

### ***RWWC to meet***

The Republican Women of Worcester County will hold their March luncheon meeting on Thursday, March 24 at Fager's Island Restaurant at 60<sup>th</sup> Street and the Bay in Ocean City. The four Republicans who are running for the Maryland First District Congressional seat have been invited to speak about their campaigns. The cost of the luncheon is \$20 per person. Doors open at 10:30 a.m. and the meeting begins at 11 a.m. To make a reservation or for more information please contact Pat Addy at 410-208-0171 or gorpataddy@aol.

### ***DWC to meet Monday***

Get Out the Vote will be the theme of the Democratic Women's Club (DWC) meeting on Monday March 21. DWC meetings are held the third Monday of each month at the Ocean Pines Community Center. Coffee and conversation start at 9:30 a.m. followed by the 10 a.m. meeting. All women are welcome to attend these informative and friendly meetings. Please call 410-208-2969 for more information.

### ***Pine'eer club to meet Thursday***

Barbara Stilwell and Jacki Kollar will present how to make sugar scrub, a skin enhancer, at the Thursday, March 17 meeting of the Pine'eer Craft Club. The cost is \$3. To reserve supplies, email Barbara at grammys52@aol.com.

If you would like to stay after the craft session Barbara will share how to make a backpack from a used t-shirt. Barbara creates these backpacks as well as dresses from pillowcases for children in disadvantaged countries. Bring a pair of scissors and a t-shirt if you have one you can part with. No sewing required.

### ***Clam bill to be discussed***

The Atlantic Coast Chapter of the Maryland Saltwater Sportfishing Association will be meet Tuesday March 22 at the Lion's Club off Airport Rd. in West Ocean City. The Meeting starts at 7:30 p.m., doors open at 7:00 p.m. Guests are welcome to attend. Clam Bill HB916 will be the topic of discussion. For more information contact Ron Smith at smitty3894@aol.com



**Science - Sierra Smullen**, a 5th grader at Seaside Christian Academy, pours sparkling water over Alka Seltzer tablets and conversation heart candies. As the carbon dioxide gas bubbles begin forming and stick to the candies, they move up and down and appear as though the hearts are wiggling and dancing.

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March 2016

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## Prevention nominees sought

The Worcester County Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council is seeking nominations of individual adults, youth, or groups who have made outstanding contributions to drug and alcohol prevention or treatment. The awardees will be honored by Worcester County residents, elected officials, and Council members at the 25th Annual Drug and Alcohol Awards Reception and celebrating the 33<sup>rd</sup> year of the Council's existence. This will be held at the Worcester Career and Technology High School on Tuesday, April 26 at 6 p.m..

Nominations of individuals or groups who have performed commendably and beyond the call of duty are currently being accepted at the Worcester County Health Department. Criteria for selection of honorees include: program impact on community, appropriateness of approach, and personal contribu-

tion to the program. Anyone who received an award in the past three years is not eligible. The deadline for nominations is April 5, 2016. Please call 410-632-0056 or e-mail david.baker@maryland.gov to request a nomination form or to make a reservation.

## Artwork sought

The Worcester County Arts Council invites all interested artists to participate in a juried art show to be exhibited during the month of April at the Arts Council's Gallery located at 6 Jefferson Street in Berlin.

The exhibition is open to all artists, professional or amateur with work in all media. All work must be original and completed within the last three years. Work must be delivered to the Arts Council's Gallery between March 30 and 31; 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. to be accepted.



Artwork submitted for the competition will be juried in and judged by an accomplished artist and Salisbury University art professor, Bill Wolff.

Monetary prizes will be awarded for first, second, and third place during the Second Friday Arts Stroll reception to be held on April 8 from 5 – 8 pm. Detailed entry guidelines are available on the Arts Council's website: [www.worcestercountyartsCouncil.org](http://www.worcestercountyartsCouncil.org)

For additional information, please call 410-641-0809 or e-mail us at: [curator@worcestercountyartsCouncil.org](mailto:curator@worcestercountyartsCouncil.org).

## Vietnam vets welcoming event set

The Vietnam Veterans of America, Ocean City Chapter 1091 and the American Legion, Synepuxent Post 166 are partnering to host a "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day" at Synepuxent Post 166 located at 2308 Philadelphia Ave. in Ocean City on March 30 from noon until 4 p.m. Talk to the Veterans and visit the Veterans Support groups, a VA Accredited Veteran Service Officer will be on hand to Help welcome the Vietnam veterans. Vietnam era veterans are invited and asked to bring a copy of their DD-214. For more information

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# Sandpiper discusses natural gas conversion

By **Kelsey Reichenberg**

Last Thursday, Sandpiper Energy held an informational meeting in the Ocean Pines Community Center to share plans for converting residents in Ocean Pines from propane to natural gas service. At the meeting, Sandpiper's director of energy services gave a presentation which addressed the company's history, safety precautions, benefits of natural gas and the conversion process. Following the presentation, residents in attendance were able to ask questions at information stations set up around the room.

Sandpiper Energy, a subsidiary of Chesapeake Utilities, distributes natural gas and propane to approximately 11,000 residential, commercial and industrial customers in Worcester County. In the last two years, more than 2,400 Berlin and West Ocean City customers have converted their homes and businesses to natural gas.

Chesapeake Utilities is a division of Chesapeake Utilities Corporation (NYSE: CPK), a diversified energy

company engaged in natural gas distribution, transmission, gathering and processing, and marketing; electricity distribution; propane gas distribution and wholesale marketing; and other related businesses.

Following a brief history of the company and its values, safety precautions were addressed. Sandpiper's spokesperson made it clear that safety is the company's first priority. They are continuously proactive in inspecting their gas lines, and they completed a leak survey of the entire Ocean Pines area prior to beginning the process. They also send out public awareness brochures to customers and non-customers within 500 feet of their gas lines. Throughout the conversion process, residents are encouraged to call 911 or 1-800-427-0015 if they smell gas. They should also call prior to digging anywhere on their property. During the process, Sandpiper will inspect residents' gas appliances to ensure them that their internal gas delivery system will be safe once the conversion is com-

plete.

The benefits of natural gas were the next topic of discussion, as the representative discussed how it is smarter than propane economically, environmentally and energy wise. In the rare case that a leak was to occur, natural gas dissipates into the air instead of migrating toward the ground like propane gas. He was also happy to announce that when OPA converts fully to natural gas, CO2 emissions will be cut by over 2,000 tons per year., which is the equivalent of taking about 350 cars off the road.

Following discussion of the benefits of natural gas, the representative spoke about the conversion process within Ocean Pines. Residents are able to view the map Sandpiper is following throughout the conversion process which is posted on the Ocean Pines website, [oceanpines.org](http://oceanpines.org). The areas are numbered and highlighted according to which ones the company will convert first. Sandpiper will send a postcard to residents' homes four to

six weeks prior to beginning the conversion process.

