# The Courier April 2, 2025 Volume 25 Number 27

**Heroes** - Worcester Prep School kindergarteners **Thatcher** Christ, Cayman Wang, Leo Hudson and Rob Fitzpatrick smiled for a photo while celebrating 100 days of school dressed as their favorite superheroes.

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#### Lest We Forget: **Fundraiser underway to honor WWII hero Kerchner**

Friends of the Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines have launched a fundraiser to honor George Kerchner, a longtime Ocean



Pines resident and decorated World War II hero, with a memorial paver.

Kerchner, who moved to the area in 1970, was one of the founding mem-

bers of the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department and an active member of the Ocean City American Legion, Post 166. However, he was perhaps best known for his heroic actions on D-Day, June 6, 1944.

#### Lt. Col. James E. Rudder and Lt. George Kerchner

Kerchner enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1942 and eventually joined the elite 2nd Ranger Battalion as a lieutenant. He trained in England for six months, scaling seaside cliffs in preparation for a daring raid on Pointe du Hoc, a heavily fortified German position towering above the English Channel.

The mission, led by Lt. Col. James E. Rudder, was considered nearly impossible. Often quoted intelligence reports suggested that "three old women with brooms could keep the Rangers from climbing that cliff." Yet on the morning of June 6, 1944, Kerchner and his fellow Rangers defied the odds.

Landing on the rocky beach amid relentless German machine-gun fire, Kerchner found himself in charge of Company D after every senior officer was either killed or severely wounded. His team successfully ascended the 100-foot cliffs, only to discover the 155mm guns they were tasked with destroying had been moved. Kerchner and his men located and disabled the guns, then held their position against German counterattacks for nearly three days until reinforcements arrived.

Of the 225 Rangers who stormed Pointe du Hoc that day, only about 100 survived. Kerchner was later wounded near Saint-Lô but survived the war and was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions. His story was immortalized in the 1962 Hollywood film "The Longest Day."

Despite his bravery, Kerchner downplayed his role, telling a TV interviewer at the age of 92, "I didn't think I did anything that heroic."

To honor his extraordinary legacy, the Friends of the Worcester County Veterans Memorial are seeking donations to fund a commemorative paver in Kerchner's name. Contributions may be sent to:

> Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation P.O. Box 1576 Berlin, MD 21811

Donors should include "George Kerchner" in the check's memo line.

A dedication ceremony for Kerchner's paver will be held at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines on Friday, June 6 at 11 a.m. The public is welcome to attend.

For more information about the Worcester County Veterans Memorial or to contribute to its educational and outreach programs, visit wocovets.org.



#### Trivia at the library

Trivia at the Ocean Pines library will be held Wednesday, April 9 at 3 p.m. The theme is "Spring, Sprang, Sprung" 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.

#### Holy Week services announced

St. Paul's Episcopal Church will hold Holy Week services on the following schedule:

- Palm Sunday: Sunday, April 13, 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
- Maundy Thursday: Thursday, April 17 6 p.m. (light dinner then service)
- Good Friday Stations of the Cross: Friday, April 18, 11:30 a.m.
- Good Friday Service: Friday, April 18, 6 p.m.
- Easter Vigil: Saturday, April 19, 7 p.m.

- Easter Sunday: Sunday, April 20, 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

The church is located at 3 Church Street in Berlin.

#### Quit smoking, vaping classes offered

Breathe easy this spring with the help of the Worcester County Health Department's free Quit Smoking/Vaping Classes. Youth and adult sessions are available at locations throughout the county. Trained instructors will help break the nicotine addiction by focusing on topics like stress management, assertive communication, creating a quit plan, relapse prevention, and more.

Worcester Health is committed to preventing tobacco use and helping everyone live a tobacco-free lifestyle. Join one of the Quit Smoking/Vaping Classes starting next month:

Adult Classes

Tuesdays, 4 p.m. - 5 p.m., (April 8 - June 26) at the Snow Hill Health Center, 6040 Public Landing Rd.

Wednesdays, 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m., (April 9 -June 27) at the Pocomoke Health Center, 400-A Walnut St.

Thursdays, 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m., (April 10 - June 28) at the Atlantic Club, 11827 Ocean Gateway.

Thursdays, 5 p.m. - 6 p.m., (April 10 - June 28) at the Gudelsky Family Medical Center, 10614 Racetrack Rd.

Youth Classes

Tuesdays, 3 p.m. - 4 p.m., (April 8 - June 26) at the Snow Hill Health Center, 6040 Public Landing Rd.

Wednesdays, 3 p.m. - 4 p.m., (April 9 - June 27) at the Pocomoke Health Center, 400-A Walnut St.

Thursdays, 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m., (April 10 - June 28) at the Berlin Health Center, 9730 Healthway Dr.

Distance Learning options are available for both classes upon request.

"No matter how long you've smoked or vaped, there are health benefits to quitting," said Crystal Bell, Chronic Disease and Tobacco Supervisor at the Worcester County Health Department. "If a person is thinking about quitting, we want them set up for success by enrolling in our free smoking cessation program. We want residents to know we are here to help them through their quit journey."

То register for adult classes, visit https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MTRT2QZ. To register for youth classes, visit https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BRM3VM7. You can also register by calling 410-632-1100 Ext. 1102.

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Finalists - The Ocean City Berlin Optimist Club sponsored the 2025 Optimist International Oratorical Contest. Pictured are the five finalists who competed for top Club Level at Stephen Decatur Middle School (SDMS) on Thursday, March 27.

Pictured below (I-r) Oratorical Chairman Sharon Sorrentino, SDMS student Kala James, First Place Worcester Preparatory School student Jude Damouni, Third Place SDMS student Evelyn Chaney, SDMS student Anissa Demo, Second Place Snow Hill Middle School student Elliott Larsen, and Optimist Treasurer Cindy Malament. Jude and Elliott will move onto the District Competition to be held in Ocean City on Saturday, April 26 at the Grand Hotel.

