# The Courier

March 11, 2026 Volume 27 Number 25

## *What is the Orphans Court?*

By **Elaine Bean**

You're in the voting booth on election day. You've penciled in your votes for all the major candidates and issues. And there at the bottom of the ballot, are the choices for judges, including a separate category for Orphans' Court. If you're like many voters, you may feel a twinge of guilt for not being better informed about what an Orphans' Court actually does and who these candidates are and their qualifications.

*Judge Cheryl Jacobs*

You're not alone. Approximately 25% of voters who go to the polls do not cast any vote in judicial contests, according to the "Choose Your Judges" website. In a survey of 500 judges by the National Judicial College, they determined no more than three in ten voters make an informed choice when voting for judges.

So, what is the Orphan's Court and what do its judges do?

The name "Orphans' Court" is somewhat of a misnomer in this day and age, as the court does not deal with adoptions or "orphans."

The Orphans' Court was originally established in the 18th century to protect the property and inheritance interests of children who had lost their fathers. It evolved in Maryland to supervise the

*please see* ***court*** *on page 6*


***Bake sale -*** *On Friday, February 27, Worcester Preparatory School (WPS) teachers Alexis Absher, Cynthia Phillips, and their students presented members of the TidalHealth Foundation with a donation raised from the annual 3rd Grade Bread Sale.*

*The project involved researching ingredients, creating posters, giving verbal presentations, and rotating jobs - from baker to cashier - to learn all the facets of running a business. The class partnered with Bad Monkey in West Ocean City, where they learned how to make and bake bread. At the end of the Bread Sale, the students counted the money they raised ($501.00) and donated the proceeds to the TidalHealth Foundation.*

*Pictured are third graders* ***Dylan Brandt****,* ***Nora Ruch****, and* ***Camila Prosser*** *manned the cashier during the event.*

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## *Golf Club contest underway*

Enter the Ocean Pines Golf Club Prize Draw for a chance to win a variety of prizes, including lessons, merchandise, and more.

Prizes include a $50 gift certificate to the Ocean Pines Yacht Club, 60-minute group lessons for four with Director of Golf Matt Ruggiere, a Ruggiere Golf Academy hoodie, an on-course playing lesson with Assistant Professional John O'Connor, and additional golf-related items.

Any receipt totaling more than $90 in merchandise will be entered into the drawing. Purchases of range balls, custom orders, greens fees, and cart fees are not eligible.

Winners will be drawn during the week of the Masters on Monday, April 6.

## *Baseball talk at the Ocean Pines library*

Sportscaster Rick Manick will host a preview of the 2026 Major League Baseball season, sharing his analysis and predictions at the Ocean Pines branch of the Worcester County Library on Thursday, March 19, at 2 p.m., just before Opening Day. Whether you're a fan of the Baltimore Orioles, Philadelphia Phillies, or Washington Nationals, Manick will offer a veteran take on your favorite players and the state of baseball.

"There are so many issues to talk about," said Manick. "We'll discuss the comings and goings of major players, and the managers are really on the hotseat in this preseason, so we'll delve into that. I'm excited to hear everyone's opinions."

Manick will share his reminiscences of the Orioles, going back to 33rd Street and Memorial Stadium, conjure memories of past opening days, and test everyone's baseball knowledge with a round of trivia—with peanuts and Cracker Jack for all.

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

# Courier Almanac

On March 11, 1997, Paul McCartney, a former member of the most successful rock band in history, The Beatles, is knighted by Queen Elizabeth II for his "services to music." The 54-year-old from Liverpool became Sir Paul in a centuries-old ceremony of pomp and solemnity at Buckingham Palace in central London. Fans waited outside in a scene reminiscent of Beatlemania of the 1960s. Crowds screamed as McCartney swept through the gates in his limousine and he answered with a thumbs-up.


Small farms are the lifeblood of rural communities. According to the Farm Bureau, 97 percent of American farms are owned by families. Small family farms make up the majority of farms nationwide and operate a higher share of acres altogether than any other farm size. It's important to note that the distinction "family farm" does not necessarily always mean a small-scale operation. Ten percent of farms owned by families generate more than $350,000 in annual revenue. Despite this, small-scale farms are mired in a long-term decline, according to recent U.S. Department of Agriculture reports. Driven by economic pressures, government policies generally are favoring large operations, consolidation and tighter competition.


**Charity in action**

*On March 4, the Ocean City Knights of Columbus Council #9053 presented the Executive Director of the Worcester County Development Center, Stephanie James, a check for $6,196.12. The Council collected these funds during its long-running annual fundraiser "Tootsie Roll Drive," officially known as the Campaign for People with Intellectual Disabilities. The funds help foster growth, improve services, and enhance opportunities for residents, directly investing in the future of the Worcester County, Maryland area.*

*Pictured (left to right): **Stephanie James**, executive director of the Worcester County Development Center and Sir Knight **John Shakey**, Grand Knight of Ocean City (Maryland) Knights of Columbus. Photo by SK Thomas Pergola.*

## *Easter market to return*

The Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market will celebrate spring with its annual Easter Market on Saturday, April 4, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at White Horse Park.

