



PHOTO COURTESY JOHN REINHOLT

Pines election on pause until court weighs in

Candidate qualifications issue will go to conference

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Aug. 19, 2021) Although the Ocean Pines Association annual homeowners meeting Saturday was a washout because of the lack of quorum, the greater issue before Ocean Pines voters is the lack of an election, which remains on hold pending action by the Worcester County Circuit Court.

The most important business of the annual meeting is to validate the board of directors election that takes place in July and August, but litigation between disqualified candidate Rick Farr and the OPA Board of Directors put an end to that last week, when Judge Beau Oglesby granted plaintiff Farr's request for a temporary restraining order to stay the election.

What happens next — whether to accept the election results or restage the contest — is an open-ended question. See FARR Page 2



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

OPA President Larry Perrone closes the annual homeowners meeting on Saturday due to both lacking a quorum and pending litigation surrounding the current board election.

SEAFOOD DINNER

An osprey chows down on the catch of the day high up in a pine tree. With the young ones fledged and out of the nest, their parents get some time to dine alone.

Wilkerson Award goes to Gilmore

Vets Memorial Foundation president honored for her years of volunteer service

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Aug. 19, 2021) Although the lack of a quorum prevented the Ocean Pines Association's annual homeowners' meeting from taking place Saturday, association officials did take the time to present the 2021 Sam Wilkerson Volunteer Award to Veterans Memorial Foundation President Marie Gilmore.

Recreation and Parks Director Deb-

bie Donahue bestowed the annual honor on Gilmore during a ceremony at the Ocean Pines Community Center.

Established in 2003, the award pays respects to the memory of Sam Wilkerson, 8, who died during a water accident in Ocean City.

Sam Wilkerson had participated in youth soccer under the watchful eye of his father, Bob, a volunteer coach in the Ocean Pines Recreation Department.

The award focuses on recreation and parks program volunteers, and this year Donahue took note of Gilmore's contribution to the Veterans Memorial.

"Although there are many volunteers at the Veterans Memorial, there is one person that stands out in her efforts in making the memorial such an amazing location," Donahue said.

Since relocating to Ocean Pines in 1995 from Rhineback, New York, Gilmore has left her mark on the community, starting with the Women's Club.

"She was very active in the club and served three years as club secretary and two years as club president," she said.

Donahue also highlighted Gilmore's time volunteering with other Ocean

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Platform tennis tournament seeks players

Event organizers also need sponsors in fundraiser for Semper Fi, America's Fund

(Aug. 19, 2021) The Ocean Pines Platform Tennis Club will host its third annual benefit tournament on Sept. 25, at the Ocean Pines Racquet Center.

This year, the club has dedicated the tournament to Jim Freeman, a strong supporter of platform tennis who passed away on March 15 after a battle with cancer.

Freeman served the U.S. Marines with honor and later worked for 31 years as a seventh-grade science teacher at Keith Valley Middle School in Horsham, Pennsylvania. He retired to Ocean Pines with his wife,

June, and became an active member of the platform tennis community.

The Platform Tennis Club will donate all tournament proceeds to Semper Fi & America's Fund, a nonprofit "dedicated to providing immediate financial assistance and lifetime support to combat wounded, critically ill and catastrophically injured members of all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces and their families."

"Our friend Jim was a proud Marine, and a multi-term president and passionate advocate for our Platform Tennis Club," tournament co-organizer Karen Kaplan said. "He is sorely missed. We respectfully request that all entry fees, donations, and sponsorships be donated in honor of Jim to the Semper Fi & America's Fund Charity, which provides many vital

layers of services to members of all service branches and their families."

All platform tennis clubs in Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey and Pennsylvania may compete. Individual players may also enter.

The entry deadline is Sept. 11, and the entry fee is a \$50 donation, per player.

To download an entry form, visit <https://oceanpines.org/documents/10184/89280/SemperFi.9.25.21.3.pdf>

Entry checks may be made payable to Semper Fi/America's Fund, "in Memory of Jim Freeman," and mailed with an entry form to Michael Petito, 4 Long Court, Ocean Pines, Maryland, 21811.

The Ocean Pines Platform Tennis Club is also seeking sponsors for the

event.

Gold sponsors, \$500, get their names on the event banner, an announcement at the event, a video "thank you" post, and a mention on social media. Silver sponsors, \$250, get their name on the banner, an announcement at the event, and a mention on social media. Bronze sponsors, \$100, get an announcement at the event and a mention on social media.

Sponsorship checks may also be made payable to Semper Fi/America's Fund, "in Memory of Jim Freeman," and mailed to Michael Petito, 4 Long Court, Ocean Pines, Maryland, 21811.

For questions or more information, email oppaddle2020@gmail.com.

Farr, OPA board dispute will go to conference

Continued from Page 1

tion until the judge has both Farr's complaint and the board's response in hand and a conference is held.

Farr went to court after he was disqualified following a hastily convened special meeting on Aug. 5. Board Secretary Camilla Rogers, who had deemed Farr a qualified candidate at the onset of the election this spring, reversed course heading into the election's final weeks after receiving an anonymous tip involving transfer of property ownership through a family trust.

On Aug. 6, Rogers said Farr failed to meet candidacy eligibility requirements, which require candidates to be a Pines property owner of record on Jan. 1 of the election year.

Rogers said Farr was classified as a successor trustee on the property

deed until after his mother died in May.

At the behest of Director Doug Parks, another special meeting was held last Monday where a motion to rescind the election was voted down 3-2-1.

Voting against the motion were board President Larry Perrone and members Colette Horn and Frank Brown. Directors Tom Janasek and Camilla Rogers voted in favor of the motion. Parks was unable to attend the meeting following the death of his mother the day before. Director Frank Daly, who is campaigning for reelection, recused himself.

Shortly after the vote last Monday, Farr retained attorney Bruce Bright to file suit in Worcester County Circuit Court prior to the ballot submission deadline on Wed. Aug. 11.

This Monday, Worcester County

Circuit Court Judge Beau Oglesby issued a temporary restraining order to stay the election until after a hearing on whether Farr qualifies as a property owner.

Following the board election ballot deadline last Wednesday, the Ocean Pines Elections Committee was scheduled to count votes on Friday.

On Monday, attorneys Anthony Dwyer and Steve Craig, representing Ocean Pines Association Board, filed entry of appearance with the court. On Tuesday, the court issued a deadline of Aug. 19 for association legal counsel to respond.

Among the actions the judge might take, according to Bright, is that he could schedule a court hearing or hold a telephone conference with involved parties.

The current board election was be-

tween four candidates — Farr, Daly, Stuart Lakernick and David Hardy — vying for two open seats.

Until the court decision is reached, Daly and Frank Brown, who was appointed to fill the vacancy after former Director Steve Tuttle resigned, will continue to serve as directors.

Association bylaws section 5.01 says board members serve three-year terms that expire once successors are selected.

As for other business at the annual meeting, aside from recognizing Veterans Memorial Foundation President Marie Gilmore for her service (see separate story), there was none. Upon realizing that the crowd of about four dozen did not constitute a quorum, Perrone dispensed with the usual reading of annual reports and adjourned the meeting.



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Marie Gilmore honored for volunteer work

Continued from Page 1

Pines groups, including the Garden Club, Craft Club and Boat Club.

Not limiting her service to one zip code, Gilmore has also served with the American Legion Post 166 Auxiliary and the Ocean City Parrot Head Club.

“While serving on the Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Committee, she co-chaired the successful fundraising effort to build a skate park in Ocean Pines,” she said.

In 2005, Gilmore was inducted as a member of the Veterans Memorial Foundation by cohorts Roseann Bridgman and Sharyn O’Hare.

“She held the position of secretary for two years and president nine years, and currently serves as the president,” she said.

In her role as Veterans Memorial Foundation president, Gilmore was instrumental in establishing an educational component for fifth graders in Worcester County.

“She also led programs, events and exhibits, including Patriots’ Pathway, Flags for Heroes, Wreaths Across America, the POW/MIA tribute, and the Battlefield Cross,” she said.

In 2020, Gilmore led the charge to bring the Vietnam Veterans “Wall That Heals” traveling exhibit to Worcester County.

“She, along with many other volun-

teers, worked diligently for three years to convince them to bring the wall to Ocean Pines,” she said.

Regardless of last year’s covid-19 pandemic restrictions, Gilmore and company were able to stage a multi-day patriotic event that was well received by the community.

“She has put in countless hours volunteering,” Donahue said. “She is one of the most amazing women I know and is so well-respected in this community.”

As the crowd at Saturday’s meeting stood to applaud, Gilmore and Donahue shared a tearful embrace.

Gilmore was reluctant to be singled out for attention.

“I will accept this award ... it has my name on it, but it’s really the Veterans Memorial Foundation who deserves this award,” Gilmore said. “There is nothing that I have done that I would have been able to do without the backing of a fabulous board of directors.”

Gilmore also credited the group of volunteers by her side during her tenure with the Veterans Memorial Foundation.

“Most importantly, we have the backing of the Board of Directors of Ocean Pines,” she said.

Gilmore credited O’Hare and Bridgman for initiating the idea of the memorial, which was dedicated in



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Marie Gilmore, left, embraces Recreation and Parks Director Debbie Donahue after receiving the 2021 Sam Wilkerson Volunteer Award last Saturday at the Ocean Pines Community Center.

2005.

Highlighting the “two amazing women,” who sparked the concept by initially proposing to install a flagpole in south Ocean Pines, Gilmore said the now departed Bridgman continues to be missed.

“Sharyn O’Hare ... thankfully still serves as ... a director emeritus on our foundation so we can pick her brain constantly, and I do,” she said.

“Thank you so much to, not only the

board ... but the Ocean Pines Public Works, who worked tirelessly for a year to be sure that we could host (last year’s Wall That Heals event,)” she said. “It looked like a simple thing, driving a trailer in and setting up a wall [but] there was a lot of infrastructure that went into doing that.”

Gilmore said the award was an unforeseen accolade that was deeply appreciated.

“I’m humbled by it,” she said.