#### Great Gatsby topic of library discussion

April 10, 1925, The Great Gatsby hit bookstores nationwide, with F. Scott Fitzgerald confident it was the best novel he'd written. It was an unflinching look at inherited-vs.-earned wealth

and social class in what Fitzgerald termed "The Jazz Age."

Frank DeLucco and Harry Burkett examine the novel and the tumultuous life of its author on Thursday, April 10, at 2 p.m., during National Library Week, at the Ocean Pines Branch of Worcester County Library.

Much of The Great Gatsby's content was based on Fitzgerald's time at Princeton University, his relationship with wife Zelda Sayre Fitzgerald, and his experiences as a Midwesterner trying to make his way in the East. After Gatsby, Fitzgerald's sunk into the depths of alcoholism and wife Zelda spent the rest of her life in a series of mental institutions.

"Fitzgerald's writing, especially his

Following its official release date of novels, reflected his own life, demonstrating an amazing level of self-awareness," said DeLucco. "On the flip side, you could say the Fitzgeralds were portraying characters in their high-profile personal lives."

> Fitzgerald worked briefly as a Hollywood screenwriter before a heart attack claimed his life in 1940. He was 44 years old.

> "The Great Gatsby was darker than his novels up to that point, and, while it received positive reviews, it wasn't a commercial success," added Burkett. "Like Jay Gatsby, Fitzgerald's life met a

tragic end: Too much, too soon, and failing to live up to his own reinvention."

In Fitzgerald's obituary, The New York Times cited Gatsby as his greatest work and the novel underwent a critical revival and increased popularity upon his death.

For information on all Worcester County Library programs, check out the Events page at worcesterlibrary.org.



# 'The Birthday Boy'

Publiser's Note: This week I celebrate a milestone birthday. It's one of those birthdays with a zero at the end. It will be a quiet celebration. My children are grown and currently spread



It's All About. . .

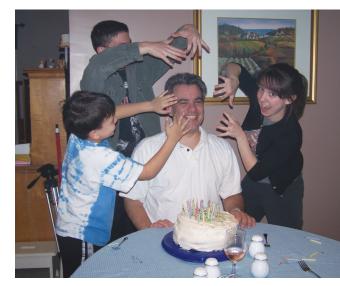
chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

around the country and the world. So, it will just be my wife and me enjoying a nice dinner and most likely reminiscing.

Many years ago, for my 44<sup>th</sup> birthday, my children contributed this column. Reading it now, I must say, they were very happy times. Those truly were the days. -CB

#### **By: The Council of Three**

We, the Council of Three have accepted the challenge. "How hard could it be with such a rich subject as me?" was the proclamation exclaimed by our father just the other night, when he was found eavesdropping on our Council meeting. You see, just a



few days prior to that we were approached by our father to write a collaborative column about, well in his words about "yours truly" and pertaining to a particular day. Believe us when we say that we love our father a great deal, but he is indeed a challenge and rather high maintenance, especially when it comes to this day.

It is that time yet again when our family gathers together in celebration; a time when we will travel great distances and come bearing gifts with our stories to share around the dinner table as we partake in this joyous occasion. Some of you may be confused

as to what we could be talking about, but the third of April is (as referred to by "one"), "the most important day of the year." It is a day date that has been drilled into our heads since we were born. It's not a religious holiday or a

major sporting event; it is a day to celebrate the world's great fortune of being blessed with yet another year of our father's life; his birthday.

This week our family will celebrate our father's 44th birthday, a day that we have been reminded of since April 4th of last year when he began the countdown all over again.

The day begins with the three of us roused out of bed at an early hour, lining up in birth order so that when our father emerges from his bedroom he is greeted with a groggy, "never knew the sun was up at this hour," rendition of "Happy Birthday." After his morning serenade, while rubbing his hands together, he announces

with boyish enthusiasm, "Let the festivities begin!"

Throughout the day we are re-

A birthday photo from many years ago.

quired, sorry, we mean we insist upon sharing stories of how great our father is and

why we're so happy to have him in our lives. Protocol states that a red carpet is to be unrolled wherever he walks and a drum roll played upon his entrance into a room. These details however, are still under negotiation.

Dinner is the time we gather to roast, um...we mean, toast our father's health and exchange anecdotes having to do with "the man of the hour." The meal itself is usually one that requires days of preparation and months of planning. The idea of what to serve is provided by Dad just moments after finishing his birthday meal the previous year.

There are no excuses to blowing off this celebration, all must offer acknowledgment. Failure to do so will result in a lawsuit drafted by the seemingly "neglected" birthday boy who claims "emotional distress." As if the lawsuit were not enough, a year's supply of snide remarks that begin with, "remember my birthday when ...?" are also included.

Amazingly enough the gift does not seem to matter that much to him (that does not mean it is to be overlooked), instead he'd rather spend his day surrounded by his family, friends and those afraid of possibly being sued.

So here's to you Pop on your special day! A time when your family gathers together in your name to celebrate the day that eclipses all other birthdays, regarding them as "mere speed bumps" to your big event. Now if you will excuse us, we have some last-minute revisions to attend to as you sit listing possible gift ideas while practicing blowing out your candles; all 44 of them.

Wife's note: One might read the above and believe that the Council of Three is taking this opportunity to exaggerate in order to poke fun at their father. The column, after all, does lend itself to such. However, I can attest to the accuracy and truth of this column. After almost 22 years of marriage the art of Chip's Birthday Celebration (capitalization intended) has been honed to near perfection.

