



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Comcast says its project will take two years

Upside: fiber optic network, downside: no pristine effort

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Dec. 5, 2019) After beginning its multi-year infrastructure build-out project for Internet and cable service in Ocean Pines last Wednesday, Comcast held a town hall meeting Tuesday at the community center to provide details on the endeavor.

OPA President Doug Parks opened the meeting by turning the podium over to former board member Tom Terry, after noting the pair worked closely with OPA attorney Jeremy Tucker on the Comcast deal.

"This is special folks," Terry said.

Tempering the good with bad, Terry said while the association would oversee the project's execu-

See COMCAST Page 6

HO-HO-HORSE

Santa Claus coordinates with an elfin assistant, while one of his reindeer substitutes expresses its opinion following the tree-lighting celebration in Berlin last Friday night.

Small businesses have big day with retail promotion

Small Business Saturday puts customers in stores

By Rachel Ravina
Staff Writer

(Dec. 5, 2019) For several business owners in downtown Berlin, Small Business Saturday this past weekend was a great success.

"I mean, I was thinking it was going to be busy, but it was ... packed, which was really fun," said Patti Backer, owner of The Dusty Lamb on William Street.

Backer opened her shop in March, so this was her first holiday season. While she didn't offer any specific discounts for the day, Backer said she sold many artworks and stocking stuffers, and was pleased with the

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Tonight: Berlin Christmas Parade

Going into its 49th year, holiday event guaranteed to draw another big crowd

By Rachel Ravina
Staff Writer

(Dec. 5, 2019) It's that time of year again, which means more than 80 floats will travel down Main Street tonight (Thursday) during the 49th annual Berlin Christmas Parade. This year's theme is "Magical Melodies: the Music of the Season."

The parade will take place from 7-9 p.m. along Main Street, starting at the Berlin Welcome Center on South Main Street, and ending at the Berlin Fire Company on North Main Street, according to event organizers.

See PARADE Page 6



FILE PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The OC Stars of Ocean City Elementary School perform last year during the 48th annual Berlin Christmas Parade.

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Yacht Club heats up winter deals

OP residents find amenity provides ample offseason options for entertainment

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Dec. 5, 2019) Despite cold temperatures causing some Ocean Pines residents to seek milder climates elsewhere, those remaining in town during the offseason will find that the yacht club is providing a wealth of food and entertainment specials to combat the winter doldrums.

Matt Ortt Companies cofounder Ralph DeAngelus, whose group inked a contact renewal for food operations at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club and Beach Club in August, said regardless of profit margins, residents can look forward to cold-weather fun inside the yacht club.

"We slow down because the amount of people in town has slowed down, but we're trying to keep as much activities as we can on the property for the people who have stuck around," he said.

DeAngelus said the intent is to cater to residents during all seasons, regardless of the strain that off-season offerings put on the ledger.

"It's always there [and] we're always going to have something for them," he said. "It's not always about making a big, giant profit."

The recent turkey-day fiesta at the yacht club was well received by the sizable crowd that took advantage of it, DeAngelus said.

"Thanksgiving was a spectacular success," he said. "We served almost 600 dinners and a lot of Ocean Pines families came in."

Looking ahead, DeAngelus highlighted an upcoming performance at the yacht club next Friday, Dec. 13 by Baltimore-based rock outfit Great Train Robbery

"They've been together for 40 years," he said.

Formed in 1977 in Bethany Beach, Delaware, Great Train Robbery's initial live performance was at the long-shuttered Finnigan's Rainbow in Ocean City. For parts of the last five decades, the southern rock-tinged Great Train Robbery has toured extensively, recorded eight releases and shared the stage with luminaries such as Blue Oyster Cult, the Allman Brothers Band, Lynyrd Skynyrd,

38 Special, and the Marshall Tucker Band.

"They were our biggest draw in the summertime," he said. "They're still doing it right and they're at the top of their game 40 years later, which is amazing."

While the warm weather show garnered a sufficient crowd to cover the cost of entertainment, the upcoming visit will require a slight bit of underwriting, DeAngelus said.

"They cost the same, only it's a free show in the summertime because there's so many more people we can serve drinks to and make a profit," he said. "In the wintertime here we have to charge a \$5 cover."

The minimal cover charge also buys entry to a significantly smaller venue inside the upstairs ballroom at the yacht club.

"In the ballroom you can only fit 200 people, as opposed to outside you could put almost a thousand," he said. "It's going to be a great show and it's certainly going to be more intimate."

Although a few tickets remain, speaking on Tuesday, DeAngelus said the

show is already nearly at capacity.

"We almost sold the full 200 tickets," he said. "We're convinced we're going to sell out."

Offseason dinner specials have also, again, proven to be popular.

"We did that last year in the spring and that went over well [so] we brought it back," he said. "It's a good value dinner, something we couldn't offer in the summertime."

DeAngelus said there are special plans afoot at the yacht club to both close out 2019 and open 2020.

"New Years' Eve is going to be spectacular upstairs in the ballroom," he said.

The shindig will feature, in addition to a full food spread and open bar, a live performance by local band Full Circle, at a cost of \$150 per person.

In preparation to briefly close the yacht club on Jan. 2 for wintertime maintenance, with plans to reopen the Friday of Super Bowl weekend, DeAngelus said half price lunch and dinner specials are on tap on New Years' Day.

"Every bit of food until it's gone," he said.

Golf committee delves into next season, maybe beyond

Annual report objectives weighed against multi-year approach to chart success

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Dec. 5, 2019) Besides discussing short-term turf maintenance strategies last Tuesday, the Ocean Pines Golf Committee also debated the merits of developing a multi-year improvement plan.

Focusing on concerns over fairway conditions on the eighth hole, committee member Frank Biancianiello said low spots exist that need to be filled.

"Just plain sand or ... peat moss isn't going to do it," he said. "You want to make sure that you get drainage and it soaks in."

In light of environmental challenges in that section of the course, Biancianiello questioned what type of grass seed could be used to thrive during summer but then survive through winter.

Ocean Pines Golf Director John Malinowski said diffused light and fluctuating temperatures make seeding the area difficult.

"If we can put some sod down ... it will already be healthy and sturdier and will be that much quicker to take root," he said.

Malinowski said the initial concern on the eighth fairway is improving the landing area, with work to clean and replace associated drainage already completed.

"That's the worst fairway for sunlight because all the trees are so high
See GOLF Page 5

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Small Business Saturday delivers big sales

Continued from Page 1
overall turnout.

"It was like 10 weekends combined like in really one day," Backer said. "I mean Friday was good, but Saturday was, I mean there were just so many people. And there were a lot of local people who came specifically to support Berlin, which was really nice."

Brenda Trice, owner of A Little Bit Sheepish on Main Street, agreed.

"It was a great weekend for us, absolutely," Trice said.

Her shop has been open for the past seven years. She said she offered 20 percent off all sock yarn this past weekend and 10 percent off all yarn on Monday for "Fiber Monday."

Trice estimated that hundreds of people stopped by her store and "it was a good Saturday."

Olga Kozhevnikova, owner of World of Toys on Main Street, said she was prepared for the busy holiday weekend and shopping event and had extra help. Her store has been open for nearly eight years.

"The Small Business Saturday it's always the best day of the year for us," Kozhevnikova said.

Kozhevnikova said 255 transactions were completed on Saturday. She said mailing 6,000 Christmas catalogues and having 25 percent off Melissa and Doug toys this weekend



Brenda Trice, owner of A Little Bit Sheepish, says she was pleased with the turnout at her store on Main Street during Small Business Saturday last weekend in downtown Berlin.

RACHEL RAVINA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

were major contributors to her success last weekend.

"I can tell you what we did in two days is one-third of the month's sale[s]," Kozhevnikova said.

Rachel Howard, public information officer for the Small Business Administration's Baltimore district office, said the event was created by American Express 10 years ago, and the federal agency joined eight years ago,

"[It's] just a way to bring attention to the importance of small business and again just ... to show them a little love and encourage folks to shop local and keep their dollars in the community," Howard said.

While the numbers are still preliminary, Howard said American Express estimated that in 2019 there were 110 million shoppers who said they shopped or dined locally, which translates to roughly \$19.6 billion. In

2018, there were 104 million shoppers and \$17.8 billion reportedly spent.

This shows an overall increase of six million shoppers and \$2 billion additional dollars, according to Howard's research.

"Small businesses give you that personal service. They've got customer services," Howard said. "They've got unique products and things you just can't find online."

Backer agreed and said shopping in downtown Berlin allows for a beautiful atmosphere.

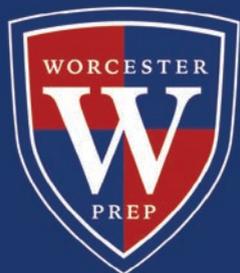
"I mean walking around Berlin it's ... such a pretty town, so that really makes a difference too," Backer said.

Howard also cited research that shows that 68 cents of every dollar spent locally stays in the community.

"It's just really important, they [the small business owners] really anchor the neighborhoods," she said.

Backer also said that shopping small allows for a more thoughtful purchase this holiday season.

"I think it makes people think about it because I think people a lot of times are so busy they just sort of shop conveniently instead of more mindfully, and I think maybe that makes them think, 'Oh, I'm supporting somebody local,' as opposed to maybe Walmart," Backer said.



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Open spots on county boards, commissions

(Dec. 5, 2019) Worcester County Government is currently seeking interest from county residents to volunteer to fill open seats on 24 boards and commissions.

In the event that Worcester County Government receives more individuals interested in volunteering for a particular committee than there are available seats, the commissioners will maintain an interest list to help fill future vacancies.

There are current vacancies on the following boards and commissions: Adult Public Guardianship Board (4), Commission on Aging Board (4),

Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board (2), Building Code Appeals Board (2), Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council (4), Economic Development Advisory Board (1), Board of Electrical Examiners (3), Ethics Board (1), Housing Review Board (2), Board of Library Trustees (2), Local Management Board/Initiative to Preserve Families Board (1), Local Development Council for the Ocean Downs Casino (4), Lower Shore Workforce Development Board (1), Planning Commission (2), Recreation Advisory Board (1), Social Services Advisory Board (1), Solid Waste Advisory Com-

mittee (5), Tourism Advisory Committee (2), Water and Sewer Advisory Councils - in Mystic Harbour (2), Ocean Pines (1), and West Ocean City (2), Commission for Women (5), and Board of Zoning Appeals (2).

Members of these boards and commissions are appointed by the Worcester County Commissioners.

There is currently one vacancy as an alternate on the Worcester County Property Tax Assessment Appeal Board.

Members are nominated by the County Commissioners, with final appointment by the governor of Maryland.

Send a letter of interest, along with a resume or cover letter outlining any pertinent experience, to admin@co.worcester.md.us or Worcester County Administration at One West Market Street, Room 1103, Snow Hill, Maryland 21863.

Visit www.co.worcester.md.us and under Important Links click on County Boards and Commissions to learn about the duties and responsibilities for each board.

For more information, contact Kim Moses, public information officer, or Karen Hammer, office assistant IV, at 410-632-1194.

Golf committee vets short, long-term plans

Continued from Page 2

[and] it gets the least amount of sunlight out of all of them," he said.

Committee member Olga Novy asked Malinowski about the results of recently completed golf course soil tests.

"The soil sample seem to be ok [and] there was nothing that's lacking," he said.

Malinowski concurred with Novy that lack of sunlight is the problem on that stretch.

"When it gets wet it stays wet," he said.

Biancaniello asked if earlier suggestions, such as removing trees, are still under consideration.

