



JOSH DAVIS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Yacht Club manager replaced

Beach Club manager named as replacement

By Josh Davis
Staff Writer

(Dec. 4, 2014) Ocean Pines quietly dealt with a major controversy in mid-November, replacing embattled Yacht Club manager Dave McLaughlin and installing Beach Club manager Lynda Huettner on an interim basis.

Opened on Memorial Day weekend, the new \$4.7 million facility won rave reviews for its facilities, but drew criticism from others in the community when the management style apparently scared away several community groups.

The Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce, for instance, booked its annual awards and installation banquet at the Ocean City Marlin Club, rather than at the Yacht Club. The Golf Association, a staple of the community, also snubbed the Yacht Club in favor of a West Ocean City venue.

Other community groups complained that they did not receive special treatment or reduced prices at the club, and some questioned whether the facility should function strictly as an amenity or more autonomously as a revenue-generating business.

More recently, during General Manager Bob Thompson's town hall meeting on Thursday, Nov. 13, one resident asked why his email complaint about McLaughlin was not addressed. After a disagreement with a customer, he claimed, McLaughlin said, "I'm tired of hearing [from] Ocean Pines geriatric drunks."

"I didn't answer it by design," Thompson said during the meeting. "I learned about the incident recently. It's a personnel matter. I'm working through that."

"They should not have been talked to in that way, I can tell you that," Thompson added.

Another resident asked about an apparent rumor that McLaughlin had been fired.

"It's a rumor," Thompson said at the time.

The next day, Friday, Nov. 14, the OPA announced they had parted ways

See OP Page 4

LET THE FESTIVITIES BEGIN

A view of the Berlin Christmas Tree-Lighting ceremony from the second-floor balcony of the Atlantic Hotel on Friday, Nov. 28.

Ready for town's big parade

Christmas event will boast 85 entries in 44th annual march

By Josh Davis
Staff Writer

(Dec. 4, 2014) The 44th annual Berlin Christmas Parade is coming to town tonight (Thursday), bringing dozens of floats to pack the streets with cool, festive cheer.

Dubbed "The Coolest Christmas Parade in America," the event quickly filled to capacity, with 85 entries sponsored by businesses, individuals and school, nonprofit and youth groups.

Organizer JoAnn Unger credited the town's Budget Travel designation with the increase in interest.

"I believe [that] may be a reason groups contacted us so early to make sure they were part of the 'Coolest

parade," she said. "We were very happy to see the parade fill up so quickly, and we have several new entries this year."

Mayor Gee Williams said the parade, "was cool before everything else. It's all about having families and especially children coming out and doing something bright and festive," he said.

Although the first parade was held during the day, Williams said the switch to an evening parade, "hit all the right buttons."

"The turnout has steadily increased over the years and I wouldn't be surprised if we had more people than ever this year," he said.

The town will award trophies for first, second and third place immediately following the parade in the following categories: adult, student and school-sponsored floats, adult and youth marching, performing youth,

and vehicle clubs, motorcycles and antique cars.

Williams said the parade, which begins at 7 p.m., is primarily "for the children."

"That's why we do it at night and we limit the entries to 85, because experience has shown that we can guarantee the parents, grandparents and so forth that the parade will be over by 9 o'clock," he said. "That encourages them to bring the little kids out and they'll get home at a reasonable time and be able to get to school or daycare the next morning."

The parade will begin in front of the Calvin B. Taylor House museum on Main Street and run through the downtown area, ending at the Buckingham Presbyterian Church.

A shuttle service, provided by Hooper's Crab House and the Casino at Ocean Downs, will run from Berlin

See CHRISTMAS Page 2

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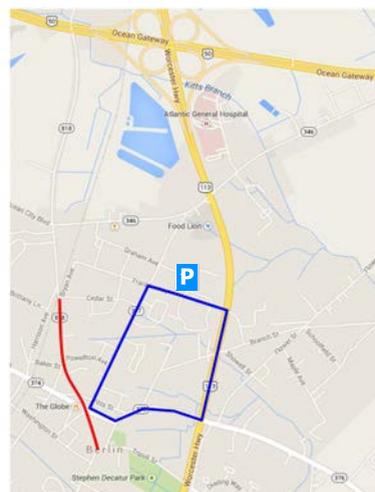


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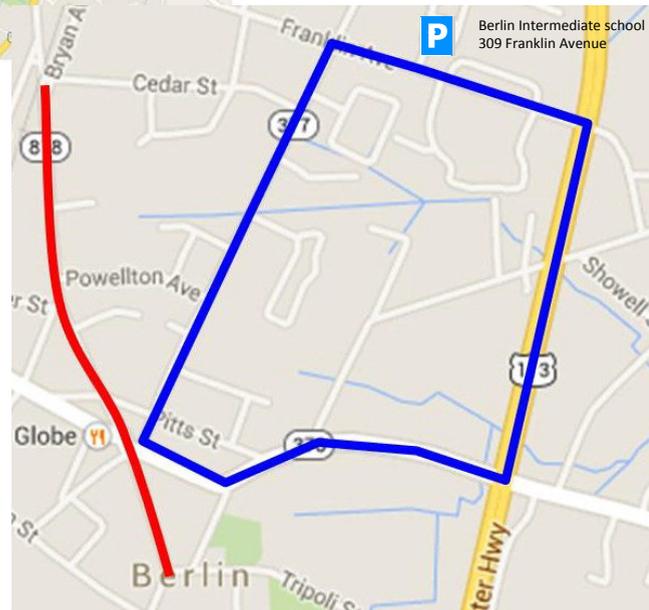
Shuttles will run approximately every 10-15 minutes from the Berlin Intermediate School parking lot to downtown from 5:45-7:15 PM and then from 8:45-9:30 PM.



Designated Parking area for FREE shuttle to downtown.

Parade Route—closed to all traffic from 6:00 PM to end of parade (approx. 9 PM)

Shuttle Route



Christmas parade tonight

Continued from Page 1

Intermediate School on 309 Franklin Avenue to the corner of Main and Williams streets. The shuttle will operate from 5:45-7:15 p.m. and from 8:45-9:30 p.m. Space is limited.

Williams said the atmosphere in Berlin during the holidays is often correctly compared to a Norman Rockwell painting.

"We try to hold it in a very traditional way, but with all the whistles and bells," he said. "The most impor-

tant thing for us is that everyone leaves Berlin with the spirit of Christmas, regardless of their religious affiliation, and just start feeling good about themselves and life and the future. My sense is that there's a lot of people that need that, more than ever this year."

The rain date for the parade is Thursday, Dec. 13. For more information contact Berlin Main Street, parade sponsor, at 410-973-2051 or www.berlinmainstreet.com.

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OP severs ties with manager of Yacht Club

Continued from Page 1 with McLaughlin. Thompson said the allegations brought up during the previous day's meeting did not play a role in the apparent ousting.

"That had nothing to do with it," he said. "I was aware of everything they had talked about, but meetings like that don't change my mind on personnel issues. It's a little bigger issue than individual cases."

Instead, Thompson said, the yacht club simply needed "a change in direction."

"We appreciate everything Dave's done up to this point, but it was just time to move us in a different direction," he said.

Asked if he saw the change in leadership as a chance to move on from the mounting controversies, Thompson was guardedly optimistic.

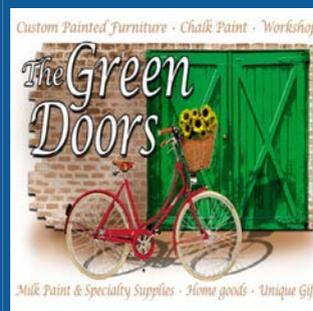
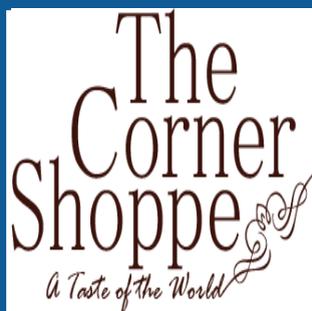
"I'm hoping it will, but we're in Ocean Pines," he said. "There will always be a little bit of controversy. This will bring new challenges and criticisms, but we have so many good things happening. I just try and keep us focused and pointed in that direction."

Thompson hinted that the community could post advertisements for the managerial role in the near future, but expressed optimism in Huettnier during the interim.

"Right now she's stepped into the role and we think she'll be awesome," he said. "We're excited about her leadership and we'll start to move in a different direction."

Teresa Travatello, OPA director of Marketing and Public Relations, also voiced her confidence.

"I'm very happy to have Lynda over at the Yacht Club," she said. "She does a great job motivating the staff and creating a fun atmosphere for the customers."



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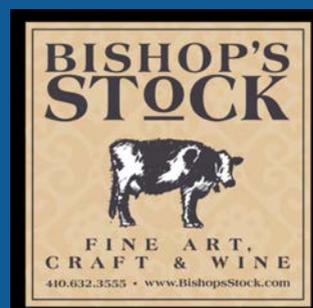
Christmas Tree Lighting
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December 1

First Friday Arts on the River
December 5

Handmade Handcraft Holiday
Downtown Snow Hill
December 5&6
Artisans at Local Shops
Train Garden at the Pocomoke River Canoe Company
Victorian Christmas at the Julia A. Purnell Museum
Cupcakes with Santa 12pm - 2pm

Snow Hill Christmas Parade
Market Street
December 8

Life on the River
snowhillmd.com



GOLD seeking helping hands for holidays

(Dec. 4, 2014) Worcester County GOLD is seeking sponsors for the annual Helping Hands for the Holidays program.

The program served 940 needy people in Worcester County last holiday season. This year there are an abundance of children and senior citizens who need food, clothing, household items and gifts or toys.

Community sponsors are matched with families or individuals in need.

For those who don't have time to do extra shopping, monetary or gift card donations are also needed to provide for those who are not matched directly with a sponsor. Donations can be made through PayPal at worcestergold.org, or sent to Worcester County GOLD, P.O. Box 39, Snow Hill, Md. 21863. Anyone interested in sponsoring a child or senior can call GOLD at 410-677-6830.

Worcester County GOLD is a non-profit which promotes dignity by providing financial aid to families in crisis, vulnerable adults and children in foster care.

Rail plan cautiously considered by county

New commissioners agree second study might make sense

By Josh Davis
Staff Writer

(Dec. 4, 2014) Although it was a unanimously popular project with the previous Worcester County Commissioners, the excursion railroad that would run between Berlin and Snow Hill faces some uncertainty with this week's installation of four new commissioners.

Warren, Pa., firm Stone Consulting presented a phase one feasibility study to the previous commissioners in November, and Worcester County Economic Development Director Bill Badger was directed to negotiate costs for a phase two study.

Badger said interest in the train began when leadership from Pennsylvania-based Strasburg Railroad visited Berlin last year.

"They were the catalyst for this whole thing," he said "When Strasburg came down for the Christmas holidays and stayed at the Atlantic Hotel, they said, 'I see the potential here.'"

Following the initial spark, a delegation of Worcester County officials, including Badger, traveled to the Strasburg headquarters to gather information. Badger said meetings went well and that the company was "the gold standard," but that Strasburg would not necessarily be the eventual operator if plans move forward.

The prospective role of the excursion train, rather than act as transportation, would essentially be a tourist attraction, potentially including meals or popular tie-ins like Thomas the Tank Engine or the Polar Express.

Phase one touted an excursion train's ability to create revenue during the shoulder season, a major need for a Worcester County economy largely fueled by beach tourism.

The study examined a route from Berlin to Snow Hill, potentially stopping at Newark. The evaluation's cost totaled just over \$20,000 and was split by Worcester County, Berlin, Snow Hill and the Maryland-Delaware Railroad Co.

Badger is fielding requests for proposals on phase two and estimated the cost would total between \$15,000 and \$20,000. He expects to brief the commissioners on Dec. 16.

"When we started this, I was warned this is a long-term process to consider all the factors and what's involved," Badger said. "We had to make sure there was a market opportunity here and that you can't forget that someone has to take a risk and make money doing this. No one is going to do it just because it's a great idea, so that's what phase one validated, that there is an opportunity to operate an excursion train here.

"Now the harder questions come: the business plan, what's the economic impact, jobs, capital investment," Badger continued. "I'm optimistic. I was told a bad Polar Express event can draw 18,000-20,000 people, so if you do it well, I think Strasburg has a record of 64,000 people that did a Polar Express event. There is opportunity here, no question."

Although Berlin, Snow Hill and the county are funding the feasibility studies, Badger said private investors would take over construction and operation, meaning the public financial obligation could end following phase two.

The three new Republicans commissioners, Joe Mitrecic, Ted Elder and Chip Bertino, expressed cautious optimism on the project. Diana Purnell, the lone Democrat commissioner, was not available for comment.

Mitrecic said he would consider voting for phase two – if the price was right.

"If it's an economic generator and it could be a win-win, certainly it's worth a look," he said. "They do the Polar Express up in Delaware on a train that doesn't move and have great success with it. Certainly it's something to look at. I think it would be ridiculous not to spend the little bit of money they want for phase two – that means we would have wasted the money for phase one automatically."

Mitrecic, who represents Ocean

City in District 7, said his primary concern was where the train would originate.

"I don't think that it can be successful and start in Snow Hill, but I could be wrong," he said. "I think it has to start in the north end of the county and go south as opposed to starting in the south and going north. When you start to get down to the Snow Hill area, you get too far away from the masses, so to speak. If it has to go to Snow Hill up, I don't foresee it being a winner."