Next, one to two weeks later, they will set up temporary propane tanks outside of residents' homes that switch them from the underground propane system. The tanks allow residents to still get service while the conversion is underway, and they will be removed as quickly as possible. Next, Sandpiper completes the purging process which consists of removing propane from the system.

After Sandpiper switches the system to natural gas, the propane tanks are removed, the conversion in that area is complete, and they move to the next area for conversion. Following the conversion, the next customer bill will be in natural gas units. Billing will be the same except it will be in natural gas equivalents. If a customer has any concerns throughout the process, he is encouraged to call the Conversion Coordinator at 855-290-9628. The process began in January and is projected to last three to five years.



## 17th Annual Ocean Pines Community Easter Sunrise Service

If it rains, join us at the school at 6 a.m.  
For more information call 410-641-6000

6 a.m. at  
**Ocean Pines Yacht Club**  
*Rain Location: Showell Elementary School*

# The Courier

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## 2012 Business of the Year

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## An Irish Blessing

May you always have  
 Walls for the winds,  
 A roof for the rain,  
 Tea beside the fire,  
 Laughter to cheer you,  
 Those you love near you,  
 And all your heart might desire!

## Happy St Patrick's Day!

There are many good  
 reasons for drinking,  
 One has just entered my head.  
 If a man doesn't drink  
 when he's living,  
 How in the hell can he drink  
 when he's dead?

# Considerations when writing a child out of your will

By **Mike Mathers**

As far as I know, the earliest known example of disinheriting a child is found in the Book of Genesis, when Isaac disinherited his oldest son Esau, and instead gave his birthright to the Jacob, the younger brother. Isaac agonized about disinheriting Esau for reasons particular to the biblical story, but cutting a child out of your will is a difficult decision of any parent to make.

Whether the disinheritance is over a bowl of pottage, or more serious issues, any parent who has arrived at the decision to disinherit a child will want their wishes to be respected. No child has a right to inherit from you and so, contrary to popular belief, your will cannot be challenged simply because one of your relative's names are missing. On the contrary, an unhappy child could try to claim that their name was only left out by mistake and this could be a harder argument to disprove.

For that reason, any parent leaving a child out of their estate plan needs to make their intentions crystal clear.



**Mike Mathers**

One way to do this is to leave the disfavored child a nominal gift, such as one dollar. The other option is to include a special paragraph in your will explaining who has been left out, and that this was intentional. My opinion is that it is better to use the second option than the first. Leaving a gift of one dollar could come across as a bit more mean-spirited than is necessary. The best way to ensure a smooth administration of your estate is to keep emotions calm, rather than inflame them.

Another person to consider in all this is a Personal Representative, who will have to be the face of your decisions. For example, if Mary decides to leave her estate to her sons Crosby and Stills, but nothing to her blacksheep son Nash, is it fair to make Crosby or Stills the personal representative? It might be difficult for one brother to have to argue with his siblings or fend off challenges that the will contained a mistake. In these instances, it can be better to use a trusted family advisor such as an accountant or an attorney who will not have a problem being objective.

My last piece of advice for anyone considering writing a child out of their will is to make a commitment to review that document at least every five

years. Time passes and feelings change, and it would be a terrible mistake for the will not to reflect that change. Using my example above, Mary and Nash could have patched things up years before her death, but if the will was never updated, then he would still be cut out of his mother's estate.

Even though I have said that it is a difficult decision, and a very personal decision, for a parent to leave a child out of their will, hopefully this article has provided the tools to make your decision effective.

*Mike Mathers is a local attorney who practices in estate planning and elder law. He can be reached at 410-208-3331 or Mike@mbmather-slau.com.*

## Club hosts card, game party

Enjoy a day of fun and friendships while overlooking the Ocean City skyline by joining the Women's Club Card and Game Party on Thursday, April 7 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at The Restaurant at Lighthouse Sound located in Bishopville.

Organize a table to play a game or cards with your friends or let us know what you'd like to play and we'll find a group that needs a player. There will be munchies, coffee, tea and water during play plus your choice of a tasty lunch from the following entrees:

- A cup of tomato basil soup and 1/2 sandwich on wheat bread; select chicken salad or tuna salad.

- Lighthouse salad (Mesculin Greens, Cherry Tomatoes, toasted Walnuts, Mandarin oranges with honey poppy seed dressing) served with grilled chicken.

- Grilled Atlantic salmon filet served on Ciabatta bread with a lemon, dill, and sour cream sauce and fresh cucumber served with French fries.

This is a fundraiser to benefit the club's high school scholarship fund and community donations. The cost of this event is \$25 per person.

Checks should be payable to WCOP and sent to WCOP Card Party, 20 Chatham Court, Berlin MD 21811. The deadline for reservations is March 31. For information call Pat Addy at 410-208-0171.



**Achievement** - On March 6 an Eagle Scout Ceremony was held for Michael Scott at the Ocean City Elks #2645 who sponsors Troup #225.

*Michael's Eagle Scout Project was to build Osprey nesting boxes along the bays. The Osprey is a migratory bird of prey and numbers were depleted in the 1970s from DDT. They are now a protected species and are used to monitor habitat temperatures, fish health and population. Ospreys ingest contaminants into the waterways which help keep it healthy for marine life. He built the boxes and installed them on poles approximately 12 feet high and 8 inches wide along the bay.*

*Above are (left to right): Mathew Scott, Luke Scott, David Scott, Karin Scott, Michael Scott, Maryland Senator James Mathias and Jim Mitrecic, Worcester County Commissioner.*

# The Vowel Crowd

Tomorrow is St. Patrick's Day, a day of Irish pride enjoyed by those of Celtic descent and those who want to be, at least for the day.



## It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

Although I have an Italian last name I grew up in an American family where the traditions of the "Old Country" were never a visible part of daily life. Aside from the vowel at the end of my last name, I didn't have an obvious connection with my European ancestors. If I've counted correctly, I am a third generation American; my parents and grandparents were born in the United States. It was my great-grandparents who emigrated from Italy and France, traveling steerage to come to the New World.

English was always spoken in our home and the homes of my grandparents and friends. Ethnicity was never an issue growing up. Looking back there could be a not-so-subtle reason for this, having grown up with friends who had last names such as Curcillo, Fardone, Armellini, Falcone, DeMarco, Buonomo, Covone and Mastracco? And although there was a sprinkling of McDermotts, McDades and Webers they were a definite minority.

We ate a lot of spaghetti and meatballs in my house as well as chicken cacciatore and eggplant parmesan, a dish made routinely by my grandmother and disliked intensely by my brother and me. Cannolis from Termini Brothers Bakery were a special treat sometimes brought to the house by my grandfather who lived in South Philly. Ravioli (not the Chef Boyardee kind) was a favorite as was Italian cream cake. Italian hoagies and pepper and egg sandwiches were mainstays. The music of Tony Bennett, Dean Martin, Perry Como, Rosemary Clooney and Frank Sinatra, especially Sinatra, was the soundtrack of my

youth.

