

# The Courier

July 17, 2024 Volume 24 Number 42



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# OPA, OPVFD approve historic new agreement

The Ocean Pines Association Board on Friday unanimously approved a new memorandum of understanding with the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department.

The agreement includes provisions for fire protection and EMS services by OPVFD, funding of the Fire Department by OPA, and construction of a new South Fire Station.

Several OPA Board members and OPVFD President Joe Enste commented on the new agreement during the meeting:

## Association President Rick Farr:

“Tonight, I would like to thank my fellow Board members, our General Manager John Viola and his team, Chairman Doug Parks from the Budget and Finance Committee, Ocean Pines Council Bruce Bright, the leadership of Ocean Pines Fire Department: President Enste and Chief Widgeon and the Board and the Fire Department General Counsel Genevieve Macfarlane, for bringing us to where we are today, a historical moment for Ocean Pines. This team has worked together for the past several months, where the relationship with Ocean Pines Association and the Fire Department has become very strong with one collective goal in mind, which is to continue to provide outstanding emergency medical services [and] fire and rescue protection services to all of Ocean Pines residents, with state-of-the-art equipment and a state-of-the-art new building. This new memorandum of understanding and provisions within this agreement between Ocean Pines Association and the Volunteer Fire Department accomplishes this goal. Again, thanks to everyone in making this agreement a reality.”

## OPVFD President Joe Enste:

“Tonight, we have an opportunity to make history as we consider a new memorandum of understanding between the Ocean Pines Association and the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department. Our team at the Fire Department has been working tirelessly behind the scenes with President Farr, Vice President Lakernick, Director Heavner, representatives of the Budget and Finance Committee, Mr. John Viola, Mrs. Linda Martin and Mr. Steve Phillips. Together, we have crafted an MOU that is fair to both

sides and designed to stand the test of time. For those who may be wondering why there is a need for a new MOU, the original MOU was ratified in 1975 and then replaced with a new version in 1977. Over the years, numerous addendums have been added, complicating the relationship between the OPVFD and the OPA. The proposed MOU we are considering tonight aims to clarify the relationship and the responsibilities of each organization, ensuring a clear and effective partnership now and in the future. As one of only 10 recognized and chartered volunteer fire departments within the Worcester County, we take our responsibility to provide fire and EMS service to this community very seriously. For over 50 years, we have proudly served this community. And this new agreement, if approved tonight, will allow us to continue serving for many years to come. Thank you in advance of the Board of Directors for your consideration.”

## Association Treasurer Monica Rakowski:

“It was time for OPA to reopen the

door for negotiations to get this deal done with our Fire Department. This deal is a win for our Fire Department and our membership. It’s a win for everybody. This deal goes a long way to supporting recruitment and retention of our firefighters. It is up to us, OPA, to help sustain a robust and active force of firefighters. Supporting our Volunteer Fire Department has a direct and measurable impact on public safety. Communities with well-funded and adequately staffed fire departments often have a lower home insurance rates, reflecting the lower risk of significant fire damage. I thank the Fire Department and my colleagues for this team effort in getting us to this point.”

## Director Jeff Heavner:

“This is indeed a new era of cooperation. It’s more like getting a new in-law through marriage, but one that you really like. A carefully crafted memorandum of understanding will enable the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department to provide exceptional fire protection and emergency medical and rescue services for decades to

come. This Board continues to bring out the best in each of us and deliver wins for our Association, spending money wisely and focused on our strategic plan. I might sound like a broken record, but it really matters. We are all dialed in to keep Ocean Pines a premier resort community, with exceptional value and quality of life. This vision is built upon five support pillars: quality governance, superior safety, top-tier amenities, fiscally responsible infrastructure maintenance, and community beautification. Our priorities continue to evolve with our successes. Getting a multiyear deal done with John Viola was on our short list, and getting this MOU deal done is huge. I have been involved in this top priority, and I urge my fellow Directors to approve this when we vote very shortly. The community and our Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department are winners. We have and continue, like Rick says, to build a first class, and as referenced, a family relationship.”

*please see **agreement** on page 15*



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## Chamber flounder tournament returns

The Worcester County Chamber of Commerce in Ocean Pines will host its 17th Annual Flounder Tournament and Auction on Saturday, August 3, with the weigh-in and auction at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club and Marina between noon and 4:30 p.m. This is the largest Maryland coastal bay flounder tournament and will feature an expected purse of over \$7,000.

“Our region gets tournament fever every summer, especially the first week in August. We are the little guy tournament. This is a great day on the water and a chance to win big without breaking your bank to enter,” said Chamber President Kerrie Bunting.

Registration is \$55 per angler or \$50 each when registering more than one. Calcuttas are available for \$20 per angler. The longest flounder brought in by any angler 13 or under wins \$100 and is also eligible for the main cash prizes. Make sure to register before noon on August 2. Collectable T-shirts are free for the first 250 registered. Sponsorships are available and donations are being sought for the auction which will be held during the weigh-in. For tournament rules or to register as sponsor or angler go to: <https://business.oceanpineschamber.org/events/details/17th-annual-flounder-tournament-15244>.

## Courier seeks writer

The Courier seeks an individual interested in writing a regular “Around the Pines” feature. Individual should have an interest in and understanding of the Ocean Pines community. Good written communications skills required. If interested, please contact Chip Bertino at [chippertino@delmarvacourier.com](mailto:chippertino@delmarvacourier.com).

## Library book sale returns

Yes, the weather is hot and beach weather is at its finest. Here is your opportunity to get all your summer and winter reading needs at the 2024 Annual Ocean Pines Library Book Sale sponsored by the Friends of the Ocean Pines Library (FOPL). More than 25,000 donated paperback, trade paperback and hardcover books separated into more than 30 different categories such as fiction, non-fiction, science fiction, children’s, history, biography, self-help, art, music, movies, TV and theater, sports, travel, animals and nature, cookbooks, religion, foreign language, science, reference, humor, antiques, etc.

There are also hundreds of music CDs, DVDs and audio books. All books are in very good to like new condition and priced 50 cents to \$2.50 in the meeting room area. To entice you further, there is a *Specials Room* across the hall filled with antique, collectible, first editions, rare, odd, local, unique, ephemera and author signed books priced individually.

The sale will begin on Friday, July 26 between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. for FOPL members only. You can join at the door for as little as \$5 or \$10 per family. No dealers. Dealers will have their own special time of 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. on Saturday with a \$50 admission fee. The general public sale will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Monday, July 29 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. when all books will be marked at half price.

Want a sneak preview sale? The *Specials Room* only will operate Tuesday through Thursday, July 23 to 25 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. It will also be open during the main book sale hours on Friday, Saturday and Monday. Everything in the *Specials Room* will be half price on Monday.

All proceeds go to benefit the Ocean Pines Library with programs, events and special needs. The FOPL has raised more than \$180,000 in the 22 years of the annual book sale. This year a new outdoor learning and event venue was constructed on the west side of the library using funds from the sale events.