Elder said he studied the phase one study and found "some positive merits."

"Right now, I'm still gathering information and trying to poll the other members of the county commissioners and see what their thoughts are before I make my mind up on anything," he said. "It would be nice if we could get some business people who are willing to come and put some investment into it. I don't foresee us buying a train. I don't think we should be in the business of being in business, especially with taxpayer money."

The upside for Elder, who represents the western part of Worcester County in District 4, is the potential for job creation.

"If it was successful, it could generate some revenue and some jobs, which is the main thing we need in the county," he said. "I've got a guardedly optimistic view. I don't think [\$5,000] is a major investment, but I want to make sure that the county doesn't step into something where they're going to be investing a lot of money into it."

Bertino, who represents District 5 in Ocean Pines, said he was waiting to see what is included in the second study.

"I would need to reserve judgment before I made a decision," he said. "The idea is a very interesting idea for this area. If it can be done and done well, I think it's only going to add to the community, but like so many other things, when you get into details of what it's going to cost and who would be responsible for the cost, that's where the rubber hits the road. But I'm intrigued by the idea without a doubt."

If the commissioners vote to chip in for the second study, Badger said a request for qualifications for a train company would not be far behind.

"That's what I envision is going to happen now, if the commissioners agree," he said. "Once you figure out what the costs were and the costs were manageable, then we could find money, then we would do an RFQ for an operator."

See SECOND Page 6

'If it was successful, it could generate some revenue and some jobs, which is the main thing we need in the county'
Commissioner Ted Elder



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New notification system makes its debut in Berlin

Emergency alerts and updates will be sent to phones, computers

By Josh Davis
Staff Writer

(Dec. 4, 2014) Berlin's new emergency notification system went live last Tuesday, allowing residents to sign up for emergency alerts delivered via phone or email.

The system will likely get its first test during a scheduled power outage on Saturday, Dec. 13.

"The mayor and council recognized the need to be able to communicate with our citizens quickly and efficiently," Mayor Gee Williams said in a press release. "The use of a mass notification system that can deliver messages by phone, email or text all at once and to many people will help us keep our residents, businesses and even visitors informed."

After sending requests for proposals on the system nationwide, Berlin chose Florida-based CodeRED Emergency Notification System. Town staff received training on the system in preparation for its use.

CodeRED allows the Berlin to notify residents of power outages, road closures and other incidents that affect the entire town. Businesses and individuals can sign up for the service on the town's website.

Berlin will include flyers about the notification system in the next utility bills, due out Wednesday, Dec. 10.

"We really encourage you to take advantage of this," Williams said, calling the system "modern communication ... that keeps you informed."

"As quickly as we know something

you know it," he said. "We want to keep you informed and you can help us by telling us your preferred way of being contacted by the town."

Berlin and Delmarva Power scheduled a townwide outage for Saturday, Dec. 13 from midnight until 4 a.m. to allow work on the infrastructure in town. Electric Utilities Director Tim Lawrence said the majority of citizens might not even notice the outage.

"It'll be largely unnoticed because it's going to be at midnight on a Saturday night," he said. "Things like food, for example, as long as their refrigerator door is shut, it'll be fine."

"Most people are asleep at that time, but we'll notify the fire department, the police department, all the citizens," Lawrence continued. "We'll include something in the utility building and on the town website."

Lawrence said the outage was dependent on the weather and that the outage would be postponed if the temperature is at or below freezing.

"[Delmarva Power] is right on schedule as far as the work, but it's all dependent on weather," he said.

A similar outage occurred a few years ago, with very little notice.

"Delmarva Power had to do some work and they had to do the same thing – it was about a four-hour outage and I think we got two phone calls," Lawrence said. Atlantic General Hospital is on a separate grid from the rest of the town and will be unaffected by the outage, according to Lawrence.

For more information on CodeRED call Deputy Town Administrator Mary Bohlen at 410-641-4314 or visit www.berlinmd.gov.

Model train display in Snow Hill

(Dec. 4, 2014) First Friday in Snow Hill is Dec. 5 and the town is inviting families to take part in a number of holiday activities from 5-8 p.m.

Sponsored by the Snow Hill Elementary School PTA, pictures with Santa are free to members of the school's PTA and \$7 for the public. Hot chocolate, caroling and holiday treats also highlight the monthly art stroll.

For train enthusiasts, the second floor of the Pocomoke River Canoe Company includes a large display of

Corrdry Crossing Model Trains. Train engineers will be present to share their knowledge of the O-gauge model train-operating layout, and the trains will be running along their tracks for the amusement of people of all ages.

The display is also available for viewing on Saturdays and Sundays in December from 1-4 p.m.

The Snow Hill Elementary School after-school choir, "The Melodious Minis," will also perform holiday music at the Canoe Company on 2 River Street during the evening.

Second train study possibility

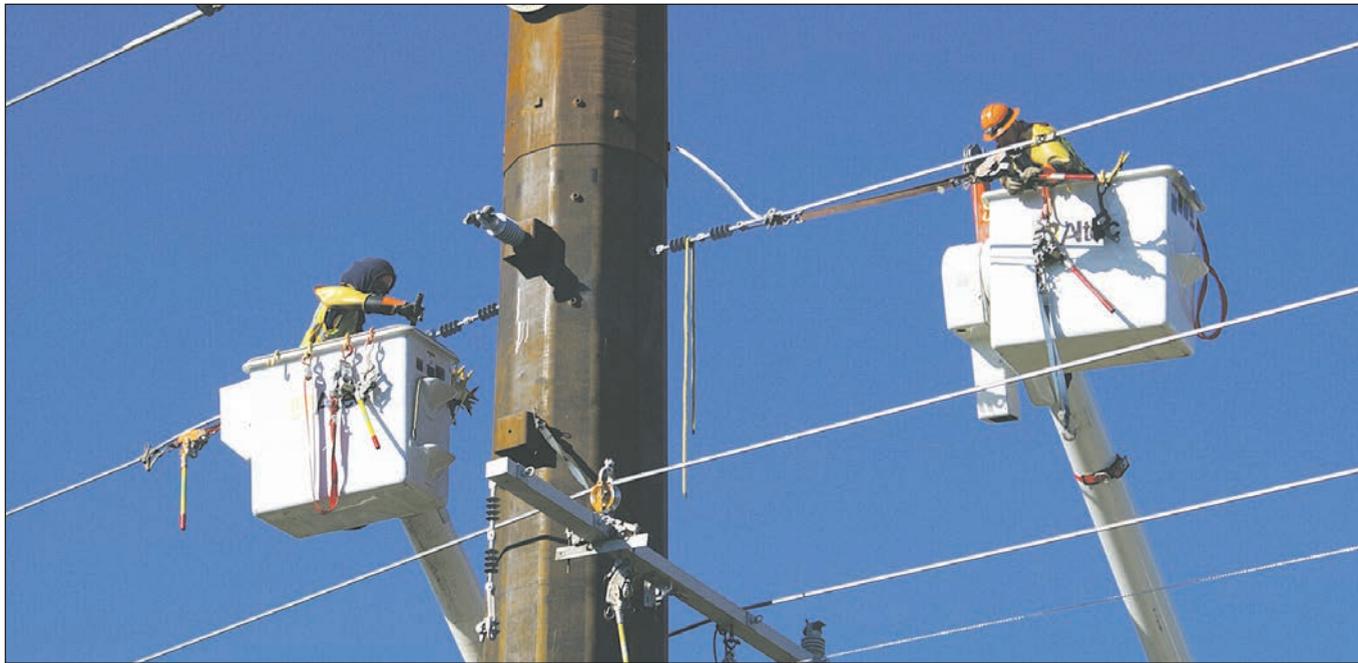
Continued from Page 5

If the commissioners do not approve the phase two study, an outside funding source could step in to save the project.

"I work for the commissioners, so if they choose not to provide funds for phase two, then someone else like the

railroad would have to step up and take over the reins of the leadership," Badger said.

"They would have to decide whether the railroad, for example, would seek money from the towns to proceed with phase two, or find an operator that was very interested."



JOSH DAVIS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

HIGHWIRE ACT

Crews are hard at work on Nov. 19, installing new 80-90-foot steel poles near Atlantic General Hospital in Berlin. The project is part of a \$43 million upgrade to transmission lines by Delmarva Power, and will necessitate a town-wide outage on Saturday, Dec. 13 from midnight until 4 a.m.

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Request for proposals sent out on golf course

Casper also expresses interest in continuing as operator of club

By Josh Davis
Staff Writer

(Dec. 4, 2014) Ocean Pines moved closer to outsourcing the community golf course this week, as a Dec. 1 committee meeting updated progress on bids.

The Ocean Pines Association began sending requests for proposals on the leasing and management of the Robert Trent Jones Sr. designed facility on Oct. 16. Operation would include maintenance of the golf course as well as the country club and associated support facilities during an initial three-year term. Board Parliamentarian Tom Terry, Treasurer Jack Collins and former board member Jeff Knepper drafted the RFP.

During the last regular board meeting on Saturday, Nov. 22, Collins said the OPA received as many as 10 inquiries. At press time, at least five companies had submitted written bids, according to Terry.

"We received four bids for management and one bid for leasing that submitted documentation," he said.

That list apparently includes current management Billy Casper Golf.

"They wrote a letter stating they wanted to continue," Terry said.

Collins, Terry and board President Dave Stevens were present during the Dec. 1 meeting.

"It was just a discussion bringing Dave up to speed on the various applications and what they submitted," Terry said. "We asked where he wanted to go and he said he wanted to move towards having some face-to-face sessions with some of the vendors."

Stevens said the full membership of the board of directors have not been briefed on the new bids.

"I think we're making progress," he said. "We're in a position now to make a recommendation to the whole board. We have viable candidates and the list has been winnowed down, but nothing is going to happen until after the holiday."

After the board hears recommendations, presumably in January, Stevens said the group could have a closed-door question and answer session with the remaining candidates in the following weeks.

"That's the intent," he said. "We have to present that to the board and they have to agree, but I think what we're proposing to do makes sense, and I think it moves us forward."

Stevens said three bids stood out, including at least one management proposal and one leasing proposal.

"We won't really know much until the Q and A," he said. "It's not like there's a clear winner or anything like that. You read the proposals, but I couldn't expect that they could get into a lot of detail at this time. You just can't tell now."

"There's going to be some hard decisions," Stevens continued. "If one of them is selected then you get into the contract, but I'm hoping by the Q and A time being over, we'll be well into knowing the details of what we expect from them."

Self-management, Stevens said, is also an option.

"That's on the table," he said. "I think the committee was briefed on that."

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Berlin financials look solid, auditor reports

Firm says yearly check made by easy because of organized staff

By Josh Davis
Staff Writer

(Dec. 4, 2014) Salisbury auditing firm PKS & Company gave Berlin high marks during a mayor and last Monday's council meeting.

Accounting and Auditing Partner Michael Kleger and Manager Leslie Michalik said Berlin's financial status was unmodified from the previous fiscal year, saying it "had no material weaknesses."

Kleger gave the town the "highest level of assurance we can provide as auditors."

The general fund increased from \$5,189,588 in 2013 to \$5,193,211 in 2014, while expenditures decreased sharply from \$5,240,306 to \$4,401,742 during the same span.

The majority of the general fund balance, 56 percent, came from property taxes. Intergovernmental revenues made up another 19 percent, service charges accounted for 12 percent and licenses and permits drew 3 percent.

"This represents ... a very healthy fund balance," Michalik said. "The town is in good financial position."

Public safety was the biggest general fund expenditure in 2014, coming in at 36 percent. General government accounted for 26 percent, public works took up another 20 percent, and planning and capital outlay both drew 7 percent.

By type, 45 percent of general fund expenditures went to salaries, 18 percent went towards employee benefits and 27 percent paid for other operating costs. Capital outlay made up 7 percent and debt services accounted for another 3 percent.

Electric fund revenues were down slightly, \$5,906,360 in 2013 versus \$5,829,539 in 2014, although operating expenses decreased nearly \$200,000 during the same period.

Water fund revenues increased

slightly from \$694,673 in 2013 to \$708,434 in 2014, while operating expenses fell from \$718,735 a year ago to \$688,394 in 2014.

Stormwater had operating funds for the first year in 2014, taking in \$182,419 against \$295,504 in expenses, with a \$300,000 transfer from the general fund evening out the balance.

The only detraction from an otherwise robust budget was the sewer fund, which saw a net decrease of \$1,202,614 in 2014 versus last year. Operating revenues and expenses were comparable (\$1,715,631 in revenues and \$2,526,068 in expenses in 2014 against \$1,531,421 in revenues and \$2,524,188 in expenses in 2013), but a capital grant of nearly \$1.5 million helped offset costs in fiscal year 2013.

Berlin's enterprise fund net position fell just over a half million dollars, but remained strong at \$20,044,312.

District 1 Councilmember Troy Purnell asked where the town missed the mark on the sewer fund.

"Obviously you've had some major projects going on in the sewer fund," Michalik said. "The spray site is just finishing up, so there's probably additional operating expenses in getting those up and running."

Water Resources Director Jane Kreiter confirmed the town did not have any pending major improvement projects on the horizon, meaning the next fiscal year should see decreased operating expenses.

"Obviously there's some infrastructure that needs some more [work] but it's not immediately needed," she said. "We're not talking \$17 million dollars."

