

# The Courier

May 14, 2025 Volume 25 Number 30



## DAR recognizes local cadets

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) has a proud history of supporting military cadets, active-duty military and veterans throughout its 130-year history. Recently, General Levin Winder Chapter Regent Sharon Moak and National Defense Committee Chair Pat Arata presented a DAR Bronze JROTC Medal to Cadet Maddison French, Pocomoke High School MJROTC, and Cadet Alyssa Carpenter, Snow Hill High School MJROTC. Recipients of this award must be either a junior or senior student in a secondary school JROTC program and must have demonstrated qualities of dependability and good character, adherence to military discipline, leadership ability, and a fundamental and patriotic understanding of the importance of ROTC training.

The chapter has been sponsoring this award since 2001.

Moak and Arata also presented a Silver DAR Outstanding Cadet Medal to Cadet Makaiya Robinette at Stephen Decatur High School. This medal is awarded to a student for participation in a non-ROTC, military-affiliated cadet program funded by a school or privately and honors a cadet who has distinguished himself or herself through outstanding leadership, honor, service, courage and patriotism. The chapter has presented this award annually since 2014.

The DAR is a women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and securing America's future through better education. For more information, visit [www.dar.org](http://www.dar.org).

Above are **Pat Arata, Makaiya Robinette** and **Sharon Moak**.

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## Memorial gala tickets available

Twenty years ago, April 18, 2005, to be exact, a “Star was Born” in Ocean Pines. That Star, the centerpiece of the Worcester County Veteran’s Memorial at Ocean Pines, still shines in honor of all United States of America veterans.

The Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines will celebrate 20 years of honoring the memories of servicemen and women on May 30, 2025.

A gala celebration will be held at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club. Passed hors d’oeuvres, a plated dinner with choice of entrée and dessert will be served. DJ Donnie will provide music for dining and dancing.

Attending the gala is your opportunity to help fund the ongoing work of volunteers dedicated to maintaining the Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines, special events honoring Veterans, and an Educational Outreach Program.

Each year, the Veterans Memorial Foundation invites every fifth-grade class within Worcester County to experience a field trip to the actual Memorial site in Ocean Pines. While there, the students participate in a comprehensive tour and three-part informational program featuring different aspects of the Memorial. Its purpose is to create and foster an awareness and appreciation for veterans and the tremendous sacrifices they have made to protect and preserve the freedoms we enjoy in the United States of America.

The cost for the evening is \$75 per person. For more information, contact Sherri Lassahn at 410.458.1718 or Marie Gilmore at 410.726.2881. Seating is limited so reserve your seat by May 16.

## Dem Women’s Club to hold meeting

The Democratic Women’s Club of Worcester County will hold its annual Volunteer Fair on Monday, May 19 at 10 a.m. at the Worcester Technical High School in Newark. The event is open to the public and is free of charge.

After brief introductions, the audience will be invited to visit each organization at tables to learn more about their mission and volunteer opportunities. The following organizations will be represented this year. Art League of Ocean City, Assateague State Park, Backstreet Bikes, Buckingham School, Coastal Hospice, Furnace Town, MAC, Inc, Rebirth, Inc, Sierra Club

Prospective members are welcome at the meeting where membership applications will be available. Visit our website at <https://dwcmd.org/> for additional information.

## Pine Tones Spring Concert scheduled

The call for singers in March resulted in eleven new members for the Pine Tones Chorus. Musical Director Jenny Anderson is thrilled with the extra voices to fill out the group. The rehearsals and enthusiasm for the material are paying off. Anderson was heard to say, “We are sounding better than ever.” Additional voices in each section provide more power and presence for the spring presentation, Sounds of the ‘70s. The Chorus presents a fun show with period costumes and a variety of ensemble and small chorus presentations. The audience always has a chance to sing along on selected pieces.

The Sounds of the 70’s concert will be performed Sunday, June 8, at 3 p.m. at the Community Church at Ocean Pines. Tickets will be available at the door for \$15 (cash or check only). Chorus members and audience alike will groove to classic favorites like, “Bridge Over Troubled Water,” “Joy to the World,” “Rocky Mountain High,” “Where You Lead,” and “Shambala.”

The Pine Tones Chorus has a more than forty-year history as a non-profit, all-volunteer group of folks who love to sing for their community. They present both Spring and Fall concerts every year, and each season they also travel to several area senior centers to share the music with those who are not able to come to the shows. This season is partially funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, through the Maryland State Arts Council and Worcester County Arts Council. Follow Pine Tones Chorus on Facebook and on Instagram @pinetoneschorus.

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



**Donation** - Stephanie James, Executive Director of Worcester County Developmental Center (WCDC) visited American Legion Post 166 at its last membership meeting and walked out with a \$2,000 donation from the veterans to help support programs at the center.

The Worcester County Developmental Center based in Newark, MD, helps adults with developmental and physical disabilities to be productive, responsible, and participating members of society. More information about WCDC can be found at <https://wcd-cservices.org>.

Above are **Ben Dawson** (L) and **J.R. Best** present \$2,000 check to WCDC Executive Director **Stephanie James**.