If you have any questions about the sale, please feel free to contact the library during operating hours at 410-208-4014 or contact the FOPL at [berlinbookseller@gmail.com](mailto:berlinbookseller@gmail.com). Hope to see you all at the sale that supports your local library.

## OPA announces contract extension for Viola

The Ocean Pines Board of Directors on Monday unanimously approved a four-year contract extension for General Manager John Viola. The contract also includes an option for a fifth year.

Ocean Pines named Viola the temporary general manager in April 2019, and, in June 2019, he signed a six-month agreement that has been extended several times.

Viola has been an Ocean Pines homeowner for nearly 15 years and before that had vacationed in the community.

A New York native, he is a certified public accountant, with an MBA with a specialization in management and tax management from Pace University in New York and an undergraduate degree in accounting from Manhattan College. He worked in the private sector as a CPA, including 28 years with Avon, where he finished as the assistant global controller.

In Ocean Pines, Viola served as chair of the Budget and Finance Committee for four years, and served on a volunteer basis as the Association’s treasurer and chief financial officer, prior to becoming general manager.

In six years as general manager, Viola has overseen six consecutive fiscal years with a positive variance to budget, and four-straight years with a favorability greater than \$1 million. During that span, OPA also lowered the assessment, and in-

creased spending on public safety, maintenance, and drainage, among other areas.

“I have enjoyed working with a professional Board, and I’m very hopeful that we will continue, together, to produce for Ocean Pines. Our achievements over the past six years reflect the hard work and dedication of the entire Ocean Pines team. I look forward to continuing our efforts to enhance the quality of life for all our homeowners and to ensure that Ocean Pines remains a thriving and vibrant community.”

Association President Rick Farr said extending Viola was a priority for the Board, and an easy decision based on his consistently stellar results.

“We believe that under the leadership of Mr. Viola, Ocean Pines has achieved significant milestones in keeping Ocean Pines financially strong and continuing to keep all our amenities top notch,” Farr said. “The new contract reflects the Board’s commitment to providing stability and continuity in leadership, and also underscores our confidence in the General Manager’s vision, strategic direction, and ability to navigate the challenges and opportunities facing Ocean Pines.”

“We look forward to continuing to work closely with Mr. Viola to build on our achievements and realize even greater success in the future for our Ocean Pines community,” he added.

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# A jerk on one end of the line

What's the difference between going fishing and wishing on a star? Nothing. For me, the results are the same.

I enjoy fishing. Actually, I should write I enjoy the idea of fish-

blue fish and tuna and marlin. The only flag I could legitimately fly is a flag for misplaced ambition, crushed hopes and unfulfilled dreams of grandeur.

Fortunately my family's welfare does not rely on my prowess on the water. My wife doesn't even ask anymore whether I've caught anything when I come in. In fact, she doesn't even acknowledge that I've gone out. I've come to believe it's better for my ego and self-esteem not to acknowledge I've been out.

I chuckle when I page through fishing newspapers and see a picture of a beaming fisherman posing with the thirty-three-and-a-half-inch flounder caught supposedly just around the same area I was fishing. It's just my luck that our experiences at the same fishing hole net him a prize fish and leave me trying to untangle my line after getting caught on the engine.

Thinking I could better my odds I once flipped on the fish finder. In reality it's an expensive video game. Carefully following the instructions and watching on YouTube the tutorial, I was quite enthusiastic the first time I used this electronic wonder. I watched the screen light up with little blips indicating fish below. Three hours, five pounds of squid and 11 dozen minnows later, the only thing I had to show for the effort was sunburn and a vanquished spirit. I finally gave up using the fish finder when I noticed the fish on the screen were giving me the fin.

Years ago, while perusing through a book store I came across a book entitled, "Fishing – A jerk on one end of the line." I should have bought the book then and saved myself years of frustration and unfulfilled dreams.



## It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

ing because lately I've not had good luck catching anything about which to brag, even a little, let alone identify as a "keeper." I am at the point when a good day is snagging an old boot or tin can.

I believe I'm doing everything right. I have tried various types of bait depending on what it is I think I might catch. I drift instead of anchor. I even wear my lucky hat in the hopes that success will smile upon me. It should be noted that I go through a lot of lucky hats, each time lowering the threshold of what defines "lucky." I deemed one hat lucky because during a recent fishing trip I brought up a dead horse-shoe crab. See what I mean. Can you tell how deep in a slump I find myself?

I've watched people on boats nearby pull in all sorts of fish. While their arms grow weary reeling in one fish after another, I'm falling asleep from boredom. One time I slowly pulled my boat next to another boat whose occupants were having an extremely good day. Even so close I caught nothing except the nasty glares of the fishermen in the other boat. Fishermen are not friendly people when you ask if they mind you coming aboard to fish with them.

Fishing is not an equal opportunity pastime. My experience has been that it does not necessarily play favorites but it certainly has a vindictive streak. How else can I rationalize the experience of watching a four-year-old in the boat off my starboard side bring in two regulation-size flounder?

On many occasions I've watched boats flying flags indicating the different fish caught. There's a flag for

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- Community-based organizations,
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- private entities,
- non-profits, and
- workplaces.

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APPLICATIONS DUE TO THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT BY AUGUST 2, 2024



# Record-breaking July 4 in Ocean Pines

Ocean Pines Association General Manager John Viola announced a record-breaking July 4 weekend, with large crowds and strong financial returns bolstered by great weather and smooth-running operations.

“Our amenities were in turnkey condition prior to the holiday, which helped us achieve these numbers,” Viola said. “Compliments go to our support team, which makes all this possible.”

Recreation and Parks Director Debbie Donahue said a record 270 runners took part in the annual Freedom 5K on the morning of July 4. She said the carnival that afternoon had robust attendance, and roughly 3,000 people watched fireworks from multiple locations across Ocean Pines.

Matt Ortt said the Yacht Club, Beach Club and Clubhouse Grille saw record numbers across the four-day weekend. The Yacht Club featured live music Thursday through Sunday and sales were well up over the prior year.

The Ocean Pines Marina was also busy and set a new sales record over the weekend.

Golf Director Bob Beckelman said the entire July 4 week was very busy, with total rounds and revenue well up over the prior year.

Aquatics Director Michelle Hitchens said the four outdoor pools operated at or near capacity throughout the weekend. The new Swim and Racquet Club snack bar was a big hit, she added.

Racquet Sports Director Terry Underkoffler said the Racquet Center was packed, with all courts filled and people waiting to play.

Public Works Director Eddie Wells said things also went well behind the scenes, calling it one of the smoothest July 4 weekends in years. He said his team received only minor complaints, and events went off without a hitch.

Police Chief Tim Robinson said there were a few fireworks complaints, and one minor traffic accident

on July 4 with no injuries.

