JANUARY 2, 2014

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Much of the first half of 2014 will likely be consumed by the opening of the new Ocean Pines Yacht Club, which is scheduled for May 1, in time for the first booked events. Pictured are Ocean Pines leaders, contractors and local officials at the ground breaking in March 2013.

Ocean Pines to take on water management

Opening of new Yacht Club and environmental eradications top to do list

By Sheila R. Cherry

Associate Editor

OCEAN PINES-Water management will likely be the first issue Ocean Pines leaders attempt to tackle as the new year begins. At the same time, the public part of the budget process will begin, followed by the opening of the new Yacht Club, environmental eradications that are bound to stir discussion and the possible installation of new natural gas lines in 2014.

A town meeting at Stephen Decatur

Middle School on Jan. 16 will allow property owners to meet with state and federal officials and view up close proposed changes to the official floodplains maps released by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in December. Worcester County Commissioner Jim Bunting along with other county officials, noting the proposals would remove a significant number of properties off the list for mandated flood insurance coverage, are strongly urging homeowners to attend the meeting.

A key concern for local government officials is once no longer being subjected to a mandate for coverage many homeowners who are still at risk for flood damage could choose to drop it as a cost-saving measure, only to be left financially vulnerable should a major storm strike the area in the future.

General Manager Bob Thompson also reported to the Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors on Dec. 18 that a drainage task force to examine the floodwater management system was expected to be named and meet in January. The task force will review what has already been done and what steps are still needed to mitigate stormwater problems that have plagued certain areas o Ocean Pines for years.

The OPA budget proposal will be presented to the board and the Budget and Finance Committee on Jan. 6, thus officially beginning the discussion portion of the process, which is expected to

Continued on Page 4

Infrastructure tops Berlin list heading into busy new year

By Sheila R. Cherry

Associate Editor

BERLIN-As 2014 commences infrastructure projects will likely factor prominently going forward in the Town of Berlin if for no other reason than because so many projects and initiatives had already begun as 2013 drew t a close.

For example, Councilmember Lisa Hall reported there had been lots of activity by State Highway Administration officials examining the intersection of U.S. 113 and Bay Street, the scene of a tragic traffic accident in November. The fatal accident created a rare public-private partnership of advocacy that spurred neighbors, town officials and state politicians to seek pedestrian safety improvements as close to immediately as government can perform.

Based on what she had observed, Hall, who has been closely monitoring the situation along with a special committee appointed by Mayor Gee Williams, predicted installing a pedestrian crosswalk or count-down clock would be a priority as soon as practical.

There are other infrastructure projects that could materialize in 2014 simply because town officials began the process for facilitating them as early as it was possible.

For example, over the course of various town council meetings during 2013, officials reported they were seeking the funding early so the town would be in a better position for final decisions that are anticipated to be made in 2014. If that strategy proves successful the conclusion of the federal- and state-level decision making processes will hopefully coincide with the planned start of the town-level projects.

Included among the grants officials had discussed applying for were projects to renovate the tennis courts in Stephen Decatur Park, continuing the refreshing of the town's aging building facades, and renovating the Visitor Center.

Deputy Administrator Mary Bohlen predicted town officials would likely continue making water management improvements through the new storm water utility. Infrastructure projects that will likely start in 2014 would be renovations of the water

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Much of first half of 2014 has OP Yacht Club in focus

Continued from Page 1

culminate with a presentation to the membership mid-February, followed by a scheduled board vote on Feb. 22. While the schedule of the procedures may be clinical and orderly the actual process, barring a miracle, is not likely to be.

Much of the first half of the year will likely be consumed by the lead up to and actual opening of the new Yacht Club, which is scheduled for May 1, according to Thompson. While most of the drama over materials, costs and unforeseen added expenses are hopefully in the past that is no guarantee there will not be a hiccup or two when the doors are actually opened and the facility is subjected to closer scrutiny.

The first events have been booked for May, Thompson has told the board.

A survey of the U.S. Route 90 pond in Ocean Pines, conduct by the Department of Natural Resources at the request of the Environment and Natural Assets Advisory Committee, concluded droppings from the ever-growing year round goose and duck population was choking off vital nutrients from game fish in OP ponds. Another problem detected was invasive phragmites plants.

Neither the geese nor the plants can be easily eradicated, but discussions will likely continue as the most ideal solution is pursued. A key time to address the proliferating goose population would likely be in June, after the migratory geese have left the area. Once the administration can be more assured they have winnowed the population down to the core domestic goose community, decisions may need to be made, or as OPA President Tom Terry termed it the OPA will be "pursuing an opportunity for an adjustment in the goose population."

The matter of possible euthanizing part of the resident goose population could get emotional, but so could the counter argument that the flock has gotten so large and the birds have gotten so used to the area that they are putting humans at risk by also causing traffic problems on Racetrack Road.

Terry updated the board of directors and membership that negotiations with Sandpiper Energy over updating rights of way had reached the level where discussions between the parties' respective legal counsels were taking place last month and draft language of the agreement was in progress. Those negotiations, which should conclude around March will allow Sandpiper to continue service in the Ocean Pines community.



SHEILA R. CHERRY/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Berlin officials are hoping to upgrade the tennis courts in Stephen Decatur Park in 2014. The project would involve a complete removal and replacement of the existing courts, if approved. Officials may also explore the possibility of constructing a permanent restroom facility at the park as well.

Berlin awaits tennis court grant

Continued from Page 1

drainage systems on Flower and Williams streets, including replacing aged or insufficiently sized culverts or drainage pipes.

Officials are also hoping for a positive result on the town's application for a grant to renovate the tennis courts in Stephen Decatur Park. The project would involve a complete removal and replacement of the existing courts, if approved, Bohlen said.

In response to a concern raised by Councilmember Dean Burrell during a recent council meeting, Bohlen said officials would be exploring the possibility of constructing a permanent restroom facility at Stephen Decatur Park as well.

But drainage ways and structures will not be the only things officials will be building in 2014. Economic and Development Director Michael Day seems to be gearing up for an aggressive brand building and marketing campaign for the Berlin business sector in the new year.

"Look for more events than in 2013, he said in a recent interview.

Day discussed plans to decouple some of the town's scheduled events, which had coincided with Second Friday Art Stroll, such as the Bathtub Races, May Day Play Day, High Heel Race and Brown Box Theatre's street performance of Shakespeare. The plan is to schedule those activities as separate stand-alone events in 2014, he said.

Then there are two events officials will consider whether or not to continue to sponsor next year—the Heritage Festival and the International Day Festival. Both events competed with several major events in nearby towns in 2013, including Firefly Music Festival in Delaware, the Delmarva Chicken Festival in Snow Hill and the Dew Tour in Ocean City. The results were that the Berlin events did not appear to create their own strong enough draws to compensate for the competing activities, and that is apparently going to be a factor that town officials will weigh when deciding whether to continue the events, based on the tone of Day's comments.

The Arts and Entertainment Committee will continue into 2014 and its members are expected to continue their efforts to increase the visibility of the downtown business district. Committee members will be more active with working with town merchants to help increase publicity, Day said.

He added that as the year begins Berlin Chamber of Commerce's Executive Director Joya Canfield and the town's Main Street Coordinator Megan Houston will be working in tandem to continue the Victorian Main Street branding initiative. Meanwhile, Day is hoping to breathe new life into the Visitor Center space. Possibilities include continuing to rent out artists' studios in the rear while enhancing the retail space in the front.

By the way, studio booths can be rented for \$300 per month, which includes utility costs, he said.





SHEILA R. CHERRY/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The Berlin Town Council and Mayor Gee Williams want to take another and closer look at how a computerized modeling system incorporates new census data to define future election districts. Two of the first proposals created under the system would result in unseating two duly elected officials, Councilmember Dean Burrell (District 4), left, and Council Vice President Elroy Brittingham (District 3).

Council wants closer look at data

By Sheila R. Cherry . Associate Editor

BERLIN-The Berlin Town Council and Mayor Gee Williams want to take a closer look at how the computerized modeling system used to incorporate new census data into defining future election districts resulted with two proposals that could unseat two current council members and one that would flip their districts.