The house is scrubbed from top to bottom. Fresh paint is applied, silver is polished, menus carefully made (and revised), invitations issued and this year an actual kitchen remodel was done in order to facilitate hors d'oeuvres and beverages in a timelier manner. Several variations of the Birthday Celebration have been tried; the surprise party (he found out by being nosey), the family party, the office party, the party that wasn't even his...well you get the idea. Chip will have everyone know however, that he doesn't do all this for himself. It is of course, for the enjoyment of the rest of us.

Editor's note: The Council of Three is comprised of Caden, Matthew and Nicholas, Chip's three loving offspring.

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# Bertino warns of potentially unfair water/wastewater rate proposal

Ocean Pines ratepayers may soon face an unfair financial burden related to ongoing water and wastewater issues, according to an address by Worcester County Commissioner Chip Bertino at the Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors meeting on Saturday.

Bertino detailed a proposal that, if approved, would require Ocean Pines homeowners – who make up 56% the population of 11 unincorporated service areas in Worcester County – to help repay millions of dollars in debt accrued by other service areas within the county.

"This is a stupid plan that we should not be responsible for repaying," Bertino said. "We didn't cause the problem, and we shouldn't be on the hook for it."

#### Background and key issues

Bertino outlined a series of troubling financial missteps that led to the current situation.

-Effluent Mismanagement: In 2017, Commissioner Jim Bunting

discovered that effluent from the Riddle Farm service area had been improperly transferred to the Ocean Pines system for disposal – without Ocean Pines receiving compensation. This practice, which had been ongoing for years, drained resources from Ocean Pines and contributed to growing financial strain.

-Financial Mismanagement: For many years, county staff transferred funds on paper between service areas to cover shortfalls, despite lacking actual revenue to back those transfers. Over time, this practice led to a significant deficit.

-\$9.1 Million Deficit: In January 2025, the Worcester County Commissioners approved a \$9.1 million transfer from the General Fund to cover shortfalls in the county's enterprise funds. Of this, \$2.7 million was provided as a grant to the Riddle Farm service area, while the remaining \$6 million was loaned to other service areas, including Edgewater Acres, the Landings, Mystic Harbor, Newark, and Riddle Farm.

- Amanac —

On April 2, 2005, John Paul II, history's most well-traveled pope and the first non-Italian to hold the position since the l6th century, dies at his home in the Vatican. Six days later, 2 million people packed Vatican City for his funeral, said to be one of the biggest in history.

Advertisements for non-alcoholic beer may never prove as prevalent as commercials for alcoholic beers, but the growing visibility of such promotions



likely comes as no surprise to industry analysts familiar with the growing popularity of alcohol-free beer. According to the Beer Institute, the market for non-alcoholic beer tripled in size in the half-decade preceding 2025. Indeed, an economist at the Beer Institute indicates that non-alcoholic beer is the fastest growing segment in the beer industry. In addition, a recent report from the Brewers Association indicated a 30 percent year-over-year increase in non-alcoholic beer sales in 2024, and industry ex-

perts estimate the market size for non-alcoholic beer will increase from \$20 billion in 2023 to \$40 billion in 2033. -At the March 18, 2025 the Commissioners were told that for Fiscal 2026, a \$2,188,000 combined deficit is expected in the service areas. Of this deficit amount, the Ocean Pines Service Area will contribute only \$116,699. To make up the entire deficit, a majority of Commissioners (Elder, Fiori, Mitrecic and Purnell) voted to require all service areas regardless of debt contribution - to repay the shortage amount in equal shares.

If the plan for the FY26 debt is approved it could be used as the model to repay the \$6 million loan beginning in FY2027. This would require Ocean Pines district and other district ratepayer to pay increased quarterly rates to repay a debt they did not incur.

#### The Impact on Ocean Pines

Under the proposed repayment plan for FY 2026, all 18,000 ratepayers across the county's 11 service areas – including 10,000 ratepayers in Ocean Pines – would be required to cover the debt. This would result in a significant increase in quarterly water and wastewater bills.

"Instead of our bill going up by one to three dollars per quarter, it would go up by \$32 per quarter," Bertino said. "That is not fair."

Additionally, Bertino pointed to previous incidents where Ocean Pines ratepayers were unfairly penalized for county mistakes. In one case, Ocean Pines had to absorb a \$500,000 cost after a county employee caused a mechanical failure that led to regulatory violations.

#### What's next

Bertino stressed that this proposal is not final and urged Ocean Pines homeowners to take action to ensure their voices are heard.

-Town Hall Meeting: Bertino and Bunting will host a town meeting at the Ocean Pines Library on Wednesday, April 23, where county staff will be available to answer questions and provide additional information. -Public Hearing: The Worcester County Commissioners will hold a public hearing on the proposal on Tuesday, May 6 in Snow Hill, where members of the public will have the opportunity to voice their concerns.

#### How homeowners can help

Bertino encouraged Ocean Pines homeowners to take an active role in opposing the plan by:

-Contacting County Commissioners: Emails and letters expressing opposition can be sent to county commissioners:

commissioners@co.worcester.m d.us

cabbott@co.worcester.md.us dpurnell@co.worcester.md.us efiori@co.worcester.md.us telder@co.worcester.md.us cbertino@co.worcester.md.us mbunting@co.worcester.md.us jmitrecic@co.worcester.md.us

-Writing Letters to the Editor: Bertino suggested that home-

owners share their concerns through local media.

Bertino concluded by emphasizing the importance of community engagement in this process.

"This is an awful lot to absorb on a complicated, nuanced subject," Bertino said. "But strip all that away – Ocean Pines and other service areas that had no part in creating this debt should not be held accountable for repaying it. This is wrong."

Letters sent to The Courier for publication consideration must be signed and include



a telephone number where the author can be reached to verify authenticity, if n e c e s s a r y.

