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DRIVE-BY FOOD

Thousands of pounds of food is handed out to families in need during the Stevenson United Methodist Church Spirit Kitchen drive-through food pantry at 103 Flower Street in Berlin every other Wednesday. The next scheduled drive will take place May 6 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. See story on page 14.

OPA gets SBA loan of \$1.1M in PPP funds

Money will protect payroll for association employees

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(April 30, 2020) Although many businesses and nonprofit organizations were left out of the rush for paycheck protection program loans two weeks ago, the Ocean Pines Association was not.



Doug Parks

The OPA received \$1.143 million in Small Business Administration coronavirus relief money by having its paperwork done in time for processing before the money ran out on April 16.

OPA President Doug Parks said the emergency funds would be used to maintain payroll for association employees during the current economic turmoil.

“We are fortunate to have been approved by the SBA for a loan associated with the PPP program.” See OPA Page 10

Berlin Farmers Market to open for season on Sunday

Social distancing rules will apply for patrons, vendors per state’s guidelines

By Morgan Pilz
Staff Writer

(April 30, 2020) The third annual Berlin Farmers Market might be unconventional this year, but it will still kick off its season this Sunday, when it opens from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The farmers market will take place every Sunday from May 3 to Aug. 30 on Pitts Street, where local farmers and other vendors will sell everything from fresh produce to wines, flowers, art and tools.

As per the governor’s regulations amid the coronavirus pandemic, farmer’s markets are allowed to run provided they are outdoors and ensure that patrons maintain the six feet distance rule, as well as limit time and crowd size.

Shoppers and vendors must wear masks to protect themselves and are encouraged not to linger too long in the space. No more than two people may accompany each other, with the recommendation that children, senior family members and pets remain behind for safety’s sake.

“I’m following the guidelines set forth by Maryland Department of Agriculture.” See FARMERS Page 10



Stephanie Garfield, of Chesterfield Heirlooms, presents some vegetables during the Berlin Farmers Market on Pitts Street in downtown Berlin last year.

OP Marina slips will open May 1 with restrictions

Recreational boaters can get ready for end of ban

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(April 30, 2020) Starting tomorrow (Friday) the Ocean Pines Association’s Yacht Club and Swim and Racquet Club marinas will allow vessels to be loaded in slips as boat owners begin preparations for the summer.

Recreation and Parks Manager Debbie Donahue said beginning on May 1 slip holders would be permitted to drop boats after the required documentation is received. See OP Page 3

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OP Marina will open Friday to allow boaters to prepare

Continued from Page 1
ments and payments are received.

Donahue said marina staff would adhere to CDC guidelines for safe distancing with only limited services available

“They are going to do fuel and oil only,” she said.

While recreational boating restrictions remain in place in Maryland, Donahue said OPA marina slip holders could get prepared for whenever mandates are lifted.

“We will keep everyone updated on any changes as we move forward,” she said.

Donahue said boat owners visiting either marina should adhere to the following safety guidelines, including: refraining from visiting establishments if feeling ill or having exposure to the covid-19 virus, maintaining a six-foot distance from others and practicing regular hand washing.

For any further information, call 410-641-7052.



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Vacant boat slips at the OPA Yacht Club will begin to fill with vessels beginning on May 1.

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Berlin approves i.g Burton request

By Morgan Pilz
Staff Writer

(April 30, 2020) The Berlin mayor and Town Council approved the purchase of seven Equivalent Dwelling Units (EDUs) in sewer and water capacity for the car dealership i.g. Burton of Berlin during its Town Hall meeting on Monday.

The Chevrolet dealership, located on Old Ocean City Blvd., brought its six-acre parcel into the town limits in November with the intention of improving the property. Those improvements will necessitate the additional water and sewer capacity.

Each EDU costs \$16,686, Berlin Town Administrator Jeff Fleetwood said during the meeting Monday night.

"[i.g. Burton] had provided a check to the town of Berlin pending this motion in the amount of \$116, 802," Fleetwood said. "Basically, this is one of the conditions needed to approve and upgrade that property with the necessary EDUs."

i.g. Burton acquired the dealership on Old Ocean City Boulevard from the Barrett family during the summer of 2018. The company also operates dealerships in Milford, Lewes, Smyrna and Seaford, Delaware.

The i.g. Burton's Chrysler Dodge Ram Jeep shop, which sits opposite the Chevrolet dealership is already inside the town limits.

Burton plans to demolish the current



The Berlin mayor and Town Council approved a request from i.g. Burton to purchase seven Equivalent Dwelling Units during its Monday evening meeting.

Chevrolet shop and rebuild it. In addition, the Chrysler Dodge Ram Jeep shop is expected to increase by approximately 8,000 square feet to include a shop with eight work stalls and a drive-through.

The work at the Chrysler dealership will cost roughly \$1.5 million, and the Chevrolet project will cost somewhere around \$5 million. Construction on the Chrysler dealership is expected to begin toward the end of 2020 and be completed around 2021.

In addition, i.g. Burton assumes the responsibility of maintaining Barrett road, which is located within the property and therefore had also been annexed into Berlin town limits.

The Town of Berlin will provide several services, including police protection and water service, and i.g. Burton will agree to pay "ready-to-serve" fees for the seven equivalent dwelling units of wastewater service to the property.

All but Troy Purnell, who was absent, voted to approve the request.

Utility budget for FY21 in Berlin to be slightly higher

By Morgan Pilz
Staff Writer

(April 30, 2020) Town of Berlin officials discussed the utilities budget during a work session meeting Monday evening.



Jeff Fleetwood

The overall utility budget for fiscal year 2021 is \$9.2 million, compared to \$9.1 million from the current year figure.

According to Town Administrator Jeff Fleetwood, the utility fund operates as a "quasi-funded budget" with the exception of the electric utility, which is regulated.

According to Fleetwood, the overall budget is up three percent and is projected to have a contingency fund of \$13,000, which is \$2,000 less than the previous year because of the increasing cost of purchasing renewable energy.

Several departments saw an increase in revenues and fees. Water revenue increased by five percent, sewer by three percent and the capital outlay increased to \$164,000 compared to \$54,000 last year, because of

See UTILITY Page 9

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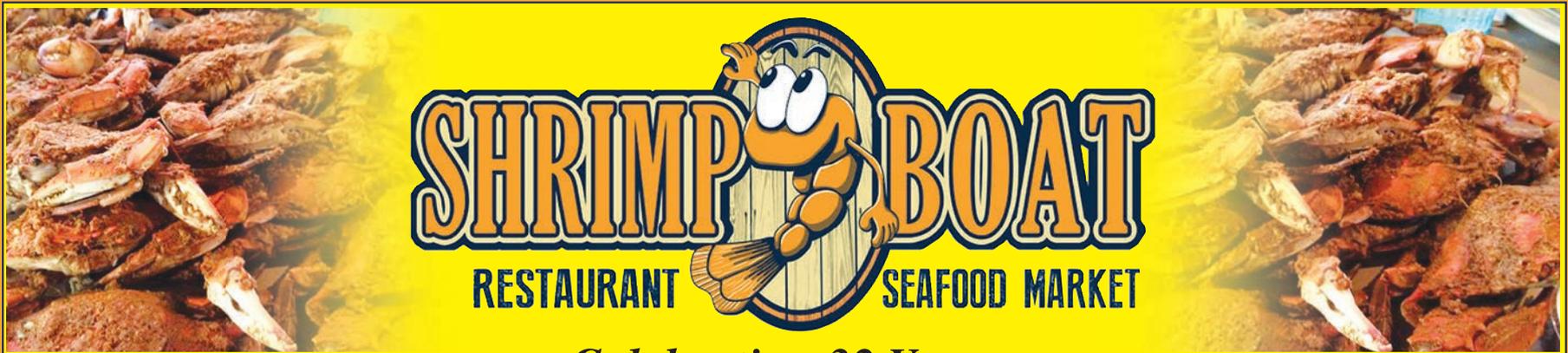
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-Antionette

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-Kevin

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-Debra, Ocean City, MD.