"I know you all had taken out a lot of trees," he said. "Is there plans to take out more?"

Malinowski said limited trimming is scheduled but removing further trees is unlikely because such action could encroach on nearby properties.

"We're going to do what we can to improve air flow," he said. "Putting

the fans up there ... really helped that out."

Malinowski also noted that the recent return of Golf Course Superintendent Andre Jordan following a brief absence would allow a number of wintertime maintenance projects to begin.

Reviving a proposal from the group's previous meeting, Biancaniello suggested a multi-year plan might be useful to track an array of improvements under consideration.

"There's a whole lot of things that need to be done," he said. "What about making up a list of those items and then see how many we can knock off a year until they're done."

Taking a big picture perspective to maintaining the course and increasing club membership, Biancaniello

hit upon two key points.

"How enjoyable do people find the course [and] do they feel comfortable in the clubhouse?" he said.

Biancaniello said continued success is likely tied to insuring a welcoming environment on the greens, along with providing adequate food and beverage options to foster clubhouse fraternizing.

"If you do that, I believe, everything else is taken care of,"

he said. "Memberships will go up; property owners will play there more often, and you'll attract more people from the outside."

Committee Chairman Larry Davies said those sentiments are echoed in the group's recently compiled annual report.

"It's all about quality, it's all about course conditions, it's all about customer service," he said.

While in full agreement, Biancaniello said a long-term approach would allow objectives not accomplished one year to be prioritized.

"I'm trying to throw out some ideas so that every time you turn around we don't take one step forward and two back," he said.

Noting the course is currently in a transitional state, most importantly with the ongoing clubhouse project, Novy proposed adopting a wait-and-see approach before charting a long-term path.

"This season was a challenge for John [Malinowski] and it was a challenge for everybody," she said.

Davies agreed while noting with the pending completion of the golf clubhouse, including a revamped Terns Grille operated by the Matt Ortt Companies, the keys to success may already be in hand.

"Hopefully we do the right things ... so the course is maintained through the summer," he said. "If we do that we're on our way."

'I'm trying to throw out some ideas so that every time you turn around we don't take one step forward and two back.'

Committee Chairman,
Larry Davies

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Comcast provides project details

Continued from Page 1
tion, work will be ongoing for up to the next two years.

“It is my job to inform you ... that this is going to be a construction site,” he said. “Be aware this is not going to be a pristine finger-food effort.”

Comcast Director of Technical Operations Tom Yates said Comcast plans to install fiber optic cable to feed specific nodes, or areas of homes, typically comprising 60 residences.

“What we’re building here is a hybrid fiber-coax network,” he said.

Yates said Ocean Pines service network would consist of 130 nodes divided into eight sections.

“We’ll be able to do the activations by sections,” he said.

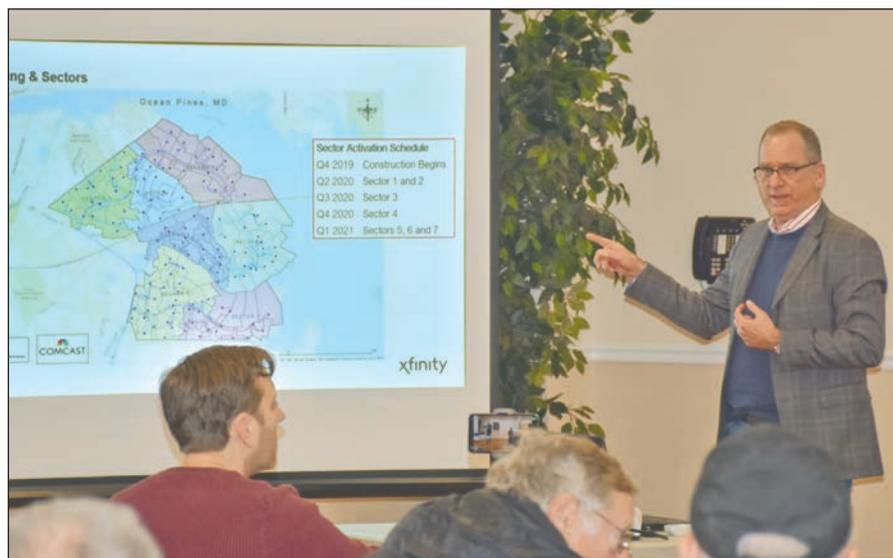
Individual properties will be connected to adjacent nodes within 1,000 feet by coaxial cable

“We’ll be putting new cable all the way to the side of your house,” he said.

Yates also said lines would be placed about two-feet underground.

“We will not cut driveways and we will not cut roads,” he said.

Noting the entire scope of work would likely run until at least early 2021, Yates said more precise estimates would be forthcoming.



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Comcast Director of Technical Operation Tom Yates said updated overlay map detailing sectional work to install fiber and coaxial cables in Ocean Pines will be available online as work proceeds.

“We’ll need about a month to understand how much we can do in a given day,” he said. “We’ll know more as we get into the month of December.”

Yates said the first two sections, in northwest Ocean Pines, should be completed by the middle of 2020.

“Before we’ll do any construction, you’ll see a door tag that will be placed in every home a couple days

prior,” he said.

Parks also reported that a meeting with current digital services provider, Mediacom, is set for this Thursday to discuss its plans in light of the upcoming market competition.

“Mediacom is still a service provider ... in Ocean Pines and they will continue to do so until they decide they no longer want to provide their services,” he said.

Parade draws big crowd to Berlin

Continued from Page 1

Spectators who drive to town can find additional parking and a free shuttle to and from the event at Berlin Intermediate School, off Route 113.

Ivy Wells, Berlin’s community and economic development director, said parade-goers will often set up folding chairs along Main Street hours before the event starts in order to get a good spot.

“The parade doesn’t start until 7 [p.m.], but usually, the chairs start arriving around noon,” Wells said.

She said parade judges will score the bands and floats, with the latter in

the children’s, fire company, commercial, and nonprofit categories.

Judging the parade this year will be Lou Taylor, superintendent of Worcester County Public Schools Superintendent, Elaine Brady, assistant publisher for the Bayside Gazette and Ocean City Today newspapers, Steve Frene, former co-owner of Victorian Charm, longtime judge Bill Shockley, and James Tingle, a “local celebrity” and former mailman in Berlin.

Tingle, a first-time judge, said the panel will be “looking for dedication, accuracy, presentation and their theme for the [Berlin] Christmas Pa-

rade.”

Tingle has attended the Berlin Christmas Parade for the past three decades.

“The Town of Berlin looks forward to it ... it’s just an exciting time for Berlin, period,” Tingle said. “It’s a kickoff for Christmas. It just gets the spirit just flowing even greater.”

Wells agreed, and said that the evening time slot helps make it so.

“It’s magical ... it’s just a different feeling when it’s at night,” she said.

Additional details on the Berlin Christmas Parade” may be found on its Facebook page.

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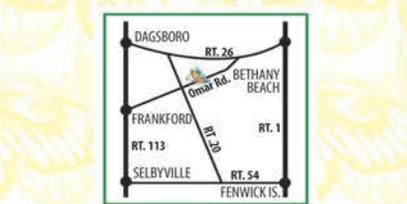
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Berlin audit: 'unmodified opinion'

Report displays breakdown of town's revenues, utilities, expenditures for fiscal year

By Rachel Ravina
Staff Writer

(Dec. 5, 2019) The clean bill of fiscal health issued to the Town of Berlin following a PKS & Company audit of fiscal year 2019 revenues and expenditures is assurance that town government has been keeping its eye on the books as it rebuilds its municipal fortunes.

That, in effect, is what PKS partner Michael Klager, and audit manager Leslie Michalik said last week as they presented its annual audit report to the mayor and council.

When evaluating the Town of Berlin's finances, auditors reported that the year-end fund balance was \$5.16 million, slightly down from the \$5.25 million balance in 2018.

As for revenues, the town collected \$6.59 million in 2019 as compared to about \$5.96 million in 2018, according to the audit report. Leading sources of that income were property taxes, intergovernmental revenues and service charges to other funds. Roughly \$3.36 million of that total came from property taxes, as compared to \$3.12 million in 2018, according to the audit report.

Intergovernmental revenues accounted for about 19 percent, with \$1.26 million coming in during 2019 as compared to \$1.19 million in 2018.

Service charges to other funds — \$826,131 last year, and \$798,057 in 2018 — made up about 13 percent of the year's revenues.

Expenditures for fiscal year 2019 totaled \$6.69 million as compared to roughly \$7.75 million the year before. Public safety, general government and public works were the top ex-

penses for the fiscal year.

Public safety, which accounts for 37 percent of expenses, had \$2.46 million in fiscal year 2019, up about \$350,000 from the year before, while general government, cost \$1.16 million as compared to \$1.42 million in 2018.

Additionally, public works had \$976,773 in expenditures for this year as compared to \$1.04 million last year, according to the audit re-

'I have a feeling that ... we'll have a plan for FY21 starting July 1, [2020] as to what we expect the repayment process to be and then in a year we can review it...'

Berlin Mayor, Gee Williams

port. Public works accounted for 15 percent of expenditures.

Of the unrestricted funds found in the fiscal year ending on June 30, which is comprised of committed, assigned and unassigned categories, there's a little more than three months of operating expenditures, according to the audit report.

Klager and Michalik recommended that the "town establish a formal policy setting the level of [the]unrestricted fund balance that should be maintained in the general fund."

The audit also broke down the town's enterprise funds for sewer, water, stormwater, and electric. Among the four utilities, the auditors recommended the town devote resources to rehabilitating the town's sewer fund.

There's also a decrease in the

fund's net position prior to "special connection fees" of \$170,329 as compared to \$567,860 last year.

"At June 30, 2019, the sewer fund owes the general fund \$3,384,000 and \$374,000 to the water fund," the audit stated.

Klager and Michalik suggested the town establish a repayment plan for the sewer fund. Among several recommendations, they said officials should inquire if "the town has the intention and ability to repay this amount?"

As for the remaining utility funds, the electric utility had \$349,376 in operating income for 2019, according to the audit report. There was also a change in the net position: there was \$186,011 as compared to \$608,250 last year.

The water fund had a \$202,048 operating loss for 2019, according to the audit report. There was a change in the water fund's net position with \$203,562 reported for this year and \$139,593 accounted for last year.

The stormwater fund had a \$98,796 operating loss for 2019, according to the audit report. There was a change to the fund's net position with \$22,010 reported this year as compared to \$879,107 last year.

When addressing last year's budget cycle, Berlin's Mayor Gee Williams said he'd like to see how the newly restructured rates could minimize the sewer fund's debt in upcoming budget sessions.

"I have a feeling that ... we'll have a plan for FY21 starting July 1, [2020] as to what we expect the repayment process to be and then in a year we can review it and then determine is that realistic and if not do we need [to] make some additional adjustments to make it realistic." Williams said during last week's Town Council meeting.

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McMullen, Underkoffler team up on tennis

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Dec. 5, 2019) After decades of involvement with racquet sports in Ocean Pines, Tim McMullen is joining tennis pro Terry Underkoffler as facilities manager for the Manklin Meadows Racquet Sports Complex, with the longtime cohorts looking to enhance efforts to introduce the sport to younger players.

McMullen, who relocated to Ocean Pines 45 years ago, signed on after OPA Operations Director Colby Phillips recently proposed the position.

“My late wife, Mary McMullen, and I started the summer youth program and [later] I was chairman of the recreation committee for several years,” he said.

McMullen was also sold on the opportunity to work in conjunction with Underkoffler after spending the last five seasons as his assistant tennis coach at Worcester Preparatory School.

