

The Courier

May 7, 2025 Volume 25 Number 29

It's Official



Don Owrey, MBA, President of Atlantic General Hospital, left, and Steve Leonard, Ph.D., MBA, FACHE, President/CEO of TidalHealth, sign a definitive agreement on May 1 that brings Atlantic General and its services under the umbrella of TidalHealth.. See story on pay 4

D.A. KOZMA BUYS GOLD and Silver

D.A.KOZMA JEWELERS Rt. 50 & 611 in the FOOD LION SHOPPING CENTER WOC 410-213-7505 KOZMAJEWELERS.COM

Zweemer's

PAVING & SEAL COATING

Residential • Commercial • Licensed & Insured

**Berlin and Ocean Pines Most Trusted Source
For All Your Paving Needs For Over 20 Years!**



**Low Maintenance
Cost Effective
Driveways
Installed Quickly
CALL TODAY!**

**DRIVEWAYS & PARKING LOTS
INSTALLATIONS & MAINTENANCE**

- **Black Top**
- **Seal Coating**
- **Stone**
- **Millings Grading**
- **Patching**
- **Tar & Chip**

We Fix Pot Holes, Root Problems and Install Drains

**Zweemer Landscaping Bundling Package • Complete Property Services
Call Today for ALL Your Landscape & Hardscape Needs
888-Zweemer**



10% OFF ANY JOB

Mention This Ad

**Call Us Today For Your
FREE Estimate**

15% OFF ANY JOB

for All First Responders & Active Military

SERVING DELMARVA FOR OVER 20 YEARS

888-ZWEEEMER • 302-363-6116



Better Together

TidalHealth and Atlantic General Hospital are joining forces to expand care, closer to home.

- **More Access** — Expanded specialists, treatments, and technology
- **Stronger Network** — Seamless care across hospitals and providers
- **Same High Quality** — A shared commitment to excellence in patient care

Two trusted healthcare providers. One vision for a healthier tomorrow.
We're better together.

To learn more, visit tidalhealth.org/bettertogether.



Atlantic General Hospital and TidalHealth merge

Atlantic General Hospital (AGH) in Berlin and TidalHealth of Salisbury announced May 1 that a definitive agreement has been signed that will bring the two health systems together under TidalHealth.

By combining the strengths of both organizations, AGH and TidalHealth will be able to offer a more comprehensive range of services to residents of Worcester, Wicomico, Somerset, Sussex, and surrounding counties, while continuing to drive innovation.

The result of the announcement is the creation of an expanded, locally owned and operated health system designed to improve access to coordinated inpatient, outpatient and emergency care, and wellness services across the entire Delmarva Peninsula, including Sussex County.

“Healthcare systems are more frequently coming together to meet the challenges of an ever-evolving environment. We are proud to now have officially partnered with an organization that has very similar philosophies and beliefs, and together we will be working throughout the region to improve health and wellness across the continuum of care,” said Steve Leonard, Ph.D. MBA, FACHE, President/CEO of TidalHealth. “We continue to look for partners on this journey and are excited about the opportunities to positively impact additional lives through the growth that will follow.”

AGH, and all of its affiliated services, medical practices and outpa-

tient facilities now joins the TidalHealth family that includes TidalHealth Peninsula Regional in Salisbury, TidalHealth Nanticoke in Seaford, TidalHealth McCready Pavilion in Crisfield, a robust primary care and specialty care network of offices, and medical campuses in Ocean Pines, and Millsboro.

With the signing of this definitive agreement, AGH and TidalHealth teams will follow a structured integration plan to ensure a smooth transition for patients, team members and providers. During this time, patients can expect the same high-quality care they have always received from each healthcare organization, with enhanced service options becoming available as the integration continues.

No immediate changes in staffing or the delivery of healthcare at either system is anticipated. For the immediate future, all Atlantic General entities, including the Berlin hospital, will remain branded as Atlantic General.

For the public and teams at both health systems, it will remain patient care as usual and appear seamless while both organizations continue “behind the scenes” to work on integrating clinical and business operations like information technology, payroll, and the conversion of Atlantic General’s electronic medical record (EMR) to Epic.

The transition to Epic will con-

nect healthcare providers and their patients in an even more meaningful way, one that will enhance coordination and access for patients. Providers will be able to communicate seamlessly with one another when co-managing the care of their patients. The result will be smoother patient referrals to an increased number of specialty offices through comprehensive care coordination.

“When we onboarded the former Nanticoke Memorial Hospital in 2020, we did it in the middle of a pandemic, which forced us to accelerate some of our processes just to keep up with the unprecedented requirements of patient care,” said Leonard. “The benefit of this agreement occurring now is that we can slow down that process and bring AGH and the team into our health system at a pace that is much more conducive to our overall structured transition plan.”

In keeping with its tradition of providing care close to home, TidalHealth is committed to sustaining and growing services at the Berlin hospital as it did with TidalHealth Nanticoke in Seaford, Del.

The partnership between TidalHealth and Atlantic General will:

- Provide Atlantic General access to an integrated electronic medical record through Epic;
- Improve the coordination of services and access to care for patients;
- Provide Atlantic General capital funding to expand services;

-Strengthen the hospital’s ability to retain and attract a high-quality workforce.

“As part of TidalHealth, Atlantic General will retain its community-focused approach to care while gaining access to the resources and capabilities of a larger healthcare network,” said AGH President Don Owrey. “This affiliation ensures that patients across Worcester and Sussex Counties continue to receive the personalized care they expect from their local hospital and providers, backed by the strength and added capability of TidalHealth. This is an exciting new chapter for Atlantic General and for healthcare on Delmarva, and we look forward to the positive impact it will have on our patients and families.”

In early 2024, Atlantic General Hospital began looking for a partner to help build upon the outstanding quality of care it has provided residents in Worcester County for 32 years. TidalHealth and Atlantic General signed a letter of intent on December 12, 2024, to begin the investigative process of partnering.

“Together, TidalHealth and Atlantic General are poised to bring exceptional care to our shared communities,” said Leonard. “This partnership will help us to be more efficient, innovative, and effective in delivering the best possible care. We are excited to welcome AGH into TidalHealth and look forward to the great things we will accomplish by being better together.”

