

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and speaking. Such sticklers were my teachers, especially Sr. Marie Marguerite, that if I turned in an English composition with erasures or, heaven forbid, a crossed-out word, I would lose points for sloppiness. No joke.

The process at the time was excruciating. My classmates and I were forced to think through what we were going to write before ever putting pencil to paper. In retrospect, I am very thankful for that training. I receive a fair amount of correspondence on a regular basis and it saddens me

correctly was not emphasized. And that's a shame. Not every student will be proficient in writing and spelling but at least they should be given a chance.

From first grade through eighth, spelling bees were a regular occurrence during my student days. We'd be lined up in front of the blackboard and the teacher would be say a word and we'd have to repeat the word, spell it correctly, say the word again and then use it in a sentence. For instance, "chapter." "Chapter. C-H-A-P-T-E-R. Chapter. I will read the next *chapter* of my book."

No one wanted to be the first student to return to his or her seat because of a misspelled word. It was embarrassing. Ask me how I know.

Sentence diagramming was a rou-

tine torture perpetrated by my sixth, seventh and eighth grade English teachers. They were merciless. So poor was I at diagramming that if not for the actions of my mother, I would have had to endure summer school between sixth and seventh grades. She met with my teacher and promised she would tutor me during the summer to avoid my having to go to summer school and not be able to spend the summer at the Jersey shore with my grandparents. I was very happy until I realized my mother meant to keep her promise. Oh, the pain! Oh, the agony!

Within sight of the incoming tide and the anticipation of getting on the boat with my brother and grandfather, my mother made me diagram sentence after sentence after sentence. And for good measure she gave me vocabulary tests. All summer long – vocabulary tests and sentence diagramming. Nouns, adverbs, adjectives, subjects and predicates. The more near the incoming tide came, the more quarrelsome and impatient I became. I learned a little science during those trying times: when two personalities collide, Mom always wins.

That "summer of hell" dragged on in such a way that I yearned for the start of the new school year. When it finally arrived, I was ecstatic. Much to my astonishment, seventh grade English was a relative breeze. There wasn't a sentence I couldn't diagram. There wasn't a vocabulary word I could not spell or give a definition. I aced seventh grade English and eighth grade English for that matter. I don't know whether sentence diagramming is still taught in schools. If I were a student today, I would hope not. But as a parent and grandparent, I hope it is. Effective oral and written communication skills are more than emojis punctuating text messages. Students (and some adults) need to recognize the difference.

Appreciate. A-P-P-R-E-C-I-A-T-E. Appreciate. I appreciate that my mother kept her promise.

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Dorothy Shelton-Leslie
Board of Education
District 5 | Ocean Pines
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★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Authority: People For D Shelton-Leslie | Grant Helvey, Treasurer

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*** HEADS-UP ***

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

YOU DECIDE BY YOUR VOTE

DOROTHY Shelton-Leslie
SCHOOL BOARD
Student Success & Safety

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Garlitz to be honored

Friends of William Lawrence "Sarge" Garlitz will host a paver dedication ceremony at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial in Ocean Pines on Friday, November 1, at 11 a.m.



Garlitz, who passed away in April, served in the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Army, and was a tireless volunteer, and a former Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation board member.

A Lonaconing, MD native, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1961, serving in various locations including French Morocco during the Vietnam era and Florida during the Cuban Missile Crisis. He later joined the U.S. Army in 1974, providing security at Fort Meade, and returned to the Air Force in 1988, where he was involved in major operations, including a record-breaking drug bust in Texas. Garlitz earned multiple commendations and medals throughout his career, ultimately retiring with the rank of master sergeant after serving in locations such as England, Japan, and Dover Air Force Base.

Garlitz was a dedicated community member involved in various organizations, including the Boy Scouts, VFW, American Legion, and Vietnam Veterans of America. He worked closely with former Sen. Jim Mathias to pass legislation benefiting veterans, such as allowing slot machines for nonprofits in Worcester County, displaying POW/MIA flags at state buildings, and allowing veterans to

have "veteran" on their driver's licenses. He also served in leadership roles within the American Legion and was active in his local church, St. Mary's Refuge of Sinners.

The ceremony will include a brief dedication and the placement of the new paver into the existing memorial.

The Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines draws thousands of people each year for Memorial Day and Veterans Day events, along with hundreds of local schoolchildren for annual educational programs.