“Five years ago I started to coach tennis at Worcester Prep with him and I’ve seen firsthand what a phenomenal job he does with instruction,” he said. “The other part of that is for the last two springs Worcester Prep practiced at Ocean Pines.”

Although Underkoffler will retain his title as tennis pro, he does envision the revamped management structure permitting more focus on instructional offerings.



Tim McMullen

“Basically, what we’re wanting to do is organize our resources that we have onsite already,” he said. “It has a lot of potential and we’re looking to grow and expand it.”

While touting Underkoffler as being certified as an instructor by the United States Tennis Association, McMullen said an increased emphasis would be placed on attracting younger players to sample racquet sports.

“I think you’ll see far more programs for young people in tennis,” he said.

Underkoffler noted youth-oriented seeds are already germinating.

“We’re looking to create a partnership with Camp Ocean Pines and have the kids ... come in the racquet center at least once a week,” he said. “We’re trying to get as many kids exposed as possible.”

In addition to weekly camps and clinics for tennis, platform tennis or pickleball, Underkoffler said camp participants could also gain exposure to golf and aquatics instruction.

“Now they’re getting a taste of what our amenities are all about and getting a taste of [what] lifetime sports ... can offer for recreation,” he said.

After spending more than four decades as a teacher, Underkoffler has



T. Underkoffler

gained insight on channeling youthful exuberance.

“I taught elementary school for 25 years [and] I know kids love playing anything,” he said. “You give them a racquet in their hands

... and have them play in games, you’ll get them.”

Before bouncing into tennis instruction, Underkoffler combined his teaching career with coaching soccer.

“I’ve been coaching soccer for over 40-plus years,” he said. “I started a state team Olympic development program that I’ve been involved with for 40 years and I’ve helped get over 10 players to national team level.”

In more recent years, Underkoffler acted on advice from a fellow soccer player and pursued certification to teach tennis.

“I like a new challenge,” he said. “I also knew my days of soccer were winding down, so to speak.”

From his multi-sport purview, Underkoffler appreciates the need to be up to date on modern sports instruction techniques.

“I understand the value of coaching and coaches getting certified,” he said. “I’m a strong believer in if you’re going to teach, you should be certified.”

Underkoffler said while playing experience does provide foundational knowledge, having appropriate athletic instructional certification is not too dissimilar from medical licensures.

“Let me know how your fist colonoscopy goes with somebody that’s not certified,” he said. “There’s something to be said for learning the steps and going through best practices of how they want it taught from the national and regional level.”

While teaching baby steps may yield future champions, bringing in spectator-worthy competition is also underway.

“I’ve already established some good contacts with the USTA Mid-Atlantic region,” he said. “We are looking to bring in some tennis events into our complex.”

While plans are still being set, Underkoffler said the marketing push could nationally ranked and recreational tennis tournaments.

“It will be a mixed variety but generally we’re looking at expanding offerings not only for the people that already ... play tennis there, but to draw new people in as well,” he said.

Underkoffler credited the Ocean Pines Pickleball Club with already charting a course to attract visitors from far and wide.

See HOOKING Page 9



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Hooking kids on racquet sports

Continued from Page 8

“Our pickleball membership runs two tournaments and they already get people nationally,” he said. “You’re getting people from as far as California, Arizona and places like that to come to Ocean Pines to play pickleball in a tournament. That sport’s exploding.”

To bolster the teaching ranks, and following the example set by Underkoffler, one pickleball advocate followed suit and became certified.

“Linda Horst went out and got her national pickleball certification,” he said. “We’re going to organize [those] strong resources that we already have.”

Underkoffler also noted the involvement of Araceli Popen, who previously introduced “Timeless Tennis” in Ocean Pines after recognizing the half-dozen platform tennis courts at the racquet sports complex would provide an ideal layout.

“She teaches older folks who can’t maybe move as much as they used to and takes them onto a platform court,

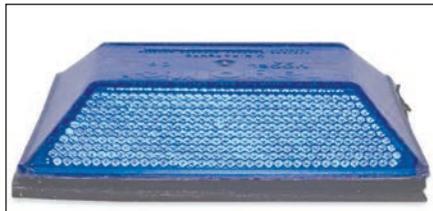
with a lower compression tennis ball and they play “Timeless Tennis,” he said. “It’s a smaller court [so] the ball doesn’t bounce as hard but they’re still playing tennis.”

Popen’s extensive tennis resume includes operating free summer clinics in both Dover and Georgetown, Delaware for more than a decade, as well as running a USTA-sanctioned junior tennis tournament for 20 years that was founded by her father. In 2011, Popen was inducted into the Delaware Tennis Hall of Fame.

With a wealth of tennis, platform tennis and pickleball advocates already working to promote racquet sports, the revised management structure should push those efforts to even greater heights, McMullen said.

“We are going to be part of a tremendous time to be a property owner in Ocean Pines,” he said. “I’ve been a property owner since 1974 and I cannot think of any other time that I’ve been more excited about what’s going on in Ocean Pines.”

Reflective road markers in OP to identify hydrants



COURTESY OCEAN PINES FIRE DEPARTMENT
To hasten response time to residences, about 500 reflective road markers are being installed to quickly identify hydrants in Ocean Pines.

(Dec. 5, 2019) In a push to make fire department responses to area homes more efficient, the Ocean Pines Fire Department recently purchased approximately 500 small, blue reflective road markers to identify fire hydrant locations.

The reflective markers will be placed on the roads wherever there is a fire hydrant, so the hydrant can be located quickly at any time of day. The department has said that motorists can drive directly over the markers, as they should not damage either the vehicles or markers themselves.

This tool has proved to be successful in producing swift responses in other jurisdictions. Most agencies show all hydrants on district maps and local companies are familiar with their assigned areas, but sometimes, due to landscaping or overgrowth, the hy-

drants can be difficult to locate, even in the best lighting conditions.

They will also be helpful for other departments who come to assist Ocean Pines.

When the Ocean Pines Fire Department responds to emergencies, time is of the essence. Residents are asked to make sure house numbers are visible from the road, and that hydrants on their property appear accessible.

The Ocean Pines Fire Department personnel will be out in local neighborhoods in the coming weeks installing these fire hydrant markers.

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PHOTO COURTESY CHRISTINE FOX-ROBERTS

The Capital Ringers, a community English handbell ensemble based in Lewes, Delaware, bring its multi-octave presentation, "Ring Christmas Bells," to the Community Church in Ocean Pines on Saturday starting at 7 p.m.

Capital Ringers bring wide octaves to Pines

English handbell ensemble based in Lewes, Delaware, to perform at 7 p.m., Sat.

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Dec. 5, 2019) Now in its 15th season, the Capital Ringers, an English handbell ensemble based in Lewes, Delaware, will bring octaves of heavenly tones to the Community Church

in Ocean Pines for a performance on Saturday, Dec. 7 starting at 7 p.m.

Lewes, Delaware resident David Mangler, who joined the ensemble roughly a year ago, began playing music at age 5, eventually mastering a variety of brass and woodwind instruments during high school.

"Our claim to fame is that we own the largest set of handbells and handchimes on the peninsula," he said.

The nonprofit ensemble was

formed in 2004 by Linda Simms as a means to expose the public to the variety of English handbells and handchimes.

"People that aren't familiar with handchimes think of bells sort of tingling [and] you shake them back and forth," he said.

Mangler said handbells are made of brass, which allows a wide range of tones to be produced.

"They are tuned with perfect tone for each note," he said. "The music that we perform is complex."

This year the Capital Ringers' winter tour, "Ring Christmas Bells" includes traditional music such as "Winter Wonderland" and modern classics, such as the Trans-Siberian Orchestra's "Wizard in Winter."

"Comparatively, handbells in the United States is a relatively new instrument," he said.

Mangler said different playing techniques also give the bells varying tonal qualities.

"Bells not only ring but you can use percussion mallets on them and get different sounds out of them," he said.

In fact, to lay a foundational beat, the Capital Ringers features a percussionist.

"We also have a percussionist who joins us who's well known is his own right," he said. "Ken Schleifer, who performs with jazz trio(s) 5th Avenue, And Second Time Around."

Mangler said besides the winter tour schedule, the handbell choir also hits the trail for a series of performances each spring.

"Our upcoming spring concert after the first of the year is going to be all rock music," he said. "If anybody has ever wanted to hear ... things like Bohemian Rhapsody done on handbells, you're going to have an opportunity."

Besides delighting audiences, one of the Capital Ringers principal missions is to educate the next generation about the instruments.

"One of our primary goals is to do educational outreach into school systems to expose handbells and handchimes to [school] music departments," he said. "One of our fundraisers this year is to ... purchase sets of hand chimes in order to put those ... in the hands of students."

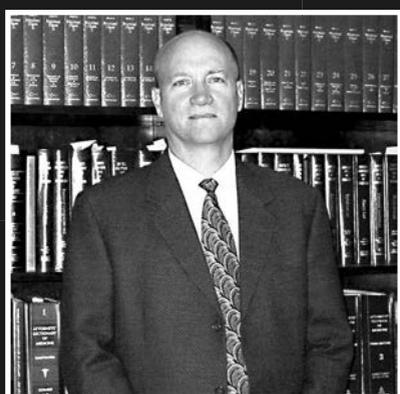
For ticket sales, go to www.brownpapertickets.com.

For more info visit www.capitalringers.org or call 302-745-0359.

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Pup of Pines winner embraces title

Annual canine ambassador role presented to friendly Burmese mountain dog

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Dec. 5, 2019) Ocean Pines has a new canine ambassador, Teddy, 2, an exuberantly friendly Burmese mountain dog who was crowned “Pup of the Pines” during the Hometown Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony in White Horse Park last weekend.

Teddy, and owner Laura Breslau, were on hand to accept the accolade on Saturday.

“It was funny because when they announced his name he almost acted like he knew he had won,” she said.

To the crowd’s amusement, after his name was revealed, Teddy promptly pulled Breslau to stage center for a moment in the spotlight.

“They all started cheering and then he raced up to the podium like he knew he was supposed to go up there,” she said.

In addition to receiving free registration to the Ocean Pines Dog Park for 2020, Teddy will also serve as the face of the amenity, as well as being featured in the OP activity guide and other association postings during the year.

Breslau said the ever-affable Teddy

is well behaved, short of a penchant for digging holes.

“He likes walks, but not too long, and loves car rides,” she said.

In contrast to his breed’s moniker, besides residing in Ocean Pines Teddy also spends ample time on the sands in Ocean City.

“Burmese beach dog [is what] we call him,” she said. “He hates the water though and will not get his paws wet even in a puddle.”

Breslau attributes Teddy garnering the most votes among the nearly two dozen adorable pooches competing for the title to his magnetic personality, which has become nearly legendary among nearby residents.

“He’s got a lot of fans in his neighborhood and we think that helped his vote that they all knew he was in the contest,” she said. “When we walk him around the ‘Point,’ people come out of their house just to see him.”

Arguably already a celebrity canine in the Point neighborhood, Teddy will now expand his paw print to the larger Ocean Pines area.

“He’s expanded his fame,” she said. “He doesn’t know strangers [or] how to be mean, he just loves everyone.”

Breslau said from what could be deciphered during his award acceptance barks, Teddy expressed gratitude for the honor and plans to approach the post with dogged dili-



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Quickly adapting to notoriety, Teddy, 2, a vivacious Burmese mountain dog, takes center stage with owner Laura Breslau after winning the “Pup of the Pines” title, while Pure International Preteen Miss Maryland Sweetheart MaryAnn Catherine pets the seemingly pleased pooch, during the Ocean Pines Hometown Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony in White Horse Park on Saturday.

gence.