During a Dec. 16 work session Deputy Town Administrator Mary Bohlen presented the computer models, which were developed by town staff and an official with the Maryland Department of Planning's State Clearinghouse Re-districting Office. The redistricting process, which would adjust election districts that were previously assigned in 2004, is scheduled to be adopted and presented to Board of Elections officials in Worcester County by mid-January, according to a staff memorandum.

The redistricting of Berlin's election district boundaries is in response to updated population data from the 2010 U.S. Census and is meant to keep the town's four election districts of equal size (1,124 residents), by ensuring that no district deviates by more than 5 percent of the 1,124 resident goal. Berlin has a population of 4,496 residents, according to the adjusted data.

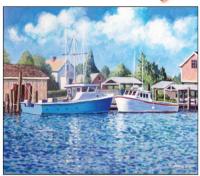
Most of the population shifts necessitating modifications to town districts were attributed to demographic changes that have occurred in or near the predominately African American Flower Street neighborhood. For example, the nearby Decatur Farms development added 707 residents to Berlin's residential area east of U.S. Route 113, which is represented by Town Council Vice President Elroy Brittingham (District 3).

Other developments that have added to Berlin's population since the last time the district maps were adjusted included the Cottages of Berlin and Purnell Cross-

Councilmember Dean Burrell represents District 4, which is also a predominately African American neighborhood.

The standard town officials have followed since the 1980's is that at least one district be comprised of a majority of the town's historical ethnic minority population-African Americans-which used to be roughly 40 percent of the town's overall population. However, the ethnic minority population in Decatur Farms is only 10 percent, which is causing the minority ratio in District 3 to shift over time. Continued on Page 6

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Council concerned about data

Continued from Page 5

The challenge the town is attempting to meet is to comply with both meeting its redistricting requirements while avoiding disenfranchisement of its minority residents.

Technically, any one of the proposals could be adopted and would be a legally valid and equitable plan as far as the numbers goes, according to Bohlen.

But when redrawing the boundary lines to capture the appropriate population and demographic totals, Bohlen said, "Little changes make a big difference." In some cases the proposed lines could literally separate council members from their constituents. Rather than creating their own population and demographic research, town officials are using the data models that already exist from federal census data, she said.

The district sizes proposed in Plan One are within acceptable parameters for population numbers and percentages, Bohlen had told the council during the meeting.

In a Dec. 27 interview she explained the reasoning and goals of the proposals presented.

She described Plan One as a benchmark, a first attempt that merely moved the boundary lines to capture enough residents to meet the appropriate representation numbers. However, if the proposal were immediately implemented Brittingham would be unseated, due to changes in the boundary lines and a special election would have to be called.

Plan Two's proposed shifting of the boundary lines would produce population numbers that would be closer to the ideal of 1,124 residents for each district and include at least one district with a minority majority, according to Bohlen. However, the boundary adjustments would also unseat incumbent councilmembers for both Districts 3 and 4. She explained, to achieve the appropriate population goals, the boundary lines would need to shift in such a way that would leave Brittingham's home physically in Burrell's district and vice versa.

Seeing that each of the proposed models would unseat two incumbents, Bohlen said she consulted the members of the town's Board of Elections for input on a way to achieve the needed population numbers without unseating elected councilmembers. As a result of that meeting, Bohlen described Plan Three, which proposed using the same boundary adjustments as proposed in Plan Two, but switching, or "flip-flopping", Brittingham in District 3 with Burrell in District 4.

This will preserve the incumbents' seats and maintain the favorable population numbers for these districts, she reported to the town council in the memo.

During a Dec. 20 interview, Brittingham said he did not understand the need to flip flop the districts, since one would still be a predominately minority district. "Why would you want to change Council member Burrell's and my districts?" Brittingham asked. "I don't know. I don't have any guesses," he said.

In a separate Dec. 20 interview Williams said the councilmembers have requested that Nasrin Rahman, manager of the Department of Planning's Redistricting and Reapportionment office, meet with the council in person, to demonstrate how the modeling was conducted and to further explain the proposed changes. Town Administrator Laura Allen confirmed that same day that the town staff was in the process of trying to schedule the meeting.

Both Williams and Bohlen acknowledged that Berlin's demographics are continuing to shift and each new housing development near the Flower Street neighborhood is lowering the ratio of the ethnic minority population. If the trend continues, Williams said, in future redistricting proposals town officials might have to consider creating a fifth election district and converting the current "At-Large" councilmember seat to a seat assigned to represent it.

Bohlen concurred with Williams' projection of a possible future scenario, adding, "It's not out of the question that you could end up with a district that is an island [minority district] at some point."

As was done during the 2004 re-districting of posting, the town staff recommended posting the proposed the information in a large variety of locations, and publishing notices in the local media.



Shooter's Sports Pub gets liquor license approval

By Nancy Powell

Staff Writer/Ocean City Today

OCEAN PINES—Shooter's Sports Pub on Route 589 between Ocean Pines and the Casino at Ocean Downs has added liquor to its drinks menu.

Since opening last spring, the pub's alcoholic beverages were limited to beer and wine because of limited wastewater treatment capacity.

During the Dec. 18 meeting of the Board of License Commissioners, however, attorney Joe Moore said that Bob Mitchell, director of the Worcester County Department of Environmental Programs, determined that Shooter's had sufficient capacity for its 70 seats.

The board also authorized Shooter's to have a deejay to play music and entertainment of up to four pieces two nights per week.

The changes, said William E. Esham Jr., chairman of the Board of License Commissioners, "would probably be an asset to the community."

Later that day, Shooter's was advertising on its Facebook page that it had a full liquor license.

Before becoming Shooter's Sports Pub, the site was known as The Steer Inn. Prior to that, it was Occasionally Yours, a banquet facility.





Commissioners to be busy with future projects

By Nancy Powell

Staff Writer/Ocean City Today

BERLIN-Projects ranging from a new Berlin branch library and a land buy to expand Showell Park to a new Public Works storage building and an addition for Stephen Decatur Middle School are in the county's requested Capital Improvement Plan to be discussed next week.

The Worcester County Commissioners will hold a public hearing Tuesday, Jan. 7, to discuss the requested fiscal year 2014 through fiscal year 2018 five-year capital improvement plan.

Projects totaling \$143 million are requested over the five-year period. Of those, \$25.6 million or 17.89 percent is proposed to come from the general fund and \$72.6 million or 50.69 percent is proposed to come from bond funds. User fees, grant funds, state

matching funds, designated funds or enterprise fund bonds would make up the remaining portion.

For fiscal year 2015, the general fund request is \$3.9 million and the request for projects financed by general bonds is \$21 million. In fiscal year 2014, the county needs to bond \$43 million for the Snow Hill High School project.

Just because a project is included in the requested capital improvement plan does not mean it will come to fruition. Projects in the plan will be added, deleted or amended as necessary.

Included in the requested plan are a new branch library in Berlin at an estimated cost of \$4.9 million and a new county storage building in Snow Hill at an estimated cost of \$3.6 million.

During the commissioners' Dec. 18 meeting, Public Works Director John

Tustin said that building would be used not only for storage, but for office space.

Additional items in the requested capital improvement plan are an 800MHz radio system enhancement at a projected cost of \$5.1 million, the capping and closure of the Berlin rubble fill at an estimated cost of \$3.1 million and asphalt overlay or pavement preservation of roads at an estimated cost of \$5.7 million.

Also included are a recreation center expansion project at an estimated cost of \$951,437, a new academic building for Wor-Wic Community College at an estimated cost of \$2.1 million, an addition for Stephen Decatur Middle School for an estimated \$8.2 million and an addition or renovation for Showell Elementary School for an estimated \$47 million.



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With session beginning Jan. 8, Assembly members file bills

By Sheila R. Cherry

Associate Editor

MARYLAND—They're back. The Maryland General assembly convenes for the 2014 legislative year on Jan. 8, but that hasn't stopped local Sen. Jim Mathias (D-38) and Delegate Michael McDermott (R-38B) from gearing up by pre-filing bills in the legislative hopper as early as October.

The strategy is apparently to build momentum for the legislation by getting the bills entered on the calendar under the first reading procedures as soon as possible.

Proposals address phosphorus management rules are on both the lists of both legislators. Mathias is seeking an economic analysis on the impact of the regulation on Eastern Shore farm businesses with SB 27, Nutrient Management-Phosphorus Risk Assessment Tool or Index -Economic Impact Analysis. McDermott is proposing to require regulators to submit a fiscal impact statement to the General assembly's Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review and the Department of Legislative Services before implementing the phosphorus management tool with his bill, Administrative Procedure Act-Fiscal Impact Statements for Proposed Regulations, HB 26.

