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PHOTO COURTESY MORGAN COULSON

France coming back to Berlin; performer playing Santa Claus

By Josh Davis
Staff Writer

(Dec. 3, 2015) Ed France is not your usual small town person. Among other things, he has performed for three presidents and joined a trio of circuses during a performing career that spans nearly six decades.

On Saturday, the 74-year-old Berlin native will return to his hometown to greet children as Santa Claus at the visitor's center on 14 South Main Street.

He is the son of the late Ned France, the former owner and operator of Uncle Ned's Bargain Fair on Mill Street, a well-known shop famous for its colorful proprietor.

"Everybody called him 'Uncle Ned,'" France said of his father.

At the age of 4, France moved to nearby Bishopville, where he said he was "brought up and raised on a chicken farm."

Five years later, he moved to Baltimore with his grandparents. He started performing in public at age 15, playing Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny in shopping centers and "five-and-dime" stores.

"I got involved in the entertainment business because of my father doing magic," he said. "My father was a quite famous escape artist, and he started showing me tricks and I started getting involved with doing magic and doing kids' birthday parties at an early age."

"I thought, 'wow – this is a fun part-time job,'" France added. "It was having fun and getting paid for it at the same time, plus entertaining people and making them happy."

In the 1970s France worked with stars like Bob Hope, Joey Heatherton and Ray Charles, and regularly took part in the annual Easter Egg Roll at the White House in Washington, D.C.

He remembers meeting Jimmy Carter for the first time while playing "Uncle Sam" during a Bob Hope Bicentennial show in Baltimore in 1976.

"At that time, Carter was running for president," France said. "He came backstage with his security people during the intermission and he hap-

See NATIVE Page 5

TIME TO LIGHT THE LIGHTS

Downtown Berlin, as seen from the balcony of the Atlantic Hotel, was flooded with people moments after the tree-lighting ceremony last Friday.

WCDC still fighting new federal regs

By Josh Davis
Staff Writer

(Dec. 3, 2015) The Worcester County Developmental Center (WCDC) continues to fight new federal regulations that could compromise the operational abilities of the Newark facility, as well as similar centers statewide.

Vocational training centers like the developmental center are being targeted by the Department of Justice following a ruling by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) on Home and Community Based Services.

Under the new regulations, people with disabilities would be pushed into the public workforce and away from centers like WCDC in an attempt to integrate them into working society. Also at issue is that wages paid worker by vocational centers are less than the required minimum, which the federal government seeks to remedy by putting more people out in the field.

Executive Director Jack Ferry said if the ruling is upheld it would affect how WCDC and others assist people with disabilities with vocational training, essentially replacing facility-based employment and training with

community-based activities.

Ferry sent a letter to the Worcester County Commissioners last week, asking for support during a scheduled meeting in Salisbury on Dec. 3.

He said the meeting would include representatives from the Town of Salisbury, as well as members of the Eastern Shore and Lower Shore delegations, including Sen. Jim Mathias and delegates Charles Otto, Mary Beth Carozza, Sheree Sample-Hughes and Chris Adams.

"CMS wants people with disabilities to be more integrated into the community, and so do we. However, all people with a disability are being painted with a broad stroke, which could jeopardize individual choice," he said in the letter.

"Our goal is to help everyone work and live independently in the community. That is the goal. The reality is something different," Ferry continued. "While we have a number of clients who have gone through our employment training programs and are now working successfully in the community, there are many more that come to our facility every day who are not yet ready for community employment but take steps to-

wards independence by performing real work that is contracted through local employers."

Ferry said the state was working on transitioning into compliance with the new CMS regulations, and hoped he and others could sway its stance on the ruling.

Reached for comment, a number of officials in Worcester County voiced their support for the center.

Carozza said she has been working directly with Ferry on how lawmakers could address the federal regulations at the state level, adding that those rules would affect both WCDC and Lower Shore Enterprises Inc. (LSE) in Salisbury.

"I understand and share the CMS goal of ensuring that more people with disabilities are integrated into the community. However, I also share WCDC's and LSE's concerns that the individual choices of people with disabilities could be jeopardized if current options, including the choice of working in a facility-based employment-training program like WCDC, are eliminated," she said.

See SEVERAL Page 2



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Several state, county officials backing WCDC

Continued from Page 1

While CMS focused on "community-based activities" including volunteering, recreation and socialization, Carozza said she did not believe that should preclude people with disabilities from pursuing employment in facilities such as WCDC and LSE.

"When you see the candle-making operations, commercial laundry work and the landscape services at WCDC, you can understand that these individuals are choosing to work, and many turn around and spend their paychecks at local businesses," she said.

"I think we should continue to encourage those individuals with disabilities to work in the community if they are able to do so, but for those who cannot due to either the level of their disability or lack of employment opportunities, they should have the opportunity to work in a facility like WCDC if that is their choice," Carozza continued.

Mathias praised the center, calling it an "absolutely critical" resource for those with developmental disabilities in the county.

"I want to do my very best to make certain that the developmental center is

still there to provide opportunities for the men and women that they serve and work with," he said. "The best thing that they do is enable and provide opportunity for those men and women, so I want to do anything and everything I can do to continue to allow that to happen."

Worcester County Commissioner Chip Bertino also said he was backing the center, and planned to attend the meeting on Dec. 3.

"I think [the regulations] would impact negatively the folks who the center serves, and I think that would be ex-

tremely unfortunate," he said. "So many of these clients that utilize the development center get a great deal of pride and satisfaction at being able to work – and certainly get a paycheck. To see that go away or see that restricted in some way, I think, would be wrong for our community and any other community that benefits from a facility like this."

Bertino said he was optimistic the new regulations could be stopped in some way, at least within the state.

"I'm hopeful that, with our state delegation, working on the center's behalf, See NEWARK Page 4

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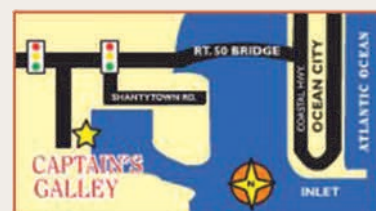
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HALLS DECKED

Volunteers helped decorate the inside of the Berlin Visitor's Center last Tuesday evening. Pictured, in front, from left, are Lisa Hall, Helen Wiley and Autumn Graves, and in back, Larnet St. Amant, Josh Graves, Ivy Wells, Sharon Timmons, Morgan Coulson, Mike Wiley and Shelly Bruder.

Newark-based WCDC asking for letters of support

Continued from Page 2

that consideration can be given for the developmental center," he said. "My understanding is it's the only brick and mortar facility of its kind in the area, and it really does serve a great, great purpose.

"I'm hopeful they can change or amend regulations so the developmental center is not impacted negatively by it," Bertino added.

In an interview last Tuesday, Ferry underscored the importance allowing clients at the center to continue working for a wage.

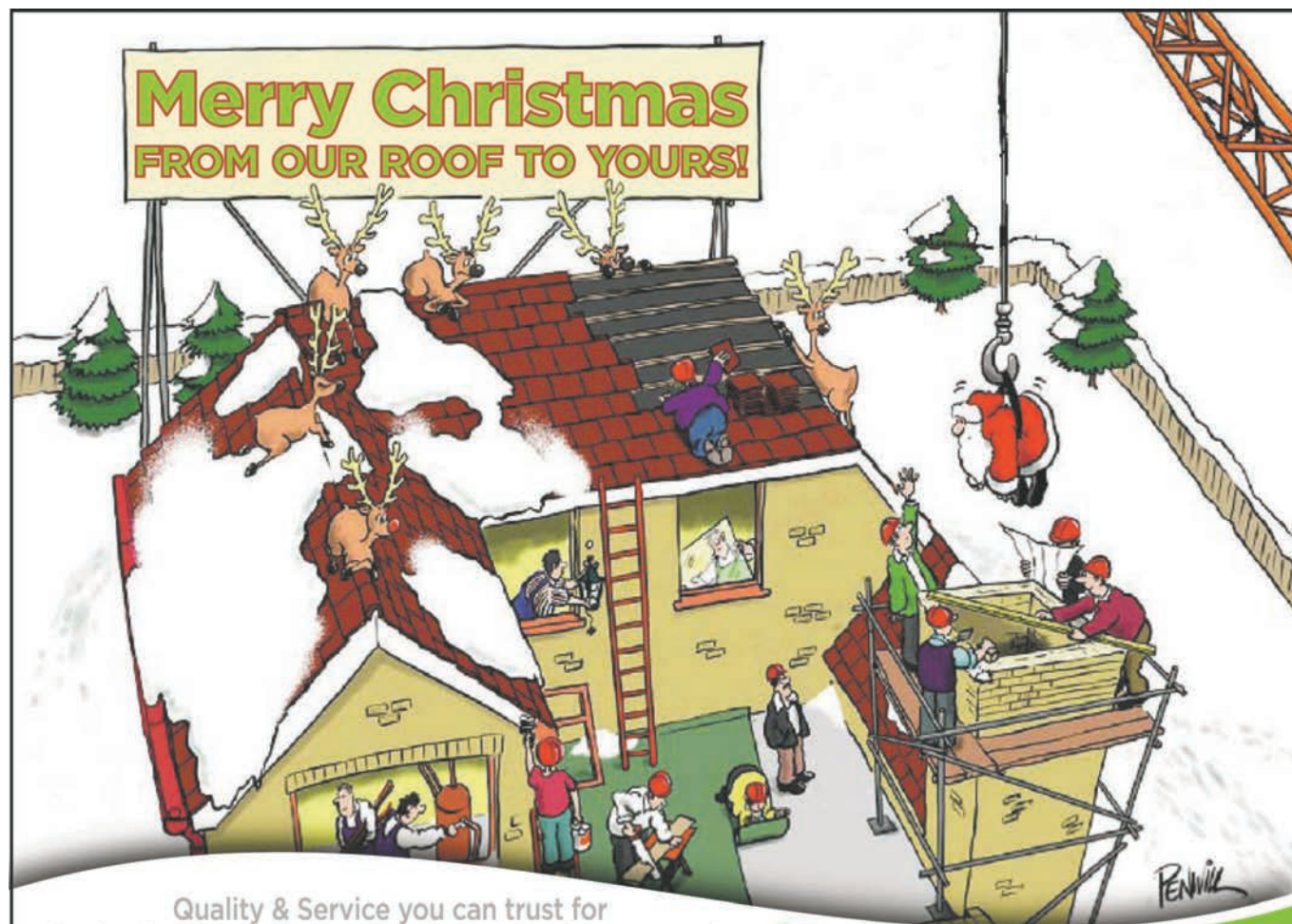
"Work is extremely important for our clients," he said. "It is a way they pay their bills and buy their groceries. But more important, it is a way they contribute to the community. They know when they work they are doing something important. Work is also how they feel like everybody else. At home, mom and dad go to work. Their brothers and sisters go to work. By going to work they are just like everybody else in the family.