Both organizations are committed to maintaining clear communication with patients and community members throughout the process at tidalhealth.org/growingtogether.



Kiss Your Weeds Goodbye!

- Driveways
- Stone Yards
- Sidewalks & Patios
- Shrub Beds
- Natural Areas
- Parking Lots
- Storage Yards
- Fence Lines
- HOA Community Streets
- Phragmites
- Poison Ivy
- Woody Brush Control
- Wherever weeds are a problem

(EXCEPT LAWNS)

NEW CUSTOMER DISCOUNT

\$25 OFF For First Time Customers

On all orders placed by 9/30/25 Present Coupon after Free Estimate

WeedPRO

410-742-2973

FREE ESTIMATES!

*Enjoy your summer...
No More Pulling Weeds!*

We offer GUARANTEED Season Long WEED CONTROL Or We'll Re-Treat for FREE!*

*Except for wiregrass, nutsedge & phragmites

Locally Owned & Operated for 49 years
Licensed & Insured
Certified in MD & DE

The Courier

E-subscribe **FREE** to *The Courier* and get it delivered to your computer each week!

delmarvacourier.com



Separation

My column this week is about a husband (me) lost in the woods of marital separation enduring fits of loneliness and downright sadness. Admittedly I am a little embarrassed for having felt such a way.



It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

For a period of 10 days or 240 hours or 14,400 minutes – not that I'm counting – my wife was away visiting our son in Europe. She traveled with my daughter-in-law, my daughter-in-law's mother and my two grandchildren. I was not invited. It was a girls' trip.

For many months leading up to the departure, plans for the trip evolved. Although I was very happy my wife was visiting our son who would have time with his with family, my wife's absence was bothersome. Was it because she was going without me? Had I been asked to go, I most likely would have declined. So, that wasn't it. What was at the root of my concern?

Was it the reality that I'd be responsible for doing the laundry, making meals and taking care of the dogs? Even though all that was true, that wasn't it.

The first few days my wife was gone, I visited my mother in New Jersey. I wonder what Freud would surmise - my wife leaves and I go home to Mommy? Regardless, the visit was enjoyable. One day we went antiquing in Amish country in Pennsylvania. The following day, we did the same in Cape May. We strolled. We talked. We ate. A highpoint of the visit was when my brother invited us to his house for dinner. We sat around the table, and later the living room, reminiscing. We finished a couple bottles of wine. I'm looking forward to doing it again. But as nice as it was, something was not quite right. My wife wasn't with me. I know, I'm a wuss.

It wasn't until I got home Sunday afternoon, when it was just the dogs and me in the house, that the loneliness grew louder.

Work was challenging the following week. Dealing with personalities, politics and taking the dogs out regularly was made more difficult because at the end of the day, when I sat in the sunroom with a glass of chianti, my wife was not sitting across from me to discuss the day's events, share gossip or in her own way, reassure me that I was up to the challenge. Although we talked on the phone a couple times when she was gone it wasn't the same.

For the most part meals consisted of cereal. I alternated between Frosted Flakes and Raisin Bran each night, sitting in front of the television as I ate.

My daughter and youngest son called me each day to check in on me. When my daughter called, she didn't say "hello." She started the conversation with "Did you eat today?" My son would start off with, "How ya doin' Big Guy?" We'd talk for a while and I enjoyed hearing what was going on in their worlds. But when the conversation stopped and the call ended, the room was again quiet. I didn't like it. Am I pathetic or what?

On the Saturday night before she returned home on Monday, I sat on the back deck listening to Big Band music, smoking a cigar and imbibing a glass or two of Moscato. It was a comfortable evening; the dogs were laying at my feet. As much as I tried to fend it off, melancholy enveloped me. My wife is gone for less than two weeks and I'm feeling all sorts of sixes and sevens. This is crazy. Grow up you big loser! Emotions were taking over. This had to stop. It didn't.

Before heading into the house to go to bed, I texted my wife, "I miss you!"

I hit the pillow and fell asleep. At about 2:30 a.m. my phone alerted me to a text message. "I miss you too!"

Well, I have to tell you, reading that message brought a tear to my eye. I fell back to sleep more soundly.

When my wife returned late Monday night, I was very happy to see her. She seemed happy as well – but it could have been that she was exhausted. When we embraced, I whispered in her ear, "Don't ever leave me again." She hugged me tighter.

I missed my wife.

Edward Jones

> edwardjones.com | Member SIPC

Compare our CD rates

Bank-issued, FDIC-insured

3-Month	4.25% APY*
6-Month	4.10% APY*
1-Year	4.10% APY*

Call or visit your local financial advisor today.



John Bennish
Financial Advisor

11200 Racetrack Road
Suite A102 The Pavilions
Ocean Pines, MD 21811
410-208-9083

*Annual Percentage Yield (APY) effective 05/01/25. CDs offered by Edward Jones are bank-issued and FDIC-insured up to \$250,000 (principal and interest accrued but not yet paid) per depositor, per insured depository institution, for each account ownership category. Please visit www.fdic.gov or contact your financial advisor for additional information. Subject to availability and price change. CD values are subject to interest rate risk such that when interest rates rise, the prices of CDs can decrease. If CDs are sold prior to maturity, the investor can lose principal value. FDIC insurance does not cover losses in market value. Early withdrawal may not be permitted. Yields quoted are net of all commissions. CDs require the distribution of interest and do not allow interest to compound. CDs offered through Edward Jones are issued by banks and thrifts nationwide. All CDs sold by Edward Jones are registered with the Depository Trust Corp. (DTC).

FDI-18670-A-E-FLAECSPAD 25127597



The **SPECIALTY** Practice

We're proud to be the **only** PT's on the eastern shore specializing in evaluation & treatment of the shoulder, elbow, wrist, and hand. Reach out today to learn how we can help!




Schedule today
410.208.3300

Info@HamiltonHand.com



Hamiltonhand.com



Commentary

By Joe Reynolds

OceanPinesForum.com

Election Committee circus continues

Watching the Election Committee meeting video of 4/28/2025 is revealing.