Mathias is the primary sponsor of a bill that would compel state officials to fly the POW/MIA flag along with the United States and Maryland state flag at state-owned buildings (State Government-Display of the POW/MIA Flag on State Building Grounds SB 36). The proposal was introduced in response to requests from veterans' organizations, according to a legislative aide.

Mathias has also signed on to two taxrelated bills. In the first, he is the primary sponsor of Income Tax-Subtraction Modification-Payroll Taxes on Employee Tips, SB 59, which would reduce an employer's Social Security and Medicare tax obligation for their employee's tip income. In the second, he is a co-sponsor of Income Tax-Expensing of Business Property and Bonus Depreciation, SB 47, which would allow certain businesses increased expensing by conforming state income tax rules to the maximum aggregate costs of expensing allowed under the Internal Revenue Code, and also to allow them to claim certain "bonus depreciation" amounts.

Meanwhile, McDermott pre-filed three bills that were referred to the House Ways and Means Committee relating to making grant funding available to improve security in public school facilities (Public School Facilities Security Improvements Program, HB 15); establishing a statute of limitations for false tax returns filed by income tax preparers (Income Tax Return Preparers - False Returns or Claims for

Continued on Page 9

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House and Senate members file bills as session opens

Continued from Page 8

Refund - Statute of Limitations, HB 34); and allowing certain retirement plan income to be subtracted from gross income that would be taxed by the state for certain individuals who are at least 65 years old or who either is disabled or whose spouse is disabled (Income Tax - Subtraction Modification-Retirement Income, HB 75).

Two bills sponsored or co-sponsored by McDermott were referred to the House Environmental Matters Committee, including a proposal that would allow vehicles used for law enforcement to have tinted windows (Vehicle Laws - Law Enforcement Vehicles - Tinted Windows, HB 32); and a re-proposal of McDermott's 2013 attempt to repeal the so-called "rain-tax" (Stormwater Management -Watershed Protection and Restoration Program – Repeal, HB 50).

McDermott proposed two law enforcement measures including a reproposal from last year to give the State Comptroller's Office the option to allow local govauthorities to conduct contraband seizures within their jurisdictions, rather than requiring that the procedure be conducted through the State Comptroller's Office (Contraband Tobacco Products and Conveyances Seizures and Disposition, HB 30); and a proposal to criminalize secret compartments in vehicles that are designed specifically to transport contraband (Vehicle Laws - Hidden Compartments - Prohibition and Penalties, HB 28).

With the bill Sentencing Procedures - Statement by Victim or Victim's Representative (Alex's Law), HB 31); McDermott is attempting once again to give the victims the right to try to present impact statements in district court rather than leaving the decision to include those statements at the discretion of the state's attorney.

Fitness activities, eating tips offered by OP Rec.

By Sheila R. Cherry

Associate Editor

OCEAN PINES—The Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department is inviting the public to start the new year with fitness activities and healthy eating habits

Beginning on Jan. 7, tennis consultant Frank Marshall will teach a six-week "Quick Start Tennis" program for 5-7 year olds. The sessions are designed to provide young participants with a fun introduction to tennis in a non-competitive environment. Players will learn the basics using special age appropriate equipment on a smaller scale, according to the event's organizers.

The weekly tennis classes will be conducted on Tuesday nights from 6-6:45

p.m. The classes will be held at the Ocean Pines Community Center. The cost is \$45 for residents and \$55 for non-residents.

For adults, the department will sponsor a seminar with instructions on ways to "Lose Fat, Improve Your Health," on Jan. 20. The seminar will be conducted from 6:30-7:45 p.m.

During the interactive seminar, an instructor will provide guidance and tips on: how "healthy" foods make people fat, why grains and sugar are so addictive, and which foods help in the goal to achieve permanent weight loss.

"You will leave with strategies, ideas, and tips so you can turn your body into a fat burning machine," according to the seminar's organizers.

For additional information of the chil-

dren's tennis classes or the healthy eating seminar, contact Katie Goetzinger at 410-641-7052.

Future activities the department plans to sponsor include a day-long CPR marathon on Feb. 14, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and several bus trips. The bus trips include the:

Philadelphia Flower Show on March 6. The cost is \$70;

Washington DC Cherry Blossom River Tour on April 3. The cost is \$60;

Virginia International Tattoo on April 27. The cost is \$85;

Million Dollar Quartet bus trip on April 27. The cost is \$100.

For more information or to make a reservation, call Debbie Donahue at 410-641-7052, ext. 3030.

Fundraiser to aid 'Home of the Brave' foundation

By Donald Putnam

Intern/Ocean City Today

OCEAN CITY-Star Charities will be hosting its annual "Beef N' Beer" fundraiser Jan. 11 at 5:30 p.m. to benefit the "Home of the Brave" foundation in Berlin. The event normally held at the American Legion on 24th Street in Ocean City has been moved to the Ocean Pines Community Center based on its more convenient location.

The fundraiser will feature an allyou-can-eat buffet containing unlimited beef and beer provided by Monty Jones, owner of The Lazy River Saloon located in Frontier Town in West Ocean City. Performances will be given by several musical groups including the Imagine Band featuring Gail and John Gardner.,

Anna Foultz, coordinator of the event, is excited to also welcome the Philadelphia Woodland String Band known for its first-place win in the 2011 Mummers Parade held annually in Philadelphia. With the help from Ocean 98.1, a radio station based at Seacrets

on 49th Street, the charitable group was able to raise enough money to pay for its appearance. In addition, vocalists Sharon and Charles Sorrentino and Lee Taylor are expected to perform.

This year's event will benefit "Home of the Brave," which provides assistance to wounded and ill soldiers who have recently arrived home from combat. The organization run by Tina Pearson, provides refuge for these soldiers by allowing them to stay on a private estate to take time and "gather themselves" after returning home from traumatic experiences. The property located in Berlin is Pearson's own home, which she has adapted to fulfill the needs of handicapped veterans.

After finishing its third year in operation and serving dozens of veterans and their families, Pearson plans on expanding the program to accompanying a new family almost every week. Money raised from the fundraiser will be put toward the several amenities Pearson provides for the families including a

welcoming "gift basket" that is created based on the current season and each individual family.

"I am so grateful that Ms. Foultz is giving us this assistance, it is a great way to get the name of the organization out there, to let everyone know what we are doing," said Pearson.

Many local businesses have helped make this event a success every year through donations of an assortment of *Continued on Page 10*





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Beef N' Beer event to benefit veterans home from combat

Continued from Page 9 food and entertainment.

"We rely on many donations from countless community members. Owners of restaurants including Monty Jones of The Lazy River, Chris Dennings of Cheers in Berlin, and several others have provided us with more than we could ever imagine. As a non profit organization relying on donations and the assistance of volunteers, it is amazing to think of the success that we have had." Foultz said.

Tickets for the fundraiser cost \$26 per person and can be purchased by contacting Foultz at 410-641-7667. Deadline for purchasing tickets is Jan.

Church files for new county commissioner term

By Nancy Powell

Staff Writer/Ocean City Today

WORCESTER COUNTY-Bud Church, president of the Worcester County Commissioners, filed for re-election last month.

First elected in 2002, Church decided he wanted to continue representing his constituents in District 3, which includes West Ocean City, South Point, Taylorville and parts of Berlin.

"I very, very seriously considered running for [state] delegate. I was probably within two days of going to Annapolis and filing," Church said Monday. "Then I received a phone call from folks asking me to have lunch with them at the Atlantic Hotel."

Expecting, two or three people to meet him for lunch, Church was surprised to see about six.

"They said they had heard I might run for delegate and they said, 'We're here to ask you not to file."

Bud Church

When he asked them why they did not want him to run for the delegate's seat, they told him they thought he was doing an excellent job for the county. They also said they were concerned that he would not be happy

> in Annapolis as a Republican in a Democrat-controlled state.

> "They said, 'You'd be very frustrated at not being able to get things done,' so I said that I would think about it for a week," Church said. "During the week, they had an-

other dozen people call me and I started asking questions of my campaign people and 99 percent of them said I should stay in the county."

His wife, Ally, and his children also told him to run for office as a county commissioner again instead of for a state seat.