“Overall, there was a lot of traffic and a lot of people, and everybody behaved. There were no significant issues,” he said. “Ocean Pines Police, along with our allied partners, were able to get everybody in and out of events as quickly as possible.”

Viola complimented staff for coordinating a safe, well organized and

profitable weekend.

“I appreciate all the hard work from the team, and the excellent communication and coordination,” he said. “Ocean Pines residents and guests saw all that we had to offer, and we broke several records. We couldn’t be happier with how everything turned out.”

## Sandpiper Energy requests rate hike

Sandpiper Energy has scheduled a public comments session as part of their filing with the Maryland Public Services Commission to raise base rates for gas distribution service and for certain other changes to their natural gas tariffs.

The hybrid hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, July 23 at 7 p.m. at Wor-Wic Community College. Individuals can participate in person or virtually. For those interested in commenting virtually, email [psc.pulj@gmail.com](mailto:psc.pulj@gmail.com) by noon on July 22.

Written comments may be submitted electronically or by first-

class mail no later than Monday, August 12. Comments submitted electronically must be submitted through the Commission’s Public Comment Dropbox which can be accessed via [www.psc.state.md.us](http://www.psc.state.md.us).

First class mail must be addressed to Jamie Bergin, Chief Clerk, Maryland Public Service Commission, William Donald Schaefer Tower, 6 St. Paul Street, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202.

All comments must include a reference to Case No. 9722.

The in person meeting will take place in Guerrieri Hall at Wor-Wic Community College.

## Courier Almanac

On July 17, 1941, New York Yankees center fielder Joe DiMaggio failed to get a hit against the Cleveland Guardians (then known as the Cleveland Indians), which brings his historic 56-game hitting streak to an end. The record run had captivated the country for two months.

A KFF analysis of data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that Black and American Indian or Alaska Native (AIAN) people experienced the largest increases in rates of death by suicide between 2010 and 2020. According to KFF, a nonpartisan health policy research, journalism and communications organization, AIAN and White people experience the highest rates of deaths by suicide compared to all other racial and ethnic groups, but the rates among AIAN (23.9 per 100,000) are notably higher than the rates among Whites (16.8 per 100,000). The rate increase among AIAN between 2010 and 2020 was 7 per 100,000 people, while the uptick among Blacks was 2.3 per 100,000 people. The KFF also notes that suicide-related deaths among AIAN adolescents accounted for the highest rates of deaths by suicide among that demographic. The rates among AIAN adolescents (22.7 per 100,000) were more than three times higher than the rates among White adolescents (6.3 per 100,000).



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EOE

# The Courier

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## Arts Council exhibits 'Vacation Memories'

During July and August, the Worcester County Arts Council presents "Vacation Memories," a juried art competition and exhibit featuring 31 entries submitted by 20 emerging and established artists with work in all media. The subject, "Vacation Memories," was open to the artist's expression and interpretation.

Entries in this competition were reviewed and judged by local artist and former art educator Clytie W. Taylor.

The exhibit will be on display through September 1. In addition to the featured exhibit, artwork created by thirty local artists and gallery members is also on display and available for purchase. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

## One day boating course offered

The US Coast Guard Auxiliary is offering the Safe Boating Course at the Ocean Pines Library, 11107 Cathell Rd., Berlin Md. 21811 on Saturday August 3, between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.

The cost is \$20. Register or get more information by calling Barry Cohen at 410-935-4807, or Email: CGAUXOC@Gmail.com



## Environmental film to be screened

The Lower Shore Land Trust, Delmarva Restoration and Conservation Network, US Fish and Wildlife Service and USDA are collaborating to host a showing of an award-winning film, "Delmarva and the Ground for Change" at the Marva Theater in Pocomoke on Thursday, July 25 between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Farmers around the Chesapeake and Delaware Bays are leaders in environmental stewardship and practices that protect and promote healthy soils. These practices also safeguard working lands against extremes posed by climate change. This film follows three different family-owned farming operations on the Delmarva Peninsula who all care about and depend on soil. It focuses on ways farmers around Delmarva are implementing sustainable practices and trying to adapt to landscape change.

Film showing will be followed by a Listen & Learn Q&A with local farmers. Refreshments & popcorn will be provided.

Register online at: <https://www.delmarvarcn.org/events> or call the Lower Shore Land Trust at 443-234-5587.



## Concierge medicine explained

Local concierge Dr. Angela Gibbs, whose practice is located in the Pavilions at 11200 Racetrack Road in Ocean Pines was the guest speaker at the weekly meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City on July 10.

Above: (L-R) Kiwanis Club President **Bob Wolfing** and **Dr. Angela Gibbs**.

## August Craft Festival returns

The Pine'eer Craft Club will host its annual August Craft Festival on Saturday, August 3 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in both the Ocean Pines Community Center and White Horse Park.

A tradition in the community for nearly five decades, the event will feature dozens of local artisans and crafters selling 100% handmade items and unique home décor.

Craft Club President Sharon Puser said many of the creators return for

the event each year.

"We try to offer a nice array of crafts, from pottery, wreaths, wood signs and fiber crafts to sea glass jewelry and specialty home décor," Puser said. "Our event chair, Kelly Shoaf Davis, asks that each applicant submit photos of their work, and she takes great care in her booth arrangement."

The Kiwanis Club will sell lunch items during the festival, and Craft Club members will host a bake sale featuring a variety of sweet treats that sell out each year.

The event is free and open to the public and offers free parking. There is no rain date, and the festival will go on, rain or shine.

"If you want to see even more locally handcrafted items, be certain to stop in at the Artisan Gift Shop just across White Horse Park from the Community Center," Puser said. "The shop will be open during regular hours of 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. We showcase seasonal items as well as home décor favorites."

Coming up, the Craft Club will host the annual Holiday Craft Fair on November 2. Space for the event is already sold out.

Those interested in joining the club should contact Sherry Waskey at [sherrywaskey@gmail.com](mailto:sherrywaskey@gmail.com) for more information.



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Captain Ron's

# Fish Tales

By Ron Fisher

## Now let's go tog fishing

**Notice:** The Ocean Pines Angler's Club meets at the Ocean Pines library the second Saturday of each month, not at the Club House Grill

**Fishing Report:** Flounder fishing is still good in the bays. It should improve again as the water clears after all the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend boat traffic. I have had some reports of nice catches in the East Channel, South Bay and the Inlet around the Rte. 50 Bridge. Pearl White Swimming Mullet Gulp and live spot seem to be the hot bait for big flounder. Off shore the *Morning Star* and *Angler* have both reported some good fishing when the weather permits. Many have limited out on sea bass with a few flounder being caught at the wrecks. Surf fishing has been good with catches of kingfish, spot, croaker and bluefish. In the inlet a few sheepshead are being caught along with bluefish, striped bass and flounder. Now it's time to start thinking about doing some Tog fishing.

