

The Courier

March 12, 2025 Volume 25 Number 24

Local singer heads to 'American Idol'

The Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market has long been a launching pad for local talent, but few stories are as inspiring as that of singer-songwriter Cal Toner.

A familiar face to marketgoers, Toner – who performs under the name Callum – will appear on season 23 of American Idol when it returns to ABC and Hulu.

Toner first performed at the Ocean Pines market in the summer of 2021 and continued to take the Market Stage over the years, honing her craft in front of an enthusiastic local audience. Now, she's taking her talents to a national platform, with the support of the community behind her.

"We have had a front seat to watching Cal grow into the rising performer she is today," Farmers & Artisans Market Manager David Bean said. "Our market has a lot of pride and support for her as she embarks on this extraordinary journey."

Toner expressed her gratitude for the Ocean Pines community, crediting the market as one of her first performance venues.

"My first gigs were at the Market Stage! Thank you all for giving me a chance," she said.

In addition to her upcoming television debut, Toner recently released a new EP, "The Present Past," on February 28. The EP is available on major streaming platforms, including Apple Music and Spotify.

The Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market continues to be a hub for fresh produce, hand-crafted goods, and live entertainment, showcasing a variety of local and regional talent.

The market operates year-round at White Horse Park, located at 239 Ocean Parkway in Ocean Pines. Off-season hours are Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon through March 29, with in-season hours shifting to 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. beginning in April.

For more information about the Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market, visit www.ocean-pines.org/web/pages/farmers-artisans-market.



Cal Toner to appear on American idol

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WPS American Legion essays: Pictured in the front row from the left are Worcester Prep School Head of School **Dr. John McDonald**, Ladies Auxiliary American Legion Post #123 Americanism Essay Contest 1st place winner **Emery Anthony**, 2nd place winner **Grace Hornung**, and Head of Lower School **Dr. Sara Timmons**. In the back row from the left are 4th-grade teacher **Kim Jankowski** and essay participants **Hannah Giardina**, **Zia Salem**, and **Carter Merryman**.

Touch of Italy to take over early

Ocean Pines General Manager John Viola announced last Friday that effective March 17, 2025, Touch of Italy will be taking over management of the food and beverage facilities in Ocean Pines.

The Matt Ortt Companies was approached about the possibility of transitioning earlier than the current contract end date of April 30. An agreement with the best interest of all parties was reached. During the next several days, Matt Ortt Companies will be collaborating with Touch of Italy on transition of the management of all facilities.

“I would like to thank the Association, including the General Manager and management team, Board of Directors, and especially the residents who have supported us over the last seven years,” Matt Ortt said.

“Thank you to Matt Ortt for his service to Ocean Pines and his coordination during this process. We wish his company the best in their future endeavors,” Viola said.

Touch of Italy commented as well, commending Matt Ortt for “this generous and gracious gesture of mutual respect to help Ocean Pines and Touch

of Italy to have extra time to prepare for a successful launch of operations.

“We are excited to have the opportunity to serve the Ocean Pines community and continue offering great dining experiences,” Touch of Italy officials said.

Liquid Tiki offers water taxi from Ocean Pines

Ocean Pines residents and visitors can take a unique and stress-free ride to upcoming concerts in Ocean City with Liquid Tiki’s water taxi service.

The service will be available for three major events: Boardwalk Rock on May 16 to 17, Oceans Calling on September 26 to 28, and Country Calling on October 4 to 5. The boat will depart from the Ocean Pines Yacht Club and drop off passengers at Old Town Marina in Ocean City, just a few blocks from the concert entrance.

Shuttle departure times from the Yacht Club are scheduled for 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m., noon, and 1:30 p.m. The one-way fare is \$40 per person and in-

please see taxi on page 4

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HOSTED BY:

Tracy K. Jones

Healy named Crafter of the Month

The Pine'eer Craft Club announced Victoria Healy as its March Crafter of the Month.

Healy, a lifelong crafter and retired business owner, moved to Ocean Pines from Northern Virginia with her husband, Mike, seeking a slower pace of life. While the couple continues to operate small group tours in Ireland and Scotland, Healy's true passion has always been in creating unique, handcrafted pieces.

For many years, Healy specialized in knitting and crocheting, making hats, scarves, mittens, and blankets. However, about five years ago, her creativity took an unexpected turn when she discovered the art of handmade journaling. Inspired by an article on the craft, she began experimenting with materials she already had at home, blending textures, colors, and repurposed materials into one-of-a-kind

journals and notebooks.

Healy finds beauty in unexpected places, using old books, magazines, greeting cards, and fabric scraps to create her designs. Each journal reflects her passion for storytelling and artistic expression, making every piece a meaningful keepsake.

Her handcrafted journals can be found at the Pine'eer Craft Club's Artisan Gift Shop, located in White Horse Park in Ocean Pines. The shop is open Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Pine'eer Craft Club welcomes new crafters, and its meetings are open to the public. Artisans interested in selling their creations at the shop are encouraged to contact shop managers Debbie Jiwa or Barbara Herzog, or email opcrafterclub@aol.com for more information.



Victoria Healy

Trivia game offered at library

Trivia at the Ocean Pines library will take place Wednesday, March. 19 at 3 p.m.

The theme is "Hit or Miss" and will include general knowledge questions on many different subjects. Any individual or any size team is invited to attend. Prizes will be awarded and refreshments will be served.

Admission is free and there is no registration necessary. For more information call the library at (410) 208-4014.