First, it is obvious the committee members and the chair are not as familiar with M-06 as they should be. Board Resolution M-06 lays out the Elections and Referendums Procedures to be followed by the Election Committee.

For example, Chairman Ransdell went on at length about his opposition to allowing association members to know the results of the vote count on the day votes are counted.

Ransdell said something to the effect that the vote results have only been announced the last two years. That is incorrect. Ransdell also said any announced results under M-06 were results announced by the election contractor, not the committee.

Also incorrect.

Ransdell lamented the “old” outdated procedures in M-06. The latest version of M-06 was enacted by the Board of Directors in April 2024.

Ransdell, the chairman, is obviously not familiar with the language in M-06. No wonder there is confusion and discord over the election process under his leadership.

M-06 states:

“Two original copies of the final vote count shall be prepared, certified (signed and dated) by the Chairperson. The final vote count will be attested to by the Election Committee members present. Upon attestation of the final vote count the results will be announced live on the OPA internet stream and/or TV, emailed to the Board of Directors, emailed to all candidates, and posted on the Ocean

Pines Association website.”

M-06, quite clearly in plain language, states that the Election Committee announces the election results, not the election contractor, and lays out the process for the committee to attest those results prior to any public announcement by the committee.

Why does the Board of Directors tolerate an Election Committee chairman who is not familiar with the board resolution governing elections? Association members fought for years to obtain transparency in the election process. Ransdell wants to eliminate that transparency.

Fortunately, Election Committee board liaison John Latham told Ransdell there is “no interest” at the board level in making the change Ransdell desires. Ransdell then continued to argue with Latham, insisting Latham get the board involved.

Latham also suggested Ransdell allow public comments from internet viewers since the location of the committee meeting was never announced. Difficult to attend a meeting if the location is unknown. Ransdell said something like - if that’s what you want. Apparently, Ransdell did not even realize it was his decision as chair, not Latham’s.

At any rate, Ransdell allowed association member Amy Peck to make a public comment. Peck expressed concern that the Election Committee had held many unannounced meetings, as well as the lack of minutes for those meetings. Those concerns are justified, and should concern every association member as those meetings may well have violated the Maryland HOA Act.

Ransdell ignored the issue she raised.

Reader Letter

Trusting Trump’s motivations

Editor:

As a Patriotic American, the night of November 5, 2024 and the days following were joyful and hopeful. I felt positive and excited about the future for the first time in years. My husband and I prayed together, thanking God for giving America a chance to turn the “Ship of State” back to the ideas and principles of the founding. I also understood that not everyone agreed with us, but I thank God enough did.

The last few months have seen many positive pro-America policies put into effect. Some of President Trump’s policies have had immediate positive effects and for others we just need to wait and see. After four years of the Biden presidency (11 million plus illegal aliens and tons of fentanyl and other poisons flooding across our border; inflation completely out of control costing families like mine hundreds of additional dollars per month for gas and groceries and other essential good; and the absolute horror of the Afghanistan withdrawal - I could go on and on) I am more

than willing to give President Trump and his policies a chance. I have always thought that motivation is the key to life - “Why do we do what we do?” I trust President Trump’s “America First” motivations and I know that his policies are firmly rooted in that idea.


All that said, I simply do not understand the hatred and fear directed toward President Trump and his policies. President Biden’s policies starting on day one had immediate negative consequences for Americans like me. We “suffered in silence” watching our nation being systematically undermined by our “leaders.” We saw decisions being made (who knows by whom?) and policies being put into place that in no way benefited America. We gritted our teeth and persevered in our daily lives and wondered when the American people were going to WAKE THE HECK UP.

Maybe we should have had “hands off my country” rallies.

Carol Frazier
Ocean Pines



On May 7, 1998, the German automobile company Daimler-Benz-maker of the world-famous luxury car brand Mercedes-Benz-announces a \$36 billion merger with the United States-based Chrysler Corporation.



In a 2020 article written for the Hearing Health Foundation, Pauline Dinnauer, Au.D., noted the threat of ear damage is much greater for people who use earbuds as opposed to over-the-ear headphones. According to Dinnauer, earbuds deliver sound directly into the ear canal, where the risk for damage is great if the volume becomes too loud. Earbuds also can push earwax deeper into the ears, which causes blockages that affect the hearing. When hearing is affected by those blockages, users tend to raise the volume on the earbuds even higher. Dinnauer concluded that over-the-ear headphones were a healthier option than earbuds because sound is not funneled directly into the eardrums. In addition, many over-the-ear headphones have noise-canceling functionality, which reduces users’ need to increase the volume.



JOIN THE OCEAN PINES TEAM!

*Spend the season
or all year long working in a
beautiful coastal community!*

Seasonal, Part-Time & Year-Round Positions

- PUBLIC RELATIONS
- AQUATICS
- BEACH CLUB
- GOLF CLUB
- POLICE
- PUBLIC WORKS
- RACQUET CENTER
- RECREATION & PARKS



**SCAN THE QR CODE
FOR A LIST OF POSITIONS
AND AN ONLINE APPLICATION**

*Now hiring for summer! Ask about
training opportunities and seasonal
job openings with Ocean Pines.*

EMAIL HR@OCEANPINES.ORG

Trades night scheduled

Three leading local businesses are teaming up once again to host the 4th Annual Explore the Trades Night, an exciting community event designed to introduce residents to high-demand careers in the skilled trades.

Seaside Plumbing, Expert Wire, and Arctic Heating and Air Conditioning will welcome guests on Tuesday, May 6, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Seaside Plumbing's new location at 11935 Worcester Highway in Bishopville.

This free event offers a hands-on look at real-world careers in plumbing, electrical, and HVAC trades. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet industry professionals, explore training and career opportunities, and learn about the growing demand for skilled workers.

The evening will feature live equipment demonstrations, food and refreshments, and exciting door prizes, including professional tools and gift cards.

Explore the Trades Night is a fun, welcoming way for students, parents,

and community members to see how a career in the trades can change lives.

Residents of all ages are encouraged to attend - especially students exploring career options and parents who want to learn more about opportunities available for their children.

For more information, contact Seaside Plumbing at 410-641-1368.

