

# The Courier

April 9, 2025 Volume 25 Number 28



**Quality time** - Sloane Michael and Isla Figiel from Laura Black's kindergarten class at Ocean City Elementary are enjoying some partner reading together.

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## Anglers to meet

The Ocean Pines Anglers Club will meet Saturday, April 12 at 9:30 a.m. in the Ocean Pines library. The speaker is Claire Rush Blades, eco-tourism and aquaculture sales manager representing Baywater Landing Marina (Chincoteague Bay), the home base of Baywater Seafood, where oysters and their specialty item, bay scallops, are raised year-round. Also Katie Goetzinger, Ocean Pines Association recreation program supervisor, will unveil plans to hold the inaugural Recs and Parks summer 'fishing camp' for children ages eight to 12 years old. All are welcome.

## Job fair scheduled

Calling all job seekers. Meet prospective employers from across Worcester County and choose from hundreds of seasonal and year-round jobs at the Worcester County Job Fair on Wednesday, April 23, at the Snow Hill Volunteer Fire Company from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

This event is free and open to the public. No registration is required. Spanish and Haitian Creole interpreters will be on-site to provide interpreter services.

Come prepared, ready to network, and take the next step toward your professional goals. This upcoming Job Fair promises an array of exciting opportunities across various industries. Whether you're an experienced professional looking to advance your career, a recent graduate ready to embark on your first job, or seeking summer employment, this event caters to individuals at every stage of their career journey.

Additional community resources will be available, including representatives from the Department of Human Services, Wor-Wic Community College, the Department of Labor, the Lower Shore Workforce Alliance, and other organizations offering assistance.

"We are thrilled to celebrate Second Chance Month at this event," said WCTED Workforce Development Specialist Nancy Schwendeman. "The Maryland Department of Labor will feature Reentry Navigator Tawanda Redding alongside a workforce development specialist to support individuals from diverse backgrounds in accessing essential services."

This event is being hosted by Worcester County Tourism and Economic Development (WCTED) in partnership with the Worcester County Department of Social Services and Maryland Department of Labor. For more information, contact WCTED Workforce Development Specialist Nancy Schwendeman at [nschwendeman@co.worcester.md.us](mailto:nschwendeman@co.worcester.md.us) or (410) 632-3112 x2120 or visit [www.choosemarylandscoast.org](http://www.choosemarylandscoast.org).

## Grace Center offers free seminar

The Grace Center for Maternal and Women's Health (located behind the Hope 4 Recovery House) in Berlin will host an interactive discussion and presentation tailored for moms, dads, and caregivers of children. This event will take place on Wednesday, April 23 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Grace Center with Ellen Willingham of Priority Partners serving as presenter.

The seminar is based on the book *What to Do When Your Child is Sick* by Gloria Mayer and Ann Kuklierus, which addresses over 50 common childhood illnesses, injuries, and health issues. The book is written in easy-to-understand language, making it accessible for parents and caregivers of children from birth to 8 years of age. All participants will receive a copy of the book as well as a swag bag.

Although this event is free, registration is required. Please call the Grace Center at 443-513-4124 or email [info@gracematernalhealth.org](mailto:info@gracematernalhealth.org) to reserve your seat. Refreshments will be served.

If your organization has an event to promote, send your press release to *The Courier* at [thecourier@delmarvacourier.com](mailto:thecourier@delmarvacourier.com)



**Learning** - Students in Mrs. Lavin's first grade class at Ocean City Elementary were entomologists for the day. The students used marshmallows and pretzels to recreate the three main body parts of an insect. Pictured from left to right are **Abree Wallace**, **Eoin Gray**, and **Cailyn Guns**.

## Local economy impacted by Wor-Wic

April is Community College Month, and a recent study is showing just how important Wor-Wic Community College is to the local economy. The study, conducted by an independent data research firm, Lightcast, found that businesses, taxpayers and the community all benefit from Wor-Wic's total annual impact of \$148.9 million, supporting 2,076 jobs.

Lightcast's report said that the college benefits regional businesses by increasing consumer spending in the region and supplying a steady flow of qualified, trained workers to the workforce. It also enriches the lives of students by raising their lifetime earnings and helping them achieve their individual potential. The average Wor-Wic graduate will see a \$7,200 increase in earnings every year, compared to those without an associate degree.

As an investment, Wor-Wic outpaces the stock market. The average annual return on investment for Wor-Wic students is 24.4% (the market's return is 10.1%). For every dollar spent, students gain \$5.40 in lifetime earnings, and local taxpayers gain \$25 million in added tax revenue thanks to higher salaries, as well as savings in social services supports that aren't needed as students succeed professionally.

The study found that Wor-Wic cre-

ates and retains wealth: one out of every 54 jobs on the Lower Shore is supported by Wor-Wic and its students. Increased earnings of Wor-Wic alumni and the businesses they work for added up to \$114.2 million. The added income of Wor-Wic employees and operations has a \$22 million impact on the local economy. Wor-Wic's construction projects supported 100 jobs and had a local impact of \$6.4 million. Wor-Wic students added \$6.2 million to the local economy just from their daily spending.

Benefits extend beyond individual students and into the community, according to Lightcast. For every dollar spent, society as a whole gains \$3.50 in added income and social savings. Social benefits include reduced crime, lower welfare and unemployment rates and increased health and well-being. Local businesses benefit from increased consumer spending and a qualified, trained workforce. Adding together increased income for students, college operations, businesses and social savings, Wor-Wic provides \$251.3 million in benefits to the community.

Visit the Maryland Association of Community Colleges at [mdacc.org/impact-maryland-2](http://mdacc.org/impact-maryland-2) for more information about the study.





**Support** - Worcester Youth & Family, a local non-profit organizations whose mission is "Helping People Shine," had Rachel Mitchell, program support coordinator, speak to the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines - Ocean City where she also received a \$2,500 donation from the club.

Above: (L-R) **Rachel Mitchell** and Kiwanis Club President **Tom Southwell**.

## Public Works announces April yard debris drop-off schedule

Ocean Pines Association's Public Works Department will offer yard debris drop-off services every Saturday in April to assist residents with spring cleanup.

The Public Works yard at 1 Firehouse Lane will be open for yard debris drop-off every Saturday in April from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The yard will be closed during weekdays throughout the month.

Drop-off dates: April 12, April 19 and April 26

Vehicle sticker required for drop-off. A valid vehicle sticker is required for access to the Public Works yard. Residents may use their 2024 stickers or obtain a new sticker at no charge by visiting the Public Works office during regular business hours, Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Additional options for yard waste disposal. Residents have several options this spring to dispose of yard waste:

-Weekly Collection by Republic Services: Republic Services will collect up to eight bags of leaves per week on regular trash days.