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Berlin may postpone July 4 fireworks for different event

Officials discuss possibility of moving activities to date when town can celebrate

By Morgan Pilz
Staff Writer

(April 30, 2020) As more events are canceled throughout the county as a result of the covid-19 pandemic, Berlin officials are discussing what they might do about the town's Fourth of July ceremony.

Town Administrator Jeff Fleetwood said during the mayor and Town Council meeting Monday that several other municipalities in the county as well as many others elsewhere have already canceled Fourth of July activities.

The mayor and council, however, want to take a longer look at the situation before making a decision. Among the topics of discussion Monday was what would happen to town's fireworks deposit or permits, which cost the town around \$10,000, if it canceled the event.

"I've had Ivy [Wells] check into this, to see if we would lose the deposit and how it would work," Fleetwood said. "As it stands right now, the contractor will allow us to move the date, we would not incur a [penalty] for that, but if we were to cancel, we would lose our deposit."

Mayor Gee Williams suggested that no immediate decisions be

made, and to wait to see what Gov. Larry Hogan does with his phased re-opening plan.

"We're waiting to hear from the governor's office as to what orders, guidelines ... that would be in effect for the first week of July or anytime in July," he said. "Canceling the fireworks takes one phone call. It can happen in a matter of minutes. But if it becomes obvious that the guidelines have not been followed so far, I will reconsider postponing to another date."

Williams also said the town is already planning on holding a reopening ceremony to celebrate the end, or at the very least, reduction of restrictions on social gatherings whenever that time may be.

"We are hoping to have a reopening celebration of some sort this year," he said. "When that will be ... in late July, sometime in August [or] early September, I would suggest as part of it we might want to consider having the fireworks then. All of this is subject to so many factors that are not within our control. We just want to be on the side of caution."

"I think we'll know well ahead of the Fourth of July what the circumstances are in terms of events, activities and congregation of people in our state," he continued. "I have great confidence in our governor and our state ... it has been very reasonable and very timely."

Utility budget shows increase

Continued from Page 6

the need to rebuild a water department pump house on Hamilton Street.

Fleetwood warned there would be a shortfall in the purchase of Equivalent Dwelling Units (EDUs) which requires 59 for sale to remain out of debt. Fleetwood estimates 39 will be purchased this year.

The electric general fund has also seen some major changes, according to Financial Director Natalie Saleh. Because of the coronavirus, the revenue projection has been changed to take "a more conservative approach" she said.

"Overall, the residential services have been projected to increase over \$140,000," she said. "Commercial services increase by \$15,000, general services (which is large buildings like Atlantic General Hospital or Food Lion, which have demand charges) increase by \$9,000."

There will also be a slight increase for streetlights by \$2,000.

According to Electric Director Tim Lawrence, his department's budget has increased by 5.78 percent, or \$56,000, which will be used to help install a new natural gas generator en-

gine to replace the one that failed last summer.

The cost will also cover new software that will allow the department to monitor the engines while they are functioning from a distance for safety reasons. They also can be accessed through a computer or through an app installed on phones.

"The way it's done right now, [our employee] actually has to go down to each engine while it's running every 30 minutes," Lawrence said. "They record it on a piece of paper, what the temperatures are and that type of thing ... this basically gives us the opportunity to automate it up to today's standards, which is how it should be."

Funds will also be used to replace a computer that has software dating back to 1999 and cannot be updated.

For the water department, the budget actually decreased by almost 16 percent, with most of the decrease coming from the general overhead and the contingency fund.

There was also a decrease in water treatment by about \$3,917, or 2.2 percent for a total budget of \$172,429. The major decrease was \$5,000 in water treatment costs.



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OPA lands \$1.1 million PPP loan from SBA

Continued from Page 1
with the Paycheck Protection Program,” he said.

The PPP money, \$349 billion, was released on April 3, after Congress in March approved the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act.

In response to the inability of many businesses to obtain the low to no-interest loans, Congress approved a second round of funding, including \$310 billion for PPP, \$75 billion for hospitals, \$25 billion for covid-19 testing and additional funds for the Economic Injury Disaster Loan program.

After the SBA program was unveiled, a work group was rapidly formed to examine the topic. That group consisted of Parks, General Manager John Viola, Director of Finance and Operational Logistics Steve Phillips and OPA Treasurer Larry Perrone.

“The workgroup met with OPA attorneys who confirmed the Associa-

tion’s qualification criteria and expense compliance requirements,” he said. “

Parks said the OPA’s local lender, Bank of Ocean City, provided further guidance.

Also supporting the OPA team were Senior Executive Secretary Michelle Bennett and Director of Public Relations and Marketing Josh Davis.

Davis said to help navigate the hastily constructed bureaucratic process, the OPA work group consulted with John Hickman, Eastern Regional Director of the Maryland Small Business Development Center

“He hosted several zoom sessions on the PPP loan, which we attended along with dozens of other local businesses,” he said. “He also helped answer a few questions via email.”

Hickman heads the Eastern Region Maryland SBDC, an outreach program run by the Perdue School of Business at Salisbury University for local busi-

nesses.

“We provide assistance to businesses throughout Delmarva, but we’re part of a statewide network that’s part of a national network,” he said. “The largest single source of our funding comes from SBA.”

Hickman said expert guidance was required by a wealth of local businesses and qualifying entities after the rapid roll-out of PPP funding, which was adapted from the existing SBA 7(a) loan program.

“The PPP structurally is a loan program that SBA adapted their existing 7(a) loan program ... to be able to quickly work through the local lending institutions to get funds out to businesses to allow them to maintain payroll,” he said. “Generally, Congress will pass a bill ... and they’ve got months to implement that ... this was one they turned around in a little over a week [and] you can’t do that from starting at

ground zero.”

Under the PPP guidelines, loan amounts used for payroll costs are forgivable, as well as less than 25 percent of awarded sums for mortgage interest, rent, and utility costs incurred before Feb. 15 and paid over the eight-week period after loan receipt.

Parks said the OPA, which has also applied for funds through the Economic Injury Disaster Loan offered through the SBA, would continue to operate and meet current financial obligations while monitoring the evolving health crisis.

“We are hoping that our amenities and other services affected by the covid-19 pandemic will be open in the next several weeks and we can return to some level of normalcy,” he said. “In the meantime, we ask all OPA members to abide by the government mandates and hope everyone stays safe and healthy.”

Farmers market in Berlin to open this Sun.

Continued from Page 1
culture,” Economic and Community Development Director Ivy Wells said. “It totally kills me, because we are so pet-friendly. In Berlin, all of our events always, always welcome pets. But unfortunately, for this period of time, not to the market [until further notice].”

Opening weekend will have 13 vendors, comprised of Baked Dessert Café, Baywater Farms, Cross Farms, DelVecchio, Gilbert’s Provisions, Una Bella Salute, Lyon Distilling Company, Cherry Walk Garden and Preserves, Home Canning Classics, The Bay Mushrooms, Splendid Earth Acres and Berlin Sconer.

Customers can expect to see fresh produce, baked goods, oils and vine-

gars, wines and other spirits and flowers this weekend.

