

Berlin named 'coolest', so now what will occur?

Lititz, Pa., last year's top small town, saw results impacting economy

By Phil Jacobs
Editor

BERLIN—When Mayor Gee Williams raised his glass at the Burley Oak Brewing Company during those first clock ticks after midnight into Tuesday morning, it was to toast Berlin's becoming Budget Travel Magazine's Coolest Small Town in America, 2014.

While it might have signaled the end of the contest, the toast was unarguably marking the beginning of opportunities ranging from heightened tourism numbers, name branding and financial outlook.

Mayor Williams and other town and Worcester County officials need to look no further Lititz, Pennsylvania, Budget and Travel's 2013 winner. The town, located near Lancaster, took the ball and ran with it.

The results:

A 25-45 percent increase in retail sales since last February.

An increase of between 15,000 to 20,000 tourists.

Before the contest, the town sent out 5-10 information booklets a week. Now that number is 10-12 a day.

Kelly Withum, executive director of Venture Lititz, Pa., a non-profit organization that promotes the town, said that they wasted little time jumping on the momentum of their success.

"We knew we won on a Friday," she told the Bayside Gazette. "And then on Sunday, we had a flash mob rally to celebrate. It was the coldest day of the year, but thousands of people showed up."

Withum said that the town quickly put together a strategic planning committee whose focus was solely on how to capitalize on being the coolest. They spent money to make money, she said. The town extended its momentum with a \$40,000 advertising campaign. It redesigned its website to make it more tourist friendly. And it flooded the regional media with thousands of press releases.

See BERLIN, Page 6



PHIL JACOBS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Mayor Gee Williams offers a toast at the Burley Oak Brewing Company just minutes after learning Berlin had become America's coolest small town as part of a national contest sponsored by Budget Travel Magazine. About 500 towns entered the contest.

OPA Board gives OK to FY 2014-2015 budget

Also high priority on agenda, question of geese overpopulation

By Sheila R. Cherry
Associate Editor

OCEAN PINES—During a Feb. 21 meeting, the Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors approved the proposed budget for fiscal year 2014-2015, which begins May 1.

According to a statement released by the OPA, "The FY 2015 Budget reflects Total Revenues of \$10,229,558 and Operating Expenses and Transfers of the same amount, a Basic Annual Assessment of \$909, and Capital Expenditures of \$3,190,348."

Other business discussed during the meeting included General Manager Bob Thompson's monthly report, a

continuation of the ongoing evaluation of possible remedies for the overpopulation non-migratory resident geese in the community, and an announcement that the first meetings of a stormwater drainage taskforce were scheduled for Thursday, March 6 and Wednesday, March 12, at 10 a.m. respectively.

According to Thompson, the unaudited financial forecast as the current fiscal year comes to a close at the end of April is projected to show a net gain of \$152,978. He also noted that golf bookings were up for both March and April. The actual year-to-date variance through the end of January was \$130,273, he said. "So far our performance is doing extremely well," he said.

During the meeting, Director Marty Clarke inquired about the Country Club's closure in February, after the board voted in September to keep it open. Thompson explained that sev-

eral factors had prompted the closure, which was done after Super Bowl weekend.

In part, the building's closure was due to utility expenses that were outpacing revenue and a drop in residents' usage of the facility the number of members had dwindled to minimal levels, due in part to severe weather. Weighed against the fact that traditionally in January and February many residents were out of the area, Thompson said it made more financial sense to close the facility. He added that while the board had elected to allow the club to stay open, "the benefit just wasn't there."

Moreover, Director Jeff Knepper, who was not a member of the board at the time, said that he recalled the vote in September had "authorized" Thompson to keep the club open,

See OPA Page 4



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Sorin Women's Diagnostic Center designated for excellence

American College of Radiology cites AGH's breast imaging facility

BERLIN—The Eunice Q. Sorin Women's Diagnostic Center at Atlantic General Hospital in Berlin has been designated a Breast Imaging Center of Excellence by the American College of Radiology.

By awarding facilities the status of a Breast Imaging Center of Excellence, the ACR recognizes breast imaging centers that have earned accreditation in mammography, stereotactic breast biopsy, and breast

ultrasound (including ultrasound-guided breast biopsy).

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The Eunice Q. Sorin Women's Diagnostic Center focuses on providing top-notch technology as well as warm, friendly patient care. In addition to breast ultrasound and MRI and minimally invasive breast biopsies, the center offers digital mammography to afford area residents the best breast imaging services possible.

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breast, allowing them to acquire more tissue and even compression for the image.

The Eunice Q. Sorin Women's Diagnostic Center can be reached at 410-641-9215.

OP Women's Club to award students May scholarships

OCEAN PINES—The Women's Club of Ocean Pines will be awarding scholarships at its May general membership meeting to promising students who are full-time Ocean Pines residents.

These students must graduate from high school in good standing with a minimum grade point average of 2.5 and plan to attend an accredited institution for further education. These awards may be used by the recipient to help defray post-high school expenses at any approved degree of certificate-granting college or university, technical or vocational school.

The Women's Club Scholarship committee will consider the applicant's needs, goals, scholarship, citizenship, community service, extra-curricular activities and motivation. The club believes in non-discrimination on the basis of race, gender, national origin or family status, in both principle and practice.

Applications for these scholarships must be completed and submitted to the senior guidance counselor at Stephen Decatur High School by March 7.

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OPA board discusses solutions to geese overpopulation in area

Continued from Page 1
which Knepper noted provided the general manager more flexibility to use his judgment to respond to changing conditions than directing him to do so.

Thompson outlined several projects that were either planned or in progress. Some of the projects could overlap during the transition between FY 2013-2014 and FY 2014-2015, he explained.

Still another project fell under the category of regular operational maintenance and would be addressed during 2013-2014, according to Thompson. It was the annual reconditioning of the Har Tru tennis courts in the Manklin Meadows recreation park, he said.

Also for the remaining 2013-2014 budget year, Thompson outlined projects that would include, repairing a floor crack in the adult pool and re-

placing the surrounding fence at Mumford's Landing,

Of the capital projects that were scheduled to begin in FY 2014-2015, one will cost significantly less than what was budgeted. A project to replace the current baby pool at the Swim and Racquet Club with a splash pad designed to meet zero entry access requirements under the American with Disabilities Act. The planned expense for the project was \$175,000 and the highest bid was comparable to the amount because it included a proposal to also replace the pump system, Thompson said. But the two lower bidders had determined that the project could be accomplished with the existing pump system intact, he said.

Thompson proposed accepting one of the two lower bids and the board voted to approve a bid to complete the work for \$38,800, thus creating a sav-

ings of \$136,200. In addition, OPA Public Works Department personnel could construct a handicap ramp, which was also needed to meet ADA compliance standards, at a cost of \$4,700, he added. The board opted to allow the differential to remain in place for contingencies, but Director Bill Cordwell pointed out after the meeting the board had the ability to review and possibly adjust that allocation in June after the start of the new fiscal year.

In terms of long-range planning, Thompson briefed the board on a project to repair bridges on Ocean Parkway and Clubhouse Drive, a project to update the OPA's computer system and a project to renovate, replace or relocate the Ocean Pines Police Station.

During one portion of Thompson's presentation, the topic of

OPA President Tom Terry seemed anxious to make it clear the board had no immediate plans to act on any of the ideas under review for dealing with a proliferation of non-migratory resident geese in the community until after the wild transient Canadian geese in the area have moved on for the spring and summer. The OPA is in the process of trying to resolve concerns about the waste droppings the birds are leaving in the areas near the North and South Gate pond, the traffic problems they sometimes create along Rt. 589 and the deformities they are experiencing from dietary deficiencies caused when well-meaning individuals feed them non-nutritious bread, Terry and Thompson emphasized.

Several residents were in attendance in support of not euthanizing the geese. Edna Martin proposed that the OPA purchase equipment that could attach to a tractor and scrape the ground to scoop up the droppings, and using methods to control the geese from reproducing.

Thompson said later he personally loved having the geese in the community and found the dilemma of having to deal with them to be a "tough situation" and one that had the potential to be a "mixed bag" no matter what was decided.