## Healy visits Kiwanis

The Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City is fortunate to have guest speakers most every Wednesday morning meeting in the Ocean Pines Community Center. On May 7, 2025 Mike Healy, a former Army officer, a Tourism Certified Ireland Specialist and YouTube Partner, spoke about his journey from retirement to entrepreneurship. He shared how to start a new business, even in retirement, like he and his wife Victoria did with Celtic RnR Tours.

Check out [www.YouTube.com/@CelticRnR](http://www.YouTube.com/@CelticRnR) or [www.CelticRnR.com](http://www.CelticRnR.com) for more information.

Above(L-R) **Mike Healy** and Kiwanis Club President **Tom Southwell**.





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# OPGC donates raised garden beds

On May 6, the Ocean Pines Garden Club (OPGC) visited the Worcester Technical High School (WTHS) campus for a donation presentation, a tour of the school grounds, and a stellar luncheon provided by the culinary students.

OPGC donated \$600 to build and plant six raised garden beds on site. Principal Tony Bevilacqua hosted the tour and explained that many of the school's disciplines (carpentry, agriculture, early childhood development and culinary arts) contribute to the building, planting, tending, and harvesting of the beds. Several more beds and native plantings are planned with the help of some well-earned grants.

In 2026, OPGC will celebrate 50 years of collaboration to beautify the Pines and surrounding areas through deeds and donations. Some donations include the anchor at Ocean Pines Yacht Club, benches at the entrance of

Ocean Pines Community Center, and yearly tree plantings for Arbor Day in Pintail Park, to name only a few.

As many Ocean Pines residents and their neighbors enjoy the delicacies of the local Pines Café (located on Race-track Rd.), they can feel good knowing that WTHS, with the help of award-



OPGC Co-President **Nancy Mulligan** (r), presents donation funds to WTHS Principal, **Tony Bevilacqua** (l).

winning Chef Phillip Cropper, is grooming our future culinary stars right here in our back yard. OPGC is proud to be a part of this community endeavor and will continue to promote its success.



**Presentation - Dr. Kirkland Hall** shares stories of the Oakville Eagles and baseball on the Shore. Part of the African American lecture series and sponsored by Germantown School, the exhibit will be held through May 31. Located at 10223 Trappe Road in Berlin and open Wednesday and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Other times by appointment. For more information, email [germantownschool@gmail.com](mailto:germantownschool@gmail.com), or call (410) 641-0638.



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# The name's Nino

I've not kept quiet about my pleasure in being a grandfather. I relish being around my grandchildren.

Not long ago I was asked by a colleague if there is a story behind the vanity license plate on my truck, "NINO 1." There is.



## It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

After the excitement of being told I was going to be a grandfather for the first time subsided just a little, the full weight of becoming a grandfather sunk in. My thoughts turned to what I would be called. What would the next generation call me? I don't think I'm alone in that concern. I've heard many grandparent names that are unique and non-traditional.

Fortunately, there were several months before a decision was required. Nonetheless, considerable energy and thought went into arriving at

the right moniker. I wanted something memorable, something different. No pressure or anything; just a name that would resonate through family lore.

In my family, my grandfather was "Gramps." That's who he was and that's what we called him. He brought a lot of personality to the name. In the many years since his passing, he has remained a vibrant character in our lives. My children grew up hearing Gramps stories. His legacy is alive and well,

a fact that would have pleased him and no doubt he would have expected. He was one of a kind so his name, like the jersey number of a great baseball player, has been retired from the family roster. Unlike Roman numerals following the name of an English monarch or Pope, a "Gramps II" is unlikely.

In the interest of full disclosure, as the drama of name selection unfolded, I did think briefly about reusing the Gramps moniker. The idea was quickly cast aside because I knew I'd

be unable to bring to the name what "Gramps the First" had. And besides I wanted a designation that was special to me and my personality.

For weeks and months my children spouted off all sorts of suggestions. There was "Chipperino." "The Chipster." "His Grand Highness." "Grand Nose." They were no help at all. There were more familiar names bantered about like Pop-Pop, Grandpop, Granddad and Pappy. Those just didn't seem to fit right; sort of like wearing brown shoes with a black tuxedo. My father-in-law was Pop-Pop to my kids and like Gramps I didn't want to tread on his memory. For a little bit of time, Pappy was in contention but it fell by the wayside.

My daughter did some research and found "Nino," which is a variation of "Grandfather" in Italian. It was a Goldilocks moment as soon as she mentioned it to me: the perfect bowl of porridge had been found. Nino! I said it several times, letting it roll around the tongue like a fine wine being tasted for the first time. I asked others to speak the name aloud so I could hear how it sounded.

Not long after the Little One arrived and she was placed in my arms

for the first time I whispered in her ear, "Nino loves you." And it sounded just right. She even smiled.

The following day I went on the MVA website and ordered the NINO1 vanity plate. That was more than 13



With my granddaughters **Giana** (left) and **Abigail** (right).

years ago. There are now four grandchildren who call me Nino – well one is only six months old and not yet speaking. But I can tell she's calling me Nino when she looks at me with those big blue eyes. And that's good enough for me.

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# Commentary

By Joe Reynolds  
*OceanPinesForum.com*

## Morning fireworks, not evening

Tuesday, May 6, 2025 was one of the more interesting days over the last couple of decades when it comes to the Worcester County Commissioners. The date might not live in infamy, but it certainly was memorable.