This event brings together local farmers, makers, and families for a morning of fresh goods and holiday cheer. Shoppers can expect seasonal produce, baked goods, and specialty foods from area growers and producers.

Additionally, shoppers will find handcrafted gifts and artisan wares perfect for Easter baskets.

Flowers, plants, and garden starters, along with pastel décor and a festive, community atmosphere round out the annual Easter Market.

"People love the Easter Market because they fill their market basket with everything for the holiday," said David Bean, Market Manager. "You'll run into neighbors, find something fresh for the table, and maybe pick up a handmade gift for a grandkid, all before lunch."

The Market's favorite spring tradition, the Marketplace Egg Trail, also returns.

"It's the third year we're tucking colorful eggs into the pathways, alleys, and walkways of White Horse Park

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The Courier

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# Not quite Irish

Tuesday is St. Patrick's Day, a day of Irish pride enjoyed by those of Celtic descent and those who want to be, at least for the day.

*It's All About. . .*

By **Chip Bertino**

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Although I have an Italian last name I grew up in an American family where the traditions of the "Old Country" were unfortunately never a visible part of daily life. Aside from the vowel at the end of my last name, I didn't have an obvious connection with my European ancestors. If I've counted correctly, I am a third generation American; my parents and grandparents were born in the United States. It was my great-grandparents who emigrated from Italy and France, traveling steerage to come to the New World.

English was always spoken in our home and the homes of my grandparents and friends. Ethnicity was never an issue growing up. Looking back there could be a not-so-subtle reason for this, having grown up with friends who had last names such as Curcillo, Fardone, Armellini, Falcone, DeMarco, Buonomo, Covone and Mastracco. And although there was a sprinkling of McDermotts, McDades and Webers they were a definite minority.

We ate a lot of spaghetti and meatballs in my house as well as chicken cacciatore and eggplant parmesan, a dish made routinely by my grandmother and disliked intensely by my brother and me. Cannolis from Termini Brothers Bakery were a special treat sometimes brought to the house by my grandfather who lived in South Philly. Ravioli (not the Chef Boyardee kind) was a favorite as was Italian cream cake. Italian hoagies and pepper and egg sandwiches were mainstays. The music of Tony Bennett, Dean Martin, Perry Como, Rosemary Clooney and Frank Sinatra, especially Sinatra, was the soundtrack of my youth. My grandfather would sometimes do his impersonation of Mario Lanza, "O sole mio!" Mario had nothing to worry about.

The first time I was aware that ancestral differences was a thing, I was about eight or nine when I overheard an older kid who didn't have a vowel-ending surname at the bus stop tell a joke, or at least what he thought was a joke. "What happens when an *Eye*-talian turns around? A day go." I had no idea why he and the person he told were laughing. It made no sense to me. When I got home from school I retold the joke to my mother who understood it but didn't find it funny, at all.

There have been a number of vowel-ending Philadelphians who have risen to fame. In politics it was Frank Rizzo, the mayor often referred to as "paisan" and even Uncle Frank. I believe he got the votes of many, if not all, of his Vowel-Crowd constituents each time he ran. There was "Rocky Balboa" an underdog Italian fighter portrayed by Sylvester Stallone. Others from Philadelphia include Frankie Avalon, Jim Croce, Buddy Greco, Al Martino and Vince Papale.

During the noon broadcast of Channel 6 Action News, there was a regular segment by the Green Grocer, Joe Carcione, who talked about produce. When his face appeared on the screen, all talking stopped abruptly so that Gramps could hear what fruit or vegetable wisdom old Joe had to impart. It usually wasn't very long after that Joe's suggestions appeared on our dinner table.

Although it's fun to swell with pride about my heritage, I consider myself first and always an American ... who happens to be Italian who loves pasta, chianti and watching The Godfather movies.

But that doesn't mean I can't enjoy St. Patrick's Day. *Éire go Brách!*

# *Conway is Teacher of the Year*

In a celebration of excellence in education, Worcester County Public Schools (WCPS) announced the 2026 Worcester County Teacher of the Year: Kiersten Conway of Snow Hill High School (SHHS).

*Kiersten Conway*

During the 39th annual Teacher of the Year celebration, Worcester County Board of Education President Todd Ferrante made the announcement following a program honoring all 14 school-level teachers of the year and their commitment to providing a high-quality education to the young people of Worcester County.