**Catching tautog:** I continue to enforce how important it is for you to understand the fish before you can really be good at catching them. The tautog or (tog) also known as a blackfish is an ugly fish with large teeth which it uses to crush the shells of crabs, barnacles and other shell fish that it normally feeds on. At times the tog will also bite on squid when available but it is not my bait of choice. It is pretty much a bottom feeder, and likes to hang around rock piles, wrecks and piers making it a difficult fish to catch since it also likes to dart into the rock piles after grabbing the bait and snagging the fishing line unless you set the hook and pull them out quickly avoiding the snag. They pursue their prey a great deal by scent unlike flounder who are site feeders.

**Fishing Equipment:** I recommend a 6' to 7' stiff rod as you will need this to set the hook and pull the fish out of the rocks quickly. The gear can be spinning or level wind

whichever you prefer. Use at least a minimum of 20lb test line of your choice. I prefer monofilament. Also, the bite of a tog is light so you must pay attention.

What type rig should I use? Use a length of mono or fluorocarbon usually 40-50lb. test with a dropper loop in the middle and a perfection loop at the end for the sinker. A hook, usually a J-hook from 1/0 - 4/0, is attached to the dropper loop. The finished rig is usually 20" to 24" long. This is attached to the main line via a barrel swivel.

What about bait? The popular baits are green crab quartered, sand crabs which I prefer, or clams. Keep in mind that your bait when fishing for tog should always be fresh as frozen baits do not provide the scent necessary to attract them. I would also recommend that if you are new to tog fishing that you ask the salesperson at the tackle shop where you purchase the bait to demonstrate how the bait is to be hooked. This is very important as the hook must be hidden for tog fishing.

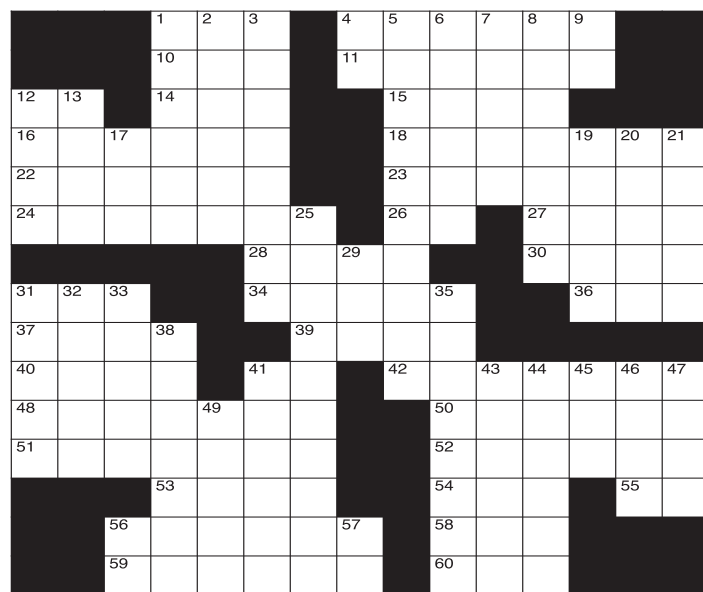
Did you know? Tog can grow up to 35" in length and weigh up to 25 lbs.

Where should I fish for tog? If you are in a boat, seek out rocky structure such as the inlet jetties or tie up to some pilings and fish right down along the piling. This is done best at slack tide. If you are bank fishing there is great fishing along the inlet jetties but I prefer the bulkhead from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> streets in Ocean City. Charter boat fishing is also great as the tog bite is hot at the wrecks. Also, don't overlook the rocks along Stinky Beach and the pilings along Harbor Island.

Are tog good to eat? They are an excellent eating fish. Here is one of my favorite recipes. Give it a try.

**Tautog Chowder:**  
1 lb. tautog fillets  
1 bay leaf

please see **tog** on page 18

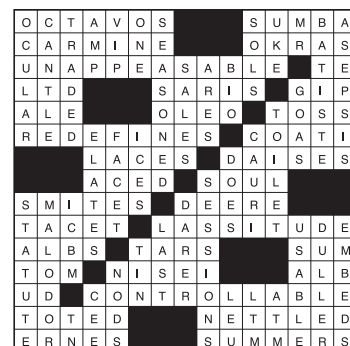


### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Letter of the Greek alphabet
- 4. Cause to become entangled
- 10. Swiss river
- 11. Conversation
- 12. "Magnum" was one
- 14. Small integer
- 15. Christmas
- 16. Of a specific mountain region
- 18. Burrowing bugs
- 22. Of a symbol worthy of veneration
- 23. A type of syndrome
- 24. Cephalopod mollusks
- 26. Metric ton
- 27. Ornamental box
- 28. As quickly as can be done
- 30. "Hoop Dreams" subject Arthur
- 31. Old TV part
- 34. Extinct flightless birds
- 36. Former CIA
- 37. Successor
- 39. Archaic form of you
- 40. Within
- 41. Danny Hurley's alma mater
- 42. Not sacred or biblical
- 48. Written law
- 50. Popular hairstyle
- 51. Congressman
- 52. Type of font
- 53. A predetermined period in office
- 54. Pouch
- 55. Hormone that stimulates ovulation (abbr.)
- 56. One from a particular Asian region
- 58. One's sense of self-esteem
- 59. Headgear used to control a horse
- 60. The habitat of wild animals

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. A right conferred through legal means
- 2. American island state
- 3. Inflexibly entrenched
- 4. "Pollock" actor Harris
- 5. Foolish person
- 6. Follows a particular Chairman
- 7. Choose
- 8. Sunrooms
- 9. One hundred grams (abbr.)
- 12. A symptom of some physical hurt or disorder
- 13. South American hummingbird
- 17. "Girl Chopping Onions" painter
- 19. Wild dog
- 20. Units of land
- 21. Footwear
- 25. Possessing a constant temperature
- 29. Hormone that promotes water retention (abbr.)
- 31. Popular game
- 32. Pension (German)
- 33. Giant of industry
- 35. Inferred
- 38. One who revolves
- 41. Kept possession of
- 43. Loss of electricity
- 44. Stopped bottle
- 45. Everything
- 46. First to walk on the moon
- 47. Engrave
- 49. Female organs
- 56. Equal to 1,024 bytes (abbr.)
- 57. Northeast



Answers for July 10

*Trails & Waterways*

# Almost heaven, Corker Creek

By **K. A. Ferrusi**

Spring, Summer or Fall are great times to get on the water at Pocomoke River State Park's Shad's Landing Corker Creek. Getting there is easy; take Route 113 south and turn right at the entrance to the park, follow signs to the boat ramp, park in the lot right next to the water. The boat ramp and marina are right on the creek; access is easy.

Pick your water craft from the park's selection of rental canoes, kayaks, or stand-up paddle boards (SUPs). Rates are very reasonable and they have many available. If you rent from the park they have life jackets, paddles and maps to use while on the water. If you have a boat, you can launch it for free.