“He says, ‘Thank you to everyone that voted,’ and he plans to do his job and greet everyone through the pines,” she said.

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Chili contest collecting toys, cash for charity

Annual Hots 4 Tots raises money for local nonprofit Worcester County G.O.L.D.

By Morgan Pilz
Staff Writer

(Dec. 5, 2019) Local restaurants will showcase their chili during the 22nd annual Hots 4 Tots Chili Cookoff at the Greene Turtle in West Ocean City, Sunday, Dec. 8.

The Cookoff raises funds and collects toys for Worcester County G.O.L.D. (Giving Other Lives Dignity), a local nonprofit helping children, adults and families in need during the holiday season.

“Originally, it was started by the parrot heads, the Parrothead Club of Ocean City, which is unfortunately no longer in existence, but it’s something that they started years ago to help benefit Worcester County G.O.L.D. and get toys for needy families in Worcester County,” said Chili Cookoff Organizer Joel Feldman of the Horizon Group Team at Keller Williams Realty.

For 19 years, the Parrothead Club of Ocean City sponsored the Chili Cookoff and when the group disbanded, Feldman and his team offered to take over the event.

away, we didn’t want to see it stop,” Feldman said. “We’ve all kind of pitched in and everybody’s continued to keep it going.”

Several restaurants will provide samples of their chili, ranging from spicy, hot and mild in the attendee-judged competition.

Attendees will vote for their favorite recipe to determine which restaurant will take home the top prize. First place will receive \$250, second place and best in show will each take home \$100, and \$50 will be given to the third-place finisher.

There will also be a best in show award, which has nothing to do with chili and everything to do with how the restaurants involved decorate their stations, Feldman said.

“We don’t want people to show up with a black tablecloth and say, ‘Here’s our chili,’” he said. “We want them to get into it, especially during the holidays.”

Music will be provided by DJ BK, and drink specials will also be available.

Last year, about 200 people attended the event and donated enough toys to fill two SUVs for Worcester County G.O.L.D. About \$3,000 was raised for the organization as well.

“The toys came in and there’s just so many of them that it’s just hard to



FILE PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Kiel June, left, and David Casteel represent Pickles Pub on Eighth Street, which won first place during the Chili Cookoff at the Greene Turtle in West Ocean City, last year.

accurately count how many we had, but it was a pretty big amount,” Feldman said.

Last year, Pickles Pub on Eighth Street won first place. Cork Bar on Wicomico Street placed second, Ocean 13 on 13th Street and the Boardwalk took third and Tequila West in West Ocean City earned the best in show award.

The event is sponsored by the

Horizon Group Team at Keller Williams and Shore Grounds Maintenance.

Greene Turtle West, is one of the key components of the competition, Feldman said.

“Just the fact that the Greene Turtle basically closes down their whole operation ... they take all the tables out, they take all the booths out ...

See FOURTEEN Page 13

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SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Atlantic General Hospital's John H. "Jack" Burbage, Jr. Regional Cancer Care Center has been named a 2019 Guardian of Excellence Award winner by Press Ganey.

AGH Cancer Center receives award

(Dec. 5, 2019) Atlantic General Hospital has announced that its John H. "Jack" Burbage, Jr. Regional Cancer Care Center has been named a 2019 Guardian of Excellence Award winner by Press Ganey.

The Guardian of Excellence Award recognizes top-performing health care organizations that have achieved the 95th percentile or above of performance in patient satisfaction.

The Press Ganey Guardian of Excellence Award is a nationally-recognized symbol of achievement in health care.

Presented annually, the award

honors clients who consistently sustained performance in the top 5 percent of all Press Ganey clients for each reporting period during the course of one year.

More than 375 cancer centers across the country contract with Press Ganey to survey their patients in the various areas of patient experience, including overall satisfaction with their care.

"We understand that a cancer diagnosis can be overwhelming and we interact with people when they're at their most vulnerable," said Rabintra Paul, MD, medical oncologist and medical

director of the Burbage Regional Cancer Care Center. "We take their care very seriously. This isn't limited to their specific treatment and clinical outcomes. It includes their emotional health and making sure that our patients and families experience the least amount of stress possible."

"The Guardian of Excellence Award is a testament to the outstanding patient care our cancer center team provides every day," said Patricia Marks, director of the Burbage Cancer Care Center. "It's what our patients deserve, and I'm very proud of our staff."

Assoc. of Realtors installs new board of directors in OC

(Dec. 5, 2019) The Coastal Association of Realtors (Coastal) installed its 2019-2020 Board of Directors at a recent ceremony at The Embers Restaurant in Ocean City.

Joe Wilson, a Realtor and broker of Coastal Life Realty Group in Ocean City, was installed as president of the association's board.

"I'm looking forward to working with my colleagues to find new ways that our members can serve their clients and their communities," Wilson said. "As we enter a new decade, we embrace the changing landscape of our industry while continuing to uphold the Realtor brand as being the most trusted and accurate local real estate professionals."

Wilson, along with the rest of the board, was installed by Maryland Realtors President John Harrison.

The following members were also installed during the ceremony:

President-Elect Joni Williamson, ERA Martin Associates, Salisbury

Vice President Grace Masten, Sea Grace at North Beach Realtors, Ocean City

Secretary/Treasurer Brigit Taylor, Keller Williams Realty, Bethany Beach,

See COASTAL Page 14

Fourteen restaurants competing

Continued from Page 12
there is food available, however, they close down for the event," Feldman said. "They really do give up a lot for us to be able to hold the function there because it's a lot of work for them as well. So we just want to make sure that people understand what they're sacrificing as well."

West Ocean City Greene Turtle, Pickles Pub, Cork Bar, Ocean 13, Tequila West, Shotti's Point, Boxcar 40, Lazy River Saloon, Bourbon

Street, Alley Oops, Ropewalk, 45th Street Taphouse, Lucky Anchor and Matt Ortt Companies are all slated to compete. Restaurants can still sign up for the competition until the end of the day Friday, Oct. 6.

"Any restaurant that wants to get in they can still get in," Feldman said. "It's a good time. And honestly, it's gotten fairly competitive these last couple of years."

The cost of admission is \$10 or a new, unwrapped children's toy.

Worcester G.O.L.D. asks that donations not include toy weapons, jewelry or singular gifts exceeding \$40 in value.

The Chili Cookoff will take place from 1-4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8, at the West Ocean City Greene Turtle on Route 611. Doors will open at 12:30 p.m.

Restaurant representatives can sign up to participate in the Chili Cookoff by contacting Feldman at Joel@HorizonGroupRealEstate.com or call 410-365-7344.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The Coastal Association of Realtors (Coastal) installed its 2019-2020 Board of Directors at a recent ceremony at The Embers Restaurant in Ocean City. Pictured, in back, from left, are Steve Parsons, Austin Whitehead, Joe Wilson, Grant Fritschle, Cameron Johnson and Jackson St. Jean, and in front, Joni Williamson, Bernie Flax, Brigit Taylor, Cameron Drew and Grace Masten.

Coastal Realtors installs board

Continued from Page 13
Delaware

Immediate Past President Bernie Flax, EXIT Realty At The Beach, Ocean Pines

Director Cameron Drew, Hileman Real Estate, Berlin

Director Grant Fritschle, Condominium Realty, Ocean City

Director Brandon Johnson, ERA Martin Associates, Salisbury

Director Steve Parsons, Coldwell Banker Residential, Salisbury

Director Jackson St. Jean, Hileman

Real Estate, Berlin

Director Austin Whitehead, Whitehead Real Estate Executives, Salisbury

"We have a great group of professionals to lead us into 2020," said Page Browning, executive vice president of Coastal Association of Realtors.

For more information about Coastal Association of Realtors, call 410-641-4409 or visit www.coastalrealtors.org.

The Coastal Association of Realtors represents over 1,000 real estate professionals in Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties.



FILE PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Showing off their studio last year during the third annual Berlin Artist Studio Tour throughout downtown Berlin are Stuart Gibbs, Richard Gibbs and Geoff Threadgill.

Fourth annual Berlin Holiday Studio Tour returns to town

By Rachel Ravina
Staff Writer

(Dec. 5, 2019) Residents and visitors can get an inside look at several artists' studios throughout Berlin this Saturday during the Berlin Holiday Studio Tour.

The fourth annual studio tour will take place from 12-6 p.m. on Dec. 7. Admission is free, and maps will be available in the Berlin Welcome Center's foyer on South Main Street, as well as Baked Dessert Cafe on Bay Street.

Heather Layton, president of Berlin's Arts and Entertainment Committee, said she started the event to pay tribute to the town's creative people.

"Several towns up and down the East Coast and all over, I'm sure, put something like this on, and I just thought we should do the same for our artists," Layton said. "I mean, after all, we wouldn't be an arts and entertainment district without the artists."

Layton said she's excited about this year's crop of artists participating in the tour.

"We have some really, really solid artists in town, and I mean I feel like

we're super lucky they call Berlin home," Layton said.

The following artists will participate in the Berlin Holiday Studio Tour:

- Artist Patti Backer, owner of The Dusty Lamb, has her studio on 12 William St.

- Artist Caroline F. Downes, of CFD Fine Jewelry, has a studio located on 16 N. Main St., Unit 4.

- Stuart Gibbs, Richard Gibbs and Geoff Threadgill have a studio on 309 Bay St., Unit B.

- Artist Patrick Henry, of Henry Fine Arts Gallery, has his studio on 9928 Old Ocean City Blvd.

- Painters Lynne Lockhart and Kirk McBride have a studio located on 18 Burley St.

- Artist Brian Robertson, of the Berlin Printery, has a studio on 16 N. Main St.

- Artist Deborah Rolig's home studio is located on 200 Washington St.

- Artist Barbara Scheihing, of Barbara Scheihing Fine Arts, has a studio located on 15 Burley St.

- Artist Tim Thompson's home studio is located on 200 Washington St.

See ARTISTS Page 16

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Guiding good choices to keep kids off drugs

No-cost parenting course provides tools to address potential abuse problems

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Dec. 5, 2019) Providing parents the tools to foster healthy life decisions, especially regarding drug and alcohol experimentation, is the intent of the Worcester County Health Department's "Guiding Good Choices" classes, which begin this Monday, Dec. 9.

Dave Baker, health department alcohol and drug prevention coordinator, said the free five-week series would be held in Berlin each Monday at 5:30 p.m. at the Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services center, 124 S. Main Street, Suite C.

"It's about parenting behaviors but also teaching parents how to look out for any drug use or any signs that something is going wrong," he said.

For about the last quarter century, the family competency training class has provided current data about the evolution of illicit substances youths might be exposed to from peer groups.

"Teaching the kids refusal skills when somebody offers them something," he said.

Targeted at parents of middle school age children, the class series also delves into topics such as anger management and forming healthy bonds.

"Explaining to parents what kind of drugs are out there [and] what the kids might get into," he said.

The good choices interactive course was designed by social scientists to help parents and guardians support youths who are navigating through challenging situations.

"We bring somebody from the community, either from one of the schools or a police officer, to talk about what's going on in the community," he said.

The street-level insights are often eye-opening for parents.

"In this day and age, there's a lot of questions about what's happening out there with heroin and stuff," he said. "This is a good chance for them to actually talk to somebody and learn some skills on what to do if they suspect things."

Baker said the advent of social

media has made accessing illegal substances easier.

"One thing parents have to realize, compared to when they were younger, is that social media makes things more available," he said. "They don't realize how available this stuff is to the kids."