The Veterans Memorial broke ground on Veterans Day 2004. The main part of the memorial is a large circle of brick pavers honoring U.S. military men and women, surrounded by brick-wall monuments for each branch of the U.S. Armed Forces and flags for each branch flying high in the air. Under each brick wall is sand from the beaches of Normandy.

"The bricks and pavers tell the story. Those are the veterans that local families wanted to honor," Veterans Memorial Foundation President Marie Gilmore said. "Anyone can purchase a brick for \$75, and it's inscribed with the name of someone who has served, or a paver for \$150, which allows four lines of information."

Proceeds help support the memorial and its education and outreach programs.

For more information, visit wocovets.org.



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EOE

Artist turns volunteer and find a new passion



By **Elaine Bean**

In 2017, Lisa Guerriero, a retired nurse, and her husband were empty nesters in Pennsylvania and looking for a new adventure. They visited Ocean City, fell in love with it, and the rest is history.

"After moving to the area, my husband and I were able to rediscover the things that originally brought us together 40 plus years ago," Guerriero said. "We love to go crabbing. We sit in the boat out in the bay with our drop lines and enjoy being in each other's company. The slower pace of life suits us just fine ... I love being surrounded by water, so living on the bay is very good for my soul."

Guerriero is mainly a photographer, but also works in other media. Her photography will be on exhibit at a satellite gallery of the Art League of Ocean City, the lobby of the Princess Royale Hotel, until the end of December.

"What a great honor to be asked to exhibit my work at the Princess Royale," she said. "My photography show is titled 'Inspired by Nature, Drawn to the Sea.' I have had a lifelong passion for animals, nature, the outdoors, and anything associated with water ... This show is a collection of images curated from trips to the Galapagos Islands, Alaska, Yellowstone National Park in the wintertime, Florida, the Bahamas, and Assateague Island."

The artist has a passion for taking her talent and passing it on to others - and receives much joy back in the process.

"When I moved to the area, I was looking for a way to connect to the

community as well as make some new friends," Guerriero said. "Upon discovering the Art League, I was pleasantly surprised that it was more than just painters. The organization embraces all forms of art, including my areas of interest."

Guerriero is teaching classes at the Ocean City Center for the Arts on decoupage oyster shells on November 3, pour painted holiday ornaments on November 10, and etched holiday glass ornaments on December 1. More information is available at OCart.org/classes.

"In addition, because it is a non-profit organization, they needed volunteers," the artist said. "The social aspect of volunteering at the Art League is what hooked me. I love connecting with others and have met so many wonderful people through my work there."

Guerriero finds working with children especially rewarding and, as a volunteer, helped develop the weekly theme for this past summer's Ocean City Art Adventure Camp at the Ocean City Center for the Arts and also volunteered to work with the campers.

"I partnered with the Art League camp teachers and staff to encourage a creative and fun visual arts atmosphere for the children," she said. "It is a joy to be instrumental in fostering the creative expression of children."

Nurturing children is important to Guerriero, possibly because as a child, she was told she couldn't be an artist because she had limited talent in painting.

"As an adult, I have come to appreciate there are many different forms of



artistic talent, whether it is visual, performing, or decorative art," she said. "I now recognize I have been an artist my entire life - ballet dancing as a child, learning to sew as a preteen, crafting and photography as an adult."

Photography takes Guerriero down many roads, both creatively and literally. "I am not tied down to a studio or need to pack a lot of miscellaneous gear ... I can create images from just about anywhere - the comfort of my home, in my backyard, a local park, the beach, and even underwater when I go snorkeling ... Photography has given me an opportunity to journey throughout the United States and beyond. By learning about and observing animals and other living things, I have been better able to document nature's beauty and wonder."

"I guess the work for me comes when I sit down at the computer for the post-processing," she continued. "I am not as savvy as I would like to be with the software programs on the market. Therefore, you will not see a lot of digital manipulation in my work. To bring out vibrant colors and details, many of my images are printed on metal. Other photographs are more suitable for canvas, giving a softer look to them."

Although fairly new to the area, Guerriero feels she has found a new family through the arts.

"My experiences with the Art League have all been positive," she said. "The staff is friendly and helpful, always greeting visitors with a smile. Their enthusiastic support and encouragement of my artistic endeavors is greatly valued. There is a profound

sense of family within the Art League. Some of my closest friendships have been formed through my involvements there."

"Art matters because it is a beneficial way to express one's feelings," she continued. "It matters because it helps children to develop a sense of their own individuality, increases creativity, improves self-esteem and an appreciation for others' work. The arts also expose children to exciting topics like history, geography, math, science, and technology that they might not encounter otherwise. Art can also be highly restorative and healing."