The first time I was aware that ancestral differences was a thing, I was about eight or nine when I overheard an older kid who didn't have a vowel-ending surname at the bus stop tell a joke, or at least what he thought was a joke. "What happens when an Eye-talian turns around? A day go." I had no idea why he and the person he told were

laughing. It made no sense to me. When I got home from school I retold the joke to my mother who understood it but didn't find it funny.

There were a couple of vowel-ending Philadelphians who rose to fame during the 1970s. In politics it was Frank Rizzo, the mayor often referred to as "paisan" and even Uncle Frank. I believe he got the votes of many if not all his Vowel-Crowd constituents each



Joe "The Green Grocer" Carcione

time he ran. The other was "Rocky Balboa" an underdog Italian fighter portrayed by Sylvester Stallone.

During the noon broadcast of Action News, there was a regular segment by the Green Grocer, Joe Carcione who talked about produce. When his face appeared on the screen, all talking stopped so that Gramps could hear what fruit or vegetable wisdom old Joe had to impart. It usually wasn't very long after that Joe's suggestions appeared on our dinner table.

Although it's fun to swell with pride about my heritage from time to time, I consider myself first and always an American ... who happens to be Italian who loves pasta and watching The Godfather movies.

# The 4th Annual Finnegan's Wake

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**For more information call Cathy at 570-956-4721**

# Bunny walk scheduled

The Worcester County Health Department, in collaboration with the Town of Ocean City Department of Recreation and Parks, will sponsor a free, 1-mile "Every Bunny Just Walk" event on Saturday, March 26 at Northside Park, 125<sup>th</sup> Street, Ocean City. Registration begins at 10:30 a.m. and the walk starts at 11 a.m. and will be led by the Easter Bunny. Following the walk, participants are encouraged to visit the onsite local health care providers for free health screenings. Screenings will be provided by Atlantic General Hospital and the Worcester County Health Department



As promoted by the American College of Sports Medicine, "Exercise is Medicine." Participation in regular physical activity has many benefits including reducing the risk of developing chronic health problems such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, heart disease, and certain cancers. It also helps with weight loss and/or maintenance of a healthy body weight, bone health, strength, and flexibility.

Adults should strive to participate in physical activity a minimum of 150 minutes per week and youth should aim for at least 60 minutes a day. The Every Bunny Just Walk event is a great way to explore a local public park, participate in physical activity as a family, and learn more about how to improve your health.

Pre-registration is encouraged. For more information about the walk or to register, please call 410-632-0056 or email [regina.mason@maryland.gov](mailto:regina.mason@maryland.gov) and a registration form will be emailed to you.



**New members** - Two new members joined Sons of Italy at the club's meeting on Thursday, March 3. (L-R) **Rita Tindall**, membership chair, new members **Cathy** and **Joe Lamone**, and **Vincent Mollicone**, vice president. Photo by Anna Foultz.

## Job fair to be held at Wor-Wic

The public is invited to attend a free job fair being offered by the career services office at Wor-Wic Community College on Thursday, March 31, from 3 to 6 p.m., in Room 303 in Guerrieri Hall at the college campus in Salisbury.

More than 40 area employers are planning to participate in the fair, including the Adams Radio Group, Berlin Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Delaware Elevator, K&L Microwave, Maryland Natural Resources Police, Maryland State Police, Parker & Associates, Peninsula Regional Medical Center, Salisbury University Police Department, Sysco Eastern Maryland, Taylor Bank and the boards of education in Wicomico and Worcester counties.

Job seekers do not need to register to attend, but they should come dressed in interview attire and bring resumes to give to prospective employers.

For more information, call 410-334-2903.

## Dems to collect items

On Sunday, March 20 between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. the Democratic Women's Club of Worcester County will collect non-perishable food, toiletries and paper products at the South Fire Station, located on Ocean Parkway (South Gate). Supplies will be shared with a local food ministry. Call 410-641-8553 for additional information.

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# GM holds town meeting

By **Kelsey Reichenberg**

Last Tuesday, the Ocean Pines Association (OPA) General Manager Bob Thompson held a town hall meeting at the Ocean Pines Community Center. He updated attendees on OPA's budget, current capital projects and plans for the community's future.

Thompson began the meeting by discussing the current financial standing of OPA. He announced that the association is projecting a positive variance by the end of the year. Thompson proceeded to highlight a few important details, including the successful performance of aquatics. The amenity is expected to be close to breaking even this year, something that has not occurred in a long time. Thompson was also happy to announce that the Yacht Club is performing better than usual as well.

Following the by the numbers report, Thompson discussed the rising need for Ocean Pines residents to lock their homes and vehicles. Lately, instead of having to break in, people have been able to just walk in a home or open a vehicle door to steal items. Police Chief Dave Massey took notice of this trend and sent out many notices warning residents that although the community is notorious for being safe, they should still lock their homes and vehicles to deter thieves. Thompson explained that the increase in drug use throughout the nation has contributed to the stealing issue, and he encourages residents to report any suspicious activity. He also mentioned that the police will check up on a resident's home if he or she will be out of town for any amount of time. Residents are able to fill out a form and take it to the police department if interested.

Thompson went on to discuss OPA

budget highlights. The budget for the new year was approved by the board on February 25. Assessments are to be mailed out next week, and they are due on May 1. He also announced that there is no increase in the base assessment of \$921 as well as no increase in amenity fees. This year, the association is looking to upgrade hardware and software, install Wi-Fi in the Ocean Pines Community Center, continue road resurfacing plans, and upgrade the Country Club, Beach Club, Yacht Club and Police Station. OPA is working to fix the siding on the Country Club that resulted from water penetration that occurred over the past year. Upgrades to the Beach Club will include bathroom renovations and repairing the damaged roof that resulted from the Nor'easter in January. Yacht Club upgrades will include new décor and mobile food concessions, which will not impact the budget. OPA is also looking into options for upgrading the police station since it has not been renovated since the 1980s.

Following discussion of the budget, Thompson began to discuss current capital projects that are underway in Ocean Pines, including the Sports Core Pool project, bridge repairs, replacement of the White Horse Park bathrooms, and the Manklin Meadows project. The Sports Core Pool project will begin on July 10 and end on September 10. The proposals for the project have been received and reviewed. The final recommendation includes a total project bid of \$255,634 and a total budgeted amount of \$250,000.

The next project includes the repair of four bridges within the community. So far, the request for a proposal for two out of the four bridges has been

*please see **meeting** on page 13*



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## AGH New Direction Medical Weight Loss Program

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● [atlanticgeneral.org/newdirection](http://atlanticgeneral.org/newdirection)

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The 50s saw some of the fiercest competition ever between perennial rivals Ford and General Motors, with each battling for top sales bragging rights and Ford typically winding up in second place.