"I am incredibly proud of Kiersten and of all the outstanding educators we have recognized this evening," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Wallace. "Ms. Conway represents the very best of Worcester County Public Schools. Her commitment to building meaningful relationships with students, delivering rigorous and accessible instruction, and contributing to school and district initiatives speaks to her dedication not only to her classroom, but to our entire community. She will be an exceptional representative for our school system as she advances to the state-level program."

A proud Worcester County graduate and mother of three, Kiersten Conway holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Salisbury University and a Master of Arts degree from The University of Phoenix. Now in her tenth year in education, including nine years with Worcester County Public Schools, she is currently in her thirdyear teaching English 10 at Snow Hill High School. Conway believes that fostering meaningful relationships with students and delivering accessible, rigorous instruction empowers them to become critical thinkers and engaged citizens. She is an active member of her School Improvement Team and the District Literacy Committee and serves as a model of best practices for fellow educators.

"At the heart of this unit—and my teaching as a whole—is the belief that education should extend beyond the classroom. I believe my role as a teacher is to positively influence the next generation by helping students think critically, reflect deeply, and connect learning to the world around them. When students leave my classroom thinking more thoughtfully about their role in society, I know that teaching and learning have truly transcended the classroom."

Conway was one of four finalists announced during the program, who were in the running for the prestigious title. The other outstanding finalists were Taylor Case of Showell Elementary School, Colleen Hood of Snow Hill Elementary School, and Megan Seyler of Stephen Decatur High School.

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Marketplace, and everyone's invited: young shoppers hunting for their first prize eggs, and the young-at-heart who remember the thrill of a hidden find." Janice Curtis, Market Events & Happenings Coordinator.

Starting at the marketplace entrances, wander past shops, boutiques and galleries, keep your eyes open - eggs turn up where fresh herbs meet handmade wares, where a well traveled walkway bends, where a ribbon flutter catches the breeze. Just the market doing what it does best, with a springtime scavenger hunt threaded through it.

Bring the market basket, bring your curiosity, and take your time. The trail is free, the eggs are plentiful, and the reward is a Saturday morning spent weaving through the White Horse Park Marketplace with neighbors and friends.

The market returns to its in-season hours of 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday April 4.

***court***
*from page 1*

management of wills of people who have died according to Maryland law. Orphans' Court judges are responsible for approving administration accounts, making sure that appropriate payments are made from estate assets, and that distributions are made to the proper beneficiaries or heirs. The court works hand in hand with the County's Register of Wills.

*Judge Linda Hess*

"I feel that the Register of Wills and the Orphans' Court work together to ensure estates are handled properly and in accordance with Maryland law," Terri Westcott, Worcester County Register of Wills, said. "Together we provide clarity, fairness, and oversight for families during the probate process.

"What makes the Orphans' Court unique is it offers a place where families can receive guidance and fair resolutions during the estate process," she continued. "By working closely with the Register of Wills, the Court ensures accountability and support that protects our community during some of life's most difficult moments."

Three Orphans' Court judges sit in each of Maryland's counties and run for general election every four years. In Maryland, a judge is not required to be an attorney to sit on the Orphans' Court. All three judgeships in Worcester County are on the ballot in the primary election June 23.

Linda Hess has served twenty years as an Orphans' Court judge and is stepping down in December. "I made a promise to myself when I got to a certain age, it was time to move on … let someone with fresh ideas come on."

She said many filings the Court handles in Worcester are inherited property cases where deceased parents have a home locally that has to be sold while their heirs live out of state.

Cheryl Jacobs has been an Orphans' Court judge in Worcester County since 2018, is the only attorney on the Court, and the only incumbent running again in November. "Most of the time it's just proforma paperwork that we have to review and sign," Jacobs said. "But then again, there are those unfortunate cases where there are disputes."

Although the majority of filings they review in the county are not disputed, both Jacobs and Hess said they have seen contested wills break apart families over poor estate planning or when one party is unhappy with what they inherited.

"We always try to get them to resolve it themselves first, just because it's always better in the long run if they can come to an agreement rather than having the Court decide," Jacobs said. "Someone is not going to be happy with what the Court decides, because it's going to go in favor of one person or another."

"What upsets me more than anything is to see families torn apart over money," Hess said. "If I have one suggestion to anybody making up a will is make sure whoever they leave as personal representative is one person; don't split it with your family, because you don't want to hurt the one person's feelings. Get the most responsible person you know, whether it's an attorney, a friend, a relative, a sibling… I don't think anybody realizes the responsibility of being a personal representative."

Hess advises if someone finds themselves a personal representative to an estate and they don't know where to begin to contact the Register of Wills. "The Register of Wills in Worcester County is probably one of the best Registers in Maryland," Hess said. "They are thorough; they are good; they have so much empathy for people that come through. And all they have to do is call.

"I hate to say this – I will probably make a lot of enemies - but the only ones who make out [on disputed cases] are the lawyers," Hess said … "To hold up somebody's inheritance because you're mad at your siblings or don't like your siblings, it just saddens me."