-Special Pick-Up for Excess Bags: If residents have more than eight bags, they can call Public Works at 410-641-7425 and request a special pick-up.

Paper bags required for all disposal methods. Residents are reminded that leaves and yard debris must be placed in paper bags only for both drop-off and pick-up. Plastic bags are not accepted.

For more information, call Public Works at 410-641-7425 or visit [ocean-pines.org](http://ocean-pines.org).



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## County to host Business Resource Day

Business owners, entrepreneurs, and aspiring professionals are invited to join Worcester County Tourism and Economic Development (WCTED) professionals for Business Resource Day on Thursday, April 24, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Berlin Branch Library. This free event is dedicated to providing essential tools, mentorship, and networking opportunities.

Gain access to expert advice on a variety of business topics to help you and your business be successful, and connect with representatives from SCORE, Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO), U.S. Department of Agricultural Rural Development (USDA), Small Business Development Center (SBDC), Maryland Capital Enterprises (MCE), and the Maryland Department of Commerce. Those interested in attending should pre-register online at <https://business-resource-day.eventbrite.com>

“This event will allow attendees to speak directly with industry experts who can offer tailored insights and solutions,” WCTED Business Development and Retention Specialist Michele Burke said. “Learn about available loans, grants, and investment opportunities to grow your business. Discover local and state-level programs designed to help businesses thrive. Connect with like-minded entrepreneurs, business owners, and professionals. You will not want to miss this opportunity to ask questions and learn from these valuable partner organizations.”

For more information, contact Burke at [mburke@Marylandscoast.org](mailto:mburke@Marylandscoast.org), call 410-632-3112, or visit [www.choosemarylandscoast.org](http://www.choosemarylandscoast.org)

## Funding opportunities available for diabetes

The Worcester County Health Department (WCHD) is requesting proposals from community-based organizations and local farmers to help implement Cooking up Health: A Nourishing Neighbors Program as a result of receiving funds from Carefirst BlueCross BlueShield. The program focuses on building healthier food environments, strengthening local food systems, and improving access to nutritious food. It aims to boost nutritional security for those with diet-related health issues and empower individuals with the knowledge and tools to make healthier food choices.

There are three funding opportunities available within this project:

**Little Free Food Pantry Boxes** - Local organizations may request up to \$750 to host and maintain a “Little Free Food Pantry” box in Berlin, Pocomoke, or Snow Hill, MD. Funded organizations must commit to securing, stocking, and maintaining a “Little Free Food Pantry” box in Berlin, Pocomoke, or Snow Hill.

**“Pop-up” Farmers Markets** - Local Farmers may request up to \$6,000 to participate in “Pop-Up” Farmers Markets in Worcester County. Funded entities will collaborate with the Worcester County Health Department, the University of Maryland Extension and other stakeholders to host “Pop-Up” Farmers Markets in low-income, low access areas of the Berlin, Pocomoke and/or Snow Hill communities.

**Community Gardens** - Community gardens in Worcester County may request up to \$2500 to improve nutritional security in Berlin, Pocomoke, and Snow Hill, MD. Funded organizations must serve Worcester County residents and/or employees, develop and maintain a community garden, grow, harvest, and distribute fresh produce to the community, and partner with WCHD for community education and outreach.

A virtual pre-proposal orientation meeting will be held through Google Meet on April 7, 2025 at 1 p.m. If you plan to attend this orientation session, RSVP to Crystal Bell at [Crystal.bell1@maryland.gov](mailto:Crystal.bell1@maryland.gov).

Digital application packets for each grant opportunity can be found at [worcesterhealth.org/minigrant](http://worcesterhealth.org/minigrant). Applications must be returned to the Worcester County Health Department (6040 Public Landing Rd. Snow Hill, MD.) by April 25, 2025, no later than 4:30 p.m. A review team will evaluate the applications, and awards will be made after May 15, 2025.

For more information or to request a paper application packet, please call the Worcester County Health Department Prevention Services at 410-632-1100 ext. 1108.



**At the fair** - On Friday, March 28, Worcester Prep's 2nd-grade students hosted a Habitat Fair for fellow lower school students, staff, and families. Attendees learned about the various places where animals make their homes, from the rainforest to the Arctic and all the habitats in between.

In class, the students explored different types of land and water habitats, the animals that inhabit each one, the adaptations they make, and the food chain. They also examined the various types of plants, landforms, and threats present in each habitat. After their lessons, it was the students' turn to teach by spending a month researching and writing about their selected habitat. They chose an animal from that habitat, and with the assistance of lower school art teacher, Mrs. Roman, they each created a model of the animal in art class. The project also transitioned to computer class, where Mrs. Lyons guided them in compiling their research into a digital presentation.

Above: 2nd grader Christian Williams shared his habitat project on the Desert with his family. Pictured from the left are his grandfather, **Jim Mathias**; his parents, **Lauren** and **Beau Williams**; and his grandparents, **Roland** and **Roxanne Williams**.

## Local suicide prevention group seeks volunteers

The Jesse Klump Memorial Fund, the area's foremost nonprofit organization focusing on suicide prevention, is seeking volunteer leaders to help expand outreach to local communities.

“The demand for our suicide prevention work is expanding rapidly,” said JKMF President Kim Klump. “We hope to diversify our Board of Directors with those who have skills and life experience that will enable us to meet that demand and grow.”

The requirements to serve on a Board or in a leadership role are straightforward: The desire to make a difference in a vital cause, to apply skills from other walks in life in a collegial environment, and a passion for creating avenues for those who are in crisis to find help. The Board meets

quarterly in Worcester County. Board members are expected to serve on a committee and when possible to participate in events planning.

“The addition of someone with accounting or bookkeeping skills would be enormous. Also, someone capable of steering us through technological issues to better reach those in need would be very helpful,” Klump said.

If you are interested in becoming a part of a successful and necessary human services organization, call 410-726-3090. The Jesse Klump Memorial Fund has existed since 2009, and has built a reputation with solid financial backing as an important part of the public health community on the lower Eastern Shore. To learn more about the Fund and its mission and work, visit [www.jessesaddle.org](http://www.jessesaddle.org).