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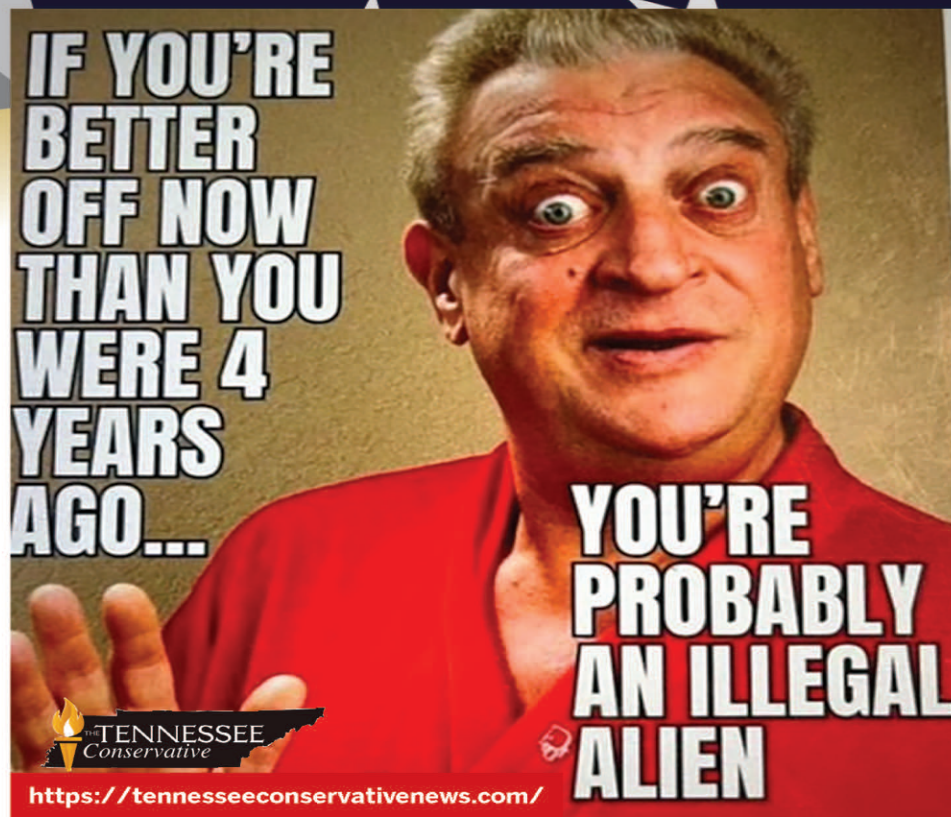
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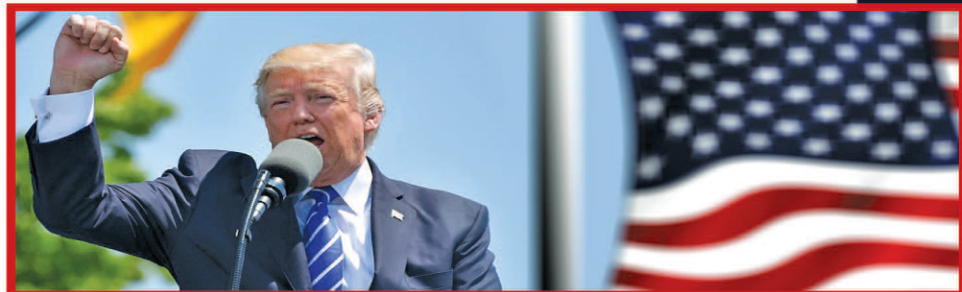
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- STOP OUTSOURCING & TURN THE UNITED STATES INTO A MANUFACTURING SUPERPOWER**
- UNITE OUR COUNTRY BY BRINGING IT TO NEW & RECORD LEVELS OF SUCCESS**

Worcester County issues outdoor burning ban

Effective October 16, Worcester County Fire Marshal Matt Owens issued a burn ban, and all outdoor burning is banned for an indefinite period of time in Worcester County.

The ban applies to all outdoor ignition sources, with the following exceptions: proper use of gas and charcoal grills, campfires at the County's commercial, state, and federal campgrounds, permitted official Ocean City bonfires, private property recreational campfires that are limited to a fire area of two feet with a height of three feet, public fireworks displays, and volunteer fire company training exercises.