Both judges strongly advise having a will, which can be a simple handwritten document on a sheet of paper signed and witnessed by two other people, or a complex document prepared by an attorney when estates are large.

Not all disputes are simple and settled quickly.

"There have been cases that are still going on [in Worcester County] because there is so much money and property involved," Jacobs said. "What has really surprised me is, you think about the Eastern Shore, they're not really wealthy people down there. Well, there are a lot of wealthy people down here. Unfortunately, a lot of those matters involve properties for the most part, because people bought property out here and got very rich because of it. And the various people involved with the businesses and the properties all want a piece of the action. And they just keep it going on and on. For years we've been dealing with some of the same things.

"It's kind of tragic, but there you have it. But that's why we're there. That's what we do [at Orphans' Court]. We try our best to mediate all that and move it along … The ultimate goal is to close out the case, and everybody gets what they're entitled to," Jacobs said.

## *Arts Council presents juried exhibition*

The Worcester County Arts Council presents "Roots and Reflections" – From Here: Stories of Home and Community, a juried exhibition and competition on view through April 30 celebrating the deep connections between people, place, and shared experience in Worcester County and across Maryland's Eastern Shore.

This thoughtfully curated exhibition invites viewers to explore what "home" truly means through the eyes of local and regional artists. Participating artists were encouraged to create original works reflecting personal or collective stories tied to local identity - whether expressed through landscapes, cultural traditions, family heritage, or moments that capture the spirit of community life. The result is a rich and diverse collection of artwork that highlights the many ways individuals connect to the places and people that shape their sense of belonging.

The exhibition is presented as a juried competition, with entries reviewed by local artist Evan Fitzgerald, who serves as the exhibition juror. Award recipients will be announced during the exhibition's opening reception on March 13 held from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

"Art has a powerful way of telling the stories of a place and the people who call it home," said Anna Mullis, Executive Director of the Worcester County Arts Council. "Through Roots and Reflections, we are celebrating the landscapes, traditions, and shared experiences that define our communities on Maryland's Eastern Shore. This exhibition is especially meaningful as we mark the Arts Council's 50th anniversary, honoring both our cultural heritage and the vibrant creative voices shaping our future."

"Roots and Reflections" is presented as part of the Arts Council's 50th Anniversary celebration in 2026, marking five decades of Arts, Community, and Connections. Since its founding, the Arts Council has remained committed to championing creativity, supporting artists, and strengthening cultural life throughout Worcester County. This exhibition honors that legacy while looking ahead to the future of the region's vibrant arts community.

# King named Crafter of the Month

The Pine'eer Craft Club has selected Sharon King as the March Crafter of the Month.

King has enjoyed crafting for as long as she can remember, first learning to embroider small "X" stitches on a pre-printed tea towel design at a young age. Each Christmas, she created handmade ornaments, including felt Santas and glitter-covered cardboard stars.

Jewelry making has since become one of King's favorite creative outlets.

"Over the years, I have tried nearly every craft that has caught my attention: cross stitch, beading, drawing, painting, crochet — I could go on," said King. "Making jewelry has been a big part of that journey, and after I retired, I taught classes at a local bead shop for several years."

King moved to Ocean Pines eight years ago and, in addition to the Pine'eer Craft Club, is a member of the Art League of Ocean City and a monthly informal beading group. King's handmade items are available at the Pine'eer Craft Club Artisan Gift Shop, located in White Horse Park in Ocean Pines. The shop is open Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

*Sharon King*

Founded more than 50 years ago, the Pine'eer Craft Club has donated over $201,000 to the Ocean Pines community. The club welcomes new members and meets on the third Thursday of each month.

Artisans interested in selling their work at the shop may contact shop managers Debbie Jiwa or Barbara Herzog, or email opcraftclub@aol.com. For more information, visit oceanpines.org/web/pages/artisan-gift-shop.

# The era of TidalHealth Atlantic begins

After joining the TidalHealth system last year, Atlantic General Hospital now has a new name: TidalHealth Atlantic.

All the campuses, physician offices and diagnostic locations that were part of the Atlantic General Health System have also transitioned to naming that reflects the TidalHealth brand. The rebranding reflects the health system's integration into the Salisbury, Maryland-based TidalHealth system and reinforces a shared commitment to delivering high-quality, accessible and patient-centered care across the region.

"It's a change in name only," said Don Owrey, MBA, FACHE, president of TidalHealth Atlantic. "What Atlantic General has stood for during its more than 30-year history is not going away — its mission, people and deep-rooted commitment to the community remain firmly in place. With TidalHealth's commitment to growth, service expansion and facility enhancements, we are well-positioned to continue meeting the evolving healthcare needs of our community for years to come."