"They said serving in Annapolis wouldn't fit my personality," he said. "Finally, I decided that my friends and family were correct that I would just be frustrated in Annapolis, and I decided to stay in Worcester County."

Looking ahead to 2014, Church said his top priority is to get ground broken for the renovation and addition project for Snow Hill High School. Next on his list is to get the Mystic Harbour Wastewater Treatment Plant officially opened. He expects that opening might take place this month or in February.

"It has been years in the making," Church said.

Another major project will be the annual budget sessions.

"We'll continue to monitor the budget, our revenues and expenses and what the state will do to us next," Church said. "I won't vote to raise taxes regardless of what the state does to us.'

Another project for Church in 2014 will be to check into the possibility of providing 24-hour ambulance service to the West Ocean City area.

Although he filed for re-election to maintain his county commissioner seat, he already won a different re-election last month. His fellow commissioners voted unanimously for him to be the president for the fifth consecutive year.

"I guess they decided I do an OK job," he said.



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Bertino declares for commissioner

By Nancy Powell

Staff Writer/Ocean City Today

WORCESTER COUNTY-Newspaper publisher Chip Bertino, a resident of Ocean Pines for more than 20 years, has



Chip Bertino

entered the race for Worcester County Commissioner representing District 5.

That seat is now held by Judy Boggs, who has represented that district for 12 years, but is not seeking re-election.

Bertino, a Republi-

can, joins Republican Ray Unger and Democrat Tom Wilson in the race for Boggs' seat. He filed for office Dec. 17.

He said as publisher of the "The Courier" weekly newspaper for 14 years, he has gained a working familiarity with important issues facing both the county and Ocean Pines.

"It is important the community is well represented at all levels of government but none more vitally so than at the county level," Bertino stated in a press release.

If elected, Bertino will join the other commissioners in being responsible for, among other areas, schools, budgeting, public works and zoning.

"A commissioner must be a deliberative representative who asks questions in the

Continued on Page 11

Publisher files for commissioner

Continued from Page 10 pursuit of knowledge and understanding and then acts accordingly," Bertino said.

"I appreciate the fact that a candidate, if elected, represents a county district not the interests of out-of-area officeholders. Going along for the sake of getting along is a philosophy that emasculates the county's right of home rule, devalues county dignity and denies an equitable outcome deserved and expected by our residents.

"Tourism, farming, healthcare and entrepreneurism are the economic backbone of this county," he said. "A county representative must work on their behalf."

His newspaper was honored by the Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce as 2012 Business of the Year. He told Ocean City Today on Friday that he intends to continue publishing the newspaper if he is elected to the commissioner's seat.

Although he has no political experience, he said he has a long-standing interest in politics and was involved in local campaigning when he lived in Philadelphia.

He is a past president of the Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce and a former board member and treasurer of the Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines Foundation, Inc.

Bertino, 48, and his wife, Susan, have been married for 26 years. They have three children and one grandchild.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Police officers Eric Otey, Jr., left, and Harry Miller of the Ocean Pines Police Department recently graduated from the Eastern Shore Criminal Justice Academy, located at Wor-Wic Community College in Salisbury.

Pines officers new academy grads

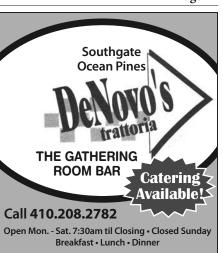
OCEAN PINES—Two Ocean Pines police officers recently graduated from the Eastern Shore Criminal Justice Academy, located at Wor-Wic Community College in Salisbury. The Entrance-Level for Law Enforcement Officers training is mandated by Maryland and ran from July 8 to Dec. 17. Recruits are required to successfully complete all instructional objectives in this 26-week academy.

Police Officer Eric Otey, Jr. of the Ocean Pines Police Department received a physical fitness award, and was elected by his classmates as class speaker at the graduation ceremony.

Police Officer Harry Miller of the Ocean Pines Police Department received a firearms proficiency award from the Academy.

Both officers will be assigned to patrol assignments in the department.

"Both of these officers achieved a high level of performance in this grueling police academy. We are extremely proud of them and the citizens of Ocean Pines shall benefit from their professionalism," said David Massey, chief of the Ocean Pines Police Department.



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BUSINESS

BAYSIDE GAZETTE



SHEILA R. CHERRY/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

It's not that hard to be compelled to hum the theme song from the 1980's sitcom "Cheers" when walking into the new Burley Inn Tavern, on 16 Pitts Street in Berlin.

Where everyone knows your name...in Berlin

By Sheila R. Cherry

Associate Editor

BERLIN—It's not that hard to be compelled to hum the theme song from the 1980's sitcom "Cheers" when walking into the new Burley Inn Tavern, on 16 Pitts Street. One can practically see Cliff and Norm at the end of the bar chatting up Coach and Woody as they pour the drafts.

Owner Cody Bates, 28, has no problem with his new venture being compared with the "place where everybody knows your name," because that is what he is shooting to replicate. During a Dec. 24 interview he said he was trying to create a family restaurant/neighborhood hangout/sports bar atmosphere where all are welcome.

"Come in and give me a shot. I promise you won't leave unhappy, or hungry," he said between filling orders.

As Bates described it, the restaurant



SHEILA R. CHERRY/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Cody Bates, center, the owner of Berlin's new Burley Inn Tavern, on 16 Pitts Street, says he wants to provide a comfortable atmosphere for everyone, from sports enthusiasts to families with little ones. Pictured with "Bunky" and "Jeremy," Bates invites would-be patrons to, "Come in and give me a shot. I promise you won't leave unhappy, or hungry."

is still a work in progress. He opened his doors on Dec. 22 after four sleepless days of setting up. He is waiting to have his signage approved by the Historic District Commission in January and has enlisted the help of his family members as back up cooks, recipe contributors and wait staff. Also, he said, "I welcome customer input," as he builds his menu.

Using mostly family recipes, the Berlin native said he wants to serve moderately-priced comfort food.

If all goes as planned a grand opening will be held Jan. 9, according to Bates. That would come after two years of renovations, repairs and replacements of much of the building, which has sat va-

Continued on Page 13

FINANCE

Several financial resolutions to consider in 2014

About 45 percent of Americans usually make New Year's resolutions, according to a survey from the University of Scranton. But the same survey shows that only 8 percent of us actually keep our resolutions.

Perhaps this low success rate isn't such a tragedy when our resolutions involve issues like losing a little weight or learning a foreign language. But when we make financial resolutions — resolutions that, if achieved, could significantly help us in our pursuit of our important long-term goals — it's clearly worthwhile to make every effort to follow through.

So, what sorts of financial resolutions might one consider? Here are a few possibilities:

- Boost contributions to retirement plans. Each year, try to put in a little more to an IRA and 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plans. These tax-advantaged accounts are good options for a retirement savings strategy.
- Reduce debts. It's not always easy to reduce debts, but make it a goal to finish 2014 with a smaller debt load than when entering the New Year. The lower the monthly debt payments, the more money available for college savings and retirement planning.
- Work on building an "emergency fund" containing six to 12 months' worth of living expenses, with the money held in a liquid account that offers a high degree of preservation of principal.
- Plan for protection needs. Don't already have the proper amounts of life and disability insurance in place? Put this on the "To Do" list for 2014. Also, steps should be taken to protect one's self from the considerable costs of long-term care, such as an extended nursing home stay.
- Don't overreact to market volatility. Too many people head to the investment "sidelines" during market downturns. Rally. Those who are not invested will miss potential market gains.

Edward Jones financial planners provided this article.



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Easy going at Burley Inn Tavern

Continued from Page 12

cant since closing as the old Goober's Restaurant. Bates said the previous owner had offered him a management position, which he said he turned down.

Bates joked that the two-part building probably should have been condemned and torn down, after "years and years of patchwork repairs." But for him apparently it was a Berlin institution he was more interested in resurrecting.

So with his own vision, the elbow grease of friends and family and the design expertise of Rick and Barbara Stack of Berlin-based architectural design firm Design Resources, the project was completed.

The new restaurant did much with what was left of Bates' budget after the years-long renovation. The layout is open, but sectioned between a sports bar with exposed brick and high-definition television screens and a TouchTunes jukebox that can be programmed from your table via an Internet app on one side; and a quiet dining section that is bright and cheerful with high chairs and boosters seats for family dinners on the

other side. Bates' girlfriend Stephanie contributed some of the artistic touches, like the table settings with cleverly painted Mason jars that have been repurposed as votive candleholders.