"Due to the County's current dry conditions, the burn ban is effective immediately," Fire Marshal Owens said. "This ban should reduce the number of out-of-control outside fires, which cause safety concerns for area residents, visitors, and especially responding fire personnel."

The ban will remain in effect until the dry conditions dissipate.

"All existing outdoor burn permits

have been rescinded," Environmental Programs Director Bob Mitchell said. "Conditions are dry, and the latest maps from the drought monitor indicate conditions will worsen. We have extremely low precipitation totals, and the US drought monitor has the county under a moderate drought category."

For further information, contact Fire Marshal Owens at 410-632-5666.

Trunk or treat event planned

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



Contributions - Like many concerned organizations in our region, the Ocean City Chapter of the Sons and Daughters of Italy collected clothing, food, and other necessities from its members to be sent south to help unfortunate residents caught up in the recent hurricanes. One collection center was Treasure Beach RV Park on Route 54, where SDOI members Dan and Mindy Nardone brought items donated at an SDOI membership meeting to be added to three tractor-trailers filled with donations for victims of Hurricane Helene from individuals and other local organizations

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Trails & Waterways

Pedaling the pond

By **Ralph Ferrusi**

Delaware's 3,653-acre Trap Pond State Park is indeed an outdoor lover's/nature lover's gem, offering outstanding paddling, hiking, camping, picnicking, and, birding opportunities galore.

We have canoed the length of the 90-acre pond and paddled up the marked "water trail" to where it intersects the boardwalk on the eminently walkable/bike-able 4.6-mile "Bob" Trail, that we have walked and biked, and, even cross-country skied on.

We've enjoyed walking the trail from end-to-end, but I simply love to bike it, bobbing and weaving and twisting and turning through the peaceful Delaware woods. It's magic: bicycling doesn't get much better than this.

Delaware became a state on December 7, 1787, thus earning the nickname "The First State." On June 22, 1951 the Delaware legislature took over the land Trap Pond is on and declared it a state park, thus becoming The First State's First State Park.

Now the bad news. Trap Pond's bald cypress trees were very rot resistant so the old-growth cypress timber was extensively harvested starting in the 18th century. The lumbermen dammed a wetland to create power for a small sawmill, creating Trap Pond, named after the 1860-vintage Trap Mills. The pond was enlarged in later years as nearby farmers de-watered their wetlands for agriculture.

Back to the Bob Trail, known simply as The Bob. Originally known as the Loblolly Trail, it honors former state Senator Bob Venables, a longtime champion of the wildlife and outdoors of Sussex County. When chair of the state's Bond Bill Committee, he helped shepherd funding for Governor Jack Markell's First State Pathways and Trails initiative through the Legislature. He also worked steadily to improve the trail system at Trap Pond.

The Bob's smooth, crushed-stone surface makes it both walker- and bicycle-friendly as it winds gently through hardwoods, bald cypresses, and pine forests as it makes its way around the perimeter of the sparkling freshwater pond, featuring the northernmost natural stand of bald cypresses on the East Coast.

Let's pedal! But first, a word to the wise. A big part of the beauty of the trail is its twists and turns. But, some of the

turns are deceptively sharper than others, so it pays to bike at a leisurely pace, not too frisky.

I recently bought a new Cat Eye Velo 7 that measures trip distance down to two decimal points. On a recent glorious September day, I recorded the distances between landmarks and turns.

We always start our ride in the boat launch parking lot on Trap Pond Road. The trail is nicely marked by red squares with black arrows: left and right are indicated, and up is straight ahead. The trail begins at the far-left corner of the lot,



just past the Portajohn, and going clockwise around the pond, its gentle twists and turns are a preview of coming attractions.

Carefully cross the park entrance road at .2 miles, then make a sharp right turn at .9 miles. Reach a short wooden bridge at 1.13. Go straight ahead at 1.74, and reach a picturesque long wooden bridge at 1.87. At 2.16 the Bob takes a sharp right, but a short distance ahead is a parking lot on Wooten Road, and the historic Bethesda Church that's worth the short detour. Back on the Bob is one of my favorite sections, leading to Wooten Road at 2.53, and crossing the road bridge over picturesque Raccoon Pond.

Turn right off the road at 2.63, where the trail becomes a wide dirt road, reaching a photo op of the pond on the right at 3.27. Reach a big baseball field at 3.84, then swing through picnic grounds, reaching a bridge over Trap Pond's spillway, and a fantastic view of the pond. Pull into the parking lot, after another wonderful, satisfying 4.5-mile pedal around the pond.