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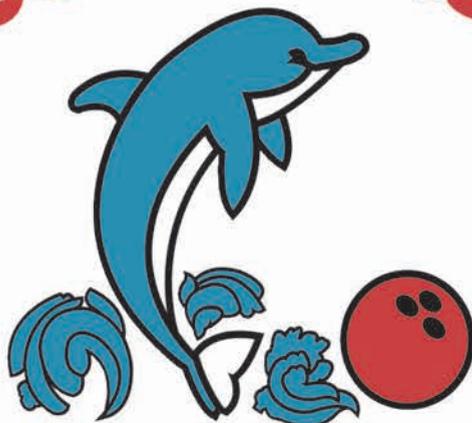
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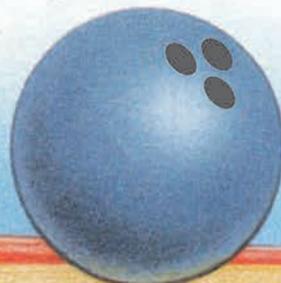




PHOTO COURTESY AUSTIN WIDDOWSON

A healthy contingent of players took part in Eastbound Disc Golf's second trial run for a proposed course at Stephen Decatur Park in Berlin on Aug. 10.

Berlin disc golf pitch heads back to council

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Aug. 19, 2021) About to wrap up a three-event test run this Sunday, local disc golf pros Austin Widdowson and Shawn Johnson will ask the Berlin Town Council on Monday to install an 18-hole course at Stephen Decatur Park.

Last month, Berlin Town Council voted 3-1, with Councilmember Jay Knerr opposed and Councilmember Dean Burrell absent, to permit Eastbound Disc Golf members Widdowson and Johnson to stage three trial events at the site on Aug. 1, 10 and 22.

Widdowson said last week the first pair of gatherings proved popular.

"It's been amazing to see the response we've had," he said.

Eastbound Disc Golf competitions usually attract as many as two dozen participants.

"I had 40 show up to both the first two," he said. "One of them was in the

rain and the other one was on a Tuesday night."

Wet weather failed to deter attendance at the proposed course on Aug. 1, while the second round also exceeded expectations.

"We've had more kids come out than we've ever had at any of our previous events and youth who've never played before," he said.

Widdowson said the sport, which had been growing steadily since its inception in the early 1970s, skyrocketed in popularity last year.

"It's been about 30,000 new members every year," he said. "In the pandemic year, it grew 150,000 members in one stop."

He attributed some of that to the outdoor sport's allowance for social distancing.

"Disc golf is very similar to surfing where it's an individual sport," he said.

Even though disc golf's popularity

is growing nationwide, Widdowson said a large contingent of players live in the Berlin area.

"We want to be able to make this more of a community-driven initiative," he said.

At present, disc golf enthusiasts in Worcester County congregate at course sites in Snow Hill at John Walter Smith Memorial Park and in Salisbury at Schumaker Pond Park.

"There's a large group of us that have to travel frequently," he said. "If you live in Ocean City or Berlin, that's still a half an hour drive, so it's not like we have anything relatively close."

Earlier this year disc golf advocates talked about possible sites with Mayor Zach Tyndall and Councilmember Troy Purnell.

After concluding that the cost of creating a course at Heron Park would be too expensive and that space at the Northern Worcester Athletic Complex

didn't have a close tie to the community, Widdowson found that Stephen Decatur Park presented an ideal scenario.

"When we [went] to it, we realized the outer rim of the park is not being utilized," he said. "In fact, it's an underutilized park in general."

Widdowson said disc golf courses employ tee pads and distanced sticks under five feet in height, without permanent fixtures.

"Its infrastructure is light just so you can redo that in a weekend," he said. "Even if they one day wanted to put a skateboard park in there, which we are all for, it should just work it around it."

Despite the gatherings held at Stephen Decatur Park this month, Widdowson said special events account for roughly 10 percent of activities sponsored by Eastbound Disc Golf.

"The day-to-day of what disc golf

See DECATUR Page 7

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Pines committee reviews recreation projects

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Aug. 19, 2021) Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Committee discussed the possibility of improvements to walking trails in Ocean Pines and a variety of other subjects during its meeting last Monday.

Committee member Patti Stevens, filling in for Chairman Steve Cohen, who was unable to attend, reviewed several proposed projects.

Stevens also prepared a questionnaire for the Board of Directors to consider how to coordinate with state and county officials to install additional crosswalks at high-traffic intersections.

Stevens advised committee members to come up with suggestions for trail improvements before work begins on next year's budget in October.

In other business, committee members learned that the installation of kayak racks at the Ocean Pines

Swim and Racquet Club continues to make progress.

In June, Recreation and Parks Director Debbie Donahue said the apparatus had been ordered with installation anticipated shortly.

The committee agreed to revisit the topic during its September meeting.

Committee members discussed promotional efforts for "Walktober," a statewide initiative in October that aims to highlight the health benefits and social merits of hiking.

The committee also proposed partnering with the Communications Committee to raise awareness of community walking trails, along with promoting group ventures outdoors during October.

Committee member Martha Arthur is planning to contact the Ocean Pines Golf Course in hopes of scheduling a community event on or around "Walk Maryland Day," on Oct. 6.

Committee member Laura Scharle has developed a "water trails map," to chart community walking paths.

Map data points include picnic areas and park facilities, and rates trails on level of difficulty for navigation.

Committee members concurred the water trails map would be ideal to post on the association's website.

Committee members also reviewed inquiries related to a survey being developed by the Ocean Pines Strategic Planning Committee.

In June, Strategic Planning Committee Chair Bernie McGorry sent members questions regarding the association's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.

Among the points raised during last weeks' meeting, committee members recommended strengths should include an increase of younger homeowners, primarily families, relocating to the Pines.

The committee concluded a major

draw for younger residents are the amenities and programs offered by the association.

As for weaknesses, committee members agreed there is a need for more data to drive board and staff decisions. Other weaknesses cited included "ongoing drama, arguments and lawsuits," which the committee said, "erodes community trust and interest."

Looking at opportunities, the committee keyed on the importance of sharing data regularly online or through reports to the community.

The committee recommended soliciting resident volunteers to assist with data analysis.

The committee also proposed becoming more involved with younger residents and families at common areas such as pools, parks, bus stops or the Farmers and Artisan Market.

The next meeting of the Recreation and Parks Committee is scheduled for Sept. 13 at 7 p.m.

Decatur Park course being weighed in Berlin

Continued from Page 6

looks like in Berlin is significantly different than an organized event," he said. "Normal rounds are different."

Widdowson said Eastbound Disc Golf members play regular Sunday rounds that rotate between four locations, with Berlin slated as a fifth stop.

"No one's going to be overwhelmed with events happening at the park ... we don't even throw that many," he said.

While not envisioned to affect other park facilities, the course could prove financially advantageous for the town, Widdowson said.

"Play a round of disc golf and then walk downtown and go to the Atlantic Hotel and sit on the porch or play early and then go to the Globe for some music," he said.

Widdowson also stressed the ecological benefits of having games there.

"We've cleaned up the park in the two events that we've had, and it's

never looked as good as it does," he said. "The reality of the situation is the disc golf community are environmentally conscious outdoor enthusiasts."

Eastbound Disc Golf organizers hope town officials are receptive to the idea.

"We're just trying to give it to the town," he said.

As part of the request, Eastbound Disc Golf has offered to donate roughly \$60,000 in equipment, along with all sweat equity required.

Widdowson said course advocates have no other motive except a desire to establish a home course and would seek final approval during the mayor and Town Council meeting on Aug. 23.

"We are active community members trying to make the park better," he said. "They have made it pretty hard for a group of people to give

\$60,000 to the town."

To learn more or register for the disc golf event on Sunday visit disc-

golfscene.com/tournaments/Stephan_Decatur_Opener_2021/registration.



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GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Serpone's Pizzeria in Ocean Pines owner Francesco Serpico said the establishment's name harkens back to a childhood nickname bestowed while growing up in Naples, Italy.

Serpone's brings real Italian flavor to Pines from Naples

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Aug. 19, 2021) Ocean Pines newest pizza option, Serpone's, opened for business last Monday next to the Food Lion in Pennington Commons, bringing with it a taste of Naples.

Restaurateur Francesco Serpico, who emigrated to the U.S. from Naples, Italy in 2006, relocated to Berlin with his wife and children in 2018.

"I was in New Jersey for three years and then I was in Pennsylvania for nine years," he said.

After running a food establishment near the beach in Point Pleasant, New Jersey, in 2010 Serpico was married and headed for the Poconos to open a comparable operation in East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania.

Three years ago, the couple and their two children opted to head south for Berlin.

"We liked the area and the school

system," he said. "My daughter is going to be six in October and my son turned three at the end of May."

After nearly a decade at a higher altitude, the Serpico's agreed a return to an oceanside locale seemed in order.

"Just because of being by the beach my entire life," he said.

After settling for a few years on the Eastern Shore, the couple decided in January to return to restaurant operations.

"We discussed it," he said. "We got whatever money we could and decided to go ahead and open our own business."

In addition to the pre-requisite New York-style thin crust, available whole or by the slice, Serpone's Pizzeria menu also includes calzones, strombolies, stuffed pizza, salads, appetizers, and hot or cold sub sandwiches.

The culinary focus is centered on high-end ingredients.



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Ocean Pines gained taste options after Serpone's Pizzeria opened last Monday next to the Food Lion in Pennington Commons.

"Our dough is homemade," he said. "I use unbleached and unbromated flour."

Serpone's is less concerned with price point than flavor.

"I pay a little bit extra but it's a little bit more healthy," he said.

Serpico also brings authentic Italian flavor to its dishes.

"I'm giving the Neapolitan twist," he said. "I'm actually getting imported tomatoes from Naples. My biggest point is our sauce."

Hours of operation are Monday-Thursday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Fri-

day and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 8 p.m. Online ordering is available by visiting Serponespizzeria.com or call ahead at 410-973-2894 or 443-513-4326.

Although the restaurant provides enough space for dining in, Serpico is starting with carryout service only, with hopes of adding seating at a later date.

"I decided to not have any seating yet just because I wanted to make sure that everybody gets good service," he said.