So when GM got the jump again by introducing America's first high volume, mass-produced 2-seat sports car, Ford knew they had to counter. In reality, the top Ford brass had first considered the idea as early as 1951 at the Paris Auto Show, where they were captivated by sexy little 2-seaters from Jaguar, Aston Martin and oth-



ers; but it seemed a lofty idea. Then things changed. For '53, Chevrolet introduced their all-new "Corvette" and the pressure for Ford to respond was on.

Never before had an all-new vehi-

cle moved so quickly through the Ford vetting process. From, literally, the drawing board to pre-production prototypes and full-size clay models, this

Ford project flew as if it had wings. The project's working name, though, was "Vega."

Some in the corporate offices felt the name lacked boldness and vision.

Then came the idea of adapting a name from Indian legend. Tribes of the southwestern U.S. told tales of a "divine helper of man" which created the wind and thunder and other elements that allowed them to live in the dry wilderness of Arizona and New Mexico. Its name was Thunderbird and the word just seemed to fit.

Halfway through the second week of September, 1954 Ford's all-new Thunderbird began to roll down the assembly line, ready to match the Corvette for sales figures. Comparatively speaking, the 2-seat format was about the only thing they shared. While Chevrolet's sports

car was made for the purist with a fiberglass body, exterior door handles, no roll-up windows and only came with 6-cylinder power in 1953 and 1954, Thunderbird were more traditional with greater creature comforts.

While the first Thunderbird had managed to avoid gimmicky styling cues that Ford management wanted (scoops and swoops and a side-spear that mimicked the full-size Fords) it was truly all-new in its approach, while maintaining the things most car buyers had come to expect by 1955. In fact, Ford never referred to their new arrival as a sports car. Rather it was introduced as a "personal car."

At an introductory price of nearly \$2,950, this hot little 2-seater cost nearly double the cheapest base Ford. But despite the weighty price tag, buyers' response was immediately positive. What really mattered was the first year sales total of more than 16,000 T-Birds. That towered over the 674 "Vettes" sold in '55. In fact, Chevrolet hadn't even sold 5,000 Corvettes in its first full three years combined.

Ford left the Thunderbird largely unchanged for '56. Oh, there were a few (mostly owner-inspired) tweaks; notably, an addition of a "porthole" window for the hardtop in response to complaints of poor rearward visibility. The only major styling change was at the back end. Gone were the exhaust ports in the rear bumper. They were replaced by an extended "continental style" bumper/external spare tire mount. Some say this, too, was in response to owners' concerns over a lack of usable trunk-space.

In keeping with the plan of Thunderbird's being more user-friendly,

the list of available options continued to grow. \$60 for power seats, power brakes were an extra \$32 or for another \$70, a buyer could have power windows. The base price trickled up past \$3,100 but sales stayed strong.

For a third and final year of the first generation, the 1957 Thunderbird exhibited noteworthy changes without altering its personal car presence. New was a larger, integrated front bumper/grille assembly that had first been considered in 1955 but deemed too radical then. The Bird's tail grew longer and sprouted outward-canted tailfins. This increased trunk size and allowed the spare to go back inside (which actually helped improve handling through better weight-distribution). The growing size was a sign of things to come.

Right from the genesis of the project, Ford's top bosses felt a 2-seat car wasn't practical for the long-term and knew they would eventually make Thunderbird more "conventional" in size and seating arrangement. That would come with the arrival of T-Bird's second generation in 1958, but that's a tale for a future road-trip. With its best sales year yet in '57, Ford's three year total of "early birds" surpassed 53,000. It is a car which remains a top-favorite among collectors still today, some 60 years later. Tip your hat when you see one of these first Thunderbirds fly by. You're looking at a "divine helper" of Ford history!

## Sponsors for Spring Basket Program sought

Worcester County GOLD (Giving Other Lives Dignity), Inc. is presenting the annual Spring Basket program for children in need in Worcester County. Sponsors are being sought to create baskets. Children referred to GOLD through the Department of Social Services, or another agency, are matched with a sponsor, who creates a basket of treats to brighten the child's spring.

While candy and small toys are always spring basket staples, sponsors are also asked to include useful items such as healthy snacks, hygiene items like toothbrushes, toothpaste and shampoo, coloring books, crayons and other art supplies, and school supplies such as pens and pencils. In 2015, with the

community's help, GOLD provided baskets to 208 local children.

Anyone interested in sponsoring a child can sign up using the online form on GOLD's website, [www.worcestergold.org](http://www.worcestergold.org) or contact Worcester County GOLD at (410) 677-6830. The deadline for delivering baskets to the GOLD office is March 18, so sponsors are urged to sign up as soon as possible. The mission of Worcester County GOLD is to improve the quality of life of local citizens for whom traditional means of well-being support is not fully available, and to promote dignity by providing financial aid to families in crisis, vulnerable adults and children in foster care.



# Tourism officials call for Green nominations

Worcester County Tourism is accepting nominations through April 8 for the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Worcester Green Awards. Worcester Green celebrates excellence in promoting environmentally friendly practices, strategies and products.

“Our county is fortunate to have so many who are dedicated to cultivating a more sustainable tomorrow by instituting best practices today,” Worcester County Tourism Director Lisa Challenger said.

Awards will be granted to Worcester County businesses that demonstrate extraordinary performance related to sustainable environmental practices, such as water conservation, wastewater management, the promotion of alternative transportation and transit, recycling, energy conservation, on-site renewable energy production, use of local products and food sources and the purchase of renewable energy. Nominations are being accepted in the following five categories:

**Community Leader- Business Person or Organization** - This award will recognize a long term contribution to the environment by an individual, volunteer or an organization. Efforts should engage community building or conservation.

**Business** - This award will recognize a positive ecological footprint in some or all of these areas: storm water, recycling, sedimentation and erosion controls, construction debris reuse, and energy innovation.

**Lodging** - This award will recognize a lodging partner who includes some or all of these practices: recycles, use of organic cleaning supplies, reduction of water consumption and use of alternative energy sources.

**Restaurant** - This award will recognize a restaurant that has made a concerted effort to buy local, recycle, reduce waste and energy consumption and involve staff and community.

**Teacher** - The recipient of this award will have demonstrated leadership in teaching others about the environment.

Applicants will be judged on their overall level of commitment, measura-

ble environmental benefits or progress, cost savings, and customer outreach and engagement. To qualify, applicants must reside or operate businesses in Worcester County. Awards will be announced during the Ocean City Hotel-Motel-Restaurant Association dinner meeting on April 21 in Ocean City.

Worcester Green is sponsored by Worcester County Tourism, Comcast Spotlight, OceanCity.com, OC Hotel - Motel - Restaurant Association, and Maryland Green Travel. The purpose of the program is to encourage Worcester County businesses and community leaders to engage in environmentally sustainable practices, learn more about such practices and grow their businesses at the same time.

For more information about the Worcester Green Awards, visit [www.visitworcester.org](http://www.visitworcester.org).