# Small talk

Attending a banquet not long ago, I was seated at a table with people I had not met before. They all knew each other as co-workers and though they were more than cordial when I was seated, I

they're doing something cute or wild or silly. My oldest son and his wife have three dogs and from time to time he'll send a close-up photo of Ollie, a Manchester terrier, looking straight into the camera with her big eyes, and a message such as "What's up?" It's sort of silly and is good for a chuckle.

Our youngest son will send video of Bombur jumping and howling at the front door. It's funny to watch, especially when she loses her

balance.

We usually get pictures of our daughter's dog Teddy, a German shepherd mix, when he comes home from the groomer. He always looks quite spiffy with his bandana.

Dogs are family and their characteristics and antics become etched in family lore. My wife fondly recalls her border collie Duchess she had growing up. The story that's been told repeatedly was when, in a protective response, Duchess tackled a neighbor who, while mowing his lawn, came too near my wife and her siblings with the lawn mower.

My Doberman Black Jack looked very intimidating. He stood tall and had a stance that made people think twice about going near him. He was wary of strangers and could express a sort of a Clint Eastwood glare, "Are you feeling lucky, Punk?" In reality he was a real mush who loved sprawling on the sofa even if it meant pushing you off. Not long after my wife and I started dating, I brought her to my house. Black Jack heard me coming through the front door and ran to meet me. He stopped in his tracks when he saw me with someone he didn't know. He went into his stance. Without missing a beat, my wife went right over, got down next to him and gave him a big hug and started talking to him, making a big fuss over the fact that it was his birthday. He started licking her and they were friends from then on, sometimes displacing me.

Dogs are a gift. They keep us company, listen to us when we need someone to talk to and offer affection at all times. They're also a great conversation ice breaker when sitting with strangers. Maybe next time, I'll bring Chooch as my plus-one when invited to a future event. Although, he may get a better offer and go home with someone else.



## It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

was a fifth wheel, at least that's how I felt. I always feel on my left foot when in a group of new people. The conversation seems stilted and disconnected. I've always been challenged when having to exchange small talk. Speaking publicly before large groups of strangers – no problem. In a group of three or four strangers, for reasons I can't explain, I'm shy and uncomfortable. I'd much rather listen than speak.

Through the years, I've learned to ask questions to spur other people to talk, taking the pressure off me. What they have to say is more interesting to me than I fear what I would say would be to them. Sometimes I'll ask, if I'm with a couple, "how did you two meet?" Or "what brought you to this area?" Usually, these questions ignite a conversation that allows me to ask follow-up questions. Some of the best conversations I've had with strangers I have hardly spoken.

Getting back to my story. After the invocation and before we were called to the buffet, something very interesting occurred. I overheard a stray comment from the person sitting next to me who was talking with a person across the table. She mentioned her dog. I asked what kind of dog she had (Labradoodle) and we were off to the races in conversation about our dogs. Eventually everyone at the table was sharing dog stories. Pictures soon circulated around the table. We shared tips on dog food brands, chew toys and training techniques.

I don't know which topic ranks first with people: talking about their dogs or their grandchildren or their latest health ailment. I prefer talking dogs and grandchildren. Call me old fashioned but health ailments are best discussed with a doctor, not strangers at the supermarket checkout counter.

In our family, it's common that we'll send each other photos of our dogs when



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# Commentary

By Joe Reynolds

*OceanPinesForum.com*

# Fiori disassembles

An ROC Facebook member named Sharon A. Curtiss posted a message containing what she said was an email from Worcester County Commissioner Eric Fiori about the fiscal fiasco in the County’s sewer and water service areas.

The Fiori email, unfortunately, does not even address the issue currently before the County Commissioners - Should Worcester County force ratepayers in Ocean Pines to pay for many millions in operational losses in sewer service areas within Fiori’s district? Instead, he disassembles.

Fiori’s email does make crystal clear his goal is to combine the current

11 or so service areas into a single area. He wrote, “Combining the districts overtime will not only create sustainability, but will stabilize rates in the upcoming years and into the future.”

Fiori’s email provides no facts to support his claim. The email contains only misinformation and speculation.


Fiori writes, “The Ocean Pines wastewater treatment plant was taken over by the county in the early 90s because it was in disrepair and had multiple drainage ditches with raw sewage present. The county spent millions on bringing the plant back up to operating standards.”

What actually happened is the

Courier

Almanac

On April 9, 1959, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) introduces America’s first astronauts to the press: Scott Carpenter, L. Gordon Cooper Jr., John H. Glenn Jr., Virgil "Gus" Grissom, Walter Schirra Jr., Alan Shepard Jr. and Donald Slayton. The seven men, all military test pilots, were carefully selected from a group of 32 candidates to take part in Project Mercury, America’s first manned space program. NASA planned to begin manned orbital flights in 1961.



The benefits of exercise for seniors are innumerable. In order to get the physical activity they need, many older adults are turning to pickleball. Pickleball combines elements of tennis, wiffle ball and ping-pong into an activity that is drawing new enthusiasts every day. Fans often say that pickleball is the most fun racket sport they have played. With a smaller court than tennis and a lighter ball, pickleball is ideal for seniors who won't have to worry about the sport being too high-intensity. The Medical University of South Carolina says pickleball is the fastest-growing sport today, particularly among seniors. The 2023 Sports & Fitness Industry Association Report on Pickleball says pickleball has attracted 8.9 million U.S. players of all ages and fitness levels. The SFIA report notes that the 65+ age group accounts for the second highest number of participants.

County bought the Ocean Pines water and wastewater facility, lock, stock, and barrel, for about the sum of \$1.5 million back in the late 1980s. The Ocean Pines Association, contrary to what many believe, never owned the facility. As Boise Cascade set up Ocean Pines, the water and sewer treatment facilities were owned by a private company named Maryland Marine Utilities (MMU).

MMU was quickly underwater financially. Somehow or another it was involved in the Merritt Savings & Loan debacle around 1985. Merritt went under, the FDIC or possibly the State of Maryland stepped in, and, when the dust settled, Chase Bank ended up in control of many assets in the Ocean Pines subdivision, including the water and sewage treatment facilities.

Chase operated those facilities from sometime in 1985 until 1988, according to Ed Moran, the individual Chase hired to sort out what was a major mess. Moran’s efforts resulted in Chase Bank advancing funds to replace leaking sewage holding tanks, and other major pump maintenance. A moratorium was imposed prior to Chase ownership on any new connections to the Ocean Pines sewage treatment plant, leaving owners of undeveloped lots in limbo.