"WCDC is more than work," Ferry continued. "WCDC is where they see their friends. It is where they are supported and taught in a nurturing, protective environment. I shudder to think of the emotional and mental health issues that will arise if they can no longer work with their friends at WCDC."

Ferry stressed that the center would not close if the regulations were upheld by the state, but said work, by the clients, could no longer continue within the facility.

"Our clients will either have to get a job in the community – which few will be able to do – or engage in recreation and enrichment activities in the community," he said. "One of the new programs offered by the state, Community Learning Services, does not allow the clients to receive any services in the building."

He encouraged members of the public to support the center by sending a letter, by Feb. 15, to Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, 201 West Preston Street, Baltimore, Md. 21201, or emailing Dhnh.hcbssetting@maryland.gov.



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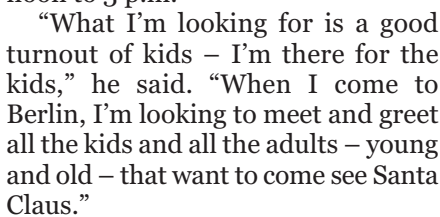
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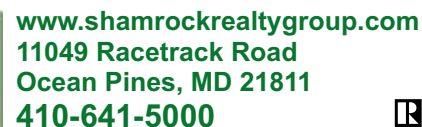
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"I'm like a one-man shop," he said of his current role. "I have a DJ business, I do weddings and banquets, I do Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny,



Dir: South Gate, Left on Ocean Parkway, Left on Hingham Lane, Right on Dog Leg Court



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Berlin Christmas parade back for 45th stroll down Main St.

More than 80 entries set to participate in town's annual evening festivities, Thursday

By Josh Davis
Staff Writer

(Dec. 3, 2015) Berlin's 45th annual Christmas Parade returns to Main Street tonight, Thursday, running from 7-9 p.m.

Space for floats filled up early this year, as the many would-be entries had to be denied entry well before the Nov. 20 deadline to keep the long line of participants from winding too far.

Parade categories include adult and youth floats, performing youth, adult and youth marching units, ROTC marching units, school bands, fire companies, commercial units, vehicles, motorcycles and antique cars. Awards will be given out for first and second place in each category.

The theme this year is "Toyland in Berlin," and several costumed characters are slated to appear on the streets in conjunction with the event.

Organizer Sharon Timmons, an administrative assistant with the town's office of economic and community development, advised guests to get to Berlin early.

"It fills up rather quickly," she said. "Luckily there are many places to park."

That includes Berlin Intermediate School, where, for a fee, a shuttle will take spectators to the staging area. The shuttle will run from 5:45-7:15 p.m., and 8:45-9:30 p.m.

Eastern Shore Kettle Korn will sell popcorn on Jefferson Street during the event and Seaside Dance Academy will sell hot chocolate near the visitor's center.

Timmons said this year's parade would have 18 new entries, continuing a trend of increased interest that began last year.

"They'll bring just a different feeling to the parade. Variety is always

good," Timmons said, adding that she had to turn away more than a dozen other entries. "The parade just wants to get bigger and bigger."

Additional holiday events in Berlin include the "Win the Window" contest, which gives shoppers tickets to win prizes in participating shops for everything \$10 they spend, through Dec. 18.

A "Letters to Santa" program also runs through Dec. 18 at the visitor's center on 14 South Main Street, with each participating child receiving a return letter with a free treat from Baked Dessert Café, Berlin Coffee House or Rayne's Reef.

Timmons said donations from a number of area organizations helped make the parade possible. Those include ABBA Bail Bonds, Marc Anthony Service Experts, Poole Contracting and Consulting, Healing Hands Chiropractic, Cards Technology, Walt Dennison Train Shop, Worcester Preparatory School, Adkins Company, Berlin Optical, Flag Publications/Bayside Gazette.

Shirley Grace Pregnancy Center, William E. Esham/Admiral Hotel, Esham Family Limited Partnership/Comfort Inn, Decatur Investments Inc., Esham Family Limited Partnership/Admiral Hotel, Taylor Bank, St. Paul's Church Mouse, JJ Fish, Diversified Maintenance.

S&G Smith Associates, Action Island, Atlantic Orthopaedics, Baypointe, Bleached Butterfly, Hunan Chinese Restaurant, Worcester County Developmental Center, Bank of Ocean City, Days Aluminum, Gary's Shore Service, Doodle Design, Berlin Shoe Box, Claudia Nichols State Farm Insurance and First Shore Federal.

The town is looking for volunteers to help run several of the holiday events. For more information, contact Ivy Wells at iwells@berlinmd.gov or 410-629-1722, or Timmons at stimmons@berlinmd.gov or 410-629-1716.

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BERLIN BRIEFS

By Josh Davis
Staff Writer

(Dec. 3, 2015) The Berlin Mayor and Council discussed the following items during a public meeting at Town Hall on Nov. 23.

Meeting canceled

The council voted unanimously to cancel the town meeting scheduled for Dec. 28.

Mayor Gee Williams said it conflicted with the Christmas holiday and would have had a light agenda.

He also complimented the current council, saying it “has probably done as much if not more than any other council in the history of the town ... I think it will be a welcome break for everyone.”

The regular town council schedule will resume on Jan. 11.

Vehicle disposal

Police Chief Arnold Downing asked the council to approve a motion that would dispose of seven police cars that were either damaged in an accident or otherwise inoperable, at no cost to the town.

He said the cars, older model Ford Crown Victorias, could not be used for parts for newer cars in the police fleet. All of the cars were stored at Racetrack Auto, some of which have been there for as much as eight years.

Councilmember Dean Burrell made the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Winter prep

Water Resources and Public Works Director Jane Kreiter said the town is already preparing for winter storms, readying salt trucks and plows.

The town’s water treatment plant is also being winterized, something Kreiter said was necessary for its operation during the colder months.

Just Walk success

Administrative Services Director Mary Bohlen said the recent Just Walk event, Nov. 14 at Stephen Decatur Park, drew 63 participants.

“[That’s] over a 300 percent increase from last year,” she said.

Bohlen credited “added attractions,” including more health screenings and a bouncy house for children, with the increased interest.

The walking route also grew in length this year, from one to two miles, and Bohlen said she has received requests to explore three-to-five mile routes in the future.

Grant approval

Bohlen said the town won approval of a state board of public works grant for \$218,000 to overhaul the tennis courts at Stephen Decatur Park.

The town will work with engineering firm Davis, Bowen & Friedel, Inc. to develop plans for the improvements, which Bohlen compared to the recent rebuild of the tennis courts at Henry Park.

Bohlen said the town was targeting spring as start date for construction.

Giving partnerships

The police department and Dollar General have teamed up to collect toys for the holidays. The program is part of a partnership with local non-profit Worcester County GOLD.

Police Chief Arnold Downing said it was a surprise to be approached by Dollar General and called the partnership “very humbling.”

Continued on Page 8

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BERLIN BRIEFS

Continued from Page 7

Downing said the department was also involved with other nonprofits for similar campaigns, including the Cricket Center, as well as with Maryland State Police.

"It's a busy time, but it's a time for us to go ahead and have an opportunity to give back to the community," he said.