# THINK GREEN



## Voting Machine Demo

At the March meeting of the Women's Club of Ocean Pines, Worcester County Election Board officials explained the new voter registration system. Above are **Ed Rodier**, **Nikkie Nelson**, club member **Dell Purrell** and **Lou Ann Trummel**.

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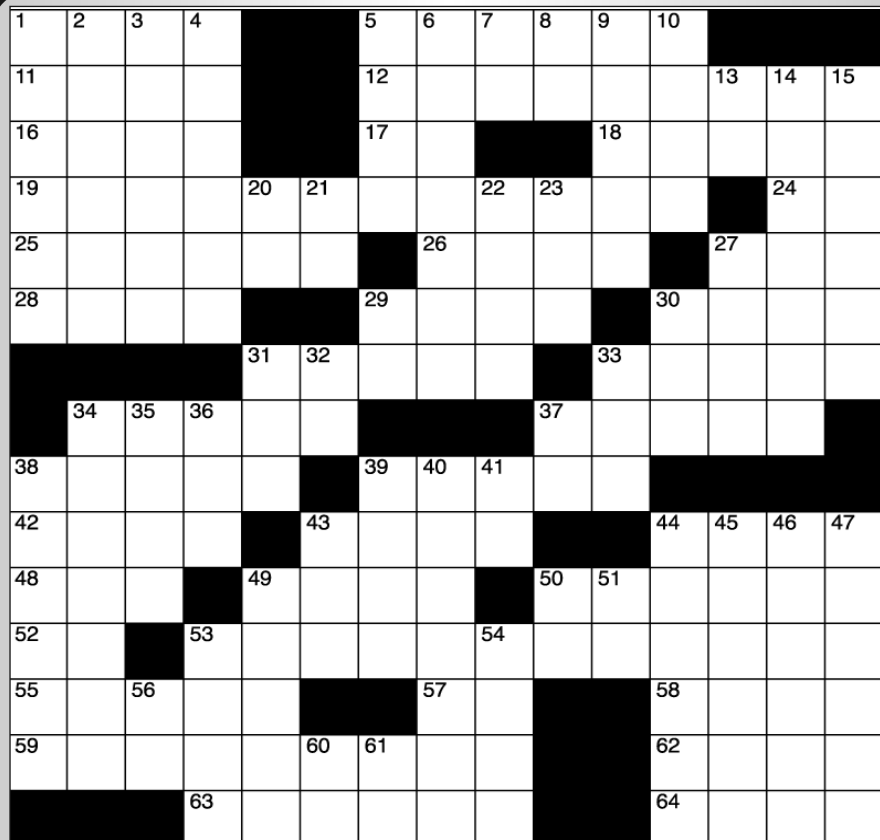
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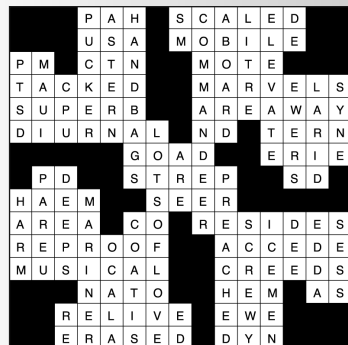
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- ACROSS**
- 1. Birds (abbr.)
  - 5. Quills
  - 11. Coniferous tree
  - 12. Type of vessels
  - 16. Used for baking or drying
  - 17. Promotion of product or service
  - 18. Many wombs
  - 19. On the Waterfront actor
  - 24. Air conditioning
  - 25. Heart condition
  - 26. Curved shapes
  - 27. The 7th letter of the Greek alphabet
  - 28. Let it stand
  - 29. Famous actor
  - 30. Mated
  - 31. High and low are types of these
  - 33. Marsupial
  - 34. African nation (Fr.)
  - 37. Huge
  - 38. Mountainous area in Puerto Rico
  - 39. Crooked
  - 42. Canadian law enforcers
  - 43. Neat and smart in appearance
  - 44. Intent
  - 48. Reptile genus
  - 49. A way to make full
  - 50. Merchant
  - 52. Michigan
  - 53. Manifesting approval
  - 55. Melancholic music
  - 57. Massachusetts
  - 58. Membrane of the cornea
  - 59. Calendar month
  - 62. Exam
  - 63. Commission
  - 64. Old English letters
- DOWN**
- 1. Olfactory sensations
  - 2. Bon \_\_\_
  - 3. Turn up
  - 4. Bright
  - 5. Thick piece of something
  - 6. Cause to absorb water
  - 7. Morning
  - 8. 0 degrees C.
  - 9. Dull, heavy sounds
  - 10. Eisaku \_\_\_, Japanese Prime Minister
  - 13. Tellurium
  - 14. In an angry way
  - 15. Homopterous insect
  - 20. Above
  - 21. Sodium
  - 22. AorisÖ father (Greek myth.)
  - 23. They ring receipts
  - 27. Periods of history
  - 29. South Dakota
  - 30. Mammal genus
  - 31. ScotlandÖs longest river
  - 32. Potato state
  - 33. \_\_\_ City, OK 74641
  - 34. Connected with touch
  - 35. Molding
  - 36. High-energy physics
  - 37. Of I
  - 38. Small pieces of bread
  - 39. Third day in Armenian calendar
  - 40. They accompany the leader
  - 41. 1,000 grams (kilogram)
  - 43. Felis domesticus
  - 44. Large, flightless birds
  - 45. Felt deep affection for
  - 46. Suffer death
  - 47. Private rendezvous (pl.)
  - 49. Not the winner
  - 50. Touchdown
  - 51. Ancient Egyptian sun god
  - 53. Portuguese parish
  - 54. Aromatic oil
  - 56. Not down
  - 60. Mister
  - 61. Barium

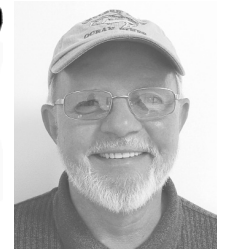


Answers for Mar 9

# Captain Ron's Fish Tales

By Ron Fisher

Sponsored by Peninsula Rehab and Sport Medicine



**Fishing Report:** Capt. Monty Hawkins reports fair tog fishing on some of his recent trips. Shad Landing has been stocked with trout and will be stocked again on March 27 with 300 trout according to the Maryland DNR stocking schedule.

**Tournaments:** 26th Annual Capt. Zed's Spring Flounder Tournament April 15-24. Wachapreague, VA 757-789-3222 and the 33rd Annual MSSA Spring Rockfish Tournament April 29-May 1 410-255-5535.

**Boating:** Don't forget to get your boat ready for spring. Check out the Boat US Web site for the Boat Spring Checklist. This is a great resource for boaters.

All it took was a few warm days in March to start thinking about flounder fishing. I usually begin fishing in mid-April, mostly boat fishing since you need to be able to get to the areas where flounder congregate prior to what I call "the warming of the water." It takes a minimum water temperature of 54 degrees to get them moving and they really become active at 65 degrees.