Moran finally worked out a deal with Worcester County to purchase the Ocean Pines water and wastewater facilities for \$1.5 million. Chase had previously advanced the funds to cover \$160,000 for an unpaid bill from an engineering company for plans related to an expansion of the plant’s sewage

treatment capacity from 500,000 gallons per day to one million day allowing new connections to continue.

Contrary to what Fiori writes, in his continuing efforts to denigrate folks in Ocean Pines, about the County spending “millions” to take over the Ocean Pines facilities, it seems all monies spent by the County were paid in full by Ocean Pines ratepayers via various bonds taken out by the County.

By 1989 the moratorium was lifted and over the next decade there were years when 400 new homes were built in Ocean Pines.

Commissioner Fiori should get his facts straight - the ratepayers of Ocean Pines paid the bills, not Worcester County.

In his email, Fiori then disassembles further, writing, “I’ve been involved with improving the water and sewer system within the county since I was elected. I’ve been at nearly every county meeting that involves waste water and lead the wastewater task force.”

One can only wonder if Commissioner Fiori ever attended a meeting of the County’s Ocean Pines Water and Wastewater Advisory Committee. The committee was created decades ago when Commissioner Sonny Bloxom from Pocomoke was Commissioners president. The committee’s sole purpose was to protect the interests of Ocean Pines ratepayers. This happened after a lawsuit was filed over misuse of funds by the Worcester County Sanitary Commission who ran

*please see **commentary** on page 14*

## Reader Letter

### One pays for what one owes

*The following letter was sent to the Worcester County Commissioners and shared with The Courier.*

To: The Worcester County Commissioners.

This statement is in reference to the county plan – water/sewer hikes: Ocean Pines should be accountable for the valid fees applica-

ble to service provided and not for any deficit that the county needs to recoup.

The “Financial Dilemma” is somewhat of a “no-brainer/common sense” quandary and should be resolved in a fair manner whereby “one pays what one owes.”

**John Talbott**  
*Ocean Pines*



## BJ's membership offer returns

BJ's Wholesale Club is once again partnering with the Ocean Pines Association to bring a special membership offer, effective through April 30, to benefit the Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines Foundation.

With this offer, new members receive The Club Card Membership for 12-months for \$20, or The Club+ Card Membership, which receives five cents off per gallon at BJ's Gas every day and 2% back in rewards on most BJ's purchases, plus two free same-day deliveries per year (on eligible orders of \$50 or more) for \$40 with BJ's Easy Renewal.

Existing members can purchase a 12-month renewal for The Club Card Membership for \$50, or a 12-month renewal for The Club+ Card Membership for \$100.

In addition to offering special membership discounts, BJ's will donate \$15 for each completed new Club+ Membership application, or \$5 for each completed new and renewal Club Card Membership and each completed renewal Club Card+ membership application received, to the Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines Foundation.

To take advantage of this special offer by phone, call 800-313-8887 and use promo code 100407. Phones are open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. EST.

BJ's membership applications are also available at the Ocean Pines Association Administration Building at 239 Ocean Parkway and online at [ocean-pines.org](http://ocean-pines.org). Applications must be returned with payment by April 30. Check and credit card payments will be accepted.

Applications may be dropped off at the administration building front desk or mailed to Ocean Pines Association, Attn: Marketing, 239 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines, MD 21811.

This offer is not available online, at any BJ's location, or for any current Easy Renewal members.

This special promotion is only offered through Ocean Pines two times a year. The next promotion will be in fall 2025.

Current BJ's members whose memberships will expire before then are encouraged to renew during the fall offer. Members can check their current expiration dates by checking their BJ's receipts or the BJ's app, or by calling 800-313-8887.

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# Students discuss importance of US Constitution . . .

Three students were honored recently for their essays on the United States Constitution. The contest was sponsored by the Republican Women of Worcester County (RWWC) who reached out to county eighth grade students in public and private schools.

According to RWWC Literacy Chair Susan Ostrowski 17 submissions were received from students at Worcester Prep and Most Blessed Sacrament. The submissions were reviewed by four judges and the winner announced at the March luncheon of the RWWC.

The students were required to choose one of the 27 Amendments and explain what it means to them through life and personal experiences.

Seamus Wilkinson's (Most Blessed Sacrament) essay was ranked first and won \$250. Tyler Smith (Most Blessed Sacrament) placed second and won \$100. Brock Hidell (Worcester Preparatory School) placed third and won \$50.

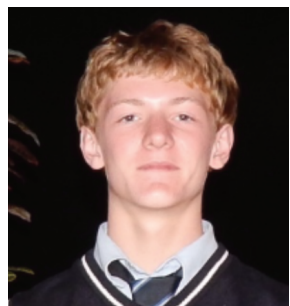
Each student read aloud their essays during the luncheon. Their essays are reprinted here in their entirety.



Standing, left to right are, RWWC President **Jean Delcher**, **Tyler Smith**, **Seamus Wilkinson**, **Brock Hidell** and **Susan Ostrowski**, RWWC Literacy Chair.

## What the First Amendment means to me

By **Seamus Wilkinson**  
*Most Blessed Sacrament*



**Seamus Wilkinson**

The First Amendment is a gift, and the foundation of our freedoms and ways to express ourselves. It gives us our rights to freedom of religion, speech, the press, assembly, and petition, giving us the freedom to speak what we think. This amendment allows people to practice their faith and produces different perspectives and a diverse society. With people not being restricted by their religion, this also means that the government cannot establish an official religion or prevent people from practicing their own faith.

The First Amendment and any Amendment of the United States Constitution must have at least two thirds of both the House of Representatives and the Senate must approve it, or two

thirds of the states can ask for an amendment through a convention. After that, three fourths of the states must agree to it, either through their state legislatures or meetings in each state. The 27th Amendment, which deals with how Congress gets paid, is the most recent one, but it was first proposed in 1789 and did not get ratified until May 7, 1992. This shows how hard it is to create or remove an amendment.

The First Amendment guarantees the rights to assembly and petition. This means that people can come together to protest, or support causes they believe in. Throughout history, these rights have played a role in movements for justice and equality. For example, the Civil Rights Movement used peaceful protests to fight for equal rights for African Americans. People have organized protests about issues they care about, such as education or even violence. These rights remind me that even younger people can make a difference when they come together for a cause.

Freedom of the press is another essential part of the First Amendment. This means that journalists and news

organizations can report on issues without government interference. This right helps ensure that people stay informed about what is happening in the world. As a student, I rely on social media and the news to learn what is happening in my country, current events, and history. Without freedom of the press, people might only hear one side of a story, and governments could hide the truth. Understanding the importance of this right reminds the news usually has reliable sources of information.