Baseball exhibit displayed

Negro Leagues Baseball Exhibit can be viewed through May 31 at the Germantown School located at 10223 Trappe Rd. in Berlin. The school is open Wednesday and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Other times by appointment.

For more information, email germantownschool@gmail.com, or call (410) 641-0638.

Anglers to meet

The Ocean Pines Anglers Club will meet on Saturday, May 10 at 9:30 a.m. in the Ocean Pines library. The speaker is Steve Doctor, MD DNR Fishery biologist. He will discuss summer flounder, seabass, and the blue-fin tuna recreational fisheries and their biological monitoring processes. Also, updates on charter opportunities, regulations and all things fishing will be discussed. All are welcome.

Garden Club to meet

The Worcester County Garden Club will host an open house Monday, May 12 at 10 a.m. at Gull Creek Senior Living Sunroom. Learn about the Worcester County Garden Club and its activities. My Backyard owner Maureen Kennedy will speak and a light luncheon will follow. To register: Rebecca, 410-352-3255 or WorCtyGardenClub@gmail.com

A BAGEL
and...

Free
Wireless
Internet

410-208-0707
Open 6 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Wednesday - Sunday

Serving Breakfast and Lunch

Pastries and Cookie Trays

Boar's Head Meats

RTE. 589

O.P. South Gate Entrance

OCEAN PKWY

A Bagel and...

Manklin Creek

Southgate - Ocean Pines
(Manklin Creek & Ocean Pkwy)

E-subscribe to The Courier - www.delmarvacourier.com



Using natural gas
in your home or at
your business
can reduce your
carbon footprint.

Learn more at
sandpiper-energy.com



Passion motivates local school nurses

By **Elaine Bean**

School nurses do more than wipe runny noses. They listen. They heal. They provide a safe place during school time for children and staff alike. And they are being honored on National School Nurse Day, May 7.



Megan Tubbs

School Nurses Day is celebrated annually on the Wednesday within National Nurses Week. This year Nurses Week is May 6-12 to coincide with the May 12 birthday of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing.

"We always call ourselves the jack-of-all-trades, because we don't always see just the sickness including the headaches and the sad bellies," Megan Tubbs, RN, school nurse at Showell Elementary School, said. "We

see the spills on the clothing, the gum in the air, the shoes that are broken, the glasses that need to be repaired. We have collected items to assist in getting those things repaired. We do enjoy that, and we never know what we're going to see."

Kimberly Jones, RN, who splits her time as a school nurse between Showell and Snow Hill Middle School, shares Tubbs's daily experiences. "We had a student who brought a tooth to the office to get a tooth necklace. The tooth wasn't theirs; they had found it on the floor. Megan and I also had a kiddo who was stuck in their jacket. The zipper was broken and couldn't go up or down. We had to figure out how to get the zipper unstuck and the kiddo out of the jacket. I've also seen kids with slime or gum in their hair and had no idea how it got there or how long it was there."

Both nurses have full-circle experiences within their careers. Jones is caring for students whom she took care of as newborns in the hospital. Tubbs was herself a student at Show-

ell.

"I love working with kids and enjoy taking care of them and helping them," Jones said. "A few students from Showell and one from SHMS I took care of as newborns at Tidal Health. Kinda neat to see them again as school-age kids."

Previously, Jones was the school nurse at Cedar Chapel Special School where she provided special help to a special student. "I worked with a student one-on-one, providing her medical needs while at school, two days a week, until she graduated."

Growing up in Ocean Pines, Tubbs went to Showell as a student and is now the full-time nurse there. While it's her first school nursing job, she has been a pediatric nurse since 2004, graduating with a degree from Wilmington University.

"Working with children has always been a passion of mine, and providing for the community is what I enjoy," Tubbs said, who worked at a pediatric clinic before coming to Showell three years ago. She remembers her time there as a student

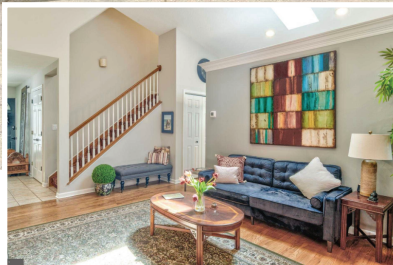
being part of a larger community.

"The old school had a lot of memories of a very tight knit community," Tubbs said. "I remember the parents being a huge part of the school and the volunteerism. My mom volunteered with the PTA so we were always at the school. That has not changed [from the old school to the new school]. I feel the parents today are a huge part of the school. We serve a good group of people and a good group of families that support the school. The parents are very engaged and that has not changed."

Tubbs commented that the biggest change between the old school and the new building is the amount of space and the number of students. "We have a huge beautiful health room where we are able to provide care for the kids. I feel very welcome there, a sense of fulfillment. We don't only help the children; we help the staff, too. I feel like we work together and are on the same team. We have a great community. I'm always grateful that when we call parents, they answer and return our calls promptly."

\$569,000

17 Juneway Lane, Ocean Pines



Marlene Ott

Associate Broker, CRS

www.MarleneOtt.com

C: 410-430-5743 O: 410-208-3500

Marlene@MarleneOtt.com

Beach Construction Coastal Contemporary floor plan with loads of space for friends and family. 4 BR, 3 Baths. Sunroom plus 3 Season room plus rear deck with an awning for all the season's enjoyment. Surprise upper-level room plus a full bath has many uses as 4th bedroom or office or Family room. 3 bedrooms on 1st level. Cook's delight kitchen with center island worktable and bar seating at the pass-thru to the formal dining room. Plus-plus-plus! more features than most homeowners dream of- it is all here. HVAC replaced 3 years ago. Entire home was repainted recently. Newer stainless-steel refrigerator and updated hall guest bath. 2 car garage with concrete driveway. House is larger than tax records show. Currently, the occupant is moving out in the next few weeks so please excuse the boxes. Cul de sac street and not much traffic. Enjoy all the amenities that Ocean Pines has to offer- pools, Beach Club in Ocean City at 49th Street, golf, racquet sports, fishing, parks and playgrounds. MLS#: MDWO2030268

Call Marlene for an appointment

410-430-5743

11001 Manklin Meadows Lane
Ocean Pines, MD 21811

**BERKSHIRE
HATHAWAY**
HomeServices
PenFed Realty



TidalHealth promotes Brittingham

TidalHealth announced recently the promotion of Angela “Angie” Brittingham, DNP, MSN, RN, CEN, CPEN, NEA-BC, CPHQ, to Senior Vice President of Patient Care Services/Chief Nursing Executive. This strategic move underscores the health system’s commitment to clinical excellence and the vital role of nursing leadership as it continues to grow and evolve—most recently with the addition of Atlantic General Hospital to the TidalHealth system.