Flea market tables available

The Ocean Pines Anglers Club is now taking table reservations for their April 5 Annual Fishing Flea Market, indoors at the Ocean Pines Community Center. A 10 x 10 space which includes table is \$10. To reserve a table contact Doug Murphy at 918-910-6485, Mike Vitak at 443-783-1010, Ted Glick at 301-395-7738 or Budd Heim at 410-726-1968.

taxi
from page 3

cludes a complimentary festival-themed shot, such as an espresso martini shot, or a green tea shot.

Liquid Tiki offers more than just transportation. Passengers can relax on board with a full bar, a high-quality sound system playing music from featured bands, and scenic views of the bay. Later departures will also allow guests to enjoy seating at the boat's tiki bar.

"This is a fantastic way to start a concert day – avoiding traffic and parking headaches while soaking in the waterfront atmosphere with a tropical drink in hand," said Ron Croker of Liquid Tiki. "Seats fill up quickly, so we encourage early booking."

To reserve a spot, visit www.oclquidlimo.com, select "Tiki," and choose a date and time. For more information, call 410-430-2120.



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This commercial message

“I can’t believe I ate the whole thing!”
 “Palmolive? You’re soaking in it?”
 “It’s not nice to fool with Mother Nature!”
 “Please don’t squeeze the Charmin.”
 “American Express Travelers Checks, don’t leave home without them.”

Madge and Mr. Clean were as familiar to viewers as the characters on the shows they interrupted.

During the dark ages before remotes and streaming, we viewers were a captive audience to television commercials unless we decided to go to the kitchen to make a sandwich or answer a call of nature. We were conditioned to finish whatever it was we were doing and return to our chairs within two minutes because there was no television replay or pause and we didn’t want to miss anything.

These memories of yore were summoned recently when my daughter called to share that my ten-year-old grandson, accustomed to watching various streaming services, was angered when he became interested in a cable channel program and was forced to endure multiple commercials every 10 minutes or so. According to my daughter, he was extremely perturbed.

It’s been a number of years since I’ve watched network television or cable channels for that matter. We cut the cord a while ago so our viewing options re-

volve around streaming services such as Netflix and Prime. Commercials are few and far between and when they do appear, they’re usually promoting another show on the service.

Back in the day, commercial messages, albeit sometimes annoying, could be memorable, so memorable in fact that all these many years later, they’re still remembered.

Let’s play a little game. I’ll give you a tagline and you see how long it takes you to remember the product and/or the commercial. Ready?

“Finger lickin’ good!”

“Like a good neighbor...”

“Is it live or is it _____?”

“Hold the pickle, hold the lettuce, special orders don’t upset us. All we ask is that you let us serve it your way.”

“Pepsi Generation.”

“I can’t believe it’s a girdle, girdle.”

“Good to the last drop.”

“Two all-beef patties, special sauce, lettuce, cheese, pickles, onions on a sesame seed bun.”

“Take the Nestea Plunge!”

“Strong enough for a man but made for a woman.”

Here’s another little game. I’ll name the actor, you guess what he or she was selling.

Annette Funicello
 Florence Henderson
 Karl Malden
 Robert Conrad
 Dinah Shore
 Orson Welles
 James Garner

If you’re of a certain age, I hope you smiled as you conjured up memories of these bygone vignettes. While preparing this column, I watched several of these vintage commercials on YouTube and I have to share it was a fun excursion to the past. I never liked it when commercials interrupted the Brady Bunch or Happy Days. But I have to admit, there’s an endearing nostalgia imbued in those commercials from when I was younger, much younger.

Here are the answers to the games above.

Game 1: 1) KFC Chicken 2) State Farm Insurance 3) Memorex 4) Burger King 5) Pepsi 6) Playtex 7) Folgers coffee 8) McDonald’s 9) Nestea ice teabags 10) Secret deodorant

Game 2: 1) Skippy peanut butter 2) Wesson cooking oil 3) American Express 4) Eveready batteries 5) Chevrolet 6) Paul Masson wine 7) Polaroid instant camera



It’s All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

“They’re GREAT!”

“GE.. we bring good things to light.”

During a time long, long ago when television viewing options were limited to just three broadcast networks, ABC, NBC and CBS, thirty and sixty second commercials were commonplace. These spots were opportunities for companies such as Proctor and Gamble, Ford, Michelin, Firestone and many others to inundate viewers with product promotions. Mr. Whipple, the Maytag Repairman, Mrs. Olsen, Josephine the Plumber,

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Commentary

Defending conservation funding County taxpayers deserve relief

The Maryland Coastal Bays Program (MCBP), the Lower Shore Land Trust (LSLT), and the Assateague Coastal Trust (ACT), are issuing a joint Press Release regarding the recent recommendation from the Maryland Department of Legislative Services to eliminate all state spending on land conservation through Program Open Space and sharp reductions in the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund for the next four budget years. MCBP, LSLT, and ACT work cooperatively on Maryland's lower Eastern Shore to promote conservation and protect our shared natural resources. We strongly oppose the recommendation from the Department of Legislative Services and urge the Governor and the Maryland House of Delegates to reject these cuts to two of the State's most important programs for meeting Chesapeake Bay and Coastal Bays goals for clean water and healthy habitats.