But the greatest part of the First Amendment is freedom of speech. This means that people can express their opinions without fear of punishment from the government. This applies to me because it encourages me to think and share my ideas. In school, I participate in classes about history, literature, and current events. Knowing that I can voice my opinions and my own beliefs. And freedom of speech comes with responsibility. It does not mean I can say anything I want without consequences. Words have power, and they should be used to promote understanding and kindness rather than harm or spread false

information. As a student, I see the First Amendment to promote respect and understanding of people and their different beliefs. My school teaches values of kindness, service, and justice.

The idea that everyone should be treated fairly, regardless of their religion or opinions, is the basis of the First Amendment, which allows people to have different viewpoints and still peacefully coexist. It teaches us that while we may not always agree, we should respect others' beliefs.

To conclude the First Amendment is the base of what makes the United States a free country. It protects my right to practice my faith, express my thoughts, learn from the press, and stand up for what I believe in. I see these rights as need to my education and my future. The First Amendment not only allows me to live my daily life with freedom but also the responsibility that comes with your personal rights. It is up to everyone to use our freedoms wisely, to respect others, and to work toward a society that values truth and justice.



# ... articulate understanding of liberty

## We The People

By **Tyler Smith**  
Most Blessed Sacrament  
Catholic School



**Tyler Smith**

How old must a person be to vote responsibly? Can an eighteen-year-old be informed enough to make decisions regarding government leaders? The original constitution established the voting age at twenty-one years old. The early framers considered that the age of

twenty-one was appropriate because by that time a male person would have a sufficient job and possibly own property. Why did the thinking change? In 1970, Congress passed the twenty-sixth amendment which allowed eighteen-year-olds to vote in a state and federal election. Eighteen-year-olds were

drafted into the military. Therefore, young men protested that they should also be able to vote.

This amendment is important to me because I am concerned about the leadership of the United States, and I want the country that I live in to be guided by someone who I can trust and who is responsible and trustworthy. As a result, I am encouraged to study about government and be informed of the current events. Neil Armstrong once said, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." On the one hand, one vote will not change much. On the other hand, if I talk to and involve other young people to also vote, then change might happen.

The fact is today eighteen is regarded as the age of adulthood for many things. A person must be eighteen to visit a casino, participate in contests, and make major purchases. They can also join the military at eighteen. What is more important than having the country I live in influenced by honest politicians? While

this is important for me, my peers benefit as well.

Today we also have social media that can easily be used to influence opinions. When the constitution was originally written, social media did not exist. Today, I can use social media for a good cause. I can use it to convince young people to learn about politics and vote responsibly. In high school, there needs to be more classes about government structures, political issues and the understanding of the political issues. These types of high school civic classes will allow students the opportunity to research the pros and cons of the political issues allowing students to be better informed and more confident when taking a stance to vote. I am learning that with social media, you have to be careful with what you read. If the resources are available to the educators to offer these types of high school classes, then this generation can use the social media platforms to help motivate and encourage other high school students to learn and become better voters. Many students have turned eighteen before they even graduate from high school. If these students

take government and civic classes in high school, they are better prepared regarding their decisions to vote.

The future is going to bring many new programs for younger people to participate in new ideas. You never know what the future is going to bring, so young people need to decide whether these ideas are beneficial or harmful.

Consequently, raising the voting age to eighteen has resulted in young people learning more about government. It has caused young people to talk about politics and government to each other. If eighteen-year-olds could not vote, would they involve themselves in government? I think probably not. Having the right to vote makes young people feel that they are needed. I want to be needed by my family, friends, and country. I also want to be able to vote for leaders that are responsible and make good decisions for my country. The right to vote also enables young people to consider what is good and what is bad for the country. The addition of the twenty-sixth amendment allowing eighteen-year-olds to vote has improved the lives of all citizens.

## Speak when moved

By **Brock Hidell**  
Worcester Preparatory School



**Brock Hidell**

When one is asked their favorite amendment, they most likely think of the Bill Of Rights first. These guaranteed amendments outline our rights as the

American people. They state exactly what we can and can not do. These amendments were not enforced until December 15, 1791, so before there was

partial havoc in the guidelines of the American citizen.

We as American citizens may not fully realize how fortunate we are to have these amendments in our lives. In some countries, citizens are treated as peasants and the lower class just based on the fact they are not the president or king or queen of the country.

I would personally say the first amendment is my favorite amendment because it allows me to have the freedom

of religion, speech, press, assembly, and petition. I know this may seem like it does not matter to some but it matters to me. Being able to have these rights allow me to use my voice to preach what I believe in whether that is religion, a personal thought, or even myself petitioning a rule or law.

I feel as though it is very important to have the ability to say "no" or "I disagree with that" when a person makes a statement. Additionally, I feel it is important for me to be able to say something without getting punished because of my opinion. Such as in Geography class at school I feel I should be able to say I disagree with these policies and opinions. Or even when I attended the Junior National Young Leaders Conference, the students were able to openly share their opinions on government, schooling, bullying or many other topics.

I personally believe that freedom of speech is important because, without it other people would not be able to share their opinions openly. When opinions are shared, ideas develop and expand. I can relate to this because I go to a sports camp where boys from many different countries such as Italy, Germany, France,

Spain and many other countries come for the summer.

Over the past several years, I have been immersed in new opinions that broadened my view of life outside of America. This allowed me to have a perspective of what people in other countries' lives were like. Such as my friend from Spain, who throughout his life had only played sports such as soccer, tennis, and swimming. I was also able to learn about the schooling system in Spain and how their topics of schooling are different from Americas.

I also feel that the right to petition is important. In the past, I collected Pokemon cards along with many of my classmates at school. When I was in the fourth grade everyone loved Pokemon cards. Day after day, people were trading their cards. Eventually, one child felt the trade he made with another person was unfair and he felt the best way to resolve it was to tell the school principal. After that, the principal decided to ban Pokemon cards as a whole. So, a group of kids, including myself, created a petition asking the school to lift the ban on Pokemon cards. Shortly after devising the petition, we had roughly forty signatures in twenty minutes. But, when the principal found out, she took the petition and ripped it up in front of our faces, leaving us with no way

to fight.

The first amendment even expands into the people's right to assembly. This right is very undervalued when it comes to the ability to speak freely. When people come to speak out against things, they typically assemble in large groups to show how their opinions are supported by many people and not just one person. This is because people feel there is power in numbers. In American history there have been many instances of assemblies to speak out against the government. One of my favorite examples being when James Otis said, "No taxation without representation." This started a large outbreak in the people to fight for representation in parliament.