The day involved two events. A regular morning meeting of the Commissioners, followed by an evening Public Hearing on controversial aspects of the County budget. The former expected to be rather normal; the latter expected to produce fireworks.

Fireworks because Ocean Pines Association board members and many property owners intended to go to Snow Hill for the evening Public Hearing to protest. Their concern? What they saw as an attempt by some Commissioners to make ratepayers in Ocean Pines foot the bill for sewer and water service financial losses in other

areas of the County.

As it turned out, the regular morning Commissioners meeting produced the fireworks, while the evening public hearing became a dud for those Commissioners hoping to tap into the wallets of people in Ocean Pines.

Let's dispense with the evening Public Hearing first.

To quote from a post to *OceanPinesForum.com* by County Commissioner Chip Bertino, "During his budget presentation at the top of last night's meeting, Chief Administrative Officer Weston Young said that after considerable staff review, Option 3 was not feasible because it was contrary to county code and that bond counsel advised against transferring debt across service areas."

Option 3, otherwise known as the option to ripoff ratepayers in Ocean

Pines, was pushed by Commissioners Mitrecic, Elder, Fiori, and Purnell.

They sat silent after Young said what they wanted to do was illegal and might adversely impact County bonding. Regardless, don't be surprised to see some new version of the "ripoff option" next year when the Commissioners may be looking for \$6 million or more to support service areas like Glen Riddle where, unlike Ocean Pines, residents do not pay what is needed to support their systems.

Of the four commissioners promoting the financial ripoff of Ocean Pines ratepayers, Mitrecic and Fiori were far from quiet about the same issue during the morning Commissioners meeting. Fact is, Mitrecic and Fiori acted unhinged, personally attacking Commissioner Chip Bertino in angry voices.

Mitrecic accused Bertino of flat out lying during a Town Hall Meeting held by Bertino and Commissioner Jim Bunting.

Fiori accused Bertino of trying to "ruin" his businesses. Fiore demanded an apology.

Fiore yet again tried to act like a prosecuting attorney in a criminal case, angrily demanding Bertino answer his questions - to no avail.

Bertino remained calm.

Their issue is apparently over whether the Commissioners voted on some motion or not and what was in-

cluded.

Bertino's written presentation at the Town Hall meeting contained the following statement that is the core of the outrage expressed by Mitrecic and Fiori.

"To make up the entire deficit, a majority of Commissioners (Elder, Fiori, Mitrecic and Purnell) vote to require ALL SERVICE AREAS - regardless of debt contribution - to repay the shortage amount in equal shares. This equates to about \$32 per ratepayer per quarter on top of any other rate adjustments that are necessary within a service area."

Prior to the Bertino/Bunting Town Hall, Bertino made it very clear the Commissioners had not voted on any specific rate structure. His comment, quoted above, reflects his accurate view that by voting to propose only a single option for the then upcoming public hearing, the net effect was what he told attendees at the Town Hall meeting.

Semantics aside, any reasonable person listening to what Elder, Fiori, Mitrecic and Purnell had to say in the past could only conclude their clear intent was to produce a budget that would see Ocean Pines ratepayers foot the bill for much of the losses in other districts like Glen Riddle.

The loss of composure by Mitrecic and Fiori was rather disgraceful.

## Courier Almanac

On May 14, 1998, the legendary singer, actor and show-business icon Frank Sinatra dies of a heart attack in Los Angeles, at the age of 82.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reports that pollen season is getting longer and increasing in intensity. Shifts in precipitation patterns, more frost-free days, warmer seasonal air temperatures, and greater amounts of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, each of which are side effects of climate change, have led to higher concentrations of pollen in the air and longer pollen seasons. Data from the USA National Phenology Network, which provides data on the timing of seasonal events in plants and animals to ensure the well-being of humans, ecosystems and natural resources, indicates total pollen counts increased by as much as 21 percent between 1990 and 2018. Such data may come as no surprise to people with asthma and seasonal allergies who have noticed the side effects of such conditions tend to start earlier than in the past and extend for longer periods of time than in previous years. need to increase the volume.



## Shine on the Shore Luau scheduled

Tickets are now on sale for the Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services (WYFCS) annual fundraiser to benefit the children and families of Worcester County. The event, the Shine on the Shore Luau, is in its third year and promises new events and surprises for guests.

The event will be held on Thursday, June 12 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Sunset Grille in West Ocean City, with a rain date of June 26. Tickets can be purchased online, by phone, or in person at 124 N. Main St., Suite C., in Berlin. The event promises to provide all of the amenities to make party-goers feel like they are relaxing on a tropical getaway. Admission tickets are priced

at \$35 and include a light fare buffet, a drink voucher for your Hawaiian-inspired drink created by Teasers bar, live entertainment, paid games, and more. Competitions for best luau attire, limbo champion, and longest hula hoop are sure to see you cheering along, and the prizes this year are unlike any that have been offered before.