Talking about the dangers of drug use, and the increasing incidence of overdose deaths stemming from powerful drugs such as fentanyl, could be the key to encouraging youth

to bypass dangerous drug-related situations.

"Of course, the key is never start," he said.

'It's about parenting behaviors but also teaching parents how to look out for any drug use or any signs that something is going wrong.'

Dave Baker, health department alcohol and drug prevention coordinator

Artists open homes, studios for guests to see creations

Continued from Page 14

• Artist Austin Widdowson's home studio is on 505 Sunlight Lane, Unit 4.

• Wooden Octopus' studio is on 8 Jefferson St.

Layton said patrons can also use this event to get a great deal on a piece of art. Artist Deborah Rolig said she plans to "deeply discount" her work, and Patti Backer, of The Dusty Lamb, said her prices range from \$4-\$550.

"There's truly a price point for absolutely everyone," Layton said.

Rolig, who has participated in the past several studio tours, said she's looking forward to meeting tour participants in her home.

"I ... love having people come into my house and be able to look through my work causally," Rolig said.

Rolig describes her paintings and assemblage pieces as "quirky" and "fun." Backer, who has a similar

eclectic style, said she loves how the event allows for people to get to know the artists.

"I think it's great because I think it's really fun for people to see where artists work," Backer said. "And also I mean you kind of get to hang out with them a little bit, which is also fun if maybe you haven't met them."

Rolig agreed.

"It's an opportunity for people that have no idea what it's like to walk into an artists' studio and to actually see the space that art is created in," Rolig said.

She added that she'd like for people attending the studio tours to "take away some sense of freedom of expression, and they through me they can see that art is playful and fun, and I just want them to enjoy themselves."

For more information about the upcoming event, visit the "4th Annual Berlin Holiday Studio Tour" Facebook page.

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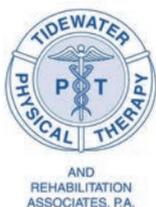
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Police allege four people involved in drug distribution

(Dec. 5, 2019) A three-month investigation into a cocaine distribution ring resulted in the Nov. 19 indictment of three Berlin residents and a resident of Snow Hill, the Worcester County Sheriff's Office reported last week.



Charles Johnson

The investigation by the Worcester County Criminal Enforcement Team was aided by a raid on a Flower Street residence in Berlin that netted 147 grams of cocaine, a handgun, and packaging materials, law enforcement officials said.

In addition, a police traffic stop related to the investigation resulted in the apprehension of another suspect, according to a sheriff's office statement.

Currently being held without bond in the Worcester County Jail is Charles Johnson, 31, of Berlin, who was indicted on seven counts: possession with intent distribute cocaine, possession cocaine, manufacture of crack cocaine, possession of narcotic production equipment, illegal possession of a firearm, possession of a firearm during the course of a drug trafficking crime, illegal possession of ammunition.



E. Rasario

Released after posting \$5,000 bond was Dashon Drummond, 27 of Berlin, who faces charges of possession with intent distribute cocaine, and possession cocaine.



Joshua King

Elizabeth Rosario, 25, of Berlin, who is being held without bond in the county jail, faces charges of possession with intent to distribute cocaine, possession of cocaine, and maintaining a common nuisance for the distribution of cocaine.

Snow Hill resident Joshua King, 24, is charged with possession with intent to distribute cocaine, and possession of cocaine. He is free on \$5,000 bond.

In conducting the investigation, the criminal enforcement team was assisted by the Berlin Police Department, Berlin Police SWAT Team and the Ocean City Police Department Narcotics Unit, the sheriff's office said.

GOLD Board elects new members

Worcester County nonprofit organization focus involves offering aid in time of need

(Dec. 5, 2019) The Board of Directors for Worcester County GOLD (Giving Other Lives Dignity), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization providing emergency assistance for Worcester County residents in times of crisis, has elected three new members.

Its 12 volunteer board members are charged with overseeing operations and making critical decisions regarding services to meet basic needs, special programs, governance and financial performance.

Amanda Kiesewetter returns to GOLD's Board, elected to serve as treasurer, after previously serving from June 2014 to July 2017.

Kiesewetter, a licensed CPA, certified financial planner and personal financial specialist (designated by the AICPA), and is employed at Bergey & Company, P.A. in Berlin.

She is a member of the AICPA, the MACPA, and the Maryland Society of Accountants.

Caleb Miller is the branch manager/business development officer for Bank of Ocean City, Ocean Pines Branch.

He is skilled in financial services, lending, sales, marketing, manage-



The Board of Directors for Worcester County GOLD has elected three new members. Pictured, from left, are Amanda Kiesewetter, CPA with Bergey & Company, P.A.; Caleb Miller, branch manager and business development officer for Bank of Ocean City/Ocean Pines Branch; and Nicole Selby, Worcester County Board of Education's coordinator of Student, Family and Community Connections.

ment, and merchant services.

Miller serves as a firefighter and the treasurer for the Bishopville Volunteer Fire Department and the chairman of the Friends of Bishopville.

Nicole Selby, Worcester County Board of Education's coordinator of Student, Family and Community Connections, brings a wealth of experience and knowledge regarding needs and issues of the youth of Worcester County to GOLD's Board.

She has worked to provide over 19 years of service in this field including her recent position as case management specialist supervisor for the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services, Worcester County Division.

The dedication of GOLD's Board members, and their willingness and ability to share their expertise from diverse fields, helps to ensure effective services for the Worcester County community.

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Opinion

Please send all letters and other editorial submissions to editor@baysidegazette.com by 5 p.m. Monday.

Berlin audit shows warts-and-all books

When auditors issue an “unmodified opinion,” as PKS & Company did after its analysis of Berlin’s books for the last fiscal year, it is not an indicator of financial seaworthiness.

All it means is that the financial statements the auditors examined were clean and accurate, and matched the firm’s own findings. In short, the auditors are attesting to the fact that town’s financial staff tracked the income, expenses, assets and liabilities according to the rules of accounting.

That’s good, because it means the town’s financial statements are honest and the public can believe them. This warts-and-all honesty, however, also shows where Berlin fiscal circumstances aren’t as good as they need to be.

One concern is that the town has just enough money in reserve to cover its operating costs for three months. That’s one month above minimum amount recommended by the Government Finance Officers Association.

Understanding that an unrestricted fund balance significantly greater than that might spur taxpayers to accuse government of over-taxing, it remains that the town depleted its general fund cash by subsidizing its money-losing sewer operation.

That’s the other thing the town will have to address — recovering that \$3.4 million it took from the general fund to prop up the sewer utility, which suffered mightily from rates that were far below cost.

But the good thing about honest accounting is that it also shows how Berlin government has reacted to its recent difficulties: it took in more revenue this past fiscal year and reduced spending. That’s a big positive that continues in the current budget and will be a driving force in future budgets.

Further, the new sewer rates, like them or not, will have a major impact on recovering that loan, and help restore balance to the, well, balance.

The one thing residents can count on because of the town’s straightforward financial reporting is that they can follow the budgetary progress that officials have promised to make. As PKS’s unmodified opinion shows, the Town of Berlin is hiding nothing.



“What do I want for Christmas? I emailed my list to you yesterday!”

Letters

Allen Brodsky talks benefits of tennis



Allen Brodsky

Editor,

You need to stay healthy and in shape to have a happy, successful career and life. If possible, take up tennis when time and neighborhood allow, and support kids into getting into the sport by about age 10 if not sooner.

I have found it to be the sport that most depends on, and best teaches, temper and emotional control, which can be useful throughout life. Also, watch how many of the players hug each other at the end of a match, whether loser or winner. This shows the friendship and sportsmanship between players from all over the

world and various ages, skin colors, and ethnic backgrounds. Thus, the World Tennis Association has accomplished what the original United Nations Charter intended but was not able to accomplish.

Watch some of the top professionals on the Tennis Channel, and you will see the necessity to use the muscles and coordination of the entire body over time, ensuring good heart-lung conditioning, as well as keeping a cool mental state without temper as much as possible. These requirements of tennis pro-

mote reaching an adult maturity that is best for functioning on any job, and enjoying the happiest life.

I am glad I took up tennis at age 13 and was able by age 15 to enjoy the lessons of competition of local tournaments, and by 16 and 17 of varsity tennis in high school and college. The physical requirements of tennis, along with those of wrestling in high school and college, gave me exercises for stamina that I continued to use and expand throughout my life.

The need to stay in shape to enjoy tennis year-round has kept me exercising and in great shape up to my age of 91 today.

Allen Brodsky
Editor

Index reveals high marks for hospital

(Dec. 5, 2019) The American Heart Association recently announced the results of its 2019 Workplace Health Achievement Index, and Atlantic General Hospital achieved Silver Level recognition for taking significant steps to build a culture of health in the workplace.

This isn’t the first time Associates Getting Healthy, Atlantic General’s wellness program, has been recognized.

It has garnered the Healthiest Maryland Business Gold Award for the last four years for providing resources and support to em-

ployees that has resulted in overall improvement of health status and a reduction in medical claims.

The program was launched in 2009 and has evolved and expanded over the years to include annual health risk assessments and

See AGH Page 19

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
Most Blessed Sacrament Catholic School first graders Adrianna Sanchez and Charlotte Johnson help fill boxes with gifts to send to children in Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala and Nicaragua through the school-wide Cross Catholic Outreach Box of Joy service project.

MBS assembles packages through Box of Joy project

Toys and supplies included as part of school's initiative

(Dec. 5, 2019) Students at Most Blessed Sacrament Catholic School filled over 120 shoe boxes with small toys, games, toiletries, socks, school supplies and other gifts for the Cross Catholic Outreach's Box of Joy service project.

This school-wide service project offered students, families, teachers
 See STUDENTS Page 21

AGH awarded for workplace health achievement indicator

Continued from Page 18
 biometric measurements for participants as well as wellness coaching, ongoing access to educational resources, and incentives to encourage healthy behaviors and utilization of preventive healthcare.

The American Heart Association created the Index with its CEO Roundtable, a leadership collaborative of more than 40 CEOs from some of America's largest companies who are committed to applying evidence-based approaches to improve their employees' overall health.

The Index uses science-based best practices to evaluate the overall quality and comprehensiveness of its



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
The winner of the Worcester County Arts Council's juried art exhibit: "Small Treasures," pictured with juror Marian Bickerstaff, left, are Ji Yeong Yun, Gail Stern, Nancy Rider, Brigitte Bowden and Judy Benton. They are joined by and Worcester County Arts Council Executive Director Anna Mullis.

WCAC announces exhibit winners

(Dec. 5, 2019) The Worcester County Arts Council announces winners in the juried art exhibit: "Small Treasures," which featured 33 pieces of artwork submitted by 22 professional and amateur artists, with work in all media.

Although the subject of this show was open to artist's individual inspiration and interpretation, the main objective was to encourage and challenge artists to become involved in the world of miniature art.

The guidelines required works not to exceed 7 inches for 3-dimensional works and 11 inches for 2-dimensional works. Despite the size limitation, artists submitted works that incorporate a diverse range of materials to communicate this concept.

This exhibition combines many mediums including oil, watercolor, and acrylic painting, pastels, encaustic, photography and mixed media.

The winning artwork was selected by awards-winning local artist, Marian Bickerstaff. The winners were honored at the opening reception held on Nov. 8 at the Arts Council Gallery in Berlin.

Judy Benton was awarded first prize for her acrylic painting, "Falling in Space." Brigitte Bowden took sec-

ond for her painting, "Flower Power," and Ji Yeong Yun won third prize for "Twinkling Leaves II," mixed media.