Michalik said the audit finished a day early thanks to Berlin's "exceptionally organized" roster of employees.

"You've got a good staff," she said. "If you think they're good, now wait until they get some up-to-date software," District 4 Councilmember Dean Burrell said.



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Pedestrian committee summarizes its efforts

Multiple safety steps taken since formation of group after tragedy

By Josh Davis
Staff Writer

(Dec. 4, 2014) One year after the formation of its Pedestrian Safety Committee, Berlin has a number of new safety measures in place and more on the way.

The committee was created shortly after Nov. 8, 2013 when Maryland State Police Trooper Nicolas Hanger struck 16-year-old Tymeir Dennis and his then 17-year-old brother Tyheim Bowen on Route 113 in Berlin. Dennis died in the crash and Bowen lost one of his legs because of injuries.

Town officials, including District 4 Councilmember Dean Burrell, District 2 Councilmember Lisa Hall and Town Administrator Laura Allen, joined community members Patricia Dufendach, Gabe Purnell and Roxie Dennis to form the committee.

Dufendach updated the mayor and council on their progress during a meeting on Monday, Nov. 24.

"Last year at this time, hundreds of people took the time to learn about the need to improve conditions for pedestrians and signed a petition," she said. "The mayor and council listened and supported the formation of a committee, which included private individuals and town representatives."

As a result, the council voted to reduce the speed limit on Route 113 through Berlin from 50 mph to 45 mph, and high visibility police cruisers and increased enforcement helped slow traffic through the town.

A crosswalk was added at Bay Street, and sidewalks were extended to provide safer crossing paths across the highway. The installation of a countdown crosswalk apparatus at Bay Street, featuring both visible and audible signals, is under way.

Bicycle paths were added to Route 113 between Old Ocean City Boulevard and Germantown Road and signs were placed there to notify drivers of changes.

"A lot of people are unfamiliar with our town," Dufendach said. "We are, fortunately, a tourist attraction so you have a lot of people who are unfamiliar with what's going on. As their hosts, we need to be ever-mindful of their needs as well as our own."

Additional improvements planned include increased overhead lights on traffic signals at Bay Street and crosswalk signals that allow pedestrians to initiate light changes and crosswalk signal activation.

Hazard identification beacons are due on Route 113 through Berlin in spring, corresponding to speed limit reductions.

Funding for a study of the intersection of Route 113 and Route 346 was approved. The study will examine

right-of-way and drainage issues with the intent of adding a pedestrian crossing. A "shared use" path along Route 113 from Route 376 to Route 346 is set tentatively for 2016-2017.

The committee also participated in the Walk Smart campaign and launched an information website, Berlinwalksmart.com, hosted by the town of Berlin.

Dufendach said the committee is also developing an education program aimed at early elementary school students and is seeking funding from the State Highway Administration.

"We think that young children are the best way to get the message to the whole family," she said. "Everybody knows that smart-alecky 8-year-old that tells their mom, 'Put your safety belt on, mom. Don't pick up the telephone mom.'"

The committee is also collaborating with the Worcester County Health Department.

"We hope that these actions will provide a safer environment for all of us here in Berlin," Dufendach said.

Hall reminded pedestrians to wear reflective clothing when walking at night.

"It is so dangerous," she said. "The best thing that Patricia is telling us is that a lot [was] accomplished in one year, and the fact that the state has put the money in to do that design study right here at Old Ocean City Boulevard — they're stepping up to the plate too. The state is just as on this as we are."

"I don't think this committee is going anywhere until we make it safer and we get that sidewalk and that countdown at Old Ocean City Boulevard too," Hall continued.

Berlin Police Chief Arnold Downing said increases in citations have come with increased patrols and that reductions in speeds have meant overall reductions in accidents.

"I do see this as an ongoing effort," Mayor Gee Williams said. "We want a walkable, bikeable community in every neighborhood."

Burrell said the campaign was, "the right thing to do and the standard has been set."

Purnell, for his part, said the community was still healing after the loss of 16-year-old Dennis. He hinted that the police report on the crash, concluded in September, left many questions as answers.

"Berlin is a community of talkers," he said. "People are talking, and people are confused and conflicted about it."

"It's a small comfort for the family, but for the greater family of Berlin, I think we set a new standard of what we expect for the citizens, and that's to care about everybody regardless of their motives, regardless of what neighborhood they live in, regardless of their racial background," Williams said. "We can't take on the world, but we can certainly take on Berlin."

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Bluegrass concert benefits land trust

Chester River Runoff among acts scheduled to perform in Berlin

By Josh Davis
Staff Writer

(Dec. 4, 2014) From the 1971 Concert for Bangladesh to 1985's Live Aid and Farm Aid, benefit concerts with a conscience have been used to raise awareness – and money – for political and social causes for decades.

Hatched under a similar idea, the Lower Shore Land Trust's "Get Bluegrass" concert is moving from Snow Hill to Berlin for its fourth annual event to be held Saturday from 6-11 p.m.

"This is our big winter fundraiser for the Lower Shore Land Trust," Executive Director Kate Patton said. "I'm thrilled that we're moving it to Berlin and we're excited to share in the America's Coolest Small Town theme."

Patton said the fundraiser helps the Lower Shore Land Trust to expand programs that assist farmers and landowners.

"It really helps us identify and implement management practices that will reduce our nutrient and sediment runoff," she said. "We also conduct educational programs about those benefits and how to improve waterways, protect wildlife habitats and really foster robust resource-based industries like forestry and farming."

The programs also connect to tourism and offer economic benefits in Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties, Patton said.

"We have a really great opportunity going into the next year or two to make that happen," she said. "We're finding a lot of support and this year we've been able to enhance our sponsorship."

Patton is also excited about the music lineup, which will feature the appropriately named Chester River Runoff and the Saltwater Stringband.

"Chester River Runoff have been doing a lot of private gigs this year so we haven't seen them as much," she said. "They've written some great songs and it's almost like a home-



PHOTO COURTESY LOBLLOLY PRODUCTIONS

Chester River Runoff will headline the Get Bluegrass benefit concert at the fire department in Berlin on Saturday, Dec. 6.

coming for those of us who have followed them. Living here on the shore and raising families, they really get it. They really understand our Land Trust work and they really have a deep appreciation for this area.

"Saltwater Stringband is an evolving group with Nate Clendenen and Darin Engh and assorted characters that come and play," Patton continued. "I think that the beauty of that group is that they're musicians that have longstanding careers playing at the beach, but the passion of trying something new and experimenting with new instruments is really fun to

watch."

No strangers to bringing in special guests, Saltwater Stringband will be joined by dobro player Joe Esham during this year's concert.

"It's always a pleasure to play music for a good cause, and working to preserve and protect the Eastern Shore's natural landscape is certainly a great cause," Clendenen said. "The Get Bluegrass event is always a blast and a fun way to kick off the holidays here on the shore, not to mention getting a chance to see a now-rare performance by Chester River Runoff. It's going to be a fun one."

Silent auctions with items donated by local businesses, including quilts donated by Clendenen's mom, also benefit the Lower Shore Land Trust.

"It's really a great way to get out and kick up your heels, but support the land conservation work that we do in an environment that is just a good time," Patton said.

Get Bluegrass will be held at the Berlin Fire Department at 214 North Main Street. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door.

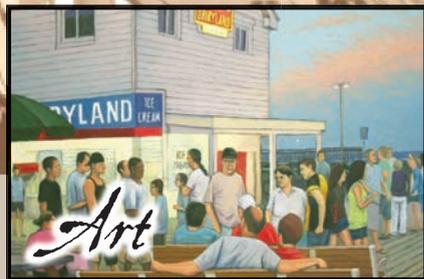
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Main Street coordinator Houston stepping down

She's leaving to accept position elsewhere after year's tenure

By Josh Davis
Staff Writer

(Dec. 4, 2014) Just over a year after she took over as Main Street coordinator in Berlin, Megan Houston is moving on.

New Economic and Community Development Director Ivy Wells will take on Main Street duties, and the town will look to fill Houston's role as coordinator of the Visitor's Center in the coming weeks.

Houston, 25, began working as a part-time employee in Berlin last December. In July, the town hired her on a full time basis with benefits.

The town's previous Economic and Community Development Director, Michael Day, also acted as Main Street Coordinator before Houston was hired.

"I think the role kind of evolved into its own thing," she said. "It was so cool coming in and working under [Day]. I definitely came into Berlin at a really interesting time. My first project, honestly, was the Coolest Small Town thing, and that was awesome to jump right into. It got me really interested in the position and the job."

As tourism in the town flourished, Houston said, the need for a stronger presence in the Visitor's Center quickly became evident.

"We needed more volunteers and needed the help of the ambassador program, so it's really evolved a lot," she said.

Last year, the Visitor's Center functioned chiefly as a chamber of commerce location, with a few additional rooms rented as artist's studios. Today the building acts as an information hub for tourism. A table just inside the right of the door displays brochures for nearly every shop on Main Street, and posters touting town events line the walls.

"It makes me feel good to be able to leave it in a way better place than it was when I first got here," Houston said. "It's now fully staffed Monday through Saturday by volunteers. We have our own phone line instead of using the chamber's, and that's been put on all our promotional materials. And the interior itself just looks more friendly and welcoming and homey – more Berlin. I think the businesses appreciate that they're given a front and center table, and the atmosphere is just much more welcoming."

Houston said she's "moving in a different direction," but hopes to continue to contribute to Berlin on a vol-



JOSH DAVIS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Megan Houston, 25, will move on from her role as Main Street coordinator in Berlin. Her last day is Dec. 26.

unteer level. Her last day is Dec. 26.

"I do love the town," she said. "Another opportunity came up and I didn't want to turn it down, but I'm here if they need me. I'm just a phone call away, and I'm still willing to help out."

Day, who is still very much active in Berlin, said he expects Houston to excel wherever she goes next.

"Megan did a fantastic job for the town," he said. "I'm sorry that she's leaving us, but we all wish her the best."

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State police get box of cocaine in traffic stop

By Josh Davis
Staff Writer

(Dec. 4, 2014) Two troopers from the Berlin Barrack of the Maryland State Police made a “significant” drug trafficking arrest after pulling over a pair of Connecticut residents for speeding during routine traffic detail on Tuesday, Nov. 25.

Allan Orville Tyson, 35, and Christopher H. Williams-Eason, 25, were driving a 2015 Chrysler 200 rental car with Connecticut plates on Route 13 near the Maryland-Virginia state line when police stopped them at approximately 8:39 a.m.



Allan Tyson

After a K-9 scan of the vehicle produced positive results for a controlled dangerous substance (CDS), troopers searched the car and unearthed a shoebox inside of a suitcase in the truck containing close to a pound of cocaine. Police said the bulk uncut street value was \$20,000, but the actual value could be as much as four times that amount.



C. Williams-Eason

“Drug dealers try to stretch stuff to make more money, so they’ll cut something many, many times with an inexpensive agent that will make more and more weight as they sell it,” F/Sgt. Christopher M. Davala, Assistant Commander of the Berlin Barrack, said. “What started as a pound could end up several pounds by the time it’s all cut.”

Police arrested Tyson and Williams-Eason on the scene, took them to the Berlin Barrack and charged them with possession as well as importation of a CDS into the state with intent to distribute. Members of the Criminal Enforcement Team and Federal Agents of Immigration and Customs Enforcement assisted troopers.

Davala categorized the bust as “big” in the scope of Worcester County drug enforcement, and said police are pursuing the investigation from a trafficking standpoint.

“That’s a lot of drugs and it’s a lot of money involved,” he said. “Almost a pound of cocaine is kind of a big deal. No one is going to have that kind of weight for personal use.”

Davala said both suspects have prior drug-related offenses, but declined to offer specifics.

The Maryland District Court Commissioner in Snow Hill ordered Tyson and Eason be held at the Worcester County Jail on \$100,000 secured bond. A review was set for Wednesday morning at the Worcester County District Courthouse.



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BRIAN GILLILAND/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

M. Jim Bunting, left, was elected president, and Merrill Lockfaw Jr. remains vice president of the Worcester County Commissioners. The other commissioners elected the pair after being sworn in on Dec. 2.

Commissioners organize, and name new officers

By Brian Gilliland
 Staff Writer

(Dec. 4, 2014) For the first time in five years, J. Bud Church was not presiding over the County Commissioners meeting as president.

District Six Commissioner M. Jim Bunting has taken over those responsibilities, with District One Commissioner Merrill Lockfaw Jr. retaining his position of vice president for another year.

"It's great to have the support of my fellow commissioners, and to follow in Bud Church's footsteps. I hope to fill his

shoes as best as I can and do as good a job as he did," Bunting said.

The returning vice president agreed.

"I look forward to serving again as vice president and I think Jim Bunting will do a great job. I will be there to back him up, so the whole group can come together and do good," Lockfaw said.

The outgoing president had only kind words for the new leadership.

"Jim Bunting will make an excellent president. I'm happy to see Merrill Lockfaw returning. After five years it's time for change. Change is always good," Church said.

Four new commissioners official join county board

By Brian Gilliland
 Staff Writer

(Dec. 4, 2014) Chip Bertino, Diana Purnell, Ted Elder and Joe Mitrecic were sworn in as County Commissioners Tuesday, replacing Judy Boggs, Jim Purnell, Virgil Shockley and Louise Gulyas respectively.