He confirmed the scooper equipment was one of several solutions that are currently under consideration, along with dogs trained to chase the geese away, but not harm them; barrier wires to discourage the geese from certain areas; and a sonic sound system to repel the birds. But he said fecal matter from the birds on the ground cover around the ponds was only one component of the overall problem.

There was also the problem of the bird's fecal matter negatively affecting the water quality of the ponds and the traffic problems to contend with, Thompson noted. Handouts were provided with a multi-page list of possible solutions recommended by experts, including the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and a flyer that was part of a public education campaign aimed at discouraging the public from adding to the problem by feeding the wild birds.

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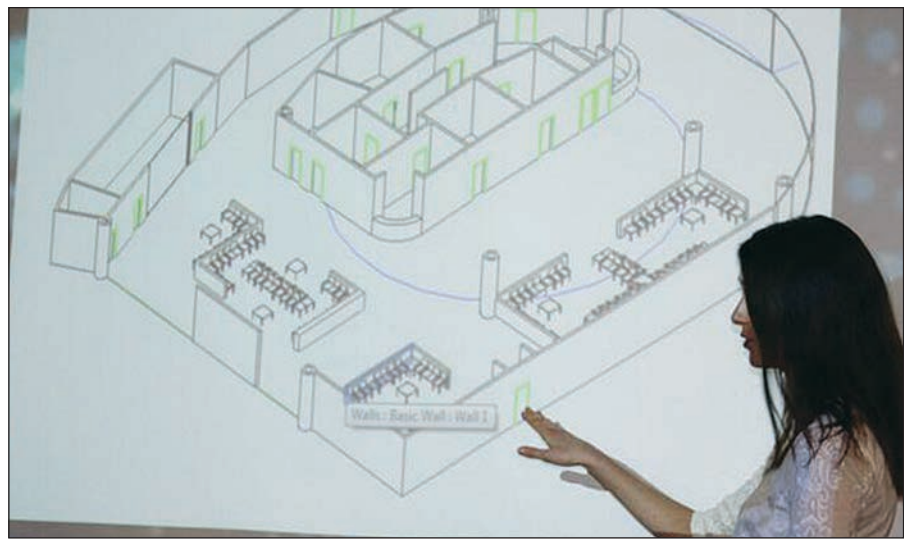
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PHOTOS COURTESY OF WORCESTER TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL
A Worcester Technical High School senior presents her class redesign of the Atlantic General Hospital waiting room to hospital officials last month. Four of the students are flying to Austin, Texas, Sunday to present their design in the national Samsung Solve for Tomorrow Competition, which will award more than \$100,000 in technology prizes to the top five teams' schools.

Four county seniors headed to Solve for Tomorrow tilt

By Clara Vaughn
Staff Writer/Ocean City Today

WORCESTER COUNTY—Four seniors at Worcester Technical High School will travel to Austin, Texas, to compete against the nation's top teams in Samsung's Solve for Tomorrow contest on Monday, March 3, with over \$100,000 in technology prizes on the line.

Carlee Barrett, Rebecca Lederman, Chris Brown and James Hillyer will represent their classmates in a 15-minute presentation of their redesign of Atlantic General Hospital's waiting room, a project 18 Worcester Tech students completed last fall as part of their classwork.

Their design already earned first place at the state-level Solve for Tomorrow competition, which asks students to use science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) to improve their communities. It topped more than 2,000 other applicants to make it to the contest of the nation's top 15 teams, Principal at Worcester Tech Caroline Bloxom said.

"This didn't start out entering a contest," she said. "This started out with teachers' idea to, instead of doing a curriculum through the text books, actually do the unit at a business site."

The idea behind the AGH project came from a class exercise that had students create an imaginary emergency room floor plan, teacher and Director of Biomedical Sciences at Worcester Tech Tracy Hunter said.

"I wasn't really satisfied with the end product of that project. It was kind of limited," she said, so she worked with hospital staff to turn it into a real-world challenge that dovetailed with Atlantic General's plan to redesign its emergency room.

Last month, the group of biomedical and pre-engineering students presented their plan to a room of hospital administrators, who are planning to overhaul the AGH waiting room in next few years.

"They have come up with a very creative, very realistic plan," Vice President of Planning and Operations at the hospital Kim Justice said. The hope is to use one or more pieces of the students' de-

sign in the real-life plan for the new waiting room, she said. "It's a great design. It really is," President and CEO of AGH Michael Franklin said. "It's much better than what we have."

Two classes, Biomedical Innovations and Engineering Design and Development, collaborated on the fall 2013 design project, which had parameters from improving the flow of patients through the waiting room to meeting Americans with Disabilities Act requirements and sustainability standards. The result was a plan with everything from skylights and a rooftop garden to separate waiting areas for sick and injured patients.

The 18 contributing students elected their four representatives through a vote, with Barrett, Lederman, Brown and Hillyer coming out on top. The four will deliver a presentation on their plan followed by a question-and-answer session by a panel of judges in the Austin competition.

The top five teams will receive a total of \$146,000 from Samsung to fund technology at their schools. Judges will choose four winners, with a fifth People's Choice Award elected by online voters.

The school was compiling a video on Tuesday so the 14 students staying in Maryland will also appear in the Austin convention center ballroom, which seats more than 100.

"It's wonderful to give this opportunity to students," said pre-engineering teacher Valerie Ziglejeva, who will travel to Texas with Hunter, Bloxom and the four students for the contest.

"You should never underestimate the power of an idea. This all started... with our desire to expand the curriculum," Bloxom said. She's hoping to incorporate more real-world projects in the school's classes in the future.

Learn more about Samsung's Solve for Tomorrow contest online at www.samsung.com/us/solvefortomorrow.

To vote for the Worcester team, visit <http://bit.ly/1fDcd6d> and click "vote for this project." You can also share the link on email, Facebook and Twitter from that site.

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Berlin captures 28 percent of vote in quest for coolest

Continued from Page 1

In May of last year, the town decided to go for a record in the Guinness Book of Records. The contest was to see if they could break the record of 1,642 people wearing sunglasses at night. On the night of the event, some 6,000 people showed up wearing sunglasses. But a huge electrical storm broke up the party, and Lititz was not able to prove they had beaten the record.

Still the attempt whether successful or not brought a great deal more media coverage.

“All of these things get picked up by the press,” said Withum. “And it continued all the way into December where we were regularly being written about.”

Its two best-known businesses, she said are the Wilbur Chocolate Company and the Julius Sturgis Pretzel Bakery. Both reported an increase in sales because of the “coolest town” designation.

Withum’s advise to Berlin was two fold. The first part was to strategically plan how best to use the “coolest town” designation. The second was to be wary of out of town scammers.

“There are people who come out of the wood work and try to sell you a bill of goods,” she said. “We got a lot

of that kind of stuff.”

Berlin’s first intention is to celebrate, according to Mayor Williams. He said he would be convening a committee to plan such an event, which he hopes will take place in March.

This summer, said the mayor, Berlin with the help of the Chamber of Commerce, the Berlin Merchant’s Association and the Berlin Main Street Program along with its citizens will in a series of meetings strategically plan how the town will move forward.

“Now we will be taking a longer view,” said Mayor Williams. “And I want the involvement of the citizens on where we go from here.”

The mayor added that winning the Budget Travel contest opened a “window of opportunity” for Berlin. “We’re not going to sit and twiddle our thumbs,” he said.”

Lisa Challenger, director of Worcester County Tourism, said that Berlin’s emerging as coolest town will have “huge marketing value and exposure.”

“We tried to cover every base,” she said. “I want to give credit to Ocean City. They posted it on their Facebook page and they tweeted it.”

Her office also sponsored a “Why



PHIL JACOBS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Berlin wasted no time getting the word out of its new standing. On Tuesday, signage along Route 50 showed off the town’s pride at being ‘coolest small town.’

Berlin is cool” contest with the winner receiving a Seacrets gold card. The winner hasn’t been notified as of press time.

“We’re going to attach the coolest town to all of our advertising,” Challenger added. “We’re going to make sure we get a lot of miles out of it.”

By Tuesday, the Berlin Chamber of Commerce had placed the coolest town moniker on its Rte. 50 signage.

Williams was emotionally moved as he and many others waited out the remaining hours to make sure that the town’s lead held over Cazenovia.