Bates described some of the business district's newer additions as "A lot of white collar stores in a blue collar town," and expressed a desire to get back to basics. "Nothing screams Eastern Shore to me," he said.

So with the Burley Inn (which is not affiliated with the Burley Oak Brewery) Bates said he is attempting to create an eatery where his patrons can be just as comfortable in shorts and a T-shirt as they would be in a three-piece suit.

Dinner and a drink on average would average \$10 to \$18, he said, adding no entrees cost more than \$20. Bates also said he wouldn't want to pay more than \$5 for a beer himself, "unless it came with an ocean view and sand between my toes."

Hours of operation are from 6:30 a.m. until midnight and food can be served until 11 p.m., according to Bates. To contact the Burley Inn Tavern, call 443-513-4406.

Fundraiser benefits memorial

OCEN PINES—BJ's Wholesale Club, in partnership with the Ocean Pines Association, raised \$440 for the Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines as a part of its recent special membership offer

BJ's donated \$5 of each membership fee paid as a part of the promotion to the foundation in addition to offering special benefits for new and renewing members.

Teresa Travatello, director of Marketing and Public Relations for Ocean Pines, presented the check to Veterans Memorial volunteers Mary Adair and Marie Gilmore at the organization's volunteer appreciation party at DeNovo's in Ocean Pines on Dec. 4.

BJ's Corporate Membership Sales Representative Sherry Baker said, "BJ's 2013 Fuel Your Fundraiser Campaign for the Worcester County Veterans Memorial was well received. We appreciate the opportunity to support the Veterans Memorial in its mission to honor the men and women of our military services."

Although Ocean Pines has partnered with BJ's before to bring special membership offers to area residents, this is the first time such an offer has included a donation to a local organization.

For more information, call 410-641-7717 ext. 3006







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OPINION

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

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

BAYSIDE W GAZETTE

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EDITORIAL

Taking the 'Happy' out of New Year for 1.3 million

There are over 1.3 million Americans, including 23,000 Marylanders who will be missing the "Happy" and perhaps dreading the New Year.

Congress is in recess, and it didn't take any action in extending long term-unemployment benefits prior to its holiday break.

Those benefits expired this past Saturday, Dec. 28., just three days after Christmas and less than five days before the new year.

All reports say that a bill to extend this Emergency Unemployment Compensation program will be a top priority when Congress returns to session January 6. Our congressman Rep. Andy Harris is in opposition of the extension, saying it "would cost an additional \$26 billion, something our nation just cannot afford."

Mr. Harris hasn't looked at the numbers in his own district where unemployment rates reached nearly 10 percent in Worcester and Somerset Counties and nearly 8 percent in Wicomico County.

This isn't the time to be playing politics with peoples' lives, especially the unemployed. There are enough reasons why charity groups such as Diakonia have to work hard just to keep up with the demand of the hungry, homeless and yes, the jobless.

The state's unemployment rate was at 6.4 percent. But the lower eastern shore communities are limited in terms of manufacturing and government jobs that keep Beltway communities in and around Baltimore and suburban D.C. employed.

We urgently call on Rep. Harris, his colleagues on Capitol Hill in both houses to make this unemployment extension a reality. To turn your nose on your own constituencies is unthinkable. Yes, it's a temporary solution. But you have been elected to do the right thing. Find a workable solution for unemployment benefits and better yet, jobs.

Memories are not short here in Worcester County. This is a midterm election year, and all the congressmen in the House of Representatives face re-election. How can those so elected look those so un-employed in the eye and ask for their trust again?

Not a good way for the country to begin 2014.

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"If you don't fix anything else ... FIX THAT!"

Rockfish can 'tell' a complicated story

By Tom Horton

Contributing Writer

"Fishing is great," is what you'll hear from the charter captains around the popular striped bass sportfishing port of Tilghman Island in the mid-Chesapeake.

But ask the fish and they'd tell a more complicated story. For years, Jim Price, a rare citizen-scientist in an era where Ph.Ds dominate Bay research, has been listening attentively.

Mostly on his own hook, he catches or buys around 1,500 stripers, or rockfish, annually. He analyzes every one to see what they're eating yearround, as well as whether they have adequate fat reserves or show signs of disease.

His surveys range from his native Choptank River, to the Virginia Chesapeake and the mid-Atlantic coastal ocean more than 12,000 fish to date.

"He's meticulous and his data is incredibly valuable," said Jim Uphoff, a senior fisheries scientist with Maryland's Department of Natural Resources. "Most Ph.D. studies only last a few years and don't cover the whole Bay like Jim. He is the epitome of the citizen scientist," Uphoff said.

"I'm curious and I like to fish," said Price, a retired jeweler from a family of commercial fish netters in the Caroline County river town of Choptank.

In the stomachs of the fish coming to the dock at Tilghman, Price sees little of the menhaden, bay anchovies, and blue crabs associated with rockfish diets. Instead the fish are full of cut-up chunks of spot, used by charter boats to lay a trail of "chum" or "chunks" to attract fish to their clients' lures trailing behind the boat.

"Essentially, they are doing the same thing I'm doing in my aquarium, running a feeding operation, but on a larger scale," Price said. Uphoff said there's no evidence that this is hurting the overall rockfish population, but it shows "great fishing" can be partly the result of artificially concentrating fish.

Similarly, Price said, rockfish can look fat and healthy on casual inspection, but they frequently turn out on analysis to have absorbed water as fat reserves shrank.

His work has convinced Price that rockfish nowadays are getting inadequate nutrition. Body fat's down, disease is up and bigger fish appear in decline. Only in 2010, when they were able to exploit an unusually large number of small spot—not a big part of their normal diets—did the bulk of the fish he sampled seem well-nourished.

"Of all the threats to stripers I used to worry about, not having enough food was one I never imagined," he said.

Indeed, Price founded his Chesapeake Bay Ecological Foundation in the early 1980s to stop the massive overfishing of the bass coast-wide by sport and commercial fishermen.

He was a player in Maryland's leading a virtual coastwide moratorium on rock fishing that lasted from 1985 until 1990. It worked; and the explosion of rockfish by the mid-90s is considered a success story of Bay restoration. But again, if you ask the rockfish, they tell a more complicated story. It is one thing to bring back a species; quite another to ensure the ecosystem can sustain it.

For rockfish, that ecosystem centers on menhaden, a fish so nutritious and historically numerous that W.K. Brooks, an early Bay scientist, would write in 1893: "All our best and most valued food fishes are only menhaden in

Continued on Page 19

Can rockfish survive difficult ecosystem in Chesapeake Bay?

Continued from Page 18 another shape."

Menhaden numbers have plummeted since the 1970s. This has brought pressure on Omega Protein in Reedville, Va., whose fleets of spotter aircraft and factory ships catch them by the hundreds of millions for fish oils and meal. A "cap" enacted on Omega's catches is fairly meaningless, Price said, as it is higher than current fishing levels.

Uphoff agreed that we aren't leaving enough menhaden for the rockfish; but their downturn is more complicated than just Omega's fishing. Food webs in the Bay at the fundamental level of the plankton on which menhaden feed may have shifted toward less nutritious types. Research on this critical issue is "bogged down" he said.

Meanwhile, Price is tracking other shifts: big female striped bass spawners are arriving earlier from the ocean to gorge on eels in December at the Bay's mouth; bay anchovies, another important rockfish food, are at a low ebb, perhaps from the bass trying to make up for a lack of menhaden; and rockfish are eating more small blue crabs, a relatively poor source of calories

Have we brought the rockfish back to an ecosystem that can no longer support so many? Should powerful Omega Protein get so large a share of what was recognized by Brooks more than a century ago as the "most important fish in the sea?"

Fisheries managers are struggling to sort it out. When they do, Jim Price, citizen-scientist, will deserve a lot of the credit

Tom Horton covered the bay for 33 years for "The Baltimore Sun" and is author of six books about the Chesapeake. Distributed by Bay Journal News Service.

OBITUARIES

George B. Conner, III

BERLIN-George Brinton Conner, III, age 67, died Sunday, Dec. 22, 2013



George Conner

at his home. Born in Salisbury, he was the son of the late George B. Conner, Jr.