The new commissioners said they were ready to cut their teeth on the county's FY2016 budget, the formulation of which will take up a goodly portion of the first part of 2015.

"Of course I'm humbled by the opportunity to serve the community of Ocean Pines," Chip Bertino said, "And I'm looking forward to the 2016 budget with very much interest. I want to ensure going forward we're not budgeting on stabilization funds. I think we can balance without those funds."

Some were looking farther down the road while still remaining in the present.

"We're going to have a \$12 million shortfall in three years," Ted Elder said, "I'd like to address it early."

Elder said he wanted to start working on several things right out of the gate, but the budget was far and away his greatest concern.

Diana Purnell was excited by the new experience.

"The new learning curve is ready to start," she continued, "as soon as I sign my name on the dotted line that's going to be it."

Purnell said she, along with the six other commissioners, will need to work together to improve the state of the county even more than what has already been achieved by her predecessors, immediate and otherwise.

"At budget time I'd like to see a more equitable formula for Ocean City and the north end of Worcester County, while looking at the budget as a whole," Joe Mitrecic said.

Along with that, Mitrecic said he was eager to get the commissioner's board meetings taped and broadcast "at least on the Internet if not through cable channels," he said, while maintaining the time to "get settled and get my bearings."

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New phosphorous rules announced by ag dept.

By Josh Davis
Staff Writer

(Dec. 4, 2014) After months of speculation and political intrigue, the Maryland Department of Agriculture announced proposed phosphorus management tool regulations on Monday, Dec. 1.

The six-year phase-in of regulations carry a projected cost of \$22.5 million, according to a study released last month by the Business Economic and Community Outreach Network at Salisbury University.

The department published the proposal in the Maryland Register on Monday, triggering a mandatory 30-day public comment period that will end on Dec. 31.

Agriculture Secretary Buddy Hance said the proposed regulations came "at the direction of Gov. Martin O'Malley."

"While Maryland farmers have met all of the nitrogen goals under the Watershed Implementation Plan [WIP], there are concerns with obtaining agriculture's phosphorus goals," he said in a statement on Monday. "The governor has been committed to adopting the regulations to fulfill Maryland's commitment to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under Maryland's WIP to update the current phosphorus risk assessment tool."

Advocates of phosphorus regulation say the nutrient, found in chicken manure often used as a crop-boosting fertilizer, also increases the growth of algae in the Chesapeake Bay, which it enters via rain-induced run-off into its tributaries.

"They say nitrogen and phosphorus create these algae blooms that deplete the oxygen in the bay, and therefore animal life cannot survive those conditions," Hance said.

The management plan applies to farms where soil phosphorus has a Fertility Index Value [FIV] of 150 or more. The measurement, determined by a soil test, compares the amount of phosphorus in the soil with how much is needed to grow crops. Farmers with high phosphorus levels could be required to reduce or eliminate the application of fertilizer containing chicken manure to their fields.

Hance said he did not know how many Maryland farms would qualify as having high FIV counts, although he speculated it could be as many as 80 percent in the lower three counties on the Eastern Shore, where the majority of phosphorus runoff occurs.

"The historical poultry litter applications that have been going on there has created high phosphorus levels in those soils," he said.

The study, commissioned by the Department of Agriculture and written by Salisbury professor Dr. Memo Diriker, included three phase-in scenarios. The longest, at six years, allowed more time for infrastructure development and farm operations planning. Diriker maintained that incremental change would be easier on the farm community and would help

defer costs, both public and private, over a longer period.

"After we looked at Dr. Diriker's work and looked at the impact, we were just trying to figure out a way to spread out those impacts, to help farmers make the adjustments in how they operate their farms, the financial considerations will come into play, and to give the state more time to provide resources to help them through this transition," Hance said.

Conditional provisions within the proposed regulations allow organic farmers to apply a limited amount of phosphorus "under certain conditions." Vegetable and tobacco crops with higher phosphorus needs could see exceptions from some restrictions, along with farmers who adopt "new technologies" to reduce phosphorus levels.

Regulations could go into effect as soon as January 16.

"By statute the department cannot adopt the regulation until 45 days after it's been published," Hance said. "It can take longer than that, but it can't take any less than that."

Hance said he expects to receive comments from "all the stakeholders." A delay could occur if MDA makes a substantial change to the regulations.

"If we receive comments about something very glaring that we missed - an
See PHOSPHOROUS Page 16



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BRIAN GILLILAND/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Minh Vihn and wife, Kathryn Le, stand in front of one of their 10 chicken houses in rural Snow Hill. They translate documents and workshop materials into Vietnamese for poultry farmers on the Eastern Shore, along with running a Vietnamese-language only newsletter serving about 30 households. The Vihns will be featured on MPT's Maryland Farm and Harvest Program airing on Jan. 6 in a segment devoted to the increasing number of Vietnamese poultry farmers in the area.

County poultry farmers to be featured on MPT

By Brian Gilliland
Staff Writer

(Dec. 4, 2014) True story: Minh Vihn and wife Kathryn Le moved from San Diego – he left a financial consulting job, she left four salons – to grow chickens in rural Worcester County.

Rural, as in 20 minutes west of Snow Hill and navigating the unpaved Forest Road off Old Furnace Road for 20 minutes rural.

"You don't think of this as Snow Hill, do you?" Vihn asked, "It takes some getting used to. It's a change but we adapted real quick and now we like it."

His brother-in-law turned him onto the idea of growing chickens a few years ago and now Vihn operates 10 chicken houses raising 480,000 birds per flock and turning over about five-and-one-half flocks per year.

The most exciting thing to Vihn, he said, is that the technology to maintain this kind of volume has progressed so far in the past decade allows him to do "80 percent" of the work from a computer comfortably nestled next to the refrigerator in his house.

Originally from Vietnam, Vihn and wife are one family among an increasing number of growers hailing from the region who have relocated to the Eastern Shore to farm chickens.

According to the 2010 census, "Asian-only" people accounted for only 1.4 percent of Worcester's population. In real terms, Vihn said he knows there are about 30 Vietnamese families on the lower Eastern Shore farming chickens.

To get started, Vihn needed a loan, like so many other businesses do. He was surprised one morning three years ago when he got a call from his banker asking for help. A number of other families from Vietnam had joined the poultry industry and were themselves seeking loans. Enough people were coming that the bank needed help translating documents. They called Minh Vihn.

"We started a Vietnamese Poultry newsletter," he said, and workshops offered by the University of Maryland Eastern Shore for poultry growers also needed Vihn's translating services.

"We started with the workshop. How to handle the manure and how to compost the chicken in the right way. Most of them already know what to do, but they just want to make sure they carry out the regulation," he said.

The workshops run every 4-5 months according to Vihn, and the newsletter is published quarterly.

"People don't know who farmers are and what they do," Mike English, executive producer of Maryland Farm and Harvest said, "Mr. Vihn risked everything to come here and was welcomed by the agricultural community and is finding success."

Neither Vihn nor English really knows who contacted whom first, but Vihn's farm will be featured on the Jan. 6 broadcast of the show featuring magazine-style segments on what they call Maryland's "Ag royalty," oyster farming, chicken farming and a feature on strawberry rhubarb pudding.

Phosphorous rules announced

Continued from Page 15
impact, or maybe language in the regulation that was improperly worded that did not reach the intended goal – we would have to go back and start over again through the regulatory process," he said. "I would expect that we're going to get a lot of comments from both sides of the issue, and we will consider each and every one of those."

"Today, honestly, I don't have an ex-

pectation or prediction, but we're going to follow the process the way it's laid out and we'll see where that takes us," Hance continued.

Comments can be mailed to Buddy Hance, Secretary, Maryland Department of Agriculture, 50 Harry S Truman Parkway, Annapolis, Md. 21401. Hance can also be reached by phone at 410-841-5881, by email at earl.hance@maryland.gov or by fax at 410-841-5914.

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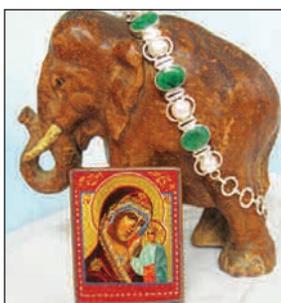
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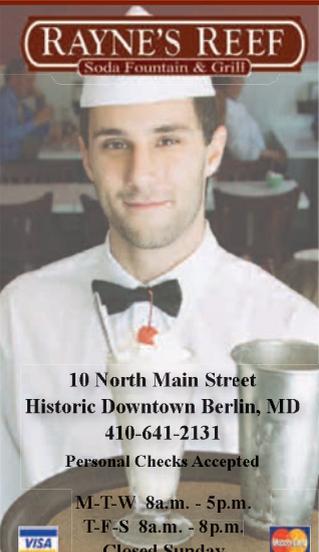
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OPINION

Please send all letters to editor, notices, calendar events and community announcements to editor@baysidegazette.com by 5 p.m. Monday.

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Gas price comparison certainly worth a look

Unless there's something we're missing, the Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors is on the mark about the community's price schedule for propane not adding up ... or adding up to much more than it needs to be.

As board member Marty Clarke observed, no superior math skills are required to see the difference between the \$2.96-per-gallon charge the OPA is paying Sandpiper and the \$2.09 quote from another company.

Moreover, that \$2.09 isn't even the commercial rate, according to Clarke, who quoted the competing company's rep as saying it could charge significantly less than that.

Undoubtedly, there must be any number of reasons for that huge price variance between Sandpiper and other suppliers, including the expense of maintaining its infrastructure. It's also would seem that there has to be more involved than one company simply charging more than the other.

That, however, is what General Manager Bob Thompson is charged with finding out, as he gathers the information the board has requested.

At the worst, the cost of fuel for Ocean Pines amenities will stay the same, while the upside is that a major savings for the OPA might be easily obtained.

It won't be hard to figure out and it shouldn't take that long to determine which option to pursue. Again as Clarke observed, the math isn't that complicated, leaving unanswered only the question of what add-ons and other expenses might be applied by Sandpiper's competitors.

Considering the possibilities, it sure won't hurt to ask.

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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"All of our produce is farm to table, except for a short period when they're resting in cans."

Making Maryland business friendly

Business leaders excited as Hogan nears taking office

By Bryan P. Sears

The Daily Record Newswire (Dec. 4, 2014) Everything from taxes and regulatory changes are potentially on the agenda as a new legislature and Republican Gov.-elect Larry Hogan take office in January shortly after the expected release in December of recommendations from a task force convened to study improving the state's business climate.

Business leaders say they are excited at the prospect of a more business-friendly state under a governor who says he is focused on restoring Maryland as a competitive player when it comes to growing, attracting and retaining businesses.

Matthew Palmer, senior vice president of government relations for the Maryland Chamber of Commerce, said that Hogan and the legislature will have their hands full with the budget and that will likely slow the rate at which the new governor can push his agenda.

"It's probably going to be more limited than he would like," Palmer said. "One area he can affect without legisla-

tion is creating a more business-friendly attitude within state agencies overall. That can happen day one."

A task force on state business climate convened by House Speaker Michael E. Busch and Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller has traveled the state since May. At nearly every hearing, business leaders have cited difficulty in dealing with state agencies, including what they said were onerous regulations and a hostile attitude on the part of regulators.

Darius Irani, chief economist of the Regional Economic and Studies Institute at Towson University, said the state does have a reputation for being unfriendly to business, some of it real and some perceived.

"Maryland is often seen as an over-regulation, high-tax state," Irani said. "That's the image Maryland has."

Irani said political leaders have no control over Maryland's reputation as a high-cost state but that they can control issues related to taxes, regulations and "the way we treat businesses."

"There are several layers one has to go through just to set up a business in Maryland and get it off the ground," Irani said, adding that Hogan's challenge will be

to figure out "how we make the bureaucracy work better. That's a cultural sea change."

Robert E. Buchanan, a Montgomery County resident and principal of Buchanan Partners, told the business climate task force in September that he's found it easier to do business in Virginia. He said Maryland agencies have too much power to shut down construction based on interpretations of regulations on a work site.

"The attitude is so different," Buchanan said. "The corporate culture is so different toward business in Maryland from Virginia. In Virginia, I was welcome."

Palmer said department and agency leaders, who Hogan will appoint, can send the message that state employees in agencies such as the Department of the Environment and State Highways Administration — two agencies most often the source of business leaders' complaints — are really in customer-service jobs.

"There has to be an attitude change even among middle level people," Palmer said. "I'm not saying that the state should go and do whatever a business owner wants. It's just that they should at least sit down and talk to (business

See MAKING Page 19

Making Md. more business friendly

Continued from Page 18
owners)."

Hogan has repeatedly declined to discuss specific policy initiatives until he becomes governor on Jan. 21.

Hogan, who says he is "focused like a laser" on issues of state economy and the budget, offered few specifics on what he would do to improve the state economy except for advocating for cutting the 8.25 percent tax on corporations to 6 percent — the same rate as in Virginia

"Reducing the corporate income tax to 7 percent would put us in a better position to be competitive," said Palmer.

The state increased the corporate tax rate during a 2007 special session that was focused on balancing the budget.

Legislators have been hesitant to make such cuts and some have sought to increase the tax burden on corporations through the combined reporting legislation. Under such a tax policy, which has been adopted by a number of states in recent years, a parent company and most subsidiaries are treated as one corporation for state income tax purposes. Their profits across the country are added together — hence the title "combined reporting"—and the state taxes a share of that combined income.