Trap Map: www.destateparks.com

Kathy and Ralph Ferrusi are avid hikers, bicyclists, canoeists, world travelers, and, readers. They live in Ocean Pines, where they enjoy fine—and some not-so-fine—wines. Comments, suggestions: rjferrusi@frontiernet.net



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MD Coastal Bays to issue report card

The Maryland Coastal Bays Program will unveil the 2023 Coastal Bays Report Card on Thursday, October 24 at 2 p.m. at Mickey Fins located in West Ocean City. The public is welcomed and encouraged to come learn about the current results and initiatives to protect the Coastal Bays.

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 four 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.

Pines marina to close for season

The Ocean Pines Marina will officially close for the season on October 31.

However, to accommodate Ocean Pines boat owners, the marina will extend its operating hours for three weekends in November: November 1 to 3, November 8 to 10, and November 15 to 17. During these weekends, the marina will operate under normal operations, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"While we prepare for winter, we want to ensure that our community has ample opportunity to enjoy the water," Deputy Director of Public Works Nobie Violante said. "These extended hours allow us to provide services to our valued customers before the season ends."

The Ocean Pines Marina encourages boaters and visitors to take advantage of these extended hours, to enjoy the fall scenery and recreational opportunities on the water.

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Magi Fund Christmas Concert tickets now on sale

The Magi Fund will hold an all-new holiday event, “*The Sounds of Christmas*,” for one performance only on Saturday, November 16.

It will feature the National Christian Choir and the Salisbury Children’s Choir.

The concert will be at 3 p.m. in the 1,800-plus capacity Emmanuel Church Auditorium at 217 Beaglin Park Drive in Salisbury.

The Magi Fund, an all-volunteer nonprofit organization, is in its 31st year raising funds for the Joseph House Center and the Christian Shelter. Since its founding, the Magi Fund has devoted 100 percent of proceeds and contributions to benefit those two charities, which provide housing and crisis intervention for the region’s needy.

“This concert will put holiday joy back in your heart,” said Magi Fund Chairman Bonnie Luna. “It features not only the acclaimed National Christian Choir but also the highly popular Salisbury Children’s Choir. The program is filled with festive traditional Christmas music plus some fun surprises. This may be our best one yet.”

Committee member Cynthia Williams added that the National Christian Choir is marking its 40th anniversary this year. “We have a nationally-famous choir marking a major milestone. The members will be celebrating with an extra-special performance. This is an event that should not be missed.”

Williams also noted that feedback from Magi audiences has been consistently positive. “They tell us a Magi Fund program not only kicks off their holidays but is even the highlight of their Christmas season,” she said.

Tickets are \$20 and available at the Country House in Salisbury and all branches of First Shore Federal Savings and Loan in Salisbury, Ocean Pines, Snow Hill, Pocomoke, Berlin and Ocean View, Delaware.

For additional information about the event or the Magi Fund itself, call Bonnie Luna at 410-749-1633 or visit the Magi Fund website at www.magifund.com.

Nonfiction author panel scheduled at library

Four local authors will discuss an array of topics, from spirituality to military history, at the second annual Nonfiction Author Panel at the Ocean Pines Branch of Worcester County Library on Wednesday, October 30, at 6 p.m.

Tom Rapsas embarked on a spiritual quest at an early age, reading Buddhist and Christian teachings as well as everything from spirituality bestsellers to self-help newspaper columns. His blog appears on the New Visions Channel of Patheos.com.

In *Wake Up Call: Daily Insights for the Spiritually Curious*, Rapsas presents stories aimed particularly toward the spiritual novice, affirming that true wisdom comes from many sources. Thomas Moore, author of *Care of the Soul*, noted, “This book will stir you.”

Art educator Joanne K. Guilfoil has authored several illustrated and photographic books about Delmarva, including *Chickens on Delmarva: 100 Years of Backyard Flocks, Farms, and Friends*, chronicling chicken farming in the U.S. since the early-1900s, highlighting Delmarva.

Guilfoil’s *Flying Over Delmarva* details the history of regional aviation, and she has written several children’s books. She is a co-author of *The Making of the World’s Largest Billfishing Tournament: The First 50 Years of the White Marlin Open*.

Caroline Hee Jeon Gale will discuss her book of nonfiction poetry, *My Friend Bipolar*, which describes her experiences with bipolar disorder as a young girl, and how she came to coexist with the condition through a better understanding.