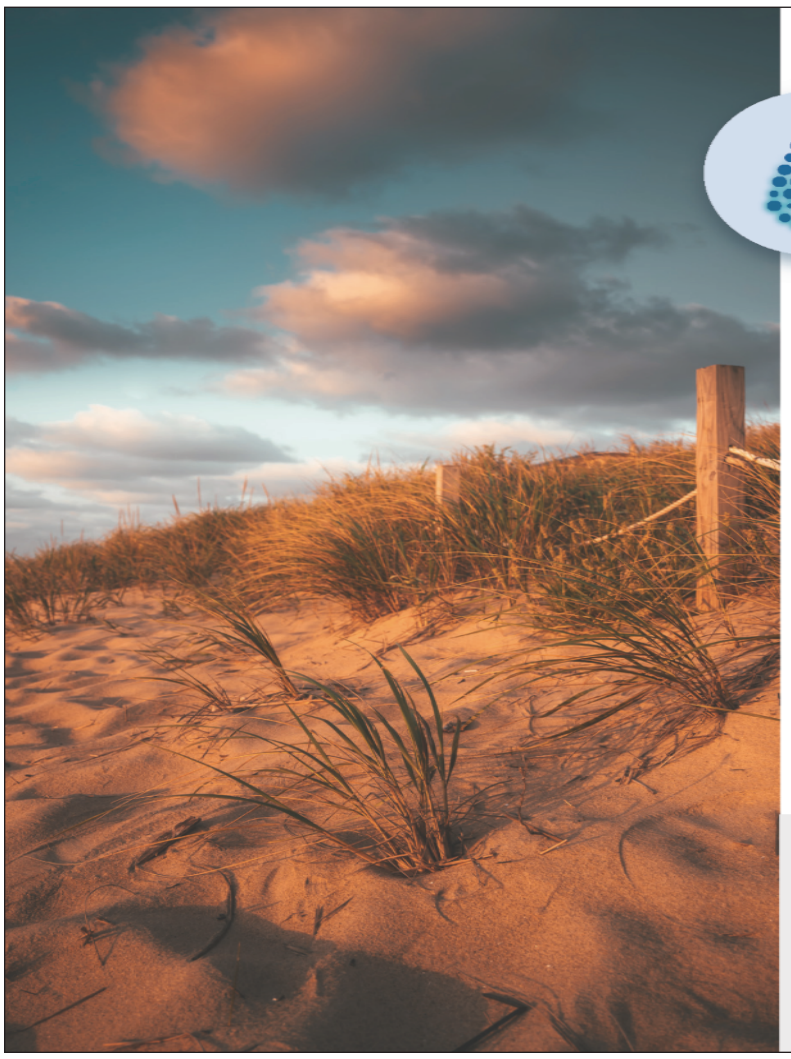
***Don Owrey,** MBA, FACHE, president of TidalHealth Atlantic, left, and **Steve Leonard**, Ph.D., MBA, FACHE, president and CEO of TidalHealth, shake hands in front of the new TidalHealth sign that will be added to the TidalHealth Atlantic building.*

The rebranding will not cause any disruption in care. All services, locations and care teams will remain the same and open, and patients will continue to receive care from the practitioners and team members they know and trust. Importantly, no jobs will be lost as part of this rebranding; in fact, opportunities for growth and sharing of best practices will continue to be encouraged.

"The transition to TidalHealth Atlantic simply reflects the strength of our partnership and our shared commitment to the communities we serve, and both healthcare teams have been proving that as partners for nearly a year," added Steve Leonard, Ph.D., MBA, FACHE, president and CEO of TidalHealth. "Looking ahead, we will be expanding services, adding jobs and enhancing facilities so patients have even greater access to high-qual-

*please see **era** on page 9*





# Family-friendly events scheduled

There's no shortage of springtime fun in Ocean Pines this year, with several upcoming events for the whole family.

Kicking off the fun is Breakfast with the Easter Bunny on Saturday, March 21, from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Ocean Pines Community Center. The Easter Bunny will arrive at approximately 8:15 a.m. and will be available for photos until 11 a.m. The menu will consist of pancakes, sausage, eggs, pastries, fruit, juice, milk, and coffee. Admission is $6 for ages four to 10, $10 for ages 11 and older, and free for ages 3 and under.

The Easter Egg Hunt & Pool Party is happening on Friday, April 3 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Enjoy crafts, music, and games, with food available for purchase. The Egg Hunt will be divided into three groups and times:

-5:30 p.m.: Floaters (those who cannot swim on their own and don't go underwater)

-6 p.m.: Underwater Swimmers (ages five to eight, in 3.5 to 4 feet of water)

-6:30 p.m.: Underwater Swimmers (ages nine and up, in 3.5 to 12 feet of water)

Admission is $8 for Swim Members, $10 for Residents, and $12 for Non-Residents. The admission fee is paid at the door.