There will be around 10 more vendors come the end of the May, Wells said, as they are still preparing or growing their products.

“When people are involved in a crisis, the first thing that is always concerning to people are where they’re going to get their food,” Wells said. “I think that it proves the point that Shop Local is extremely important to support our local farmers is now even more important today than it has ever been.

“We in Berlin have known that the entire time,” she continued. “So we’ve always been a supporter of our local farmers, and now, even more so in an

open air market.”

In addition, the market will offer a special early bird half hour for seniors ages 60 and older to shop from 8:30-9 a.m.

“I wanted to make sure that seniors could feel safe when they come,” Wells said. “But because the market has always gone from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., I didn’t want to have people show up at 9 wondering why they couldn’t go in. I asked the farmers if they would consider opening up early, and we decided that they could be there and set up a half hour early at 8:30 a.m.”

In the past, the market has offered live music and children’s arts and crafts. These items will not be offered until the governor lessens his restric-

tions on social gatherings.

The market will be offering recyclable shopping bags for \$10. The bags were paid for with a Keep America Beautiful grant the town recently received.

Wells warned that there will only be two entrances to the farmer’s market, as the bank parking lot will be blocked in order to follow regulations.

“You can either get there via the intersection of William and Pitt Street, or Main and Pitt Street,” she said. “I have signs being printed up with the market rules that will be placed at those locations you can’t enter.”

For more information, contact Wells at iwells@berlinmd.gov or call 410-629-1722.

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Windmill Creek community garden

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(April 30, 2020) While pondering the evolving covid-19 pandemic last month from atop a blue Long 360 tractor, Windmill Creek Vineyard & Winery proprietor Barry Mariner decided to forgo planting wildflowers and provide free community garden plots.

“I was out on the tractor just thinking about stuff,” he said.

Mariner, along with his wife Jeannie, are the latest generation to till the 12.5-acre farm that, until 2010, was a 164-acre agricultural parcel along Worcester Highway in Berlin originally purchased by Edwin and Susan Mariner in 1924.

“We have a lot of space ... and we just felt like it was the right thing to do to kind of get back to our roots,” he said. “Basically, all I’m doing is providing space.”

In short order, the concept evolved into the Windmill Creek Victory Gardens, which includes 69 plots measuring 10 by 20 feet, with an associated Facebook group started on March 26 that as of this Monday included 135 members with more than 3,800 likes.

Harkening back to World War I, the “Victory Garden” movement took root in March 1917, when Charles Lathrop Pack established the National War Garden Commission just weeks prior to U.S. involvement.

After the Victory Gardens Facebook page was launched last month, with the name suggested by group member Debra Bowman, the plots were quickly gobbled up.

“We filled up right away pretty much and then we had probably a dozen peo-



PHOTO COURTESY JEANNIE MARINER

Windmill Creek Vineyard & Winery proprietors Barry and Jeannie Mariner have reserved a section of their dozen-plus acre farm to start a community “Victory Garden.”

ple back out,” he said.

The overwhelming community response left ample folks in the wings to fill most of the vacated spots.

“We filled most of them within a few days,” he said. “I only have three plots left.”

While adhering to social distancing guidelines, gardeners began planting on April 17 in three-hour shifts over the weekend.

After initially toying with the idea of asking each plot tender to donate a small portion for a food truck venture, Mariner quickly changed course.

“Now I’m at the point where we’re donating the whole thing,” he said. “I’m not looking at getting anything back.”

Regardless of requested kindness, the participants have begun hatching plans to share future harvests.

“There are some people out here that are going to be donating their food to Di-



Barry and Jeannie Mariner

akonia,” he said. “A bunch of people have talked about just donating back to the community, which is awesome.”

While supportive of any charitable sentiments, Mariner said the larger aim is for community members to grow their own produce.

“I’m seeing what’s going on out here and it’s a lot of young families and kids,” he said. “I want everyone not to stress and enjoy the experience of getting back to the old way of doing things.”

For more information search Windmill Creek Victory Gardens on Facebook or call 410-251-6122.

OPA to hold May 12 flooding mtg. via web broadcast

Virtual format opted for in light of ongoing pandemic

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(April 30, 2020) The Ocean Pines Association has postponed an in-person flooding awareness and outreach meeting until later this year, as it becomes the latest scheduling victim of the coronavirus.

Instead, it will offer an online substitute May 12 starting at 5 p.m.

Ocean Pines Director of Amenities and Operational Logistics Colby Phillips said the “Flooding Awareness Live” meeting will feature a question-and-answer segment. and is a joint project of the OPA and the Maryland Department of the Environment.

“This is the first time for us doing this, so we’re hoping it’s going to go smooth,” she said.

After initially asking residents to submit questions by April 21, Phillips said further inquiries could be presented any time before or during the online meeting.

“We’ll take questions up until that day [and] people can even message while we do the live meeting,” she said.

The intent of the earlier request for inquiries was to see which topics were mentioned.

“We just put it out there to see if there was something specific, but we really didn’t get anything specific,” she said. “It was just to see if we had to go one way over another but we don’t.

Phillips said the session’s organizers still intend to hold a public meeting on the topic later this fall.

“This seminar was supposed to be in person with lots of different federal and state government entities,” she said.

Phillips said the drainage topic remains a crucial focus in Ocean Pines, with an ad hoc group delving into the subject beginning last year.

“One of the things that the ad hoc group discussed, which was the drainage group that got together through the summer, was education to the community,” she said. “We’ve been looking at different ways to do that, which is how these seminars came into play.”

The May 12 meeting is divided into three areas: knowing risk, reducing risk and insurance considerations.

“We talked about what are some of the concerns with homeowners, like standing water,” she said.

Flood-related questions can be emailed prior to May 12 to Phillips at cphillips@oceanpines.org.

To sign up for the virtual “Flooding Awareness Live” event, visit facebook.com/OceanPinesAssociation or use event link facebook.com/events/538691630390381/.

OP Garden Club honored by DNR

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(April 30, 2020) After two decades of commemorating Arbor Day with a memorial tree-planting ceremony, the Ocean Pines Garden Club was honored earlier this month with a PLANT Award from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

After taking note of the annual accolade on the DNR website in December, Ocean Pines Garden Club member Anita Roberts realized the group’s annual Arbor Day celebration warranted consideration.

“The Garden Club has been doing this for 20 years,” she said. “We plant a tree in memory of people who are either Ocean Pines residents or family of ... residents who have passed away the previous year.”

The annual PLANT Awards are issued by the Maryland Urban and Community Forestry Committee of the Maryland Forestry Boards through DNR in four levels: bronze, silver, gold and green.

Roberts said the OP Garden Club took home a 2019 bronze award for one



PHOTO COURTESY GAIL PHILIPPI

Bill and Mary Wentworth place soil on a willow tree planted during the Ocean Pines Garden Club’s 2019 Arbor Day Memorial Ceremony held in Pintail Park.

project, with either include Arbor Day or Earth Day qualifying for inclusion.

“During the ceremony, the friends and family of the person who has passed away attend,” she said. “We announce the name, a bell is rung and

then they shovel some dirt in the hole.”

Roberts said the planting ceremony includes musical interludes provided by either the Delmarva Chorus or the Pine Tones Chorus.

See PINES Page 12

Worcester Co. Library goes digital

By Morgan Pilz
Staff Writer

(April 30, 2020) Even though the Worcester County Library branches remain closed under Gov. Larry Hogan's order that only essential businesses can be open, books are still being offered to the public – virtually.

The Worcester County Library's digital library is available for use during the closure. Included are material for students, eBooks and stream media, resource guides and up-to-date information about the coronavirus.