Palmer said a change in the tax rate for small businesses, many of which pay the same rate as paid by individu-

als, could be more meaningful.

"Over time, it could have a tremendous impact on small businesses," Palmer said.

Sen. Edward J. Kasemeyer sponsored a bill last year that would have exempted the first \$50,000 of income for small businesses from state taxation.

The governor-elect's transition team selections appear to re-enforce his own focus on the business climate issue.

Four of the 20 appointments named last week are heads of companies. There is also a clear indication that Hogan intends for Maryland to be more competitive with Virginia, which is often pointed to by state Republicans and some business leaders as a more business-friendly environment.

Among the most recent transition team appointees are Virginia Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Trade Jimmy Rhee, and Sam Malhotra, founder and chief executive officer of Subsystems, a Rosslyn, Virginia-based information and technology services company.

Hogan also appointed Baltimore economist Anirban Basu. The chairman and chief executive officer of Sage Policy Group has traveled the state in the last few years giving presentations on Maryland's various economic woes. During those appearances, Basu criticized business leaders who support Democrats, saying it is policies enacted

by Democrats that are hurting their businesses.

Basu would also likely focus on issues affecting rural economies, which have some of the highest rates of unemployment in the state. A year ago, Basu told a gathering of rural county leaders that state smart growth and infrastructure policies have choked off the ability of rural counties to compete for manufacturing jobs. Environmental policies have made it difficult for rural landowners to access natural resources from their lands, such as natural gas from hydraulic fracturing, and made farmers the enemy, the economist said.

"There's something called self-determination — the ability for people to determine what their communities will look like," Basu said. "It must be frustrating in rural counties across the state to be told by Montgomery County and Prince George's County and elsewhere, 'This is what your county should look like. We'll make the decision for our counties, but we'll also make the decision on how you use your land and how you use your natural resources.'"

Basu is a proponent of luring manufacturing jobs to rural areas and opening up western Maryland to hydraulic fracturing, something Hogan also favors.

The solution, Basu said at the time, was to elect Republicans who could affect policy at the state level.

Purnell Museum will go Victorian for Christmas

(Dec. 4, 2014) On Saturday, Dec. 6, the Julia A. Purnell Museum invites guests to leave the holiday stress of the 21st century behind and return to a more genteel time during the museum's annual Victorian Christmas Celebration

Guests will sample old-fashioned treats and warm mulled cider to ward off the December chill. Children will enjoy tasting lemon sticks, a soft peppermint stick stuck in a lemon half and used like a drinking straw. They will also create a traditional holiday craft to take home.

The museum will be decked out in its holiday finery, and a Victorian Christmas exhibit will be on display to educate guests about the origins of many of today's familiar holiday customs. The museum's gift shop offers a chance to pick up holiday gifts and stocking stuffers, including local books, home décor items and the museum's popular old-fashioned clothespin doll kits.

The Victorian Christmas Celebration will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. All of the special holiday

programming is included in the museum's regular admission price of \$2 for adults. Child admission is free courtesy of the Berlin-Ocean City Optimist Club.

For more information, visit the museum's Facebook page or purnellmuseum.org.



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OPA will look at other options for gas supply

Thompson directed to get prices from different suppliers

By Josh Davis
Staff Writer

(Dec. 4, 2014) After talks on negotiating a new communitywide deal with utility Sandpiper Energy stalled in Ocean Pines, the Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors last month began to consider seeking another propane company to fuel the community's amenities.

During a regular board meeting on Saturday, Nov. 22, General Manager Bob Thompson told the directors that utility bills were hurting the bottom line at the aquatics venues.

"The one area that we're concerned about [are] propane costs," he said. "Fuel costs are high. That's the part that's going to grab us this year. Everything else that we can control is looking very, very good."

Vice President Marty Clarke took issue, and the board asked Thompson to canvas alternative vendors in order to find a lower price.

"According to Bob Thompson we're

paying Sandpiper \$2.96 a gallon for propane at the indoor pool," Clarke said. "The next day I called the first gas company in the phone book and they're selling propane at \$2.09 a gallon. I asked, 'What about commercial rates?' They said, 'How much propane do you use?' I go, 'I don't know. A lot. It's an indoor pool.' They said, 'Yes sir, we could beat the hell out of \$2.09.'"

Clarke said he personally saved 40 percent on his home energy bill by switching propane vendors. Ocean Pines amenities, he reasoned, could see similar savings benefits.

"Do the math," he said. "That's a 30 percent savings at \$2.09. I saved a thousand dollars a

year switching from Sandpiper to Matheson-Valley. We're talking about saving a couple thousand dollars a month.

"The general manager is certainly on notice," Clarke continued. "I'm assuming that he has gone out and contacted another gas company. This isn't real hard. What would any intelligent person do – keep paying Sandpiper 30 percent more than they could buy it anywhere else?"

Thompson was unavailable for comment, but Board Parliamentarian Tom Terry agreed with Clarke's assessment.

"I think Ocean Pines should always look for the best deal that we can for the best price and the best options," he said. "I know that Bob [Thompson], at the last meeting, was asked to look into the gas prices that we're paying, and specifically look at it in relation to the covered pool. Obviously that's something Bob was asked to look into and I think that's a good idea."

'The one area that we're concerned about [are] propane costs.'
General Manager
Bob Thompson



BRIAN GILLILAND/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

SWORN IN

Susan Braniecki is sworn in as the first female Clerk of the Court since 1939 on Dec. 1. She is pictured with her daughter, Sara, at the District Courthouse in Snow Hill.

Players offer different 'Carol'

(Dec. 4, 2014) Come experience "Another Night Before Christmas," a musical Bistro Theater production by the Ocean Pines Players, Dec. 12-14, at the St. Peter's Lutheran Church Life Center, on 104th Street in Ocean City.

Follow the adventures of Karol, a cynical and embittered social worker, when she is accidentally locked in her apartment with a homeless burglar who claims to be Santa Claus. Written by nationally acclaimed playwright, Sean Grennan, with music by Leah Okimodo, "Another Night Before Christmas" has played to soldout houses across the country since its debut in 2007, but this is its Eastern Shore premier.

In addition to a full-length musical play, guests are treated to live pre-show entertainment and a full dinner, including appetizers, wine, punch,

green salad, spaghetti and bread, plus cake, brownies, coffee, and tea during intermission, all for \$25.

"I don't know where you can find a better bargain," said Players President, Karen McClure. "Dinner, wine and live theater all for 25 bucks – and, consistent with our community service mission, all of our profits go back to the community in the form of performing arts scholarships for local students. We are even offering a silent auction so guests can score some great gifts."

"Another Night Before Christmas" will run for three days, Dec. 12-14. On Friday and Saturday doors open at 5:30 p.m. for dinner, with a 7 p.m. curtain time. There is also a Sunday matinee, with doors opening at 2:30 p.m. and curtain time at 4 p.m.

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MSO sets 'Holiday Joy' for Sunday

Featured vocalists come with superior music world resumes

(Dec. 4, 2014) The Mid-Atlantic Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Julien Benichou, will usher in the holiday season with a program of orchestral and vocal music at the "Holiday Joy" concert performed on Sunday, Dec. 7 at 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the Community Church, Racetrack Road in Ocean Pines.

The MSO will also present renowned vocalists, soprano Esther Jane Hardenbergh and baritone Kevin Short.

Hardenbergh has sung extensively in the United States and Europe, in opera, oratorio and recital. She made her debut at Carnegie Hall in 1999 as winner of the International Opera Singer Competition and is highly respected as an interpreter of recital repertoire, in particular 19th century German Lieder

and 20th century American Art Song.

She has appeared with such orchestras as Orchestra of St. Luke's, Memphis Symphony, Atlanta Baroque Symphony, Miami Bach Society, Handel Choir and Orchestra of Baltimore, Las Cruces Symphony Orchestra, and the Naples Philharmonic Orchestra. She is currently associate professor and department chair of the Department of Vocal Performance at the University of Miami, Frost School of Music.

Short has thrilled audiences around the globe, performing with Canadian Opera Company, Paris' Opera Comique, Grand Theatre du Luxembourg Oper der Stadt Koln, Teatro Comunale di Bologna, Theater Basel, and Theater Bern. He has performed multiple roles with the Metropolitan Opera in New York City. He also enjoys an active concert schedule and has worked with important orchestras in the U.S. and around the world.

Joining them are two talented vocalists from the University of Miami, Frost School of Music, soprano Mia Rojas and mezzo-soprano Zaray Rodriguez. Between seasonal favorites like "White Christmas" and "Silent Night", there will be orchestral interludes with Leroy Anderson's rousing "Sleigh Ride," Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker Suite," and Handel's "Messiah." This festive concert will also include an audience sing-along.

The concert will also be held on Thursday, Dec. 4 at 7:30 p.m. at the Avalon Theater, East Dover Street in Easton; Friday, Dec. 5 at 7:30 p.m. at the Mariner's Bethel Church, Route 26 and Central Avenue in Ocean View, Del. and on Saturday, Dec. 6 at 7:30 p.m. at the Cape Henlopen High School Auditorium, Kings Highway in Lewes, Del.

Tickets cost \$45 for adults, free for youths 18 years and under with a reservation. For tickets and information, call 1-888-846-8600 or visit www.midatlanticsymphony.com.

OP Aquatics offering warm holiday events

(Dec. 4, 2014) Ocean Pines Aquatics will be offering a way to escape cold winter weather and enjoy the summer-like temperatures of the indoor Sports Core Pool at special activities that celebrate the joy of the season.

On Saturday, Dec. 6, pool guests can meet Elsa and Anna from "Frozen" and then watch the movie on an inflatable screen while splashing and swimming or floating on inflatable rafts in the heated indoor pool. The character meet-and-greet will begin at 5 p.m. with the movie following at 6 p.m.

Popcorn will be for sale and pre-registration is required. The cost is \$3 for Ocean Pines swim members, \$5 for Ocean Pines residents and \$7 for non-residents. Families of more than four may pay a flat rate of \$20.

On Dec. 13 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Santa Claus will return to the Sports Core Pool for the seventh annual Swim with Santa. Guests are invited to splash in the pool with Santa, who will be decked out in swim trunks and flip flops. Donations of toys, books and puzzles will also be accepted on behalf of Believe in Tomorrow Children's House by the Sea and Home of the Brave.

The cost of the event is \$6 for swimmers and \$3 for non-swimmers.

Ocean Pines Aquatics hosts a variety of fitness classes, swim lessons and special events year-round.

Upcoming events include a one-day Winter Junior Lifeguard Program on Dec. 30, Friday Family Fun Night on Jan. 2 and an adults-only Dive-In Movie Night showing of "The Big Chill" on Jan. 10.

For more information about these events, contact the Ocean Pines Aquatics Department at 410-641-5255.

Reindeer Run Saturday in Berlin

Event's seventh year likely to experience hundreds of runners

By Taylor Sloan
Intern

(Dec. 4, 2014) The town of Berlin will host its seventh annual Reindeer Run on Saturday, Dec. 6. The 5K will start at 9 a.m. and the one-mile run will begin at 10 a.m.

"This event is a very family-friendly, spirited event," said Lisa Rodriguez-Long, run coordinator.

Long started the Reindeer Run in 2008. Seventy-five runners participated that first year. Last year 300 competed.

"I thought Berlin was such a cool town to do a reindeer run," Long said.

"Berlin does a great job decorating every year."

There will be prizes awarded to the top finishers in each age group, and two Burley Oak growlers will be awarded to the top man and woman. Winners must be 21 years or older to receive the growlers.

'This event is a very family-friendly, spirited event.'

Lisa Rodriguez-Long,
run coordinator

In 2013, David Rovensek of Berlin won for the sixth consecutive year, and Lauren Buckman from Ocean City won her second title.

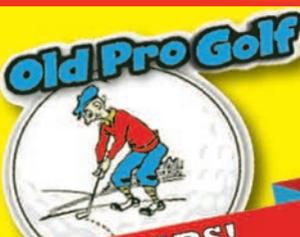
The team with the largest number of participants will also be awarded a prize. Last year, team "Weight Watchers," won with 100 participants.

"Their team was larger than the first year's race," Long said.

Participants can register at Cross-Fit OC on Grays Corner Road in Berlin, from 3-7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5 and in front of the Atlantic Hotel on Main Street in Berlin from 8-8:30 a.m. Saturday. Registration costs \$25 and includes a shirt and bag.

During the event there will be a bake sale, basket raffle and Christmas spirit contest. The Christmas Spirit contest is at 9:45 a.m. and race awards and basket raffle is set for 10:30 a.m.

For more information, contact Long at 443-614-4319.



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CALENDAR

Please send calendar items to editor@baysidegazette.com by 5 p.m. Monday to make sure your events are printed. All community-related activities will be published at no charge.

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

THURS. Dec. 4

BEACH SINGLES — Every Thursday, Beach Singles 45-Plus meets for happy hour at Harpoon Hanna's, Route 54 and the bay, Fenwick Island, Del., 4 p.m. Info: Arlene, 302-436-9577; Kate, 410-524-0649; or Dianne, 302-541-4642.

BINGO — American Legion Post 166, 2308 Philadelphia Ave., in Ocean City, every Thursday, year round. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., games start at 7 p.m. Food available. Open to the public. Info: 410-289-3166.