Letters are not corrected for spelling or grammar and priority will be given to letters of 300 words or less. Letters must be received by Friday at 5 p.m. They can be e-mailed to:

thecourier@delmarvacourier.com



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#### **Reader Letter** Election bills raise concerns

#### **Editor:**

As you know, we are coming to the end of the 2025 Maryland Legislation Session (thank goodness). Sine Die is April 7th.

While most of the attention of the Maryland electorate has been focused, rightfully, on the budget process (so many new and/or increased taxes and fees - it's hard to keep track), there are also several bills in the Elections category that will be heard in the Ways & Means Committeethis week that raise concerns. They include:

SB 313 - Postelection Tabulation Audits - Risk Limiting Audits that would allow an election result to be altered based on a sample of the votes in accordance with a statistical model. This sounds like a really bad idea. For centuries this Republic has operated on the "one man one vote" idea of Democracy. This would absolutely turn that idea on its head. If there is a discrepancy in the outcome of an election contest there

should be a full recount.

SB 342 - Voting Rights Act of 2025 - Counties and Municipal Corporations. This bill would allow the Attorney General and any other person to bring suit against a county or municipality to challenge their method of electing officers of the county or municipal government due to concerns that a covered group of voters were not able to elect their preferred candidate. "Covered group" are voters of a race, color or language minority. So, if I'm understanding this correctly, if I'm not happy with the result of a County election, I sue - I don't have to have any reason other than I'm not happy? Sounds like a temper tantrum to me.

Please contact your Legislators and the Maryland House Ways and Means Committee with your opinion.

Plumbing

**Carol Frazier** Ocean Pines



Statement from **Jared DeMarinis**, Maryland State Board of Elections Administrator

(March 26, 2025) - The Maryland State Board of Elections is currently reviewing the President's "Preserving and Protecting the Integrity of American Elections" Executive Order in compliance with Maryland State laws and regulations regarding the conduct of elections. We strive to work with our federal partners in making our elections safe, secure, transparent and trusted. The 2024 Elections and prior ones were just that.

Please know that we are committed to protecting Maryland elections and voters. I am disheartened that the Executive Order did not mention mis/dis or malinformation especially from foreign influences. The rapid pace of technology has allowed some dis/misinformation to deter participation as well as harm faith in our election results. Ensuring we combat its spread and bringing dis/misinformation to light for public scrutiny is vital for our democracy. This includes prioritizing social media community notes from trusted sources of information like the Maryland State Board of Elections.

Additionally, this office is committed to protecting voters from undue harassment or intimidation regarding when and how they voted. Voting is a protected right that was fought for during the course of our county's history. The struggle to vote was not easy and must always be protected. Harassment and intimidation not only occurs during times of voting but can take place after the election under different guises.

Furthermore, we are analyzing the impact of the Executive Order on our military and overseas voters as well as our domestic ones. Mail-in ballots cast and postmarked before or on Election Day are legal ballots that must be counted. Those voters' voices must be heard. Claiming that the method in which the ballot was cast somehow invalidates the vote is misinformation and the record must be corrected.

Marylanders should feel confident that the collaboration between the local boards of elections and the State Board of Elections makes our electoral processes Verified, Open, Trusted and Empowering.

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# Trails & Waterways Poking around Pocomoke City

#### By K. A. Ferrusi

Recently my car needed some maintenance. To make the most of the drive to Pocomoke City I did a quick search that showed there were at least



three hiking trails in the area: The Pocomoke River State Park, Shad Landing and Milburn Landing, as well

as the Cypress Park and Nature Trail. As a result I planned a day around my car's maintenance.

After the quick and efficient service at Buchanan Subaru the first stop was to the Maryland Visitor center, just north of the Virginia state line on Route 113. I've been meaning to stop by ever since a neighbor's grandson told me about Ivv, the axolotl that lives in a fish tank there. An axolotl is a paedomorphic salamander, an endangered species, it is a unique and interesting creature originally from Mexico. I had never heard of one until the grandson told me about them. Stop in and say hi to Ivy (the axolotl), and Deb (the staff person). There is more information on the axolotl and of course on things to do and see in Worcester County, and beyond.

On to the walk in the park. I chose the Cypress Park and Nature Trail, (CPNT), that happens to be right across from two of my favorite places in Pocomoke City, the Delmarva Discovery Museum and the Dockside restaurant.

Park in the large lot next to the river in the center of town. The trail was envisioned and built by volunteers from Pocomoke City and U.S. Navy Wallops Flight Facility. The CPNT starts on the wide dock right there near the drawbridge. Walk down the dock, under the highway bridge and follow

onto the boardwalk at the official start of the trail. Most of the trail is a boardwalk above the marshy edges of the river and along Stevenson's Pond.

Part way into the walk there is a trail to

the right that follows along Stevenson's Pond, it is a little more remote and very enjoyable. The total trail is about 1.5 miles. You can see lots of native trees including the bald cypress and enjoy sounds of birds along the route. There are fitness stops for sit-ups and pullups at about mid-point, I did not try them. What I did get out of this time in the woods was peace and relaxation. It is a well-planned path through some of Delmarva's signature woodlands. There are signs of recent maintenance work on the trail and boardwalk, so just step out and enjoy.

The trail takes you to Winters Quarter Landing where there is a fishing pier and canoe/kayak launch site. All are inviting and well done but put that thought away for warmer weather. Beyond the trail is the Winter Park Disc Golf Course, an idea for future trips. When you get to the end

just turn around and stroll back. Breathe the cypress scented air and plan your next stop. After a satisfying lunch at Dockside, we stopped in the Discovery Museum. The otters were

stopped in the Discovery Museum. The otters were resting and so were the snakes and turtles. To our surprise, we then met their two axolotls. From never hearing of these creatures to meeting three in one day was a delight. My neighbor did not know about the axolotls at the Discovery Museum and the museum staff did not know about

all visit each other. It was a great day in southern Worcester County.

the one at the visitor center. I hope they

Kathryn Ferrusi loves going places close by and far away. She is a secondgeneration Ocean Pines resident.