New police car

The council unanimously approved a purchase order for \$25,401 to buy a new Ford Interceptor from Pittsville Motors.

The new vehicle will replace a car damaged during an accident on Oct. 23.

Cannery update

Electric Utilities Director Tim Lawrence said electricity was hooked up to 10 homes in the new Cannery Village development on Flower Street.

Asked by Williams, he confirmed that the homes were "almost ready for occupancy."

Growth spurt

Engelhart said total building permits were up sharply in Berlin this year.

The town saw 145 total building permits in 2013 and 161 in 2014. This year, the town has reviewed more than 250 permits, a 60 percent in-



PHOTO COURTESY MORGAN COULSON

LIVE DEMONSTRATION

Ice artist Erik Cantine works on a sculpture near the Atlantic Hotel in Berlin during the tree-lighting ceremony and Holiday Arts Night events last Friday.

crease over the previous year.

"We're not done yet," Engelhart said, adding that infill lots, in particular, were "being snapped up."

"Berlin's the place to want to be," he said.

Planning update

Planning Director Dave Engelhart said the town received stormwater and site engineering plans for the new Arby's and Royal Farms stores, to be

located at the corner of Friendship Road and Route 50.

He said the plans would move to the council for approval after being reviewed by town engineers.

Town planning

Laura Allen, town administrator, confirmed the town would start a new series of planning sessions, Jan. 29-31.

She said the first meeting would consist of a "kick-off" with town staff on the afternoon of Friday, Jan. 29, followed by an evening meeting for the public from 6-8 p.m.

Williams said the town would hold a long session for the public on Jan. 30, and a wrap-up session with town officials on the afternoon of Jan. 31.

A snow date was set for Feb. 19-21. Locations are to be announced.

Thanksgiving message

Williams said it was especially important to extend Thanksgiving greetings this year.

"With all that's going on in the world, we are particularly blessed and grateful to live where we do," he said. "That doesn't mean we don't have challenges, but compared to what's going on in many places in this world, we are very fortunate people and I encourage us to continue to look out for each other."

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Renaud looking into appointments

OPA Board president vows to move forward despite contention during meetings

By Josh Davis
Staff Writer

(Dec. 3, 2015) Following a Nov. 19 meeting that included no small amount of disagreement on the part of the directors, OPA Board President Pat Renaud said he's looking into claims that he wrongfully made three appointments to represent the board in talks with golf management company Landscapes Unlimited.

He also suggested the dour tone of the meeting could continue throughout his term as president.

"We're searching to make sure what is being said is true, and that is whether or not I have the right unilaterally to [make appointments]," he said. "A couple of the members of the board seem to think that I don't have that right, and they're saying that they didn't exercise that right when they were in power. We're checking that out."

The Gazette obtained minutes from previous OPA Board meetings that seem to back Renaud's claim that

the previous administration did not seek approval from the full board for its Landscapes appointments. Dating back to May, when the association signed a management contract with the company, no mention is made of golf appointments.

Renaud said he wasn't sure if the results of his inquiry would come up during a future meeting and said his focus was instead on "moving ahead and solving problems."

The problem, he said, is a certain contingency on the board would rather talk about process than produce results.

"That same contingency [who accused Renaud] that wants more process is still fighting for that way of life, and that's why the meetings are as long as they are," he said, adding that the recent closed session, on Nov. 19, ran two-and-a-half hours after the nearly three-hour-long open meeting.

Renaud admitted there were a few times during the last meeting when he could have stepped in sooner to speed things up.

"I'm not trying to override the process; I'm trying to let it go through," he said. "I didn't have the gavel – I should have had it and banged it at least once, but most of the time I let them go."

He did eventually make a motion to approve the appointments in question – representatives from the board

to golf management company Landscapes Unlimited, including himself, Tom Terry and Bill Cordwell.

"It was 4-3 and I won," Renaud said. "Why go through all this discussion? If you think I was wrong in not doing that, OK, I'll right that wrong and make it official. And that's what I did."

"I think we're going to have to have more of that," he continued. "I'm going to have to say, 'OK, if you really want to make an issue of it, let's vote about it.' Let's get down and dirty and do it, and get through some of this discussion."

Renaud also suggested the conflict, which began with an issue raised by freshman Director Tom Herrick, was actually a setup crafted by two senior board members.

"They had this whole thing set up. I know it was a setup. There's no doubt about it," he said. "That meeting, even though it was shorter than normal, it doesn't have to be that long. I think you're going to continue to see that throughout the whole year of my administration and I just have to learn to deal with it."

"I'm still pushing ahead," Renaud added. "I still want to get to the problems that Ocean Pines has, and I won't give up on that. I won't let it happen that we're just talking about process, process, process. We're going to make votes that will count."

Director suggests golf reps removed with 'no just cause'

By Josh Davis
Staff Writer

(Dec. 3, 2015) Director Tom Herrick brought up an "old business" item during a Nov. 19 Ocean Pines Association Board Meeting that sparked a lengthy, and often loud, debate on the golf management situation in Ocean Pines.

Nearly an hour later, the board essentially voted 4-3 to confirm a series of appointments by Board President Pat Renaud, naming himself and two other board members as representatives to golf management company Landscapes Unlimited.

Renaud initially had made the appointments without a vote by the full board.

Speaking during a phone interview last Wednesday, Herrick said that decision set a dubious precedent.

"I don't feel comfortable in any system where three board members get to vote for themselves to completely replace an advisory body that serve as representatives to the board," Herrick said. "To me, are these board members now representatives to themselves?"

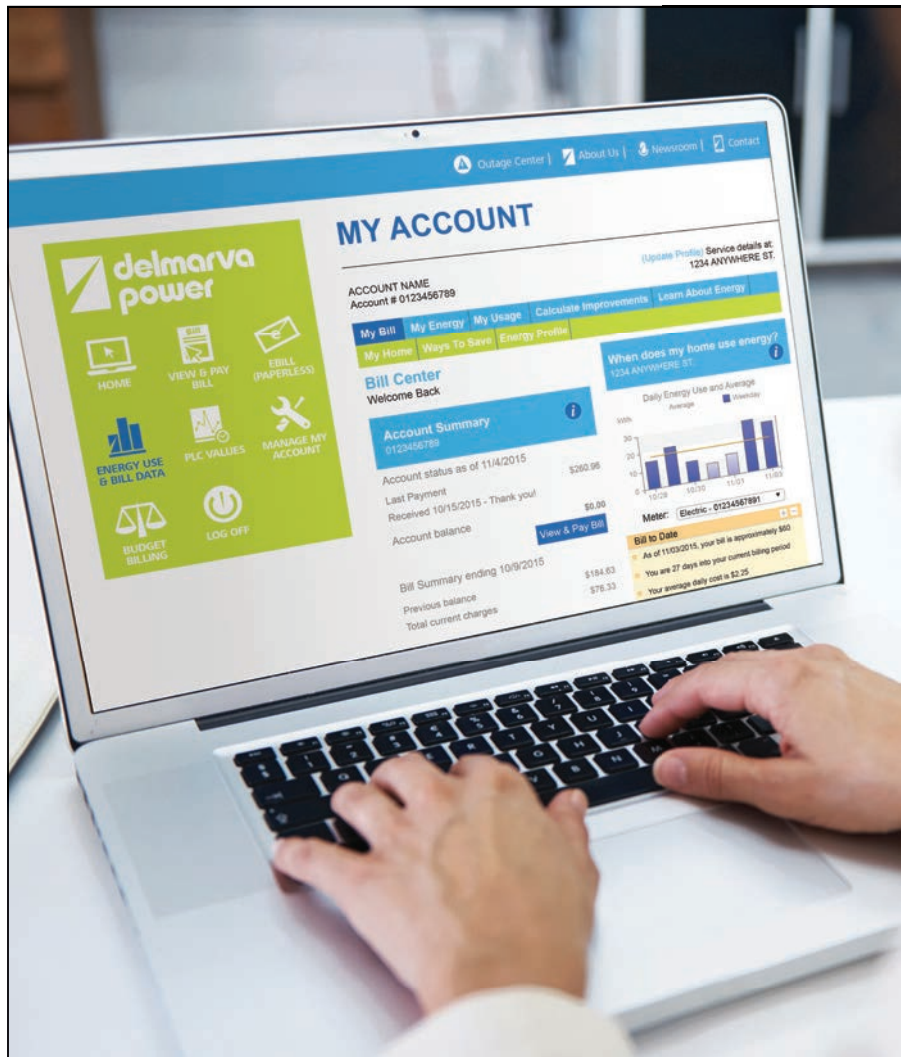
Herrick said he did support having a



Tom Herrick



Pat Renaud



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Herrick: 'It was a legitimate vote and we have to move on'

Continued from Page 9

board liaison to Landscapes in order to "facilitate the exchange of information back to the board," but that he objected to the specific appointments for a number of reasons.

He, Dave Stevens and Jack Collins voted against the measure that replaced previous appointments made by Stevens, the immediate past board president.