CHAIR AEROBICS — St. Peter's Lutheran Church Community Life Center, 10301 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 1-2 p.m. Free will offering appreciated. Sponsored by St. Peter's Senior Adult Ministry. Info: 410-524-7474.

PLAY TIME — Pocomoke library, 301 Market St., 10:30-11:30 a.m. For infants to 5 year old children. Info: 410-957-0878.

A COUNTRY GOSPEL CHRISTMAS BUS TRIP — The Pennsylvania Opry hosts a Country Gospel Christmas with performances of a great collection of Gospel and Christmas favorites. After the show, the group will travel to The Keystone Family Restaurant for a buffet-style dinner. Bus departs the Ocean Pines Com-

munity Center, 235 Ocean Parkway on Dec. 4 at 8 a.m. and returns at approximately 9 p.m. Cost is \$90 and includes transportation, show and dinner. Register: 410-641-7052 or stop in the Ocean Pines Recreation Department.

FRI. Dec. 5

LIGHT UP DOWNTOWN CELEBRATION — Sunset Park, south end of Philadelphia Avenue, on the bay, Ocean City, 5-7 p.m. Tree lighting, music, entertainment, refreshments, horse and carriage rides and a visit from Santa. Free admission. Horse and carriage rides cost \$5 for adults and free for children 3 and younger. Info: 410-289-1413 or www.downtownassociation.net.

FIRST FRIDAY RECEPTION — Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St. Exhibits kick off with an opening reception from 5-7 on the first Friday of each month. Held year round and open to the public. Info: 410-524-9433 or www.artleagueofoceancity.org.

THE MAYOR'S OLD-FASHIONED CHRISTMAS EVENING — Downtown Pocomoke City, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Christmas tree lighting, live entertainment, refreshments, cookie decorating, s'mores, wine tasting, Santa house, horse & carriage rides, Samaritan

Shelter food drive, ornament making for the kids, bonfire, chili cook-off to benefit Sturgis One Room School and wreath silent auction to benefit the Costen House Museum. Info: 410-957-1919.

BINGO — Knights of Columbus, 9901 Coastal Highway (rear of St. Luke's Church) in Ocean City. Doors open at 5 p.m. and games begin at 6:30 p.m. Refreshments for sale. Info: 410-524-7994.

MODEL TRAINS AND PICTURES WITH SANTA AT SNOW HILL'S FIRST FRIDAY — Pocomoke River Canoe Company, 2 River Street, Snow Hill, 5-8 p.m. Featuring pictures with Santa, Corrdry Company Crossing Model Train display, hot chocolate, caroling, holiday treats and a performance by the Snow Hill Elementary School after school choir. The train display will also be open on Saturdays and Sundays in December from 1-4 p.m. Info: Barbara Witherow, 410-632-5092 or bmwitherow@mail.worcester.k12.md.us

SAT. Dec. 6

OCEAN CITY CHRISTMAS PARADE — Along Coastal Highway from 100th Street to 115th Street, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. High school bands, floats and marching units. Info: Elaine Jarvis, 410-524-9000 or honijarvis@cs.com.

VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION — Julia A. Purnell Museum, 208 W. Market St., Snow Hill, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. An old-fashioned holiday party with refreshments, music and kids' activities. Admission costs \$2. Info: Claire Otterbein, 410-632-0515, mail@purnellmuseum.com or www.purnellmuseum.com.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR — Stevenson United Methodist Church, 123 North Main St., Berlin, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Event includes silent auction, homemade soup and sandwiches, bake sale, crafts and vendors including Scentsy, Premier Designs, Celebrating Home and Pampered Chef. Info: 410-641-1137.

6TH ANNUAL COOKIE WALK — Bethany United Methodist Church, 8648 Stephen Decatur Highway, West Ocean City, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Handmade cookies sold for \$8 per pound and can be packaged with ribbons and bows. Candies sold for \$9 per pound. Info: 410-213-8238.

ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT BREAKFAST BUFFET WITH SANTA — Buckingham Presbyterian Church, 20 S. Main St., Berlin, 8:30-10:30 a.m. Cost is \$8 for adults, \$4 for children ages 3-10 years and free for children 2 and younger. Tickets available at the door. Bring cameras and camcorders. Reservations recommended for large groups, 410-641-0234.

ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT FRIED CHICKEN BUFFET — Mt. Pleasant United Methodist

Church, Willards, 11 a.m. Menu includes chicken, vegetables, beverages and desserts. Cost \$12 for adults, \$6 for children and free to those 5 and younger. Bake table and carry outs. Info: Nelda Dennis, 443-614-9898.

FREE CHRISTMAS TRAIN DISPLAY — Georgetown Public Library, 123 W. Pine St., 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Delaware Seaside Railroad Club will present five operating model railroad layouts. Info: 302-856-7958 or Delawareseasiderailroadclub.com.

'DONNIE & MARIE CHRISTMAS TOUR' — Buses will depart from the Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, Dec. 6, at 8:30 a.m. The "Donnie & Marie Christmas Tour" performance will take place at the National Theatre in Baltimore. Lunch from 11 a.m. to noon, show time is 2 p.m. and dinner from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Lunch and dinner are not included in the trip price. Estimated return time is 9 p.m. Cost is \$100. Register: Ocean Pines Recreation & Parks Department, 410-641-7052 or www.OceanPines.org.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST — VFW, Post 8296, 104 66th St., bayside in Ocean City, 8-11 a.m. A \$5 donation for all-you-can-eat pancakes or 2-2-2, two eggs, two pancakes and two bacon slices, includes coffee and juice. Bloody Marys cost \$3. Info: 410-524-8196.

FARMERS MARKET — White Horse Park, 239 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Locally grown vegetables and fruits, eggs, honey, kettle korn, flowers, artisan breads, seafood, meats and more. New vendors welcome. Info: 410-641-7717, Ext. 3006.

SUN. Dec. 7

WORCESTER PREP CHRISTMAS BAZAAR — Worcester Preparatory School, 508 S. Main St., Berlin, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Children's games, Second Time Around, home baked goods, gifts, greens, decorations, silent auction, coffee, snacks, books, luncheon, student performances and more. Info: 410-641-3575.

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE — Ocean City Life-Saving Station Museum, located at the south end of the Boardwalk, 813 S. Atlantic Ave., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free admission and 10 percent off all items in the gift shop. First 100 visitors receive a vintage "mini" collection of postcards. Info: 410-289-4991 or sandy@ocmuseum.org.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS #169 — Atlantic General Hospital, Conference Room 1, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. Group is a 12-step program for anyone struggling with a compulsive eating problem. No initial meeting charge. Meeting contribution is



BIS ROYALS

Rosa Corbett, Elijah Wiltbank and Ian Betterson pose with Princess Page and Sir Readalot during Berlin Intermediate School's book fair, "Sir Readalot's Castle: A Kingdom of Books," Nov. 13-21.

CALENDAR

\$1 weekly. Info: Bett, 410-202-9078.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS - Atlantic General Hospital, Conference Room 2, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin, noon to 1 p.m. Group shares experience, strength and hope to help others. Open to the community and to AGH patients. Info: Rob, 443-783-3529.

SUNDAY NIGHT SERENITY AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP MEETING - Woodlands in Ocean Pines, Independent Living Apartment Building, 1135 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines, 7:30 p.m.

MON. Dec. 8

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY MEETING - Berlin group No. 169, Atlantic General Hospital, conference room 1, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 5-6:30 p.m. TOPS is a support and educational group promoting weight loss and healthy lifestyle. It meets weekly. Info: Edna Berkey, 410-251-2083.

DELMARVA SWEET ADELIN CHORUS MEETS WEEKLY - The Delmarva Chorus, Sweet Adeline's, meets each Monday from 7-9 p.m., at the Ocean Pines Community Center, 239 Ocean Parkway. Women interested in learning the craft of a cappella singing welcome. Info: 410-641-6876.

STEAM PM - Snow Hill library, 307 N. Washington St., 3:30 p.m. Children, ages 5-8, will create marble runs with kits and recyclable materials and race them. Info: 410-632-3495.

TUES. Dec. 9

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY HOLIDAY WRAPPINGS FASHION SHOW AND LUNCHEON - Ocean City convention center, 4001 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Price is \$40 per person. Info: www.ACSholidaywrappings.org or contact Dawn Pappas, 443-880-2310 or dpappo@aol.com.

PARKINSON'S SUPPORT GROUP - Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:30-4 p.m. Participating couples are asked to bring a wrapped gift, under \$10, and a snack-type food item. Info: Ron and Mary Leidner, 410-208-0525.

YOUNG AND RESTLESS - REINDEER GAMES - Berlin library, 220 N. Main St. Holiday games and crafts for 3 to 5 year old children. Info: 410-641-0650.

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY MEETING - Berlin group 331, Worcester County Health Center, 9730 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 5:30-7 p.m. TOPS is a support and educational group promoting weight loss and healthy lifestyle. It meets weekly. Info: jeanduck47@gmail.com.

YOUNG AND RESTLESS - Berlin library, 220 N. Main St., 10:30 a.m. Reindeer Games holiday games and crafts for 3-5 year old children. Info: 410-641-0650.

FREE CAREGIVER EDUCATION CLASS -

MAC, Inc. Area Agency on Aging, 909 Progress Circle, Salisbury, 11 a.m. to noon. Featuring a free workshop titled, "Coping with the Holidays: Tips for Caregivers of Persons with Dementia." Info: Amy Schine, 410-749-4940 or amys@geried.com.

ANNUAL MEETINGS OF WOMEN'S COMMISSIONS - The Restaurant at Lighthouse Sound, 12723 St. Martins Neck Road, Bishopville, 5:30 p.m. Joint meeting of the Worcester County Commission for Women and the Friends of the Worcester County Commission for Women. Cost is \$15 for members, \$18 for non-members and includes dinner, dessert, a non-alcoholic beverage and gratuities. Cash bar available. Reservations: Flea Daly, 410-208-1272 or f.daly@mchsi.com.

WED. Dec. 10

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT - Ocean City convention center, 4001 Coastal Highway. Registration with light refreshments at 8:30 a.m., program from 9:15-11 a.m. Held in conjunction with the Ocean City Economic Development Committee. Featuring Economist Anirban Basu. An economic update for Worcester County, Ocean City and the Lower Eastern Shore, plus an update on Maryland Offshore Wind. Free event. Register: Merry Mears, mmears@co.worcester.md.us.

PLAY TIME - Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30-11:30 a.m. For infants to 5 year old children. Info: 410-208-4014.

BINGO - Every Wednesday at Ocean City Elks Lodge 2645, 138th Street and Sinepuxent Avenue, rear of the Fenwick Inn. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., games start 6:30 p.m. Food is available. Open to the public. No one allowed in the hall under 18 years of age during bingo. Info: 410-250-2645.

DELMARVA HAND DANCING CLUB - Meets every Wednesday at Peaky's Rooftop Restaurant & Bar, located in the Fenwick Inn, 13801 Coastal Highway, Ocean City. Beginner and intermediate lessons, 5:30-6:30 p.m., followed by dancing 6:30-9 p.m. Jitterbug, swing, cha-cha to the sounds of the '50s, '60s and Carolina beach music. All are welcome. Info: 302-200-DANCE (3262).

KIWANIS CLUB OF GREATER OCEAN PINES/OCEAN CITY - Meets every Wednesday at the Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway. Doors open at 7 a.m., meeting begins at 8 a.m. Info: 410-641-7330.

BAYSIDE BEGINNINGS AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP MEETING - Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 7:30 p.m.

OCEAN CITY/BERLIN ROTARY CLUB MEETING - Captain's Table Restaurant in the Courtyard by Marriott, 2 15th St, Ocean City, 6 p.m. Info: 410-641-1700 or kbates@taylorbank.com.

ONGOING EVENTS

WINTERFEST OF LIGHTS - More than one million holiday lights throughout the resort and at Northside Park, 200 125th St. in Ocean City, through Jan. 4, 2015. The heated Winterfest Village pavilion features hot chocolate, Yukon Cornelius' gift shop and photos with Santa. Board the Winterfest Express to tour hundreds of animated, lighted displays. Admission. Hours are Sunday through Thursday, 5:30-9:30 p.m. and Friday and Saturday, 5:30-10:30 p.m. Info: 800-OC-OCEAN, 410-250-0125 or www.ococean.com.

HORSE & CARRIAGE RIDES - Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., through April 26, 2015. Passengers board near Thrasher's at the Ocean City inlet and travel around the pier and down the Boardwalk to Fourth Street and back. Carriage is heated. Cost is \$10 for adults and free for children 3 and younger. Info: Randy Davis, 443-783-1409.

'CINDERELLA' PERFORMANCE - The Performing Arts Center in the Ocean City convention center, 40th Street, March 7, 2 p.m. Ballet Theater of Maryland. Meet Cinderella and Prince Charming after the show for photos. Tickets cost \$10 and can be purchased at all Worcester County Library branches and the Ocean City Convention Center Box Office.

MOTHERS OF PRESCHOOLERS MEETING - Community Church at Ocean Pines, 11227 Racetrack Road, 9:30-11 a.m., second and fourth Wednesdays through May. The program is designed to nurture mothers with children from infancy through kindergarten. Free childcare. Contact: MOPScop@gmail.com, 410-641-5433 or www.facebook.com/groups/MOPScop/.

HELP FOR PHARMACEUTICAL DRUG ABUSE - Call Narconon for a free brochure on the signs of addiction for all types of drugs. Narconon also offers free assessments and referrals: 877-413-3073 or www.narcononworks.com.