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# Newly discovered moons of Saturn

The giant planet Saturn is of course famous for its beautiful ring system. Yet many astronomy fans have also been fascinated by the ringed-planet's extensive system of moons. In recent

moons are called "irregular" moons, characterized by orbits much larger than those of regular moons. Irregular moons have very elongated, or "squashed" elliptical orbits which differ



weeks an exciting announcement has been made: the discovery of 128 new moons. Together with the moons previously known, this brings the ringed planet to the unmatched total of 274 moons. This is almost triple the 95 moons orbiting the planet Jupiter.

Astronomers at the Canada-France-Hawaii 3.6-meter telescope (CFHT) on Mauna Kea, Hawaii have identified the new moons and tracked their unusual orbits. Just weeks ago, in March, the International Astronomical Union officially recognized the findings.

The newly revealed Saturnian



from the regular moons' nearly circular orbits. They tend to range out far beyond where the majority of a planet's satellites tend to dwell.

In addition, the new moons move in "retrograde" meaning that they journey in the opposite direction from the planet's own orbit about the sun.

Many astronomers believe that irregular moons are likely to have been captured from small bodies zooming about in the very early solar system. Since they can approach the planet from almost any direction, there is a good chance they may enter into one of these bizarre, oval-shaped, backwardmoving orbits.

The newly-found moons are all rather small, being about 4 kilometers in diameter. Why such diminutive sizes? CFHT research member, Dr. Brett Gladman, explains, "These moons are a few kilometers in size and are likely fragments of a smaller number of originally captured moons that were broken apart by violent collisions, either with other Saturnian moons or with passing comets."

Saturn's rings, of course, make it stand out from the other planets. Its "shepherd moons" help shape the rings and guide them into particular

Evening attractions also include the

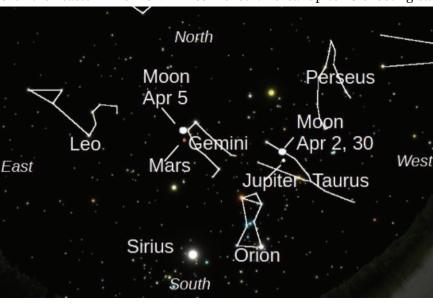


In 2007 the Cassini patterns. spacecraft spotted two Shepherd moons. Prometheus and Pandora closely aligned with Saturn's "F" ring.

There is no scientific consensus of how the rings were formed. One theory suggests the rings are bits and pieces of ancient moons that were ripped apart by the planet's gravitation. This idea would help account for why Saturn has just one giant moon - Titan - while its sister planet Jupiter boasts four.

April stargazers will find the planet Jupiter leading off the evening show around 8:15 p.m., appearing in the center of the sky high overhead. When the sky becomes fully dark around 8:45 p.m., the stars of the constellation Taurus will appear to surround the bright planet.

Leo the Lion will be visible well up above the eastern horizon. Leo



resembles a reclining lion, featuring a backward question mark representing the head and mane, and a triangle delineating the hind legs.

(Manklin Creek & Ocean Pkwy)

bright star Sirius and constellations

Gemini, Orion, and Taurus. Mars appears as subdued red-hued target near Gemini the Twins.

The moon appears close to the planets several times this month. It will glide just five degrees north of Jupiter on April 2, and repeats the conjunction on the 30th. Mars receives a visit on April 5, as the moon shows up two degrees to its north.

After about 9:30 p.m., look for the kite-shaped constellation, Bootes (boh-OH-teez) the Herdsman in the northeastern sky. Bootes features the bright orange-tinted star Arcturus at its southern tip.

Night owls may enjoy the "Lyrid" meteor shower which peaks on the night of April 21-22. Best viewing occurs between the hours of 1:30 a.m. and 4:30 a.m., and with a clear dark sky should reveal up to 10 shooting stars

per hour. The shooting stars will appear to streak outwards from a point near the bright star "Vega" in the northeastern sky. Good viewing is also possible for a few nights after its peak date, as well.

Last month, on March 18, the nation celebrated the return of two astronauts from the International Space Station. The pair had originally been scheduled for just a ten-day trip, but mechanical troubles prevented their return aboard Boeing corporation's space capsule. The Space-X "Dragon" capsule provided their successful trip home after a nine month stay in space.

April 20 is the 53rd anniversary of the Apollo 16 moon landing. On April 24, 1990, the Hubble Space telescope was launched into space.

Wishing good luck and clear skies to all stargazers.

#### Mowery earns CWI certification

Allen Mowery, continuing education and workforce development



(CEWD) skilled trades coordinator at Wor-Wic Community College, has earned the presticertified gious welding inspector (CWI) certification of the American

Allen Mowery

Welding Society. CWIs are profes-

sionals who verify that welding, testing and fabrication operations meet required code and customer

#### E-subscribe FREE to The Courier and get it

delivered to your computer each week! www.delmarvacourier.com specifications. They are vital to ensuring the reliability and safety of welding in the industry. Candidates must have a combination of education, years of practical experience and the knowledge to successfully pass three rigorous exams, each assessing a different area of welding knowledge and skill. Mowery dedicated hundreds of hours to studying and preparation.

"Wor-Wic educates many welders in our region, so we are proud that one of our own can provide this model of knowledge and dedication to the field," said Ruth E. Baker, dean of continuing education and workforce development.

Mowery assists with all CEWD skilled trades programs, and when needed, steps in to substitute teach Wor-Wic's welding and machining and metal fabrication classes.

"I am happy that I can bring my knowledge and experience to help the next generation of welders in our community." Mowery said.

worwic.edu/programs-Visit courses to learn more about welding at Wor-Wic.