"The library's digital collection has thousands of items," Worcester County Library Director Jennifer Ranck said. "We have two resources available for

checking out eBooks – Overdrive and Hoopla. Each of those products has content available for children, teens and adults."

The digital library is available by visiting www.WorcesterLibrary.org. The database has collections from every genre – from thrillers to romance and mystery – and nonfiction options such as health and fitness, cooking, and history.

According to Ranck, reading is more important than ever because it can be "therapeutic."

"Reading regularly will help maintain skills for students and prevent academic regression," she said. "When a person becomes engrossed in a story, it

relaxes the mind and relieves stress."

Amid the school closures required by Gov. Hogan and State Superintendent of Schools Dr. Karen Salmon, the county library system also offers a large variety of education-based materials for students who are now learning online.

"The library has created an entire section about at-home learning on our website, www.WorcesterLibrary.org," Ranck said. "Your library card can help with at-home tutoring using Brain- See DIGITAL Page 14



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Pines Arbor Day event on hold

Continued from Page 11

"We usually have bagpipes there," she said. "We finish the celebration with luncheon at the Yacht Club and hold a 50/50 raffle with half donated to the Arbor Day Foundation."

Roberts said the local Arbor Day ceremony is traditionally held on the second Thursday in April and is produced in conjunction with Kelly Romanowski from Ocean Pines Public Works.

"We've talked with Kelly about getting name plates for each tree so we that we can name the trees and people will know [for whom] each tree has been planted," she said.

Roberts said the covid-19 pandemic prevented the Garden Club from holding the Arbor Day ceremony this month.

"Our plans are on hold for right now," she said.

Despite that setback, the Garden Club still plans to work with Public Works to maintain the location.

"The Garden Club sponsors [Pintail

Park], so in spring, summer and fall we weed, water plants or trees and clean up the park," she said.

Roberts said the Garden Club, which has roughly five-dozen members, performs an array of aesthetical upgrades throughout the year, including planting flowers at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial in May and spreading holiday cheer after Thanksgiving.

"One of our biggest efforts, the Monday after Thanksgiving, we decorate Ocean Pines for Christmas," she said. "We do all the decorations that are up on [Ocean] Parkway."

Roberts said although the Arbor Day ceremony is cancelled this month, plans are percolating for a potential event later this year, while evidence of past efforts remains rooted.

"I encourage people to go and visit Pintail Park and to see how the trees have been planted and how we have honored Arbor Day in the past," she said. "We hope to celebrate Arbor Day sometime in the near future."

Berlin schedules free curbside yard waste collections

(April 30, 2020) The Town of Berlin will hold free curbside yard waste collections in May.

Collections are for improved, occupied residential properties and dates vary according to the regular weekly trash schedules.

New collection policies went into effect on March 1.

Yard waste collection will be on Wednesday May 6, for Tuesday and Wednesday trash customers and on Wednesday, May 13, for Thursday trash customers.

Place leaves, grass clippings, pine needles and cones, and other vegetation yard waste in a paper or plastic bag. Cut tree limbs or brush into four-foot lengths and bundle no larger than 18 inches in diameter. Do not include animal waste, stones, rocks, metal, other inorganic matter, dirt, sod or other materials.

For more information about special collections, visit the town website at berlinmd.gov and go to the Public Works page under Departments.

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Digital library activities, databases available

Continued from Page 12
Fuse.”

BrainFuse is a database for test preparation, tutoring and homework help, available seven days a week between 2-11 p.m. Spanish-speaking tutors are also available.

Ranck said that despite local libraries being closed, she is pleased that people seem interested in the virtual resources offer.

“It has been a strange feeling to be closed, but we are very happy to have this opportunity to talk about virtual resources,” she said. “We have received questions about downloading eBooks and finding our digital magazines, so we believe more people are taking advantage of these resources.”

In addition, the organization is offering several virtual activities through its social media pages, including story

times, poetry readings, and how-to programs for tasks like sewing, baking, juggling and other activities.

The library system also launched a program in March called “Seclusion Cinema.”

“We are encouraging patrons of all ages to submit a short film (five minutes or less) into our homemade film festival,” Ranck said. “Complete rules are available on our website.”

The Seclusion Cinema will run until Monday, June 1. Participants can create a short film no longer than five minutes long ranging on any topic provided it is family friendly, does not use copyright music and does not include any violence, weapons or profanity.

The website also offers some links to editing video software as well as a link to upload the content. Films that follow the library’s guidelines will be uploaded

to the organization’s Facebook page.

In addition, the library offers a program called CreativeBug, which features video tutorials for all ages on various art and craft projects.

Artist Works offers step-by-step video instruction on a number of different instruments.

People can also access Mango for language learning and can select from 70 different languages to study at their own pace.

Other events held throughout the week include arts and crafts projects, poetry readings, book clubs for tweens, adults and children, tea time, and some history lessons. These events can be found on the library’s website under the events page.

Residents with active Worcester County Library cards can use them to access the virtual database. Free digital

cards are available for 90 days.

To sign up for a digital library card, click the “apply for a library card” link underneath the slideshow on the library website.

Any questions can be answered through email at askus@worchesterlibrary.org. For more information, visit the Worcester County Library Facebook page or website at www.WorcesterLibrary.org.

“We look forward to reopening our branches as soon as possible and we appreciate everyone’s patience and support,” Ranck said. “The library is here to help in any way we can during this difficult time.”

Ministry offering drive-through food pantry bi-weekly

By Morgan Pilz
Staff Writer

(April 30, 2020) Two churches in Berlin have joined to offer a drive-through food pantry to take place every other Wednesday, with the next one scheduled for Wednesday, May 6, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Volunteers from Stevenson United Methodist Church (SUMC) and Buckingham Presbyterian Church are providing groceries for families in need. The drive is being run through the Stevenson United Methodist Church’s ministry, the SUMC Spirit Kitchen.

The SUMC Spirit Kitchen had been offering free lunches every Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. before the coronavirus pandemic, but now that the church has been closed as a result of the virus, the volunteers have decided to offer the meals on 103 Flower Street.

“We’ll be open for 10 years come February and it was just a group of us people from Stevenson United Methodist that felt like the Lord had wanted us to feed his people,” Founder Vicky Nock said. “But since we’ve been closed by covid-19, we decided to do a drive-through pantry over on Flower Street. We’ve been doing that every other week as opposed to open every week because we’re seeing a lot more people.”

During last Wednesday’s drive-through, the food pantry handed out over 12,000 pounds of food to around 206 families, Nock said.

“Each family will get eight to 10 bags of groceries,” Nock said.

The food is provided by the Maryland Food Bank, with which the SUMC Spirit Kitchen is an agency. Even though volunteers from Buckingham Presbyterian are participating, only authorized agencies of the organization can request supplies

See FAMILIES Page 15



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Obituaries

CAROLYN HARTYE DORMAN

Ocean Pines

Carolyn "Carol" Hartye Dorman was born in the Bronx, New York, to parents Col. Robert and Helen Hartye (US Army retired) on June 16, 1945.

She died peacefully on April 20, 2020, at Coastal Hospice at the Lake.

As a proud Army brat, Carol and her family were stationed in Japan, Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York and France.

She attended Orleans American High School, where she met the love of her life, Charlie "Chuck" Dorman.

He was one of those GI's your mama told you to stay away from, ha-ha.

Upon returning to the states, she and Charlie were married on Feb. 14, 1964, in Catonsville, Maryland. They lived there for 23 years.