When it was all over he told the tired, but happy group at the Burley Oak Brewing Company, “We are absolutely delighted to be voted the ‘Coolest Small Town in America,’” he said. “Especially because this has resulted from an unbelievable outpouring of pride and friendship that was originally initiated by our citizens, but has extended well beyond the

borders of our town.”


Williams then expressed gratitude to those Berlin residents who “preceded us and built the foundation for this honor that feels just right for Berlin, Md.”

He finished his toast by saying, “So I think it is only appropriate and the cool thing to do to raise a glass in celebration and gratitude to our good fortune to live, work and visit the Coolest Small Town in America. As cool as apparently many folks believe we are, remember, “In Berlin, the best is yet to come.”

The mayor did receive a congratulatory email from Cazenovia’s Mayor Kurt Wheeler, whose town finished solidly in second place.

The two mayors wagered a growler of craft beer from a brewery in each town to make the contest a little more interesting.

“On behalf of everyone here in
Continued on Page 7





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Berlin to plan party in March

Continued from Page 6
Cazenovia, I'd like to extend our heartfelt best wishes to you and everyone in Berlin," emailed Wheeler. "I look forward to visiting you and seeing your beautiful community first-hand in the next few months."

Williams did respond, also by e-mail, writing, "I believe we also are both very grateful to have the honor and privilege of serving our local communities." He also wrote, "I trust that through this friendly competition, folks throughout our nation are reminded each year that there are so many 'cool towns' in America that are generous, caring and in the best sense of the word properly proud of their hometowns."

And what is the pattern from past winners?

According to Lititz's Withum, this year's town visitors brochure will stay say "Coolest Town in America." It just won't have the date.

Coolest Town Facts:
Berlin was one of 15 finalists out of almost 500 entries.
It collected 28 percent or 39,285 out of 137,819 total votes cast,
Several weeks ago it was only two points ahead of Cazenovia, N.Y.
Berlin finished with a 7-point lead.

Delmarva Power issues refunds

NEWARK, DEL. – Delmarva Power on Feb. 18 began issuing natural gas rate refunds to customers. The refund, which will include interest paid to the customer, is a result of the most recent natural gas rate case settlement in October 2013.

In July 2013, following Delaware law, Delmarva Power implemented a temporary natural gas distribution rate increase of \$10.5 million in Delaware while we awaited a final decision from the Delaware Public Service Commission (PSC) regarding our request to raise natural gas distribution rates.

In October 2013, the PSC approved a natural gas distribution rate increase of \$6.8 million, which took effect on Nov 1, 2013. This refund is a result of the difference between the proposed rates implemented July 7, 2013, and the rates ultimately approved by the PSC on Oct. 22, 2013.

A much smaller percentage of customers will receive their refund in a check. These customers had active accounts between July 2013 and October 2013 but no longer have an active Delmarva Power electric account.

Find additional information by visiting www.delmarva.com, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/delmarvapower and on Twitter at www.twitter.com/delmarvaconnect. The mobile app is available at www.delmarva.com/mobileapp.



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Town OKs road closures for second annual High Heel Race

‘Run away to Berlin’ theme for event raising breast cancer awareness

By Sheila R. Cherry
Associate Editor

BERLIN—The Town Council voted to approve road closures for Women Supporting Women’s Second Annual High Heel Race, which this year is scheduled for June 6, during the Feb. 10 meeting.

Mary Henderson, office coordinator for the Worcester County Chapter,

said the first such race, which took place last year, was well attended. She thanked the town for approving last year’s race and requested the same street closure procedures and arrangements for this year’s event.

The High Heel Race is a fundraiser that helps the breast cancer awareness and support organization fund the programs and services it offers free to patients, survivors and their families. It provides supplies like prostheses, bras, wigs, and powerlift chairs for women coping with breast cancer treatment. Last year’s race attracted roughly 70 contestants, Hen-

derson said, and after the event representatives of the organization reported the event raised more than \$8,000.

The theme for the event in June is “Run Away to Berlin” a hat tip to the movie “Run Away Bride,” starring Julia Roberts and Richard Gere, which was filmed in Berlin. The competition will begin at 6 p.m., downtown along Main Street.

Four levels of sponsorship opportunities for the event will be available, including: \$1,000 Finish/Start Line Sponsors, which will include recognition of the sponsor at both the start and finish lines, recognition to the more than 2,000 viewers or subscribers to the organization’s social network pages and newsletters, inclusion on sponsor listings on event flyers and t-shirts, two promotional signs that will be displayed along the race course, four registrations, VIP seating and a vendor table; \$500 major sponsors, who will receive recognition on the social network pages and newsletters, inclusion on sponsor listings on event flyers and t-shirts, two promotional signs for dis-

play, four registrations, VIP seating and a vendor table; \$300 t-shirt sponsors, who will be listed on event t-shirts, offer promotional signage, four registrations, and two event registrations; and \$100 runway Sponsors will receive two promotional signs that will be displayed along the race course.

According to their website the fundraising goal for this year is \$15,000.

Noting that Mayor Gee Williams was called away just before last year’s unisex festivities, Henderson once again offered “Hizzoner” and all councilmembers an invitation to show their gams during this year’s race. Economic Development Director Michael Day did don the pumps and dashed for the finish line last year. Henderson told the officials, “As cute as Michael Day was, I expect to see you there this year, Mayor Gee.”

For additional information on the race and/or sponsorship opportunities, contact Mary Henderson by telephone at 410-213-1177, by fax at 410-213-1151, or by e-mail at Mary@womensupportingwomen.org



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Chamber cites awardees; installs newest officials

By Sheila R. Cherry
Associate Editor

BERLIN—The Berlin Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Dinner and Installation of Officers was held at Waterman’s Seafood Company on Feb. 20.

Receiving awards at the chamber’s awards ceremony year were Ruth Koontz, of Main St Deli, who received the New Business Award; Donna Compher of Sisters, who received the Philanthropist Award; and Jan Quick of the Berlin Heritage Foundation, who received the Bright Idea Award.

Also receiving certificates of recognition were Executive Director Jack Ferry, Client Coordinator Christine Davis and Mark Kendall, a client, of the Worcester County Developmental Center.

President-Elect Tom Sholtis, of Ocean 98.1 FM said during a Feb. 25 interview he felt that having a growing community was just as important as having a growing Chamber of Commerce. “Everybody is very pleased with the direction the town has gone and is going,” he said.

Sholtis’ remarks followed the town winning Budget Travel Magazine’s “America’s Coolest Small Town” Contest, which he described as both a huge honor and responsibility. He noted that the chamber had scheduled six slots for town-wide events this year, five of which have been officially named. Sholtis said hopefully the sixth event would be a celebration that would give town the opportunity to show appreciation and gratitude to the people and jurisdictions on Delmarva and beyond, which supported the town with their votes.

The speaker for the event was Berlin Mayor Gee Williams. In his remarks to the members of the chamber, Williams noted, “Despite the uncertain and unpredictable economic environment of the past five years, the Town of Berlin is enjoying a resurgence of business, energy, enthusiasm and optimism on a level that wasn’t seen for most of the 20th Century.” He added, “In Berlin the best is yet to come.”

Eastern Shore residents were friendly to visitors, took pride in their families, were loyal to their friends and supported charitable causes Williams noted. But, he added, for many “Change, or the very thought of change, is a cause for fear and negative expectations about the future in many Eastern Shore communities.

“Doing things the way they have always have been done is deeply ingrained into the local culture and in my view, severely reduces the chances for success both in overcoming old challenges, or taking advantage of new opportunities,” Williams said. He advised that during times of rapid change, whether economic, cultural, or in education or politics, “it becomes more important than ever for all of us as a community to discuss, deliberate and determine what we wish to be our common destination.

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Foundation accepting scholarship requests

Minority would-be teachers eligible for awards up to \$2,000

MARYLAND—The Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore is accepting applications for the 2014 Hazel Minority Teacher's Scholarship Award. The application deadline is May 2. Scholarship amounts of up to \$2,000 will be awarded.

Eligible minority residents in Wicomico, Somerset and Worcester counties who are interested in pursuing a teaching career, have demonstrated financial need, community involvement, academic achievement and extracurricular activities are urged to apply.

Applications are available at all high school guidance offices. In addition, scholarship information and how to

access scholarship guidelines and application forms can be found by visiting www.cfes.org.