On Saturday, April 4, families are invited to hop over to White Horse Park for the community's annual Spring Celebration & Easter Egg Hunt. This free event, happening from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., will feature carnival games, food, a petting zoo, bounce houses, face painting, and a visit from the Easter Bunny. Egg Hunt times are divided by age group:

-Ages 1-3: 11:30 a.m.

-Ages 4-6: 12 p.m.

-Ages 7-10: 12:30 p.m.

For more information on Breakfast with the Easter Bunny or the Spring Celebration, call 410-641-7052. For information on the Easter Egg Hunt & Pool Party, call 410-641-5255.

## Family Golf Day scheduled

The Ocean Pines Golf Club will host a Family Golf Day on Sunday, April 19, with tee times starting at 2:30 p.m.

All nine holes of the course will be converted into par 3s to create a family-friendly format designed to be fun and welcoming for players of all skill levels.

Registration is $40 and includes greens fees, a cart, and prizes. Juniors may play for free with a paying adult; additional juniors can participate for $15 each.

For more information and to register, call the Pro Shop at 410-641-6057 or email Golf Director Matt Ruggiere at mruggiere@oceanpines.org.

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ity care close to home."

TidalHealth Atlantic and its associated offices are now also using Epic, the electronic health record that TidalHealth Peninsula Regional, TidalHealth Nanticoke, all TidalHealth Primary & Specialty Care offices and some community practices also use.

Aligning the electronic health records of all locations is beneficial for both patients and practitioners. Epic's patient portal, MyChart, can be used to check in prior to appointments, view test results, message practitioners, pay bills online and request prescription refills.

"We're excited to bring Epic to our Berlin campus and at the same time officially launch TidalHealth Atlantic," said Mark Weisman, MD, MBA, CHCIO, who serves as TidalHealth's chief information officer and chief medical information officer. "This milestone not only fulfills our promise to the TidalHealth Atlantic team and the Worcester County community but also ensures that patients across all of our hospitals and locations where we deliver care benefit from a fully connected experience."

To activate a MyChart account with TidalHealth, visit www.tidalhealth.org/mychart.




**Visit -** ***Rina Thaler*** *(left) and* ***Jessica Bauer*** *(right) representatives of the Art League of Ocean City shared the history of the Art League with the Democratic Women's Club of Worcester County. They talked about its inception and its growth throughout the years and its positive contributions to the local community. They spoke of the enrichment programs offered by the Art League and discussed the popular yearly Film Festival.*

# *Storm cleanup, capital projects highlighted in GM report*

Storm cleanup and several ongoing initiatives were highlighted in General Manager John Viola's February report at the February 28 regular board meeting.

Viola opened his report by commending Ocean Pines staff for their rapid response following the February 22 blizzard. Public Works crews began clearing roads at 8 p.m. Sunday, with all roadways and parking lots fully cleared by late Tuesday morning. Four outside contractors were also brought in to assist with cleanup operations.

"I am very proud of our team and what we did to clean up during and after the storm," Viola said. "We are better together."

Construction of the new South Fire Station continues to move forward as planned. Demolition began the week of February 16, with construction of the new station slated to begin in March. A groundbreaking ceremony will be held prior to the start of construction, likely around March 9. The current estimated completion timeframe is 60-65 weeks.

Work also continues on the golf irrigation project. Phase II began in December, and as of February 28, work on hole No. 4 has been completed, with crews currently working on holes No. 5 and No. 6. The project is expected to be finished by the end of March, ahead of the start of the golf season.

Bulkhead work began on the 18th fairway the week of February 9. The bulkhead wall will be raised to improve water retention for the irrigation system, along with dredging work and installation of a drainage pipe completed in-house.

Touch of Italy is moving forward with multiple Food & Beverage initiatives however, the timeline of these projects is slightly behind the original plan. Viola noted that there is a backup plan, and if it takes longer to get the permits, the plans may be relooked at, but Touch of Italy is moving forward at this time.

At the Clubhouse Bar & Grille, renovations will include repositioning the indoor bar and construction of a new two-tier exterior bar, with an estimated completion date of May 1. Operations are expected to continue uninterrupted during renovations through the use of a portable bar and

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# *Vietnam Welcome Home event set*

March 29 in Ocean City will have a special meaning for servicemen and women who served during the era of the war in Vietnam, 1955-1975, including the women who served as nurses. That's when Chapter 1091 of the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) and the Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America (AVVA) will observe "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day," at American Legion Post 166, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. The Post is located at 2308 N Philadelphia Avenue in Ocean City.

Organized as a grassroots effort by a Vietnam veteran in 1973, Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day was proclaimed a special day in 2017 by President Donald Trump. He made it an official day of observance when he signed the Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017, declaring it a day of national gratitude to honor all who served, including those who were wounded, missing, or killed in that war.