Honorable mention awards were given to Gail Stern, Richard Husband and Nancy Rider.

The exhibit will be on display until Dec. 31. Gallery hours are Monday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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Snapshots



RACHEL RAVINA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

DECORATING

Michele Krempa, owner of Beach Memories, on Main Street in Berlin, arranges her holiday decorations in the window of her store on Nov. 23.



RACHEL RAVINA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Mom and Me Crafts vendors Barbara Devenport, left, and Lori Davis, showcase their products during a Holiday Bazaar at Buckingham Presbyterian Church on Main Street in Berlin, Nov. 16.



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

SWEET SOUNDS

Raising their collective voices to the heavens, the Delmarva Chorus opens the tree-lighting ceremony during Ocean Pines annual "A Hometown Christmas" celebration, Saturday, Nov. 30, in White Horse Park.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

ENERGY LESSON

Berlin Intermediate School's fourth grade science classes learned about potential and kinetic energy. Jason Geremia and Rozie West made rubber band rollers to show the transfer from potential to kinetic energy.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

SHOW AND LUNCH

More than 160 women attended the 11th annual Patriotic Fashion Show and Luncheon on Oct. 21 at the Clarion Hotel in Ocean City sponsored by the Republican Women of Worcester County. Funds raised go toward scholarships, literacy, community support and political action.

Students, staff donate to MBS service project

Continued from Page 19

and staff the opportunity to donate items that will provide children in developing countries with a special Christmas. The boxes are given to children in Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala and Nicaragua.

Most Blessed Sacrament in Berlin was also a drop-off location for other organizations in the area. St. Luke's Catholic Church in Ocean City, St. Francis de Sales Catholic School in Salisbury and Knights of Columbus Council #3489 from Salisbury brought their shipments to the school.

In total, 300 Boxes of Joy were shipped.

Service to others is a major theme throughout the educational experience at Most Blessed Sacrament.

Staff conducts various service projects each year both locally and in other communities where the need is great. So far this school year, students have also collected money for the annual Kiss the Donkey fundraiser with all proceeds sent to families in need in the aftermath of Hurricane Dorian and eight graders built a handicap ramp for a Westover, Maryland woman.

Wor. GOLD launches annual drive

'Helping Hands' program in need of sponsorship; apply on website or social media

(Dec. 5, 2019) Worcester County GOLD (Giving Other Lives Dignity) is seeking sponsors, volunteers and donations to assist its Helping Hands for the Holidays Program.

Community sponsors can sign-up to sponsor gifts for children and/or vulnerable adults by completing a sponsor form, available at www.WorcesterCountyGOLD.org or on Worcester GOLD's Facebook page at www.Facebook.com/Worcester-GOLD.

Donations by check can be sent to: Worcester County GOLD, 299 Commerce Street, Snow Hill, Maryland 21863 or made by credit card through GOLD's website.

Due to low overhead costs, 92 cents of every dollar received goes directly to serve community members during times of critical need.

Last year with the support of the local community, GOLD provided gifts for 724 children and 68 vulnerable adults in Worcester County who live in poverty and low-income circumstances.

With only two employees, GOLD depends heavily on the community to



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Worcester County GOLD (Giving Other Lives Dignity) is seeking sponsors, volunteers and donations to assist its Helping Hands for the Holidays Program. Pictured, from left, are Rita and Dave Landis and Jim Spicknall representing the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City and Sandy Sipes, executive director of Worcester County GOLD.

enhance the quality of life of local citizens for whom traditional means of well-being support are not currently available.

For more information, email GOLD at WorcesterCountyGOLD@gmail.com or call 410-677-6830.

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Dec. 11: Bingo w/DJ Rupe, 6 p.m.

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Dec. 7: Chest Pains, 9 p.m.
Dec. 11: BJ's Christmas Party
w/Teenage Rust & the Fabulous Rustettes, 6 p.m.

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Towers Condominium
443-664-2896 /
www.bourbonstreetonthebeach.com
Dec. 6: Ricky & Lennon LaRicci, 7 p.m.
Dec. 7: 33 RPM, 7 p.m.
Dec. 8: Bob Hughes, 6 p.m.
Dec. 11: Reform School, 6 p.m.; Open Mic, 9 p.m.
Dec. 12: Chris Button, 7 p.m.

CAPTAIN'S TABLE

15th St. & Baltimore Ave., Ocean City
410-289-7192 / www.captainstableoc.com
Every Friday & Saturday: Phil Perdue, 5:30 p.m.

DUFFY'S TAVERN

130th Street, Ocean City, Montego Bay Shopping
Center
410-250-1449 / www.duffysoc.com
Every Friday: Bob Hughes, 5-8 p.m.

HARBORSIDE BAR & GRILL

12841 S. Harbor Road, West Ocean City
410-213-1846 / www.ocharborside.com
Dec. 6: DJ Billy T, 4 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Dec. 7: Chris Button, 2 p.m.;
DJ Jeremy, 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Dec. 8: Opposite Directions, 2 p.m.
Dec. 11: Dust N' Bones, 6 p.m.
Dec. 12: Opposite Directions, 6 p.m.

HOOTERS

12513 Ocean Gateway, West Ocean City
410-213-1841 / www.hootersofoc.com
Dec. 6: DJ BK, 4-8 p.m.

OCEAN CLUB NIGHTCLUB

101st Street, Ocean City
In the Horizons Restaurant, in the Clarion
Fontainebleau Hotel
410-524-3535 / www.clarionoc.com
Every Friday and Saturday:
DJ Dusty, 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Dec. 6-7: First Class,
9:30 p.m. to 2 a.m.

PICKLES

706 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City
410-289-4891 / www.picklesoc.com
Dec. 6: Beats by Jeremy, 9 p.m.
Dec. 7: The Dunehounds, 10 p.m.
Dec. 8: Karaoke w/Jeremy, 9 p.m.
Dec. 10: Beats by Adam Dutch, 9 p.m.
Dec. 12: Beats by Wax, 9 p.m.

SEACRETS

49th Street and the bay, Ocean City
410-524-4900 / www.seacrets.com
Dec. 6: Holiday Bazaar & Bubbly, 6-10 p.m.;
Lima Bean Riot, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.;
DJ Tuff, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Dec. 7: Feel Free, 5-9 p.m.;
DJ Bobby-O, 6 p.m. to 1:50 a.m.;
DJ Cruz, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.;
Steal The Sky, 10 p.m. to 1:50 a.m.

SKYE RAW BAR & GRILLE

66th Street, Ocean City
410-723-6762 / www.skyebaroc.com
Dec. 6: Monkee Paw, 4-8 p.m.
Dec. 7: Test Kitchen, 4-8 p.m.

WHISKER'S BAR & GRILL

11070 Cathell Road, Suite 17,
Pines Plaza, Ocean Pines
410-208-3922 / www.whiskersbar.com
Dec. 6: Karaoke w/Donnie Berkey

Wor. schools receive grant funding

Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore gives \$98,000 to three counties

(Dec. 5, 2019) Schools in Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties received \$98,449 in grant funding through the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore's 2019 Education Award Grants Program, which will be distributed across 31 school-based programs.

"By investing in local education programs, we are investing in the future leaders of our community - our children," said Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore President Erica Joseph. "Teachers are in the classroom every day and see critical needs firsthand. These grants are a unique opportunity to empower local educators to create solutions and opportunities where they think they can make the greatest impact."

Worcester County received \$26,400 of the more than \$98,000 distributed. They will benefit:

Buckingham Elementary School will host a bike safety event to raise awareness and educate students on safe biking. Bikes and helmets will be given as prizes during the event.

Cedar Chapel Special School's Elizabeth Atwood will purchase "switch-accessible devices" to enable students

with gross and fine motor difficulties and/or blindness to access curricula.

In addition, Cedar Chapel Special School will install a sensory walkway to provide students with engaging opportunities for structured movement throughout the day, organized by Mary Beth Lampman.

'By investing in local education programs, we are investing in the future leaders of our community - our children.'

Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore President, Erica Joseph

Ocean City Elementary School's Eliza Mason-Burt will purchase virtual reality headsets for use in science classes.

Pocomoke High School's "Speak Up" club will host events and discussions that celebrate diversity, raise awareness about social justice, and strive for a more inclusive community.

Pocomoke High School's Stephen Whitaker will invite visiting writers to the school to teach advanced creative writing workshops throughout the school year.

Pocomoke Middle School's Edna

Wright will lead a summer program where at-risk students from Pocomoke City schools will be paired with mentors, take swimming lessons, eat lunch, and go on field trips to places like the zoo and museums.

Snow Hill High School's Tarah Threadgill will stock the school library with a diverse, high-quality set of audio books for students studying for the AP exam.

Snow Hill High School's Brittany Tignor will help facilitate the student-led Project LIT Book Club.

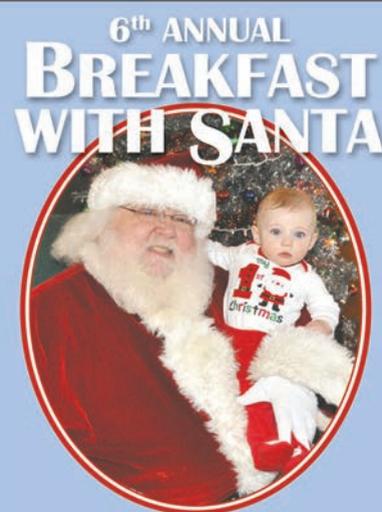
As leaders, grant makers and stewards of philanthropy, the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore connects people who care to causes that matter for the common good of the Lower Eastern Shore.

It is a 501c3 nonprofit with a history of fostering charitable endeavors, and has provided \$84 million in grants and scholarships to the local community since 1984.

It collaborates with individuals, families and businesses to match their charitable interests with community needs and strengthens local nonprofits through grants and resources.

It is devoted to improving the regional community and believes in the power of philanthropy.

For information, contact Victoria Kent, marketing officer, at 410-742-9911 or vkent@CFES.org.



Saturday, December 7th
8am-12pm

KIDS' SANTA CLAUS SPECIAL

Chocolate Chip Pancakes and Beverage
\$4.99

ALL YOU CAN EAT BREAKFAST BUFFET

8am-1pm
Adults **\$9.99**
Children **\$7.99**

MVZ Productions onsite for photos with Santa • \$5

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Selbyville, DE
302-436-2112
doylesdiner.com



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call: 302-732-3744

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www.ilovetheclayton.com

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1/2 PRICE PRIME RIB SPECIAL WEDNESDAYS & THURSDAYS EXCLUDES 12/25, 12/26

Harpoon Hannas

Brunch with Santa
10am-1pm, Sunday
December 8th

Happy Hour!
Monday-Friday
3-7pm
in our bar (excludes holidays)

THIS WEEK'S LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
friday dave hawkins 5pm tranzfusion 9pm
saturday dave sherman 5pm

BORED? THERE IS FUN TO BE HAD AT OUR BAR!
MONDAYS TEXAS HOLDEM' 6:30PM
TUESDAYS BAR BINGO 6PM
WEDNESDAYS TEAM TRIVIA 6PM
THURSDAYS PINT NIGHT W/ KEVIN POOLE 5PM

just over the Maryland/Delaware line in Fenwick Island, DE
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Cuisine

Fried fish Po' Boy served with broccoli slaw

It has been too long since we've been to New Orleans. It's been too long since we've been anywhere farther away than Long Island.

I need to hit the road ... or the airways. Soon. Yes, it is true. My wanderlust is showing.