However, I'm putting the proverbial cart before the horse. Don't forget to treat your reel to fresh line as this will help avoid many tangles and kinks. I normally use 15 lb. test monofilament on the spool. I personally prefer a conventional spooling reel rather than a spinning reel finding it easier to control. Some fishermen I know seem to buy only the most expensive equipment. Being frugal by nature I go for the cheaper brands. Honestly, I catch as many or possibly more fish on my inexpensive rig. If you are new to fishing visit any local tackle

shop and they can fit you up with an inexpensive flounder outfit.

At the business end of my line I prefer a three way barrel swivel with either a two or three ounce bank sinker (depending on the tide drift), followed by a three to five foot 20 lb. test leader with a plain #1 or #2 wide gap hook without beads or flashy hardware. Keep the rig on the bottom close to the boat and drift with the tide. When you feel a bite avoid the temptation to set the hook immediately but let out a little line and give the flounder time to eat the bait. Then slowly raise the tip of your rod and set the hook. If you pull early, I'll guarantee you will miss most fish.

For bait I like to use frozen shiners hooked through the eyes along with a narrow strip of squid or a white or pink swimming Mullet Gulp as an attractor when the drift is good, then switch to live minnows without the squid to add a little action when the drift slows at the tide change. These may be purchased at local tackle shops. Again, being frugal, when I see frozen shiners or squid at a good price I'll buy several packs and put them in the freezer. However, I offer this bit of advice. If you want to avoid conflict at home, consult your wife before placing any frozen bait in the freezer. Unfortunately, I did not and when they were discovered I received a lesson on proper wrapping techniques beginning with, "If it is totally necessary to put that in the freezer."

Where to fish? Most early season flounder fishermen can be found north of the Route 90 Bridge fishing at depths of five to six feet as the floun-

please see **capt. ron** on page 11



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## The man who liberated Innsbruck

By **Dr. Joesph Palmisano**

Don Culbertson and his family were patients of mine for many years.

We became good friends. He was related to Ely Culbertson of bridge fame. He was about two years older than I

One day, knowing my love for history, especially the Civil War and World War II, he said to me, "Doc, did I ever tell you that I was the man who liberated Innsbruck?"

I had been to Innsbruck several times and knew it to be a beautiful small city in Austria. It was full of historic buildings and surrounded by mountains, which I had skied. Yes I knew Innsbruck, and I knew it was on the path to Munich from the western front.

He related to me that he had been a combat-infantryman in the drive through Southern Germany and Austria during the final months of the

most destructive war in history. Just before he got to Innsbruck, he had a serious disagreement with his sergeant. The sergeant was really angry and told him he had to march down the main street of Innsbruck alone, with just his M-1. It was a probable death sentence but at that time superiors had that power. Culbertson was 19 years old.

So he walked down the main street of Innsbruck, which had tall buildings on each side, all of which were great hideouts for snipers, and who knows what else. He was scared to death and felt each step would be his last. Suddenly around a corner came a German half-track flanked by two motorcycles serving as an escort. A considerable number of soldiers followed the vehicles. There was a German general in the half-track, along with his driver. The whole entourage drove up to the startled Culbertson and the general said, "I surrender Innsbruck to you." So Don got behind the whole group and marched them through Innsbruck to his waiting sergeant and

*please see palmisano on page 15*



Joe Palmisano



### SDHS rallies around local family

It was not just nickels that the Stephen Decatur High School community collected for the Nichols family on February 9 as the school raised \$1,000 in just one day.

Stephen Decatur High School (SDHS) student leaders initiated the NickelsforNichols campaign to support the Nichols family who suffered a devastating house fire earlier in the winter. Students used social media to promote the initiative. Not wanting to disrupt instruction, students collected money in just one day and only during lunch shifts but continued during the annual SDHS Taco Night that evening. At the end of the day, students came within \$50 of the \$1,000 goal they had set and then an anonymous donor contributed the remainder to meet the goal.

"I honestly wasn't surprised at the overwhelming support of our school and community. I have grown up knowing how amazing people are in Worcester County," said National Honor Society President Maury Izzett, who rallied students to help the family.

Above are SDHS Principal **Tom Zimmer**, National Honor Society President **Maury Izzett**, the **Nichols family (Acacia, Tiffanie, and Aiden)**, and students **Allison Shumate, Rebecca Evans, and Reagan Dunham**.

### Pines to host family tennis day

The Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department and Delmarva Beach Tennis will offer a family tennis play day on Sunday, March 20 from noon to 2 p.m. at the Manklin Meadows Racquet Sports Complex in Ocean Pines.

Participants will learn or refresh the basic skills of tennis. It is designed for all ages and is open to the public.

Players should bring their own racquets. Tennis balls, snacks and prizes

will be provided.

The cost to attend is \$10 per player, which is due the day of the event. Pre-registration at delmarvabeachtennis.com is required.

In case of inclement weather, the event will be held in April.

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

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Tide and Sun Chart				
* tide is for Ocean City Fishing Pier. Add two hours for Isle of Wight tide				
DATE	HIGH TIDE	LOW TIDE	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Thur., March 17	3:32 a.m. 3:58 p.m.	10:03 a.m. 10:06 p.m.	7:07 a.m.	7:10 p.m.
Fri., March 18	4:39 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	11:06 a.m. 11:08 p.m.	7:06 a.m.	7:11 p.m.
Sat., March 19	5:36 a.m. 5:51 p.m.	12:01 p.m.	7:04 a.m.	7:12 p.m.
Sun., March 20	6:22 a.m. 6:35 p.m.	12:04 a.m. 12:45 p.m.	7:03 a.m.	7:13 p.m.
Mon., March 21	7:03 a.m. 7:16 p.m.	12:51 a.m. 1:22 p.m.	7:01 a.m.	7:13 p.m.
Tues., March 22	7:42 a.m. 7:55 p.m.	1:33 a.m. 1:57 p.m.	7:00 a.m.	7:14 p.m.
Wed., March 23	8:20 a.m. 8:33 p.m.	2:12 a.m. 2:31 p.m.	6:58 a.m.	7:15 p.m.

**capt. ron**  
from page 10

seek the warmth of the shallower water. Some also do well in the flats at the Thorofare and in the South Bay behind Assateague Island around the airport. I suggest moving around. If the water is warmer you may even do well along the ledges at the inlet or in the deeper holes at the Route 50 Bridge.

Finally, you also need to have a flounder flag. When I catch that keeper flounder I raise my flounder flag and I love to go by a friend's boat with my flag proudly flying. You become the envy of all other flounder fishermen when you return to port, knowing everyone is watching and will flock to the fish cleaning area to witness the weigh in.

**Did you know?** Saltwater fish need to drink more water than freshwater fish. Since seawater is saltier than the liquids in a fish's body, water inside the fish is constantly flowing out. If they didn't drink to replace the lost water, saltwater fish would dry up like prunes.

Remember to take a kid fishing.