AARP - Ocean City AARP 1917 meets the second Thursday of each month (except July and August) at the Knights of Colum-

bus Hall, 9901 Coastal Highway (rear of St. Luke's Church). Social begins at 9:30 a.m., meeting at 10 a.m. Info: aarp1917.org.

SINGING MESSAGES - Members of the Delmarva Chorus of Sweet Adelines International, is available for singing songs locally for birthdays, anniversaries, Valentine's Day or any special occasion. Your special someone will be serenaded with two songs at the location of your choice. Cost is \$25. Available 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Call 410-641-5091.

WOMEN SUPPORTING WOMEN FUNDRAISER - Recycle old cell phones to benefit Women Supporting Women. Old phones will be dismantled and the parts recycled for 911 calls. Drop off at the Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road or at the Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway or contact Sheila Hodges, 301-775-1968.

CPR/AED, BLS AND FIRST AID COURSES - The American Heart Association is offering these life saving skills. Great for families, communities with pools, teachers, construction workers, lifeguards, coaches, physical trainers, camp counselors. Also Basic Life Support training for medical professionals, pharmacists, dentists, doctors, CNA's, LPN's, RN's or nursing students. Weekly classes offered. Sign up: 302-462-5594.

DIAKONIA THRIFT SHOP - Used to be Mine, Route 611 and Sunset Avenue, Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Furniture, clothing, toys and linens. Info: 410-213-0243

POSITIVE OUTLOOK THRIFT SHOP - Positive Outlook Thrift Shop, 12637 Ocean Gateway, Trlr 2, West Ocean City, Monday and Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Located next to Seaside Christian Academy behind White Marlin Mall. Info: 410-251-6971. Sponsored by OC Baptist Church.

THE SHEPHERD'S NOOK THRIFT SHOP - Community Church at Ocean Pines, 11227 Racetrack Road. Open Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Accepting donations of gently worn clothes and small household items.



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SNAPSHOTS



SUBMITTED PHOTOS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

SDHS VETS DONATION

American Legion Post #166 Commander Sarge Garlitz, back row, sixth from left, joins the Stephen Decatur High School NJROTC and other club representatives for the second annual presentation of packages for the troops. SDHS students and faculty members collected various toiletries and other amenities to honor veterans on Veterans Day.



JOSH DAVIS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

ICE CARVING

Ice artist Erik Cantine spent several hours, working with a chainsaw and a power drill, carving an eight-foot Rudolph sculpture near the Atlantic Hotel during Berlin's Holiday Arts Night, Nov. 28.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

Stephen Decatur High School seniors Michael Todd, Kyla Walker and Rachel Bourne welcome visitors during American Education Week, Nov. 17-21. SDHS opened its doors to more than 100 parents, relatives and community members throughout the week. This year marks the 93rd anniversary of the annual observance that celebrates schools, students, teachers and community members who work to help students achieve inside and outside of the classroom.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

ROCKETRY SESSION

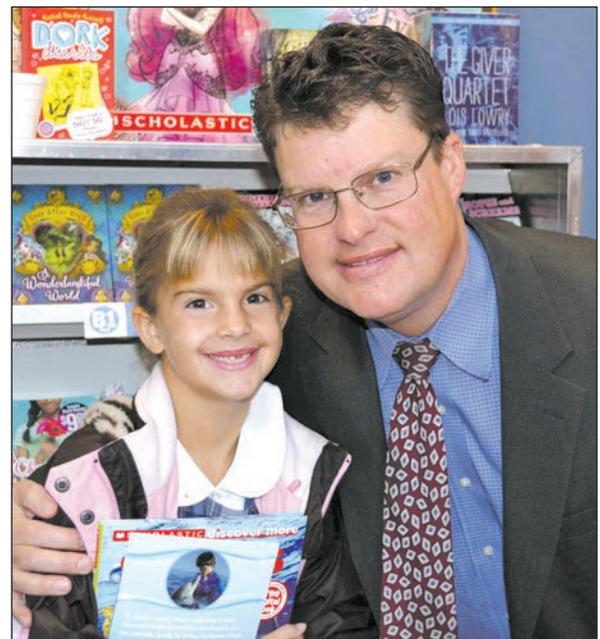
Stephen Decatur Middle School students in the After School Academy's "Open Mind" class focused on rocketry this session. The class learned the properties of rocketry, designed and assembled their own rockets, and tested them to see how their design affected their launch. Pictured are students Taylor Ford, Javaughn Marshall, KaMell Tatum, Ryan J. Smith, Nick Mitchell, Jersey Mitchell, Zavian Taylor, Felicity Chambers, Victor Vick, Joey Carpenter and Seth Johnson.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

SCIENCE EXPERIMENT

Rebecca Johnson's third graders at Showell Elementary School investigate mealworms and color attraction as part of a science experiment during American Education Week. Pictured are Jack Croll and Madalyn Stitely.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

DONUTS FOR DADS

Maggie McCabe and her dad, Doug, a 1986 WPS graduate, participate in the annual Book Fair "Donuts for Dads" event at Worcester Prep.

CUISINE

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

It's winter, almost, and time for sticky buns

When we were in Hawaii we fell in love with Lava Java, a coffee shop/restaurant on the south end of town, where we spent the mornings drinking great coffee and eating the plate-sized sticky buns.



By Paul Suplee,
CEC PCIII

I talk about them often in class, and two years ago a student, Jeri, noted that we had some freshly made brioche dough,

some sugar and pecans. She asked if she could try to recreate them and I immediately took her up on the offer. I knew they would be good only because Jeri is about the best baker I have ever met.

The resulting sticky buns were as good if not better than those at Lava Java. They were sweet, bready, sticky and messy and had loads of buttery flavor and cinnamon.

Going through some sites this week, Jeri ran across an article in the Kona Historical Society's recipe section that covered Portuguese Sweet Bread or Pao Doce. Noting that this somewhat resembles Brioche, the Mad Baker went to work in her lab, recreating a spot-on version of Lava Java's delectable buns. The earlier effort was fantastic, but this version was completely on the money. It was Jeri for the win.

As I go through the recipe, I am in awe at how simple the dough is. Of course, if you have never made bread before, then it may not be perfect. I can bake bread now, but it took a lot of practice. You have to get used to the smells and feel of the dough. Once you get that down you will be on your way.



In my music room I have a couple of ukuleles that we bought in Hawaii, and we learned while we were on the island that the Portuguese were responsible for bringing these with them in the 19th century at the same time that they brought their bread-making knowledge.

Travelling to the south end of the Big Island, there is a bakery that specializes in Hawaiian sweet bread, and I never put it together that this was a gift from the Portuguese until Jeri and I started talking about it, but it makes complete sense. And it definitely makes sense that the newly revised sticky bun recipe is so reminiscent of those buns of vacations past.

Since we are moving into the chilly months, this is an unbelievably warming way to wake up in the morning. Of course you will not find these in anywhere on your diet list, so just get that out of your mind right now. And don't you dare try to re-

place the Magic Goo with some mystery sweeteners; there are rules and should be laws about it.

Just make sure that you have plenty of ice-cold milk and coffee on hand. As I have a monstrous sweet tooth, I tend to eat a lot of these, and nothing goes with sticky buns like whole milk, and if you happen to know a dairy farmer, all the better!

I have a feeling that once you know how to make these rolls, they will find a permanent place in your kitchen. Just using them may

be the key to getting people out of bed in the morning. And should you ever make your way to Hawaii, make it a point to explore the sweet bread that the Portuguese were so kind to bring with them.

Jeri's World-famous Sticky Buns

Makes 1 13x9 12 pan or about 12 rolls
1 c. Warm water
2 packages Dry Yeast
1 c. Sugar
1 sticks melted butter
2 eggs
4 c. Bread flour
Magic Goo (recipe follows)
2 c. pecans, whole

Combine the yeast and warm water

Stir in the sugar, butter and eggs

Add the flour one cup at a time until it makes a sticky dough

Flour a clean surface and turn the dough out, adding some more flour as you need to make a light and quite loose dough

Knead for 3-5 minutes and put back in the bowl and cover

Let stand, warm, until doubled in size

Punch it down and roll it into a rectangle

Brush with some melted butter and sprinkle with cinnamon and sugar

Roll it up into a tight log

Slice the cinnamon rolls and set aside

Fill the bottom of your pan with the Magic Goo, top with pecans, and place the rolls on top, leaving about 1/2-1 inch between the rolls

Cover and proof in a warm spot until they have doubled

Bake at 350F for anywhere from 18-30 minutes, depending on your oven and your preference of doneness

When you remove the rolls, allow to cool for a few minutes and then invert onto a platter. The Magic Goo will drizzle down the sticky buns and you will be ready to brew a pot of coffee, pour a tall cup of Joe and get back in your pajamas!

The Magic is in the Goo

2 c. Brown sugar
2 c. White sugar
1/2 c. Honey
1/2 tsp. Cinnamon
1.2 tsp. Salt

Melt together over medium heat until combined. Do not boil.

— Paul G. Suplee is a certified executive chef and ProChef certified Level-3. He is a writer and culinary instructor. Find his ePortfolio at www.heartofakitchen.com.

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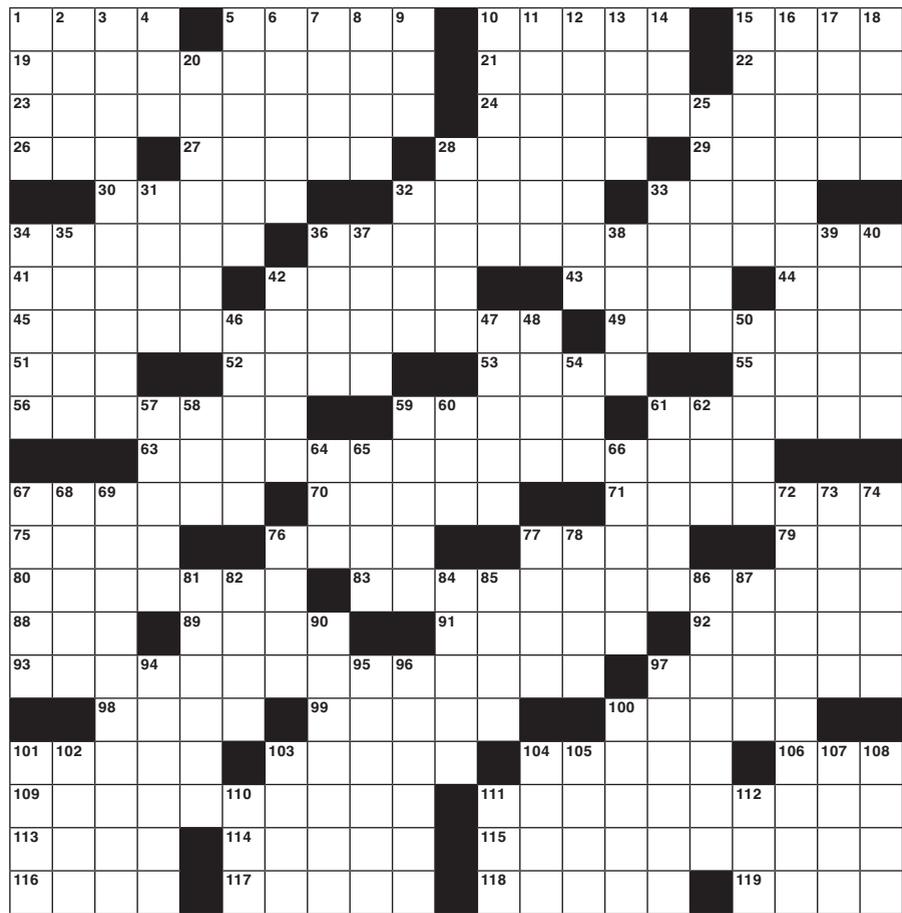
Call Executive Chef Mark Kauffman to speak with him. (410) 726-5565

PUZZLES

ZAP!