Maryland's land conservation program funding is used to purchase parkland, protect sensitive environmental areas and preserve farmland and the state's heritage and cultural areas. The proposed cuts would end support for Rural Legacy Areas and the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) through FY2029. This funding also helps to build and maintain recreational facilities throughout the state. The Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund is a primary source of funding to improve water quality and enhance habitat statewide. The Trust Fund monies

are used to accelerate restoration by planting trees and cover crops, retrofitting stormwater facilities, restoring streams and a host of other activities that reduce nutrient and sediment pollution to our shared waterways.

Because the state of Maryland is facing one of the worst financial crises in history, we understand that certain cuts to the budget will be necessary. However, these draconian cuts to our chief environmental programs represent the largest cuts to conservation programs in a generation and will have a serious impact on decades of work to restore our bays and our waterways. These cuts will devastate public-private partnerships that have developed over the last three decades which are focused on protecting our most sensitive environmental areas, cleaning up our waterways and improving terrestrial and aquatic habitat.

MCBP, LSLT and ACT urge Governor Moore and our state legislators to reject this recommendation by the Department of Legislative Services and enact more responsible cuts that will ensure the environmental gains and conservation efforts of the last 30 years will continue. We also urge citizens to contact their respective representatives to let them know that they also demand a more responsible strategy for meeting state budget needs.

Kevin M. Smith

Maryland Coastal Bays

Matt R. Heim

Lower Shore Land Trust

Taylor Swanson

Assateague Coastal Trust

By **Chip Bertino**

Worcester County Commissioner

Worcester County taxpayers need a break from escalating costs. To that end, during the Commissioners' comments portion of last Tuesday's meeting, I made a motion for County staff to provide the Commissioners with information on what a one, two, three, four and five cent decrease to the property tax would mean for the Fiscal Year 2026 budget. I also asked what the impact would be if the Commissioners decided to maintain the Constant Yield rate. The motion passed unanimously.

For reference, the current Worcester County property tax rate is .845 cents per \$100 assessed value. Each one cent of the property tax rate equates to between \$1.8 million and \$2 million in county revenue.

This budget planning cycle is unlike any I've experienced during my eleven years in office. Why? Because of the uncertainty of what the state budget will look like. Outsized and ill-conceived spending programs put in place by the progressive-dominated state legislature through the years have brought the state to where it is today: a \$3 billion budget deficit that is expected to increase to \$6.5 billion within the next couple years. It's very possible Governor Moore and the legislature will balance the state budget on the backs of local taxpayers by shifting to county jurisdictions financial burdens that are, at their core,

unfunded mandates which for Worcester County taxpayers could equate to millions of dollars.

Property reassessments last year in Ocean City saw increases of upwards of 40% resulting in increased property tax revenue within the county. Increased Ocean Pines reassessments this year will result in even more tax revenue flowing into the County treasury. Admittedly, those of us who live full time in Worcester County benefit from homestead tax relief. However, out-of-area property owners absorb in one year the full assessment increase.

Tax revenue increases should not be a green light for County government to spend to the limit of what it takes in. County government should return what it can to those who are footing the bill – taxpayers.

During the past few years, each of us has been victimized by inflation – higher food costs, increases in homeowners and auto insurance premiums just to name a few. As mentioned above, we're also experiencing higher property taxes. We need relief.

As I write this, it's too soon to know definitively what impact the governor's and the legislature's decisions on the state budget will have on the state as a whole and Worcester County specifically. Despite this, I strongly believe that the FY 26 County budget should be discussed from the perspective of reducing the County property tax rate and lowering costs to local taxpayers.

Courier Almanac

On March 12, 1894, Coca-Cola is first sold in bottles. Though today there is almost nothing as ubiquitous as a bottle of Coca-Cola, this was not always the case. For the first several years of its existence, Coke was only available as a fountain drink, and its producer saw no reason for that to change.

Snakes feature prominently in the legend of St. Patrick, whose feast day is celebrated every year on March 17. As the legend goes, St. Patrick drove all snakes from Ireland. But scientists and historians note that St. Patrick, who lived in the mid-fifth to early-sixth century, likely came along too late to accomplish such a feat, as evidence suggests post-glacial Ireland never had any snakes. Indeed, the ocean waters surrounding the Emerald Isle are too cold to enable the migration of snakes from other locales, which suggests the snakes in the legend of St. Patrick are symbols and not meant to represent reptiles.



The
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Knots & Knots by Dan Collins

Change for the better

How often have we heard some old timer espousing the glory of ‘the good old days’? “When I was a boy,” the diatribe begins, “we had to walk ten miles to school through snow drifts, in bare feet.” To tell you the truth, I did walk to school in the snow but it was only a half mile and we did have boots, scarfs, mittens, thermos bottles of soup – and it was fun.

However, times change and, for the most part, for the better. In the same 60 plus years since I carried my #2 pencils and books in a WWII army surplus nap sack and practiced cursive writing and memorized the multiplication tables, technology breakthroughs have revolutionized almost everything. In education, audiovisual aids, calculators, the internet, air conditioning, and full color text books have enhanced the learning experience while

clapping erasers has become a lost art.

If you stop for a moment and think back 60 years or so, we have seen similar enhancements in the maritime world and recreational boating.

Today, wooden boats are as scarce as Kodachrome film. Fiberglass and aluminum are the materials of choice for the modern recreational boat hull. There was a transition period when scores of dilapidated and rotting wooden boats were laid up, abandoned in shipyards waiting their annual carpentry that would never come. Eventually they were all hauled away in dump trucks to make room for the new, lower maintenance fiberglass hulls that are more durable than their deteriorating wooden predecessors.