He is survived by his wife, Earla Marie Sodeman Conner, and children; Garrett Conner of Ocean City, Bonita Conner Wells and her

husband, Bradley, of Berlin, and Morgan Conner of Wilmington, Del.

There are two grandchildren, Mac-Cray Conner and Brinton Wells. Also surviving is his mother, sister, and brother as well as several nieces and nephews.

Mr. Conner had been co-owner and operator of the Santa Maria Motel in Ocean City, and was currently the owner with his wife and children of the Bonita Beach Hotel in Ocean City. He was a member of the Hotel-Motel-Restaurant Association, and a life member of the Ocean City Volunteer Fire Department.

He was a Vietnam Army Veteran, where he served two tours of duty.

He enjoyed deep sea fishing.

A funeral service was held at the Burbage Funeral Home in Berlin. In lieu of flowers, a donation in his memory may be made to the American Heart Association, Memorial Processing Center, 4217 Park Place Ct., Glen Allen, Va. 23060. Letters of condolence may be sent to www.burbagefuneral-home.com.

Venerando "Van" John Caffi

Venerando "Van" John Caffi, age 81, died on Thursday, Dec. 19, 2013 at Peninsula Regional Hospital in Salisbury.

Born in Washington, D.C. he was the son of the late Horace Caffi and Julia Sophie Koziol Caffi. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Peggy Joyce Caffi. Also surviving is a daughter, Theresa Christine Carlile and her husband Tom of Kettle Farms, Wash.; a son, Stephan Paul Caffi and wife Heather of Wheaton, Md., daughter Carol Eliza-

beth Phelps and her husband, John, of Rockville; daughter Laura Lee Smith and her husband, Bruce, of Nanticoke, Md.; two sisters, Angela Caffi Kozikowski of Groton, Conn.; Genevieve Holt of Landover, Md., eight grandchildren, five great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by a grandson.

Van had been an airplane mechanic during his tour in the U.S. Air Force. He was the owner/operator of Van's Mobil Service in Silver Spring, Md. as well as president of Van's Marine Service, Inc., in Berlin. He had been a member, cantor, choir member, CCD teacher and usher at Holy Savior Catholic Church in Berlin, a member of the Ocean City Power Squadron and Ocean City Knights of Columbus.

A Memorial service was held on Saturday, Dec. 28, at Holy Savior Catholic Church, 17th Street and Philadelphia Ave. in Ocean City. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Van's name to The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Donor Services, P.O. Box 4072, Pittsfield, Ma., 01202 or to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 22718, Oklahoma City, Oka., 73123-1718. Expressions of condolence may be sent to the family at www.burbagefuneralhome.com. Arrangements are in the care of the Burbage Funeral Home in Berlin.

Benjamin Fisher

OCEAN PINES—Benjamin Gwinn Chriss Fisher died peacefully at his home on Dec. 21, 2013. Born in Philadelphia, he was the son of the late Chriss Essman Fisher and Lola Smith Fisher.

He is survived by his wife, Audrey L. Fisher; son, Mark G. Fisher and his wife Marjorie of Harrisburg, Pa.; granddaughter Michele Ramondt and her husband Steve of London, England; two stepsons, F. Keith Young and Kevin B. Young; four step-grandchildren, and four step-great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Elizabeth Reedy Fisher; and sister, Mary Fisher Tollenger.

Mr. Fisher had served in the U.S. Navy during WWII as a radio operator. After discharge, he graduated from LaSalle University with an engineering degree. After retiring from Unisys Cor-

poration, he eventually moved to Ocean Pines where he met and married Audrey. He was a member of Providence Presbyterian Church in Salisbury, a cofounder of The Old Salts, Chestertown, Md., and a Clan Campbell member of St. Andrews Society of the Eastern Shore in Easton. He once was a rock climber, avid sailor, and loved to travel.

A funeral service was scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 2, 2014 at Providence Presbyterian Church at 1 p.m.

A donation in his memory may be made to: Providence Presbyterian Church, 311 Parker Rd. Salisbury, Md., 21804, or Coastal Hospice, P.O. Box 1733 Salisbury, Md. 21804. Letters of condolence may be sent to www.burbagefuneralhome.com

Nancy C. Thomas

SNOW HILL–Nancy Carroll Thomas, age 84, died on Dec. 21, 2013 at the Snow Hill Nursing and Rehabili-

tation Center.



Nancy Thomas

Born in West Virginia, she was the daughter of the late Chaos W. and Peachie Robinson Martin. She was preceded in death by her husband, Donald L. Thomas, in 2004.

Surviving are her daughters, Patricia Ann Miller Brower and Donna Lee Thomas; granddaughters, Kara and Jenna, numerous nieces and nephews, and a host of friends.

Also preceding her in death was her first husband, William John Miller, her son, Michael Miller, five brothers; James, Johnny, Robert, Whorlen and Ardell Martin, and four sisters; Greetha, Althea, Martha and Yvonne Jane.

Mrs. Thomas had worked as a secretary for Rheem Manufactering.

A graveside service was held on Monday, Dec. 30 at Bel Air Memorial Gardens in Bel Air, Md.Letters of condolence may be sent to www.burbagefuneralhome.com.

Margaret Cordner Trail

SYKESVILLE-Margaret "Peg" Cordner Trail died on Sunday, Dec. 22, 2013. She was the beloved wife of the late Vernon H. Trail, dear aunt of Gary and Gwen Cordner, and dear cousin of Doris Fordham, Barbara Lee Schriefer and Harry Schriefer.

Mrs. Trail served as administrator of Woodlawn Cemetery and New Cathedral Cemetery in Baltimore and was active in the American Cemetery Association.

She enjoyed retirement in Ocean Pines where she was a member of "Swimmin Women" and served as Treasurer of St. Paul's By The Sea Episcopal Church in Ocean City.

Peg moved to Fairhaven in Sykesville in 2000 where she continued to enjoy swimming.

A memorial service was held on Saturday, Dec. 28, at Fairhaven Chapel in Sykesville. Private interment was in Woodlawn Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Fairhaven Residents' Association or Chapel Altar Guild.

Donald J. Spence

PITTSVILLE—Donald J. Spence, age 43, of Pittsville died Monday, Dec. 23, 2013 at Peninsula Regional Medical Center in Salisbury. He was born in Prince Frederick, Md. and was the son of Buddy Joe and Dorothy Lorraine (Hooper) Spence.

He was an animal control officer with the Town of Ocean City and also owned Spence Graphics. He was a member of the Red Knights Chapter 3 and a former member of the Bishopville Volunteer Fire Department.

He is survived by his parents, Buddy and Dorothy Lorraine Spence of Parsonsburg; a sister, Angela Spence Purnell of Pittsville and a niece, Kaitlyn Purnell.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 4 at Bishopville Volunter Fire Department in Bishopville

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Worcester County Animal Control, 6207 Timmons Road, Snow Hill, Md. 21863 or to the National Aquarium, c/o Bruce Hofberger or Jessica Donahue, 111 Market Place, Suite 800, Baltimore, Md. 21202. Please write in the memo line "In Memory of Donald Spence." Condolences may be sent by visiting www.hastingsfuneral-home.net

CALENDAR

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

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

THURSDAY, JAN. 2

WOMEN'S CLUB BIRTHDAY PARTY — Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 10 a.m. Join the ladies of the WCOP in a celebration of their 40th year. The group will be welcoming new members and thanking those who have renewed. Membership is open to women who live in Ocean Pines and dues are \$10. Info: Pat Abby, 410-208-0171 or gorpataddy@aol.com.

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

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

FRIDAY, JAN. 3

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

LONGABERGER BASKET & GIFT CARD

BINGO — Bishopville Volunteer Fire Department, 10709 Bishopville Road. Doors open at 6 p.m. and games begin at 7 p.m. Cost is \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door. There will be 10 basket bingos and 10 gift card bingos, two specials, 50/50 and door prizes. Oyster sandwiches and other food and beverages for sale. Advance tickets: 410-352-3101.