WYFCS continues to use this fundraiser as the keystone of its yearly fundraising, and all proceeds go directly to the support of youth and family programs with a direct impact to the lives of Worcester County's most vulnerable residents. The programs work to engage youth in health, struc-

*please see luau on page 12*

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**The Courier** is published Wednesday morning by CMN Communications, Inc. Contents copyright 2025. News release items and calendar entries should reach us Friday noon prior to publication date. The advertising deadline is Friday at 5 p.m. Read **The Courier** online at [delmarvacourier.com](http://delmarvacourier.com),









## ACSA Kid's Fishing Derby 2025



**Who:** Group1- Ages 6 -10  
Group2 - Ages 11 - 16

**When:** June 7, 2025, 9:00AM – 1:00PM

**Where:** Oceanic Fishing Pier  
710 S Philadelphia Ave  
Ocean City, MD 21842

**Cost:** Free to child participants, membership not required, no license required. Parents \$5.00 fee

**Questions:** Contact Jerry Leuters at 240-427-8929, or via email at dorado1045@yahoo.com

**Note:** Need to Bring a fishing rod and tackle. Tackle is also available to rent/purchase at the pier.

NOTE: All Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

## Bishop Koenig issues statement on the election of Pope Leo XIV

The Most Reverend William E. Koenig, Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Wilmington, has released the following statement on the election of His Holiness, Pope Leo XIV:

*The Diocese of Wilmington joins with Catholics and people of good will throughout the world in gratitude to God for choosing Pope Leo XIV as the next pope to lead the Catholic Church. As a native of the windy City of Chicago, Pope Leo is undoubtedly very familiar with effects of living on the shores of Lake Michigan. Today, as a Church, we have become aware of the even more powerful winds of the Holy Spirit that have guided the Cardinal electors to select the first American Pope.*

*As a son of St. Augustine, Pope Leo's experiences as a missionary, administrator, canonist and Vatican official combined with his reputation as a prayerful, quiet, humble, holy and kind man, reveal the mind and heart of one who is a worthy successor of St. Peter.*

*In this Jubilee Year of Hope, we*

*witness once again how, when it comes to God's watchful care over the Church, "hope does not disappoint." As we now welcome Pope Leo as our 267th pope to lead the Catholic Church, we are mindful of his quoting earlier today St Augustine words that "for you I am a bishop, but with you I am a Christian." We join in praying for him and the Church.*

Bishop Koenig will celebrate a special Mass of Thanksgiving for the election of the Holy Father on Sunday, May 11, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. at the Cathedral of St. Peter, Sixth and North West Streets, in Wilmington. The public is invited to attend. The mass will be live-streamed on the Diocese of Wilmington's YouTube channel

www.YouTube.com/DioceaseofWilm.

The Catholic Diocese of Wilmington was established in 1868 and comprises 54 parishes, 20 missions and 29 schools serving the State of Delaware and the nine counties of Maryland's Eastern Shore. Information about the diocese is available at www.cdow.org.

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## Small trash container sign-up

For those in need of a smaller container due to space constraints or physical limitations, Republic Services will once again be taking requests to exchange the 95-gallon container received in the Fall for a 33-gallon smaller container.

Those requesting a smaller container can contact [info@oceanpines.org](mailto:info@oceanpines.org) with your name, address, and phone number, or, if you prefer, you can also sign up in the lobby of the Administra-

tion Building.

Registration ends on Friday, May 30, 2025, and the smaller containers will be delivered to your home in the month of June.

As Republic is requesting that all trash be placed in containers due to safety issues, it is imperative that if you are currently not using a trash container to sign up for the container now to avoid any disruptions in service, unless prior arrangements have been made with Republic.

## Available



Each week for more than two decades, Chip Bertino has written his column, *It's All About...* which is published weekly in *The Courier*. *Some of My Favorites* is a collection of Chip's favorite columns in book form.

To purchase a copy call **410-629-5906** or email [chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com](mailto:chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com)



# The responsibilities of military members and branches

This Saturday, May 17, is US Armed Forces Day. Reports from the Central Intelligence Agency indicate the United States has the third largest active military in the world. As of September 2023, the U.S. military consisted of just under three million people, more than two million of whom are military personnel (just under 800,000 are civilian employees).

The U.S. military is made up of seven branches: Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard, and the National Guard. No two branches of the military perform the same functions, and there are various leadership positions within the branches. The following rundown of various military positions can help Americans gain a greater understanding of the individuals who work to keep the country safe each day.

**Secretary of Defense:** The Secretary of Defense is a unique position in America, as laws designed to ensure civilian control of the military mandate that the Secretary of Defense cannot have served as an active-duty commissioned officer in the military in

the preceding seven years (ten years in the case of a general).

**The Secretary of Defense** is the head of the Department of the Defense and the secretary's authority over the military is second only to the president's authority.

**Chief of Naval Operations (CNO):** The CNO is the highest-ranking officer in the United States Navy. The CNO an admiral and is a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, which is the body of the most senior uniformed officers within the Department of Defense. Though the CNO is a significant position, the person in the role does not have operational command over naval forces.

**Four-star General:** General is a title familiar to civilians and armed forces personnel alike. A Four-star General in the U.S. Army is a senior level commissioned officer who typically has more than 30 years of experience and service. General is the highest rank normally available in the U.S. Army, though a General of the Army may be named in time of war where the commanding officer must be equal or of higher rank than individuals commanding armies from other nations.

**General (Air Force):** General also is the highest rank in the United States Air Force. According to Executivegov.com, four-star generals in the Air Force take charge of command positions in NATO, Numbered Air Forces, and the Chief of Staff.

