

OP CENTER: If the center is stopped, there's a question now about whether the association would have to make good on the contract. **PAGE 17A**



ROUTE 589: Surprise announcement of state award of \$1 million to plan improvements for the congested highway is greeted with overwhelming gratitude. **PAGE 18A**



SPORTS: Despite a major lay off between games Stephen Decatur's girls soccer team rolls past Easton, 6-1. **PAGE 39A**

ROUTE 50 BRIDGE PLAN'S WORST OPTION DROPPED BY SHA...PAGE 10A

Ocean City Today

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FREE

GENERAL ELECTION: WORCESTER COUNTY

DOWN TO THE WIRE

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Voting totals could be late due to many absentees

NANCY POWELL
■ Associate Editor

(Nov. 3, 2006) Some candidates might celebrate their victories on Tuesday, but others might have to wait. Unless someone wins by a landslide, the large number of absentee ballots could change the outcome of Tuesday's election results, making candidates wait until Thursday, or possibly until Nov. 17 to find out if they won or lost.

According to data from the Board of Elections in Snow Hill, 2,810 absentee ballots were requested and, as of Wednesday morning, 1,713 were returned. Democrats requested 1,239 ballots and Republicans asked for 1,315 ballots. The other absentee ballots were requested by independents, unaffiliated voters or by voters of smaller parties such as the Green Party and Libertarian Party.

Voters in District 3, where Kathy Phillips is challenging incumbent Bud Church, requested the most ballots, 604. Voters in District 7, See **ABSENTEE** on Page 6A

Local campaigns shift into final frenzy before Tuesday's election

NOV. 7 GENERAL ELECTION

NANCY POWELL
■ Associate Editor

(Nov. 3, 2006) As voters go to the polls on Tuesday, the only certain victory is that of the unopposed.

Although that might sound overly obvious, Republican Worcester County Commissioner Louise Gulyas is one example of how seriously candidates are taking it.

The Ocean City district representative is believed to have a strong lead over her Democratic

opponent, political novice Ellie Diegelmann. Yet, Gulyas has been stumping for votes from her wheelchair, following a fall that resulted in a broken leg midway through the campaign.

A bona fide tight race is in District 3, the West Ocean City district, where Commissioner Bud Church, a Republican, is facing a stiff challenge from Kathy Phillips, a Democrat and former executive director of the Eastern Surfing Association who is getting considerable support from opponents of development.

She and her supporters are painting Church as developer-

friendly even though it was Phillips, who as chairwoman of the Worcester County Democratic State Central Committee supported the annexation of hundreds of acres of land by Snow Hill for the Summerfield development.

That was during the contentious referendum about the annexation last March. She is no longer head of the central committee, which nominated her to challenge Church when no one else stepped forward to try to take that seat away from him.

Some people see a toss-up in See **CAMPAIGNS** on Page 6A

WHO IS RUNNING? AND FOR WHAT?

In Section B, find profiles of candidates vying for the following positions:

- **WORCESTER COUNTY COMMISSIONER** **PAGE 18**
- **MARYLAND DELEGATE, DISTRICT 38B** **PAGE 18**
- **WORCESTER STATE'S ATTORNEY** **PAGE 39B**
- **CIRCUIT COURT CLERK** **PAGE 39B**
- **WORCESTER COUNTY SHERIFF** **PAGE 39B**
- **JUDGE OF ORPHANS COURT** **PAGE 39B**
- **REGISTER OF WILLS** **PAGE 39B**

ALSO INSIDE: Find a list of Worcester County polling places, where you can cast your vote on Tuesday, Nov. 7 **PAGE 18**



POLICE PARTICIPATE IN COUNTER-TERRORISM EXERCISE
SWAT team officers prepare to storm an abandoned building in Berlin as part of a counter-terrorism exercise last Friday. Police officers from the Ocean City Police Department, Maryland State Police, Worcester County Sheriff's Office and the Anne Arundel Police Department took part in the exercise that simulated a terrorist plot. See full story **PAGE 15A**

FAA, resort reach accord on golf land

CHRISTINE CULLEN
■ Staff Writer

(Nov. 3, 2006) After more than five years of confusion, wrangling and disagreements, the dispute between the town of Ocean City and the Federal Aviation Administration over the repayment price of land where the Eagle's Landing Golf Course sits has reached a conclusion acceptable to both sides.