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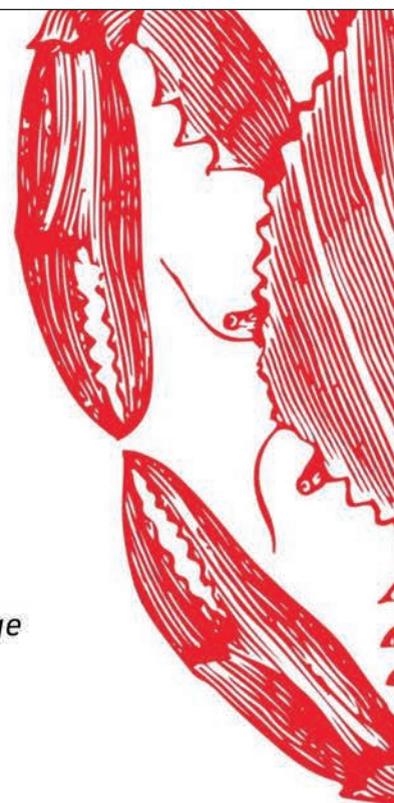
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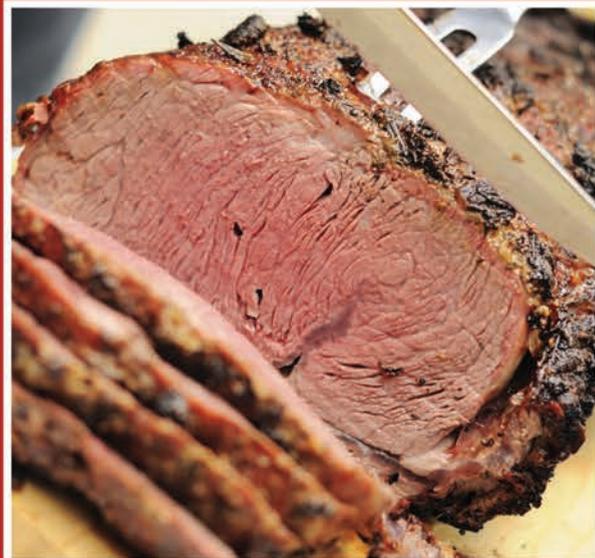
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Anchors away! Black Eyed Susan paddling

Snow Hill's new riverboat takes maiden voyage this wk. after last hurdle cleared

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer

(Aug. 19, 2021) Cruises on the Black Eyed Susan riverboat are right around the corner.

After a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Aug. 12 with Snow Hill Mayor Dr. Jennifer Jewell, state Sen. Mary Beth Carozza and around 70 other attendees, the riverboat took its maiden voyage with the Worcester County Commissioners and town officials on Tuesday.

Private and public charters are now available for the 111-foot paddle-wheel boat for cocktail, brunch, lunch and dinner cruises as well as private charters. The boat is set to hit the Pocomoke River on Wednesday with a lunch cruise at noon.

"We are booking very hard for this fall season," said operator Jim Washington, to whom the riverboat was leased. "We may add November. We have one full day (booked) and a lot of others are getting closer every day."

The cruises are about two and a half hours long. They go nearly half way to Pocomoke before turning



JACK CHAVEZ/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

At long last the Black Eyed Susan riverboat is cruising down the Pocomoke River. The boat took its maiden voyage as the crown jewel of the Snow Hill tourist economy on Tuesday with town, county and state officials on board. The boat will be available for cruises through at least October.

around and heading back to Snow Hill. The boat can accommodate 100 passengers.

With renovations and improvements completed, the Black Eyed Susan boasts a climate-controlled bottom deck and a canopied upper deck.

Washington said that the second of two U.S. Coast Guard inspections was recently completed and the state Health Department has already given



its OK for the maiden voyage, though a walkthrough occurred on Tuesday. The state liquor license was also recently approved.

The Town of Snow Hill purchased the riverboat last year after a long finance-focused ordeal that included fending off Leonardtown in St. Mary's County.

The hope for the riverboat moving forward is that it'll be good to go for a full season in 2022, spring through fall.

"Private parties are booking up," Washington said. "There's a fundraiser booked that looks promis-

ing. Some of the private parties are very excited. We're looking at weddings."

After all the obstacles, Washington said he's excited to get the boat out on the water for a very excited community that he's been a part of for decades.

"I've fed everyone in Snow Hill for 30 years (with the Snow Hill Inn and the Tavern on Green Street) and all my friends are so excited about this," Washington said. "It's so nice."

For more information on scheduling and availability, visit <https://besnowhill.com>.



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JACK CHAVEZ/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The Furnace Town Historic Site, formerly the location of the annual Chesapeake Celtic Festival, is hosting the inaugural Renaissance Faire this weekend. It will include some mainstays from the Celtic Festival as well as new attractions. Guests are encouraged to dress in period-piece attire.

Renaissance Faire at Furnace Town

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer

(Aug. 19, 2021) For years, the annual celebration of a different time and place at Furnace Town was the Chesapeake Celtic Festival, but this weekend the historical site is introducing the Renaissance Faire.

The festival, running Saturday and Sunday, could become an annual event, said Claudia Nagle, Furnace Town Historic Site executive director.

“We were looking at different ways to bring people in,” Nagle said. “A renaissance fair seemed like a good way. There’s not like anything this on the Eastern Shore.”

There will be a variety of performances at the festival from groups such as the Community Players of Salisbury to the Shire of Spiaggia Levantina, a regional group that’s part of the Soci-

ety for Creative Anachronism.

Nagle also said the event will include some Celtic Festival mainstays, such as the Ocean City Pipes and Drums marching band.

“There’s going to be a nod to our previous Celtic Festival,” Nagle said. “It’s your basic festival. There’s a lot of kids’ activities. We have a bubble show, Scales & Tails from the state park, hair-braiding, all the normal things. It won’t be the well-established renaissance fair, but it’s a fledgling, first annual (event). We’re hoping people will come out, dress in period clothing and enjoy the festival.”

Nagle said organizers hope the event also reminds people that their historical site is right there for everyone to enjoy — new and old visitors alike.

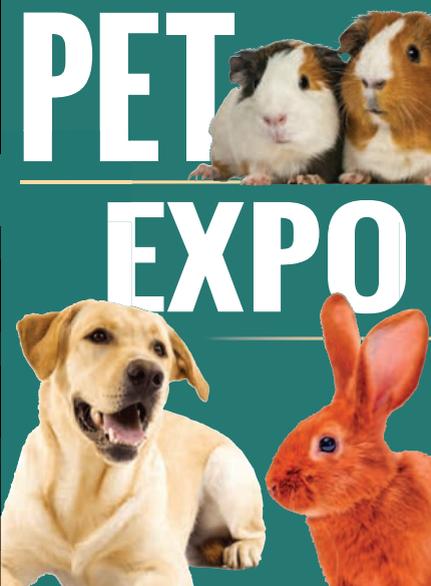
“Furnace Town is a lovely location

and lends itself to this kind of event,” she said. “We’re looking at ways to get people to come back to Furnace Town and make it their backyard. There’s a lot of things people can do so we were looking to help people remember this is a good spot to be and see who we might be able to introduce to it. What better way than with a fun renaissance fair with performances and food and things for kids to do?”

Festival hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. both Saturday and Sunday. Single-day passes are available at \$10 for adults and \$5 for children ages 12 to 18. Admission is free for children under 12.

Facemasks will be required for indoor activities but are optional outside. Guests are encouraged to dress in period-piece attire. For more information, visit www.furnacetown.org/ or call 410-632-2032.

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OP residents committee forming

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Aug. 19, 2021) Since moving to Ocean Pines last August, Sherrie Clifford has monitored community issues from the sidelines, but after the current board election went sideways the time for action seemed apparent to her.



Sherrie Clifford

corruption," she said. Much as the congressional Financial Services Committee is tasked with oversight of the Securities and Exchange Commission, Clifford feels a board accountability entity is needed for the Ocean Pines Association.

"So these guys can't just run rampant," she said.

Clifford envisions forming a resident oversight committee, which would hold quarterly meetings to hash out community concerns requiring board attention.

"We have to watch over the budget and get details," she said.

Clifford said a wealth of details have yet to be sorted out, including naming the committee and establishing declaration of duties.

"It's still forming," she said.

The larger goal is providing a guiding force to champion residents' concerns and keep the community informed, she said.

Clifford intends for the residents committee to communicate information to the board with the goal of ob-

taining answers or driving actions.

"No resident will be brushed off or silenced in our community," she said.

One initial question heard online was how the "Town Hall" group differed from the "Ocean Pines Get Involved" page.

Clifford said the intent is to establish a committee beyond any web presence.

The committee would be open to full or part-time residents, with exact size and membership roles dependent on duties undertaken.

Ideally, Clifford would like to operate the committee in similar fashion to the board, with hybrid Zoom meetings to engage in person attendees and distanced viewers.

Once a name is decided upon, Clifford intends to purchase a web domain and hopes to have the committee in place within 30 days.

Clifford said, ideally, committee leaders would establish an amicable working relationship with the Pines Board of Directors to monitor fiscal matters at the fundamental level.

"Our goal is to work closely with them," she said.

To learn more visit Facebook and search for Ocean Pines Town Hall.

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Community Briefs

Recognition

Members of the Alpha Nu Omicron chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) international honor society at Wor-Wic Community College recently received a 2021 Recognizing Excellence in Acceptance and Completion with Honors (REACH) Award for membership development and furthering PTK's mission of providing recognition and opportunities for growth and development for students on campus.

REACH chapters achieved or exceeded a 15 percent membership acceptance rate in 2020.

Alpha Nu Omicron members also recently received the Student Government Association Outstanding Community Service Project Award, based on their work with the campus food pantry.

Dean's List

Several Worcester County residents were recently named to the dean's list at their respective colleges or universities during the spring semester.

They are:

Erin Trask, Berlin, College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, Massachusetts. A member of the Class of 2024, Trask is majoring in history and Spanish. To qualify, students must pass four or more letter-graded courses with no failing grades during the semester and earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Abigail Yesko, Berlin, Youngstown State University in Ohio, forensic science major. Dean's list recognition is awarded to full-time undergraduate students who have earned at least a 3.4 grade point average for not less than 12 semester hours of credit.

Kathryn Dennis, Ocean City and Erin Hurley, Berlin, St. Mary's College of Maryland. Dean's list honors are awarded to full-time students at St. Mary's College of Maryland who earn a semester grade-point average of 3.5 or better on 12 or more graded credits.

Also both were awarded St. Mary's Scholar academic honors. St. Mary's Scholars are juniors and seniors who have earned at least 32 credit-hours at St. Mary's College and whose cumula-

tive grade-point average is 3.50 or better. St. Mary's Scholars are determined once a year at the end of the spring semester.

Lydia Kappelmeier, Berlin, class of 2021, Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania. A student must earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a scale of 4.0 to receive dean's list recognition.