Created in 1998 by the late Richard Hazel, the president of the Salisbury Pepsi Bottling Company, and his wife Pat, the Hazel Minority Teacher's Scholarship Award supports minority teachers. Since its founding, the Hazel Minority Teacher's Scholarship Award has distributed more than \$225,000 in scholarships.

Celebrating 30 years of philanthropy, the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore has been serving the needs of Wicomico, Worcester and Somerset counties, granting more than \$30 million. Through the generosity and vision of donors, CFES awarded grants totaling more than \$5.4 million in fiscal year 2013.

CFES brings together donors and builds on community assets through

scholarships, grants, advocacy and leadership development. By focusing on people, organizations, neighborhoods and nonprofit capacity building, the foundation addresses community needs in the areas of health, education, arts and culture, community development and the environment. For more information, visit www.cfes.org or call 410-742-9911.

Correction

The headline in the article about the groundbreaking for renovations and an addition to Snow Hill High School in the Feb. 20 edition of the Bayside Gazette stated that the project's finish was set for "first day, 2015." It should have stated, "first day, 2016." The Bayside Gazette regrets the error.

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House measure to impose tax on chicken manure withdrawn

Version of bill still under consideration in State Senate committee

By Sheila R. Cherry
Associate Editor

MARYLAND—Poultry industry representatives may be breathing a qualified sigh of relief since a bill to impose a tax on chicken manure was withdrawn in the House of Delegates on Feb. 17.

The Senate version of the bill SB 725, the Chesapeake Bay–Nutrient Management–Poultry Fair Share Act, remains under consideration after a Feb. 25 hearing in the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, a legislative aide confirmed.

Bill Satterfield, executive director, of Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc., emphasized that his organization strongly opposed SB 725. “We believe this bill will do nothing to improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay while leading to the ruination of Maryland’s chicken industry and the 800 farm families that grow chickens, cause harm to hundreds of Maryland corn and soybean farmers who supply feed ingredients to the chicken industry, and harm the entire Maryland economy, especially the Eastern Shore,” he said in a Feb. 19 comment.

Kathy Phillips, of the Assateague Coastal Trust, attended the Senate hearing as an observer. She said the committee members seemed very engaged when informed about the proposal, and had lots of questions for both opponents and proponents. She said it appeared the legislation certainly seemed “to have some legs,” although it was not likely to pass this year. Nevertheless, Phillips said “It would be a good thing if the committee did give it a favorable vote, so the legislature could have a full debate” on the proposal.

Meanwhile, the Eastern Shore Delegation met with Gov. Martin O’Malley on Feb. 25 to discuss the potential impact of a proposed new Phosphorus Management Tool to measure nutrients from chicken manure, and other legislative and regulatory matters that could affect local businesses. Delegate Addie C. Eckardt (R-37B), who chairs the eastern shore delegation sent a letter to O’Malley in January, requesting the meeting.

According to Delegate Michael McDermott (R-District 38B) the discussion on the PMT was robust and

O’Malley seemed genuinely interested in hearing the legislators’ perspective on the proposed policy.

“You could tell that he was genuinely concerned that some of the information the eastern shore delegation gave him was different than what he had heard,” McDermott said. He added that the governor also seemed concerned about ensuring that his administration gets the policy right going forward.

McDermott also said that during the meeting O’Malley asked questions on what was causing the negative perception about the PMT from the local farming community and why farmers were expressing fear of the poultry industry-related policies.

According to McDermott, O’Malley agreed to have a fiscal impact study conducted on the regulatory proposal by July 1. It would be conducted by BEACON and paid for by the Department of Agriculture, with input from the ESD and local stakeholders. O’Malley gave the delegation his word the administration would abide by the findings of the study and the resulting policy would reflect what the impact study revealed, McDermott said.

During the meeting the legislators also discussed community college funding—specifically that the formula used to establish funding for the community college system seemed inequitable to the formula used for funding four year colleges. The delegates asked that the process that is currently in place to restoring prior dedicated funding levels occur at a faster pace for community colleges than is currently being done, since community colleges were such a critical supplemental component for economic development.

Separately, several proposals from Sen. Jim Mathias (D-38) were acted on. The Senate on Feb. 14 approved SB 441, which would dissolve the Worcester County Bingo Board and transfer its responsibilities to the Worcester County Department of Development Review and Permitting, by a vote of 45-0. The House Ways and Means committee heard a first reading on Feb. 14 of the legislation, which was sponsored by Mathias.

The Senate Finance Committee

‘You could tell that he was genuinely concerned that some of the information the eastern shore delegation gave him was different than what he had heard’

DELEGATE MICHAEL MCDERMOTT
(R-District 38B)

held a hearing on Feb. 19 that included a first reading for SB

641, the Kathleen A. Mathias Oral Chemotherapy Improvement Act of 2014, which was sponsored by Mathias to extend the protections of the Kathleen A. Mathias Chemotherapy Parity Act of 2012, the senator said in a statement.

SB 641 would require that insurance policies sold through the

Maryland Healthcare Exchange, provide coverage for oral chemotherapy.

“This bill will make sure that people battling cancer will not have to worry about insurance companies only providing coverage for certain types of chemotherapy treatments,” he said.

Mathias has also introduced SB 642, which according to a legislative analysis, relates to the way “assignment of benefits” are handled. It would make permanent provisions directing PPO to not prohibit assignments of benefits to a provider by an insured individual or refuse to directly reimburse certain physicians when they are considered out-of-network by a PPO.

A proposal from McDermott, HB 1230, was heard in the House Environmental Matters Committee. It would give fire department police the option of being able to have flashing lights installed in their personal cars,

Also from McDermott, was HB 858, a proposal that would give courts more flexibility in how they handle sex offenders. The bill would allow judges to extend the probation period for sex offenders—up to a period of no longer than six years for district and a period no longer than 10 years for circuit court.

Sen. Richard Colburn (R-37) said in a statement he has sponsored SB 765, which would allocate specified motor fuel tax revenue to an account that is shared with local governments; increasing the portion of highway user revenue that is distributed to local governments; altering the allocation of the local share of highway user revenue among Baltimore City, counties, and municipalities.

Colburn has also introduced SB 166, which would authorize each Maryland county to establish a minimum wage rate for employees working in the county. The bill would give each county the authority and only the county government the ability to raise the minimum wage above that authorized by the federal government, he said.



COUNTY DEMS INTRODUCE THEMSELVES

Local Worcester County Democrats got together at the Blue Dog Cafe in Snow Hill Feb. 19 for an evening of enjoyment and to give local candidates and incumbents running for office a chance to introduce themselves. Pictured, from left, are candidate for County Commissioner District 5, Tom Wilson; County Commissioner for District 4, Virgil Shockley; candidate for Worcester County State’s Attorney, Mike Farlow; candidate for County Commissioner District 2 Diana Purnell; candidate for U.S. House of Representatives for Maryland’s District 1, Dr. John LaFerla; candidate for Delegate for Maryland District 38A, Percy Purnell; and candidate for Delegate for Maryland District 38C, Judy Davis.

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Conway, Hall bring pedestrian safety issues to Annapolis

Berlin Council member testifies about Route 113's impact on town

By Sheila R. Cherry
Associate Editor

MARYLAND—Delegate Norm Conway (D-38B) and Berlin Town Councilmember Lisa Hall testified before the General Assembly's Environmental Matters Committee on Feb. 21 to bring the matter of pedestrian safety to a statewide level of awareness.

Conway testified at the committee's first reading of HB 873, a bill he has sponsored to update the maximum speed limit on major highways to new traffic conditions; require speed reductions in populated areas; and crosswalks, under certain condi-

tions, on divided highways; and allow State Highway Administration officials to tailor the adjustments to actual traffic conditions by conducting studies first.

According to a description of the legislation, the bill would increase the speed limit from 55 miles per hour to 65 miles per hour on divided highways. Conway said the bill would give the state Department of Transportation the ability to set a maximum speed limit of 65 mph on divided highways, after conducting a traffic safety study in a given local district and determining that it is safe to increase the maximum speed limit in that area.

Maryland currently has a statewide statutory maximum speed limit of 55 mph, according to Conway. He explained that most of the highway traffic is now exceeding the limit, which can leave drivers who are driving at the posted limit at risk for accidents when cars approaching at faster speeds must brake suddenly when coming upon them. However, the change would not be an automatic speed limit increase, he explained.