Dr. Brittingham, who began her journey with TidalHealth Peninsula Regional in 2000 as a Certified Nursing Assistant on the Mother/Baby Unit, has exemplified dedication, leadership, and innovation throughout her career. Her appointment comes at a pivotal time as TidalHealth strengthens its regional presence and further integrates care across its hospitals and facilities.

Most recently serving as vice pres-

ident of Patient Care Services and Chief Nursing Executive (CNE) since March 2023, Dr. Brittingham has held numerous leadership roles, including Senior Director and Director of Emergency and Trauma Services, Clinical Manager of Pediatrics, Emergency Charge Nurse/Supervisor, and Staff Nurse.

“Angie’s promotion reflects the critical importance of nursing in delivering exceptional care and in shaping the future of our health system,” said Steve Leonard, Ph.D., MBA, FACHE. “As we welcome new partners like Atlantic General Hospital into the TidalHealth family, her leadership will be instrumental in centralizing and harmonizing our care models in conjunction with advancing our mission.”

Dr. Brittingham, as its CNE, oversees the professional nursing practice across the entire TidalHealth system, including TidalHealth Peninsula Regional in Salisbury, Atlantic General Hospital in Berlin, TidalHealth Nanticoke in Seaford, Delaware, Chesapeake Cove Assisted Living, and Tawes Nursing Home in Crisfield, Maryland.

please see **brittingham** page 12

OceanPinesForum.com

News, Life and Politics in Ocean Pines, Maryland

JOIN THE CONVERSATION!



- **Connect** with other Ocean Pines members, including OPA leaders, in lively, respectful discussions.
- **Community Insights:** 20 years of posts on issues that matter to OPA.
- **Award-Winning Resource:** Access video archives of OPA meetings and receive email updates.

SIGN UP TODAY!

OCEANPINESFORUM.COM



CATO Donation - Pictured from left to right, the \$500 ExxonMobil Educational Alliance program grant was presented by **Gordon Abercrombie** (WPS '13) of Cato, Inc., and accepted by Head of Middle School **Jake Perry**, and seventh grade students **Anna French** and **Lillian Ha**.

BOE appoints Wallace

At a special Board meeting April 24, the Worcester County Board of Education announced its appointment of Dr. Annette Wallace as the next Superintendent of Schools for Worcester County pending contract negotiations.

“I am deeply honored and humbled to serve alongside the exceptional educators, staff, and school bus contractors who dedicate themselves each day to the success and well-being of every child in Worcester County Public Schools. I stand on the shoulders of the incredible teachers, staff, and administrators who came before me and whose mentorship has guided me throughout my journey,” said Dr. Wallace. “Our team will stay committed to our core mission of providing every student with a high-quality education that meets the needs of the whole child. We will focus on every student reading on grade level by grade 3, a marker of continued academic success. It will be our goal for every student to gain an education beyond high school through a skilled trade program, the military, and/or college or university. We WILL accomplish this by knowing every student by name, strength, and need!”

A lifelong resident of Worcester County, and a proud graduate of Worcester County Public Schools (WCPS), Wallace is the first female in WCPS history to have ever been

named to the superintendency. Currently serving as Chief Safety and Academic Officer for grades 9 – 12, she has already left a remarkable impact on the school system during her nearly 22 years with the school system. Most notably, Wallace led Pocomoke High School through a transformational journey that significantly improved academic performance and student access to advanced coursework; she helped facilitate and implement the school system’s successful transition to Apple technology; and her leadership in developing the Safe and Supportive Schools model for student discipline and safety has been sought out by other leaders statewide in this area.

In addition to her extensive experience in the school system, Wallace remains actively engaged in the betterment of the Worcester County community through her service on the following boards: United Way of the Lower Eastern Shore, Atlantic General Hospital Corporate Board, Junior Achievement, and the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore.

“Choosing the next leader of this school system is one of the most important responsibilities of this Board,” Board of Education President Todd Ferrante said during the special meet-

please see **boe** page 12

OPPD welcomes new officer

During the April 26 Ocean Pines Association Board of Director meeting, the Ocean Pines Police Department welcomed its newest officer, Vicki Martin, during a swearing-in ceremony at the Ocean Pines Club-

house.

Ocean Pines Association President Stuart Lakernick conducted the ceremony during a regular Board meeting.

"This is one of the great things that we've instituted here in Ocean Pines," Lakernick said. "We the Board are delighted, and I have the honor of swearing in Officer Vicki Martin."

Ocean Pines Police Chief Tim Robinson said Martin comes to Ocean Pines following a distinguished 27-year career with the Ocean City Police Department, which was followed by several additional years with the Worcester County Sheriff's Office.

During her three-decade-plus

career in law enforcement, Martin worked as a uniformed patrol officer before moving to criminal investigations in Ocean City where she spent most of her career, specializing in child abuse investigations. She developed a reputation as a capable and experienced investigator and was often called upon to handle high profile investigations throughout the region.

Following her retirement in 2013, Martin transferred to the Worcester County Sheriff's Office as the detective assigned to the Worcester County Child Advocacy Center. During her tenure, Martin received numerous accolades that included the Silver Star Award in 2019 and the Detective of the Year award in 2023.

For more information on the Ocean Pines Police Department, visit www.oceanpinespolice.com.