The freedom of religion can go hand and hand with that of assembly. This allows others to worship their gods and preach openly to the country without being persecuted. Religion is an important thing that should not be taken away or regulated under the American people.

Due to these reasons and many others, I personally believe that the first amendment is the most important, while being my favorite in regards to the freedom of the people. I will continue to appreciate the rights in the first amendment given by our government.



# First Aid/CPR preparedness is essential

It only happens to the other guy. April Fools! Sooner or later, you are the other guy.

there with lots of different agendas but we all share one inevitable fellowship. We are all susceptible to Murphy's



Recreational boating is a lot of fun when it's not your turn to be fooled. I personally like to cruise around. Others like to fish and still others like to explore uncharted estuaries or dock-side restaurants.

There are also the watermen who make a living on the water. They are the commercial fishermen, the tow boat operators, the tour boat companies, the jet ski renters, the bulkhead fixer-uppers, and, of course, the government facilities namely the Department of Natural Resources, the State Troopers, the US Coast Guard, the Ocean City Beach Patrol and Fire Department, and the Corp of Engineers dredges.

In short, there's lots of folks out

Law: If something can go wrong, it eventually will.

So how much effort do you commit to preparing for something that, hopefully, may never happen? In the case of a medical emergency at sea, you could naively convince yourself that you will never have a medical problem that can't be remedied with a Band-Aid.

However, when Murphy comes calling - as improbable as it may be - you will need to handle the situation because help could be further away than you realize. The reality is that those EMS trucks with all their flashing lights do not have water wings. It could be an agonizingly long and stressful time to identify and to navi-

gate to the nearest accessible dock where the trained medics wearing their disposable blue gloves can take over. That's why someone on the boat should be First Aid and CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) conversant and know where and what's in the on-board first aid kit.

The American Red Cross maintains excellent First Aid/CPR programs that can help preserve a victim's wellbeing or even save a life until the pros show up.

The first step is to recognize that there may be a medical problem. A good guideline is that anything out of the ordinary needs attention. Consider:

If someone is mentally confused (more than usual - an issue with some of my peers), exhibits a decrease in motor skills or sensory perception, or more irritable than usual, they may be fatigued and may need to rest or get some nourishment. If he/she just bored with the hospitality of a day out on your boat, ask him/her to volunteer to be the practice dummy for the man-overboard drill.

If someone is pale and weak or drowsy or nauseated and vomiting, he/she may be sea sick. The best remedy is to stay on deck and focus on the horizon rather than the boat's movement. If lots of shipmates are sea sick, call it a day and head in.

If someone is shivering and their skin is cold to the touch or they are slurring their words and have a weak pulse and dilated pupils, hypothermia is a possibility. Get the patient warm by getting him/her out of any wet cloths and into a blanket or rubbing up against them to transfer your body heat but do not give them alcohol or anything hot to drink.

If a person collapses and is sweating profusely, and has a pounding heart, pale skin and or headaches, he/she could be suffering heat exhaustion. You need to cool them off, get non-alcoholic liquids into them and monitor them for further physical deterioration.

A major health issue is heat stroke.

It can be life threatening. Its symptoms include: red skin, hot and dry to the touch, no sweating, high body temperature above 105°, rapid pulse, delirium and/or unconsciousness. You need to get the patient to a cool environment and seek medical assistance ASAP.

If someone goes comatose, stops breathing, and there is no signs of circulation, don't panic. HesShe may not be "swimming with the fishes" as they said in 'The Godfather.' Instead, begin



Contents of a typical first aid kit

CPR and contact the Coast Guard to arrange an EMS rendezvous.

A person trained in CPR will know to: 1) confirm the situation and lay the patient on a flat, hard surface while someone else calls the Coast Guard, 2) find the position of the breastbone, 3) give 15 compressions, 2 inches deep at a rate of 100 per minute, 3) give 2 rescue breaths, 4) do about 3 more cycles of compressions and rescue breaths then check victim for circulation, 5) if no signs of circulation, continue CPR. (Note: This is an overly simplified description of the technique. You need to take the course and learn the details before attempting CPR.)

Safe practices are the primary line of defense to avoid adverse situations. For example, don't let people get dehydrated (drink a bottle of water every hour) or fall overboard (stay seated while underway and wear a life jacket) or get too much sun (hats, sunscreen, etc.); but when Murphy crashes the party, a good working knowledge of first aid and CPR beyond the superficial treatment in this column will keep Murph's visit to a manageable roar.

Stay safe. Stay dry.

Dan Collins can be reached for comment at [dancollins.ocean-pines@gmail.com](mailto:dancollins.ocean-pines@gmail.com)

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**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.

**Polish American Club to host dinner**

The Polish American Club of Delmarva will hold a dinner dance on Sunday, April 27 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at St. Andrew's Parish Center located at 14401 Sinepuxent Avenue in Ocean City. The meal will include a Polish platter, dessert, beer, wine and soda for \$40. Variety music by "Joy" Trio. All are welcome. Call 443-857-9054 for more information.

**Wor-Wic to host dual enrollment info session**

High school students can get a head start on college credits at Wor-Wic Community College through dual enrollment, which is free for some students in Maryland. Learn how it works at an information session on Thursday, April 17, at 6 p.m., at Guerrieri Hall on the Wor-Wic campus, located at the corner of Route 50 and Walston Switch Road in Salisbury.

High school sophomores and juniors and their parents are welcome to attend. Visit the events section of [www.worwic.edu](http://www.worwic.edu) to register or for more information.

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# Holy week celebrates the origins of the Eucharist

The Eucharist is a central component of the Christian faith. During the Eucharistic celebration, the sharing of bread and wine, which many Christians believe symbolizes the actual body and blood of Christ



after the process of transubstantiation, takes place.

The Easter season is a key time to reflect on the origins of sharing communion and the Eucharist. Church teaching and Biblical study says the origin of the Eucharist occurred at the Last Supper of Jesus, which is commemorated on Holy Thursday. According to the religious resource The Catholic Tradition, the Last Supper in the New Testament set the course for the tenets of the Christian faith. Christian liturgies exist because Jesus Christ told peo-

ple to do what he had done, in memory of him.