"Two of these board members that they put on as representatives have little or no experience in golf matters at all, and they replace individuals who worked hard and were well versed in the field of their representation," Herrick said. "They were, in fact, removed with no just cause at all."

"I personally don't see how this change is going to better serve the board, or benefit the community in any way," he continued.

Herrick went on to say he did not believe there would be further board action

on the matter, and that he brought the question up simply because there had been debate during previous meetings as to whether the president had the power to unilaterally make appointments.

"I just said, you know, I think this has to come to a head and we have to put it to bed," he said. "As far as I'm concerned the board voted, it was a legitimate vote and we have to move on from here."

In a separate interview in the Gazette this week, Renaud suggested the issue was a "setup" devised by two other board members, and that Herrick was merely caught in the crossfire.

Herrick flatly denied those allegations.

"I make the decisions on my own," he said. "This was something I felt didn't sit well with me, and I thought that we had to bring it to the entire board to make a decision."

"I act on my own," Herrick added. "If there's something I think needs to be addressed, I address it."

Looking into details of OPA golf management contract

By Josh Davis
Staff Writer

(Dec. 3, 2015) As details of the golf management contract between Nebraska-based Landscapes Unlimited and the Ocean Pines Association have become a subject of debate during public meetings, the average resident might be wondering what the terms of the contract might be.

Essentially, the contract signed on May 1 by then Board President Dave Stevens and Landscapes Vice President Tom Everett authorizes the company to manage the clubhouse, Tern Grill, golf course and cart facility, but that's just the foundation of a much more detailed agreement.

The 36-month contract includes a base management fee of \$6,500 per month, with an annual increase of three percent starting on May 1, 2016, and a "contingent" fee of 10 percent of "any

improvement in each fiscal year's net operating income over a baseline net operating income" of a \$100,000 loss, not to exceed 25 percent of the total management fee.

Several clauses in the contract call for review by the general manager, including "decisions ... that could affect [the OPA] beyond the scope of operations at the course."

Landscapes is required to submit proposals for major expenditures — \$10,000 or more — to the general manager, as well as have approval for "all major policy decisions" from the general manager.

By Nov. 1 of each year, the company must submit a written business plan and a proposed operating budget to the general manager, which has to be approved within 120 days of Nov. 15, after which time it's considered approved by default.

See LANDSCAPES Page 11

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Landscapes Unlimited mgmt. contract includes '17 opt-out

Continued from Page 10

All data and reports generated by Landscapes have to be accessible to the general manager and OPA Board by Oct. 15 of each year and the company is required to submit a golf operations, maintenance, food and beverage, sales and marketing, membership and capital improvement plan for review of the general manager and "designated representatives of the OPA Board of Directors."

Those plans include "goals and milestones which will serve as the basis for

monthly reporting to the OPA General Manager and up to three designed OPA Board representatives."

Landscapes is also required to meet quarterly with the three designated board members, as well as meetings of the "OPA Board Advisory Committees on golf."

An early termination clause goes into effect on June 1, 2017, giving the association the right to opt out of the contract if Landscapes fails to meet prior-year budget projections by \$50,000.

Santa to appear at several Ocean Pines holiday events

(Dec. 3, 2015) Despite the area's beach location and relatively mild temperatures, Santa Claus and his crew will make appearances at several Ocean Pines events.

Santa will begin his visit to Ocean Pines with "Breakfast with Santa Claus & Friends" on Saturday, Dec. 5 from 8-11 a.m. at the Ocean Pines Community Center, located at 235 Ocean Parkway.

The entire family can enjoy breakfast and take a picture with Santa and Mrs. Claus. The cost is free for children ages 3 and under, \$4 for children ages 4-10 and \$6 for ages 11 and up. Attendees are encouraged to bring an unwrapped, new gift or nonperishable food item for local families in need.

The Reindeer Lane Gift Shop, also held on Dec. 5 from 8-11 a.m. at the community center, is a holiday "store" where children ages 12 and under will be able to purchase gifts for family and friends. Items for children and adults, all nominally priced, will be available. Donations for the shop are also being accepted.

Following these events, Santa will

be visiting with children weekly in White Horse Park, located across from the community center. He will be available for lap-sitting, pictures and wish lists every Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. starting Sunday, Dec. 6 until Sunday, Dec. 20. There is no charge for this Santa experience.

Santa will wrap up his stay by donning swim trunks and flip-flops at the eighth annual "Swim with Santa" on Saturday, Dec. 12 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Sports Core Pool, located at 11143 Cathell Road.

The fee is \$6 for swimmers and \$3 for non-swimmers. Donations of food and unwrapped toys will also be accepted on behalf of the Worcester County Sheriff Department's "Christmas for the Needy" program.

All of these events are open to the public. For more information, call the Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department at 410-641-7052. Information regarding additional recreational programs, including an online version of the Ocean Pines Activity Guide, is available at www.OceanPines.org.



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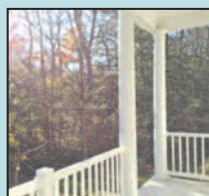
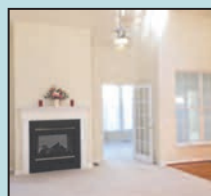
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Send letters and receive replies from Old Saint Nick

By Josh Davis
Staff Writer

(Dec. 3, 2015) The Town of Berlin is inviting area children to write letters to Santa via a new program developed in conjunction with the Office Of Economic And Community Development – and the North Pole.

Town officials have created a special “Letters to Santa” mailbox inside the visitor’s center on 14 South Main Street just for the occasion.

“Kids can come down, they can write a letter to Santa, drop it in the express mailbox to the North Pole, we will receive the letter, and Santa will write the kids back a letter,” said Economic and Community Development Director Ivy Wells.

Included in each return letter will be a coupon for a free cookie at Baked Dessert Cafe or Berlin Coffee House, or an ice cream cone from Rayne’s Reef.

Sharon Timmons, administrative assistant, will hand-deliver each letter to the offices of a certain jolly old elf.

“He’s really cool,” Timmons said of her relationship with Christopher J. Kringle. “He and I are pretty tight.”

Timmons was coy about just how she regularly makes the roughly 4,000-mile trek to the North Pole, but Christmas magic was implied.

Letters can be dropped off between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, or from noon-3 p.m. on Saturdays, through Dec. 18.

Names and addresses are required for return correspondence with St. Nicholas. Donations to the Main Street program – as well as, presumably, to the magical reindeer carrot fund – are welcome.

The campaign is a first for Berlin, but not for Wells, who created a similar program during her work as eco-



JOSH DAVIS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Berlin is hosting a Letters to Santa program, located in the visitor’s center on South Main Street, running through Dec. 18.

nomie development director in Sykesville.

“The goal is, kids have to come downtown with their parents to drop

a letter, but then the coupon encourages them to come back again,” she said. “You can’t get enough of downtown Berlin during Christmas time.”

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Debbie Frene at Victorian Charm.



Shelly Bruder at Bruder Hill.



Jon Conley at Uncle Jon's Soaps.



Jason Hagy at Berlin Coffee House.

SMALL BIZ BOOM

Shop owners in Berlin reported stronger-than-usual sales during the Nov. 28 Small Business Saturday promotion, with some saying traffic was the heaviest of the entire year.

JOSH DAVIS/
BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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Small Business Saturday makes biz go boom in Berlin

By Josh Davis
Staff Writer

(Dec. 3, 2015) The first Small Business Saturday took place on Nov. 27, 2010 as part of a promotion created by the not-so-small enterprise American Express.

According to several shop owners in downtown Berlin, this year's iteration last week was not only the biggest money-making Small Business Saturday, but also might have been the single-biggest shopping day of the entire year.

At Victorian Charm, on 100 North Main Street, owner Debbie Frene said there was no room to move around inside her store on Saturday.

"I don't think we could have done any better than we did," she said. "I think we beat last year's figures. It was packed – I don't know if we could have had any more people in here at one time."

The shop has been running a series of "open houses" each week, offering discounts and giveaways for a specific item or a featured brand.

On Small Business Saturday, Victorian Charm ran a jewelry open house. This weekend, the shop will run an open house featuring Vera Bradley giveaways and discounts, followed by Brighton specials during the following weekend.

"We do it every year, and it just gives you something to talk about and advertise," Frene said.

Shelly Bruder, of Bruder Hill at 25 Commerce Street, said this year's Small Business Saturday was easily the biggest ever, and possibly her single best sales day in 13 years.

"It was busier than the day before during the tree lighting, and that's always been our best day," she said. "It was definitely our best two days of the year."

Bruder suggested Berlin's "Coolest Small Town" designation was still paying dividends for local stores, and said the culmination of the additional push from the town and the chamber of commerce – along with increased inventory in her store – helped push sales numbers to new heights.

"Everybody pitched together as usual and it all worked out really well," she said.

Bruder Hill will be open until 8 p.m.

on Friday nights through the holiday season, and will operate specially discounted "pop-up" shops at The Globe, on 12 Broad Street, on Tuesdays.

Dee Gilbert, owner of NEST on 11 South Main Street, agreed Saturday sales were stronger than Friday during the townwide tree lighting and Holiday Arts Night events.