Chief Tim Robinson, Stuart Lakernick and Vicki Martin

E-subscribe **FREE** to *The Courier*
www.delmarvacourier.com



**Sunshine
Properties, Inc.**

Ask For

**MICHAEL RAY
Broker**

**1% Listing Broker Compensation
Premium Full Service Marketing**

Direct
(301) 980-8155

Broker/Office:
(410) 600-3419

Email:
MichaelRay@sunpropinc.com

**CALL MIKE
SAVE THOUSANDS**

OUTSTANDING CUSTOMER SERVICE



We Want Your Business!



www.SaveWithSunshine.com

D.A. Kozma Jewelry & Coins



**BUYING & SELLING GOLD, SILVER,
COINS & CURRENCY**

**FREE APPRAISALS - 1 COIN OR AN
ENTIRE COLLECTION
BUYING GOLD, SILVER JEWELRY &
FLATWARE**

410-213-7505 410-524-GOLD

www.kozmajewelers.com

9936 Stephen Decatur Highway, West Ocean City Route 611 at Route 50 in the Food Lion Shopping Center

MD #2294

Historical events from May 1925

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

"Pink's War" comes to an end on May 1. The campaign was a British



aerial bombardment against the Mahsud tribe in British India's Punjab Province. The campaign began on March 9.

King Alexander of Yugoslavia signs a decree to have his brother, Prince George, interned as mentally incompetent on May 2. Prince George remained confined in an asylum for nearly two decades until his release was ordered by German occupying forces during World War II. Perhaps thanks to his internment, Prince George was the lone member of the royal family to avoid being exiled and named an enemy of the state upon conclusion of the war.

James Naismith becomes a United States citizen on May 4. The 64-year-old Naismith, who invented the sport

brittingham
from page 10

Her leadership remains central to unifying patient care services and ensuring the highest standards across a growing Delmarva Peninsula footprint.

Dr. Brittingham earned her Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree from the University of Alabama. She holds a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) from Capella University and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) from Chamberlain University. Her certifications and professional affiliations include the Emergency Nurses Association, the American Organization for Nursing Leadership, Certified Professional in Healthcare Quality (CPHQ), and Nurse Executive, Advanced Certification (NEA-BC).

A lifelong member of the Eastern Shore community, Dr. Brittingham has lived in Salisbury since the age of three. She is married with one adult son.

of basketball, was born in Canada but had lived in the U.S. for 35 years before becoming an American citizen.

Biology teacher John Scopes is arrested in Tennessee on May 5. Scopes is arrested teaching evolution, which was illegal in Tennessee. Scopes's arrest led to one of the most notable trials in American history.

Two students and a teacher are killed during the Wilno school massacre in Poland on May 6. Two eighth-grade students, one of whom was carrying a hand grenade and a pistol, instigated the massacre by attacking teachers.

New York Yankees manager Miller Huggins benches Everett Scott on May 6, thus ending the player's record of 1,307 consecutive games played, a streak that began in 1916.

African American river worker Tom Lee saves 32 passengers who had been aboard the steamboat M.E. Norman on May 8. The steamboat capsized and sank on the Mississippi River near Memphis, Tennessee, killing 23 passengers and crew.

The Brooklyn Bridge reopens to vehicle traffic for the first time in almost three years on May 12. The bridge was closed in July 1922 due to problems with two suspension cables.

American Martha Wise is convicted of murder on May 12. Wise poisoned 17 members of her family, killing three. Wise is sentenced to life in prison, where she ultimately died in 1971.

Editorials in Japanese news media

boe
from page 10

ing. "We are confident that with Dr. Wallace stepping into this role, a bright future is ahead for the students and staff of Worcester County Public Schools."

Following Superintendent Lou Taylor's January announcement that he would retire after 41 years of dedicated service to Worcester County Public Schools, the Board of Education contracted with the Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) to lead the search for his successor. Community input was gathered to help define the qualities desired in the next

decry American plans to strengthen the naval base at Pearl Harbor on May 15. Some Japanese suggest the decision to strengthen the base is a harbinger of future American aggression towards Japan.

Casey Stengel plays in his final Major League Baseball game on May 19, ending a 14-year playing career.

Malcolm Little is born in Omaha, Nebraska, on May 19. Little would grow up and become a central figure in the American civil rights movement, by which time he was known as Malcolm X.

Visitors from states along the United States and Canada border flock to Ontario on May 21 after legal 4.4 beer goes on sale in the province.

The crew of the N25 seaplane, part of the Amundsen Polar Expedition led by explorer Roald Amundsen, is forced

to touch down on ice on May 22. An accompanying plane, the N24, witnesses the landing and touches down as well. The explorers were attempting to be the first to fly to the North Pole, but spend weeks after touching down trying to chisel a runway out of the ice.

Chicago mobster Angelo "Bloody Angelo" Genna is shot numerous times during a high-speed car chase on May 26. The North Side Gang is behind the attack, and Genna ultimately dies from his wounds.

The Los Angeles police announce on May 30 they had foiled a kidnapping plot that targeted Hollywood stars Mary Pickford, Pola Negri and Buster Keaton.

Peter DePaolo wins the 1925 Indianapolis 500 on May 30. DePaolo becomes the first driver to complete the course in fewer than five hours.



Canada geese caring for their young at the South Gate pond.
Photo by Linda Knight.

superintendent, and after a careful review of applications and initial interviews, two finalists were selected. Each finalist participated in extensive interviews with various stakeholder groups earlier this week.

"We are confident that the search, conducted by MABE, was a very thorough process," said Dr. Edward Shirley of MABE. "From stakeholder input to roundtable panel interviews involving close to 90 participants, every step was thoughtfully planned and executed. The board made its decision following a long and deliberate discussion."

On July 1, 2025, Dr. Wallace will officially succeed Superintendent Taylor.

The Courier

e-subscribe **FREE** to
The Courier and get it
delivered to your
computer each week!

delmarvacourier.com



Opening - Attorney **Gina Shaffer** (holding scissors) hosted a grand opening on April 17 for her new location at 11031 Cathell Road.

Health Dept. releases health assessment survey

The Worcester County Health Department announced that the Community Health Assessment (CHA) survey is officially open to anyone who lives, works, or plays in Worcester County.