Attendees will be served light refreshments and share conversations and memorabilia with servicemen and women who were on active duty, anywhere, between November 1, 1955 and May 15, 1975.

If you are planning to attend, please RSVP to V.V.A. Chapter 1091 President Bob Gilmore at opbobgil@aol.com.

# BoD approves capital requests

The Ocean Pines Board of Directors approved five Capital Requests at its February 28 regular board meeting.

General Manager John Viola presented the requests, which included three pieces of equipment.

The Capital Requests presented and approved unanimously by the Board were:

-Utility Tractor for the golf course: $26,477 for Burke Equipment Company

-New Holland Loader for the golf course: $80,828 for Burke Equipment Company

-Range Picker for the golf course: $24,343 for Burke Equipment Company

-Irrigation Pond #18 Bulkhead Replacement: $141,375 for Fisher Marine Construction

-Irrigation Pond #16 Bulkhead Construction: $75,000 for Fisher Marine Construction

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temporary seating in the Clubhouse meeting room area, while the kitchen remains open.

Requests for Proposals have also been issued for construction of a new pavilion and restroom facilities outside the Clubhouse, with bids due March 5. Following Board review and approval, the project is tentatively scheduled for completion in late May.

At the Yacht Club, renovations to the main bar were completed on February 27. The outdoor Tiki Kitchen project is moving forward, with the Request for Proposals issued and responses currently under review before recommendations are presented to the Board. Completion is anticipated by Memorial Day.

In terms of financials, Ocean Pines finished January 2026 with a favorability to budget of $11,000. Year-to-date financials show a favorability of $402,000.

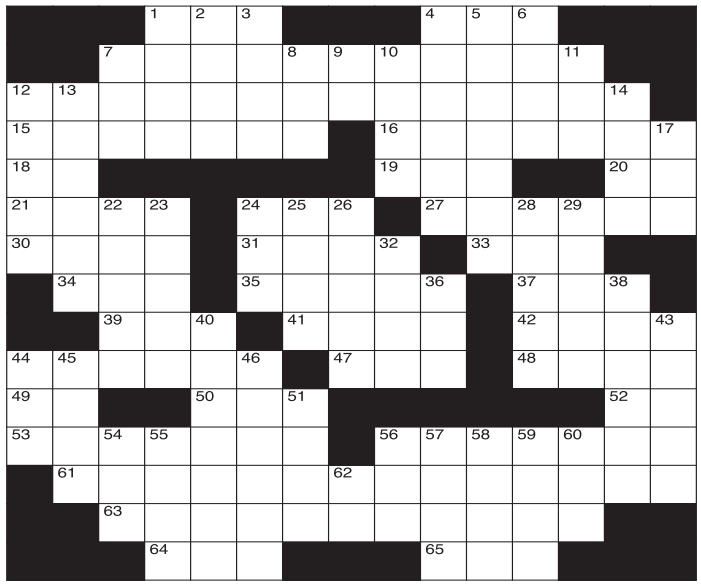
# *Activity guide now available online*

The latest issue of the Ocean Pines Activity Guide, the Association's twice-annual listing of amenity programs and classes, is now available online.

Physical copies should be mailed to homeowners within the next few weeks.

This issue showcases spring and summer 2026 programs, classes, and other events of Ocean Pines' Recreation and Parks, Aquatics, and Racquet Sports amenities. There is also information on offerings from the Golf Club, Farmers and Artisans Market, and Ocean Pines food and beverage operations.

To view the Ocean Pines Activity Guide, visit www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/activity-guide.

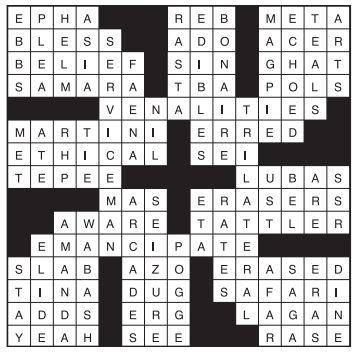


## CLUES ACROSS

1. Blockchain-based entity
4. A woolen cap of Scottish origin
7. Painted with glue
12. Legendary crooner
15. Structure made with strips of wood
16. Tropical fruits
18. Commercial
19. Comedienne Gasteyer
20. The Ocean State
21. Ancient Scot
24. Basics
27. Stated propositions
30. Scottish island group
31. Expression of annoyance
33. Large tree
34. Engine additive
35. Conspiracy
37. Drunkard
39. Someone who is morally reprehensible
41. Ancient Syrian city
42. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
44. Carry (slang)
47. Sweet potato
48. European river
49. The Golden State
50. Windy City ballplayer
52. New Testament
53. Possess spiritually
56. A treeless grassy plain
61. Popular historical novel
63. In a law-abiding way
64. A place to sleep
65. Criticize