Likewise, fiberglass and computer designed molds allow for extremely sleek hull shapes with exotic bow flare

and precision hull deadrise that would be virtually impossible – or at least financially impractical - to produce by bending wood.

Like wood giving way to fiberglass, natural fibers such as hemp and manila gave way to synthetic fibers as the material of choice for lines. Natural fibers have a relatively short life span and lines made of organic material need constant care and replacement like the planks in a wooden ship’s hull.

In 1930, DuPont introduced Nylon. It revolutionized marine cordage. Nylon is twice as strong as manila and less likely to part or, as landlubbers would say, ‘to break’ than manila. It, like fiberglass, seems to last forever (four to five times longer than hemp) and it has a very useful attribute. Nylon is relatively elastic. Within limits, it can stretch and recover to its original dimensions. Nylon stockings are a good example this elasticity. That’s why it makes an ideal choice for dock lines, tow lines and anchor rodes that have to give a little from time to time in order to absorb shock.

In 1951 polymers were invented and brought yet another valued capability to lines. Polypropylene is not as strong or as flexible as nylon but it has one very unique and very useful quality. It floats. Usually yellow in color, polypropylene makes an ideal line to

throw someone in the water whether he/she is water skiing or just drowning.

In 1965 Kevlar brought more robustness to maritime rigging. Unlike nylon, Kevlar exhibits less elasticity. Therefore, it is ideal (but expensive) for applications that cannot tolerate stretching. A good example of this is the halyard that holds up a mainsail of



Fiberglass molding enables sleek lines and bow flare that are difficult to achieve in wood designs.

a sailboat. If the halyard stretches, the sail sags and sail shape is lost.

Probably the biggest area that has seen change is electronics. Semaphore and Morse code are seldom used communication methods today because they have been supplanted by more robust marine radios and satellite communications. Sextants, magnetic compasses and Loran-C beacons have been replaced by GPS navigation systems.

*please see **change** on page 9*

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change
from page 8

tems. NOAA's two foot by three-foot paper charts are now an app.

Simple analog radars like the system that was on the *SS Andrea Doria* when she collided with the *Stockholm* and sank in 1956 have been digitally supplemented by Automatic Identification System (AIS). This new system provides a ship's identity, location, course and speed to other ships that are even over the horizon allowing everyone to track movements and calculate possible collisions.

In the area of safety, strobe lights are quickly replacing pyrotechnic flares as the preferred distress signaling device. Like fiberglass and nylon, electronic distress signals last longer. Flares burn for less than two minutes. Therefore, the required three flares can provide about six minutes of attention getting while the batter-operated strobe light can illuminate for hours; and, unlike flares, they do not have to be replaced every three years.

Also, for those who cruise far out

to sea beyond the range of marine VHF radios, Personal Locator Beacons (PLB) and Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs) make off shore catastrophes far more survivable by transmitting a distress signal via satellite to on-shore search and rescue resources.

But safety remains a major issue. In the past 60 years, most states have introduced a mandatory safe boating class (SBC) and required that boat operators have a certificate of completion to legally operate a recreational boat. The Coast Guard statistics bear out the need and effectiveness of the public education. Some 75% of the deaths on recreational boats in 2022 occurred on vessels operated by individuals who had not received boating safety instructions and 87% of the drowning fatalities were not wearing life jackets, a point of emphasis in the SBC.

Everyone should take the SBC class and you don't have to walk through the snow to get it.

Stay safe. Stay dry.

Dan Collins can be reached for comment at dancollins.oceanpines@gmail.com



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New price for your dream home and it is ready for your immediate enjoyment! Completely remodeled in 2018, this end unit in Marina Village is a short walk or bike ride to the Yacht Club to dine or swim at that pool or enjoy the Mumford's Landing pool if preferred. The Breakfast room is a bright and sunny place to enjoy casual dining. The kitchen has all new appliances and cabinets. The entire unit has newer LVP flooring. The Living Room has a gas Fireplace and access to the 10x25 deck that has views of the back courtyard. On the second floor, the Primary bedroom has a 6x11 balcony that overlooks the rear yard, too. It has a huge Walk-in-closet and updated Primary bathroom has a shower and soaking tub. 2 additional bedrooms on the second floor along with a laundry room that finishes out the 2115 sq. ft. unit. Recently encapsulated crawl space. Single car garage has side door with quick access to kitchen door. Come see and fall in love with the space and updates. Easy to see. MLS#: MDWO2026942



along with a laundry room that finishes out the 2115 sq. ft. unit. Recently encapsulated crawl space. Single car garage has side door with quick access to kitchen door. Come see and fall in love with the space and updates. Easy to see. MLS#: MDWO2026942

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Ravens Roost #44 seeks sponsors

Ocean City Ravens Roost #44 will host its 28th Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament on Friday, May 30 at the Ocean Pines Golf Club.

All proceeds from the tournament will benefit the Ravens Roost #44 scholarship fund.

This year, the nonprofit will award six \$2,000 scholarships to graduating students from Indian River High School, Stephen Decatur High School, and Worcester Preparatory School. With this year's awards, the organization will have distributed a total of \$270,900 in scholarships to local students.

Tournament organizers are seeking players, sponsors, and donations to support the event. Several sponsorship opportunities are available, including:

- \$2,000 Scholarship Sponsor – A co-named scholarship awarded to a high school of the sponsor's choice (Indian River, Stephen Decatur, or Worcester Prep).