Carol worked at Baltimore Federal Savings & Loan in Baltimore City. In 1986, Charlie was transferred to the Naval Facility at Wallops Island as director of Public Works and they moved to Ocean Pines.

Carol's favorite past times were



Carolyn Dorman

reading and singing with the Pine Tones Chorus. She joined that group in 1986 and considered the members her extended family.

She particularly enjoyed singing at the nursing homes, which was part of the Pine Tones' commitment.

Carol was currently a member of the Rotary Club of Snow Hill, the Worcester County Arts Council, Ocean City/Berlin Optimist Club and Furnace Town Museum.

She was also a past-president of the Ocean Pines Woman's Club,

Ocean City/Berlin Optimist Club, Gamma Lota Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi and the Worcester County Arts Council.

She was currently serving as vice president of the Ocean City/Berlin Optimist Club.

She is survived by her best friend and loving husband of 56 years, Charlie; her sister and her husband, Connie and Dean Merrell, of Minnesota; her sister-in-law, Lisa Hartye, of Puerto Vallarta, Mexico; her sister-in-law, Maxine Brisbane, of Ocean Pines, Maryland; and her wonderful nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her parents, Bob and Helen Hartye; her

brothers, Bob Jr. and Michael; her in-laws, Charles and Helen Dorman; and nephew, Steven Hocheder.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Snow Hill Rotary Club Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 1, Snow Hill, Maryland 21863, and/or the Ocean City/Berlin Optimist Club Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 1403, Ocean Pines, Maryland 21811.

Arrangements are in the care of Holloway Funeral Home P.A., 501 Snow Hill Rd., Salisbury, Maryland 21804. To send condolences to the family please visit www.hollowayfh.com.

Families provided 8-10 bags of food from Spirit Kitchen

Continued from Page 14 from the Food Bank.

Supplies typically include canned and fresh fruits and vegetables, rice, potatoes, onions, chicken, meat, dairy products and even toilet paper and paper towels, though supplies do vary with each shipment.

There is little interaction with the families, she said, as the organization sets up several tables at 103 Flower Street and then places the groceries in the trunk of the vehicle or at a station for people who arrive on bikes or by foot.

Nock and her volunteers do this not only as a means of supporting their church, but to help those in the community who need it most. However, the activity costs money that the church cannot provide funds for at this time.

Even though the food is supplied by the Maryland Food Bank, the organization runs primarily on grants and donations.

"We don't get money from the church," Nock said. "We exist completely on grants and the good-hearted people in the community."

Nock encouraged people who are able to donate money to help run the drive-through food pantry. Donations can be sent to the Spirit Kitchen at 123 North Main Street.

For more information about the food pantry, visit <https://thespiritkitchen.wixsite.com> or visit the SUMC Spirit Kitchen Facebook page.

AGH nursing scholarships available

(April 30, 2020) The James G. and Nancy W. Barrett nursing scholarship applications are now available on the Atlantic General Hospital website.

The Non-RN to RN Scholarship is available to current AGH employees and those in the community who are pursuing an RN degree.

The RN to BSN, or other Advanced Degree Scholarship, is only open to current AGH employees who have an RN.

The deadline for both scholarships

is 4 p.m. on Friday, May 1.

"In a time where healthcare providers are in high demand and short supply, it is incumbent upon organizations to support ongoing healthcare education through scholarship," said Matthew Morris, DNP, RN, NEA-BC, vice president patient care services at Atlantic General Hospital. "We are fortunate to be able to provide our associates support to further their nursing education through the James G. and Nancy W. Barrett

Scholarship program. All of our current efforts to improve the skills and knowledge of our healthcare team will be garnered in future years of quality healthcare at Atlantic General."

To find the applications for the James G. and Nancy W. Barrett Scholarship programs at Atlantic General Hospital, visit www.atlantic-general.org/scholarships.

Questions, contact Alicia Warren in human resources at awarren@atlanticgeneral.org.

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Opinion

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

What do we do now? Proceed with caution

As politicians, businesspeople, some economists and libertarian-minded individuals agitate for an end to the covid-19 lockdowns, the argument invariably brings up the relatively small percentage of virus-related deaths versus the economic ruin these restrictions will cause.

But the question that's seldom discussed, as we argue over whether the exercise of common sense might negate the need for these repressive measures, is what the covid-19 numbers might be now had governors not acted as they did.

The anti-restriction perspective asserts that, given the devastating economic problems that could lie ahead, we might be better off with less government control and more responsible common sense behavior by the citizenry.

If only common sense was that common. If it was, to cite some examples from everyday life, we wouldn't have motorcycle helmet laws, or speed limits. We wouldn't have laws that prohibit throwing objects at vehicles, property or persons, or have, as Ocean City does, a law that prohibits landing an aircraft in town.

Obviously, government officials and ordinary citizens have seen common sense thrown out the window so many times that it defies the imagination to believe that suddenly it will dominate our behavior. Hence these shackles on our liberties.

The question, however, remains: have these lockdowns done more harm than good? That is unknowable. The only estimate of the death toll of an unchecked covid-19 pandemic in the public conversation comes from Imperial College, London, where researchers in March concluded that the covid-19 fatalities in this country alone would be in the range 2 million ... as compared to the current 55,000-60,000.

Is that overblown? Maybe. Then again, maybe not. Common sense suggests that governments need to react to what's in front of them based on the advice of experts and their own opinions of public behavior.

After that, no one can say definitively what we need to do, other than to proceed with caution and not swing too far in either direction.



"Last week we studied the genius of Walt Disney. This week we examine the scholarly works of Hanna Barbera."

Letters

Thank you, Ocean Pines

Editor,

As everyone is enduring the coronavirus pandemic, we, the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department, have been the fortunate recipients of much love and many treats from our wonderful community.

We still receive phone calls daily from our neighbors asking what they could bring us or how they can help us. So many people want to give back to first responders and front-line workers as a way to show their support and gratitude.

Here is our number one request to the people of Ocean Pines: stay healthy.

We want our friends, loved ones, neighbors and customers to stay safe, for

us.

This means only going out for essential needs, wearing a mask anywhere you go, not hosting or participating in gatherings and washing your hands more frequently.

If you stay healthy, we have a much greater chance of staying well ourselves, which in turn helps us keep our families healthy.

This is a serious illness; staying home and protected can help you decrease your chance of contracting it. As I write this, all members currently remain covid-19 free; we have also increased our daily cleaning and after call decontamination efforts, and limited public access to our firehouses, since this began. Otherwise, we are always in need of volunteers to give their time to the com-

munity as firefighters.

If you might be interested in joining our department, we have a variety of roles in which you can participate as a member.

Visit our website, opvfd.com to print and complete an application. After we have returned to normal operations following covid-19, we will then process applications.

Tickets can still be purchased for our annual truck raffle on our website, as well.

We are grateful for all the treats, PPE (personal protective equipment) donations and countless acts of support given to us from the residents and businesses of Ocean Pines. Help us remain healthy and safe by staying home.

Steven Grunewald
Fire Chief

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Have an opinion?

We invite you to share it, but all letters are subject to verification, so please include your name and phone number. All letters are subject to editing for space and to protect the author and this newspaper from legal action. Email letters to editor@baysidegazette.com. For questions, call 410-723-6397.

WCPS provide over 50,000 meals

By Morgan Pilz
Staff Writer

(April 30, 2020) Worcester County Public Schools have handed out 54,432 meals to students over the past month, since schools were officially closed because of the covid-19 pandemic.

Some students rely on breakfast and lunch from the 14 schools in the county, so immediately after the decision was made by State Superintendent Dr. Karen Salmon to close schools, the local school system began providing meals, beginning with five locations within three days. Now, there are seven locations and the meals are offered five days a week.