"People were shopping specifically because it was Small Business Saturday, which was wonderful," she said, adding that the annual promotion had been picking up steam each year since its inception.

Gilbert said she would discount sales 10 percent for anyone who brought in an unopened pack of socks through the holiday season.

"I read that the most-needed item at shelters is socks – and nobody wants old socks," she said.

The socks will be donated to local nonprofit Diakonia.

For newer stores in Berlin, it was a first taste of what Small Business Saturday could add to an already-busy shopping season.

Jon Conley, owner of Uncle Jon's Soap on 12 Williams Street, opened his store earlier this year.

"We did very well," he said. "You can always hope to do better, but I didn't have anything to gauge by. I hear everybody around town had great days Friday and Saturday, and I think my expectations were pretty well met."

Conley ran a 10-percent off special during the weekend, and said he plans to run a free shipping promotion for orders over \$25, through Dec. 19.

Lyndsay Mason, from Baked Dessert Café on 4 Bay Street, also noticed traffic was stronger than usual.

"We had lots of groups of people coming in and it seemed like there were a lot of people out shopping, which is always a good thing," she said.

Currently, Baked is offering 10 percent off on all wines. Mason said she expected additional promotions before the end of the year.

Berlin Coffee House, tucked away on 17 Jefferson Street, also reported stronger than usual sales, although

See AMEX Page 15

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Annual contest invites residents to ‘Light up Pines’

(Dec. 3, 2015) Ocean Pines residents once again have the chance to show off their holiday decorating skills with the community’s annual “Light up the Pines” outdoor display contest. This year’s event is sponsored by the Ocean Pines Association and Choptank Electric Cooperative, which will give two free LED lightbulbs to each registered participant as well as prizes to the winners.

Participants will be judged in four categories: “Top-Notch All-Around,” “Most Creative,” “Most Lights” and “People’s Choice.” The winner in each category will receive a \$50 gift certificate to The Cove and a \$25 Choptank electric bill credit.

The deadline for applicants is Friday, Dec. 11. Participants will be notified when judging is to take place. The ballot for the “People’s Choice” award will be emailed and will be available online at OceanPines.org. A map showing the locations of the entries will be on the website as well.

Residences are eligible to win “Top-Notch,” “Most Creative” or “Most Lights” once every three years; there is no restriction for the “People’s Choice” category. Previous winners may still submit their names and addresses to be included in the map of light displays entered in the contest. They will also receive two free LED lightbulbs.

Volunteer judges are being sought to help with the contest. Anyone interested in serving as a judge should submit a name and phone number to info@oceanpines.org or 410-641-7717 ext. 3014.

Residents interested in entering the contest may do so by submitting a name, address and phone number by email to info@oceanpines.org, fax to 410-641-5581, phone to 410-641-7717 ext. 3014 or to the Ocean Pines Association in person or mail at 239 Ocean Pkwy., Ocean Pines, Md., 21811.

AmEx promotion boosts sales, Sat.

Continued from Page 14
Jason Hagy said it was difficult to tell if that was because of Small Business Saturday, or whether the boost was because of a promotion run at neighboring Jeffery Auxer Designs.

Auxer offers make-your-own ornament classes on Saturdays in December. “He had over 100 people, so they were stacking up and they filled our place up for the whole day,” Hagy said. “We were definitely slammed all day long. I saw the town itself was packed, but it’s tough for us to judge [why].”

Hagy added that the shop was offering \$2 ice cream scoops “until they’re gone,” and said the new Maryland with Pride pop-up shop was doing well inside Berlin Coffee House.



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LIGHTS LIT

Ocean Pines lit up White Horse Park, as well as the community Christmas tree, during a ceremony on Nov. 28.

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Berlin cheerleaders to compete at nationals

After second-place finish in N.J., Pop Warner squad heading to Disney World

By Kara Hallissey
Staff Writer

(Dec. 3, 2015) The Berlin Pop Warner cheerleaders will compete at nationals in Disney World on Monday after coming in second place at the Eastern Regional competition Nov. 14 in New Jersey.

"The first two teams advanced to Pop Warner's national championship in Disney," Head Coach Jessie Parsons said. "It was amazing to see these little girls. Their faces were priceless."

It is the first time in history a Berlin Seahawks Pop Warner squad has advanced this far. If they raise

\$10,000, it will cover a three-night stay at the Caribbean Beach Resort on Disney property for all 16 girls.

"That [\$10,000] is our bare minimum and wouldn't cover food or airfare," Parsons said Tuesday. "It is looking like we will reach our minimum goal and be able to cover the package costs."

Debbie Donahue, who is in charge of the cheerleading program in Berlin, created a GoFundMe web page to raise money for the trip to Florida and there has been \$1,800 in donations pledged as of Tuesday night.

The 16 junior peewee cheerleaders range in age from 8-12 years old and most of the girls have been cheering together for a number of years.

"Being tight, our facial expres-

sions and working together as a team" are the reasons the Berlin Seahawks have made it to nationals, according to Maddie Reed, 10, a four-year veteran on the cheer squad.

Three brothers and both of her parents will accompany Reed on her first trip to Disney. She is excited for the competition and to visit the Magic Kingdom.

"It is exciting because our goal at the beginning of the year was to get to nationals," said Brooke Berquist, 9, who has been cheering for the Pop Warner Berlin Seahawks for three years.

Berquist visited Disney when she was 2 years old while her brother competed in a baseball tournament and she remembers eating breakfast with princesses. The Tower of Terror

and the competition will be highlights of her trip, she said.

"We have cool stunts with facial expressions," Berquist said. "We make duck faces and blow kisses."

The girls began training for the competitions in August when they practiced four nights a week. Once school started, practices were scheduled three days a week.

In addition, the cheerleaders perform every Saturday for the Pop Warner football games.

"It's a lot of dedication from the little girls and parents," Parsons said. "It's been a lot of fun to see them grow and some have never done this before. What a great group of girls."

The cheerleaders will use their winning routine consisting of cheer,

See COOLEST Page 17

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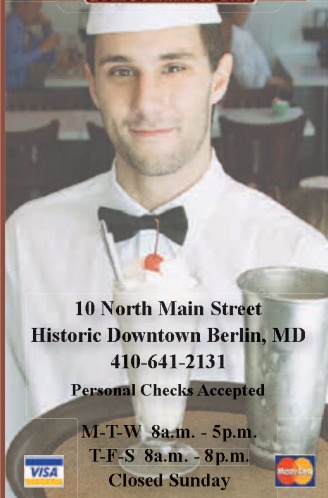
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‘Coolest little cheer squad’ heads to Disney

Continued from Page 16
dance, tumbling and stunts with a couple tweaks for the national competition at Walt Disney World’s Wide World of Sports on Monday, Dec. 7 at 8:30 a.m.

They will be competing against seven additional regions and 16 potential Pop Warner teams in the junior pee wee medium level three division.

In addition, the girls will represent Berlin in Disney World as “The coolest little cheer squad from the coolest small town” in a parade with themed hats they create.

Pop Warner cheerleaders are required to maintain acceptable grade point averages to participate in the nonprofit organization’s programs.

At Disney World, the cheerleaders are required to have a study hall and

the program has reached out to their schools, Parsons said.

“Many of our girls were national scholars for Pop Warner last year,” she said. “Five girls made first team for Pop Warner cheerleading and that’s amazing to be in the top 35 with 450,000 participants in the country.”

The cheerleaders who received recognition maintained a 96 average and participated in a number of volunteer activities including girl scouts and Relay for Life, she said.

“It was a neat group of well-rounded girls and an amazing year for them scholastically,” Parsons said. “We missed going to nationals last year by half a point and these girls are very determined [this year].”

More than 200 children in Berlin

participate in Pop Warner programs including six football teams and three cheer squads.

Donahue has spent endless hours for the past 16 years dedicated to the program.

“She has done a fabulous job and is our rock,” Parsons said.

All adult volunteers go through certification programs and participants rely on donations to attend national championships.

Tony Morris is president of the association in Berlin and coaches football, Parsons said. “We have a lot of good volunteers and keep 200 kids active.”

The cheerleaders collected donations during the Holiday Shopper’s Fair at the convention center on Thanksgiving weekend.

“They did very good and people

were generous,” Parsons said. “They cheered for donations and came in shifts.”

Berlin Pop Warner is accepting monetary donations for its football and cheer program. Donations are tax deductible and can be mailed to: Worcester County Youth Football P.O. Box 205 Berlin, Md. 21811.

“They are out of the house practicing football and cheerleading,” Parsons said. “We have to raise money for everything we do and rely on the kindness of the community.”

For information on the Worcester County Youth Football and Cheerleading Berlin Seahawks, call 443-783-8628 or visit www.BerlinSeahawks.com.

To donate money to the cheerleaders GoFundMe page, visit www.gofundme.com/qpag7sk4.