The proposed legislation also included pedestrian safety provisions for crossover intersections at highways in municipalities. In discussing those provisions Conway made reference to a traffic accident that occurred last November in Berlin where two young brothers were struck by a car in an intersection on a divided highway.

Conway asked the committee to consider allowing the local district office for the State Highway Administration to examine local pedestrian safety conditions in order to make de-

terminations about the changes needed at the three intersections in Berlin that cross over U.S. Route 113. "I know that the Town of Berlin has supported this and will ask the committee also to support the concept of a lower the speed limit for those intersections and crosswalk help," he said.

Also, on a divided highway that has traffic lights and is located in a community with significant pedestrian activity, the bill would decrease the maximum speed limit to 40 miles per hour as the highway approaches the traffic lights.

The bill would require the installation of crosswalks at traffic lights on divided highways located in communities with significant pedestrian activity.

The bill included the caveat that the speed limit must be set in accordance with a specified SHA manual.

Hall testified in her capacities as both a member of the Legislative Committee of the Maryland Municipal League and as a Berlin councilmember. She told the general assembly legislators "Route 113 has become a major north-south corridor from New England to Florida." She said officials at SHA had not realized the amount of traffic that now travels along that road.

Hall pointed out that that three

Continued on Page 13

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Hall recounts for legislature tragedy along Route 113

Continued from Page 12
schools and a park are located along the Route 113 corridor and that the town was trying to promote a “Walkable Bikeable Berlin” campaign. Meanwhile, the motorists traveling along the highway would not be expecting to encounter pedestrians because they are from out of town.

Hall also recounted the tragedy that occurred last year when a police car struck and killed Tymeir Dennis and struck and injured his brother Tyheim Bowen, noting “It was a terrible tragedy all around, for the Maryland State Police and our community.”

She told the panel the accident was not the first in that area. “Finally the community just said ‘no more.’ We need a countdown crosswalk and we need to reduce the speed,” she said.

Thomas Curtin, MML’s government relations and research associate, told the panel the MML supported the legislation and felt that it had the potential to protect the community’s residents. But, in light the state’s recent reductions in Highway User Revenue to municipalities, he said the MML would propose adding an amendment in the bill that the SHA be responsible for constructing the crosswalks, where applicable.

Cedric Ward, the director of the Office of Traffic and Safety for the SHA. He asked the committee to continue to provide the SHA the flexibility to set speed limits based the changing traffic conditions.

Pickleball clinic set for community center in Pines

OCEAN PINES—Ocean Pines is offering a pickleball clinic on Sundays from 2-3 p.m; beginning Sunday, March 2, and running for four weeks. This clinic is a family-friendly beginner’s course. All equipment is provided at no additional charge.

This increasingly popular sport is a cross between ping pong, badminton and tennis. The cost is \$15 per session. These clinics are being taught by local pickleball enthusiasts Frank Creamer and Julie Woulfe.

Call the Ocean Pines Community Center at 410-641-7052 to register and pay by phone. The Community Center is also open seven days a week for walk in registration.

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DONATION
The Worchester County 4-H received a \$2,500 donation through America’s Farmers Grow Communities, sponsored by the Monsanto Fund on Feb. 13. Pictured, from left, are Cindy Morris, Worchester County 4-H program coordinator; Travis Aydelotte, Worchester County Farmer Affiliate of the America’s Farmers Grow Communities; Lisa Murphy, 4-H STEM faculty extension assistant Worchester County; Karen Reddersen, area extension director, University of Maryland Somerset, Wicomico and Worchester counties and Ron Corder, Monsanto representative. The donation will help the group increase club enrollments and aid in the recognition of more than 2,100 4-H volunteers and members. The funds will help purchase equipment such as computers, robotic technology, and other science-related materials, to help children move forward in the world of technology. It will also help expand the agriculture program to help raise awareness of the importance of agriculture.

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OPINION

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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

Important opportunity

When Monday turned into Tuesday earlier this week, Berlin had become the winner of Budget Travel Magazine's Coolest Small Town in America contest.

Berlin collected 28 percent of the contest's 137,819 votes for a total of 39,285 votes.

Finishing second was Cazenovia, N.Y., a town located fairly close to Syracuse.

It's too early to tell exactly what this win will mean not only for Berlin, but also for our entire region. It most certainly will result in more visitors to Berlin, Ocean City and other Worcester County locations. And it will have a positive financial impact on the area as well.

Perhaps the best part of Monday night's celebration at the Burley Oak Brewing Company, was knowing that so many people throughout Worcester County and literally all over the world did their part to support Berlin. The town was even getting support from Berlin, Germany voters. Also at Burley Oak were many young adults who were excited to be part of the winning voting numbers. Mayor Gee Williams stayed with them for almost three hours, going directly to Burley Oak after presiding over a Berlin Town Council meeting.

Mayor Williams told Bayside Gazette that the next step in all of this will be a celebration of the fete itself. He's hoping to have it planned and scheduled for March.

What Berlin and Worcester County should do next is to contact the town that won this same contest a year ago. Lititz, Pa. moved forward quickly with its win, creating a strategic plan that kept the momentum of the win going forward. Kelly Withum, executive director of Venture Lititz helped make sure that the momentum is still impacting the town in a positive way over a year later. Town retail sales remain higher and interest in the town has stayed at record heights.

So after the well deserved celebrating is done, Mayor Williams has said that the strategic planning will begin.

There's a wonderful window of opportunity here for Berlin. We feel comfortable that the town will take full advantage of all the possibilities.

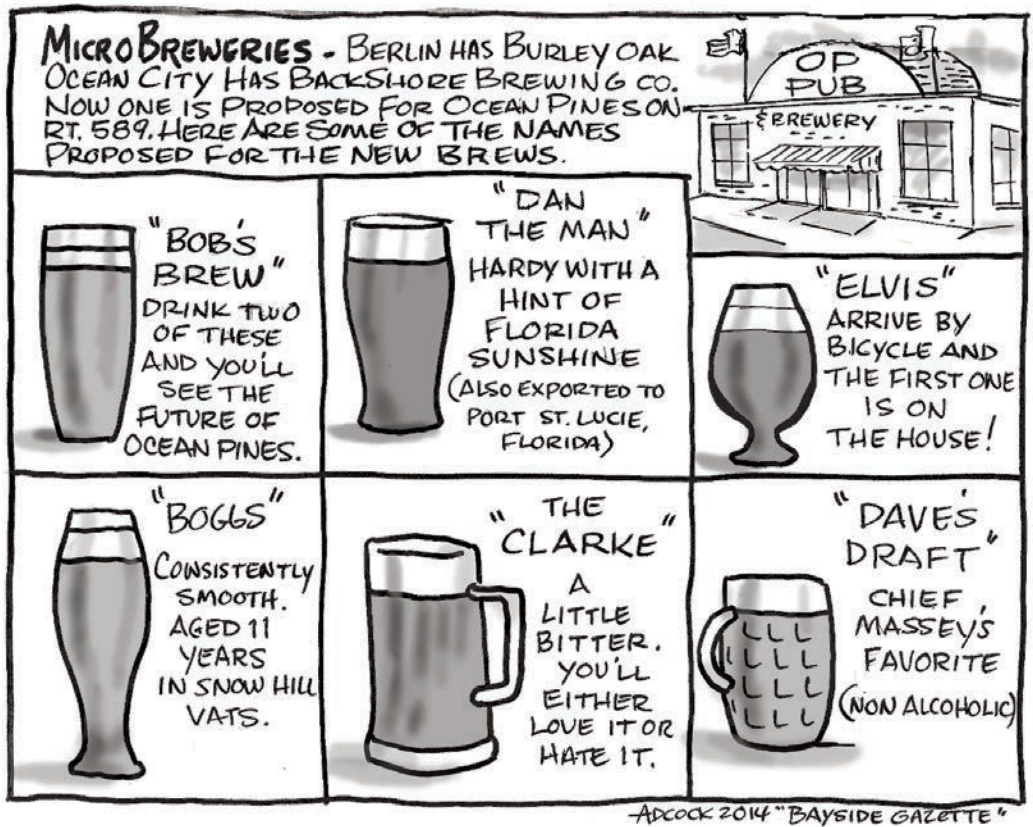
And that for Berlin is absolutely cool.