“We understand the critical role that nutritious meals play in the healthy development and the long-term health and educational outcomes for our students,” Worcester County Public Schools Chief Financial Officer Vincent Tolbert said. “We developed our plan to ensure our students would continue to have access to healthy meals prior to our students being dismissed on March 13.”

The first week – March 17, 18 and 20 – the board handed out 3,786 meals, which includes breakfast, lunch and snacks. The following week – March 23-27 – 9,030 meals were distributed.

The third week – March 30 to April

3 – 9,765 meals were supplied. The week of Easter recess, 14,913 meals, which included additional food to eat during the break, were handed out.

From April 14-17, the board provided 7,353 meals over a four-day period. From April 20-24, 9,585 meals were distributed.

On average, Tolbert said volunteers at the sites give out meals to approximately 650 students per day.

Meals have also been delivered to students in need who are unable to travel to the designated sites.

Each meal is comprised of food that fulfills the National School Lunch Program nutritional requirements.

“Our menu consists of student favorite items [such as] whole grain blueberry muffins, whole grain cereals, whole grain breakfast breads, fresh bananas, oranges, apples, whole grain breads, low-fat chocolate and white milk, and a variety of vegetables,” Tolbert said.

Meals offered also include pasta with meat sauce, cheeseburgers, nachos with Tex-Mex, chicken sandwiches and a variety of whole grain snacks.

According to Tolbert, the response from the community has been overwhelmingly positive.

“Our community has always been very supportive of our school system,” Tolbert said. “We have received many

offers to help during this time and are truly thankful for each one.

“We are also very appreciative of our volunteers at our four community-based distribution sites,” he continued. “These include Windy Gardens Apartments in Pocomoke, Ebenezer United Methodist Church in Snow Hill, Bay Terrace Garden Apartments in Berlin and St. Paul’s by-the-Sea Episcopal Church in Ocean City.”

Superintendent of Schools Lou Taylor praised the work of the community in the most recent Board of Education teleconference on Tuesday.

“We are staying the course in support of our students,” Taylor said. “We’re doing it through supporting our student’s basic needs through our feeding program, which we just last week served almost 7,400 meals to children in need in this county, support to their social emotional support through remote counseling services ... and I want to extend again my thanks to our entire community for their support of our efforts in this entire process during this time.”

Tolbert also praised the success of the program through the board’s partners and the support of the community.

“The success of our meal distribution program during this time of school closure has once again demonstrated how working together is key to

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- Windy Gardens (800 Lynn Haven Dr.)
- Pocomoke Middle School (800 8th Street)

BERLIN/OCEAN CITY:

- Buckingham Elementary School (100 Buckingham Rd., Berlin)
- Bay Terrace Apartments (517 Bay Street, Berlin)
- St. Paul’s by the Sea Episcopal Church (302 Baltimore Ave., Ocean City)

our success,” he said. “This includes the leadership of our Board of Education and superintendent, the financial support of our County Commissioners, the hard work and dedication of our administrators and food service staff and the overwhelming support of our community.”

For more information about the Worcester County Public Schools meal distributions, contact Tolbert at 410-632-5062 or email him at vetolbert@worcesterk12.org.

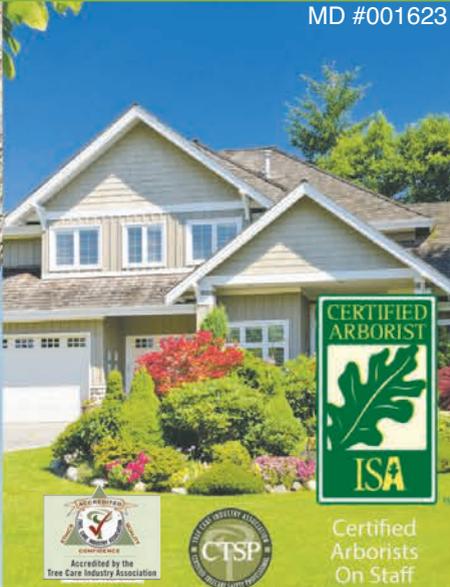


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WCPS BOE approves waiver of final exams

By Morgan Pilz
Staff Writer

(April 30, 2020) Members of the Worcester County Public Schools Board of Education voted on Tuesday, April 21, to waive final exams following the extended school closure due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Maryland State Superintendent Dr. Karen Salmon declared Friday, April 17, that schools would now be closed until Friday, May 15, amid the growing number of covid-19 cases.

“Due to the mandated closure of our schools and the Continuity of Learning plan that we have developed due to the coronavirus, or covid-19, Worcester County Public Schools would like to waive the final exam for all semester to courses and yearlong courses for the 2019-2020 years in order to maintain equity and fairness for our students,” Annette Wallace, the school system’s



Annette Wallace

chief operating officer and academic officer for grades 9-12, said.

“We’ve determined it is not in their best interests for these final exams to be administered,” she continued.

“These exams were created with the mindset that our students who face the most challenges would be provided supports prior to the exam and during the exam and an equitable way.”

The recommendation follows the state’s application for a waiver for assessments and Maryland’s Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requirements for the current school year.

Wallace told board members that she would keep them updated on the state’s waiver requests. Those requests

will ensure waivers for assessments as well as service-learning requirements.

Superintendent of Schools Lou Taylor said during the meeting he was proud of how teachers, students and parents have been handling the situation.

“I want to say thank you to everyone for being supportive of our outstanding Worcester County Public School system,” he said. “I certainly hope that our community will join us on social media to celebrate our very, very hardworking teachers and the incredible amount of work they are doing.”

He also promised to provide a celebration for the graduating class of 2020.

The evening of Tuesday, April 21, Taylor shared a message for seniors about his plans to form a countywide graduation committee for the graduates.

“I know this year is not the same for you,” Taylor said in the YouTube mes-

sage. “It’s not the same for any of us. I know many of you feel cheated or robbed of what should be one of the most joyous times of your young life. We certainly share that disappointment.

“As a class, you will get a direct hand in how we approach the celebration of your accomplishments,” he continued.

Taylor mentioned in the video that he was forming a special committee to prepare a graduation ceremony.

“With that committee, we will be looking to you, our seniors, through surveys and direct representation from your class leaders, to help us shape your graduating experience through these very difficult times,” Taylor said.

For more information about online learning or to contact Worcester County Public Schools, visit <http://worcesterk12.org/home> or the Worcester County Public Schools MD Facebook page.

Living Local series spotlights sustainability

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(April 30, 2020) With the third of six farm spotlight articles published this Friday, The Maryland Coastal Bays Program’s “Living Local: Small-Scale, Large Impact” project continues to examine sustainable agricultural operations on the Eastern Shore.

Coastal Bays Program Environmental Educator Chandler Joiner said this next installment covers Assateague Farms on Assateague Road and Route 611 in Berlin, while the earlier articles explored Masterpiece Flower Farm in Whaleyville and Splendid Earth Acres also in Berlin.

“We’re trying to spread the word so people can learn about these farms ... things to help protect the watershed and ways to access local food in these unusual times,” she said.

Future articles will feature Good Farm, Cross Farm and Berlin’s Bluebird Farm, which all are located within the surrounding watershed of Maryland’s five coastal bays.

Joiner said besides promoting the



Chandler Joiner

Living Local series on the Coastal Bays Program’s website, several conservationist entities have joined the venture.

“We are also spreading the word through other organizations, like Future Harvest

Casa, Lower Shore Land Trust and Fair Farms Maryland,” she said.