In only his sixth bombing mission over Germany during World War II, Richard Loveless found himself in a predicament that put his courage and faith to the test. Fifty years ago, Jim Loveless promised his father that his story would never be lost, and, in 2023, Loveless kept his vow with the release of *Avoiding Muddy Foxholes*.

The event is sponsored by the Friends of the Ocean Pines Library. For information on all Worcester County Library programs, please check out the Events page at worcesterlibrary.org.



Garden Club member recognized

Worcester County Garden Club member **Suzy Young** (above) was awarded the Joanna Lloyd Tilghman Award of Special Recognition at the recent District 1 Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland, Inc. semi-annual meeting. The award, which consists of an engraved 9 oz. pewter Alabama Julep cup, is presented to a District 1 member who exemplifies the objectives of the by special dedication to District 1 work. Young has been a member of the Worcester County Garden Club since 2006 and has served in leadership positions at both club and district levels. She is committed to improving the environment through gardening, practices “reduce, reuse and recycle” principles, and supports the club in community efforts to nurture healthy habitats for all living beings.

Household hazardous waste collection day scheduled

The Worcester County Public Works Recycling Division will host Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Day on Saturday, October 26 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Central Landfill in Newark, Maryland.

HHW, computer towers, and laptops may be dropped off for safe disposal. No keyboards, mice, or other electronics will be accepted.

HHW Collection Day provides an opportunity for Worcester County residents to safely dispose of products containing harmful chemicals, such as bleach, pesticides, pool chemicals, oil mixtures, gas and other fuels, acids, automotive fluids, thinners, and other everyday hazardous wastes accumulating in and around the home, like CFL light bulbs, batteries, and oil-based paints. Note that water-based paints are not hazardous materials and should not be brought to any hazardous waste event. Instead, solidify water-based

paints by drying or adding absorbent materials, like sand, kitty litter, or mulch. Then place the dried paint in the trash.

HHW Collection Day is open at no charge to county residents only. This event is hosted in conjunction with Maryland Environmental Services and the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). MXI Environmental Services Company will be responsible for the safe disposal of all hazardous waste collected.

Collecting HHW for safe disposal saves valuable landfill space and helps protect the environment, as many of these items do not degrade and contain poisonous materials that could seep out of the landfill and contaminate surrounding soil and groundwater.

For more information, contact Worcester County Recycling Manager Bob Keenan at (410) 632-3177.

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Wild Blue Yonder

‘Red Nose,’ Mark Todd and me

By **Ralph Ferrusi**

As faithful readers of this column I hope there are one or two out there who know by now, I’m a “Mustang Nut,” from way back when I was a kid. And, as mentioned on Page 17 of my latest non-selling book, “195 Centre Street, P-51 Mustangs, and, Me” It’s my opinion that the P-51D Mustang is the sweetest, most perfect airplane ever conceived and devised by man.”

A while back I even had recurring dreams that I was actually in the cockpit, flying a Mustang! Fortunately, the dreams always ended before I had to actually figure out how to get my Mustang safely back on the ground.

There are some Mustangs that are still around that have had the radio paraphernalia and the 78-gallon gas tank that was behind the pilot removed, and a small seat jury-rigged back there to make it possible for people to actually get a ride in a Mustang. This has been a long-time dream of mine. Read on.

Some on-line searching led me to The Commemorative Air Force, Airbase Georgia, Dixie Wing, Peachtree City, Georgia, which is composed of over 500 all-volunteer members. It operates several vintage World War II aircraft, including the P-51D, tail number 473843 “Red Nose,” that flies at airshows mostly throughout the Southeast.

Red Nose is painted with the markings of the 334th Fighter Squadron, 4th Fighter Group, 8th Air Force, piloted by Captain David W. Howe. He flew with the 334th from September 22, 1942 to March 30, 1945 when he returned to the USA.

He amassed 500 combat hours in two tours without an abort. The 334th was the successor to Number 71 Eagle squadron of the Royal Air Force when the 4th Fighter Group was activated on September 12, 1942. Interesting note: September 12 is my birthday.

They were based at Debden Field, Essex, England. The “Fighting Eagles” as they were called, flew Spitfires until the arrival of P-47 Thunderbolts in 1943. A year later they changed to P-51 Mustangs, which they flew until the end of the war. The 334th was the top-scoring squadron of the three squadrons in the 4th Fighter Group, with 395 kills.