#### Johnson is new Wor-Wic VP

Dr. Deirdra G. Johnson, associate vice president of student affairs at Salisbury Uni-



and community engagement at Wor-Wic Community College.

Johnson has

more than 25 years of experience in higher education, including 16 at Wor-Wic, where she began as director of retention and student success, became senior director of student development, then dean of enrollment management and student services. She also worked at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. Johnson received her bachelor's degree in mass communications from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, her master's degree in mass communications from Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge, La., and a doctorate from the University of

Maryland Eastern Shore.

"I'm excited to welcome Dr. Johnson back to the dolphin family," said Deborah Casey, Ph.D., president of Wor-Wic. "Her background and experience will be outstanding assets to Wor-Wic, our students and our community.'

Johnson will oversee collegewide initiatives that lead to enrollment and student success, as well as community partnerships.

#### **WPS achieves AP** School honor roll

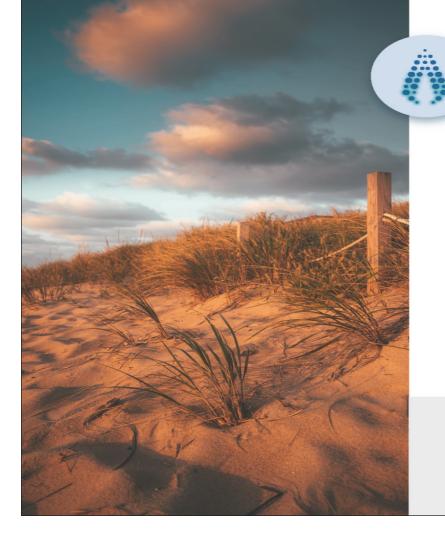
Worcester Preparatory School (WPS) announced that it has earned Platinum recognition on the 2024 AP School Honor Roll.

Of the 15,887 eligible schools in the U.S. and Canada, WPS is among just 1,049 schools (top 7%) to receive this honor for establishing AP programs that yield results for students. WPS surpassed the Platinum criteria across all three metrics: College Culture, College Credit, and College Optimization.

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sans Market will return to in-season

hours of 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., starting this

than 100 merchants during peak sea-

son, offering a wide variety of fresh

produce, baked goods, local artists and

Along with in-season hours, marketgoers can enjoy a range of seasonal

The following upcoming events are

Featuring Easter baked goods,

A Mother's Day-themed market with flowers, décor, and garden items.

• May 24: Memorial Day Weekend

Offering ingredients for holiday

• June 21: Berries & Wine Festival

A market featuring berries, wine,

• July 5: Fourth Weekend Market

Includes live music, food trucks,

A market focused on tomato-

• July 12: Tomato Festival

themed products and activities.

meals, including fresh produce, meats,

events and activities at the White

artisans, and community groups.

Horse Park Marketplace.

• April 19: Easter Magic

early spring produce, and flowers.

• May 10: Blooms & Bouquets

The market typically features more

Saturday.

scheduled:

April

May

Market

June

July

and baked goods.

and artisan goods.

and other specialty items.

#### Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market announces in-season hours

#### The Ocean Pines Farmers & Arti- August

• August 2: National Farmers Market Week

A celebration of the market's vendors and community.

• August 30: Labor Day Weekend Market

Items for end-of-summer gatherings.

#### September

• September 20: Books & Authors Jamboree

An event featuring local authors and book-related activities.

#### October

• October 18: Harvest & Flannel Market

A fall-themed market with family activities.

October 25: Halloween Market

Marketplace items with Halloween-inspired elements. Costumes encouraged.

#### November

• November 22 & 25: Thanksgiving Festival

Markets will provide items for Thanksgiving celebrations, with a special pre-holiday market on Nov. 25 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

#### December

• Dec. 6, 13, 20: Hometown Holiday Marketplace

Markets featuring holiday items, decorations, and seasonal goods.

The Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market is open every Saturday at White Horse Park in Ocean Pines. For more information, visit https://www.oceanpines.org/web/pag es/farmers-artisans-market.



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Lois Shultz

#### Pine'eer Craft Club names Schultz as April 'Crafter of the Month'

The Pine'eer Craft Club has announced Lois Schultz as its April Crafter of the Month.

Schultz and her husband moved to Ocean Pines 12 years ago from the Philadelphia area, and she joined the Craft Club soon after. She is currently the co-treasurer of the Pine'eer Artisan Gift Shop.

Schultz grew up in Finksburg, Maryland, where her passion for crafting began in third grade when her grandmother taught her to embroider. That early introduction to the creative world sparked a lifelong love of crafting that continues today.

Schultz enjoys creating a wide variety of items, including jewelry, mermaid crowns, and whimsical fairies made from silk flowers.

"After I saw a YouTube video about making flower fairies, I gave it a try," Schultz said. "They have become a big hit in the Gift Shop! I enjoy making special orders of the Bride and Groom Fairies to match the real bride and groom."

Schultz's fairies – ranging from witches and mermaids to Disney princesses – allow her to express her imagination and creativity. The tiny, handcrafted masterpieces have become one of the most popular items at the shop. According to shop managers, customers frequently check the spinning rack for the latest fairy creations.

Schultz is also known for her unique "beerings," earrings crafted from recycled aluminum cans. These distinctive pieces join the many one-of-a-kind, handcrafted gifts available at the Pine'eer Artisan Gift Shop.

The shop, located in White Horse Park in Ocean Pines, is open year-round on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Pine'eer Craft Club welcomes new crafters, and its meetings are open to the public. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month. Artisans interested in selling their creations at the shop can contact shop managers Debbie Jiwa or Barbara Herzog, or email opcraftclub@aol.com for more information.

Since its founding 50 years ago, the Pine'eer Craft Club has donated more than \$201,000 to the Ocean Pines community.