Luckily, I grew up in a family that loved to travel. We never flew

anywhere and our vacation spots were always within a four-hour drive, but we still loved to travel. My parents were foodies and would take us to different restaurants (Indian, Chinese, Japanese, Mexican, et al) so that we wouldn't be stuck in the meatloaf and mashed potatoes rut. And there is absolutely nothing wrong with a good meatloaf! It's just good to diversify.

You have to remember that I am finely aged (in my fifties), and that puts my childhood squarely in the 1970s. One look at a *Better Homes & Garden* magazine from this time period should tell you why diversifying a child's diet was a bit groundbreaking. And, I do thank them for that.

In my golden years, I guess I reminisce a fair amount on Tuesdays during the fall semester as I teach American Regional Cuisine. I am fortunate to have lived in the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic and on the West Coast.

I have traveled to most parts of the country, mostly by car, because that's what I did as a bored, young bachelor with time to kill. I have flown all over, always trying to explore the local traditions and foods to help broaden my knowledge of food.

But nowhere have I found a more exhilarating town than good old NOLA. Yes; New Orleans. Having visited there for my fifth time last year – and my girlfriend's first – it was the usual pleasure to walk around Bourbon Street, The Frenchmen Street District and the strange shopping center attached to the convention center.

The items that one can find in the antique shops boggle the mind and, overall, the town is quirky, the history is staggering, the cemeteries breathtaking and, of course, the food is second to none.

Whether it was eating an incredibly fine French/Italian/Caribbean meal at *Compère Lapin*, grabbing a mufaletta at *Central Grocery* or Blackened Catfish on Cheesy Bacon Grits in



our hotel lobby restaurant (surprisingly delicious), the possibilities are endless.

And of course eating a Po' Boy, the ubiquitous New Orleans sub, is an absolute must. Countless places serve this famous sandwich, and there are three critical aspects to making a good one.

The first is the bread, which needs to be chewy/soft on the inside and crispy on the outside. The second is the main item itself. Make sure that it is a fresh, high-quality ingredient. The third is the remoulade which is, for lack of a better way to describe it, a spicy tartar sauce of sorts.

For this sandwich, I used cobia, a wonderful fish from the lower/middle Chesapeake that hits until autumn. I'm pretty sure that they are well on their way back down to Florida, if they're not there already. A white fish, this fries very well, and you will have a harder time finding a better candidate for your Po' Boy.

Of course, an all-time favorite is fried shrimp, as are fried oysters. Needless to say, if you can fry it, you can put it on a Po Boy. You should know by now that I am not a purist, and I do get in a little bit of trouble for that, but so it goes. I have come to peace with it.

As I wrap up this little tome, I real-

ize that I need to airfare shop, find an AirBNB in the Frenchmen and head down for a few days to blow off some steam. It is time.

Fried Fish Po' Boy

serves 4

1.5 lbs. cobia or other white fish
2 c. Buttermilk
3 tbsp. Old Bay
3 c. House Atry Chicken Breader
4 ea. Sub rolls
2 c. Broccoli slaw (recipe follows)
Tomato slices, as needed
1/2 c. Spicy remoulade (recipe follows)
Shredded lettuce, as needed

1. Clean the fish of skin and bloodlines, portion into 2-3 ounce pieces.

2. Combine the buttermilk and Old Bay and soak the fish in it for at least an hour.

3. When ready to fry, simply set up a bowl of the breader next to your marinating fish and coat the fish with the breader.

4. Fry in hot oil (350-375).

5. Set aside when ready.

6. Cut the rolls, but not all of the way through. This will give you that irreplaceable hinge that keeps everything somewhat in place.

7. Toast the sub rolls on the inside, cut face only. Butter if desired.

8. Schmear the sub rolls with the remoulade.

9. Build your sandwiches with your ingredients and serve immediately.

Broccoli Slaw

serves 4

1 bag shredded broccoli salad
1/2 c. Duke's Mayonnaise
3 tbsp. powdered sugar
1 tsp. celery seed
2 tbsp. red wine vinegar
tsp. yellow mustard

1. Combine all ingredients in a bowl until well-incorporated.

2. Adjust to taste and set aside refrigerated until ready to use.

Spicy Chipotle Remoulade
Makes 1 cup

3/4 c. Duke's Mayonnaise
1 tbsp. relish

2 tbsp. adobo sauce from chipotle peppers

1 tsp. Redfish Magic blackening spice
1 tsp. coarse mustard

1 tsp. pickle juice

1. Combine all ingredients and refrigerate until ready to use.

— Paul G. Suplee is an Associate Professor of Culinary Arts at Wor-Wic Community College. Find his ePortfolio at www.heartofakitchen.com.

Calendar

Thurs., Dec. 5

MERRY MAKERS 'HOLIDAY ORNAMENT SWAP'

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 AM. Join this adult craft group the first Thursday of each month and create with new and recycled materials. December features holiday ornaments. Register: 410-208-4014. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

POCOMOKE BOOK OF THE MONTH

Pocomoke Library, 301 Market St., 2:00 PM. Featuring "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn" by Betty Smith. Copies of books are available in advance at the library. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

WREATHS FROM RECYCLABLES

Berlin library, 13 Harrison Ave., 2:00 PM. An afternoon of upcycled and repurposed craft-making. The group will be making holiday candy wreaths. Register: 410-641-0650. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

FREE FAMILY HOLIDAY ACTIVITY

Dunes Manor Hotel, 2800 Baltimore Ave., 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM. Featuring Christmas Trivia with prizes. Surprise questions of Christmas history, holiday facts and holiday cheer. <http://www.dunesmanor.com>

BERLIN CHRISTMAS PARADE

Berlin's Downtown Main Street, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM. Featuring marching bands, dance teams, fire companies, local organizations' floats and Santa. Shuttle available from Berlin Intermediate School.

BEACH SINGLES

Thursdays - Harpoon Hanna's, 39064 Harpoon Road, Fenwick Island, DE, 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM. Beach Singles, 45 years and older, meet for happy hour. Info: 302-436-9577, 410-524-0649 or BeachSingles.org

GRIEF SUPPORT

Thursdays - Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 11:00 AM. Coastal Hospice provides grief support and education. Participants work together to help each other navigate through grief at their own pace. Free and open to the public. Nicole Long, 443-614-6142

Fri., Dec. 6

FREE FAMILY HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Dunes Manor Hotel, 2800 Baltimore Ave. Featuring Christmas Bingo with prizes, 4-5 p.m. (all ages welcome); Santa Comes to Visit, 5-7 p.m. (featuring gifts and free photos with Santa and his elf); and Zippy's Ugly Sweater Party, 7-9 p.m. (featuring drink specials). <http://www.dunesmanor.com>

FIBER FRIENDS

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:00 AM. Bring your lap work and join this group as they knit, crochet and em-

broider. All are welcome. Victoria Christie-Healy, 703-507-0708, <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

CHICKEN AND FISH SANDWICH SALE

St. Paul United Methodist Church, 405 Flower St., 11:00 AM. Cost is \$5 for a fried chicken sandwich and \$7 for a fried fish sandwich. Sponsored by church's Men's Ministry. 410-641-0270

LET'S WRAP IT UP!

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM. The library will have a variety of holiday papers for all your gifts that you can use for wrapping and decorating. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

OPENING RECEPTION AND HOLIDAY ARTISAN FAIR

Ocean City Center for the Arts, 502 94th St., 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM. Five new art exhibitions will open and complimentary hors d'oeuvres will be served. The annual all-media Art League members' juried show will open in the Thaler Gallery with cash prizes. There will also be a Best of 2019 group show. The holiday artisan fair offers unique, handcrafted gifts made by local artists. More than a dozen artisans will offer their work including glass, jewelry, textiles, baskets, ceramics, mixed media and more. Admission is always free. 410-524-9433, <http://www.artleagueofoceancity.org>

9TH ANNUAL MAYOR'S OLD-FASHIONED CHRISTMAS EVENING

Downtown Pocomoke City, 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM. Located in the mini park and municipal parking lot on Clarke Avenue across from City Hall. Featuring live entertainment, a Christmas tree lighting at 6 p.m., free refreshments, bonfire and s'mores, Santa House, horse & carriage rides, children's activities, Layton's Chance wine tasting, Samaritan Shelter food drive, wreath silent auction and a chili cook-off. Registration forms: Downtown-Pocomoke.com. City Hall, 410-957-1333

2ND ANNUAL GAME OF THE WEEK

There will be a competition between Steelers and Ravens fans at Pit & Pub and Dry Dock on 28th Street, 6:30 PM - 10:30 PM. Fans of either restaurant or sport teams will be able to vote for their favorite bars and teams. The bar that raises the most money will be named the winner. Each bar will contribute a portion of their cocktail sales to Believe in Tomorrow and there will be auction items displayed at both restaurants as well as mystery boxes for \$10 each, raffles and members of the Prom Court will also be on-site raising money for their campaigns. Participants are encouraged to wear Steelers or Ravens gear, Christmas attire or a combination of both. Wayne Littleton, 410-723-2842, <http://believeintomorrow.org>

Sat., Dec. 7

CHEER AND DANCE EXTREME

Ocean City convention center, 4001 Coastal Highway. The OC Open Championship will pull teams from more than 9 states to showcase their best under the lights. Ann Lehrmann, ann@cheerand-danceextreme.com, <http://www.cheerand-danceextreme.com>

FREE FAMILY HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Dunes Manor Hotel, 2800 Baltimore Ave. Featuring Holiday DIY Treats, 2-3 p.m. (featuring creation and design of tasty goodies); Holiday Arts & Crafts, 1-2 p.m. (featuring creation of Christmas-themed ornaments and gifts); Playtime with Mrs. Clause, 4-5:30 p.m. (featuring face painting, story time, crafts and balloon animals); and Santa Comes to Visit, 5-7 p.m. (featuring gifts and free photos with Santa and his elf). <http://www.dunesmanor.com>

SANTA BREAKFAST

Lynnhaven Baptist Church, 1200 Lynn Haven Drive, 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM. All-you-care-to-eat pancakes, sausages and pastries, as well as Christmas crafts for children. Have your picture taken with Santa or bring your own camera. There is no charge, but donations are welcomed. Proceeds benefit local families in need. Sponsored by the Junior Woman's Club of Pocomoke City.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Whisker's Bar and Grill, 11070 Cathell Road, 8:00 AM - 10:30 AM. Hosted by Believe in Tomorrow Prom Queen Candidate Beth Scaniffe. Admission costs \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 4 years and older and free to those 3 and younger. 410-208-3922

ANNUAL YARD SALE

Bishopville Volunteer Fire Department, 10709 Bishopville Road, 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Breakfast sandwiches available. Tables rental fees are \$15 each or two for \$25. Table reservations: 619-922-9950.

ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT BREAKFAST BUFFET WITH SANTA

Buckingham Presbyterian Church, 20 S. Main St., 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM. Cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for kids ages 3-10 years and free to those 2 and younger. Tickets available at the door. Bring cameras and camcorders. Reservations recommended for large groups by calling 410-641-0234.