SATURDAY, JAN. 4

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

FARMERS MARKET — White Horse Park, 239 Ocean Parkway in Ocean Pines, 8 a.m. to noon, through Oct. 26. Produce, farm fresh eggs, organic goods, herbs, fresh cut flowers, soaps, jelly, homemade baked goods, honey and more

MONDAY, JAN. 6

DELMARVA SWEET ADELINE CHORUS MEETS WEEKLY — The Delmarva Chorus,
Sweet Adeline's, under the direction of Carol
Ludwig, meets each Monday from 7-9 p.m., at
the Ocean Pines Community Center, 239
Ocean Parkway, White Horse Park. Women interested in learning the craft of a cappella



GOING ON A SAFARI

SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Amanda Lynch's Grade 4 class at Worcester Prep recently took their own virtual safari tour of parts of Africa. They hopped into their "Land Cruisers" and set off to the Cape of Good Hope where the Atlantic and the Indian Oceans join and the city of Cape Town sits.

singing welcome. Info: 410-208-4171.

HAND DANCING — House of Welsh, 1106 Coastal Highway, Fenwick, Del. Free lessons from 6-7 p.m., open dancing 7-10 p.m. No cover charge. Info: DC Hand Dance Club, 302-541-0728.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 8

GRACE PARKER ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT BREAK-

FAST — First Presbyterian Church, Ocean City, 7 a.m. to noon. Eggs any style, pancakes, buckwheat pancakes, sausage, country ham, homemade biscuits, hash brown potatoes, grits, coffee and tea. Cost is \$8 to eat in and \$6 for carry out. Milk, soda and orange juice available. Info: 410-289-9340.

BINGO — Every Wednesday at Ocean City Elks Lodge 2645, 138th Street across from Fenwick Inn. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., games start 6:30 p.m. Best payouts and Jackpots. Food and non-alcoholic drinks available. Info: 410-250-2645.

DELMARVA HAND DANCING CLUB — Meets every Wednesday at Peaky's Rooftop Restaurant & Bar, located in the Fenwick Inn, 13801 Coastal Highway, Ocean City. Beginner and intermediate lessons, 5:30-6:30 p.m., followed by dancing 6:30-9 p.m. All are welcome. Info: 302-337-3638.

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY MEETING —

Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, Wednesdays, 3:30-4:30 p.m. TOPS is a support and educational group promoting weight loss and healthy lifestyle. It meets weekly. Info: 302-436-3682.

THURSDAY, JAN. 9

BEACH SINGLES — Every Thursday, Beach

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

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

FREE FLY CASTING LESSONS — Meet at the Veterans Memorial parking lot, 4 p.m., rain or shine. Fishing will take place at the South Gate pond. All ages are welcome. Take fly casting tackle if you have it. Joe Reynolds will cover everything from the basic total beginner category to those with more advanced skills and experience. If interested, contact joe@outdoors.net.

OC AARP 1917 GENERAL MEETING — MAC Senior Center, 41st Street, Ocean City, 9:30 a.m. Chris Bitters, General Manager of the Delmarva Shorebirds is guest speaker. Numerous travel opportunities for 2014 will also be presented. All persons age 50 and older are welcome. Info: aarp1917.org or 410-352-5748.

ONGOING EVENTS

PANCAKE BREAKFAST — Ocean City Municipal Airport's Terminal Building, 12724 Airport Road, Berlin, Saturdays and Sundays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Jan. 11 through April 27. Serving pancakes, eggs, bacon and sausage. Suggested donation is \$5, as a fundraiser for the Huey Veteran's Memorial Display at the airport. Info: Airport Ops, 410-213-2471 or Coleman Bunting, 410-726-7207.

FREE JOB SEARCH SEMINAR — Wor-Wic Community College, Hazel Center Room 302, 32000 Campus Drive, Salisbury, Jan. 23,

5:30-7 p.m. John Romanowski of Fruitland, author of the e-book called "Best Way to Find a Job is to Effectively Manage Your Job Search," will be the presenter. To reserve a seat, contact Wor-Wic's career services office at 410-334-2903 or register online at http://tinyurl.com/ozkt5xk by Jan. 17.

PARKINSON'S DISEASE SUPPORT GROUP —

Group meets the second Tuesday of each month at Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:30-4 p.m. Speakers, discussions, exercise, etc. No reservations, no fees. Patients and caregivers are encouraged to stop by.

HORSE & CARRIAGE RIDES ON THE BOARD-

WALK — Weather and ridership permitting, horse and carriage rides will board passengers near Thrasher's at the Inlet lot and travel around the pier and down the Boardwalk to Fourth Street and back on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., through April 30. Cost is \$10 per person, kids 3 and younger ride free. Info: Randy Davis, 443-783-1409.

CPR/AED, BLS AND FIRST AID COURSES -

The American Heart Association is offering life saving skills for families, teachers, construction workers, lifeguards, coaches, physical trainers, camp counselors. Also Basic Life Support training for medical professionals, pharmacists, dentists, doctors, CNA's, LPN's, RN's or nursing students. Weekly classes offered. Sign up: 302-462-5594.

KIWANIS CLUB OF GREATER OP-OC — Meets every Wednesday at 8 a.m. in the Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway.

Doors open at 7 a.m. October through April. Info: 410-641-7330.

GRIEFSHARE — Grief recovery support group. Fall cycle begins Oct. 30, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Sign up: Carole, 301-509-2002 or griefshare.org. Sponsored by SonRise Church, 10959 Worcester Highway, Berlin.

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Friday

3 Courses for \$25

Choice of any appetizer or salad, entree and dessert from menu or chalkboard (no substitutions)



8003 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD 410-723-4665 open daily for Lunch & Dinner

LIVE MUSIC



No Byscuyts @ BJ's on the Water

■ BJ's on the Water 75th St. Bayside, Ocean City

FRIDAY – Tranzfusion SATURDAY – No Byscuyts



Power Play @ Clarion Resort

- Clarion Resort 101st St. Oceanside, Ocean City OCEAN CLUB –
- FRIDAY & SATURDAY Power Play
- Fager's Island 60th St. & the Bay, Ocean City WEDNESDAY – Everett Spells

FRIDAY – DJ Hook SATURDAY – DJ Groove

- Galaxy 66
 66th St. Bayside, Ocean City
 TUESDAY Philly George
- Harborside Bar & Grill
 12841 S. Harbor Rd., West Ocean City

FRIDAY – Ladies Night w/DJ Billy T SATURDAY – Simple Truth, DJ Jeremy SUNDAY – DJ Billy T / DJ Bigler

- Harpoon Hannas
 142nd St. Bayside, Fenwick Island
 FRIDAY Dave Hawkins
 SATURDAY Dave Sherman
 WEDNESDAY Aaron Howell
- Schooners/Princess Royale
 91st St., Ocean City
 FRIDAY Harry O
 SATURDAY Harry O
- Sunset Grille12933 Sunset Ave., West OCTHURSDAY Doug Segree

THURSDAY – Doug Segree FRIDAY – Opposite Directions SUNDAY – Community Groove



Gypsy Wisdom @ Seacrets



Captain Jack @ Seacrets

Seacrets49th & the Bay, Ocean City

SATURDAY - Opposite Directions / Captain Jack / Gypsy Wisdom

Whiskers PubPines Plaza, Ocean PinesFRIDAY – Karaoke w/Donnie Berkey

Invest in Your Community...



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42 43

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33

PUZZLES

TAKE A BREAK BY JOEL FAGLIANO / Edited by Will Shortz

ACROSS

1 One at a woman's side?

6 Fixes keys

11 Person who might bump into you on a subway 16 Starbucks size

17 Model/actress Keibler

18 Brother of Prometheus

19 Choice

20 Road runners 21 Animal with a flexible snout

22 Unduly

23 Spoken instruction in animal training

26 Best Musical of 1975, with "The"

27 Completely dominates 29 He said the most important thing for poets to do is to write as little as possible

83 distance

44 A balconette is a low-cut style of one 85 Mlle., in Madrid 86 Like a Monday

30 "Oh, hmm ..."

31 Elevator

33 New York Titans' org.
35 Bit of hopscotch

equipment
42 Shady spot

44 In a state of conflict 45 Bee product

48 Iowa's Colonies

49 Name that's Hebrew for "pleasant"

"Something ought to finally go

51 Philadelphia/New Jersey connector 54 Half of sechs

"Il était fois" (French fairy tale start)

For any three answers, call from a touch-tone phone: 1-900-285-5656, \$1.49 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554.