For more information, visit www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/arti-san-gift-shop.



# Historical events from April 1925

The month of April has been home to many historical events over the years. Here's a look at some that helped to shape the world in April 1925.

King Yeta III of Barotseland and the Lozi people in what is now Zambia

abolishes the corvee on April 1 in the British colony of Northern Rhodesia. The corvee is a system of forced labor that is considered the last vestige of slavery in the colony.

On April 2, Harry Pierpont is arrested in Detroit for a string of bank



robberies across Indiana and Michigan. Pierpont escapes from prison eight years later and ultimately joins John Dillinger in committing numerous additional bank robberies.

Henry Ford begins running a private air freight service between Detroit and Chicago on April 2.

On April 4, Field Marshal Paul von Hindenburg agrees to run in the second round of the German presidential election in place of Karl Jarres, who had won the first round. Jarres withdrew his name prior to the second round, paving the way for Hindenburg's candidacy and ultimate victory.

Several men working for criminal Al Capone severely assault investigative reporter Robert St. John on April 6. St. John had previously authored several pieces exposing Capone's criminal empire in Cicero, Illinois.

Adolf Hitler formally renounces his Austrian citizenship on April 7. Hitler would remain stateless and ineligible for public office until being granted German citizenship in early 1932.

In conjunction with the British Colonial Office, the Australian government announces a plan on April 8 to encourage nearly half a million British citizens to relocate to Australia. The government offers low-interest loans and skills training to entice people to move.

A demonstration against Lord Balfour in Damascus ends with two people dead and 11 wounded on April 9. The protests were a response to Balfour's promotion of Jewish interests in Palestine. Balfour would depart Damascus in haste a day after the

You are invite to the big opening of our Community River of Kindness

created with over 1,000 rocks painted by students from local schools.



When: April 10<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm Where: Stephen Decatur Park

The students of the following schools participated: Pocomoke Elementary School, Worcester Youth & Family, Stephen Decatur High School, Most Blessed Sacrament Catholic School, Snow Hill Middle School, Stephen Decatur Middle School, St. Francis de Sales Catholic School, Willards Elementary School, Worcester Recreation Center Afterschool, Cedar Chappel Special School

Thanks to Stephen Decatur Middle School Kiwanis Builders Club to help built it.

Our Sponsors: Town of Berlin and Humphreys Foundation

demonstration.

F. Scott Fitzgerald's novel The Great Gatsby is published on April 10.

Police in Denver, Colorado, carry out a raid on Good Friday on April 10. More than 200 people, including bootleggers and gamblers, are arrested. The raid was ordered by Denver Mayor Benjamin F. Stapleton, a member of the Ku Klux Klan. The KKK had benefitted from many of the institutions targeted during the raid, which prompted the organization to strip Stapleton of his membership months later.

The James Simpson-Roosevelt Asiatic Expedition departs New York City on April 11. The expedition aimed to collect wildlife species from mountainous regions in Asia, and would ultimately return with thousands of specimens.

Women are granted the right to vote in the Dominion of Newfoundland on April 13.

Anarchists open fire on the vehicle of Tsar Boris III of Bulgaria on April 14. Though King Boris is grazed by a bullet and two of his companions are killed, the assassination attempt fails.

The Caterpillar Tractor Company is founded upon the merger of Holt Manufacturing Company and the C.L. Best Tractor Company on April 15.

After consuming an excessive amount of hot dogs and soda, Babe Ruth undergoes surgery on April 17. Ruth had collapsed on a team train 10 days earlier and is treated for what doctors characterized as an intestinal abscess.

The Communist Party of Korea is founded in Japanese-ruled Korea on April 17.

The use of a sign shaped like a shield is standardized as the way to identify federally funded highways in the United States on April 20.

The entire crew of the Japanese cargo ship S.S. *Raifuku Maru* perishes when the ship sinks in a storm on April 21. The ship was transporting wheat from the U.S. to Germany but rescue efforts failed due to stormy conditions.

Franz Kafka's novel, Der Prozess (later translated in English as The Trial), is published posthumously on April 26. Kafka, a relative unknown at the time of the book's publication, died of tuberculosis roughly nine months earlier.

France begins air raids on Morocco as part of the Rif War on April 27. The raids would continue intermittently for the next nine years.

## **My Backyard...** sponsored by Maureen Kennedy The turkey vulture

widespread of the New World vultures. One of three species in the genus Cathartes of the family Cathartidae, the turkey vulture



ranges from southern Canada to the southernmost tip of South America. It inhabits a variety of open and semi-open areas, including subtropical forests, shrublands, pastures, and deserts.<sup>[1]</sup>

The turkey vulture is a scavenger and feeds almost exclusively on carrion. It finds its food using its keen eyes and sense of smell, flying low enough to detect the gasses produced by the early stages of decay in dead animals. They rarely, if ever, kill prey themselves; when they do it tends to comprise small weak offspring or very sick individuals of various animals, such as bird eggs and nestlings, as well as reptiles.

In flight, it uses thermals to move through the air, flapping its wings infrequently. It roosts in large community groups. Lacking a syrinx, the vocal organ of birds, its only vocalizations are grunts or low hisses. It nests in caves, hollow trees, or thickets.

The turkey vulture is the most Each year it generally raises two chicks, which it feeds by regurgitation. It has very few natural predators. In the United States, the vulture receives legal protection under the Mi-

> gratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. In the US it is illegal to take, kill, or possess turkey vultures, their eggs, and any body parts including but not limited to their feathers; violation of the law is punishable by a fine of up to \$100,000 for individuals or \$200,000 for organizations, and/or a prison term of one year.