27TH ANNUAL SANTA'S OPEN CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Ocean Pines Golf and Country Club, 100 Clubhouse Drive, 9:00 AM. Golfer registration is open to the public at \$85 per player at the door and includes breakfast, carts, reception, golfer's gift and the chance to win contests and prizes. In addition, each golfer is asked to bring one unwrapped gift for an underprivileged child between the ages of 6-18 years. Team format is a four-person scramble. Registration and sponsorships: Big Brothers Big

Sisters of the Eastern Shore, Inc. at <https://shorebiglittle.org/events/>. Sponsored by Delmarva Shorebirds. golf4kids@shorebiglittle.org, 410-543-2447,

FIRST SATURDAY WRITERS

Berlin library, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:00 AM. Novice and established writers gather to share their works. Structure includes critiques and appreciation, market leads and writing exercises. Drop-ins welcome. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Most Blessed Sacrament Catholic School, 11242 Racetrack Road, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM. The bazaar will showcase the arts and crafts of local artisans and small businesses in the community whose items will be available for sale. A Chinese raffle, baked goods and homemade food will be available for purchase with proceeds to benefit the Grace Center for Maternal and Women's Health. Eat in or carry-out. Kay Windsor, 443-513-4124

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Stevenson United Methodist Church, 123 N. Main St., 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM. Vendors include Usbourne Books, Thirty-One, Woodworks, Perfectly Posh, Color Street, Scentsy, Pampered Chef, Handmade Jewelry, Young Living, Photography, LuLaRoe and Premier Designs Jewelry. Also featuring vegetable soup and chicken salad sandwich sale, silent auction, White Elephant Sale and a bake table (with the church's new cookbooks). Eat in or carry out.

PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 11:00 AM. History professor Dr. Dan Pavese will lead a lecture and discussion about Pearl Harbor. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT FRIED CHICKEN BUFFET

Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church, 36536 Mount Pleasant Road, 11:00 AM. Menu includes chicken, vegetables, beverages and desserts. Cost is \$14 for adults, \$7 for children and free to those 5 and younger. Bake table and carry outs available. Nelda Dennis, 443-614-9898

HOLIDAY ARTISAN FAIR

Ocean City Center for the Arts, 502 94th St., 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM. The holiday artisan fair offers unique, handcrafted gifts made by local artists. More than a dozen artisans will offer their work including glass, jewelry, textiles, baskets, ceramics, mixed media and more. There will also be a book signing with 7 local authors. Bunk Mann will be signing copies of Ghosts in the Sand, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Admission is always free. 410-524-9433, <http://www.artleagueofoceancity.org>

37TH ANNUAL OC CHRISTMAS PARADE

The parade starts at 11:00 AM on Old Landing Road and marches northbound in the southbound lanes of Coastal Highway

CALENDAR

to the judges' stand at 120th Street. Featuring more than 60 units, including high school bands, horses, antique cars, holiday floats and more. There will be plenty of seating along the west side of the half-mile route, including the Food Lion parking lot and judging area. A post-parade reception will take place at the Carousel Hotel following the parade and will include half-priced ice skating, a DJ and photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Complimentary winter refreshments will be available.

BERLIN ANNUAL HOLIDAY STUDIO TOUR

Berlin Annual Holiday Studio Tour, 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM. Berlin's incredible artists and craftsmen are opening their studios for the public to see the places where the creative process occurs. Meet the painters, jewelers, woodworkers, metal crafters and printmakers, see their work and pick up one of a kind gifts for the holidays. The studios are located in or close to downtown Berlin so you can enjoy an afternoon visiting them all. Heather Layton, 2ndfridayartstroll@gmail.com, 410-629-9301

3RD ANNUAL MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS

Seacrets, 117 49th St., 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM. This free event will feature a ugly sweater contest, a chance to meet Santa and his elves, raffles and various children's activities such as face painting for a small fee. Christmas movies will be shown on the big screens in the Marley Hall. Members of the Believe in Tomorrow Prom Court will have tables set up to raise money for the competition. Pictures will Santa available for a small fee. <http://believeintomorrow.org>

FREE CHRISTMAS SEASON CONCERT

Community Church at Ocean Pines, 11227 Racetrack Road, 7:00 PM. Featuring the Capital Ringers, the concert is entitled Capital Ringers RING Christmas Bells. A free will offering will be collected. 302-745-0359, <http://www.capitalringers.com>

THE OAK RIDGE BOYS 'SHINE THE LIGHT CHRISTMAS SHOW'

Ocean City Performing Arts Center, in the Ocean City convention center, 4001 Coastal Highway, 8:00 PM. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Featuring a mixture of traditional and contemporary songs — including religious, romantic and fun holiday tunes. Tickets cost \$65 and \$55. Tickets: visit OC Box Office, calling Ticketmaster, 800-551-SEAT or online at DelmarvaConcerts.com. https://ocmdperformingartscenter.com

FARMERS & ARTISANS MARKET

Saturdays - White Horse Park, 239 Ocean Parkway, 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Featuring live music, chef demos, children's activities and other special events. Shop for everything from fresh local produce to unique handmade artisan goods. Open to the public.

Sun., Dec. 8

FREE FAMILY HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Dunes Manor Hotel, 2800 Baltimore Ave. Featuring Breakfast with Santa, 9-10 a.m.

(featuring an appearance by Santa at breakfast in the Victorian Room; Art Bar, 5-6 p.m. (an adult activity featuring craft cocktail lesson from the Dunes' resident mixologist). <http://www.dunesmanor.com>

48TH ANNUAL WPS CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Worcester Preparatory School, Field House, 508 S. Main St., 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM. Featuring a Christmas Village, which includes one-of-a-kind decorated wreaths and trees, holiday décor, homemade desserts, handmade gifts, local vendors, silent auction items and more. Children can enjoy the Mallard General Store where they can purchase and wrap gifts for loved ones, enjoy fun games and visit with Santa, who will be there from noon to 2 p.m. Admission is free and the event is open to the public. 410-641-3575, <http://www.worcesterprep.org>

MID-ATLANTIC SYMPHONY PERFORMANCE

Ocean City Center for the Arts, 502 94th St., 3:00 PM. Doors open at 2:30 p.m. The performance is titled "Holiday Joy: A Salute to the Music of the Big Band Orchestras." Featuring celebrated bass-baritone Kevin Short, as well as several of his students from the University of Maryland Opera Studio. Tickets cost \$50. 410-289-2800, <https://midatlanticsymphone.org/20192020-season>

WINTERFEST OF LIGHTS JINGLE BELL 5K RUN

Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City, MD, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM. Featuring a 5K run through Ocean City's Winterfest of Lights show. Long sleeve race shirt, hot chocolate, cookies and a ride through the lights on the Winterfest Express after the race. Cost is \$32 for adults and \$25 for ages 12 years and younger. Packet pickup and post race party will be held at Abbey Burger Bistro, 12601 Coastal Highway. Registration held from 3:45-4:40 p.m.

Mon., Dec. 9

WRITING FOR WELLNESS

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 1:30 PM. Writing about stressful experiences like illness, may boost health & psychological well-being. Group uses exercises to stimulate creative expression. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

MOVIE MATINEE (2018)

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:00 PM. With emergency shelters at full capacity, a group of homeless individuals refuse to leave their local library as a brutal winter storm approaches. Starring Emilio Estevez and Alec Baldwin. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY MEETING

Atlantic General Hospital, Conference Room 1, 9733 Healthway Drive, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM. TOPS is a weekly support and educational group promoting weight loss and healthy lifestyle. Berlin group No. 169. Rose Campion, 410-641-0157

DELMARVA WOMEN'S A CAPELLA CHORUS

Mondays - Ocean Pines Community Center, 239 Ocean Parkway, 7:00 PM. Come and sing. Drop-ins welcome. Carol, 410-641-6876

Tues., Dec. 10

HOLIDAY WRAPPINGS LUNCHEON & FASHION SHOW

Ocean City convention center, 4001 Coastal Highway, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM. Fashion show and luncheon with auction to benefit The American Cancer Society. Featuring fashion from more than a dozen area boutiques, plated lunch, holiday music, door prizes and silent and Chinese auctions. For more information about reservations, tables and packages, contact Dawne Pappas at 443-880-2310 or [meal dpappo@aol.com](mailto:dpappo@aol.com). <https://acsdelmarva.ticketleap.com/holidaywrappings/>

HERBAL HOLIDAY: GIFT MAKING

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:00 PM. Join certified Therapeutic Herbalist Michaela Eggers to discuss the medicinal properties of holiday herbs and create homemade gifts. Register: 410-208-4014. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

PARKINSON'S SUPPORT GROUP

Gull Creek Senior Living, 1 Meadow St., 3:15 PM - 4:30 PM. Group provides discussions and mutual support, as well as education on exercise, nutrition, coping techniques, medications and developments in treatment. Kay Kinnikin, 410-641-4765, <http://www.delmarvaparkinsonsalliance.org>

BLOW YOUR OWN GLASS HOLIDAY ORNAMENT

Jeffrey Auxer Designs Blown Glass Studio, 19 Jefferson St., 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM. Booking individuals or groups up to six people in 30 minute time frames. Cost is \$40 per ornament. Benefits the Bishopville Volunteer Fire Company. Reservations required: Krista Radena, 443-880-4944.

PAINT NITE

Whisker's Bar and Grill, 11070 Cathell Road, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM. Hosted by Believe in Tomorrow Prom Queen Candidate Beth Scaniffe. Tickets cost \$25 per person. Tickets: 410-208-3922.

NAMI LOWER SHORE FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP

Atlantic General Hospital, Conference Room 1, 9733 Healthway Drive, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM. Free, monthly program offers shared wisdom and problem solving for family members of individuals with mental illness. No registration or enrollment obligation necessary. Carole Spurrier, 410-208-4003, carolespurrier@msn.com or Gail S. Mansell, gmansell@atlanticgeneral.org, 410-641-9725

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY MEETING

Tuesdays - Worcester County Health Center, 9730 Healthway Drive, 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM. TOPS is a support and educational

group promoting weight loss and a healthy lifestyle. jeanduck47@gmail.com

Wed., Dec. 11

3D PRINTER OPEN HOUSE

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road. The library will be working on projects throughout the day and demonstrating how the 3D printer works. All ages welcome. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

WITTY KNITTERS

Berlin library, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Knitters, crochet enthusiasts, needle artists of all skill levels are invited. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

STAMPING WITH TRACEY

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 11:00 AM. An adult craft class where participants will make two hand stamped cards and envelopes. Register: 410-208-4014. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

DIY GREETING CARDS: BRAIN HEALTH advantage

Berlin library, 13 Harrison Ave., 2:00 PM. Learn how to make your own paper, turning the pulp into decorated greeting cards. Art therapy benefits brain health. Register: 410-641-0650. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

OCEAN CITY BOOK OF THE MONTH

Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2:00 PM. Featuring Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston. To obtain a copy of the book call the library at 410-524-1818. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

SIT N' STITCH

Snow Hill library, 307 N. Washington St., 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM. Drop in and join others for an afternoon of knitting, crocheting and other needle arts. Bring your own materials. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

KIWANIS CLUB OF GREATER OP/OC

Wednesdays - Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway. Doors open at 7 a.m., meeting begins at 8 a.m. 410-641-7330, <http://www.kiwanisofopoc.org>

DELMARVA HAND DANCE CLUB

Wednesdays - Ocean City Elks Lodge, 13708 Sinepuxent Ave., 5:30 PM - 9:00 PM. Dance to the sounds of the '50s and '60s music. A \$5 donation to benefit Veterans and local charities in the Delmarva region. Members and guests. dance@delmarvahanddancing.com, 410-208-1151, <http://delmarvahanddancing.com>

OC/BERLIN ROTARY CLUB MEETING

Wednesdays - Residence Inn by Marriott Ocean City, 300 Seabay Lane, 6:00 PM. 302-540-2127

BRIDGE WEDNESDAYS

Wednesdays - Ocean Pines Community Center, 239 Ocean Parkway, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM. Knowledge of basic Bridge (Goren/American Standard). 410-596-5498

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hparsons@worcesterprep.org



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