One way or the other, just get on this ribbon of quiet water and enjoy the natural world. The staff suggest that you turn left from the dock and follow the creek around the island that is directly across from the launch. That makes it easy to follow and hard to get lost; keep the island on your right. The trip is a great mixture of creek time and river time, all easily paddled in whichever boat you are using. 'Keep the Island on your right', as the park employee said a few times.

The first half of the paddle will be shaded with plenty of water; it is easy to let your mind wander as you hear birds, see turtles, and sometimes smell sweet blooming flowers. The second half of the approximate hour-long paddle is on the Pocomoke River. You can feel the difference in the volume of water between the creek and the river right away. I suggest you stay close to the right shore since the main channel of the river does have boat traffic at times. But also watch for some downed trees near the shore. Just keep the island on your right and you will be back where you started.

Another option is turn left leaving the dock and go left where the creek gets wider where there is a channel to follow away from the island. It is a path less paddled and just as lovely as the ring around the island without the Pocomoke River part. Paddle and enjoy seeing the Bald Cypress trees and knees, blue heron, turtles on logs, and lots of bird song along the way. Don't forget to take a deep breath once in a while and relax, enjoy the beauty,

sounds, scents, and feel of our local world.

If you go far enough you will start to hear traffic over the sounds of tweets and chirps, that is from the Route 113 South and North bound bridges. There usually is enough clearance to get under them, well not on an SUP, unless you sit or lay down. Next time you drive over those bridges you will think of the time you were on the water, under the bridge, going with the flow of water, not traffic, nice thought. Once under the bridges there is lots more creek to explore. The channel is open with a bit more sunshine in spots and plenty of peace and quiet. Eventually there is a clog of



downed trees that blocks the way and that is where we turn around.

I always enjoy the way back, seeing the same creek from the opposite way usually reveals something I missed going in. Go under the bridges, follow back until you recognize the place where you turned left; now turn right back to the dock, that takes about an hour. Or you can decide to go around the island and out to the Pocomoke River. The rest of the trip will take another 30-45 minutes.

Last time we went was just before summer began so the morning temperature was just right with a light breeze; no wind since the creek is nestled between tall trees of the state park and state forest. The current is very mild and never a problem on the creek. Get ready to relax, then say ahh and thanks to Maryland State Parks for keeping a little bit of wild and wonder.

For information about Pocomoke River State Park, Shad Landing call 410-632-2566.

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# A day in the life of a plein air painter

By Elaine Bean

**Some consider painting outdoors, officially called painting “en plein air,” a sport.**

All the common elements are there. Training, practice, equipment, gear, lists, scouting, execution. The weather: heat, sun, rain, wind, humidity. And a winning performance with the clock ticking and prize money at stake.

Picture yourself painting a masterpiece in these conditions, a spot where Ocean Pines artist Jill Glassman will soon find herself on August 18, painting in the annual “Artists Paint OC Quick Paint” competition on the



Boardwalk. At stake: recognition and prize money.

Getting ready for the event is like prepping for The Big Game. “I have my plein air list and my game plan I’ve developed over the years,” she said.

**Two weeks out:** Glassman starts packing her gear - hardboard panels to paint on, oil and pastel paints, heavy-duty easel - and orders more paints and frames. Prep work begins - waterproofing, sanding and coating each panel with layers of gesso. She checks her easel for sturdiness and any repairs it may need.

**The day and night before:** Glassman scouts out locations to paint, especially if she’s in a new

town, and is attracted to spots with good light and shadow. She packs up her car with her equipment, checking items off her list. A most important item is bug spray to protect from ticks, and Glassman wears long pants even in 100° weather.

**8:45 a.m.** Glassman’s on the famous Boardwalk in Ocean City, getting ready to “Quick Paint” an iconic scene in two hours. She spots other artists setting up their easels for the competition. It’s hot and humid. She’s found a little bit of shade under the awning of a souvenir shop to set up the easel and paints she hauled from her car. The shade isn’t to protect her from the sun but to keep her paints and canvas from drying out. By Glassman’s side are cold water and cans of bug spray and sunscreen.

**9 a.m.** Glassman starts painting. The Boardwalk is filling up with early-morning bikers who narrowly miss the legs of her easel. By 10 a.m. shutters are going up on the shops and so is the heat. Throngs walking the boards look over Glassman’s shoulder and want to engage in conversation. She chugs water and tries to concentrate. Her painting is filling in with the details. She tries not to drip sweat onto the canvas.

**11 a.m.** Paint brushes down. Glassman packs everything up and heads back to her car, where she frames her still-wet painting out of the trunk. The artist sits in the car in the wonderful AC for a few minutes to cool off, then heads through summer traffic to the Ocean City Center for the Arts on 94<sup>th</sup> St. to enter her painting into the competition with judging at noon and cash awards at 12:30 p.m. There is refreshing food and drink waiting for her at the Arts Center, where it’s time to slow down, visit with fellow painters, and hope to win The Big Prize.

By the time of this Sunday Quick Paint, Glassman will already have been painting outdoors for four days around the resort and county, along with 49 other plein air painters. They are all painting in the “Artists Paint OC Festival,” an annual program of the

nonprofit Art League of Ocean City, from Wednesday, August 14 through Sunday, August 18. The artists enter their best work on Saturday night and Sunday afternoon at the Arts Center to compete for cash prizes during the “Wet Paint Sales,” where the public has the opportunity to buy the work the artists just produced, including paintings by Glassman.

Why does Glassman go through the adventure and challenges of painting outdoors when she could be painting in her cool air-conditioned studio in the Pines? She participates in many plein air competitions around the East Coast, including the prestigious and hard-to-get-into event in Easton, Maryland, where, she said, she “almost passed out from the heat.”

“I like to compete,” Glassman laughed. “I’m competitive. It’s also fun because you see the same group of people all the time. It’s almost like having reunion every couple of months ... And these festivals generate sales. Sales to an artist are a good thing.”

Born and raised in Baltimore and Pasadena, Maryland, Glassman moved to Ocean Pines in 2003. “We were looking for a little second home but fell in love with a house on the water,” she said. “I worked from home so that wasn’t a problem but my poor husband commuted from Annapolis for a year. We both love the activities available and that both of our children are here with our grandchildren.”

Glassman enjoys traveling for plein air competitions and the sense of community involved. “I love visiting new places, and plein air competitions give me the opportunity to do that,” she said. “Most competitions have host housing where the artists stay with host families. Of course, the artists give a painting to their host. This arrangement allows artists to travel all over the country. I also love to look at what my fellow artists are doing.”

“Art matters because it gives one complete freedom to express their emotions without words,” Glassman said. “Sometimes a person, especially children, doesn’t have the words to say what they feel. Edward Hopper said,



‘If you could say it in words, there would be no reason to paint’. In this day and age, I feel strongly that art and music should be a big part of school curriculum.”