Everyone will have the opportunity to complete the survey through the end of September. The survey will take roughly 10 to 15 minutes to complete and can be accessed in a variety of ways such as:

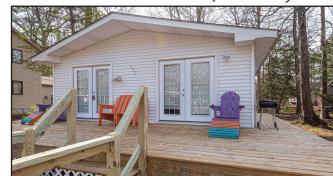
- social media platforms, including Facebook, Instagram and X,
- the Worcester County Health Department website, worcesterhealth.org
- print materials, including flyers and postcards with the QR codes that link to the survey electronically
- hard copies of the survey can be found at any of the Worcester County Health Department locations, or upon request.

The survey is completely voluntary, anonymous, and all information provided will be kept confidential.

For questions about the survey, please contact worcester.health@maryland.gov.

757 OCEAN PARKWAY OCEAN PINES

\$299,900



Opportunity To Become The Owner Of A 3 Bedroom, 1, 1/2 Bath, 1 Level Reasonably

Priced Residence Located On A Wooded Setting. The Following Items Were Recently Installed : Roof In 2023, Cabinets And Granite Countertops In 2023, Appliances In 2023, Flooring In 2023, Windows In 2023, Heat Pump In 2023, Front Deck In 2023, Bathroom Vanities In 2023, Toilets In 2023, Sewage Pipes From House To Street In 2023, Vents In Crawl Space In 2023 And Vapor Barrier In Crawl Space In 2023. Let Your Eyes Evaluate The Potential Enjoyment That Could Become Your Year-Round Residence Or Vacation Get-A-Way. MLS #MDWO2019284

John Talbott

Associate Broker



Cell: 410-603-7373 (9 a.m. to 10 p.m.)

24 Hour Voicemail 866-666-1727

Office: 410-208-3500

johnaltbott7@gmail.com

11001 Manklin Meadows Ln.
Ocean Pines, MD 21811

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
HomeServices
PenFed Realty



Bethany Travel

THE INTERNET IS FOR LOOKING, BETHANY TRAVEL IS FOR BOOKING

SPRING INTO ADVENTURE WITH BETHANY TRAVEL—WHETHER IT'S SIPPING SANGRIA IN SPAIN, CRUISING TO ALASKA, OR EXPLORING THE BEAUTIFUL BEACHES OF THE CARIBBEAN, WE'LL GET YOU THERE.

Contact us today:



✉ Cindy@bethanytravel.net

☎ 302-933-0955



My Backyard... sponsored by Maureen Kennedy

American Goldfinch

A typical summer sight is a male American Goldfinch flying over a meadow, flashing golden in the sun, calling perchickory as it bounds up and down in flight. In winter, when males and females alike are colored in subtler brown, flocks of goldfinches congregate in weedy fields and at feeders, making musical and plaintive calls. In most regions this is a late nester, beginning to nest in mid-summer, perhaps to assure a peak supply of late-summer seeds for feeding its young.

The bird is about 4 ½” to 5” tall. The summer male is bright yellow with black wings, tail, and forehead. The summer female is duller yellow-green. Winter birds vary from yel-



lowish brown to gray; note bold wing-bars (white or buff) on black wings, white tail spots. Its habitat is patches of thistles and weeds, roadsides, open woods and edges. It is found during all seasons in semi-open areas having open weedy ground and some trees and bushes for shelter, especially

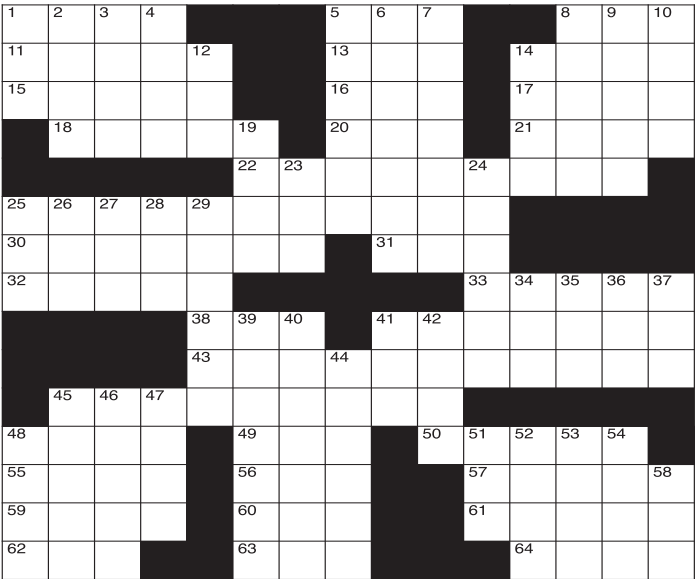
areas of second growth, stream sides, roadsides, woodland edges, orchards and suburban areas. In winter it can be found in some very open fields farther from trees. Both parents feed nestlings. At first the male brings food so the female can give it to the young. Then both parents handle feeding with the role of the female gradually declining. The male may provide most food in later stages. The young leave the nest about 11 to 17 days after hatching.

American Goldfinches forage actively in weeds, shrubs, and trees, often climbing about acrobatically on plants such as thistles to reach the seeds. Except during breeding season, they usually forage in flocks. They commonly come to feeders for small seeds.

Nesting begins late in the season in many areas, with most birds nesting activity during July and August. During courtship the male performs fluttering flight displays while singing.

The birds usually nest in deciduous shrubs or trees, sometimes in conifers or in dense weeds, usually less than 30 feet above the ground and placed in horizontal or upright fork. The nest, built by the female, is a solid, compact cup of plant fibers, spiderwebs, plant down (especially from thistles); the nest is so well-made that it may even hold water.