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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Berlin's success cool for entire region

Economic impact will certainly be felt by OC, others

By Phil Jacobs
Editor

So this is probably going to be the last week I'll get to say the name "Cazenovia" as in the town finishing second behind Berlin in the Budget Travel Magazine coolest small town contest.

Berlin and its Mayor Gee Williams wanted this win badly. Along with the County, the region and even Governor Martin O'Malley, it did an amazing job of spreading the word to vote.

On a celebratory Monday at the Burley Oak Brewing Company in Berlin, midnight couldn't come fast enough. That was the cutoff time for voting. When all was said and done, Berlin had garnered some 28 percent of 137,819 votes among 15 finalists.

I have known Mayor Williams since 1974, that's 40 years, when he was my editor at the Eastern Shore Times. On Monday, I saw him with a grateful heart and deep feeling of love for his community.

He said that winning this contest was in some ways more difficult than the political races he's been in, be-

cause it wasn't just about himself. It was about the entire town. Williams wanted the town to win, to feel great about itself.

This was, after all a Berlin, that had to deal with the November tragedy of one of its children killed, his brother seriously injured after being hit by an unmarked state police vehicle. Two weeks ago, the community's safety committee reported to the Town Council that improvements, endorsed by the State Highway Administration, were well on the way.

I think the Budget Travel contest was great for the people of Berlin and is going to be even better once the town and county marketing strategic plans are put in place to take full advantage of this local, state, national and international recognition. I write international, because the town's connections in Berlin, Germany resulted in votes.

Even if Berlin had finished second or third in the voting, I get the feeling that Berlin is well on its way to something even bigger and better. I don't know exactly what that is or means. I get that feeling when I attend town council meetings. Council members, the mayor and Berlin's department directors are on the

same page. There is an air of professionalism in the council chambers. Answers are always available, because the directors know what is going on in their departments and in the town.

On Monday night, it was nice to see at the Burley Oak Brewing Company, so many young adults who were really into the race to be coolest. Mayor Williams was radiant with pride. And hugs were plentiful.

"A hug is a handshake in Berlin," said Williams.

Something else, Cazenovia's Mayor Kurt Wheeler is a wonderful, highly professional person. He was quick to send congrats to Williams and to the people of Berlin. Over the phone, he was filled with pride that his beloved town finished a prestigious second. Williams said last week that both towns were winners. I think that is a reflection on their mayors, the people who run their cities and the communities themselves.

It will be interesting to see how this feather in Berlin's cap will fit as the town, like Ocean City, gets ready for the tourist season to begin again.

One thing for sure, this was a win-win. It will be good for Berlin, Ocean City and the entire lower shore.

SNAPSHOTS



CONGRATS! SHEILA R. CHERRY/BAYSIDE GAZETTE Donna Compher, center left, and her sister, Michael Ann Phillips, of Sisters, receive the Berlin Chamber of Commerce's Philanthropist of the Year Award, on Feb. 20. They are flanked Immediate Past President, Stephen Barrett ,and President-Elect, Tom Sholtis.



CELEBRATION SHEILA R. CHERRY/BAYSIDE GAZETTE Worcester County Commissioner President Bud Church and Allyson Church enjoy an elegant evening at the Berlin Chamber of Commerce's Annual Awards Dinner and Installation of Officers on Feb. 20.



FUNDRAISER SHEILA R. CHERRY/BAYSIDE GAZETTE Berlin Town Administrator Laura Allen is all smiles as she fills out raffle tickets at a fundraiser for Main Street programs.



AWARD WINNER SHEILA R. CHERRY/BAYSIDE GAZETTE Elaine Brady, center, of the Bayside Gazette, receives the Volunteer of the Year Award from Berlin Chamber of Commerce Past President Stephen Barrett, left, and President-Elect Tom Sholtis.



GET YOUR TICKETS SHEILA R. CHERRY/BAYSIDE GAZETTE Megan Houston, Berlin's Main Street coordinator measures out tickets-by-the-arm with Dan Baumgardner during a Feb. 24 fundraiser for Main Street programs, where patrons waited to find the final vote for Budget Travels "America's Coolest Town" Contest.



AWAITING VOTE SHEILA R. CHERRY/BAYSIDE GAZETTE Partygoers awaiting the vote deadline for the "America's Coolest Town" Contest on Feb. 24 had an array of prizes from various town businesses to choose from in a raffle during the event, which was a fundraiser for Berlin Main Street programs.



HONORED SHEILA R. CHERRY/BAYSIDE GAZETTE Past President Stephen Barrett of Barrett Chevrolet, left, and President-Elect Tom Sholtis, of Ocean 98.1 FM, honor Ruth Koontz, of Main Street Deli during the Berlin Chamber of Commerce's New Business Awards during a Feb. 20 ceremony at Waterman's Seafood Company in West Ocean City.



ALL SMILES SHEILA R. CHERRY/BAYSIDE GAZETTE Tom Sholtis, president-elect of the Berlin Chamber of Commerce and Gussie Sholtis, realtor with Sheppard Realty, flash multi-megawatt smiles as they party to Baltimore's Bond & Bentley band during a fundraiser for Berlin Main Street programs on Feb. 24.



FEATURED ARTISTS SHEILA R. CHERRY/BAYSIDE GAZETTE Painter Diana Richmond and illustrator Greg Morehead were the featured artists at Baked Dessert Café and Gallery, during Berlin's Second Friday Art Stroll on Feb. 14. (Left) Shirley Tomaselli and painter Patrick Henry, of Patrick L. Henry Fine Arts, enjoy food, friends, and fun, during Berlin's Second Friday Art Stroll on Feb. 14.

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.

THURS. Feb. 27

FRI, Feb. 28

SAT. March 1

SUN. March 2

MON. March 3

TUES, March 4

WED. March 5

GRACE PARKER ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT BREAKFAST — First Presbyterian Church, 1301 Philadelphia Avenue, Ocean City, 7 a.m. to noon. Menu includes eggs, pancakes, sausage, ham, homemade biscuits, hash browns, grits, coffee and tea. Cost is \$8 or \$6 for carryout. Info: 410-289-9340.

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19TH HOLE BAR & GRILL

9636 Stephen Decatur Highway
West Ocean City
410-213-9204
Feb. 28: Johnny Mojo, 7-10 p.m.
March 1: Jeff Wolf, 6-9 p.m.

BJ'S ON THE WATER

75th Street and the bay
Ocean City
410-524-7575
Feb. 28: Mood Swingers, 9 p.m.
March 1: Funk-O-Licious, 9 p.m.
March 5: Old School, 5-8 p.m.

CAPTAIN'S TABLE

15th St. & Baltimore Ave.
Ocean City
410-289-7192
www.captainstableoc.com
Feb. 28-March 1: Phil Perdue

FAGER'S ISLAND

60th Street and the bay
Ocean City
410-524-5500
Feb. 28: DJ Hook, 9 p.m.
March 1: DJ Groove; The Loop
March 2: Everett Spells

GALAXY 66

66th Street, bayside
Ocean City
410-723-6762
Feb. 28: Philly George

THE GLOBE RESTAURANT & BAR

12 Broad St.
Berlin
410-641-0784
March 1: lower case blues, 8 p.m.

HARBORSIDE BAR & GRILL

12841 S. Harbor Road
West Ocean City
410-213-1846
Feb. 28: Ladies Night w/DJ Billy T
March 1: Simple Truth, 2-6 p.m.;
DJ Jeremy, 9 p.m.
March 2: Opposite Directions,
2-6 p.m.
March 6: Opposite Directions,
9 p.m. to 1 a.m.



DJ JEREMY AT HARBORSIDE

HARPOON HANNA'S

Route 54 and the bay
Fenwick Island, Del.
800-227-0525
302-539-3095
Every Friday: Dave Hawkins,
6-10 p.m.
Every Saturday: Dave Sherman,
6-10 p.m.
Every Thursday: Aaron Howell,
6 p.m.

HIGH STAKES

Route 54
Fenwick Island, Del.
302-537-6971
Feb. 28: Bobby Burns, 4 p.m.; DJ

Zman, 9 p.m.
March 1: Bobby Burns, 4 p.m.; DJ
Rupe, 9 p.m.