The annual plein air event where Glassman will paint locally is hosted



by the Art League of Ocean City. “A huge resource in our community,” she said. “I can’t believe how it’s grown from a dingy little concrete block building to its current Cinderella transformation. Rina Thaler [the Art League’s executive director] is one of the hardest working people I know. I’ve had the opportunity to take classes there from nationally-known artists, I’ve participated in group shows, and I’ve even taught there. I can’t say enough good things about it!”

The 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Artists Paint OC Festival runs from August 14 through 18 with “Wet Paint Sales” at the Ocean City Center for the Arts on 94<sup>th</sup> St bay-side on Saturday from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. All events are free, and everyone is welcome.

# Factors to consider before renovating a driveway

Driveways are oft-overlooked components of home exteriors. But driveways provide functionality and points of egress to a home. Industry experts estimate that a new driveway costs between \$5,000 and \$7,000, though the price will vary based on the materials homeowners choose and the square footage of the driveway.

When deciding whether or not to renovate their driveways, homeowners can review these considerations.

**Materials.** Driveways can be made from a variety of materials. The follow-

ing are some driveway materials homeowners may choose from including gravel, tar and chip, asphalt, millings, different types of stone colors and sizes and pavers

It's important that a driveway be maintained.

- Jimmy Zweemer

Repair or replace? Asphalt can be cracked-filled and some cracks can be reheated to mend back together. If a driveway consists of too many cracks,

then resurfacing with asphalt would be required. Repairing and resealing a driveway can help prolong its longevity. Plus, this is a more cost-effective option for homeowners on a budget who want to improve curb appeal and safety.

“It’s important that a driveway look good but it’s just as important that a driveway be maintained. Potholes, water damage and root problems can quickly deteriorate a driveway’s appeal and function,” said Jimmy Zweemer, owner of Zweemer’s Paving and Seal Coating which has been servicing Ocean Pines and Berlin for more than 25 years.

Large holes or unsightly damage may require a driveway replacement. This also will be the case if a homeowner hopes to expand the driveway. Replacing a driveway requires a time commitment. Some existing driveways may need to be demolished and removed. The sub-base or foundation must be compacted to make a strong structure for the finished product. After the new

material is laid, there may be a period of time for settling and curing, during which use of the driveway is prohibited.

DIY or professional? While sealing and minor repairs generally can be handled by a homeowner who has researched the process, large repairs or driveway replacements should be left to professionals for the best results. Driveway slope needs to be considered for proper rain runoff and if a drain is required, it can be installed by a professional. The professional will understand the thickness and preparatory steps necessary to ensure driveway durability.

Driveway enhancements. The options do not end with the driveway material. There are other ways to boost aesthetics.

**Illumination:** Homeowners can install recessed LED lights into the driveway to define the edges and add aesthetic appeal.

**Gates:** One doesn’t have to live in an exclusive community to have their property enhanced by gates. Gates can give a home a distinguished look.

**Edging:** Driveways can be edged with another material to create definition between the driveway and lawn, or to provide the perfect spots to plant beds.

Driveway renovations can add curb appeal and improve the functionality of a home.

*Reader Note: Zweemer’s Paving & Seal Coating can be contacted at 888-ZWEEMER or 302-363-6116.*

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### Kiwanis Dawg Day

It was a hot day and a Kiwanis Club "Dawg Day" at the Ocean Pines 4th of July Celebration. The Dawg Team was there selling hotdogs and burgers and other concessions. Funds raised benefit the youth and community programs of the club. Pictured are some of the many members who were a part of that team.

## Nonprofit providing schools supplies to students in need

Worcester County GOLD (Giving Other Lives Dignity), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, has been running its School Supplies for Students program since 1997, providing backpacks filled with grade-appropriate supplies to Worcester County students in need.

Each year, GOLD receives 300+ student school supply requests from the caseworkers employed with their thirteen partnering agencies who work directly with families in need in Worcester County, Maryland.

GOLD believes every child deserves to fit in with their peers by starting the school year prepared to succeed, regardless of their family's financial situation. GOLD encourages the community to help by shopping for a student or donating. Even a small donation can go a long way in helping them reach their goal of providing every child with the supplies they need.

If you're interested in shopping for a student, donating, or learning more about the program, visit GOLD's website, [www.WorcesterGOLD.org](http://www.WorcesterGOLD.org). Shoppers must sign up by August 14th and supply donations are due by August 20th.

Worcester County GOLD is a nonprofit organization improving the quality of life for Worcester County residents living in low-income circumstances by providing emergency financial assistance and items to meet basic needs. Founded in 1997, GOLD is committed to helping individuals and families facing financial crises relieve stress and achieve self-sufficiency.

### Free 'Originals Only' evening is Saturday

The Art League of Ocean presents "Originals Only," an evening of live musical performances, stand-up comedy, and author readings on Saturday, July 20, 2024 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The event is free and takes place at the Ocean City Center for the Arts, 502 94<sup>th</sup> St. bayside.

The line-up of talent who will perform includes comedian Josh Quillen, the band Parkers Garden, writer Sherri Bale, and musicians eEscape hACh and Dungeons & Rabbits.

Snacks and mocktails will be available. More information is available at [OCart.org/events](http://OCart.org/events) or by calling 410-524-9433.

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**Healthwatch**

# The right medications at the right time, every time

By **Jeff Kukel**, Pharm D.  
AGHRx RediScripts  
Pharmacies Manager

More than 131 million people, or 66 percent of American adults, use a prescription medication. And, many of these individuals have multiple prescriptions that they need to keep up with, which is especially true for older adults and those with chronic conditions such as diabetes, hypertension (high blood pressure) or arthritis, among others.

When it comes to prescription medications, it is vital to take them exactly as directed by one's healthcare provider and pharmacist. This is called 'medication adherence,' and the process of staying on top of one's prescriptions is 'medication management.'

Although taking medications correctly may seem like an easy task to many, it can certainly become difficult for those juggling multiple prescriptions. According to the

American Heart Association (AHA), roughly half of the medications prescribed for people with chronic diseases are not taken as directed. Additionally, poor medication adherence takes the lives of 125,000 Americans annually.

There are many reasons why people may not take their medications as prescribed. This could include forgetting to take them, not being able to afford the prescriptions, being fearful of side effects or being unsure of the medications' effectiveness. Proper medication management and education provided by a healthcare professional like a pharmacist can prevent almost all of these.

Recognizing the issues of medication adherence, pharmacies have begun to offer innovative solutions to support patients in managing their medications effectively, like compliance or adherence packaging programs. This type of service in-

volves packaging medications into individual dosing units organized by date and time of administration in a simple blister pack labeled with day of week.