- Signature Sponsor (\$2,000 with team entries; \$1,400 without team entries) – Includes two team entries, four tee signs, and recognition on the tournament banner.

- Major Sponsor (\$1,000 with team entry; \$700 without team entry) – Includes one team entry, two tee signs, and recognition on the tournament banner.

- Tee Sponsor (\$125) – Includes a tee sign on the course.

Participants can register for the tournament at a cost of \$135 per golfer or \$540 per team. The event will include a continental breakfast, lunch, a putting contest with a \$500 prize, and a cash raffle with a \$250 prize.

Merchandise, gift cards, and other items are also needed for the silent auction held after tournament play. Monetary donations to the scholarship fund are also welcome.

To download tournament forms, visit www.ocravensroost44.com.

For more information or to become a sponsor, contact a Scholarship Golf Committee member: Don McMullen, 443-388-2941; Anita Satterfield, 443-743-6359; Gary Miller, 443-618-9972; or, Marc Grimes: 302-222-0159.

For additional information on tournaments and other events at the Ocean Pines Golf Club, visit www.oceanpinesgolf.org.

Tortoise and Hare Dare 5K returns

The Worcester County Health Department, Worcester County Department of Recreation and Parks, and Pocomoke River State Park encourage residents to welcome back spring with the 28th Annual Tortoise & Hare Dare 5K walk/run. The 5K will take place at Pocomoke River State Park-Shad Landing located at 3461 Worcester Highway in Snow Hill, on Saturday, April 5. This is a free, pet-friendly event and registration/check-in begins at 8:30 a.m. The first 100 individuals to pre-register for the event will receive a commemorative T-shirt.

After the 5k, participants can visit local health, recreation, and community vendors. This is a great opportunity to enjoy the outdoors while doing some physical activity with friends, family, and other community residents. Pre-registration is encouraged but not necessary. Pre-register at <https://worcester-health.eventbrite.com>. For more information, call 410-632-1100 ext. 1108. You can also register for our free *Just Walk* program at any time, by visiting justwalkworcester.org/.

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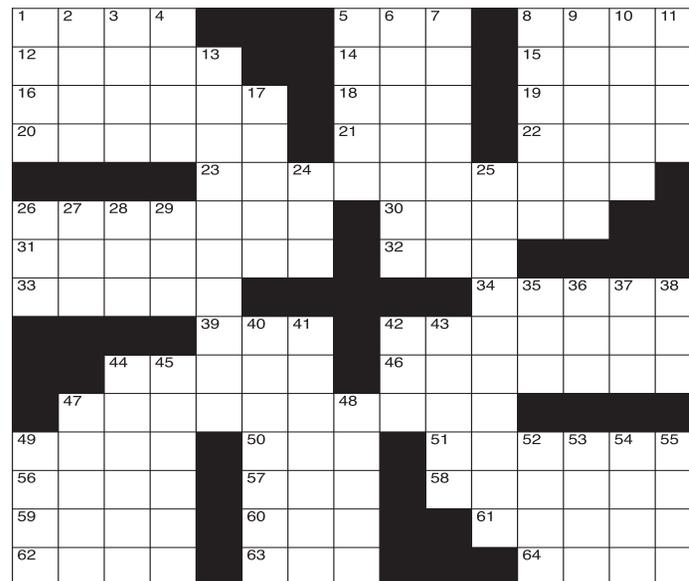
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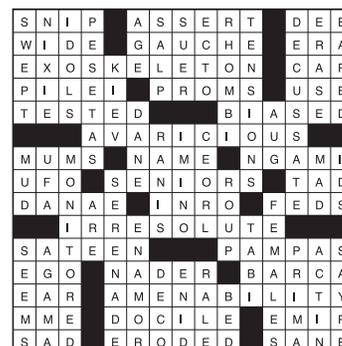


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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Unsheared sheep 5. Rock TV channel 8. Streetcar 12. Concerning 14. Expression of recognition 15. Greek goddess of youth 16. An iPad is one 18. Adult beverage 19. Manning and Wallach are two 20. Makes a petty verbal attack 21. Tyrion Lannister's nickname 22. Pointed ends of pens 23. Wristwatches 26. Body part 30. Made a mistake 31. Adjusted 32. Turkish honorific title 33. Yell | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 34. Historic Alabama city 39. Cub 42. Type of sea bass dish 44. To call (archaic) 46. Unfortunate 47. Separate oneself from others 49. Hero sandwiches 50. Former OSS 51. Open spaces in a forest 56. Innermost brain membranes 57. Fortune 58. Hunting expedition 59. Doomed queen Boleyn 60. Peyton's little brother 61. Type of wrap 62. Scottish tax 63. Soviet Socialist Republic 64. An increase in price or value |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

CLUES DOWN

- | | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Works of body art 2. Abba __, Israeli politician 3. A desert in Asia 4. Eat greedily 5. Doomed French queen 6. Beat 7. One who survives on blood 8. As a consequence 9. Counted on 10. Acquired Brain Injury Behavior Science 11. Unclean 13. One who does not drink 17. Wild ox of the Malay Archipelago 24. __ student, learns healing 25. Bacterial skin infection 26. Expresses surprise 27. What one says on a wedding day 28. Crony | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 29. Where you entered the world (abbr.) 35. Unit of length 36. Side that is sheltered from the wind 37. More (Spanish) 38. Autonomic nervous system 40. Violent troublemakers, originally in Paris 41. Statements that something is untrue 42. Greek alphabet letter 43. Suspends from above 44. Popular types of cigars 45. Girls 47. U.S. philosopher and logician 48. Nocturnal hoofed animal 49. Relaxing spaces 52. From a distance 53. Form of Persian 54. Amounts of time 55. Trigonometric function |
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Answers for March 5