**Commandant of the Marine Corps (CMC):** The CMC is the highest-ranking Marine Officer and is also a four-star general. The CMC is on the Joint Chiefs of Staff and reports directly to the Secretary of the Navy. The CMC transmits the plans and recommendations of the Marine Corps to the Secretary and advises on those plans.

These are just a handful of the influential positions established to ensure the U.S. military can effectively fulfill its mission to keep the country safe each and every day.

## *The roles of the various branches of the U.S. military*

**Army.** The U.S. Department of Defense notes that the Army is the largest and oldest service in the country's military. The Army provides the ground forces that protect the United States. Members of the Army are trained to

defeat enemy ground forces and to seize and control enemy lands and resources. The Army is also trained to control and interact with the general population in countries where members are stationed.

**Marine Corps.** It might surprise some to learn that the Marine Corps is a component of the Department of the Navy. That's one reason why it maintains amphibious and ground units for contingency and combat operations. The Marine Corps is divided into four groups: the operating forces that fight; the headquarters for leadership; the supporting establishment that provides logistical support; and the Marine Corps Reserve.

**Navy.** The Navy protects America at sea. Despite its massive land mass, the United States is a maritime nation, which underscores how important a strong Navy is to the safety of the country and its residents. The Navy works alongside American allies and partners to keep the seas open and free.

**Air Force.** The Air Force has five

*please see **military** on page 12*



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# How to establish a peaceful backyard retreat

Backyards have undergone quite a transformation over the last decade-plus. The days when patios and decks were all a backyard living space had to offer are largely a thing of the past, as homeowners have realized just how valuable it can be to commit to a stunning backyard.

The real estate experts at Zillow estimate that homes with backyard features such as outdoor televisions, outdoor showers and outdoor kitchens command 3.1 percent more than expected upon reaching the market. If 3.1 percent doesn't sound like a lot, it actually equates to nearly \$11,000 on a typical home. But there's more to gain than money when converting a backyard space into a relaxing respite. Such spaces can provide a welcoming escape from the hustle and bustle of daily life, all the while giving homeowners and residents a comfortable space to soak in the great outdoors. With that in mind, homeowners can take the following steps to establish a peaceful backyard retreat.

Refresh the landscape. Even if your vision is centered on outdoor furniture and a space that accommodates movie nights under the stars,

it's still best to refresh the existing landscape if it needs a little upkeep. Overgrown trees, hedges and bushes



can create the same cluttered vibe that dominates interior spaces overrun with items. If necessary, work with a local tree service or landscape architect to trim, or even remove, trees and hedges that are crowding the backyard and making it feel claustrophobic or giving it an unkempt look. Aim for a landscape that affords a balance of sun and shade so the space is as comfortable as possible throughout the day.

Set up multiple gathering spaces, if possible. Once a backyard retreat is established, everyone who calls the property home might find the space hard to resist. Keep this in mind when

planning the space and aim to set up multiple gathering spaces. An outdoor kitchen with a nearby dinner table can be a great space to enjoy al fresco dining, but a separate area to read a book or watch a movie or ballgame can make the space more versatile. Some may want to relax away from the noise of the grill area, and multiple gathering spaces ensures there's always a peaceful spot to unwind out back.

Add a water feature. Running water has a way of calming the nerves, and that's good to keep in mind when planning a backyard retreat. Water features run the gamut from garden ponds to koi ponds to fountains to hot tubs. Homeowners can identify which feature best aligns

with their idea of relaxation and then work with a landscape architect to ensure it's installed in their backyard oasis.

Don't forget shade. Temperatures are rising in many areas of the globe, and that's worth noting when planning a backyard retreat. Even the most ardent sun worshippers likely won't want to be exposed to the sun at all times when relaxing in their backyards. Strategically chosen means of providing shade can make spaces enjoyable all day long. Consider umbrellas, gazebos, pergolas, and even retractable awnings to cover patios and decks when the sun is at its highest each afternoon. If you plan to spend ample time in the grass, make that more enjoyable by planting shade trees, which also can protect the grass from drought and make it more comfortable underfoot.

A relaxing backyard retreat can make for an ideal space to escape the hustle and bustle of daily life.

## Signs of pest infestation in a home

As any seasoned party host knows, guests can sometimes overstay their welcome. But what about guests that were never welcome in the first place? Pests can wreak havoc on a home, contributing to significant and costly damage and potentially exposing residents, particularly pets, to harmful illnesses.

Pest infestation can occur any time of year, but homeowners may be most likely to see signs of infestation during spring cleaning sessions in areas of the home where they didn't spend much time in the previous months, such as attics and garages. As spring cleaning season kicks off, individuals can keep an eye open for the following signs of pest infestation.

**Nesting materials:** Pests may drag certain nesting materials from outdoor areas into a home. Leaves and grass clippings as well as twigs may be used to construct a warm nest in interior spaces. Pests also transport nesting materials that are inside a home to other areas of a home that are more secluded. Fabric, paper products, including chewed cardboard, and insulation seen in unusual spaces may be left behind by pests nesting in other areas. If there's a trail of such materials, follow it to see if you can find a nest.

**Pets behaving strangely:** Pets can't tell their owners if there's pests in a

home, but they may exhibit signs suggesting an infestation. Pets may start scratching at walls and doors with their paws or sniffing around areas where they can smell pests.