56 Brand name that's an anagram of 31-Across

57 Rejections

58 Acted like a rat **60** "Howdy"

62 Item on a chain

65 Center of activity 68 Like some expenses

72 Pop icon?

73 Wash against, as the shore

75 Like some duties

76 Finsteraarhorn, e.g.

77 It's often divided into sections 0, 2, 4, 6, etc.

80 Country where the Blue Nile originates: Abbr.

81 Part of the healing process

91 Rat

"Shoot!"

93 Pass again on the track

95 Big dos

99 Dangerous person to play against for money

103 No-goodnik

106 Sounds from Santa

113 Ad Council output, briefly

115 First president with a Twitter account

117 Decoration under a dish

118 2010 earthquake site 120 Walk heavily

121 Universal

124 Talk face to face?

DOWN

1 Presidential power first used by James Madison

86 Like a Monday morning quarterback?

87 Symbols of dirtiness

89 " the Air"
(2009 Clooney
movie)
90 Part of FEMA:
Abbr.

97 Precept

101 Old Olds

107 Sincere

122 Blown out?

123 Best hand in Texas hold 'em

125 Having a ton of money to draw on

2 Not on deck, say

3 Sometimes-caramelized item
4 First National
Leaguer with eight consecutive 100-R.B.I. seasons

5 Chicken

6 Michael and Peter 7 Lab item that sounds like a popular website

8 Birth-related

9 Reason for a food recall

10 Big name in food

11 Show anxiety, in a way 12 1989 world champion figure skater

13 Bear necessities?

14 Talk show starting in 2012

15 Miniature

24 To be, to Béatrice 25 Jazz quintet's home

28 Half of the Nobel Prize winners, typically

30 Secret society in Dan Brown's "Angels & Demons" "Let's call it

34 Muslim ascetic

35 Low, moist area 36 On the way out

worse than death

38 Hang (over)
39 Harold's partner in comedies

41 Friendly term of address

42 Madam

43 "The Wire" antihero 46 Downhill sport

47 Tight ends?

52 "Come again?"

53 Scott of "Happy Days"

59 You'll trip if you drop it 61 "Gross!"

62 Well-protected, nonrunning quarterback

63 Sign word often translated into multiple languages

65 Tries

66 Emotional peaks

67 Pressing needs? 69 Unlike eagles

70 Appropriate 71 Silver, say

73 Next-to-last #1 Beatles hit 74 Sully

78 Spits rhymes

79 Beer buy 82 Tongue-lash

85 Subject of a
2009 national
tournament
cheating scandal

88 "Meet the Press' guest, for short

94 Possibly 96 Formed rising bubbles

98 It's "not" in Scotland

100 Apiece, at Wimbledon

101 Army attack helicopter Pitman, developer of shorthand 104 Freedom Tower feature105 Bar at the bar

106 Microwaveable snack item

101

108 States further 109 Corner piece

20

49

29

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83

87

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108

121

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111

109

32

35

58

82

116

77 78

107

110 Miniature 111 Dud

112 Jane who becomes
Mrs. Rochester
114 Cause of a sudden
drop in altitude

116 Marie Curie, e.g.:
Abbr.
119 Word often
shortened to one
letter in text
messages



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su do ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom **HARD - 78**

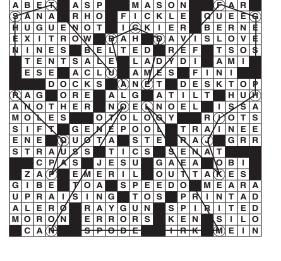
Fill in the blank spaces in the grid so that every vertical column, every horizontal row and every 3 by 3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9, without repeating any. There is really only one so-

lution to each puzzle.

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

Answers to last week's puzzles

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



CUSINE BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Want to eat healthy? Great, let's fry cheese

Among many New Year's resolutions floating in space right now is the desire by many to eat healthy. We all know that we can do better than we did in



By Paul Suplee, **CEC PCIII**

2013. We are well aware of the conventional wisdom that warns of fat content, sugar levels and fried foods.

We listen to the TV ads until we've had it up to here, lectured being about how a life of lettuce and nuts will set us free.

Then the next guy pops up and tells us that a few pounds of protein every day will take us back to our primal selves. With just a little more self-control you can learn to lick that lackluster waistline and replace it with a meaner, leaner you.

So go and grab that celery stalk. Set out, dear friend, to throw some carrots, spinach and ginger in the juicer as you work your way through Schwarzenegger's Encyclopedia of Modern Body-

I'll just be right over here turning on

doesn't like fried cheese?

There is something so rattling about freshly breaded and fried mozzarella; the aromas of the crispy breading melding with the gooey, volcanic inside. The conflict between the anticipation in knowing that the first bite will probably burn your mouth and the desire to skip the necessary waiting period is enough to make the moment memorable.

With a good fresh mozzarella, there is a certain palatability in the rich but fresh milk flavor that erupts when you bite in the piping hot morsel fresh from the fryer. As we designed this salad in Rehoboth Beach years ago in a restaurant where I worked, we simply took the different parts of the famous Caprisi (Caprese, Capresi; you choose) salad and tweaked them out as we saw fit.

Imagine the look on your guests' faces when they bite into such a deliciously amusing cheese ball. As simple as it is to prepare, there is a certain joy in knowing that most people won't take the time to go through the motions in creating this.

If you play your cards right you can simply tell your guests that this takes forever to craft and then they can allocate

> this as your own signature dish that you will then need to recreate at every holiday and weekend get-together.

> It's the New Year. I'll work on the fried cheese while you consider the many ways your life will change on your new diet. I'll worry about that silly celery stalk tomorrow.

the deep fryer. I mean, seriously, who Fried Caprisi Salad

makes four salads 16 ea. breaded Mozzarella balls (recipe follows) sliced tomato, as needed

1/2 c. basil mash (recipe follows) Arugula salad (recipe follows) EV Olive Oil, as needed freshly cracked pepper coarse sea salt, as needed

Heat a fryer to 350°

Fry the mozzarella balls (breaded bocconcini) until golden brown

Remove to a paper towel or clean kitchen towel to drain

Plate the mozzarella in a pyramid and then place remaining ingredients on plate

If using a rectangular plate, remember the rule of odd numbers; try to keep piles of 3, 5 or 7 items on a plate. For some reason our brains typically prefer to see odd numbers of discernible groupings on a plate

Season at the end with cracked pepper and sea salt

Basil Mash

while, refrigerate.

1 bunch fresh basil, stems removed salt & pepper to taste 2 cloves garlic, smashed EV Olive Oil, as needed

until ready to fry. If it is going to be a

Rip or cut the basil into smaller pieces and then transfer to a mortar and

Add some salt and pepper. This acts as an abrasive which makes mashing it all that much easier.

Mash for a couple minutes and then add the garlic.

When it is close to the consistency that you want, drizzle in the oil and then adjust seasoning to your liking.

Set aside for at least 30 minutes and if longer, refrigerate. When you are playing with garlic in oil, there is a potential for botulism to blossom if present. Time and temperature control are critical here, so keep it cold to be on the safe side.

Breaded Mozzarella Balls

16 ea. Bocconcini (small mozz balls) flour for dusting 4 eggs s&p as needed

2 tbsp. half & half

Panko bread crumbs, crushed

Place the bocconcini in the flour to dust them. This keeps the egg wash adhered to the ball and less likely to seep off as you bread.

Working a few at a time, place into the egg wash and individually move them to the bread crumbs.

Press firmly but gently and repeat the process if you have a lot of blank

When thoroughly covered, set aside

Arugula Salad

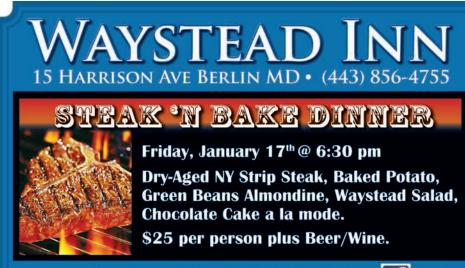
2 handfuls fresh baby arugula juice of 1/2 lemon 1 tsp. sherry vinegar 1-2 tbsp. grapeseed oil salt & pepper to taste small sprinkle of sugar, optional

Gather your MEP (mise en place) and have handy when you are ready to plate the salad.

At time of plate-up toss all ingredients together and plate. Do not do this in advance as the arugula will wilt after

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







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