Some things to think about

Gathered from the internet by **Jack Barnes**



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STARTED PANIC BUYING
WAS WHEN THE
BARTENDER SHOUTED
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Gathering - The Republican Women of Worcester County (RWWC) gathered on February 27 for their monthly general meeting and luncheon at Sophia's Italian Restaurant in Ocean City. The guest speaker was Michelle Talkington, who is a small business owner. Michelle also serves on several non-profit boards and has run and will again to run for Congress in Maryland's fifth district. The attendees were treated to a lively and dynamic presentation.

Pictured are RWWC 1st VP, **Carol Frazier**, RWWC President **Jean Delcher** and guest speaker, **Michelle Talkington**.



Bertino Visits Kiwanis

The guest speaker at the March 5 weekly meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City was Worcester County Commissioner Chip Bertino. Bertino moved to the Pines in 1991 and in 2000 he started The Courier. In 2014 he was elected Worcester County Commissioner.

(L-R) **Chip Bertino** and Kiwanis Club President **Tom Southwell**.

Youth athletic facility plans advance

Seaside Christian Academy, a nonprofit in Ocean City is making significant progress toward breaking ground on the Seaside Athletic Center, a new multipurpose youth sports facility in West Ocean City.

Located on the grounds of the small Christian school owned by Ocean City Baptist Church, the center will enhance local youth sports programs and provide a space for indoor sports tournaments to capitalize on the growth potential that sports tourism could bring to our community.

The project aims to provide safe, accessible sports facilities to promote fitness, teamwork, and community spirit, building on the success of the low- or no-cost summer camps rooted in Christian values that are already available.

The NCAA-sized basketball court will support year-round access to sports and community events like soccer and volleyball, addressing the area's lack of such spaces. It will serve as a year-round venue for local, regional, and potentially national youth sports events, ensuring all young athletes can thrive.

Ongoing fundraising efforts are critical to sustaining the \$5 million project. Groundbreaking is planned for this summer with completion expected by late 2026. The initiative has strong backing from residents, local businesses, and the Christian community, with volunteer opportunities upcoming.

The Seaside Legacy Gala is set for April 6 at Fager's Island. A comprehensive vision will be shared, along with sponsorship opportunities. Tickets went on sale March 1 with limited availability. Purchase tickets here: fagers.ticketleap.com/seaside/

Healthy Lifestyle Balance Program offered

Take control of your health this spring with Worcester Health's Healthy Lifestyle Balance Program. This program is proven to prevent or delay the onset of Diabetes, High Blood Pressure, Heart Disease, High Cholesterol, and other chronic diseases. Healthy Lifestyle Balance is a no-cost class that will help you eat healthy, lose weight, set goals, manage stress, and learn techniques to live a healthier and happier life.

The Healthy Lifestyle Balance Program is a 26-session, year-long group program, beginning next month. A full class schedule will be provided at the first class session, classes will be held at the following locations and times:

- Mondays, 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m., (April 14, 2025 - April 13, 2026) at Newtown Apartments, 1210 Market St. Pocomoke, MD 21851.
- Wednesdays, 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m., (April 16, 2025 - April 15, 2026) at Ocean Pines Library, 11107 Cathell Rd. Berlin, MD 21811.
- Wednesdays, 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m., (April 16, 2025 - April 15, 2026) at Snow Hill Health Department, 6040 Public Landing Rd. Snow Hill, MD 21863.

You will participate in 16-weekly sessions followed by monthly support sessions for the remainder of one year. Throughout the first phase of the program, you will be educated on ways to adopt healthy lifestyle practices. During the second phase of the program, you will be taught how to sustain the newly-learned lifestyle practices to balance your life.

"The Healthy Lifestyle Program is a great program in which professionally trained coaches provide participants with great information that helps them stay on track and stay positive during their lifestyle change journey." said Crystal Bell, Chronic Disease and Tobacco Supervisor at Worcester County Health Department.

To register, visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6P33BSF> or call 410-632-1100 ext.1108.

Lenten service offered

A lunchtime Lenten service and a soup lunch will be offered March 27 at St. Paul's United Methodist Church located at 405 Flower St. in Berlin. Worship begins at noon followed by a light lunch. Pastor Jacob Jackson will preach on Sharing. For more information, email bethany21811@gmail.com or call 410-641-2186.



Happy Saint Patrick's Day

The history of St. Patrick

St. Patrick's Day is celebrated each year on March 17. St. Patrick was a larger-than-life figure who has been ingrained in Irish culture and was the catalyst for a holiday celebration that now stretches around the world.

Much of what is shared about St.

Patrick is based on folklore and exaggerated storytelling, according to historians. Snakes famously banished from Ireland? Snakes have never existed on the island to even be banished! Getting to the truth of St. Patrick the man takes a little digging

through the fanciful tales.

St. Patrick wasn't Irish. St. Patrick was born to a wealthy family in modern-day Great Britain near the end of the fourth century. There is no evidence that Patrick came from a particularly religious family, and History.com says it was likely Patrick's father became a Christian deacon because of tax incentives and not religious devotion.