The most detailed account of the first sharing of the Eucharist is found in St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians, which predates the Gospels. St. Paul 1 Corinthians, Chapter 11, offers nearly verbatim the terminology used in today's Apostolic liturgy. St. Paul's words read:

*For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, that the Lord Jesus, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread, and giving thanks, broke, and said: Take ye, and eat: This is My Body, which shall be delivered for you: this do for the commemoration of Me.*

In like manner also the chalice, after He had supped, saying: *This chalice is the new testament in My Blood: this do ye, as often as you shall drink, for the commemoration of Me. For as often as you shall eat this Bread, and drink the Chalice, you shall show the death of the Lord, until He come.*

Jesus and his disciples gathered on the first day of Passover for the Last Supper. In addition to sharing food and wine, Jesus explained that one in their midst would betray Him and another would deny knowing Him.

Jesus also explained to the disciples how the bread was a symbol of his body and would be broken for them. In addition, the wine was a symbol for his blood and would be poured out for their sins to be forgiven, indicates Bible Study Tools. Additional Christian traditions which emerged during the Last Supper include the washing of feet.

Jesus washed his disciples' feet as an example to be servants to all.

From the Last Supper on, faithful Christians follow the guidance of Jesus Christ, and the Eucharist is the central component of masses within many Christian churches.

Keeping this feast renews repentance and people's faith in Jesus' blood and sacrifice.

Easter is an opportunity to dive deeper into the Christian faith and the meanings behind the tenets of Christianity.

## Unique ways to strengthen your faith during Holy Week

Spring is a special time of year for a number of reasons, not the least of which is the season is a particularly meaningful time for individuals of various faiths. Sacred days for many of the world's religions are celebrated in spring, including Easter.

Christians celebrate Easter, which commemorates the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, after a lengthy period of spiritual preparation known as Lent. Directly preceding Easter, Holy Week is a time for prayer, reflection and renewal. Holy Week also can be an ideal opportunity for those who may not be as fully immersed in their faith as they would like to return to the church and embrace all that Christianity has to offer. The following are some unique ways people can deepen their faith this Easter season.

Attend mass. Various liturgies take place during Holy Week, including the Palm Sunday procession, Holy Thursday (Last Supper) Mass, Good Friday services, and the Easter Vigil. Each of these liturgies carries a special message and significance that offers powerful ways to be in the presence of God.

Pray the Stations of the Cross. The Stations of the Cross are commonly prayed during Lent, particularly on Good Friday. Traditionally there are 14 Stations of the Cross, each depicting a different moment in Jesus' Passion and Death. Praying the stations often is a group church activity, but they also can be prayed solo. Getting an up close and personal understanding of the final moments in the life of Jesus Christ can have a transformative effect.

Confess your sins. Reconciliation,

commonly referred to as "going to confession," is a practice that certain Christians denominations, but not all, participate in as part of their faith. Catholics engage in confession as a sacramental grace. While confession is encouraged as often as a person desires, being absolved from sin in preparation for Easter and other major holy days is particularly encouraged.

Visit a holy shrine. People can take a trip to a holy site or shrine during Holy Week as a powerful way to connect with God and deepen their faith. Many church communities have Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration Chapels where people can view a



monstrance, which is used to hold the consecrated Eucharist.

Serve others. Use Holy Week as an opportunity to serve others, whether through charitable efforts at a soup kitchen, visiting the elderly in a nursing home or through participation in another charitable endeavor. Certain religious communities conduct "washing of the feet" events when parishioners can cleanse others' feet as Jesus cleaned the feet of his disciples. This demonstrates humility, love and service, and also can strengthen faith.

Holy Week is a prime time for individuals to learn about their faith and embrace it more fully.

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# FAQ about taxes as the filing deadline nears

Some people look forward to filing their tax returns, while others recoil at the thought of paying what they owe. Regardless of which camp taxpayers are in, come April most people have a question or two related to their returns.

As the deadline to file tax returns draws closer, taxpayers hoping to make the process as smooth as possible can consider these frequently asked questions and answers, courtesy of the Internal Revenue Service.

When is deadline day? Though taxpayers periodically get an extra day or two to file their returns when April 15 coincides with a holiday or lands on a weekend, there's no such reprieve in 2025. This year all taxpayers who are not requesting an extension must file their income tax returns by April 15, 2025.

What if my address has changed? The IRS urges all taxpayers to use their new address when filing their returns. Additional ways taxpayers can update their address with the IRS is through the filing of Form 8822, Change of Address or Form 8822-B, Change of Ad-

dress or Responsible Party-Business. Written statements or oral notifications are additional ways to notify the IRS of an address change, and these methods must include personal information, including the old and new address as well as the taxpayer's Social Security number, Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) or Employer Identification Number (EIN).

Is there an age limit on claiming my child as a dependent? A child must meet either the qualifying child test or the qualifying relative test in order to be claimed as a dependent. To meet the qualifying child test, your child must be younger than you or your spouse if filing jointly and either younger than 19-years-old or be a "student" younger than 24-years-old as of the end of the calendar year.

There is no age limit to claim a child as a dependent if a child is "permanently and totally disabled" or meets the qualifying relative test.

In addition to meeting the qualifying child or qualifying relative test,

*please see **taxes** on page 14*



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**taxes**  
from page 13

you can claim that person as a dependent only if these three tests are met:

- 1. Dependent taxpayer test
- 2. Citizen or resident test, and
- 3. Joint return test

Taxpayers who remain uncertain about their eligibility to claim a child as a dependent are urged to contact the IRS or a tax preparation professional for clarification before filing their returns.

What should I do if my W-2 is incorrect? Employers must provide employees with a W-2 by January 31. If the W-2 is incorrect and has not been fixed by the end of February, taxpayers can contact the IRS and request to initiate a Form W-2 complaint. When such a request is initiated, the IRS sends a letter to the employer and requests that they furnish a corrected W-2 within 10 days. The IRS also sends a letter to the taxpayer with instructions and Form 4852,

**commentary**  
from page 6

the plant after the initial County purchase. The Sanitary Commission settled out of court and agreed to refund about \$1 million to the ratepayers of Ocean Pines. The other main fallout of the lawsuit was the County government took full ownership and operation of the plant, essentially disbanding the Sanitary Commission.

Perhaps there are more to be found, but a rather extensive search of the Worcester County website reveals the last meeting minutes of the County committee to protect the interests of Ocean Pines ratepayers are from 2020.

Then there is this tidbit in Fiori’s email regarding the failure of the Glen Riddle sewage treatment plant due to County mismanagement and years of hauling raw sewage from there to the Ocean Pines plant in tanker trucks. Fiori wrote, “This created a revenue stream for the Ocean Pines district over a half million dollars annually.” Incredibly, Fiori calls it a “revenue stream” for Ocean Pines and claims its loss and some other unsupported issue will result in an increase of \$85 per year in the bills of Oceans Pines ratepayers.