Alexander Wright, Berlin, Bethel University, McKenzie, Tennessee. To qualify, undergraduate students in the College of Professional Studies must have completed a minimum of 12 graded credit hours and earned a GPA of 3.70 or higher in the term ending May 31.

Jillian Griggs, Berlin, Adelphi University, New York. The list comprises full-time students-registered for 12 or more credits-who have completed at least nine graded credits and achieved a GPA of 3.5 or above for the semester. Audrey Stearns, Berlin, Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania. Students with a quality point average in the range of 3.300 to 3.599 for a semester's work are placed on the dean's list.

President's List

Abigail Yesko, a forensic science major from Berlin, has been named to Youngstown State University's President's List for achieving a perfect 4.0 grade point average in the spring semester 2021.

To be eligible for the Ohio school's president's list, honorees must be full-time undergraduate students with a 4.0 GPA for least 12 semester hours of classes.

The University of Hartford recently announced Lily Belle Baker of Berlin has been named to its President's Honors List and the Dean's List for spring.

Inducted

Tiffany Hastings of Ocean City, was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society. Hastings was initiated at University of Maryland, Eastern Shore.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

DONATION

The Grace Center for Maternal and Women's Health in Berlin was the recipient of a donation from the "Delmarvalous Stampers," a group of about 25 women who meet on a monthly basis (via zoom during covid) to create stamped cards. The Grace Center will use the money to help provide ultrasound exams and fund support groups for prenatal and postpartum needs of women in the local area. Pictured are Ann Runo, of the Delmarvalous Stampers; Jasmine Dennis, executive director of the Grace Center; Kristine Barron, from the Stampers; and Jackie Failla, Grace nurse manager.

Hastings is among approximately 30,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter.

Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

To attend

Nick Gordon of Berlin, will attend Clarkson University in Potsdam, New York, as a member of the Class of 2025. Gordon, who will be majoring in business studies, will begin studying at Clarkson in the fall.

Earns degree

The following area students earned degrees from Frostburg State University for the spring semester: Madison Doody, of Berlin, received a bachelor of science degree in liberal studies, and Hunter Morris, of Berlin, earned a bachelor of science degree in music.

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7 Eleven, store 26106a/1406

106 N Division St, Ocean City

7 Eleven, store 23819

11911 Coastal Hwy, Ocean City

Acme, store 293

9507 Coastal Hwy, Ocean City

Anthony's Liquors

3300 Coastal Hwy, Ocean City

Berlin Food Mart

111 Flower St, Berlin

Chicken Man

429 W Market St, Snow Hill

Citgo- Raceway

11247 Ocean Gtwy, Berlin

Cool Topics, store 2

500 S Atlantic Ave, Ocean City

Dollar General, store 16880

11234 Five L Dr, Berlin

Dollar General, store 372

511 Linden Ave, Pocomoke City

Dollar General, store 489

105 Decatur St, Berlin

Duck In

607 Lynnhaven Dr, Pocomoke City

Duck Inn II

5610 Market St, Snow Hill

Exxon- rt 50 Wine Rack

12827 Ocean Gtwy, Ocean City

Exxon -Shop Kwik

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Exxon-Assawoman Ale Shoppe

5201 Coastal Hwy, Ocean City

Family Dollar, Suite a, store 2342

107 Pocomoke Marketplace, Pocomoke City

Food Lion, store 2614

11007 Manklin Creek Rd, Berlin

Food Lion, store 397

9936 Stephen Decatur Hwy, Ocean City

Food Lion, store 658

10138 Old Ocean City Blvd, Berlin

Inlet Lodge inc

804 S Atlantic Ave, Ocean City

Mitchells Market

827 2nd St, Pocomoke City

Newark Station

7167 Worcester Hwy, Newark

OC Dollar Store

203 Philadelphia Ave, Ocean City

Pocomoke Goose Creek

2322 Stockton Rd, Pocomoke City

Rite Aid, store 319

10119 Old Ocean City Blvd, Berlin

Royal Farms, store 107

12826 Ocean Gtwy, Ocean City

Royal Farms, store 178

10633 Ocean Gtwy, Berlin

Royal Farms, store 36

8307 Coastal Hwy, Ocean City

Shell - Your Store Market

10137 Old Ocean City Blvd, Berlin

Snow Hill Food Rite

308 E Market St, Snow Hill

Walgreens, store 11951

11085 Cathell Rd, Berlin

Walmart, store 2514

2132 Old Snow Hill Rd, Pocomoke City

Walmart, store 2560

11416 Ocean Gtwy, Berlin

Wawa, store 556

12502 Ocean Gtwy, Ocean City

Wawa, store 566

12001 Coastal Hwy, Ocean City

Cheers Beer Wine & Spirits

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Oceans Market

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Deja Vu

13701 Coastal Hwy, Ocean City

Beer Bellies

11629 Coastal Hwy, Ocean City

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Grey seal heads back to ocean after rehab

(Aug. 19, 2021) Juvenile grey seal, Tom Sawyer, was released back into the ocean on Aug. 11, at Assateague State Park.

Tom Sawyer was rescued from Delaware on April 19, in coordination with the Marine Education Research and Rehabilitation Institute.

Upon arrival to the National Aquarium's Animal Care and Rescue Center, it was determined that Tom Sawyer was suffering from an eye ulcer, lungworm infection, and injuries to his flipper and mouth. The Animal Health and Rescue teams immediately went to work to stabilize Tom and treat his lungworm infection.

Once the teams were able to clear his lungworm infection, and his eye and flipper fully healed, they could turn their attention to his tooth and jaw injuries.

Through radiographs and working with a veterinary dental specialist, the team was able to assess the extent of his injuries.

It was determined that he had a symphysis fracture, located where the right and left sides of the lower jaw connect at the chin. In addition, they ruled out any major tooth injuries and found that previous infections had cleared.

After diagnosis, Tom was sedated and received a temporary acrylic bridge to stabilize the lower jaw. Tom



National Aquarium Animal Health and Rescue team members bring a grey seal tagged "Tom Sawyer," to the sands at Assateague State Park for a return to ocean waters last Wednesday.

COURTESY OF THERESA KEIL, NATIONAL AQUARIUM. NOAA PERMIT 18786-04

was now well on his way to his final test before being released.

Before Tom was officially cleared for release, there was one more hurdle to cross or fence to paint. The Animal Health and Rescue teams challenged

Tom to a live prey test.

During most of Tom's stay, he was not fed live fish, but that did not stop him from devouring up to eight pounds a day. Of course, Tom passed this test with flying colors and the team expects him to quickly surpass his outgoing weight of 69 pounds as he settles back into his natural habitat.

"Tom Sawyer was our third seal patient of the 2021 season and he certainly had his challenges," said National Aquarium's Director of Animal Rescue Jennifer Dittmar. "Much of Tom's rehabilitation required patience, as the process to treat lung-

worms can take multiple courses of medication. As we say farewell to Tom, my team and I are currently preparing for the next rescue season's cast of characters."

The National Aquarium's Animal Rescue program is responsible for responding to stranded marine mammals and sea turtles along the nearly 3,190 miles of Maryland coast and works with stranding partners through the Greater Atlantic Region Stranding Network to help respond, rescue and release animals year-round.

For more information on the National Aquarium, visit www.aqua.org.

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COURTESY OF THERESA KEIL, NATIONAL AQUARIUM. NOAA PERMIT 18786-04

HE'S OFF

After rehabbing since being rescued in poor health this April from Delaware, a grey seal nicknamed "Tom Sawyer," reenters the ocean last week at Assateague State Park.

Women's Equality Day marks voting rights efforts Aug. 26

(Aug. 19, 2021) Aug. 26 is Women's Equality Day, a national day designated by Congress to celebrate the efforts of the groundbreaking activists who won the right to vote for women in 1920, and to reaffirm commitment to equality under the law for all Americans.

The 1920 certification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, proclaiming the right of women to vote, was the culmination of a massive, peaceful civil rights movement by women that had its formal beginnings in 1848 at the world's first women's rights convention, in Seneca Falls, New York.

Worcester County women, including members of the Democratic Women's Club of Worcester County, the Suffrage Centennial Celebration Committee, and Indivisible Worcester MD, urge residents to pause and consider the importance of voting to all Americans.

"Maryland women have always inspired the voting rights movement. Historical records from 1648 show Margaret Brent demanding the legis-

lature give her the right to vote per colony law, as she was a landowner," said Linda Linzey, co-chair of the Suffrage Centennial Celebration Committee. "She said, 'Well, I am a landowner and I'm also the executor of the Carroll estate, so I should be getting two votes.' Of course she was turned down. In Maryland it began in 1648, and here we are in 2020, and now 2021, still trying to make sure that everybody has the franchise."

"The right to vote is at the heart of our democracy. We honor the nearly 75 year struggle of our foremothers to win the vote, and we strongly oppose any efforts to restrict voting rights," said Susan Buyer, the other co-chair of the Suffrage Centennial Celebration Committee.

Many women turned out to vote in Worcester County in 1920. A voting register for District 5 of Worcester County, the northern part of Worcester including Bishopville, Whaleyville, and Showell, shows that 185 women registered to vote. They ranged in age from 21 to 79. Of those 185, 10 were listed as "colored."

Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce relocates offices

(Aug. 19, 2021) The Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce this week announced that it has relocated its offices to 11047 Racetrack Road on Monday, and will be creating more of a community business center.

With a private conference room, additional office space, Wi-Fi, information center, and open-door policy, the center is expected to provide a more

formal temporary work space for people working from home or organizations in need of meeting space. Plus, the Ocean Downs Casino and Race-track Information Center will be a resource to our residents and visitors.

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Snapshots



NEW MEMBERS

The Coastal Association of Realtors (Coastal) welcomed 13 new members during an orientation on Aug. 5. Pictured, in back, from left, are Stacey Joseph of Northrop Realty, Dawit Demissie of Whitehead Real Estate, LaSonya Jones of Coldwell Banker Realty, Matthew Shawn of Coldwell Banker Realty, Sandy Bowser of Coldwell Banker Realty, Rosemarie Leonard of Coldwell Banker Realty, and Jeff Farrell of Coldwell Banker Realty; and in front, Kelly Brown of Shepard Realty, Tina White of Whitehead Real Estate, Stephen Rich of Coastal Life Realty Group, Grace Wolbert of Atlantic Shores Sotheby's International Realty, Candace Colburn of Long and Foster. Not pictured: Katherine Hulme of Coastal Life Realty Group.

SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

THANK YOU

Commissioner Chip Bertino thanks retiring Tax Manager Laura Beauchamp during a ceremony commemorating her 29-year career with Worcester County Government. Beauchamp has played an integral role in the overall management of the treasurer's office, where she was responsible for 10 staff tasked with the billing and collection of more than \$200 million in property taxes each year.



PHOTO COURTESY D.J. LANDIS, SR.

GUEST SPEAKER

Diakonia Executive Director Bee Miller recently visited the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City to talk about the temporary shelter and its thrift store in West Ocean City. She is pictured with Kiwanis President Steve Cohen.



PHOTO COURTESY D.J. LANDIS, SR.

WELCOME

Elena McComas, a member of the Worcester County Board of Education and new member of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City, was the guest speaker during a recent club meeting. She is pictured with Kiwanis Club President-Elect Tim Lund.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

DAR NEW MEMBERS

The General Levin Winder Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) recently welcomed three new members during a luncheon. Past Chaplain Theresa Bruner administered the oath of membership to Talley Hann, Pamela Mann and Kathryn Trench. Chapter Regent Gail Weldin presented each with a DAR pin as a token of welcome. Pictured, from left, are Past Chaplain Bruner, Mann, Trench, Hann and Regent Weldin.

Worcester names Lynch new roads superintendent

(Aug. 19, 2021) The Worcester County Commissioners named Kevin Lynch as the new superintendent within the Worcester County Roads Division of Public Works. He joined Public Works on Aug. 9.



Kevin Lynch

“I’m excited to have Kevin on board,” Public Works Director Dallas Baker said. “He brings 14 years of Roads Division experience to Worcester County. In his most

recent role, Kevin has helped manage a 700-mile roadway network, 40-plus employees, and assisted in developing a \$12 million operating budget.”

Lynch, a 2005 graduate of Snow Hill High School, brings 14 years of experience to this position. Prior to joining Worcester County Government (WCG), he worked in the Wicomico County Roads Division, where he rose through the ranks, learning all aspects of roads operations, and was promoted to maintenance supervisor in 2018.

“I would like to thank the commissioners for this opportunity, and I look forward to being able to give back to my home county and its citi-



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

PEACHY

Seasonal harvests of peaches and tomatoes lures in patrons during the Ocean Pines Farmers and Artisans Market on Saturday.

zens,” Lynch said.

Lynch currently resides in Fruitland, with his wife and two daughters. He enjoys spending time with his family, playing cornhole, and serving at SonRise Church in Berlin.

He will take over for Roads Super-

intendent Frank Adkins, who will retire Sept. 1. In his role with WCG, Lynch will take the lead in planning, directing, organizing, and coordinating the construction and maintenance of new and existing county infrastructure, including roads,

bridges, and drainage systems.

He will prepare and maintain oversight of the annual operating and capital budgets and be responsible for public inquiries regarding county roads, bridges, and drainage systems.

THE SOUND OF THE SHOFAR A CALL TO ACTION A CALL FOR RENEWAL



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Childrens Service
Tuesday Sept. 7, 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday Sept. 15, 7 p.m.
Thursday Sept. 16, 10 a.m.
Childrens Service
Thursday Sept. 16, 2 p.m.

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Most Blessed Sacramento welcomes Principal Stillman

(Aug. 19, 2021) Most Blessed Sacramento Catholic School in Berlin, is busy preparing for the new school year with new principal, TrINETTE Stillman, at the helm.

After an extensive search last spring, Stillman was named the fourth principal to serve at the school in its 18 years of operation.

Her background offers the school a blend of experience to continue to grow in the community.

Stillman's career journey began as "one of self-discovery and acceptance of change," she said.

"As with so many young people, I entered my undergraduate studies not knowing what I wanted to do with my life. I had a curiosity of the world and how things worked," she said. "I

felt I was strong in science and math, so I pursued a package engineering degree from Michigan State University."

After entering the work force, she expanded her education and received a MS in business degree from Johns Hopkins University.

"As my career evolved, so did my family. I married my husband, now of 27 years, and had three beautiful children," she said. "At the time, I was teaching religion classes at my parish when the principal asked if I would join them as their financial manager. That was the beginning of my educational experience. From there I began teaching science and math classes while pursuing my teaching credentials from Cardinal Stritch University in Milwaukee."

Now, 22 years later, she said, "I continue to evolve in my career as I step into this new role. I'm proud to be a Catholic educator, and I'm excited to share my experiences with the MBS community."

Leading the school into this next chapter, Stillman said she continues to gain a strong understanding of the vision and goals of MBS, which she said will enable her to help define the strengths and weaknesses, set future initiatives for growth and continue to enable its students to be high achievers.

When pulling together a team to work on any initiative, Stillman said, "I believe in setting clear goals and expectations. Allowing for open, safe discussions while exploring these goals is crucial and allows for varying perspectives. Listening and developing respect for others helps create a supportive community and will allow for the best outcomes while achieving the goals."

MBS is known for its dedicated teachers, who are empowered to utilize a STREAM (science, technology, religion, engineering, art and mat-

Worcester seeks nominees for Volunteer Spirit Awards

(Aug. 19, 2021) To honor volunteers whose contributions help improve the quality of life locally, Worcester County residents are invited to nominate individuals, organizations and businesses for the Volunteer Spirit of Worcester County awards.

The nomination period is open now through Friday, Sept. 17, at 11:59 p.m.

"Since we were unable to host the volunteer spirit awards program last year, Worcester County will be recognizing volunteer contributions that took place between March 2020 and June 2021," Human Resources Specialist Kelly Brinkley said. "This year we have also added a special category – pandemic response champion – to honor those who have made extraordinary contributions that have aided in the local response to the covid-19 crisis."

Volunteer Spirit nominations will be accepted for each of the following nine categories, with one winner to be chosen from each:

paramedic response champion, emerging leader, faith-based, lifetime achievement, veteran, local business, group/team, individual, and nonprofit volunteer program.

Nominees should reside in and represent the volunteer spirit of Worcester County. Nomination forms may be filled out and submitted online at

www.worcester-volunteer.org. Once there, click on "News."

Hard copies will also be available at all five branch libraries, the County Administration Office

in the Worcester County Government Center in Snow Hill, or by contacting Brinkley at 410-632-0090 or kbrinkley@co.worcester.md.us.

To highlight the outstanding services of the volunteers, the Worcester County commissioners will host a recognition ceremony for nominees selected as award winners on Oct. 21. The Volunteer Spirit of Worcester County takes place in cooperation with the annual Governor's Service Awards program.

'This year we have also added a special category – pandemic response champion...'
Human Resources Specialist Kelly Brinkley



TrINETTE Stillman

atics) approach in their teaching," she said.

"In addition, we rely on our families and volunteers to bring exciting opportunities to our students," she added. "During this last year with covid, it made it difficult to utilize this approach. We are hoping this year that we can further develop these initiatives."

One of the most amazing discoveries has been the welcoming atmosphere at MBS and the local

community, she said.

"Their desire to build a Christ-centered community that empowers their children to become lifelong learners and confident faith filled leaders is inspiring," Stillman continued.

Most Blessed Sacramento Catholic School is a pre-K 3 through eighth grade school located at 11242 Race-track Rd., Berlin. For information about admissions, contact Amanda Evans, director of Admissions & Advancement, at 410-208-1600.

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OBITUARIES

WILLIAM FRY

Berlin
William "Spider" Fry, 92, of Berlin, Maryland, died on Sunday, Aug. 8, 2021, at his home.

Spider was born on March 14, 1929, in Norristown, Pennsylvania, but spent his early childhood living in Elkton, Maryland.

Spider graduated from the University of Maryland class of 1951. He was a member of the Sigma Nu fraternity.

Spider and Sandy, his wife of 56 years, were the proud parents of Elizabeth Bodell and grandparents to Owen and Ava Bodell.

Spider had a long and wonderful career working in the world of college athletics and was a member of the athletic staff at both Dartmouth College and the University of Maryland.

In addition to being the head trainer of athletic at both schools, he enjoyed time as the assistant athletic director and director of golf at the University of Maryland.

Spider was inducted into the University of Maryland Hall of Fame for his contributions to the university's athletics programs spanning more than 50 years and including multiple trips to bowl games such as the Sugar Bowl, Cotton Bowl, Peach Bowl, Fiesta Bowl, etc.

Before joining the athletics staff at the University of Maryland, Spider was privileged to serve in the United States Air Force.

Spider and Sandy are members of the First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City, where Spider served as a past trustee.

In addition, Spider enjoyed memberships in many organizations such as the Athletic Trainers Association, the American Legion and the Ocean Pines Golf Club. He was also a member of the University of Maryland "M" Club and received a varsity letter for soccer in 1947.

Despite holding many positions and activities, his favorite role in life was that of a husband, father, grandfather and friend. Spider's family held a very special place in his heart, where his love will live on forever.

Spider had a remarkable life filled with many special memories with countless good friends, loving family, and good times.

Memorial donations can be made to the First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City, 1301 Philadelphia Avenue, Ocean City, Maryland 21842.

Arrangements are in the care of Eastern Shore Cremation and Funeral Service, 504 Franklin Ave, Berlin, Maryland 21811. To send condolences to the family, please visit www.easternshorecremation.com.



William Fry

Schaefer award due date Oct. 15

(Aug. 19, 2021) Comptroller Peter Franchot's office is accepting nominations for the 2021 William Donald Schaefer Helping People Awards.

The deadline for submitting nominations is Friday, Oct. 15.

Established in 2012, the award honors the unparalleled legacy of public service left by the late Schaefer, who served four terms as Baltimore City mayor and two terms each as Maryland governor and comptroller.

It is presented annually in each of Maryland's 24 jurisdictions to individuals and organizations with an unwavering commitment to helping others and improving communities.

"This will be the 10th year of presenting the Helping People Awards and it remains

just as fulfilling and inspiring now as it did at the outset," Comptroller Franchot said. "Even after a decade of soliciting nominations, the quality of submissions we receive demonstrate that there are so many Marylanders who spend their lives in service to those in need and making their communities a better place to live. Selecting just one recipient in each jurisdiction has become increasingly difficult, particularly during the last 18 months of the covid-19 pandemic that has seen so many heroes shine."