The intended benefit of a compliance-packaging program is to improve medication adherence, enhance safety, offer added convenience in managing medications, and offering support to caregivers who are tasked with understanding complex medication schedules and requirements for their loved ones. These types of pharmacy services represent a promising solution to improving medication adherence and patient outcomes. By simplifying medication management and enhancing patient understanding, pharmacies play a crucial role in promoting healthier communities and reducing healthcare costs associated with non-adherence.

It's recommended that individuals speak with their pharmacy to in-

quire whether they offer medication management services such as compliance packaging, as many have begun to provide free adherence services to make sure the right medication is taken at the right time, every time.

*Jeff Kukel, Pharm D., is the Retail Pharmacy Program Manager for the AGHRx RediScripts Pharmacies (Berlin & Ocean Pines), which offer completely free medication management assistance. Additionally, throughout the month of July, AGHRx RediScripts is proudly commemorating its 10th anniversary, marking a decade of dedicated service to Berlin and surrounding communities. Visit [www.agh.care/ten](http://www.agh.care/ten) to take part in their 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Raffle and enjoy a 10% discount on all OTC product all month long!*

## Reggae concert planned

Enjoy a night of Reggae music with Island Sounds at the Historic Germantown School's summer fundraiser on Saturday, July 20 between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. Bring your chair, cooler and picnic basket and enjoy a night of fun on the lawn. Ticket \$10 at the gate. Hot dogs, soda and chips are available for \$5, while supplies last.

The school is located at 10223 Trappe Rd. in Berlin. For more information, phone 410-641-0638 or email [germantownschool@gmail.com](mailto:germantownschool@gmail.com)

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The Joint Commission's standards are developed in consultation with health care experts and providers,

measurement experts and patients. They are informed by scientific literature and expert consensus to help health care organizations measure, assess, and improve performance. The surveyors also conducted onsite observations and interviews.

"As a healthcare accreditor, The Joint Commission works with healthcare organizations across care settings to inspire safer and higher quality of care that is more equitable and com-

passionate," says Ken Grubbs, DNP, MBA, RN, executive vice president of Accreditation and Certification Operations and chief nursing officer, The Joint Commission. "Through collaborating on innovative solutions and evidence-based resources and tools, The Joint Commission helps drive improvement while maintaining accountability through our leading survey methods and standards. We commend (organization name) for its commitment to advance safety, quality, equity and compassion for all patients."

"We are proud of this achievement and the involvement of our staff in ensuring that we comply with our high standards of care and the continuous improvement of our processes, said Ann Lovely, Coastal Hospice Interim President and CEO. "This accreditation is a testament of Coastal Hospice's commitment to bring the best quality care to our patients and families."

For more information, please visit The Joint Commission website.

To learn more about Coastal Hospice, its services and the many ways people can donate, please visit [www.coastalhospice.org](http://www.coastalhospice.org).

agreement  
from page 3

### Association Secretary John Latham:

"I just want to thank you all tremendously. Thanks for working with our group and getting it done. All the hard work is starting to pay off here. We're happy to support it. Thanks for making our community safe, and ... you'll get my support."

### Director Elaine Brady:

"It's 100% groups working together that make these things happen. And I'm just thrilled that in the short span of time we were able to do

that. Bruce, also thank you, because I know you knocked this thing out in record time in order to satisfy everybody's concerns, gather the input that was coming from everyone, and draft a document that really will serve us well into the future."

### Association Vice President Dr. Stuart Lakernick:

"I just wanted to comment on the professionalism of the Fire Department's executive board, their team, their president, their chief. We are all in this together, and this makes us a big one instead of two. And I just wanted to thank you guys."

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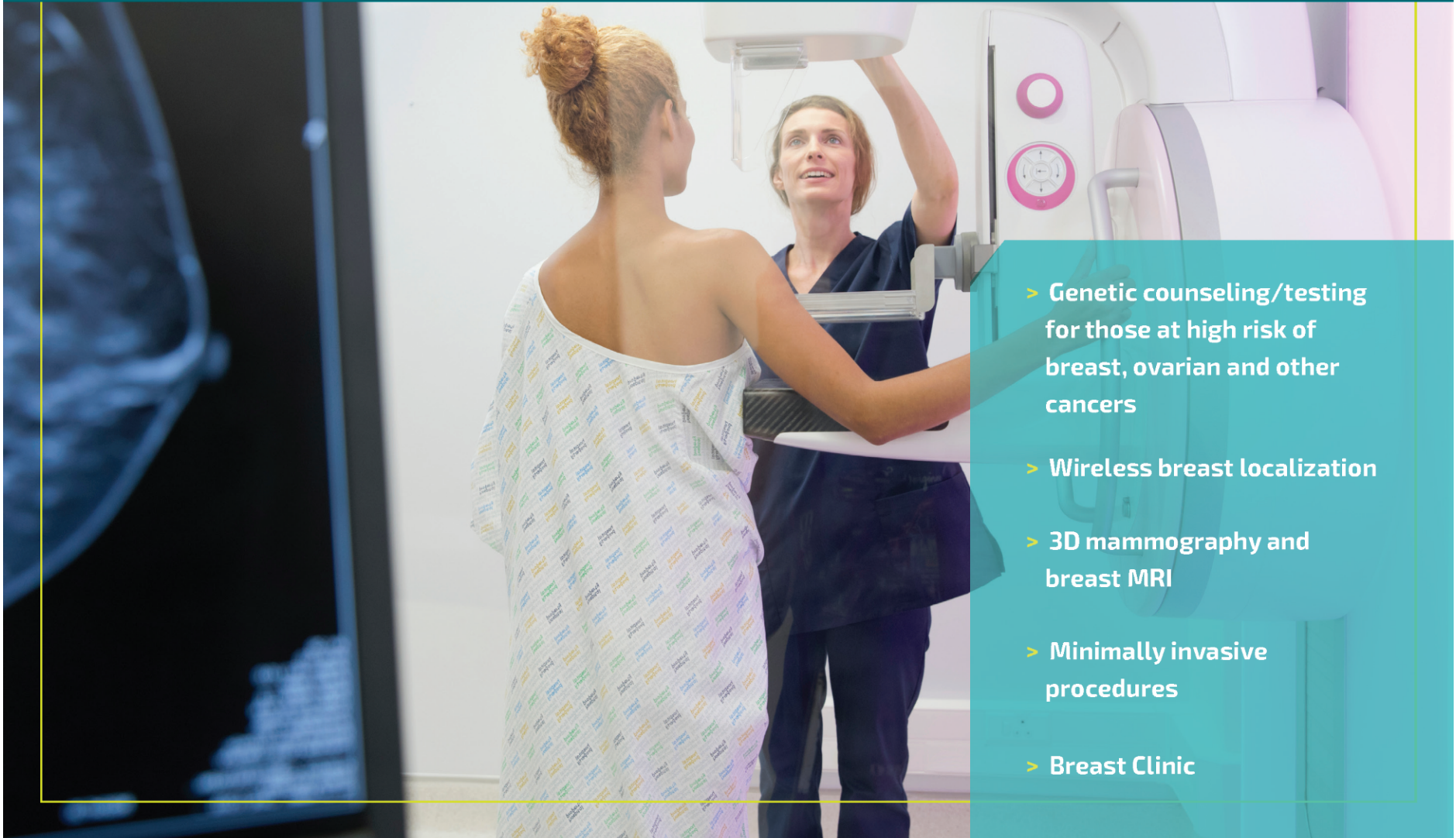
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## Interesting facts about ice cream

Perhaps no food is as universally beloved as ice cream. Though people may dispute which ethnic cuisine reigns supreme or which region produces the most delicious barbecue or which city makes the best pizza, ice cream inspires no such debate. It's simply loved by people of all ages and from all walks of life.