**Unexplained odors:** Foul odors are not necessarily indicative of a pest infestation, as such aromas could indicate a range of issues. But pest feces can produce a foul odor, and some pest infestations can lead to mold growth that also produces unpleasant smells.

**Destroyed items:** Certain pests may gnaw or chew on items, including electrical wires, home furnishings and food packaging. Homeowners who keep a stocked pantry of dry goods and notice packages have been damaged or chewed through likely have a pest infestation.

**Droppings:** Of course, droppings are a telltale indicator of a pest infestation. Rodent droppings are small, black and shaped like a grain of rice. Pests such as termites might leave pellet-shaped droppings in their wake.

Signs of pest infestation may be discovered during spring cleaning sessions. If homeowners suspect pest infestations in their home, they can examine out-of-the-way spaces with a flashlight and contact a pest control specialist to identify and address any issues they uncover.



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EOE





### Kiwanis Club helps 4STEPS

The Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City donated \$2,500 to the local Therapeutic Riding Program 4STEPS. For more information call 410-835-8814 or email giddyup4steps@aol.com

Above: (L-R) volunteers **Maribeth** and **Linda** holding the check for 4STEPS with Kiwanis Club volunteer **Kitty Wrench** and 4STEPS founder **Sandy Winter** who established the organization in 2002 in Parsonsburg.

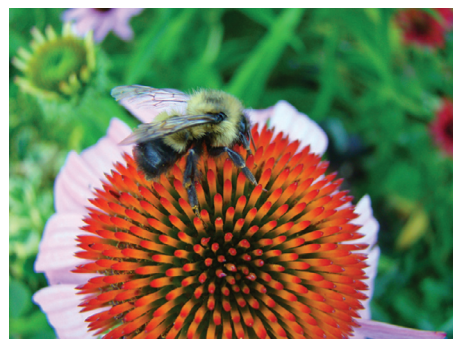
## What's the buzz about pollinators?

Many people live busy lives, but when they stop to smell the roses they might see a pollinator balanced on the petals. It's easy to think of pollen only in terms of what it does to those suffering from seasonal allergies, but pollen is essential for plant and animal life.

pollen without helpers, or pollinators. Check out these facts about pollinators and pollination to learn why they're important to ecological health.

Insects are the primary pollinators, although birds, bats and other creatures also can spread pollen around.

please see **buzz** page 12



The Ecological Society of America says pollen is a plant's male sex cells that must be transferred from one flower to the stigma of the same flower or another for the plant to produce fruit and seed. Although some of this pollination occurs naturally, such as that aided by the wind or among plants that are self-pollinating, the vast majority of plants cannot move

## Sewer smoke testing set in Ocean Pines

Worcester County Public Works Water and Wastewater (WWW) Division will conduct smoke testing of the sanitary sewer system from May 14 to 20. Streets to be included are Chatham Ct, Potomac Ave, Central Parke E, Arcadia Ct, Freeport Ln, Fort Sumter S, Federal Hill, Long Point Ct, Carnegie Place, Hatteras St, Points Reach, Bluewater Ct, Parkside Cir, Pine Forest Dr, Tidewater Cove, Port Arthur Ct, Charleston Rd, Piedmont Ct, and Beaumont Ct.

This study will involve opening and entering manholes in the streets and public utility easements to locate breaks and defects in the sewer system. The smoke will also reveal where storm and other surface water enters the sewer system.

A special, non-toxic smoke will be used in these tests. It leaves no residuals or stains and has no effect on plant or animal life. The smoke is visible and has a distinctive, but not unpleasant, odor that should last only a few minutes, where there is adequate ventilation.

Because the plumbing appliances in homes and buildings are connected to the sanitary sewer system, some smoke may enter these facilities in the following instances:

-Vents connected to a building's sewer pipes are inadequate, defective, or improperly installed.

-Traps under sinks, tubs, basins, showers and other drains are dry, defective, improperly installed, or missing.

-Pipes, connections and seals of the wastewater drain system in and under buildings are damaged, defective, have plugs missing, or are improperly installed.

The smoke test can reveal the presence, if any, of sewer gas, which can be dangerous and a health risk to occupants. In the event that smoke enters your home or business, please contact a member of the smoke testing crew working in your area or by contacting WWW at 410-641-5251, Monday – Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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**buzz**  
from page 11

The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation credit honeybees, bumblebees, butterflies, moths, wasps, flies, and beetles with pollinating the most plants. However, the ESA says between 200,000 and 300,000 invertebrate species are estimated to serve globally as pollinators.

Bees and other pollinators play critical roles in food production. The United States Department of Agriculture says more than 100 U.S.-grown crops rely on pollinators.

About 75 percent of all flowering plants rely on animal pollinators.

Pollinator.org says blueberries, chocolate, coffee, vanilla, almonds, pumpkins, and peaches are just some of the foods and beverages that are produced with the help of pollinators.

Most bee species native to North America are “solitary bees.” They don’t live in colonies and rarely sting unless physically threatened or injured. Bees largely can be left alone to do their thing and people can cohabitate comfortably nearby.

Honeybees have different jobs than other species. A honeybee colony is made up of one reproductive queen, sexually

undeveloped female workers and male drones. Drones mate with the queen so she can lay eggs, and the workers are responsible for caring for eggs, cleaning the hive and collecting nectar, pollen and other resources for the colony.