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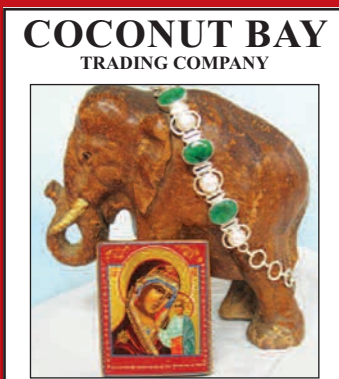
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OPINION

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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

High-profile trial offers one more reason to be thankful

Post-Thanksgiving reflections on the good things in life probably didn't include this reason to be glad you live in this area: at the start of Monday's jury selection process for the Freddie Gray trial in Baltimore, the 75 people called as prospective jurors were asked if they ever had been the victim of a crime or ever had been charged with one.

Thirty-eight people – that's one person more than half of these randomly selected people – stood up to say "yes," that they were either victims, perpetrators or alleged perpetrators at some point in their lives.

As astonishing as that is, an even greater number of people stood up on the second day of the proceedings to declare the same thing. Again, these are people whose names were, metaphorically speaking, pulled from a hat.

Even though this hardly qualifies as scientific survey – and it's possible that more than a few people lied to avoid jury duty for this volatile case – it still suggests that a substantial percentage of the city's residents either have been accused of doing something unlawful or have had something unlawful done to them.

It may be that we lead sheltered lives down this way, where crime is, for the most part, a quieter and less confrontational affair that is more or less restricted to the fringes rather than spread in all directions.

Sure, there are break-ins, vandalism, plenty of drug-related activity, DWIs, a few robberies and, rarely, much worse things, but crime hardly ranks at or near the top of local society's concerns and it certainly doesn't involve 50 percent of the population.

Chances are, the victims in the Baltimore jury pool far outnumbered the offenders, but still, imagine how it would be to live in an area where half the people you know have been affected by crime. And then be happy that you live here and not there.

BAYSIDE



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LETTERS

JOY OF GIVING

Editor,
Life presents us with many unexpected journeys, some sweet and heartwarming, some that we would prefer to forget. Regardless of our age, or the age we live in, one of those unexpected journeys is when we discover the absolute joy that comes from giving.

There are all kinds of giving and certainly among the most gratifying are the gifts we give to those we love and care about during the holiday season. In your nonprofit community this time of year has become known as the "Giving Season."

The motivation for giving to those in need in our community shares a common thread with gifts we share with family and friends, the human instinct to help others in a meaningful way. And among the many reasons that makes the giving season so special is that it is not so much about the amount of a gift of charity, but the meaning behind it.

Money, in of itself, has little value. It is what you do with it that gives it value. Depending on how you spend and share your money, the same amount can do a little good, or a lot of good.

Don't ever feel that you can't make a difference. With so many needs in our community, how do you go about deciding where your charitable gift should go? May I suggest you start by thinking about the causes that matter to you?

Think about your life and those around

you ... what impact has been made by a charitable organization? Do you have an aging family member who needed some assistance getting through the day, or know a family that was in distress and in need of food? Have you met a child so full of promise, but with real limitations in meeting their educational potential? Do you know a forgotten veteran seeking someone to talk to or who urgently requires emergency assistance? Have you provided a home to a rescued animal and want to help others have the same opportunity?

Nonprofit organizations throughout the region meet these needs and more, each and every day.

The potential needs that you care about are both incredibly diverse and timeless. And while it may seem overwhelming to meet them all, we can all gain some perspective through the words of world-renowned anthropologist Jane Goodall, "You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make."

Each year the Giving Season gives each and every one of us a wonderful opportunity and responsibility. Don't let this time pass without experiencing the special joy we can all share –through charitable giving.

Erica Joseph is President of the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore, Inc.

Have an opinion?

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

Berlin Hoot Owl club hosts first robotics program

By Josh Davis

Staff Writer

(Dec. 3, 2015) Started in spring, the Berlin Hoot Owls Club recently branched out into robotics during a demonstration at the First Baptist Church on Williams Street on Nov. 12.

Sponsored by Worcester County 4-H and the University of Maryland Extension office in Snow Hill, the program drew a dozen participants – a sharp uptick for a fledgling group.

Kathy Decker, an administrative assistant with the extension office, said organizers used a “robust” recruiting effort to boost attendance from a handful of members who previously participated to the 15 who signed up.

“We basically doubled our participation with that November meeting,” she said, adding that three children also called in sick.

The children worked in teams of two, following a “build manual,” to construct an alligator made of Legos. Then, the teams used laptops to program movement, snapping the jaws of their creations open and shut.

Decker said the response was overwhelmingly positive.

“The kids were thrilled,” she said. “It was a lot of fun to see their little faces light up when the robots actually moved when they programmed them.”

Robotics is one of the many activities 4-H offers in the focus area of S.T.E.M. education. The nonprofit also offers roughly 120 different “pro-



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
Aaliyah Sturgis and Jay Wimbrow work together to successfully build a Lego alligator and program it to move during a meeting of the Worcester County 4-H Berlin Hoot Owls club. The club meets the second Thursday of each month at the First Baptist Church in Berlin.

ject areas” ranging from aerospace to livestock to cooking.

Worcester County 4-H Program Coordinator Cindy Morris runs those programs, which consist of both in-school and after-school offerings. In particular, Morris said the robotics demonstration promoted teamwork and that the kit itself can be used for a dozen different builds.

Future offerings, she said, would depend on interest.

“I’m actually talking about putting together a robotics workshop, possibly on a Saturday, so they can make some more builds,” she said. Other recent programs have included a “C.S.I.” demonstration that challenged children to use the scientific method to solve a case.

Decker said the overall goal of the club was to “increase 4-H’s footprint”

in the Berlin area.

“4-H has been around for over 100 years and they have a pretty strong presence in the central part of the county and also down around Pocomoke, but not enough presence in the heavily populated north end,” she said.

The extension office, she added, is the “nonformal education component” of the university. That includes a number of agricultural services in the county, such as nutrient management and watershed oversight, and 4-H, which is the youth component of its outreach.

The Berlin Hoot Owls Club meets again on Dec. 10. For more information, call the extension office at 410-632-1972 or visit www.extension.umd.edu/worcester-county.



PHOTO COURTESY TED PAGE

EASTERN SHORE ‘JEWELS’

The Worcester County Commission for Women and the Friends of the Commission, hosted “The Gems Tea” at the Dunes Manor Hotel on 28th Street in Ocean City on Nov. 1. This event honors and celebrates the lives of “jewels” of the Eastern Shore. Pictured, from left, are Lou Etta McClafflin, president of the Friends of the Commission; the four honorees, Ruth Kemp, Jo Fran Falcon, Mary Makinen and Barbara Tull; L. Eloise Henry-Gordy, chair of the Worcester County Commission for Women and Carol Rose, chair of the Gems Tea event.

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Ornament classes big at Jeffrey Auxer Designs in Berlin

By Josh Davis
Staff Writer

(Dec. 3, 2015) Visitors to Jeffrey Auxer’s studio in Berlin might have noticed the large “Open During Construction” sign hanging from the side of the building.

Last Saturday, shoppers also may have noticed the 100-plus people who lined up for ornament-making classes, an annual tradition at the shop and gallery for the last six years.

Auxer said the expansion is mainly the addition of a 700-square-foot apartment on top of the building. The house was built in 1896 and the section that currently houses the shop was added in the 1950s.

He sought approval for the project earlier this year from the town’s historic district commission and Economic and Community Development Director Ivy Wells helped Auxer secure a \$10,000 façade grant to help with exterior improvements.

Barbely’s Construction of Newark performed the majority of the work, with Auxer pitching in by running supplies. Things didn’t always go smoothly, however, and at one point Auxer said he learned the job would require four 2,500-pound reinforcement pilasters to prevent the walls from bowing.

New walls also had to be carefully constructed around the massive furnace wire that’s required to keep a 200-amp constant flow running downstairs. Auxer said he’s a “top-three” consumer of electricity in Berlin.

“It wasn’t the easiest process to make everything fit correctly, because the exterior walls were not square from being 120 years old,” he said. It’s kind of interesting, though, that 120 years later



JOSH DAVIS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Jeffrey Auxer said construction – essentially the addition of a rooftop apartment – is nearly complete at his Berlin studio.

the people that built it probably would never have guessed there would be an apartment on top of it.

“It was a lot of work, but it made the building look better,” he added.

Auxer said construction, which started in October, is close to complete, and that it would not affect the shop itself.

“I’ll be around more, but I don’t know how much more I’ll be open,” he said. “It just allows me to be closer to the equipment. I pretty much lived here anyway.”

He kept the shop open during the entire process, which was essential during the busy lead-up to the holiday season that reached a fever pitch last Saturday.

“It was imperative that we stayed open during this time. We can’t afford to be shut down,” Auxer said. “We did a record 111 [people] last Saturday – we’d never had that many in one day.”

He estimated that the classes in

total, which ran from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., brought as many as 300 people to the town.

“It was crazy,” Auxer said. “We didn’t get a break because they were just lined up out here.”