Award recipients will be selected based on their demonstration of:

- Improving the community;
- Promptly responding to a citizen problem through effective government intervention;
- Directly aiding our most vulnerable

populations; or,

- Establishing a public/private partnership to improve the lives of fellow Marylanders.

Due to the pandemic, Comptroller Franchot has virtually presented the 2019 and 2020 Schaefer Awards in lieu of the traditional in-person ceremonies.

Nominations submitted in previous years but not selected should be re-sent. To submit a nomination, print out and complete the form, scan and attach it as a pdf to an email, and send to moprey@marylandtaxes.gov.

The link to the form is https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/MD-COMP/2021/07/23/file_attachments/1887027/2021%20WDS%20Nomination%20Form.pdf.

Fatal four-vehicle crash outside SH

(Aug. 19, 2021) The Maryland State Police are investigating a fatal four-vehicle crash that occurred on Aug. 12 near the intersection of Route 12 and Carmean Road outside of Snow Hill.

The deceased has been identified as Gabrielle D. Benton, 33, of Greenbackville, Virginia. She was the driver and sole occupant of a 2004 Chevrolet Tahoe going north on Route 12 when she apparently crossed the centerline and

ran into the rear wheels of a tractor-trailer heading in the opposite direction.

According to police, the accident occurred around 2:30 p.m. After the collision with the truck's rear wheels, the Tahoe turned over and caught fire.

Two other southbound vehicles behind the tractor trailer were also involved in the crash.

The other drivers involved in the crash were taken by ambulance to TidalHealth

Peninsula Regional Hospital in Salisbury for treatment for minor injuries.

The driver of the Tahoe was pronounced deceased at the scene by emergency medical personnel. The body was taken to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in Baltimore for an autopsy.

Following the crash, Carmean Road was closed for three hours. The Snow Hill Police and Fire Departments, and the Girdletree Fire Department assisted.

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Opinion

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

Well-deserved award for community service

If there's one thing that Ocean Pines has done and continues to do right — not to suggest that it doesn't stand out in many other regards, aside from its frequent political controversies — it's the Worcester County Veteran's Memorial.

The memorial is one of this country's finest examples of a volunteer enterprise built from the ground up into something its original organizers might not have foreseen.

After its small but nevertheless noteworthy beginning, it is now recognized by thousands as a powerful symbol of service, commitment and sacrifice by men and women who stepped up to do their duty on behalf of their country.

The ideals of service and commitment to a noble cause, however, aren't just the province of military veterans and those currently serving. These traits are also exhibited by people such as Marie Gilmore, who has helped lead the memorial to fulfill its mission.

It is fitting then that Gilmore was honored last week with the community's Sam Wilkinson Award for volunteerism, presented each year by the Parks and Recreation Department in recognition of an individual's contributions to Ocean Pines.

Gilmore, as Recreation and Parks Director Debbie Donahue said, has served as the foundation president for nine years, and was instrumental in seeing it become a "wonderful tribute and celebration to all veterans in our community."

The capstone of her efforts on behalf of the memorial, perhaps, was the appearance in April of "The Wall That Heals" exhibit, a three-quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and a mobile Education Center.

The exhibit's stop in Ocean Pines during its national tour was the result of a three-year effort by a group of volunteers with Gilmore in the lead. She also helped establish an education program for the county's fifth graders.

Upon receipt of this year's honors, Gilmore said she was humbled by it, when the fact is the rest ought to be humbled by her commitment to make the Ocean Pines a better community.

GILMORE - OPA VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



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• OP CRAFT CLUB
• OP BOAT CLUB
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MARIE GILMORE

VETERANS MEMORIAL FOUNDATION PRESIDENT

Pines Players auditions Sept. 13-14

(Aug. 19, 2021) The Ocean Pines Players have received the rights for "The Big Bad Musical," and will host auditions next month.

A cast of 18 is necessary to commence the legal wrangling during the upcoming holiday season as the two greatest legal minds in the Enchanted Forest, aka the Evil Stepmother and the Fairy Godmother clash in a trial that appears as wickedly funny, yet judicially significant forever after.

Auditions will take place Sept. 13-14 from 5-7 p.m. in

the Marlin Room of the Ocean Pines Community Center located at 235 Ocean Pkwy, Ocean Pines. Auditions are open to youth ages 8-17 and designed to be safe, casual, and fun. No experience necessary.

For the most updated information and the audition form, visit <http://sites.google.com/view/oceanpinesplayers> or email Frank Pasqualino at BigBadMusicalOPP@google.com.

"The Big Bad Musical" by Al Strum, with music and lyrics by Bill Francoeur is

possible through Pioneer Drama Services, Inc of Englewood, Colorado.

The OP Players values diversity and inclusion in casting and all other areas of the organization. For more general information on the Ocean Pines Players, follow on its Facebook page or visit www.oceanpinesplayers.com.

Ocean Pines Players is a local all-volunteer 501-(c)(3) charitable organization and supported in part by a grant from the Worcester County Arts Council and Maryland State Arts Council.

Bertino hosts meeting in OP Sept. 23

(Aug. 19, 2021) Worcester County Commissioner Chip Bertino will host a town meeting on Thursday, Sept. 23, at 6 p.m. at the Ocean Pines library.

This will be Commissioner Bertino's first community meeting since before the pandemic.

"I'm pleased to restart these meetings," he said. "It will be nice to once again

meet personally with residents."

Commissioner Bertino's guest speakers are Worcester County Health Officer Rebecca Jones and Superintendent of Worcester County Schools Lou Taylor.

"The two areas about which I received the most questions during the pandemic related to health issues and our schools. I'm

glad Mrs. Jones and Superintendent Taylor will be joining me," Bertino said. "They were a big help to me as I worked with constituents who contacted me with questions related to covid testing sites, vaccination appointments and remote learning issues."

Commissioner Jim Bunting will join the meeting as well.

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

11934 Ocean Gateway, Suite 6, Ocean City, Md. 21842
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The Bayside Gazette is published weekly by FLAG Publications, Inc.
11934 Ocean Gateway, Suite 6, Ocean City, Md. 21842.
The Bayside Gazette is available by subscription at \$75/year or \$40/6 mos.
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Pocomoke Boat Docking Challenge returns again to riverside this Saturday

(Aug. 19, 2021) After almost a two-year of absence, the Pocomoke Boat Docking Challenge is back and will take place on Saturday, Aug. 21, in downtown Pocomoke City on the Pocomoke River.

“We have decided to take advantage of new opportunities to grow this event into a bigger and better one,” according to a press release. “You will still see your favorite elements: the introduction of the awesome sponsors that help make this event possible, our national anthem sung on the Pocomoke River, the amazingly skilled captains operating their vessels, and an exclusive view of what small town competition looks like; but this year, we have revamped our sponsor guidelines, increased the number of captains, increased the event winnings, as well as adding more family fun.”

Anyone interested in getting involved as a sponsor, captain, or volunteer in the eighth annual event should contact pvd57@msn.com or call 410-726-5777. For more information regarding the event, visit www.pocomokeboatdocking.com or on Facebook at Pocomoke Boat Docking Challenge.

Gates open at noon. Practice runs start at 1:30 p.m. Competition kicks off at 3 p.m. followed by music and firework at 9:30 p.m.

PHOTO COURTESY D.J. LANDIS SR.

GRILLIN’

The Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City “Dawg Team” member Ed Ahlquist grills hot dogs during a recent event.

OPEN HOUSES AUGUST 19 - AUGUST 26

DAY/TIME	ADDRESS	BR/BA	STYLE	PRICE	AGENCY/AGENT
Fri-Mon, 11am-4pm	Heron Harbour, 120th St., Bayside	1BR/2BR/3BR/4BR+	Condos, Towns & SF	-	Nanette Pavier/Holiday Real Estate
Saturday, 12-3pm	13800 Wight St., Unit 108	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$599,900	Katherine Wright Payne/Coastal Life



Calendar

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

Thurs., Aug. 19

CPAP MASK FITTING

Atlantic General Hospital Sleep Disorders Diagnostic Center, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin. Free fitting clinic for patients who are having trouble adjusting to their CPAP equipment. Appointments only: Robin Rohlfling, 410-641-9726.

FAMILY BEACH GAMES

Carousel Hotel, 11700 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Free interactive fun for the whole family. Games include sand castle contests, tug-of-war, relays and more. Parents must stay with their children. Weather pending. <http://www.ococean.com>.

SUNSET PARK PARTY NIGHTS

Sunset Park, 700 S. Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, 7-9 p.m. Featuring "Lauren Glick Band" (modern pop and rock). Admission is free, while beverages, including beer, are available for purchase. Bring your own seating. <http://www.ocdc.org>, 410-289-7739

CONCERT IN THE PARK

Cypress Park, 7 Bridge St., Pocomoke City, 7-8:30 p.m. Featuring "Delmarva Big Band." Pack a picnic and bring lawn chairs. Admission is free. downtownpocomoke.com, 410-957-1333, Ext. 111

OC BEACH DANCE PARTY

Caroline St. Stage, 2 N. Atlantic Ave., Ocean City, 7:30-9:30 p.m. A DJ hits the Caroline Street Stage where attendees can dance under the lights on the beach. Followed by the new drone show at 9:30 p.m. 410-250-0125

OC DRONE SHOW

North Division Street Beach, Ocean City, 9:30-10 p.m. Come experience Ocean City's new drone show. <https://www.ococean.com/events/oc-drone-shows2021>

SNOW HILL FARMER'S MARKET

Thursdays through October - Sturgis Park Pavilion on the Pocomoke River, noon to 5 p.m.

Fri., Aug. 20

10TH ANNUAL FLOAT FOR THE COAST

Roland E. Powell Convention Center - behind building, Isle of Wight Bay, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 12 p.m. Launch your own SUP, kayak or canoe (\$5) or rent one at 48th St. Watersports. Make your own sign or banner highlighting your "cause." <http://www.actforbays.org>, 410-629-1538

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BINGO

Fridays - Columbus Hall, behind St. Luke's Church, 9901 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD. Doors open at 5 p.m. and bingo begins at 6:30 p.m. More than \$1,000 paid out each night plus an opportunity to win a \$1,000

jackpot at the end of the night. 410-524-7994

Sat., Aug. 21

VIRTUAL WALK WITH A DOC

There will be a short presentation by one of AGH's providers, 9-9:30 a.m. Then walk wherever you'd like and share a selfie on social media with the hashtag #WalkedWithAGH.