CHEST PAINS AT HOOTERS

HOOTERS

Rt. 50 & Keyser Point Rd.
West Ocean City
410-213-1841
Feb. 28: Aaron Howell, 8 p.m. to 12 a.m.
March 1: Chest Pains, 8 p.m. to 12 a.m.

J/R's

131st Street
Ocean City
410-250-3100
Feb. 28: Bob Hughes
March 1: Howard on the Piano

JOHNNY'S PIZZA & PUB

56th Street, bayside
Ocean City
410-524-7499
Feb. 28: Young Jean
March 1: Randy Lee Ashcraft & The
Saltwater Cowboys

MARYLAND WINE BAR

103 N. Main St.
Berlin
410-629-1022
Feb. 28: Adam Bilenki

OCEAN CLUB NIGHTCLUB

In the Horizons Restaurant
In the Clarion Fontainebleau Hotel
101st Street and the ocean
Ocean City
410-524-3535
Every Friday and Saturday:
DJ Dusty, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Feb. 28-March 1: First Class

SCHOONER'S RESTAURANT

In the Princess Royale
91st Street and the ocean
Ocean City
410-524-7777
Every Friday and Saturday:
Harry O, 7-11 p.m.

SEACRETS

49th Street and the bay
Ocean City
410-524-4900
Feb. 28: Life Speed, 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.
March 1: Finnegan's Wake, 5-9 p.m.;
Opposite Directions, 5-9 p.m.;
Benderz, 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

SMITTY MCGEE'S

Route 54
West Fenwick Island, Del.
302-436-4716
Feb. 28: Randy Lee Ashcraft, 8 p.m.
March 6: Randy Lee Ashcraft & The
Saltwater Cowboys, 8 p.m.

WHISKER'S BAR & GRILL

11070 Cathell Road, Suite 17
Pines Plaza, Ocean Pines
443-365-2576
Feb. 28: Karaoke w/Donnie Berkey

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

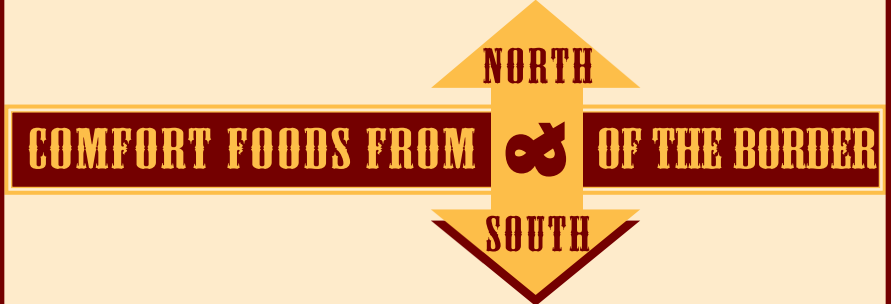
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CUISINE

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

No limits to mother's creativity in kitchen

We knew it was inevitable. Mom's passing was an event that we all dreaded but understood given the many years she was blessed to be here. She had a smile, a wit and a charisma that lit up a room. The humor groomed over 86 years, a 43-year marriage, eight children, 17 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren was warped to say the least.



By Paul Suplee,
CEC PCIII

It was good to be the youngest of eight children; the baby, the caboose. By the time I came around, our parents were fairly well spent. I believe her moniker for me and my two older brothers was The Terrible Three. With the help of my older brothers and sisters, I turned into the man I am today. In hindsight, I guess I can blame them too, can't I?

When I was in my teens I had a case of empty beer cans under my bed since my parents came home from a weekend trip early. Being me, as many of you here know, I saw a squirrel and forgot about the cans. On Tuesday my dad came in and lectured me, saying that he was looking for something and found the cans. I held my head low, repented to my father, and then felt like Ralphie from Christmas Story when he said "I won't tell your mother. Don't let it happen again."

No more than an hour later, my nerves were on edge as the scene repeated itself with my mother, rife with consternation over her own discovery of the cans. She concluded her sermon with sage words that I shall never forget when she said, "I won't tell your dad. Don't let it happen again."

Mom was a culinary visionary. Known for her Swamp Meat, Garbage ("gar-BAZH") à Marie, Shrimp Creosote and Catch-as-catch-can, there were no limits to her creativity. On one occasion, well before Spring Mix found its niche in America, she and Dad were hosting a party for executives from the National Gallery of Art. Dad called home to say extra people were coming, and not having enough salad greens, mom went into the yard and picked dandelion greens, washed them and stretched the salad. The salad was a smash hit and as far as I know, she never did divulge her secret source of high-end greens.

My mother outlived her parents and her husband's parents by decades. She made it on God's green earth 14 years longer than Dad. She had followers from around the world when it came to her jewelry design, and she never gave up. She lived a full life. Was it her fortitude? Was it her drive that gave us this amazing woman well into her eighties?

I dare say that while these qualities had so much to do with her spunk and vigor, what was more contributory to her longevity was coffee. She loved coffee and everything about it. When Mom would have 'just one cup' of coffee, you could rest assured that it was a very, very large cup. Some of us would often refer to them as 'pots'. In clearing out her house, we found well over 13 pounds of coffee in various forms. She never ran out of coffee; one of her biggest fears.

Among the food qualities that my mother had (don't forget that she had eight children and dad was a government worker, making frugality a necessity) was the 'can room' in the basement. Her favorite store was in Hanover, Md., and she would buy all of the scratched and dented cans for pennies on the dollar. Don't worry; they never tried to



push the bulging cans on us.

The result was a bomb shelter room in the basement in which stood hundreds of mystery cans. Soup, dog food, cat food, vegetables and sauces all made their way into our meals. I take that back. Pet food was never part of our meal plan.

But one thing was sure; our meals were delicious, we were well fed, and rarely would there be less than 15 people around our table. Mom was a great woman and a great entertainer. She will be missed. But I will just have to carry on her legacy with her famous Swamp Meat.

Swamp Meat

makes 1 pie
14 sheets phyllo
Olive oil, as needed
1.5 pounds ground beef and lamb
1/2 medium white onion, diced
2 shallots, minced
4 cloves garlic, minced
1 tsp. cinnamon
1/8 tsp. nutmeg
salt and pepper to taste
1 pound baby spinach
2 eggs

12 oz. crumbled feta cheese
cornstarch, as needed

Cook meat, onion, shallots, garlic, spices until done, reserving liquid in the mixture

Add spinach and carefully toss until it wilts in

Set aside until cool enough to handle

Brush a spring form pan with oil and line with a sheet of phyllo with remaining edge dangling over the side

Follow this procedure, oiling in between each layer until you have seven layers on the bottom and side

Fold cheese and eggs into meat mixture thoroughly and then fill pie

Fold phyllo leaves over and press down

Add remaining layers of phyllo, pressing into pan with a brush

Bake in 350F oven until internal temperature is 165 and phyllo is golden and flaky

Let rest for half an hour before serving

— 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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PUZZLES

REEL-LIFE ANNIVERSARY By A NAMESAKE OF 119-ACROSS / Edited by Will Shortz

ACROSS

1 Bush judicial appointee

8 Quarterbacks, often

15 Bush judicial appointee

20 Professional tennis since 1968

21 Rank

22 Singer with the album “Live at the Polynesian Palace”

23 Time for the best deals, maybe, in a going-out-of-business sale

24 *1939 Judy Garland film

26 There was a great one in Genesis

27 One-named designer

28 Lava comes out of it

29 Kind of car or tee

32 Appear suddenly

36 Slaughter in the 1946 World Series

37 *1933 Jean Harlow film

40 “Nuts!”