Pollinators have been on the decline for a number of reasons. The Pollinator Partnership says threats to pollinators include pollution, pests, pathogens, changes in land use that degrades their habitats, and climate change. Honeybees, monarch butterflies and native bumblebees have all exhibited declines in recent years, according to the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

People can help protect pollinators by creating pollinator-friendly garden habitats with native plants best suited to local areas. Individuals also can select old fashioned varieties of flowers whenever possible, since breeding has caused some modern blooms to lose the nectar/pollen needed to feed pollinators. Also, install houses for bats and native bees to encourage them to take up residence, and avoid the use of pesticides around the landscape.

Pollinators are vital to the health of the ecosystem. Without pollinators, food supplies would dwindle and the planet’s plant life would suffer.



**Champions**

There was a nail-biting ending to the Ocean Pines Mixed Bowling League (OPMBL) this season. On April 21, the competition was between the Ospreys with team members Glenn Jacoby, Kathy Monaco, George Payne and Denise Stevens and the Seagulls with team members Donny Spahn, Alan Wildt, Donna Wildt and Cathy Willis. The Ospreys became the official 2025 League Champions winning the best two of three games

The OPMBL has been active for more than 25 years. This year there were 24 teams divided between Monday and Tuesday. The games start at 1:00. It is a mixed league with four people on each team. Please feel free to contact Barbara Harman at 301-980-7798 for questions or more information.

Above are champions (left to right) **Glenn Jacoby, Denise Stevens, Kathy Monaco and George Payne.**

**military**  
from page 9

core missions: air superiority; global strike; rapid global mobility; intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance; and command and control. The Air Force defends the country and its residents in air, space and cyberspace and is capable of delivering forces anywhere in the world within hours.

Space Force. The existence of the Space Force may come as a surprise to many Americans. Organized under the Department of the Air Force and established in 2019, this branch of the military organizes, trains and equips space forces in order to protect the interest of America and its allies in space.

Coast Guard. During peacetime, the Coast Guard is part of the Department of Homeland Security. In times of war, it operates under the Navy. The Coast Guard provides law and maritime safety enforcement as well as environmental protection. In addition to promoting national security, border security and economic prosperity in the maritime environment, the Coast Guard saves those in peril on the sea.

National Guard. The National Guard is comprised of the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard. The National Guard has a diverse array of responsibilities that range from supporting combat missions to responding during domestic emergencies to assisting in humanitarian efforts and more.

**luau**  
from page 6

tured social activities and provide both youth and adults with the skillsets they need to grow and thrive in a healthy, therapeutic way. Any donations received will support youth enrichment programs, including the Berlin Youth Club and free summer camp and the Worcester Connects mentor/mentee programs. A portion of donations also go toward providing therapeutic serv-

ices and mental health therapy to families that are unable to make payments due to financial hardships.

Individuals wishing to support the fundraiser as a late-term sponsor or donor are encouraged to contact the office directly at (410)-641-4598. Those wishing to learn more and to purchase tickets are encouraged to visit the event website at [bit.ly/shineluau25](https://bit.ly/shineluau25). The site will offer tickets, frequently asked questions, directions, and more.



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When: 11:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

MAY 27

MAY 28

Where: Snow Hill Health Center  
(6040 Public Landing Rd. Snow Hill, MD)

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Trails & Waterways

# Tangier Island beachcombing

By **Ralph Ferrusi**

The 350-acre Tangier Island, Virginia is an extraordinary place, in what you'll soon realize is the vastness of Chesapeake Bay as you leave Crisfield behind on the Little Annemessex River on the mail boat *Courtney Thomas*. Reaching the surprisingly enormous bay, it takes quite a while for the island to finally appear, all alone.

Ashore, on the northeastern coast, most of the houses, streets, and yards could be anywhere smalltown USA. There's a real sense of normalcy. But, and this is a big but, not too far in the future all of these houses, streets, and yards may be under water.

There is a palpable chilling



poignancy about this that is hard to shake as you golf-cart through the streets. We visited the Tangier Island Museum and the first thing that hits you right between the eyes when you walk in is a huge map comparing the size the island was a short while ago to the size it is now. The percentage of the island that has disappeared is stunning. I asked one of the museum's docents if she ever thought about this. Her response gave me chills. "Every day..."

We last visited Tangier on July 24, 2023 and stayed two nights in a very inviting, charming room at the very welcoming Brigadune Inn. We had contacted Barbara Baechtel at the inn and she had provided us with all kinds of helpful, useful information.

We were met at the dock, as promised, by Barb's husband Rob, and golf-carted to the Inn on Hog Ridge Road on the northwestern coast of the island. Golf carts and bicycles are the

island's primary means of transportation.

Rob golf-carted us into town and we had lunch at the island's only pizza place. We rented a cart from the Inn, and soon buzzed all over the island; it was fun, and we easily became familiar with pretty much the whole island. A narrow stretch of water divides the island in two, with four short bridges connecting them. The official 2022 estimated population was 432, and just about everyone we encountered in carts waved to us. And, we were told we could leave the keys in our cart, as everybody knew who it belonged to. This pleasant attitude pervaded our stay on the island. I couldn't help but feel the world would/could be a better place if this was more commonplace.