Additional classes are set for Saturdays Dec. 5, 12 and 19, and another is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 22. Appointments are required and the fee is \$25 per ornament – the same as the retail cost of ornaments in the store.

“It’s an experience and it’s something that we try to do to bring people out as families,” Auxer said. “It becomes a tradition for people – that’s what we’ve noticed the most. The people from six years ago still come.

“It’s a nice way for people to come as



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Artist Jeffrey Auxer gives an ornament-making demonstration at his studio in Berlin. Turnout for the annual classes reached a fever pitch last Saturday, when more than 100 people signed up. Four additional classes are scheduled during the lead up to Christmas.

a family and do something a little bit different, and then they get to take something home with them each year to have and remember the time they made it,” he added.

For more information, call 443-513-4210 or visit www.jeffreyauxer.com.

Reindeer Run to trot through Berlin, Sat.

By Josh Davis
Staff Writer

(Dec. 3, 2015) Several hundred participants are expected to take part in the 8th annual Reindeer Run in Berlin on Saturday to raise money for Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services.

The “all-fitness-level” event offers prizes for the top male and female runners, as well as top fundraiser, largest team and best holiday running attire.

Medals will also be awarded to the top three finishers in each age category.

Although online registration is closed, spaces are still available. Participants can sign up on Friday, from 3:30 - 7:30 p.m., at Cross Fit Ocean City on 10815 Grays Corner Road in Berlin. Race packets will also be available at Cross Fit, starting at 3 p.m. on Friday.

Day-of registration runs from 8-8:45

a.m. outside the Atlantic Hotel in downtown Berlin. The fee for the one-mile fun run is \$20, and the 5K fun run is \$25. The first 300 registered participants will receive a race shirt and swag bag.

The 5K will start at 9 a.m., beginning on Broad Street in front of the Globe. The one-mile race will kick off at 10 a.m.

A raffle and awards ceremony will follow at 10:30 a.m., and a bake sale dur-

ing the event will raise additional funds for the Berlin-based nonprofit.

As of press time, the event had raised \$945 of its \$5,000 goal.

For more information, contact organizer Lisa Rodriguez Long at 443-614-4319 or email livelongfitness@live.com.

For additional information, search “Berlin Reindeer Run 5k & 1mile Run” on Facebook.

Dazzle hosts one-year anniversary celebration

(Dec. 3, 2015) Dazzle and The Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce are hosting a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Friday, Dec. 4 from 4-6 p.m., celebrating the store’s one-year anniversary.

Dazzle Gift Shop opened one year ago to serve the needs of the Ocean

City, Ocean Pines, Berlin and surrounding communities with a gift shop dedicated to providing customer service and care and affordable and useful gifts and holiday décor.

Dazzle Gift Shop has accessories, jewelry, gourmet foods and dips, baby

items and much more. It also features unique and personalized gift baskets with complimentary gift wrapping.

As a thank you to loyal customers and the community, those who visit the store the weekend of Dec. 4-6, may register for free presents under its deco-

rated trees.

Refreshments will be served during the ribbon-cutting event. For more information, call Dazzle at 410-208-4438. Dazzle is located inside the South Gate of Ocean Pines in the Manklin Station Shopping Center.

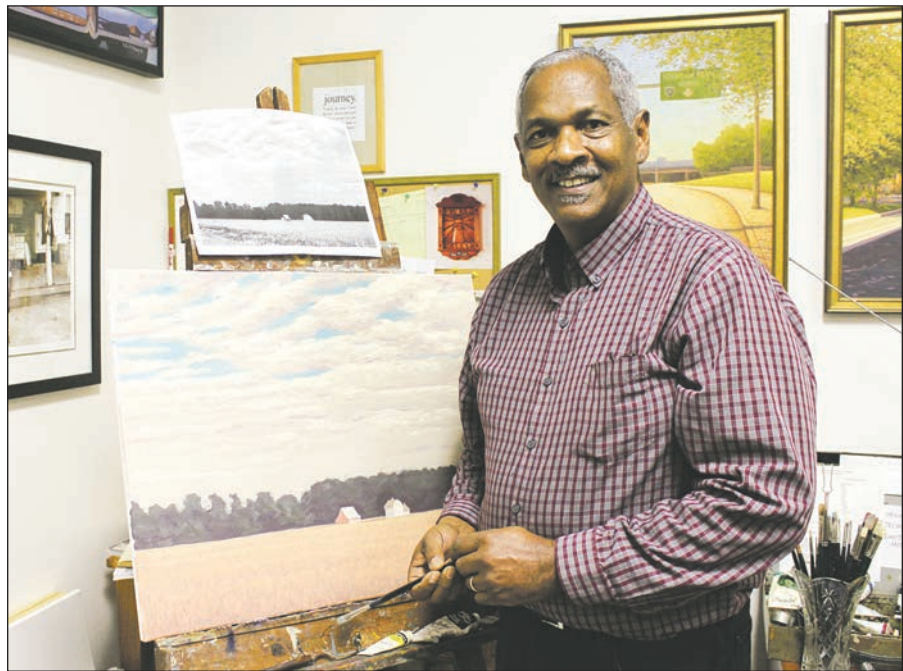
SNAPSHOTS



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

HOLIDAY CHORUS

Delmarva Chorus members performed at The Park harvest dinner on Nov. 18. The chorus will host a holiday music sing-along on Monday, Dec. 7 at 7 p.m. at the Ocean Pines Community Center. Homemade holiday desserts will be served.



JOSH DAVIS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

PATRICK HENRY

Patrick Henry welcomes guests into his Berlin studio during Friday's Holiday Arts Night event, which he helped start more than a decade ago.



JOSH DAVIS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

JIM ADCOCK

Painter/illustrator Jim Adcock displays work inside of the home of Carrie Dupule, on 215 North Main Street, during Holiday Arts Night last Friday.



KARA HALLISSEY/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

GOING TO DISNEY WORLD

The Berlin Pop Warner cheerleaders pose with their second-place trophy from the Eastern Regional competition last month during practice at the Ocean Pines Recreation Center on Tuesday night. The girls will compete at nationals in Disney World on Monday morning.



PHOTO COURTESY D.J. LANDIS, SR.

STAR DONATION

During the monthly meeting of Star Charities on Nov. 6, at the Ocean Pines Library, a check in the amount of \$500 was donated to the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation. Pictured are Star Charities volunteers, from left, Peggy Rhumburg, Lee Tilghman, President and Founder Anna Fultz, Irmgarde Heinecke, Barbara Peletier, Sandy McAbee, Mary Evans and Robin Beall, with Marie Gilmore, president of the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation, second from left.

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BBBSGC to host 23rd annual 'Santa's Open' golf tournament

(Dec. 3, 2015) Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Chesapeake will host the 23rd annual Santa's Open Charity Golf Tournament, sponsored by RAMS, LLC., on Saturday, Dec. 5 at the Ocean Pines Golf & Country Club.

Since 1992, Santa's Open has provided funds to benefit low-income children and families on Maryland's Eastern Shore who are in need of mentoring support and encouragement. Local businesses and residents have been heavily involved by sponsoring and/or participating in the event.

There are still options available for sponsorships, including Toy Shoppe Tees, Santa's Cheer Cart and Mrs. Claus' Breakfast. Sponsorships include various levels of promotion of a business or organization depending on the chosen options. Delmarva Power is the 2015 Rudolph's Reception Sponsor.

Registration the day of the tournament is \$85 per player. Each golfer is asked to bring an unwrapped gift for an underprivileged child age 7-17.

The format is four-person teams. Registration includes golfing fees, breakfast, cart, reception, Santa's Cheer and the chance to win contests and gifts.

Sign up to golf or become a sponsor at www.biglittle.org/santa15. For more information on the agency, visit www.biglittle.org or call 410-543-2447 ext.225.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Chesapeake is a nonprofit, youth development organization that is committed to helping children reach their fullest potential through professionally supported, one-to-one mentoring relationships and a full range of youth mentoring programs with measurable impact.

Programs are tailored to the needs of the children and include educational and social activities that they would otherwise never experience. Research proves that through Big Brothers Big Sisters, children facing overwhelming odds can thrive and achieve long-term success with the support of positive adult role models.

Furnace Town puts 19th-century twist on Christmas, Sat.

(Dec. 3, 2015) Furnace Town Living Heritage Village presents a 19th century Christmas on Saturday, from noon to 5 p.m., with activities including holiday music by Bob Sellers all day and a book signing by Gracie Ayers, author of "The Weaver's Daughter," from 1-3 p.m.

Baked goods and craft vendors, Furnace Town artisans and complimentary holiday refreshments will be on hand throughout the celebration, which concludes with a 19th century church service officiated by Rev. Sherwood McGrath in the historic Old Nazareth Church at 7 p.m. Church doors open at 6:30 p.m.

While regular admission applies to exploring Furnace Town's artisan village from noon to 5 p.m., all other holiday events are free and open to the public, including walking the Paul Liefer Nature Trail through the Nassawango Cypress forest.