The FAA had rejected two appraisals of the land's value because of issues it had with the methods used, then came up with a \$13.3 million value. See **FAA** on Page 5A

WEEKEND WEATHER Complete forecast and tips on page 2C

	HIGH	LOW		HIGH	LOW
	53	32		54	38
SATURDAY: Cool with plenty of sunshine			SUNDAY: Cool with sunshine		

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PAMPERED POOCHES: Getting your collie coiffed or your dachshund duded up is a different kind of fund-raiser that will benefit Women Supporting Women, while you sit. Or stay. **PAGE 1C**



BUSINESS 5B CLASSIFIED 22B COMMUNITY 19C ENTERTAINMENT 6C LEGALS 29A OPINION 14B OUT&ABOUT 26C SPORTS 39A

Police agencies get training on responding to terrorists

Specialized course made available through federal grant and local efforts

CHRISTINE CULLEN

■ Staff Writer

(Nov. 3, 2006) More than 20 police officers in SWAT gear, carrying automatic weapons and wearing gas masks, stormed an abandoned building in Berlin last Friday, capturing three terrorists and disarming a deadly chemical bomb.

Although a crisis was averted and residents went on with their daily lives, the incident was nothing more than a simulation. The bomb was a fake, the terrorists merely actors and the SWAT team was made up of police officers from four agencies learning how to respond to potential terrorist attacks.

Twenty-five officers from the Ocean City Police Department, Maryland State Police, Worcester County Sheriff's Office and Anne Arundel County Police Department who are on their agency's SWAT teams came to Worcester County to take part in the five-day training course, which ended with the simulated terrorist situation.

The training was offered free of charge through the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Grants and Training and taught by instructors from the Louisiana State University Academy of Counter-Terrorist Education, one of five members of the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium.

OCPD Capt. Kevin Kirstein teaches at the LSU academy, and when he learned about the training, he coordinated the effort to have it brought to Worcester County. Without the grant, the course would have cost around \$100,000.

"We're very excited to have the opportunity to host this program," Kirstein said. "It's a tremendous resource" for the officers who would be on the front line of an attack or dangerous situation.

Seven instructors from LSU came to Worcester County to teach what to do in situations involving everything from suicide bombers to dirty bombs to the release of nerve agents. At the end of the course the officers had been shown how to handle chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive weapons.

"We're trying to teach first responders how to operate in and around weapons of mass destruction," Kirstein said. "We want them to be prepared for the possibility of working in an area where agents have been released."

Residents along Old Ocean City Boulevard in Berlin watched all week as the officers ran around the lot of an empty building in behind the Shell gas station, acting out a series of simulated events involving real, although specially designed for training, bullets.

In the final scenario, a nerve gas was stolen by a terrorist cell that brought half of it to Berlin and the rest to Atlanta, where the FBI planned a raid. The local police had to execute their raid at the exact same time, to prevent one group from warning the other, and secure the nerve gas without it being released.

After securing the gas and capturing the "terrorists" inside, police went through the full decontamination process carried out by the Worcester County Special Hazards Response Team. This gave the team the opportunity to run a test using all their equipment.

Kirstein said this is the first tactical terrorism training course to be taught in the area. Classroom courses give police an understanding of terrorist attacks, he said, but this course offered the first practical training.

THIS WEEK AT THE OCEAN PINES Yacht Club RESTAURANT



★ ★ ★ ★

Wed. BURGERS BY THE BAY
 ANGUS BURGER SPECIAL
 \$6.95 W/FRIES & SLAW
 THE BEST BURGERS ANYWHERE ON THE SHORE!



Thur. HAPPY HOUR
 SPECIALS ALL NIGHT LONG
 FEATURING: 1/2LB. CHILLED STEAMED SHRIMP OR 1LB. CHICKEN WINGS FOR \$4.95
 OPEN 11:30AM-9PM

Fri. DECK PARTY 6-10PM
Wes Davis
 DINE POOLSIDE BY THE MARINA, ON THE VERANDA, OR UPSTAIRS

Sat. Check Out the New Fall Menu
 Full Dinners beginning at **\$12.95!**

Sun. SUNDAY BRUNCH BUFFET 9AM-1PM
 OFFICIAL O.P. HOT SPOT For Your Favorite NFL Teams!
 \$1.75 Drafts All Day!
 Lite Fare Specials