This is pure nonsense. Is Fiori actually suggesting that the Ocean Pines service area has made an operational profit of \$500,000 a year by treating raw sewage from Glen Riddle?

Finally, Fiori’s email throws out

which can be used to file a return if a corrected W-2 is not provided before the filing deadline.

How can I file for an extension?

There are three ways to request an automatic extension of time to file an income tax return.

1. You can pay all or part of your estimated income tax due and indicate that the payment is for an extension using your bank account; a digital wallet such as Click to Pay, PayPal, and Venmo; cash; or a credit or debit card.

2. You can file Form 4868 electronically by accessing IRS e-file using your tax software or by using a tax professional who uses e-file.

3. You can file a paper Form 4868 and enclose payment of your estimate of tax due (optional).

Tax day arrives on April 15. Taxpayers who have lingering questions about their returns are urged to contact the IRS via irs.gov or work with a certified tax professional.

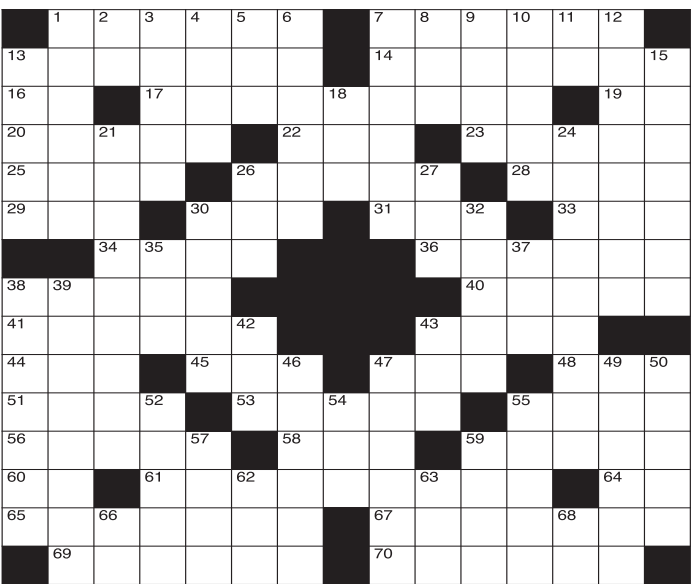
the fear or scare factor to make his case for one centralized water and sewer system.

He writes, “If the Ocean Pines District has a major failure like the aging discharge pipe to the Saint Martin’s River or a large failure involving one of the concrete holding tanks just to name a few things the results could be financially a heavy burden on the 10,000 users of the Ocean Pines sewer district.”

Fiori then suggests his plan would mean other service areas would help cover those Ocean Pines costs. Sort of unbelievable in that most other areas cannot cover the cost of their own operations now, and will be unable to do so for years to come, unless their rates are increased dramatically.

Is that likely to happen? Fiori said a few weeks ago he would not vote to raise rates for the ratepayers in his Commissioner district. Why do so, when he and three other County Commissioners are intent on making the ratepayers in election districts represented by Commissioners Bertino and Bunting, the location of the Ocean Pines plant, pay for their losses.

It is difficult to say how all this will play out. In the dispute over the budget of the Worcester school system a couple of years ago, Fiori was initially supportive of budget reductions. Then supporters of giving the school system whatever it requested threatened to boycott his business operations.



**CLUES ACROSS**

1. Dark blacks

7. Construct a wall to confine

13. Most inappropriate

14. A type of board

16. Sacred Hindu syllable

17. Flatterer

19. The Granite State

20. Tears down

22. China’s Chairman

23. Former Houston footballer

25. Periods of time

26. Expressed pleasure

28. World alliance

29. A Brit’s mother

30. Television network

31. Brother or sister

33. Type of spirit

34. \_\_\_ Ladd, actor

36. A medium oversees it

38. One time province of British India
40. Wrong

41. The highest parts of something

43. Insect

44. Baseball stat

45. A way to use up

47. Where wrestlers compete

48. It helps elect politicians

51. As fast as can be done

53. Genus of legumes

55. Samoa’s capital

56. Monument in Jakarta

58. Former French coin

59. Exploiters

60. College sports official

61. Uninterrupted in time

64. Stephen King story

65. Marked by no sound

67. Weathers

69. Denouncements

70. More beloved

**CLUES DOWN**

1. Winged nut

2. It cools a home

3. Kisses (French)

4. Oxford political economist

5. Keyboard key

6. Leaf pores

7. Agrees with publicly

8. Not around

9. Czech city

10. Muscle cell protein

11. Greek letter

12. Movements

13. Ned \_\_, composer

15. Popular series Game of \_\_\_

18. Exclamation that denotes disgust

21. Helper

24. Gift

26. Up in the air (abbr.)

27. Treat without respect

30. Trims
32. Slang for lovely

35. City of Angels hoopster (abbr.)

37. Guitarists’ tool

38. Island nation

39. Delivered in installments

42. A baglike structure

43. Cooking vessel

46. Gets in front of

47. Wounded by scratching

49. More breathable

50. Medical dressings

52. Indiana hoopster

54. Married Marilyn

55. An ancient Assyrian city

57. Congressmen (abbr.)

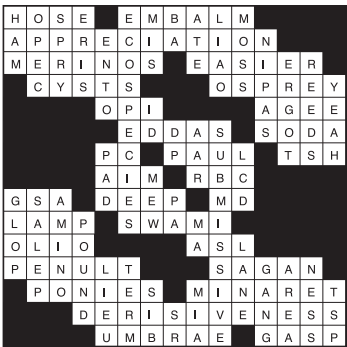
59. Approves food

62. Ventura’s first name

63. Between northeast and east

66. Atomic #71

68. Email designation



Answers for April 2



*Some things to think about*

Gathered from the internet  
by **Jack Barnes**



**I don't always  
go the extra  
mile, but when  
I do it's because  
I missed my  
exit.**



**Aliens probably ride  
past Earth and lock their  
doors....**

**Police came round last night  
and told me my dogs were  
chasing people on bikes.  
  
My dogs don't even have  
bikes.**

**A COLD SEAT IN A PUBLIC  
RESTROOM IS UNPLEASANT.  
  
A WARM SEAT IN A PUBLIC  
RESTROOM IS FAR WORSE.**

**I WENT LINE DANCING  
LAST NIGHT.  
WELL, IT WAS  
A ROADSIDE  
SOBRIETY TEST...  
SAME THING.**

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