41 Gator’s tail?

43 D-backs, on scoreboards

44 Daily riser

45 How things may be brought

47 Pass

51 Restful places

53 Each

54 *1943 Spencer Tracy/Irene Dunne film

56 Is threatening, in a way

58 Colorist

60 Self-absorbed sort

61 Hit

63 Some kitchenware

66 Call from a curb

67 Sprint competitor, once

68 *1939 Vivien Leigh/Clark Gable film

73 _____ king

76 Sprint

77 Word of agreement

78 2000s events in North Korea, for short

82 Provider of music on the go?

85 Court grp.

88 Footnote abbr.

89 *1942 Spencer Tracy/Hedy Lamarr film

92 Odist’s preposition

94 When repeated, a Polynesian capital

95 Publish

96 Drinkers’ toasts

97 Brother of George W. and Jeb

99 Award for Miss Hawaii, in addition to a tiara

100 Summer hrs.

102 Snow queen in Disney’s “Frozen”

103 *1948 Ingrid Bergman film

105 Elegance

108 eBay user

110 Certain newspaper advertisement

111 Like Christiane Amanpour, by upbringing

113 Pub containers

115 Perfect, as a home

119 Director of the eight starred films in this puzzle, who was born on 2/23/1889

123 Torrey Pines Golf Course locale

125 Suffer humiliation, in slang

126 Comeback

127 Brooks Robinson’s team

128 Sitcom with a 1974 wedding

129 Foreign traveler’s purchase, maybe

130 Source of the line “What’s past is prologue,” with “The”

DOWN

1 Message therapeutically

2 _____blue

3 “I should _____ lucky”

4 Put into a sepulcher

5 *1932 Clark Gable/Jean Harlow film

6 La-la lead-in

7 Perhaps

8 Migratory seabird

9 Vier + vier

10 What Babe wants to be in “Babe”

11 Finish (up)

12 New Haven reuner

13 “Frasier” role

14 Major glitch

15 Puts together

16 Things that should be tied up by the curtain?

17 Playfully

18 Complete, informally

19 Transudes

25 Beatles title girl

27 Queen of literature

30 Send off

31 Gave up

33 Birthplace of 22-Across

34 Hunts, with “on”

35 Lacking variety

37 Gives up, in slang

38 “Then again, I could be wrong”

39 Adult’s counterpart

42 Obsessed with

45 Fortunetelling aids

46 1980s-’90s series based on the fictional firm McKenzie, Brackman, Chaney & Kuzak

48 Doing _____ (dancing springily)

49 Basis in accounting

50 Head to Paris?

52 Overly confident

55 Recipe instruction

57 Wiry-coated terriers

59 Lead-in to Pen, commercially

62 Genuflect

64 Night that “Friends” aired: Abbr.

65 Swashbuckles, say

69 Some London lords

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119									120	121	122					123	124			
125								126								127				
128								129								130				

70 Effected, in a bad way

71 “_____ba-a- ack!”

72 “Ed Wood” star

73 When the story begins, perhaps

74 1960s U.S. bombing target

75 Flight board info: Abbr.

79 Milan’s La _____

80 Go-getter

81 Unemotive

83 Means of access to a cafeteria, maybe

84 In past centuries

86 Joint parts

87 Specialties

90 Give off coherent light

91 Overreacting sort

93 Essen article

98 *1925 Percy Marmont film

101 One way to the top

103 Pub measure

104 1960s western sitcom

105 Chopped _____

106 _____Heep (Dickens character)

107 Blade brand

109 Red opening?

112 Bit

114 “Render _____Caesar ...”

116 Shelfmate of Vogue

117 Tavern stock

118 Place for a topgallant

120 Lash holder

121 Green monitor, for short?

122 Finish (up)

123 Fate

124 “_____we done?”



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HARD – 71

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.

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

Answers to last week's puzzles

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

A	D	E	S		B	I	B	I		H	A	T	S		R	A	D	A	R	S		
L	E	F	T	S		I	D	E	S		I	S	I	S		E	L	I	S	H		
D	A	I	R	Y	G	O	D	M	O	T	H	E	R		D	I	S	P	E	L		
A	L	L	U	D	E	T	O		R	I	I	S			M	A	C	H	E	T		
S	T	E	M			O	F	N	O	T	E				V	A	R	I	A	N	T	S
					M	A	L		R	E	M		R	A	I	N	M	A	N			
O	T	S	E	G	O		O	R	E	O		C	L	O	Y		D	R	A	M		
T	W	O	D	I	V	E	S	F	O	R	A	T	E	N		J	C	O	L	E		
T	I	L		T	E	T	E	S		A	N	I	L		M	O	H	A	I	R		
O	X	I	D	A	N	T	S		A	N	N	O	Y		A	B	I	D	E	S		
					A	T	E	E		B	B	G	U	N		L	I	S	P			
C	L	O	R	I	S		S	A	L	E	M		M	O	L	E	S	K	I	N		
L	A	T	E	N		C	L	E	O		S	U	L	L	A	N	S	A				
U	N	R	I	G		N	O	D	R	I	L	L	S	A	I	R	L	I	N	E		
B	E	A	N		J	A	P	E		L	A	I	C		S	C	O	T	T	S		
					C	H	I	M	E	R	A		T	E	L	T	H	O				
S	P	I	R	A	L	E	D		T	H	E	R	E	S		S	A	S	H			
T	A	L	E	N	T	S		S	T	Y	E		C	O	M	O	E	S	T	A		
A	T	E	A	S	E		S	C	I	E	N	C	E	D	I	C	T	I	O	N		
C	E	N	S	E	R		E	A	R	N		B	L	O	N	D	E	A	L	E		
K	N	E	E	L	S		A	R	E	A		S	L	I	T		A	M	E	S		

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Berlin Lion's Club seeks nominations for 'Citizen of the Year'

Award to recognize person who has served community selflessly

BERLIN—The Lions Club is seeking nominations for its annual Citizen of the Year Award. The deadline for nominations is March 14.

The award is intended to recognize a citizen who has provided a significant service to the community. Nom-

ination forms can be picked up at the Berlin Chamber of Commerce at 14 South Main St., PNC Bank at 1 South Main St., Taylor Bank at 24 North Main St., and Barrett Chevrolet at 10419 Old Ocean City Blvd.

A committee of past winners will review the nominations and decide on the winner for 2013. Although many past honorees have been well-known community activists, organizers are also actively seeking nominations for "unsung heroes" this year. They are

interested in including the candidates of individuals who while not well-known or public figures, which through their actions have shown they care deeply for the Berlin community.

As in the past, this year's dinner will be held at the Berlin Lions Club at 9039 Worcester Hwy. (Route 113 near South Main Street). Cocktails will be served at 6:30 p.m. and the dinner will begin at 7 p.m.

Jan Quick was the honoree for Berlin's Citizen of the Year Award for

2012 during the Berlin Lions Club's 48th Annual Berlin Award celebration last October. Quick was credited with helping to start Berlin's Commercial District Management Authority, a town-sponsored entity that was the precursor to the current, merchant-run Chamber of Commerce.

Roxanne Williams, branch manager of the PNC Bank on Main Street, will once again serve as the co-chairperson for the Berlin Award Committee.

Town selects Jane Kreiter to lead consolidated departments

BERLIN—The Mayor and Council of Berlin are pleased to announce the consolidation of the Public Works and Water Resources Departments under the leadership of current Water Resources Director Jane Kreiter. This move follows the resignation of Public Works Director Mike Gibbons, who is leaving Berlin to pursue an opportunity in Fruitland.

Kreiter joined the Town staff in 1991 as a wastewater operator - an entry-level position and has moved up through the department to become Director of the Water Resources Department, which combines the former Water and Wastewater Departments under one and includes the spray irrigation division and the Stormwater Utility. The consol-

idation of the departments will bring in all the functions of the Public Works Department - primarily trash and recycling collection, parks' maintenance, and street and sidewalk maintenance under Kreiter's direction.

"Mike brought the Public Works Department a long way in his time with Berlin. Public Works and Water Resources have worked closely together for many years and I know that he is leaving behind a highly competent and dedicated staff," Kreiter said. "I look forward to working with them."

Jane came to Berlin with a degree in biology and today is a certified water and wastewater superintendent. She feels that, her position and the responsibilities



Jane Kreiter

of her department represent the ultimate in environmental stewardship.

"It is often said that water is our planet's most precious resource and when you think about it, other than air, it is the one resource which has the most impact on every other aspect of life," she said.

Town Administrator Laura Allen said, "the addition of the responsibilities of the Public Works Department fit very well into this philosophy as waste management (commonly known as trash), recycling and even the paving of streets ultimately play a part in the health of our natural water and the environment overall. Ensuring that the entire system, from the water we drink from our household taps, to the way that wastewater is treated and ultimately dispersed back into the environment, and the handling of trash and recycling represents this stewardship."

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