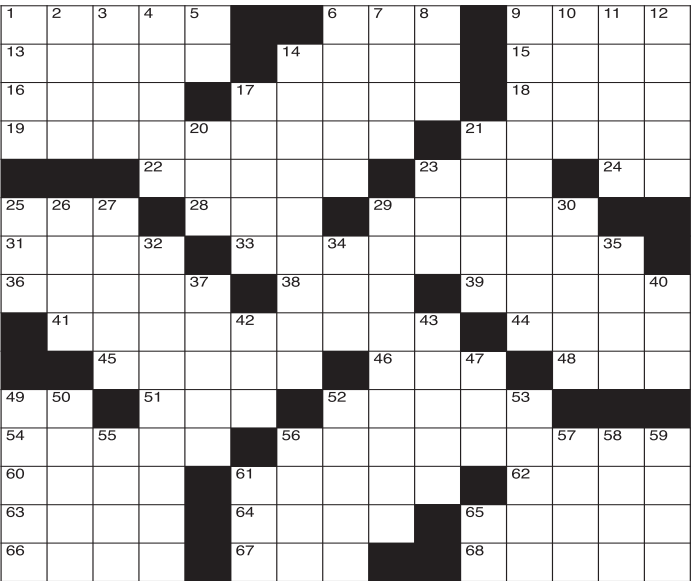
We had a nice dinner at Lorraine's; the only restaurant on the island that is open year-round. There is a photograph in the museum of Lorraine's being totally surrounded by several feet of water. Yikes!

We went out on Mayor James "Ooker" Eskridge's boat. The islanders have island names; there's a display case in the museum with photos of smiling islanders and their island names.

The long, long Tangier Island Public Beach was right down the road from the Inn, and we had it all to ourselves as we took a long walk south. In the evening, we returned to the beach and went north to the far end to watch, and photograph, a legendary, spectacular, Tangier Island sunset.

All too soon we had to return to the noise and stink of the "real world." I've traveled the world, but no place, anywhere, has touched me as deeply, as this small Delmarva island, where nice guys are called "Ooker."

We shall return.  
*Kathy and Ralph Ferrusi are avid hikers, bicyclists, canoeists, world travelers, and, readers. They live in Ocean Pines' Bay Colony, where they enjoy fine—and some not-so-fine—wines. Comments, suggestions: rjferrusi@frontiernet.net.*



### CLUES ACROSS

1. Two-person German submarine

6. 60-minute intervals (abbr.)

9. Database management system

13. Vertical position

14. American jazz singer Irene

15. Ancient Greek City

16. Former Senate Majority Leader Harry

17. Japanese seaport

18. Self-immolation by fire ritual

19. Assigns tasks

21. Beloved type of cigar

22. Discounts

23. Cambodian communist leader Pot

24. Important football position

25. Kilometers per hour

28. Lentil

29. Extremely angry

31. Yellow-flowered European plant

33. American state
36. Some are made by rabbits

38. Express with a head movement

39. Affair

41. Cured

44. Youth organization

45. 18-year astronomical period

46. Automobile

48. Focus a shot

49. The NFL's big game (abbr.)

51. Mouth

52. Infections

54. Curved pieces of a horse collar

56. Shameless

60. Assist in escaping

61. Capuchin monkey genus

62. Cold wind

63. Retired Brazilian NBAer

64. Tropical Old World tree

65. Bulgarian city

66. Speak indistinctly

67. Soviet Socialist Republic

68. Between-meal sustenance

### CLUES DOWN

1. Not soft

2. Sharp-pointed dueling sword

3. Line a roof

4. Greek god of the underworld

5. Software

6. Large-headed elongated fishes

7. Shag rugs

8. Type of whale

9. Lacking a plan

10. Spill the beans

11. Some is "heavy"

12. One who has been canonized

14. Indicate times

17. Greeting

20. Broadway actor Josh

21. Seashore

23. Indicates before

25. Electrical power unit

26. Destitute

27. Drags forcibly
29. Impropriety

30. Word forms

32. Equal to 10 meters

34. Neither

35. Computer language

37. Practice of aging film or TV characters (abbr.)

40. A woolen cap of Scottish origin

42. A promise

43. Challenges

47. Official

49. People living in Myanmar

50. Notable tower

52. Type of sword

53. Vaccine developer

55. Listing

56. Summertime insects

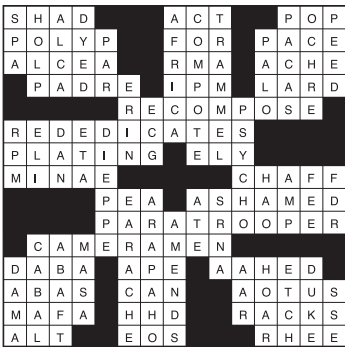
57. Concluding passage

58. Guitarist Clapton

59. Damp and musty

61. Central nervous system

65. Against



Answers for May 7



# Some things to think about

Gathered from the internet  
by **Jack Barnes**

1968 school assembly, no jeans allowed!



If you are a child of the 70s, you likely understand all too well exactly what "Avocado Green" is.



Confuse your doctor  
by putting on  
rubber gloves at the  
same time he does.

My shoelace broke today.  
Some people would  
irrationally blame Donald  
Trump, but I KNOW it's  
because of global warming!



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