I contacted the Commemorative

Air Force (CAF) and was informed their Mustang would be flying at Spaatz Field, Reading, PA in early June. A twenty-minute ride would cost \$1,895.00. My wonderful wife said, “Just do it.”

On Thursday, June 1, 2023 we arrived early at Spaatz Field, and, by chance, ran into CAF’s Yvonne and Wanda, who guided us right to the CAF tent. My flight was scheduled for 6:30 p.m., so we hung out and rubbed elbows with the CAF people and other folks who had booked rides. And, we got to see the Red Nose fire up, taxi to the runway, take off, eventually return, and land, several times.

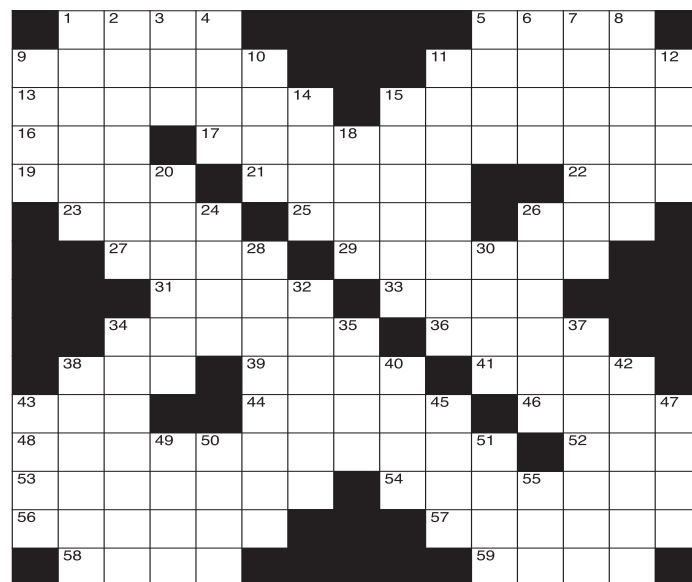
About 6:30-ish I met my pilot, Mark Todd, and we really hit it off. I



was, very solidly, strapped into the back seat. Mark fired up Red Nose and we taxied out and took off. OMG; I was giddy with excitement. Being a 20-minute flight, I figured we’d noodle around the airport, and scootch back and land. But, we flew out over sparsely-populated countryside, and Mark announced over my headset “Ralph, we’re going to do a snap roll to the left.” And, for the next 10 or 15 minutes or so he performed every aerobatic maneuver in the book, prompting me at one time to exclaim, “How’d you do that!?”

This flight was a dream come true; I have never ever experienced anything anywhere like it. I loved every minute of it, particularly because I was strapped into a beautiful P-51D Mustang, flown by one helluva pilot.

If you’re a Mustang nut, just do it.

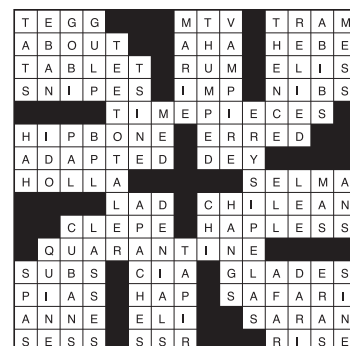


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Tall, upright post on a boat
- 5. Basics
- 9. Used to refer to cited works
- 11. Folds
- 13. Former UK PM May
- 15. Old region of Russia
- 16. Standard operating procedure
- 17. Separating
- 19. Particles
- 21. A way to map out
- 22. Referee declares
- 23. Beginner
- 25. Water (Spanish)
- 26. Gov’t lawyers
- 27. Non-reproductive parts of an organism
- 29. Spanish friends
- 31. A type of tree
- 33. Walk heavily
- 34. About a wood
- 36. Free-swimming marine invertebrate
- 38. Political action committee
- 39. SB19 hit song
- 41. Scorch the surface of
- 43. Moved quickly on foot
- 44. Sacred state for a Muslim
- 46. Growl
- 48. Pearl Jam frontman
- 52. Irritating person
- 53. Something requiring a solution
- 54. Firing
- 56. Hazards
- 57. Taiwan capital
- 58. Impudence
- 59. Rock frontman Durst