Patrick only arrived in Ireland after being taken prisoner by a group of Irish raiders who attacked his family's estate. He spent ages 16 to 22 in captivity and was likely held in County Mayo.

Finding religion. Patrick spent many hours working outdoors as a shepherd during his imprisonment. Being afraid and likely lonely, he found comfort in his religion and became a devout Christian. As Ireland was largely pagan at this time, he began dreaming of converting the Irish people to Christianity.

Even though Patrick escaped imprisonment, believing it was the voice

of God telling him it was time to leave, once he returned to Britain, he had a second revelation that he should return to Ireland as a missionary. It was then his religious training began, and it lasted more than 15 years. Eventually Patrick was ordained a priest and began ministering to Christians already living in Ireland and converting others.

St. Patrick wrote an autobiography. Much of what is known about St. Patrick comes from two works that he wrote about his life, known as "Confessio" and "Epistola." In "Confessio," Patrick responds to the fact that he was on trial for mysterious reasons, although he never names the crimes for which he was accused. Historians surmise that he took bribes because Patrick mentions returning or paying for gifts given to him.

St. Patrick didn't introduce Christianity. Although Patrick played the most influential role in spreading Christianity to Ireland, he wasn't the first to do so. However, he did organize the followers who already existed and converted kingdoms which were still pagan. St. Patrick also connected Ireland with the Church of the Roman Empire.

St. Patrick helped the shamrock become a symbol of Irish nationalism. The shamrock, also known as a three-leaf clover, and formerly the "seamroy" by the Celts, was a sacred plant that symbolized spring. St. Patrick, according to legend, used this familiar plant as a visual guide to explain the Holy Trinity of Christianity. By the 17th century, the shamrock had become a symbol of emerging Irish nationalism, according to History.com.

St. Patrick is well known in Ireland and elsewhere in part because of the legends about his days on earth. The true history sheds even more light on the man behind the legend.

What is a stout?

Beer is beer, right? Not quite. There are many different types of beer, and each beer lover has his or her favorite style when visiting a craft brewery, bar or nearby beer retailer.

Stout is one type of beer that has an extensive following, and is frequently consumed on St. Patrick's Day and at Irish pubs.

The beer information site Just Beer describes stout as a dark style beer. Stouts are typically rich and dark in color. Their flavor is described as coffee-like or chocolatey. Stouts have a distinctive smooth, creamy texture that differs from most other beers.



Stout was first documented in the 17th century and was a term used to describe a very strong beer. Dark beers called porters were very popular at the time and brewers began experimenting with porters of different strengths. Those containing roughly seven or eight percent alcohol by volume, among the strongest porters, were known as stout porters. However, it would take quite a while for these porters to be known only as stouts.

Even one of the world's most recognizable stouts, Guinness, was once called a porter.

Stouts are distinguishable from porters in their ingredients. Porters use roast malted barley, according to Renegade Brewing. Stouts are made from black patent malt. Stouts are further classified into "milk" or "dry" stouts. Milk stout is a stout sweetened with lactose. Dry stouts are more bitter. Stouts also may be named as chocolate stout, oyster stout or oatmeal stout, depending on the ingredients used in the brewing process.

Stouts are dark, rich and potent beers. Many people toast with stouts on St. Patrick's Day.

How St. Patrick's Day is celebrated in Ireland

Initially a religious holiday to commemorate the patron saint of Ireland, St. Patrick's Day has since evolved into a global celebration of Irish culture. In fact, it has become one of the most popular days of the year to throw a party and gather with others.

So how do people in Ireland - the heart of where St. Patrick's Day originated - celebrate each March 17th? Should travelers find themselves in Ireland this time of year, here's what to expect in terms of St. Patrick's Day commemorations.

Since St. Patrick's Day is a national holiday, expect schools, banks and some businesses to be closed around the country and in portions of Northern Ireland. St. Patrick's Day tourism is big business, so restaurants and pubs likely will be open and may extend their hours. According to the vacationing resource Travel Awaits, more than 100,000 travelers visit Dublin from March 14 to March 18 to partake in St. Patrick's Day festivities.

As St. Patrick's Day is a religious holiday, devout Irish Catholics will treat



please see **celebration** on page E-3



New members - New members along with their sponsors were recognized at the Ocean City Berlin Optimist Club March Dinner Meeting at the American Legion Post 166 in Ocean City

Pictured above (l-r) Optimist President **Chris Dolomount-Brown, Dan and Liz Mumford, Mitzi Patelski, Melva Middleton, Carol Dural, Linda Roskovich, Alexis Mumford and Membership Chairman Roger Pacella.**



Reading day - Ocean City Elementary School welcomed Worcester County Board of Education member **Dr. Jon Andes** as a guest reader for Read Across America Day. Fourth grade students heard Dr. Andes read his very own published book, "The Legacy of Billy Lee: An American Hero." He also presented Mrs. Moeller's class with a copy of the book for their classroom library.

celebration
from page E-2

the day as a religious celebration and may attend mass at nearby churches. Even though St. Patrick's Day falls during the solemn season of Lent, since St. Patrick's Day 2025 falls on a Monday this year, one does not need to worry about any Lenten fasting restrictions.

The biggest St. Patrick's Day parade takes place in Dublin, and it's full of national pride. Additional smaller parades may be held across Ireland as well.

Travelers may experience "drowning the shamrock" as they visit Irish pubs on St. Patrick's Day. It is traditional to drop a shamrock into customers' drinks in the pub. As such, it is surmised that having many drinks undoubtedly means more good luck for the year ahead due to all those lucky shamrocks.