-Audubon



CLUES ACROSS

1. Herring-like fish
5. Perform on stage
8. Soda
11. Small growth
13. In support of
14. Step taken when walking
15. Hollyhocks
16. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
17. Feel pain
18. San Diego ballplayer
20. Inches per minute (abbr.)
21. Fat from a pig’s abdomen
22. Create again
25. Honors once more
30. Thin coating of gold
31. Welsh river
32. Japanese novelist Mizumura
33. Husks of corn
38. Green vegetable
41. Showing guilt
43. Soldier
45. Photographers
48. Language spoken in Nigeria
49. Mimic
50. Expressed pleasure
55. Ancient Greek sophist
56. Beverage container
57. Night monkey genus
59. Lace bugs
60. Hogshhead (abbr.)
61. Frameworks
62. Keyboard key
63. Greek goddess of the dawn
64. Influential Korean independence figure

CLUES DOWN

1. A place to unwind
2. Helped (archaic)
3. Razorbill genus
4. Bleached
5. Continent
6. Fruit preserved in syrup
7. Impediment to one’s freedom
8. Nocturnal rodents
9. Earthy pigment
10. Relieved oneself
12. Golf score
14. Tech hub __ Alto
19. Sportscaster Andrews
23. Records electric currents
24. Popular Hitchcock film
25. Revolutions per minute
26. NY Giants legend
27. Sports radio host Patrick
28. When you hope to get somewhere
29. French seaport
34. Thai river
35. Rocker’s accessory
36. Extra charge
37. Influential American president
39. Pain in the head
40. Great Plains people
41. Consumed
42. Soluble ribonucleic acid
44. Improves
45. Secret clique
46. Behind the stern of a ship
47. Dough made from corn flour
48. Fallow deer
51. Swiss river
52. Grayish white
53. Engrave
54. College’s Blue Devils
58. Midway between south and southeast



Answers for April 23



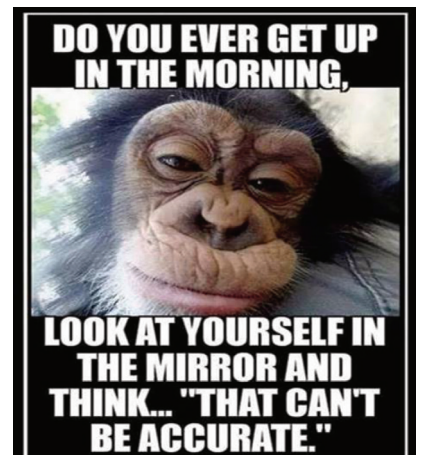
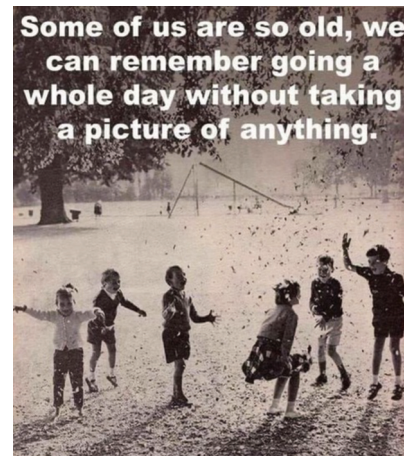
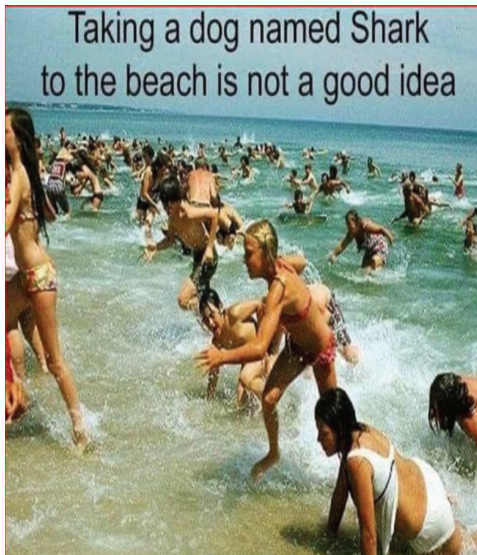
We're all about the birds and more!

OPEN
Tuesday - Saturday 10 am - 5 pm

South Gate Ocean Pines 11312 Manklin Creek Rd
410-208-1479
Follow us on facebook @ mybackyard.oceanpines

Some things to think about

Gathered from the internet
by **Jack Barnes**



Support Local Businesses

To place your business card call
410-629-5906

BOAT LIFTS

Ocean City Boat Lifts & Marine Construction Inc.
"We sell the best and service the rest"
(410) 352-5085
oceancitylifts@aol.com
12010 Industrial Park Rd., Unit 11, Bishopville, MD 21813
MHIC 13392

DINING

A BAGEL and...
Serving Breakfast and Lunch
Southgate - Ocean Pines
(Manklin Creek & Ocean Pkwy)
410-208-0707
Open 6 a.m. - 2 p.m. Wed-Sun

LANDSCAPING

Atlantic Landscaping & More Commercial or Residential

Property Management	Painting, Stone, Gravel,
Firewood, Lawn Care	Mulching, Cleaning,
Gutter Cleaning	Hauling Services, Stump
Power Washing	Grinding, Shed Demolition,
Window Cleaning	House/Shed/Garage
Leaf Removal	Clean Outs & More

Call or text for free estimates **410-713-9159 904-468-8206**

CLEANING

Cleaning Services
Residential Commercial Seasonal
Berlin & Surrounding Areas
410-845-1624
Call or Text anytime

JEWELRY

D.A. Kozma Jewelers
Custom Designs
Personalized Service
Bridal Consultation
410-213-7505
410-524-GOLD
www.kozmajewelers.com
on Route 611 at Route 50 in the Food Lion Shopping Center

PATIO

PAVER PATIOS & DECKS
Brick Paver Patios Fire Pits Decks
Call for a FREE ESTIMATE
Decks, Patios & Improvements - Family Owned & Operated
410-390-1499
Licensed & Insured
MHIC 74344

DENTISTRY

Gerard Ott, D.M.D., PA
Jeremy Masenior, D.D.S.
Family Dentistry
1 Pitts Street
Berlin, Maryland 21811
(410) 641-3490
ott.masenior@gmail.com

The Courier
Place your business card here!
Call Linda Knight
443-366-4184

E-subscribe **FREE** to *The Courier*
www.delmarvacourier.com



- All types of fence
- All types of Railing
- Screen porches
- EZ Breeze 3 season rooms
- Wood and composite decks



Local and reliable with over 35 years of happy customers on the Eastern Shore! Give us a call or come visit our showroom right down the street in Selbyville Delaware.

Call for your FREE estimate today!

302-436-9520

www.esvinylproducts.com