## CLUES DOWN

1. Impression in a surface
2. Computer language
3. Relating to the ear
4. Occupant
5. Member of Great Plains people
6. Social media firm
7. Digital audiotape
8. Midway between east and southeast
9. Chronic, progressive disease
10. Chinese lute
11. Not wet
12. Moves wings up and down
13. Communication devices
14. Swiss river
17. Female sibling
22. Receive
23. Relating to a type
24. General's assistant (abbr.)
25. Steep bank
26. Taxi driver
28. Moves into without difficulty
29. Bicycle manufacturer
32. Traditional rhythmic pattern
36. Fugitives are on it
38. Bitter-tasting organic substance
40. Die
43. Matched
44. Literary genre __-fi
45. Cannot
46. Pounded
51. British rock group
54. Debt relief order
55. 2006 NL Cy Young winner
56. Green vegetable
57. Tough outer skin of fruit
58. __ Spumante (Italian wine)
59. Ailments
60. Famed singer Charles
62. Camper




**Answers for March 4**

# Some things to think about

Gathered from the internet
by ***Jack Barnes***

## Some Irish dad jokes

Why do leprechauns hate running?
Because they'd rather jig than jog.

What's a leprechaun's favorite type of music?
Sham-rock and roll.

Why don't Irish ghosts lie?
Because you can always see right through them.

How do you know a shamrock is telling the truth?
It's clover-ly honest.

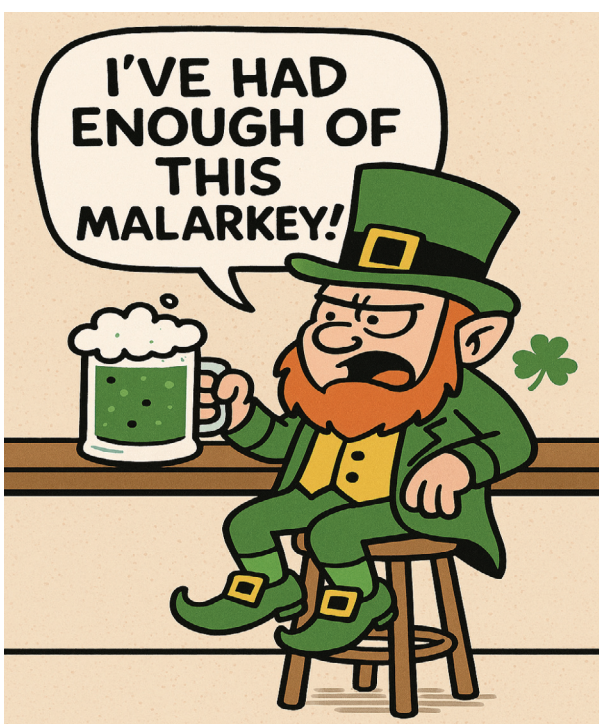
Why did the leprechaun climb over the rainbow?
To get to the other side of the gold.

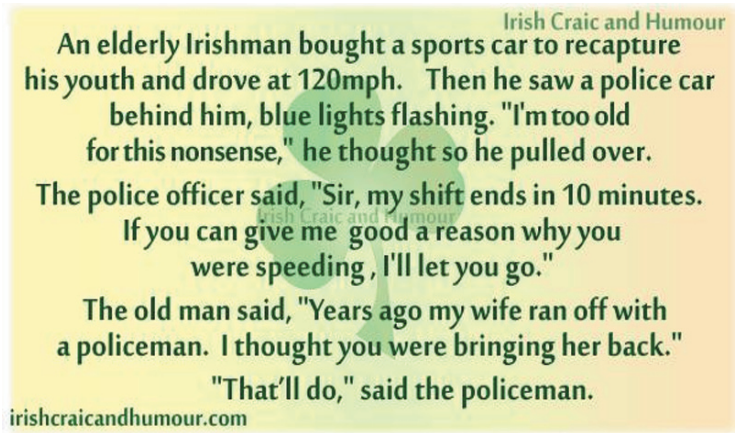
What do you call a big Irish spider?
Paddy-long-legs.

Why did the potato turn green?
It saw the salad dressing and wanted to fit in for St. Patrick's Day

What do you call a fake Irish stone?
A sham-rock.

What happens when a leprechaun falls into a river?
He gets wet — but still lucky.




**Corned beef is strongly associated** with Irish cuisine and is widely eaten on St. Patrick's Day, served alongside cabbage and potatoes or the mixed cabbage-potato dish called colcannon. Although corned beef was well known in Ireland and the rest of the British Isles in antiquity, the dish as it is known today is largely owing to diasporic Irish, particularly in the United States, who adopted it in their new homelands.

*-Britannica*


**St. Patrick's Day** honors Ireland's patron saint, St. Patrick. The holiday is celebrated annually on March 17, the anniversary of his death in the fifth century. In 2026, St. Patrick's Day is on Tuesday, March 17.

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