It's common to come across religious rituals, pilgrimages and processions on St. Patrick's Day, particularly to places associated with St. Patrick. Downpatrick in County Down is believed to be the final resting place of St. Patrick and many people visit the grave and cathedral there. Some also may want to visit St. Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin.

Ireland celebrate St. Patrick's Day in similar fashion as other countries, but the country offers unique takes on the festivities as well.

Annual OPAC Fishing Flea Market Saturday April 5, 2025



Buy and sell fishing, crabbing and boating items, crafts, etc.

100% of all PROCEEDS SUPPORT OUR Teach kids to Fish and Kids fishing tournament EVENTS!

RENTALS: \$10 for 10' X 10' space (includes 1 table)

DATE: April 5 **Time:** 7:00 AM — 12:00 NOON

LOCATION: Indoors at the Ocean Pines Community Center (White Horse Park; Assateague Room): (same location as the weekly Farmers Market).

FREE ADMISSION: and you get 1 free (50/50) raffle ticket with a **DONATION!** ADDITIONAL RAFFLE TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE...

COFFEE and DONUTS: (as long as supply lasts...)

FREE PARKING!

FEATURING: Local Captains Vince Cannuli (Running Tide Charters) and Adam/Ken Thompson (Oppor-Tuna-ty Charters) will be on hand to share their fishing experiences on Bay/Inshore, and offshore tuna/billfish, respectively!

To reserve a table contact: Doug Murphy (918-910-6485), Mike Vitak (443-783-1010), Ted Glick (301-395-7738) or Budd Heim (410-726-1968)



Food & Toiletry Drive

Donations will be collected from **MARCH 1ST TO APRIL 1ST**



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Cans of Beans
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Mixed nuts
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Suggested Toiletry Items

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Baby Wipes



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Worcester County Garden Club attends district event

Eight members of the Worcester County Garden Club recently attended the Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland District I Annual Meeting at The Fountains in Salisbury. The club received an award for its yearbook and certificates of appreciation were presented to members Glenda Clarke and Jackie Davies for chairing the District I Fundraising Committee. Individuals interested in learning more about the Worcester County Garden Club can contact the membership chair at WorCtyGardenClub@gmail.com.

Front row l-r: **Jackie Davies, Glenda Clarke, Mary Ellen Jefferson and Suzy Young**
 Back row l-r: **Pat Arata, Sandy Buchanan, Rebecca Galyon and Martha Bennett**

Free chronic kidney disease classes

TidalHealth is offering free Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) classes to help individuals manage and slow the progression of kidney disease. These classes are held from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on the last Wednesday of every other month at 800 S. Salisbury Boulevard, Salisbury, MD 21801.

The upcoming sessions are scheduled for: March 26, May 28, July 23, September 24, November 19.

During these sessions, TidalHealth’s chronic disease professionals will provide valuable information on: slowing disease progression, monitoring kidney health, dietary considerations, dialysis and transplant options and financial aspects of kidney care

These classes are open to individuals with CKD, as well as their family members and caregivers. Space is limited. RSVP by contacting Valencia Harper at 410-912-5824 or via email at valencia.harper@tidalhealth.org.

Summer Scholars registration open

Parents of gifted and talented children entering the third through tenth grades in the fall of 2025 can now register their children for Summer Scholars at Wor-Wic Community College.

Returning favorites include “Power, Pause, Play,” where students explore movement and music while learning how to create and explore, and “Rockets and Robots,” in which participants put technology to work in exciting ways. Other courses open to a variety of ages focus on 3D printing, acting, animals, art, cooking, crime scene investigation, photography and “Star Wars.”

One-week courses are offered Monday through Friday, beginning July 7 and ending August 1. Students can take full- or half-day courses. Full-day courses are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with a one-hour lunch. Half-day courses, which are offered from 9 a.m. to noon or 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., can be taken back-to-back to create a full day. Before and after care will be offered.

The courses are designed for public, private and home-schooled gifted and talented students. A student’s gifted and talented status is determined by the school they attend, based on the student’s abilities in the areas of general intellectual capabilities, specific academic aptitudes, or the creative, visual or performing arts.

Visit www.worwic.edu or call 410-334-2815 for more information.



WPS AGH bread sale donation: On March 5, Worcester Preparatory School (WPS) students presented Atlantic General Hospital (AGH) with a donation raised from the annual 3rd Grade Bread Sale. Pictured is the WPS 3rd grade class with their teachers **Annie Seipp** (2nd row, far right) and **Cynthia Phillips** (1st row, far left), Head of Lower School **Dr. Sara Timmons** (2nd row, far left); and in the back row from the left, are **Steve Green**, AGH Foundation Board past chair; **Michael Cyle**, AGH Foundation Board treasurer; **Hillary Mozeik**, AGH Foundation assistant; **Ryan Kirby**, AGH Foundation Board vice chair; **Laura Powell**, AGH Foundation community relations officer; and **Jessica Jersey**, AGH Foundation donor relations officer.



Scholarship applicants sought - The Ocean City - Berlin Rotary Club is currently accepting scholarship applications from Stephen Decatur High School seniors. Seniors may email the club at ocberlinrotary@gmail.com to visit their Guidance Office for an application.

Pictured are the 2024 scholarship recipients - l to R, **Austin Pusey, Abbigale Weeks, Daniel Karcheuski, Nancy Bradford**, scholarship chair.

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