ARTX FESTIVAL

Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City, 12-8 p.m. ArtX offers an endless list of opportunities to create, purchase and enjoy different genres of art. Live music and food and drink available. 800-626-2326, www.ococean.com

COVER THE CRUISER

Ocean City Boardwalk Arch, 1 N. Division St., Ocean City, 12-10 p.m. Purchase a Torch-Run T-shirt and hat or make a monetary donation of your choice to get a pledge card. Proceeds benefit Special Olympics Maryland.

8TH ANNUAL POCOMOKE BOAT DOCKING CHALLENGE

Pocomoke City, 3-10 p.m. Gates open at noon, practice runs start at 1:30 p.m. and competition starts at 3 p.m. followed by a live band and a fireworks display at 9:30 p.m. www.pocomokeboatdocking.com, 410-726-5777

TRI-COUNTY GO PURPLE KICK-OFF EVENT

Perdue Stadium, 6400 Hobbs Road, Salisbury. Pregame activities begin at 6:30 p.m. Offering educational materials, Naloxone training, purple-themed giveaways and COVID-19 vaccinations. Fireworks to follow the Shorebirds game. wicomicohealth.org, 443-977-7994

FARMERS & ARTISANS MARKET

Saturdays - White Horse Park, 239 Ocean Parkway, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Shop for everything from fresh local produce to unique handmade artisan goods. Open to the public.

Sun., Aug. 22

ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT BREAKFAST

Knights of Columbus, 9901 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 8:30-11:30 a.m. Cost is \$12 for adults and \$6 for children 12 years and younger. For information, call 410-524-7994.

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Ocean City Boardwalk Arch, 1 N. Division

St., Ocean City, 12-10 p.m. Purchase a Torch-Run T-shirt and hat or make a monetary donation of your choice to get a pledge card. Proceeds benefit Special Olympics Maryland.

SUNDAES IN THE PARK

Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City, 7-9 p.m. Enjoy free music. Each week children are offered various free activities and entertainment. Ice cream and beverages available for purchase. Followed by the new drone show. <https://www.ococean.com>

OC DRONE SHOW

Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City, 9-9:30 p.m. Come experience Ocean City's new drone show. <https://www.ococean.com/events/oc-drone-shows2021>

BERLIN FARMERS MARKET

Sundays through September - Downtown Berlin, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. More than 30 farmers, bakers, distillers and more. Live music, live bunnies, real bee hive and free kids art projects. <https://www.berlinmainstreet.com/farmersmarket/>

Mon., Aug. 23

WRITING FOR WELLNESS

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, Berlin, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Writing about stressful experiences like illness, may boost health & psychological well-being. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under events. 410-632-2600

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY MEETING

Atlantic General Hospital, Conference Room 1, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 5-6:30 p.m. Meeting in-person and via conference call. For call-in option, dial 605-472-5789, wait for voice command, then press 944874. Support and educational group. Rose Campion, 443-880-8884

DELMARVA WOMEN'S A CAPELLA CHORUS

Mondays - Ocean Pines Community Center, 239 Ocean Parkway, 7:00-9:00 p.m. All ladies that love to sing invited. Contact Mary, 410-629-9383 or Carol Ludwig, 302-242-7062.

Tues., Aug. 24

KOFC SEAFOOD NIGHT

Knights of Columbus, 9901 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 5-6:30 p.m. If you would like steamed crabs or shrimp, you must pre-order on Monday or Tuesday morning between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Pre-order: 410-524-7994.

DELMARVA HAND DANCE

Tuesdays - Selbyville Elks Lodge 2173, 13324 Worcester Highway, Bishopville, 5:30-9:00 p.m. Show proof of vaccination

or wear a mask. A picture on your phone of your vaccination card is acceptable. delmarvahanddance@gmail.com, <https://delmarvahanddancing.com>

Wed., Aug. 25

FIRST STATE DETACHMENT OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE MEETING

American Legion Synepuxent Post 166, 2308 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, 12-1 p.m. Any Marines and Navy Corpsman who have served in the Corps, living in Worcester and Sussex counties, are welcome. 410-430-7181, websergeant@firststatemarines.org

TEEN CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP WITH HONOR MCELROY

A place to write, collaborate, share and explore publication opportunities, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under events. 410-632-2600

PAGE TURNERS BOOK CLUB

Kids ages 8-11 years join on Zoom to discuss the book "The Red Bicycle" by Jude Isabella (available on Hoopla), 3:30-4:30 p.m. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under events. 410-632-2600

VIRTUAL BOOK CLUB: 'LEAVING COY'S HILL'

Meet via Zoom to discuss "Leaving Coy's Hill" by Katherine A. Sherbrooke, 5:30-6:30 p.m. Historical fiction novel tells the story of feminist and abolitionist Lucy Stone. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org. 410-632-2600

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Atlantic General Hospital, Conference Room 1, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 5:30-7 p.m. Providing participants with hope for the future and skills to help find their way. A gentle therapy dog will be joining the group this month. Gail Mansell, 410-641-9725, gmansell@atlanticgeneral.org

MOVIE ON THE BEACH

Carousel Hotel, 11700 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 8:30-11:59 p.m. Featuring "Spider-man: Far From Home." Weather permitting. Ocean City Recreation & Parks, 410-250-0125, <http://www.oceancitymd.gov>

ONGOING EVENTS

BUS TRIP TO SIGHT & SOUND THEATRES

Bus will leave Stevenson United Methodist Church, Berlin at 8 a.m. on Nov. 6 and arriving at Sight & Sound at 2:30 p.m. for the 3 p.m. show of "Queen Esther." Stopping for lunch at Hershey Farm Restaurant. The bus will return to the church at approximately 11 p.m. Info: Jill Gray, 410-713-9139; Kathy Davis, 443-346-6761; or Pat Oltman, 443-614-2518. Checks to be made out to Stevenson Women and can be mailed to: Stevenson Women, 123 N. Main Street, Berlin, MD 21811.

Puzzles

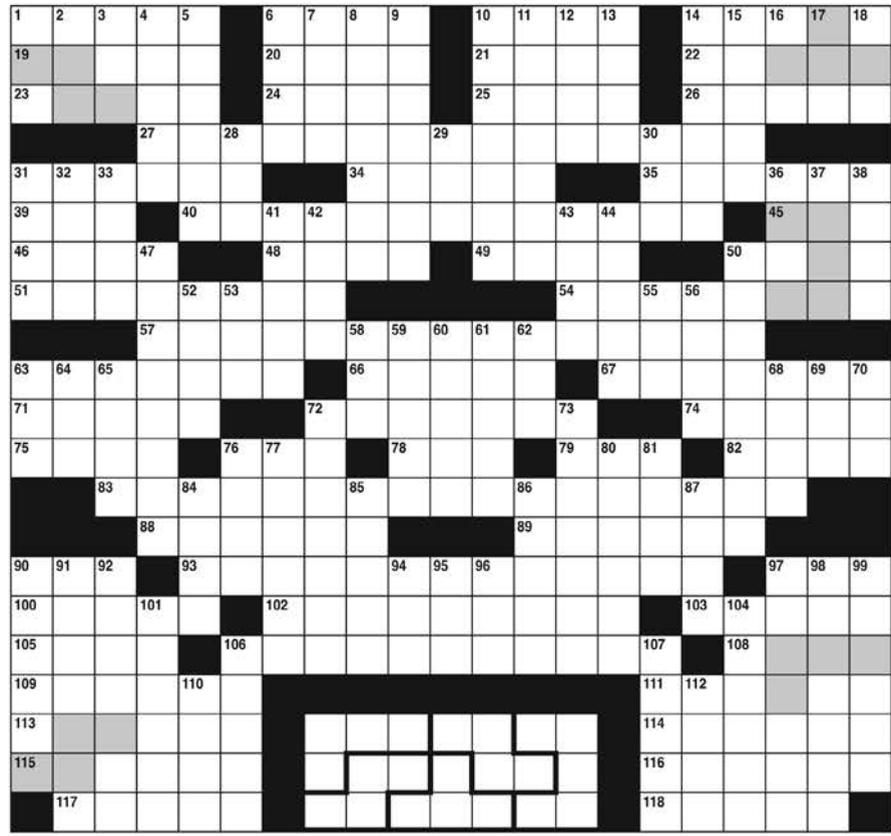
JIGSAW PUZZLE

BY CHRISTINA IVERSON AND JEFF CHEN / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Christina Iverson, of Ames, Iowa, is a stay-at-home mom with two young kids. Jeff Chen is a writer and professional crossword constructor in Seattle. This puzzle's theme started with the vague concept of moving pieces and morphed from dominoes to magnets and finally to jigsaws ("all interests of my son," Christina says). This is the pair's second Sunday collaboration. — W.S.

Note: When this puzzle is done, insert the five shaded jigsaw pieces into the box at the bottom to get a three-word phrase, reading across, for what jigsaw puzzles provide.