# St. Patrick: separating the truth from legend

Few saints are as well-known and widely celebrated as St. Patrick. Known as the patron saint of Ireland, St. Patrick annually inspires people from around the world to pay homage to his legend, which includes bringing Christianity to Ireland. Revelers don green clothing, participate in parades and decorate with shamrocks and symbols of Irish folklore.

Much of what is known about St. Patrick is shrouded in mystery and legend. Patrick has been credited with many miracles, including converting an entire country to Christianity from paganism, and also participated in many spiritual resurrections.

While neither Patrick's birth nor



death dates are known with certainty, it is believed he was born in 373 A.D. in an area of Roman Britain, which is now Scotland. Patrick was not Irish, but a British Celt.

Young Patrick was careless and not as spiritual as he eventually became. At 16, Patrick was captured by a band of pirates and was sold to a chieftain in an area of Northern Ireland. His labor included tending flocks of sheep. It was during his time of captivity that Patrick found God and decided to devote his life to professing the faith and grace of Christ. He acquired the Irish dialect of the Celtic language in captivity, which would prove essential in his future work.

After six years of captivity, Patrick escaped and returned to his homeland, where he immersed himself in the scriptures and fully com-

mitted to Celtic Christianity, not the Roman Catholicism that became dominant throughout the Roman Empire.

He spent years studying and preparing for life as a missionary. Through historical documents written in his own hand, Patrick says he was "called to be a servant in Christ to a foreign land." He began evangelizing, but it was not until around his thirtieth birthday in 405 A.D. that Patrick set out for Ireland.

Patrick established schools and monasteries in Ireland because he believed education and faith were closely entwined. He taught many people, including his most famous student, Columba.

While St. Patrick is credited with many miracles, such as driving snakes out of Ireland, some historians believe these tall tales were just metaphors for pushing out paganism. Other miracles included feeding starving sailors with a herd of pigs

that appeared when the sailors had faith in God. Some legends even suggest St. Patrick brought animals and people back to life.

Many also associate St. Patrick with the shamrock. By using a three-leaf clover, St. Patrick was able to convey the concept of the Holy Trinity to a land of people familiar with the shamrock symbol.

The supposed day of St. Patrick's death, March 17, was officially recognized as St. Patrick's Day. In reality, St. Patrick was never officially canonized a saint by the Catholic Church and received the title in name only. At the time of his death, there was no official process for canonization, but Patrick was given the title by popular acclaim and likely with the approval of a bishop.

St. Patrick is widely acclaimed and celebrated throughout the world, and his life is even more interesting than many of the legends associated with his name.

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*If you live in Ocean Pines, be sure to contact The Courier if you want the paper each week in your driveway. Call 410-641-6695*

# Community Calendar

When submitting items for the calendar please include the event name, date, where held, time and a little about the event. Items being considered for the calendar need to be in by noon on Friday. E-mail to [thecourier@delmarvacourier.com](mailto:thecourier@delmarvacourier.com)

## Mondays

### **Ocean Pines Poker Club**

Poker players wanted in Ocean Pines area for Monday evenings. Call 410-208-1928

Open every Monday through October: **Historic St. Martin's Church Museum.** 1-4 pm. 11413 Worcester Highway, Showell, MD. For more information, call 410-251-2849

### **Sweet Adelines**

The Delmarva Sweet Adeline Chorus meets from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Ocean Pines Community Center. Call 410-641-6876.

## Mon. & Tues.

### **Sanctioned Duplicate Bridge**

Open bridge games Monday at 12 p.m., Tuesday at 10 a.m. at OP Community Center. Call Mary Stover 410-726-1795

## Mon., Wed. & Sat.

### **Church Thrift Shop**

OC Baptist Church's Thrift Shop by Seaside Christian Academy behind White Marlin Mall open 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Mon. & Wed., 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sat. Call 410-251-6971.

## Tuesdays

### **Families Anonymous**

From 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at room 37 in the the Community Church at Ocean Pines on Rte. 589. For more information call Carol at 410-208-4515.

**Take off Pounds Sensibly Meeting.** Berlin group No. 331, Worcester County Health Center 9730 Healthway Dr., Berlin, 5:30-7:00 p.m. TOPS is a support and educational group promoting weight loss and healthy lifestyle. It meets weekly on Tuesdays. Info: [jeanduck47@gmail.com](mailto:jeanduck47@gmail.com)

## Tuesdays and Thursdays

**Poker players** wanted for Gentlemen's Poker in North Gate

area Ocean Pines. Game played every Tuesday & Thursday evening 5:45 p.m. to 10:45 p.m. on Pinehurst Rd. Ocean Pines. Call 410-208-0063 for more information.

## Wednesdays

### **Kiwanis Club Meeting**

Weekly meetings at 8 a.m. on Wednesdays in the Ocean Pines Community Center. Doors open 7 a.m. October through April.

### **Elks Bingo**

Ocean City Elks in Ocean City (behind Fenwick Inn) open at 5:30 p.m. Early birds at 6:30 and bingo at 7 p.m. Call 410-250-2645.

### **Delmarva Hand Dancing**

Dancing at The Fenwick Inn in Ocean City from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Contact 302-934-7951 or [info@delmarvahanddancing.com](mailto:info@delmarvahanddancing.com)

### **Rotary Club**

Ocean City/Berlin Rotary Club meetings are held at 5:45 p.m. at the Captains Table in Ocean City. Contact [Stan.Kahn@carouselhotel.com](mailto:Stan.Kahn@carouselhotel.com).

### **Square Dancing**

The Pinesteppers have introduction to square dancing at the OP Community Center at 7 p.m. Call Bruce Barrett at 410-208-6777.

### **AL-Anon/OP-West OC-Berlin**

Wednesday Night Bayside Beginnings Al-Anon family meetings are held at the Ocean Pines Community Center at 7:30 p.m.

## Wed., Thurs., Fri. & Sat.

### **Church Thrift Shop**

The Shepherd's Nook at Community Church at Ocean Pines is open 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call 410-641-5433.

### **Diakonia Thrift Shop**

'Used to be Mine' offers clothing, furniture, household items and more. Proceeds benefit Diakonia shelter and pantry. Located at

Rte. 611 and Sunset Ave. Open 10 - 4. Call 410-213-0243.

meeting  
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## Thursdays

### **Story Time**

Stories, music and crafts at 10:30 a.m. for children ages 3-5 at Ocean Pines library. Call 410-208-4014.

### **Beach Singles**

Beach Singles 45 for Happy Hour at Harpoon Hanna's at 4 p.m. Call Arlene at 302-436-9577, Kate at 410-524-0649 or Dianne at 302-541-4642.

### **Legion Bingo**

American Legion in Ocean City opens doors at 5:30 p.m., games begin at 7. For information call 410-289-3166.

### **Gamblers Anonymous**

Group meets at 8 p.m. at the Atlantic Club, 11827 Ocean Gateway, West Ocean City. Call 888-424-3577 for help.