Ice cream is a go-to dessert for people across the globe, and those individuals may be interested in learning more about this beloved confection.

The International Dairy Foods Association notes that the origins of ice cream can be traced at least as far back

Louis World's Fair in 1904. Ernest Hamwi, Abe Doumar, Albert and Nick Kabbaz, Arnold Fornachou, and David Avayou are some others who have been credited with inventing the ice cream cone.

The Dairy Alliance reports that three gallons of milk are required to produce a single gallon of ice cream. That means one cow can produce between two and three gallons of ice cream per day.

Ice cream aficionados span the globe, but the World Atlas reports that no country consumes more ice cream per capita than New Zealand. New Zealand is reportedly renowned for producing high-quality dairy products, which might be one reason why the average New Zealander consumes 28.4 liters of ice cream per year. The United States (20.8 liters per year per person) and Australia (18 liters) are next in line behind New Zealand.

Chocolate reigns supreme as the most popular ice cream flavor in the world. So says an analysis of data from Lexham Insurance conducted by The Food Channel. That data represents figures from 121 countries and found that vanilla, mint chocolate chip, cookie dough, and buttered pecan round out the top five ice cream flavors across the globe.

According to Ben & Jerry's, the new ice cream texture that develops after a pint melts and then re-freezes is the result of microscopic air bubbles that keep ice cream soft and fluffy. That air escapes when ice cream melts, and since it's gone when the ice cream re-freezes, the result is a product that's no longer as soft as it was intended to be.



as the second century BC. Though the precise origins of ice cream are not known, the first ice cream parlor in the United States opened in 1790. PBS notes that President George Washington was especially fond of the frozen treat.

Many people prefer their ice cream served in cones, and they can thank any one of a number of individuals who may be responsible for the invention of the ice cream cone. According to the Library of Congress, various accounts suggest Charles E. Menches is the inventor of the ice cream cone, which he first offered for sale at the St.



**Authors** - Students in Mrs. Vorsteg's second grade class at Ocean City Elementary researched, wrote and illustrated a book *Amazing Animals* and had it published. Pictured with copies of the book are **Ellie Smith, Mack Ashton and Zoie Zupon**.

## Avocados have it all

Avocados are beloved by foodies, particularly those who enjoy guacamole. But flavor is not the only reason to love avocados, which the Cleveland Clinic notes are good sources of these nutrients and vitamins.

**Folate:** Folate promotes normal cell function and tissue growth. The nutrition database of the U.S. Department of Agriculture indicates that one-half of a raw avocado contains about one-fifth of the daily recommended amount of folate.

**Vitamin K-1:** Researchers believe vitamin K-1 helps to maintain bone mineral density, and the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health reports that vitamin K helps to produce four of the 13 proteins needed for blood clotting. Live-strong.com reports that one cup of mashed avocado contains as much as 40 percent of the daily recommended value of vitamin K.

**Potassium:** Though bananas often are touted for their potassium, the Cleveland Clinic reports that avocados contain more of this

heart-healthy essential mineral than bananas. Potassium helps to control blood pressure and promotes a healthy heart.

**Vitamin C:** The health care experts at Cedars Sinai note that avocados are a great source of vitamin C. What's more, Cedars Sinai reports that avocados help the body absorb nutrients, allowing it to utilize them more effectively.

**Fiber:** High fiber diets provide a host of benefits, as fiber helps to lower blood sugar and reduce bad cholesterol. Cedars Sinai estimates that one avocado contains around 10 grams of fiber, which is roughly half the recommended daily fiber intake for women and nearly one-third the recommended intake for men.

Despite their high nutrient content, avocados should be consumed in moderation. That's because the Cleveland Clinic notes that a single avocado can contain upward of 400 calories.

tog  
from page 10

- 1/4 tsp. black pepper
  - 2 cups water
  - 4 tbsp. butter
  - 1 medium chopped onion
  - 4 tbsp. flour
  - 2 1/2 cups evaporated milk
  - 1 1/2 cups fish broth (reserved after cooking fish)
  - 1/4 tsp thyme leaves
  - 1/4 tsp. oregano leaves
  - 1 tsp. parsley
  - 4 oz. grated Monterey Jack cheese
- In a medium saucepan add fil-

lets, 2 cups water, bay leaf and black pepper, cover, cook on low heat until fish flakes easily. Remove from heat, drain and reserve 1 1/2 cups of broth.

In another medium saucepan sauté butter, chopped onion and stir in flour. Add evaporated milk, stirring constantly, then add 1-1/2 cups of reserved fish broth. Add flaked fish, thyme, oregano and parsley, and grated cheese. Simmer at least 15 minutes add salt and pepper to taste. Enjoy.

Remember to take a kid fishing, **Capt. Ron**

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# Some things to think about

Gathered from the internet  
by *Jack Barnes*

**MIDDLE AGE IS JUST WALKING AROUND ALL DAY MUTTERING THINGS LIKE:**  
**"WHAT WAS I GOING TO SAY?"**  
**"WHY DID I COME IN HERE?"**  
**"DID I ALREADY TAKE MY PILL?"**  
**"HOW DID I GET THIS BRUISE?"**  
**"WHY AM I SORE?"**  
**WHERE DID I LEAVE MY PHONE?"**

It turns out that when asked who your favorite child is, you're supposed to pick one of your own. I know that now.

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**I'VE REACHED THAT AGE WHERE MY BRAIN GOES FROM "YOU PROBABLY SHOULDN'T SAY THAT." TO "WHAT THE HELL, LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS."**

**Most people are at the age where they are using their phones to document the good times in their lives. I'm at the age where I use my phone to take pictures of labels that I can't read and use my phone to enlarge the print so that I can read it.**

**Brain cells die, skin cells die, even hair cells die.**

**But FAT CELLS... must have accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior because they seem to have eternal life.**

**A hacker called me and said he had all my passwords, I got a pen and paper and said 'Thank God for that, what are they'**

**NOT TO BRAG OR ANYTHING BUT I CAN FORGET WHAT I'M DOING WHILE I'M DOING IT.**

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