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| ACROSS | 49 State flower of Utah | 105 Confer, as credibility | 15 Keats, for one |
| 1 Part of a pie or the earth | 50 One of the B's in BB&B | 106 Gets wild and crazy | 16 Sounds in a yoga studio |
| 6 Style that makes waves | 51 Field work of note in 1979 | 108 Legendary | 17 Government economic org., at any rate? |
| 10 Doe in a court case | 54 Rifle, in frontier lingo | 111 N.F.L. standout | 18 ___-Cat |
| 14 Flubs | 57 "To connect things up you'll have to ___" | 113 Homes for high fliers | 28 Big suit |
| 19 Keister | 63 Ones getting the crumbs? | 114 Instruction to drivers leaving cars at a garage | 29 Derby, e.g. |
| 20 China holder? | 66 Bonnie with five Top 40 hits in the 1990s | 115 "C'mon, slowpoke!" | 30 Menial laborer, metaphorically |
| 21 Axe target | 67 Euphoric feeling | 116 Ends, as a mission | 31 Loads |
| 22 Some Madison Avenue workers | 71 Love to bits | 117 Mary Poppins, for one | 32 Take back, for short |
| 23 End of many a sports broadcast | 72 More like a dive bar or certain bread | 118 Pick up on | 33 Retreat |
| 24 Freestyles, perhaps | 74 Beehives, but not hornets' nests | DOWN | 36 "Was it ___ I saw?" (classic palindrome) |
| 25 Barflies | 75 Daredevil's hashtag | 1 O-line anchor | 37 Mists, e.g. |
| 26 Botch | 76 Very in | 2 Feel regret | 38 Feeling it after a marathon, say |
| 27 "First, you're going to want to dump out the box and ___" | 78 One of the B's in BB&B | 3 Trojans' sch. | 41 Approves |
| 31 Francis of old game shows | 79 Good name for an investor? | 4 Distinctive part of a cookie cutter | 42 Perspective |
| 34 Bounded | 82 High-end Italian auto, informally | 5 "Tap tap tap..." activity | 43 Achievement for Whoopi Goldberg, in brief |
| 35 Capital on a 126-mile-long canal that's used as a skating rink in the winter | 83 "As you go, make sure you exercise your ___" | 6 Get into a lot | 44 Like cioccolato or torta |
| 39 English breakfast, e.g. | 88 At peace | 7 Jacob's brother, in the Bible | 47 Titus and Tiberius |
| 40 "What's most useful next is to ___" | 89 Little bouquets | 8 Moved like waves or muscles | 50 Bosom buddies |
| 45 College-app component | 90 "ka-POW!" | 9 A certain degree | 52 Staple of skin care |
| 46 Role for "Ronny" Howard | 93 "With patience and perseverance you're sure to ___" | 10 St. ___ University (Philadelphia school) | 53 Sought office |
| 48 Joshes | 97 Course goal | 11 Rescue dog, for one | 55 U.P.S. competitor |
| Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 4,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords (\$39.95 a year). | 100 Songs that can be trilling? | 12 Response to the Little Red Hen | 56 Steady, maybe |
| | 102 Castigates | 13 Language related to Manx | 58 Wrath |
| | 103 Fairy-tale figure | 14 Egg, e.g. | 59 Exercise program since the 1990s |
| | | | 60 Sharp, on a TV, informally |
| | | | 61 Peak sacred to the goddess Rhea |
| | | | 62 Noshed on |



- | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| 63 "You'll ___ for this!" | 73 Creamy Italian dish | 84 Brain diagnostics, for short | 95 Sugar ending |
| 64 Words with a ring to them? | 76 Word that becomes its own opposite by putting a "T" at the front | 85 Used as a rendezvous point | 96 W.W.II fighters |
| 65 Letter between foxtrot and hotel in the NATO alphabet | 77 Singer whom M.L.K. Jr. called the "queen of American folk music" | 86 Devote | 97 Apps made with jalapeños and cheese |
| 68 How people often scroll through social media | 80 Play again, as a TV special | 87 Name suffix meaning "mountain" | 98 "You agree?" (*nudge, nudge*) |
| 69 "That's gotta hurt!" | 81 Companion in Brittany | 90 Fir tree | 99 Gathers some intel |
| 70 "The Puzzle Palace" org. | | 91 "Is it still a date?" | 101 Actor Brody |
| 72 More straight-faced | | 92 Roman goddess of wisdom | 104 Singer Willie |
| | | 94 Prefix with color or state | 106 Annoying |
| | | | 107 Grannies |
| | | | 110 Blood line |
| | | | 112 Temporal ___ |

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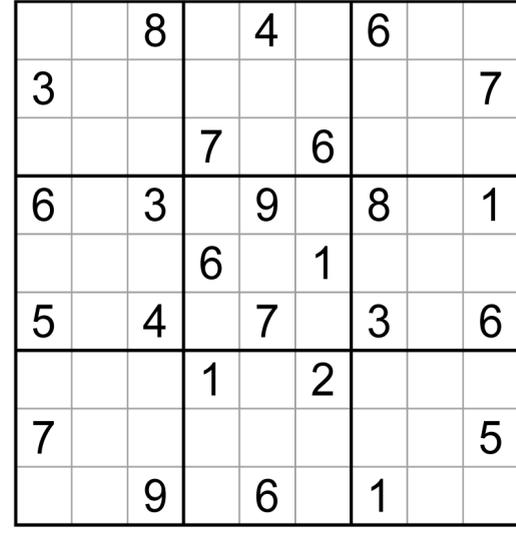
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HARD - 81

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



Answers to last week's puzzles

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



Cuisine

Break apart lump crab meat, don't shred

I look at wholesale pricelists and I want to cry. Calamari is just about non-existent, or at least good squid is.

Beef and seafood prices are through the roof, and even the lesser cattle cuts cost as much as tenderloin did a few years ago.

But nothing breaks my heart as much as the price of crabmeat this year. I

have sold exactly eight crabcakes since May between both restaurants, and those cost my guests \$25 a piece. We're talking "a" crabcake, cooked and cooled for a fishing trip, no sides, just a spicy tartar sauce.

At least they left me a review that read, "As I was eating my crab cake, I started to get emotional" and that was from offshore anglers (not always the softest or most sentimental of creatures). Truth be told, for the price that I paid for the crabmeat, that was a very low price. He's an old friend and I did what I could.

Wait, did I mention that I have only sold eight crabcakes this summer? Tears are welling in my eyes.

However, I would be remiss of my duties if I did not share with you how much I tend to despise the idea of crab "anything." As a raised Marylander, I understand the intrinsic value of the *Callinectes Sapidus* in our universe, but when I moved to the shore in 1999, I was shocked at the ubiquitous menus:

Crab cakes, stuffed flounder, prime rib. That's it. 66.6 percent of the shore's fine fare shared a common bond that simply ruined it for me. But I digress.

Back to the present, my heart skipped a beat this morning when I opened the price list and Maryland jumbo lump was "down" to \$47 a pound. I was elated, as this means that the market is finally starting to drop.

There are a handful of restaurants that either stocked up on pasteurized meat or have long-standing relationships with reputable crabbers and suppliers, but the vast majority of us have fallen victim to the shortest supply of crabs in modern times, which then naturally correlates with the most expensive. It has been a ride from hell.

I have received complaints from regulars and tourists alike as to how asinine it is that we don't sell crab



cakes, and then I ask them if they would be comfortable paying \$42 for a crabcake dinner, meaning with just one crab cake. Their response is typically that it would be ridiculous, and I concurred. Again, a ride that I hope we do not need to be on next year.

So here I sit, typing away and drinking wine (as Hemingway would say "write drunk, edit sober" ... well, no one really thinks he wrote that, but rather Faulkner) and I can't help but look back and reflect on how crappy it has been since the start of this pandemic.

Even more humorous to me is the notion that 2021 would somehow be better than 2020 in people's perceptions. While we are hopefully past the worst of the demon, we fools who actually own restaurants are now faced with labor shortages, food shortages, greatly increased product costs and to top it all off, the great unknown on the exponential variants that are marching down the aisle of life. We are still in unprecedented times, regardless of how much we want to believe that we are done with this mess. It never ends.

"And then the lumber prices" I think to myself as I chortle. I think I

have officially become an old man, complaining about everything and holding up the line at the grocery store as I rummage through my pockets for exact change.

"I think I have that. No, I'm sure I have it. Dammit, I know I have it. Hold on, there's one more pocket. No, sorry, I don't have it. Can I get the money back that I just handed you and I'll use my credit card? Oh, that didn't work? I'll just write you a personal check? Great! Thanks!"

And now, you all wait on me. I am now old.

Crab Cakes

makes 6 cakes or 32 minicakes

1# jumbo lump crab meat
1# Lump crab meat
1 c. Duke's Mayonnaise
2 whole eggs
1 Tbsp. Parsley
1 Tbsp. Old Bay or JO Spice
1 Tbsp. Lemon juice
1 tsp. or to taste, Worcestershire sauce

1. Break apart the crab meat in a large bowl. Do not break up the pieces! Nothing makes me sadder than to pay so much money for

jumbo lump crab meat and then see someone shredding it. Breaks my heart.

2. In a separate bowl, combine the remaining ingredients.

3. Back to the crabmeat, add some crushed Ritz crackers or Panko bread crumbs; the choice is yours.

4. Add the crab cake mix and very gently fold the mix and the meat together. Again, do not crush any of the lumps! This is so important.

5. When ready, portion the crab cakes or crab balls onto a baking sheet.

6. Drizzle some melted butter on the top and finish them off with a little seafood seasoning.

7. In a preheated 400-degree oven, bake them off until they are golden brown and cooked through.

8. Remove and serve immediately, preferably with a homemade tartar sauce (I like to add some spice to it through chipotle, but you do your own thing) and some cocktail sauce.

—Paul Suplee is a Professor of Culinary Arts at Wor-Wic Community College and owner of boxcar40. Visit him at www.boxcar40.com.

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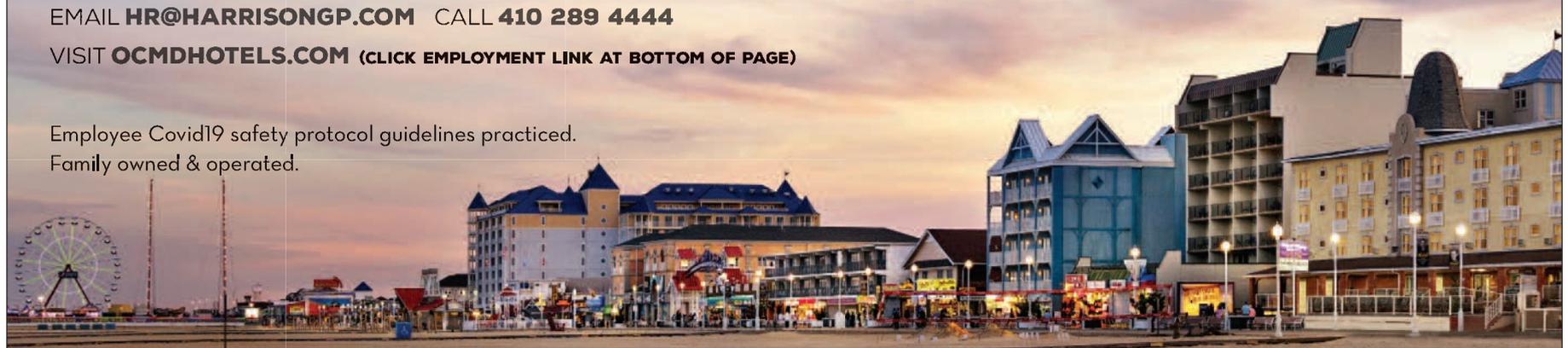
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