## Fridays

### **Knights of Columbus Bingo**

Bingo will be held behind St. Luke's Church, 100th St. in Ocean City. Doors open at 5 p.m. and games begin at 6:30 p.m. Refreshments available. Call 410-524-7994.

sent out. Thompson stated that the repairs will take place in the spring or summer. OPA is waiting to hear back.

The Manklin Meadows project was the next topic of discussion, which refers to the addition of two paddle ball courts now, with the design including the addition of two more courts in the future; the relocation of the existing playground; a realignment of the existing playground parking lot; and the addition of four new pickle ball courts now, with the design including the addition of four more courts in the future. OPA is still working on the storm water management aspect of the project, which includes testing the soil, seeing how it drains, and then picking the best system based on those results. Thompson said the project will begin in the spring and the playground is the first priority.

The final project underway in Ocean Pines includes the replacement of the White Horse Park bathrooms. "Park visitors will be able to access the new bathrooms without crossing the busy parking lot," stated Thompson. He projects that that project will be finished quickly upon starting.

Thompson concluded his report with discussion of future plans for Ocean Pines. "We need to be thinking more strategically instead of looking at our immediate needs. We have to start giving our future needs more consideration for planning purposes," said Thompson. For this purpose, OPA plans to utilize the Reserve Study and the Beacon Study. The reserve study involves investigating the lifespan of Ocean Pines' assets, and the Beacon Study, which refers to collaboration between OPA and Salisbury University to devise a community survey that will ask residents their opinions on what the community looks like today and what it needs to look like in the future.

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# Ireland is a nation of colorful history

Ireland is a nation with a rich history, some of which is celebrated every St. Patrick's Day. The third-largest island in Europe and the 20th largest island in the world, Ireland lies in the North Atlantic west of Great Britain. Since 7500 B.C., when the first inhabitants were believed to occupy the land of Ireland, many notable events have taken place on the Emerald Isle.

## Christianity comes to Ireland

Although St. Patrick is largely credited with bringing Christianity to Ireland, the arrival of Christianity in Ireland may actually have been a byproduct of both St. Patrick's missionary work and a visit by Palladius, a bishop who was sent by the Pope to Ireland in 431 A.D. Accounts as to the success or failure of Palladius' mission differ, but historians do agree that Palladius was ultimately banished from Ireland. St. Patrick might have been more tolerated because of his familiarity with Irish culture and language, and that may be the reason his name, and not

Palladius, is linked with spreading Christianity in Ireland.

## Decline of Viking power

Vikings made various raids and established fortresses in Ireland throughout the 8th and 9th centuries.



One such fortress was close to where the city of Dublin now stands. During the Battle of Tara in 980, King Mael Sechnaill mac Domnaill defeated Olaf Cuaran, resulting in Gaelic control of the Kingdom of Dublin. By 1014, the Viking forces had been

defeated by the armies of Brian Boru, and Viking power in Ireland began to decline, paving the way for other leadership.

## English rule begins

Following the pleas of exiled Dermot MacMurrough to Henry II of England to help MacMurrough reclaim his kingship in Ireland, Henry II decided to pay a visit to Ireland, and in 1171 he

declared himself Lordship of Ireland. Upon signing the Treaty of Windsor in 1175, Henry II established Norman influence in Ireland, which lasted for several centuries.

## Scottish influence

By the 14th century, Ireland had not had a high King since 1186. Much of the nation was divided by Irish dynasties and Anglo lords who ruled part of the land. In 1315, Edward Bruce, the younger brother of Robert the Bruce, King of Scotland, arrived in Ireland to rally the Irish to rise against Anglo control of the nation.

## Great Potato Famine

Although cold winters in successive years around 1740 resulted in large scale famine, the Great Potato Famine of 1845 to 1849 is the famine many speak of when discussing famine in Ireland. During this time, a blight destroyed potato crops, knocking out two-thirds of Ireland's staple food. It is believed that roughly one million died as a result of the famine, which also spurred an additional million peo-

ple to emigrate.

## Britain rescinds some control

In 1916, The Easter Rebellion was a battle between armed Irish patriots and British troops in Dublin. Rebel leaders were executed; however, the rebellion may have been the catalyst for the Anglo-Irish War, which began three years later and during which the British battled the Irish Republican Army. That battle eventually led to a treaty in which Britain rescinded control of most of Ireland, retaining only portions of Northern Ireland. This division caused a rift between those who accepted the treaty and the Irish Republican Army, which wanted all of Ireland to be free of Britain. By 1949, Britain declared Ulster in Northern Ireland a permanent part of the British Empire. The lower 26 counties declared themselves the Irish Republic.

The history of Ireland is rich and vast, spanning millennia during which many notable events took place on the Emerald Isle.

*palmisano*  
from page 11

officers. They had been expecting severe fighting with many casualties and were dumbfounded by this development.

Don quickly became a hero, had his picture in *Stars and Stripes*, and forever more was known as "The Man Who Liberated Innsbruck."

I was fascinated by this first-hand account by a friend who was sitting right next to me. But that is not the end of the story. About a year later I was watching the History Channel about double agents during World War II. They named and described such an agent who had worked his way into the confidence of the German general in charge of that part of Germany and Austria. He convinced the general that the war was nearly over, further resistance was useless, would result in many casualties, and possibly capture by the Russians. The general became convinced that surrendering to the Americans was the smartest thing to do. So he looked for the first opportunity to surrender, and it was to young, lonely, Don Culbertson.

I was stunned. I realized that I was the only person in the world who knew the whole story. It was late at night. The next day I called Don, told him to come up, and I related what I had seen. We both tried hard to see it again, but I never did. I don't believe he did, either. After that, I relished every time he came in. I never tired of hearing the story.

Unfortunately, he developed a heart condition and died about two years later. I will always remember him and his great adventure. I cannot visit or read about Innsbruck without remembering Don Culbertson.

*Dr. Joseph Palmisano is a new columnist who will be featured monthly in The Courier. He will share insights about Word War II.*

*He resides in Ocean Pines and is the author of "Doctor Joe, A Family Doctor in the Twentieth Century."*

## Obituary

### Michael Schmitt

Michael Schmitt, 57, passed away on Saturday, March 5, at his home in Ocean Pines. He is survived by his wife Janice Schmitt, sister Donna Rolnick and brother Robert Schmitt and Carol Schmitt, sisters- and brothers-in-law Lawrence Burch, Joseph and Jayne Thanner, James and Judy Grace, Jackie Grace and nieces and nephews Tim, Tom, Richie, Susan, Lawrence, Michelle, Alan, Becky, Christina, Jill, Jaclyn, Jessica, Joey, Brian, Amy, Jamie, Katie, Amanda and the late Michael Schmitt, and extended family Warren Henderson and Emily Barney. He is the son of the late Melvin and Esther Schmitt, There will be a mass at St. John Neumann Church in Ocean Pines, Saturday, March 19 at noon followed by a celebration of his life at the home of his friends Carol and Greg Spurrier at 209 Breezy Creek Ct. in Ocean Pines.



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