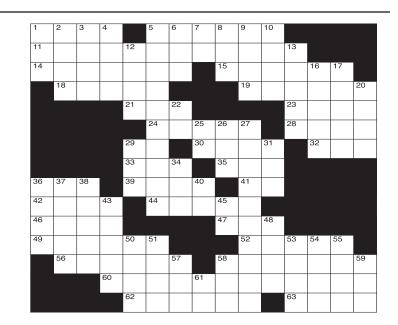
> The bird is also known in some North American regions as a "buzzard" or "turkey buzzard." In some areas of the Caribbean, it is known as the "John crow" or "carrion crow."

The turkey vulture is gregarious and roosts in large community groups, breaking away to forage independently during the day. Several hundred vultures may roost communally in groups, which sometimes even include black vultures. It roosts often on dead, leafless trees as well as low-density conifers, and will also roost on manmade structures such as water or microwave towers. Though it nests in caves, it does not enter them except during the breeding season. The turkey vulture lowers its night-time body temperature by about 11 °F to 93 °F, becoming slightly hypothermic.

This vulture is often seen standing in a spread-winged or horaltic stance. The stance is believed to serve multiple functions: drying the wings, warming the body, and baking off bacteria. It is practiced more often following damp or rainy nights.

-wikipedia





#### **CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Garden tool
- 5. A way to preserve
- 11. Gratitude 14. Domestic sheep
- 15. Simpler
- 18. Cavities containing liquid
- 21. Ocular protection index
- 24. Icelandic poems
- 28. Pop
- 29. Device
- ne

- 35. Corpuscle count (abbr.)
- 36. Young women's association
- 39. Not shallow
- 41. Doctor
- 42. Furniture 44. Hindu male religious teacher
- 46. Highly spiced stew
- 47. A way to communicate
- 49. Almost last
- 52. Astronomer Carl
- 56. Small horses
- 58. A slender tower with balconies
- 60. A disrespectful quality

31. Portable computer screen

34. A crying noise of a bird

36. Sticky, amorphous substance

37. Starchy dish of dried tubers

48. A well-defined track or path

material

38. Type of acid

43.16 ounces

40. Partner to "Ma"

45. The Bay State

51. Defined period

57. Blood relation

61. Father to Junior

58. Not around

53. Group of toughs

55. Famed Scottish Loch

59. Recipe measurement

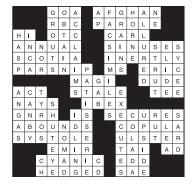
50. Substitution

54. Region

- 62. Fully shaded inner regions
- 63. Short convulsive intake of breath

#### **CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Popular Sunday dinner option 29. Where a bachelor lives
- 2. Oil cartel
- 3. Agile
- 4. Greek goddess of discord
- 5. Genetically distinct variety 6. Indicates badly
- 7. Popular Mr. T character
- 8. Consumed
- 9. Chinese dynasty
- 10. NFL great Randy
- 12. Within
- 13. Palm trees
  - 16. Fungal disease
  - 17. Tall, slender-leaved plants
  - 20. Affirmative! (slang)
- 22. A passport is one 25. Two outs in baseball (abbr.)
- 26. Swiss river
- 27. Deferential



Answers for March 26

19. Large fish-eating bird

23. Phil \_\_, former CIA

- 30. Actor Rudd

| 32. | А | pituitary | hormo |
|-----|---|-----------|-------|
|     |   |           |       |

33. Focus on an object

# **Interesting facts**

A cat has 32 muscles in each ear. A crocodile cannot stick out its tongue.



Gathered from the internet by Jack Barnes

A dragonfly has a life span of 24 hours.

A goldfish has a memory span of 3 seconds.

A "jiffy" is an actual unit of time for 1/100th of a second.

A shark is the only fish that can blink with both eyes.

A snail can sleep for 3 years.

Al Capone's business card said he was a used furniture dealer.

All 50 states are listed across the

top of the Lincoln Memorial on the back of the \$5 bill.

Almonds are a member of the peach family.

An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.

Babies are born without kneecaps. They don't appear until the child reaches 2 to 6 years of age!

Butterflies taste with their feet.

Cats have over one hundred vocal sounds. Dogs only have about 10.

"Dreamt" is the only English word that ends in the letters "mt".

February 1865 is the only month in recorded history not to have a full moon.

In the last 4,000 years, no new animals have been domesticated.

If the population of China walked past you in single file, the line would never end because of the rate of reproduction.

If you are an average American, in your whole life you will spend an average of 6 months waiting at red lights.

It's impossible to sneeze with your eyes open.

Leonardo DaVinci invented scissors.

Maine is the only state whose name is just one syllable.

No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver, or purple.

Our eyes are always the same size from birth, but our nose and ears never stop growing

Peanuts are one of the ingredients of dynamite.

Rubber bands last longer when refrigerated.

'Stewardesses" is the longest word typed with only the left hand and "lollipop" with your right.

The average person's left hand does 56% of the typing.

The cruise liner, QE2, moves only 6 inches for each gallon of diesel that it burns.

The microwave was invented after a researcher walked by a radar tube and a chocolate bar melted in his pocket.

The sentence: "The quick brown

fox jumps over the lazy dog" uses every letter of the alphabet.

The winter of 1932 was so cold that Niagara Falls froze completely solid.

The words 'racecar,' 'kayak' and 'level' are the same whether they are read left to right or right to left (palindromes).

There are 293 ways to make change for a dollar.

There are more chickens than people in the world.

There are only 4 words in the English language which end in "dous": tremendous, horrendous, stupendous, and hazardous.

There are 2 words in the English language that have all 5 vowels in order: "abstemious" and "facetious."

There's no Betty Rubble in the Flintstones Chewable Vitamins.

Tigers have striped skin, not just striped fur.

TYPEWRITER is the longest word that can be made using the letters only on one row of the keyboard.

Winston Churchill was born in a ladies' room during a dance.

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