Joiner, who organized the initiative with assistance from Coastal Bays Education Coordinator Liz Wist, said the intent is to make the public aware of cultivation methods to reduce waterway pollution.

In addition to encouraging agricultural practices to help the bays, the campaign also champions the consumption of local produce.

“At the end of each article it lists where you can find everyone’s products,” she said.

Joiner said besides numerous farmers markets in the vicinity, several of the growers are operating no-contact retail

stands at their locations, with proper social-distancing guidelines followed.

While schedules remain uncertain until covid-19 pandemic is overcome, Joiner said community members could attend interactive tours as part of the “farmer-focused” project.

“Right now, there are technically three farm visits scheduled for June, but I envision those likely changing,” she said. “We want people to be aware that the farm visits will occur whether it’s later in the summer or in the fall.”

Joiner also encouraged area agriculturalists who employ sustainable practices to make contact.

“Right now six farms have agreed to be spotlighted and we’re releasing them ... every other Friday,” she said. “If people do own farms in the coastal bays watershed and would like to reach out ... we can talk about highlighting them.”

Joiner noted the Coastal Bays Program’s website is also offering a virtual learning module entitled “Notes from the Field.”

“We are releasing resources pretty

much every day,” she said.

Splendid Earth Acres will retail this summer at the Berlin Farmers Market on Sundays from 9:00am to 1:00pm. For more information email splendidearthacres@gmail.com.

Masterpiece Flower Farm retails year ‘round at the farmers market in Salisbury and during summer at similar markets in Berlin and in Bethany and Lewes in Delaware. The mother-daughter operation is running a farm stand at its 7945 Old Ocean City Rd. location daily from 10 a.m. to dark. For more information visit masterpieceflowerfarm.com

Assateague Farm is located at 11832 Assateague Rd. and is running a farm stand daily from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. with self-serve shopping and no-contact payment. For more information visit assateaguefarm.com or call 410-660-5205.

To learn more, visit mdcoastalbays.org and click on the “Living Local” link.

Information about farm visits will be announced on the Coastal Bays Program website, Facebook page and subscriber newsletter once firm dates are available.

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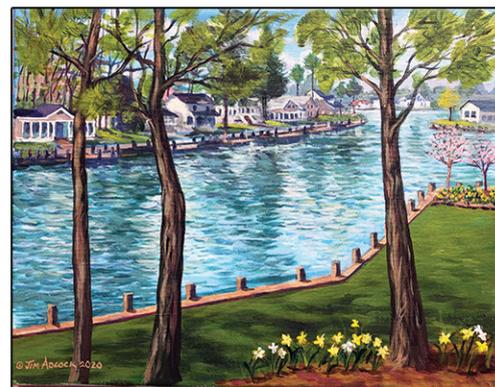
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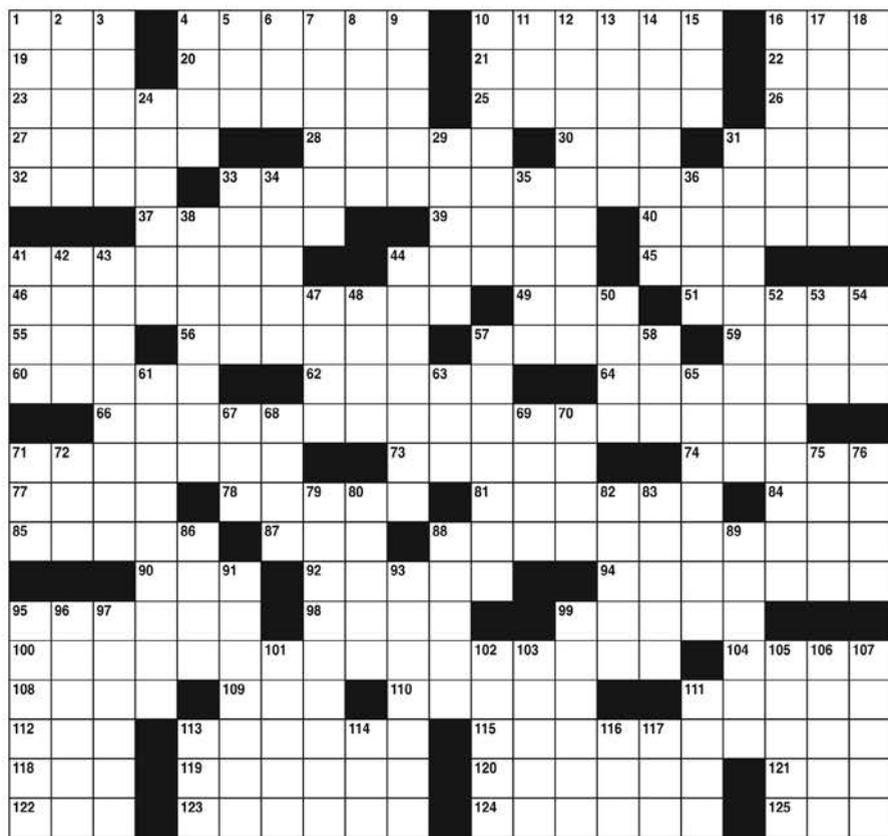
OF COURSE!

BY JACK MOWAT AND JEFF CHEN / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Jack Mowat, 20, of Omaha, Neb., is a sophomore at Notre Dame studying civil engineering. A self-described crossword "fanatic," he and his roommate used to solve the New York Times crossword together every day and hang the completed puzzles on the wall. The inspiration for this one was his dad, an avid golfer. This is Jack's second puzzle for The Times. His collaborator, Jeff Chen, is a writer and professional crossword constructor in Seattle. — W.S.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Big inits. in news
 - 4 Place to visit in a suit
 - 10 Sign of winter's end
 - 16 Purchase that often costs 99¢
 - 19 Something picked at with a pickax
 - 20 Comic Jones formerly of "S.N.L."
 - 21 Fleet
 - 22 Low-___
 - 23 Duffer's approach shots that barely go anywhere?
 - 25 Like kids, but not mom or dad?
 - 26 Gaza grp.
 - 27 Bad position for a server
 - 28 Pick up
 - 30 CD follower
 - 31 Flair
 - 32 Post-Mao Chinese leader
 - 33 Duffer's putt that just misses?
 - 37 Goes on a tweetstorm
 - 39 ___ Reader
 - 40 Tiny insects in a swarm
 - 41 Founder of WikiLeaks
 - 44 Common skirt feature
 - 45 Preparatory time
 - 46 Nickname for a duffer who can't hit straight?
- DOWN**
- 2 ___ Parade, annual June celebration
 - 3 Intel producer
 - 4 Scads
 - 5 Part of the upper bod
 - 6 "Or so"
 - 7 V.I.P. rosters
 - 8 More yellow, but not yet brown, say
 - 9 Like a question for which "maybe" is not an option
 - 10 Capital of French Polynesia
 - 11 Off the internet, to internet users
 - 12 Blue toon in a white dress
 - 13 Chocolate substitute
 - 14 Japanese soybean appetizer
 - 15 Nickname that can be either masculine or feminine
 - 16 Standard outlet connection
 - 17 Grand dwelling
 - 18 Carelessly drops
 - 24 Ankle-biter
 - 29 Move stealthily
 - 31 Weapon sought by Voldemort
 - 33 Woman with a well-known internet "list"
 - 34 Cardiologist's tool
 - 35 Like some personalities
 - 36 Go full ___ (throw a world-class hissy fit)
 - 38 Certain employee at ESPN or JPMorgan Chase
 - 41 Vanquishers of kings?
 - 42 Drink in a little cup
 - 43 Piece of training equipment in boxing
 - 44 Put forth, as a theory
 - 47 Dance that men often do shirtless
 - 48 Europe-based grp. with no European members
 - 50 Org. that employs radio telescopes
 - 52 Principle of harmonious design
 - 53 Absorb, as a loss
 - 54 Ones practicing: Abbr.
 - 57 ___ Purchase, 1853 land deal with Mexico
 - 58 Actor Patel
 - 61 Thorn in a dictator's side
 - 63 Grassy field
 - 65 Kind of rating
 - 67 Road crew's supply
 - 68 House speaker before Pelosi
 - 69 Went green, perhaps?
 - 70 Called up
 - 71 Call to a shepherd
 - 72 Stadium cry
 - 75 Milk sources
 - 76 Disintegrate, in a way, as cells in the body
 - 79 SOS in Gotham City
 - 80 Biblical figure with a tomb in the Cave of the Patriarchs
 - 82 Simple shelter
 - 83 Spanish winds
 - 86 Convinced
 - 88 No longer sleeping
 - 89 "Marriage Story" co-star, to fans
 - 91 Simple and ingenious
 - 93 Sparkle
 - 95 Have trouble deciding
 - 96 Headstrong
 - 97 Spot coverage?
 - 99 Like a wunderkind
 - 101 Edie of "The Sopranos"
 - 102 Spoilers, of a sort
 - 103 Witch
 - 105 "Catch That ___ Spirit" (old ad slogan)
 - 106 Exams for some bio majors
 - 107 Pull some strings?
 - 111 Guesses by GPSes
 - 113 Director Craven
 - 114 Play with
 - 116 Thurman of "Pulp Fiction"
 - 117 Word with rolling or bowling

Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 4,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords (\$39.95 a year).



- 103 Witch
- 105 "Catch That ___ Spirit" (old ad slogan)
- 106 Exams for some bio majors
- 107 Pull some strings?
- 111 Guesses by GPSes
- 113 Director Craven
- 114 Play with
- 116 Thurman of "Pulp Fiction"
- 117 Word with rolling or bowling

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HARD - 49

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

			8					6
				5				8 7
4							5	
	7 2			9 1				
1 3							2 4	
		4 3					7 5	
		7						6
3 6			8					
	2			7				

Answers to last week's puzzles

8	6	4	2	5	1	3	9	7
2	1	9	8	7	3	6	5	4
7	5	3	9	4	6	2	8	1
4	9	6	7	1	5	8	2	3
5	8	7	3	9	2	4	1	6
1	3	2	6	8	4	9	7	5
3	7	8	1	6	9	5	4	2
6	4	1	5	2	8	7	3	9
9	2	5	4	3	7	1	6	8

A	T	L	A	S	A	P	E	R	C	U	B	A	B	A	W	A	W	A			
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R	A	I	N	D	A	T	E			E	E	Y	O	R	E		R	A	C	E	R
P	R	E	S	S	B	O	X			R	R	A	T	E	D		S	T	A	R	S

Cuisine

Sirloin with eggs and breakfast potatoes

So, what else needs to happen in this strange, new world of ours? How many more weeks, months or years must we lay in hiding before we can arise above the ashes?



By Paul Suplee,
MBA, CEC, PC-3

This episode has been taxing on all people; truly something that has not happened in our lifetime.

Unless you are older than 104 years old (meaning that you were a toddler at the time of the Spanish Flu with even a semblance of memory), then you have never lived through times such as these.

Luckily, at least we have virtual meetings and greetings, if nothing else.

Suffice it to say, each one of us seem to have the 'right' answer, don't we? I will end the sarcasm there, referencing every cherry-picked meme and statistic that exemplifies either the danger of this virus or the silliness of the lockdown.

Personally, I cannot tell you who is right and who has erred. Despite my vast degrees in business and history (once again ceasing the sarcasm here), I have no authority over the languages of immunology, virology or epidemiology.

No, I simply would not be so arrogant as to think that I know better than people who are in much more control of information, whether that be for or against shutdowns, vaccinations, the shaving of beards or whatever the new 'thing' might be.

No, I can only speak on what I know, or at least what I have seen in the past few months. And what I have seen is a true testament of what I grew up with.

A reflection on old-fashioned values exemplified in musings, articles and movies over the years. Hell, even the stories from my late father, a WWII veteran (2 years, 2 months and 22 days in the South Pacific) told of an America that was long lost.

Oh, the funny things that happen in a pandemic.

In the last two months, I have seen some inspiring stories of change to the 'new normal'... perhaps nothing more than a return to the old normal. The days of yore speak very powerfully to those who are interested in their voice.



As the food chain seems to be changing, I now see many people buying locally.

They are going to local farms, now not worrying about eggs that are \$5 a dozen or more. I mean, don't we all pay that much for a large coffee these days?

Friends of ours, Gretchen and Scotty, graced us with a box of grass-fed beef from a Maryland farm: Not expected, but greatly appreciated.

I knew that it was not cheap, but they supported a local Maryland farm. I love that.

I have spoken with friends who are farmers inundated with business recently, not able to keep up with demand. I will take that as a victory.

Moreover, speaking of victory, has anyone else noticed the popularity of the backyard 'victory garden'?

It is wonderful to see folks growing their own fruit, vegetables and herbs. There is just something so connecting in this practice.

Chicken coops are being thrown in backyards faster than '86 Monte Carlos on blocks, and that is fantastic. The 'free range' eggs are delicious and surprisingly simple to harvest.

From a restaurant standpoint, we are now allowed to offer carryout and

for the first time in state history, cocktails to go. This is a great if not extraordinary convenience for customers who may just want a drink while not betting the farm on a bottle of booze.

Somehow, it reminds me of New Orleans. Indeed, strange times.

Above all else, it means time with our families. I truly hope that everyone embraces this time to appreciate family. I know that this can make for trying times for some, and that makes me infinitely sad, but this is a time when we must fight to come together as one.

It is a time of dining with our loved ones...our children...our pets...whoever it may be. It is time to sit down and break bread with those we love. We owe ourselves at least that much.

And it is definitely a time to build a treehouse, if indeed you have a tree. It does not have to be luxurious. It just needs to be solid.

It needs to stand as a testament to these days; a place where everyone takes turns to get the hell away from each other, and a place where everyone will meet for dinner.

Yes, these are dastardly times, but let's eat, and let's do it together, virtually or in-person.

Grassfed Sirloin and Eggs

serves four

1 decent slab of bone-in sirloin steak
Ghee*

Trimix, as needed (reference past articles), as needed

8 ea. free-range eggs

Breakfast potatoes of your choosing

- Pat the sirloin dry

- *So, ghee is an indian-style clarified butter with a much higher flashpoint than whole butter. This is very important, as you don't want your steak to taste like carbon in any way, shape or form

- Lightly spread some ghee on the steak and continue to step 4

- Coat with a liberal amount of seasoning (trimix). Don't worry. A fair amount of it will fall off in the grilling process

- Heat a grill to a preposterously high heat and grill on both sides until cooked to the temperature of your liking

- Now, serve with breakfast potatoes and over-easy eggs like your grandmother used to serve up.

— Paul G. Suplee is an Associate Professor of Culinary Arts at Wor-Wic Community College.

Find his ePortfolio at www.heartofakitchen.com.

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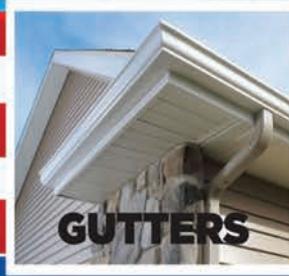
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