CLUES DOWN

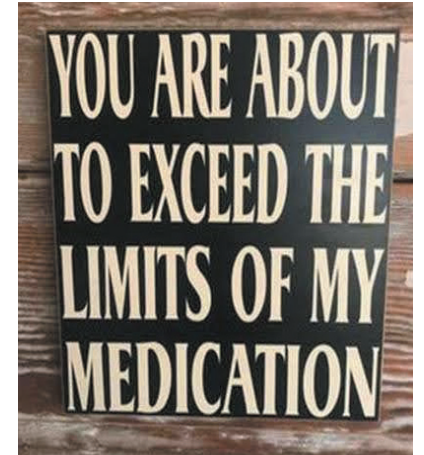
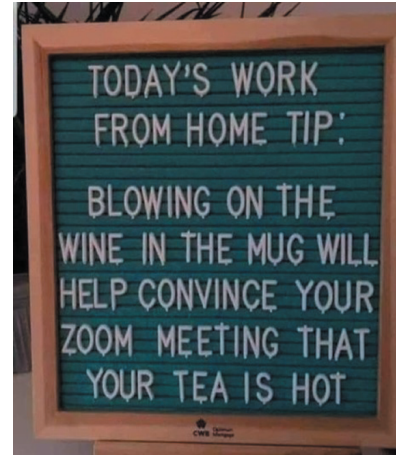
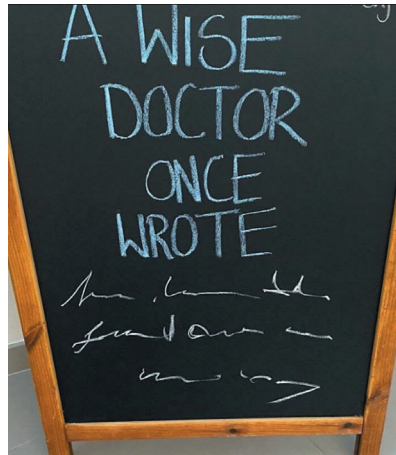
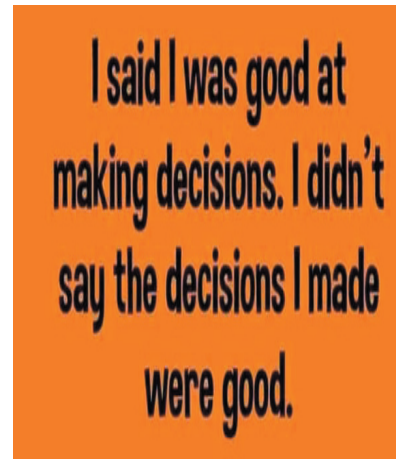
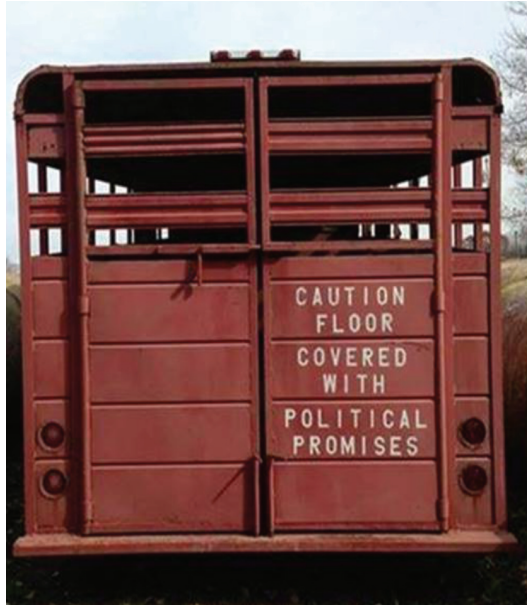
- 1. One who rides an elephant
- 2. Absence of bacteria
- 3. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 4. Men’s fashion accessories
- 5. “Honey” actress Jessica
- 6. Round red root vegetable
- 7. Latin term for “charity”
- 8. Doesn’t smell good
- 9. Mental health issue
- 10. Millisecond
- 11. Hairstyle
- 12. Edible starch
- 14. Middle Eastern military title
- 15. Protein-rich liquids
- 18. Indian musical pattern
- 20. Cancer and Capricorn
- 24. Country along the Arabian peninsula
- 26. A bend
- 28. Fishes of the herring family
- 30. Antelopes
- 32. Chaos
- 34. Popular music app
- 35. Cooking material
- 37. Musical instrument
- 38. San Diego ballplayers
- 40. Small amounts
- 42. Poured
- 43. Fabric
- 45. Food option
- 47. Finger millet
- 49. The U. of Miami mascot is one
- 50. Alberta, Canada river
- 51. Canadian flyers
- 55. Dry white wine drink



Answers for October 9

Some things to think about

Gathered from the internet
by **Jack Barnes**



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