BY MATT GINSBERG / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS**
- 1 Interjects
- 5 Pass off
- 10 Pianist Schumann, early champion of Brahms
- 15 Certain servers
- 19 Focused on one's fellow fraternity members?
- 21 Egyptian war god
- 22 Fast break?
- 23 Workers in booths
- 24 Dublin dance?
- 26 Pooh's baby friend
- 27 King Abdullah, e.g.
- 28 Like a desert climate
- 29 Like circus tumblers
- 30 What may come with a trophy
- 32 "Shut up!"
- 33 Like the Head Start program, for short
- 34 African flier
- 36 What Clark Kent needs to become Superman?
- 41 Response to a gotcha
- 42 One-named chanteuse
- 43 Dry
- 44 Julius Wilbrand invention of 1863, for short
- 45 Somewhat bashful?
- 49 Article of papal attire
- 51 _____ spot
- 52 Red alert source?
- 53 Uncommon cry after a lottery drawing
- 55 Oscar winner who was formerly a regular on TV's "Laugh-In"
- 56 Fine-wool sources
- 59 Firing offense?
- 61 Polish capital
- 63 Local afternoon newscast?
- 67 Sentence ender, maybe
- 70 Execs
- 71 Eggs-to-be
- 75 Subject of a Fox hunt
- 76 Excel function
- 77 "I'm f-f-freezing!"
- 79 _____-Locka, Fla.
- 80 Show, as cards in gin rummy
- 83 Business offering the right to buy and sell securities?
- 88 Carrier to Tokyo
- 89 End of an era?
- 91 III
- 92 Textile patented in 1894
- 93 How to find what a creep is looking at?
- 97 Become fond of
- 98 Ones bowled over?
- 99 What Microsoft Word's Track Changes shows
- 100 Flowering tropical plant
- 101 Spartacus, at one time
- 103 Itsy-bitsy
- 104 Northern passage
- 106 Chain letters?
- 109 Says, "I didn't do it!" before fessing up?
- 111 Clarifies
- 113 Fibula : leg :: _____ : arm
- 114 Taken
- 115 Cigarettes or booze?
- 116 Conclude in court
- 117 Where Indiana Jones reunites with Marion
- 118 Overly involved
- 119 Paul who composed the "Tonight Show" theme
- DOWN**
- 1 "This guy walks into _____ ..."
- 2 Fictional villain whose given name is Julius
- 3 "Wrong way"
- 4 Prefix with masochistic
- 5 One may be grand
- 6 Perfectly timed
- 7 Fingered
- 8 Golfer _____ Pak
- 9 Some OT enders
- 10 Mao adversary
- 11 Country singer Morgan
- 12 Blue bloods, informally
- 13 "A.S.A.P.!"
- 14 Bit of air pollution
- 15 Digicam component
- 16 "Well, fine"
- 17 Washington attraction
- 18 English glam-rock band with six #1 hits
- 20 Essential, in a way
- 25 Armored, as a horse
- 28 Asian capital known as the City of Lakes
- 31 Astronaut's woe, perhaps
- 32 Sleeper and others
- 33 Father
- 34 When D.S.T. starts or ends
- 35 Burn a little
- 36 Refuse at the polling station
- 37 Old Hollywood's _____ Code
- 38 Leaves in a waiting room?
- 39 Flaky?
- 40 British guns
- 42 Climax of many an action film
- 46 Hot-pot spot
- 47 Pieces in the game Othello
- 48 Certain Endorian
- 50 Flamboyant
- 54 Connections
- 57 Poker resignation
- 58 Bubkes
- 59 O'Connor successor
- 60 Bilge
- 61 "Butterfly" actress, 1982
- 62 _____ cit. (footnote abbr.)
- 64 Mexican bear



- 65 Band-Aid competitor
- 66 Orchestra section
- 67 Rice _____
- 68 Hersey novel locale
- 69 Major annoyances
- 72 Singer whose "I Get Ideas" was on the charts for 30 weeks
- 73 Its icon is Spaceship Earth
- 74 Decline
- 76 Pique activity?
- 77 Quick snack
- 78 Sound of approval
- 81 Some oxygen molecules
- 82 Bowls over
- 84 High fidelity?
- 85 Ugly ones
- 86 Pop's pop
- 87 Make
- 90 "Things aren't so bad"
- 94 Occupy
- 95 Ancient Macedonian capital
- 96 Stonehenge feature
- 97 With caution
- 100 Chewed stimulants
- 101 Potential libel
- 102 Scoop (out)
- 103 With 105-Down, some amphorae
- 104 Scoot
- 105 See 103-Down
- 107 Head turner
- 108 Between ports
- 110 Cod piece
- 111 West _____ (upscale furniture store)
- 112 Actress Gardner



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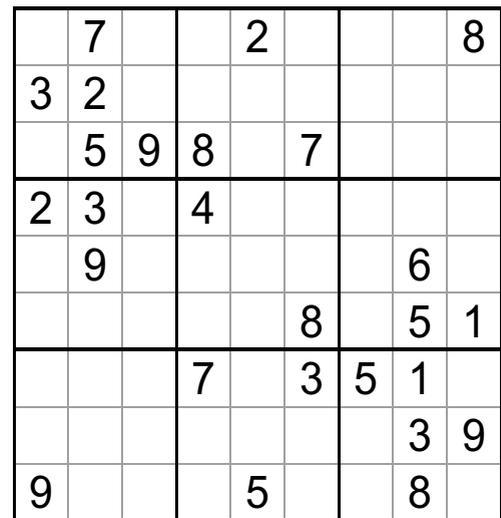
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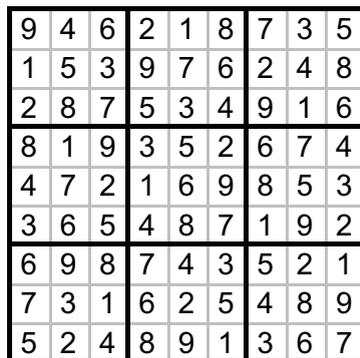
© Puzzles by Pappocom

HARD - 31

Fill in the blank spaces in the grid so that every vertical column, every horizontal row and every 3 by 3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9, without repeating any. There is really only one solution to each puzzle.



Answers to last week's puzzles



NOW PLAYING

BJ'S ON THE WATER

75th Street and the bay
Ocean City
410-524-7575
Dec. 5: Mood Swingers, 9 p.m.
Dec. 6: No Biscuits, 9 p.m.
Dec. 10: Christmas Party w/Teenage Rust & the Fabulous Rustettes, 6 p.m.
Dec. 11: DJ Jeremy, 9 p.m.

BOURBON STREET ON THE BEACH

116th Street, behind Fountain Head Towers Condominium
Ocean City
443-664-2896
Every Wednesday: The Baltimore Boyz, 7-10 p.m.

CAPTAIN'S TABLE

15th St. & Baltimore Ave.
Ocean City
410-289-7192
www.captainstableoc.com
Every Friday & Saturday: Phil Perdue

FAGER'S ISLAND

60th Street and the bay
Ocean City
410-524-5500
Dec. 5: Frankie Moran, DJ Hook
Dec. 6: DJ Hook

GALAXY 66

66th Street, bayside
Ocean City
410-723-6762
Dec. 5: Philly George Project, 8 p.m. to midnight

HARBORSIDE BAR & GRILL

12841 S. Harbor Road
West Ocean City
410-213-1846
Dec. 5: Ladies Night w/DJ Bill T
Dec. 6: Simple Truth, 2-6 p.m.; DJ Jeremy, 9 p.m.
Dec. 7: Opposite Directions, 2-6 p.m.
Dec. 11: Opposite Directions, 6-9 p.m.

HARPOON HANNA'S

Route 54 and the bay
Fenwick Island, Del.
800-227-0525
302-539-3095
Dec. 5: Dave Hawkins, 6-10 p.m.
Dec. 6: Dave Sherman,

6-10 p.m.
Dec. 10: Bobby Burns, 3-6 p.m.
Dec. 11: Aaron Howell, 6-10 p.m.

HOOTERS

Rt. 50 & Keyser Point Rd.
West Ocean City
410-213-1841
Dec. 5: Ladies Night w/DJ BK, 8 p.m.

JOHNNY'S PIZZA & PUB

56th Street, bayside
Ocean City
410-524-7499
Every Wednesday: Randy Lee Ashcraft & The Saltwater Cowboys
Dec. 5: Harry O
Dec. 6: Randy Lee Ashcraft & The Saltwater Cowboys

MARYLAND WINE BAR

103 N. Main St.
Berlin
410-629-1022
Dec. 5: Troy Mawyer & Adam Bilenki, 7 p.m.

OCEAN CLUB NIGHTCLUB

In the Horizons Restaurant
In the Clarion Fontainebleau Hotel
101st Street and the ocean
Ocean City
410-524-3535
Every Thursday-Sunday: DJ Dusty, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Dec. 5-6: Power Play, 9:30 p.m. to 2 a.m.

SECRETS

49th Street and the bay
Ocean City
410-524-4900
Dec. 5: Captain Jack, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Dec. 6: Full Circle, 5-9 p.m.; Lunasea Glow Party, 9 p.m.; The Zoo, 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Dec. 11: Locals Christmas Party w/Opposite Directions, 5 p.m.

WHISKER'S BAR & GRILL

11070 Cathell Road, Suite 17
Pines Plaza, Ocean Pines
443-365-2576
Dec. 5: Karaoke w/Donnie Berkey, 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.



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ALL DAY
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Wacky Wednesdays

\$8 Sloppy Joes &
Sloppy Dogs!

Thrifty Thursday

\$12 Growler Fills,
\$8 Burgers, Plus
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\$4 Firkin Drafts!!!
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oceancitytoday.net and
baysideoc.com.

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To become a Representative or to order product call Christine at 443-880-8397 or email snowhillavon@comcast.net



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for South Moon Under
 No experience necessary. Female applicants must be at least 5'7" size 0-2. Male applicants must be at least 6'0" size 31-34 waist.
 Please contact models@southmoonunder.com and include name, at least one full length photo, height and sizes.

Downtown Hotel hiring Year Round; Full-Time Self-Motivated Maintenance Tech & Seasonal (Feb.-Nov.) Quality Control Manager
Maintenance Candidate must have proficient plumbing, electrical and carpentry skills. Candidate must also possess knowledge of all aspects of hotel/motel maintenance. Starting pay at \$14 per hour with the opportunity for pay increase after 90 days, paid vacation, health/ dental benefits.
Quality Control Manager will be highly motivated person that will oversee room inspections and ensuring excellent hotel standards for property. Pay will depend on prior experience.
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Hiring Year Round Experienced Cook and Server for Italian/American Restaurant. Apply in person **Alex's Italian Restaurant, Rt. 50, West Ocean City.**



We are hiring CNAs!
 Coastal Home Care, an extension of Capital City Nurses, is hiring for short and long hours, Monday through Sunday, Part-time and Full-time on the Eastern Shore of Maryland and in the state of Delaware. Applicants must have CNA certification and at least 1 year of experience working on staff at a hospital or nursing home.
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RENTALS

YR - 2BR/1.5BA Apt. Sunset Dr. (close to 27th St.) 2nd flr w/balcony. \$1100/mo. + sec. dep. **ALSO Winter Only** (May 1st) @ \$850/mo. Large freshly painted Apt. furn/unfurn. W/D. **410-213-8090** or events@oceanpromotions.info

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YR South OC, Bay View @ 9th St. 3BR/1BA, furn./unfurn. Condo. \$985/mo. + utils. & 1 mo. sec. dep. No pets/smoking. **443-889-2193**

Year Round Rentals Available. Call Century 21 New Horizon 410-723-4500.

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Fax: 410-723-9109
lwatson@clarionoc.com
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YR or Seasonal WOC. 1BR Apartment for Rent. Newly remodeled. W/D, nice porch. **443-373-1319**

YR OP Waterfront 4BR/3BA Large great room and family room. Shed, floating dock. Available now. \$1450/month + utilities + security. **410-713-8007**

WR Oceanfront 2BR Condo - Fabulous views. Cheap heating & electric bill. WiFi, cable included. \$899/mo. No smoking/pets. **410-490-0427**

WR, Executive 4BR/3.5BA Home in WOC, Martha's Landing - Lg. Home w/yard. 2.5-car garage, W/D, great views. Pets negotiable. \$2100/mo. **240-643-6800**

YR 3BR/3.5BA Townhouse for Rent - \$1600/mo. or Roommate Option. Off 94th Street on canal. **443-235-5147** leave message.

Y/R Rentals - Berlin Rentals starting at \$605/mo. 400 sq. ft. Office Space starting at \$500/mo. **Bunting Realty, Inc. 410-641-3313, Buntingrealty.com.**

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Daily 10-5	Gateway Grand - 48th Street	3 & 4BR, 3BA	Condo	From \$904,900	Condominium Realty/Fritschle Group	
Daily 11-3	Villas, OC Inlet Isle	3BR/4BR	Condo	\$795,000	Condominium Realty/Fritschle Group	
Daily 10-4	1111 Edgewater Ave	3BR/2.5BA	Condo	From \$595,000	Condominium Realty/Fritschle Group	
Mon-Sat 10-5	70th St. Bayside Broadmarsh	3BR/2.5BA	Townhomes	From \$304,900	Fritschle Group/Condominium Group	
Mon-Sat 10-5	Seaside Village, West Ocean City	3BR/2BA/2 half baths	Townhome	From \$289,900	Condominium Realty/Fritschle Group	
Thurs.-Mon. 11-5	12602 Bay Buoy Ct. West Ocean City	3,4,5BR/2.5-2.5BA	SF-New Construction	From \$299,900	Harbor Homes/Monogram	
Friday thru Sunday	Sunset Island	-	Condos, TH, SF	\$389K/\$509K/\$900K	Terry Riley/Vantage Resort	
Saturday 10-1	505 Edgewater Ave.- Ocean City	4BR/3.5BA	Townhome	\$599,900	Darryl Greer/Resort Real Estate	
Saturday 1-3	506 Tidewater Cove, The Point - OP	4BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$429,000	Cindy Crocket/Hileman Real Estate	
Sat & Sun 11-4 p.m.	Heron Harbour Sales Office, 120th St., Bayside	1BR/2/BR/3BR/4/BR+	Condo, Towns & SF	-	Nanette Pavier/Holiday Real Estate	
Sunday 12-3	13517 Madison Ave., Fenwick DE	3BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$1,149,000	Fritschle Group/Condominium Realty	
Sunday 12-5	Seaside Village, West Ocean City	3BR/2.5BA	Townhome	From \$289,900	Condominium Realty/Fritschle Group	
Sunday 12-5	70th St. Bayside Broadmarsh	3BR/2.5BA	Townhomes	From \$304,900	Fritschle Group/Condominium Group	

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