Furnace Town is located at 3816 Old Furnace Road, just southwest of Route 12, on the northwest side of Snow Hill. Admission is \$7 for adults, \$6 for age 60 and older and AAA members and \$4 for children ages 4-18. Children 3 and under get in free. The Nature Conservancy and Furnace Town members and their guests with passes are free. For more information, call 410-632-2032.

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CUISINE

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Ahi poke good no matter how pronounced

When it comes to the concept of food “taking us away from here,” nary a day carries the impact as does our Hawaii class, personally. In studying the various cuisines of America, few parallel the international exotic flair that we find in this cuisine of the Pacific Rim.



By Paul Suplee,
CEC PCIII

Starting our semester out in Asia (of course in International Cuisine), we finish in this class with some similar ingredients; soy sauce, sushi rice, kombu, a sushi of sorts et al.

The “sushi of sorts” is of course none other than poke, the Hawaiian contribution to the raw fish world. Meaning “sliced or diced” in Hawaiian, poke is a delicious dish that transcends sushi only insofar as it takes me back to the big island or Kauai, both places to which I have traveled and could easily make a home for myself.

When we visited the big island a few years ago, I was instructed not to pronounce it “pokey” (which disappointed me as this was my nickname as a child), but rather to say it as “poe-kay,” with no emphasis on either syllable. When sharing this with a local friend of mine who lived on Maui and Kauai for 15 years, he laughed and corrected me, stating that it was in fact “pokey.”

So, on our next visit to the islands, I asked the concierge where I could find the best “pokey” on the island. She looked at me with the tilted head of a confused puppy and then her eyes lit up. “Oh, you mean ‘poe-kay,’” slowing down the pronunciation so that she could correct this touristy travesty at the get-go.

Needless to say, I was ashamed, and as Crystal (the concierge) was born and raised in the islands, I stuck with her tutorial, cursing Dean all the while (remember the friend who corrected me?).

But back to the story at hand. We traveled Kauai extensively, disappointed in the food overall and feeling glum that good poke was not going to happen. But on the last day, at the witching hour, we visited a shop in Lihue that was a grand awakening for me. As one who adores Da Poke Shack on the island of Hawai‘i, I hadn’t considered that I would find a parallel.

But I found that and more at Fish



Express, a stunning temple to Hawaiian cuisine with the hands-down best poke bowl that I have ever eaten. It was fresh, well balanced, and without flaw, and it still amazes me how someone can take something so simple and make it mind-blowingly perfect.

And I’m glad to have recreated it here, although I would never be presumptuous enough to consider it a rival to Fish Express. But, as cooks, it’s what we aspire to, right?

Ahi Poke

- Serves 4
- 1.5 # Ahi tuna*
 - 1/2 ea. Sweet Maui or Vidalia onion
 - 3 Scallions
 - 1/2 cup Hawaiian BBQ Sauce
 - Sesame seeds for garnish
 - 2 cups Sticky rice
 - Rice seasoning
 - 1. Cut tuna into 3/4” cubes (the Hawaiian word “poke” translates to slice or dice)
 - 2. Cut onion in a fine julienne and add to the tuna
 - 3. Cut scallion greens on a deep bias and add to tuna
 - 4. Top with barbecue sauce, ensuring to stir it to get the red pepper and sesame seeds. Stir
 - 5. Add more sesame seeds if desired
 - 6. Taste and adjust seasonings to

- your preference
- 7. Serve over warm sticky rice and top with a touch of rice seasoning**
 - *It is recommended that your tuna be previously frozen, or that you freeze it to kill parasites. The FDA requires sushi restaurants to freeze fish for this reason. Whether they do or not, I cannot attest. In Hawaii, the few poke shops that I spoke with did not, and the fish came straight off the boat. I’ll leave this decision up to you.
 - **If you don’t want to go to the Asian Market to buy rice seasoning, make your own. Finely chop some roasted nori and add sesame seeds, dried garlic, ginger and a tiny amount of white pepper. Play around until you have a flavor profile that suits you
- ### Hawaiian BBQ Sauce
- Makes about 1 quart
- 2 cups Shoyu soy sauce
 - 1 cup Dark brown sugar
 - 2 small cans pineapple juice
 - 2 Tbsp. Dry Sherry
 - 1/4 cup Sesame seeds
 - 1 Tbsp. Korean red pepper flakes (not spicy)
 - 2” piece fresh ginger, peeled
 - 4 garlic cloves
 - 1. Combine ingredients in sauce pan and bring to a boil
 - 2. Reduce to a simmer and cook

- for ten minutes
- 3. Remove from heat and allow to steep for one hour
 - 4. Depending on the soy sauce, you may need to dilute with some water

Sticky Rice

- Makes about 3 cups
- 2 cups Sushi rice
 - 2 1/4 cups Water
 - 1” piece of Kombu (seaweed)
 - 1 Tbsp. Rice vinegar
 - 1 tsp. Sea salt
 - 1 Tbsp. Sugar
 - 1. Rinse sushi rice with cold water until the water runs significantly clearer
 - 2. Combine rinsed rice with everything else and put in a pan
 - 3. Bring to a boil and turn down to a simmer
 - 4. Cook for about twenty minutes or until water is absorbed but rice is not burning on bottom of pan
 - 5. Remove from heat but leave lid on pan to steam the rice
 - 6. Check the rice and adjust as necessary. I oftentimes sprinkle more vinegar and sugar on and mix it in

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

PUZZLES

FOUR-LETTER WORDS

BY ALEX VRATSANOS / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

ACROSS	50 Decepticon's foe in "Transformers"	106 Shabby	15 Pardner's mount
1 Key word #1	54 Sewing case	108 Sound in "Eleanor Rigby" and "Yesterday"	16 Glimpses
5 Plants with intoxicating leaves	55 Clio nominees	110 Disdainful sounds	17 Orioles' div.
10 Mosque no-no	57 S.U.V. alternative	113 "Little" visitor to Slumberland, in old comics	18 He played Chaplin in "Chaplin"
15 Key word #2	59 Moolah	117 Holder of small doses	25 Date
19 Bon ____	60 Bench warmer	118 Former British crown colony in the Mideast	28 QB Bobby who purportedly put a curse on the Detroit Lions
20 Songwriter Carmichael	62 Final Four round	119 TurboTax option	31 Germophobe's need
21 Minor snafu	64 ____ cards (items used in ESP tests)	120 As old as the hills	33 Doesn't pursue
22 Capital known for 300 years as Christiania	65 1-Across + 125-Across	121 Petro-Canada competitor	34 Mustard, but not ketchup: Abbr.
23 Ill-fated seducer in "Tess of the D'Urbervilles"	70 15-Across + 122-Across	122 Key word #3	36 Stage prize
24 1-Across + 15-Across	72 Acronym on the S&P 500	123 Looking for	37 Old TV adjustment: Abbr.
26 Erupt	73 Galileo, by birth	124 Go well together	39 Radiologist, e.g.
27 What a driverless car drives	75 Take off, as a heavy coat?	125 Key word #4	40 Biological blueprints
29 Pageant V.I.P.s	76 Venice tourist attraction		42 Makes up (for)
30 Like some soldiers in the American Revolution	78 S.U.V. alternative		44 Lucius's son, in Harry Potter
32 Farmyard call	80 Golfer Ernie		45 Fancy marble
33 You may leave when it's up	81 Acted like	DOWN	46 Fidelity offerings, for short
34 Endnotes?	85 Goldeneye or harlequin	1 California resort town	47 Political insults, so to speak
35 Portland, Ore.-to-Boise dir.	87 Paul who won a Nobel in Physics	2 V, in physics	51 Uncle ____
36 Egg producer	89 1962 Paul Anka hit	3 1997 Samuel L. Jackson film	52 Hershiser who was Sports Illustrated's 1988 Sportsman of the Year
38 The "e" of i.e.	91 15-Across + 125-Across	4 Pilaflike product	53 Major ally?
39 ____ Olshansky, first Soviet-born N.F.L. player	94 Coat fur	5 Pot user?	56 Islamic mystics
41 Villainous	97 Ammonium and others	6 Tic-tac-toe failure	58 Place for a bust
43 1-Across + 122-Across	98 Subj. for Bloomberg News	7 "Understand?"	60 Figurine
48 Workers on the board	99 Puts in stitches, say	8 Fellow students, generally	61 Stemming from
49 It covers everything quite clearly	100 Food that's an anagram of 98-Across	9 Brings together	63 Archenemy of Mattel's He-Man
	101 Washing the dishes, e.g.	10 "Hook" role	65 General interests?
	103 Plantation device	11 Successes in the game Battleship	66 Author Wiesel
	105 Subj. with many irregularities	12 Sister brand of Phisoderm	67 Tournament organizer since '39
		13 Elation	68 "Ha! I was right!"
		14 It helps you get ahead	

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

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	14		15	16	17	18	
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113															116			117			
118												120						121			
122												124						125			

- 69 Says, "Read you loud and clear ... over," say

71 Rope in

74 Informer, informally

77 South American tuber

79 Recharge midday

81 Sandpaper and such

82 Creatures that may live inside oysters – hence the name

83 Cable's ____ Classic

84 Springfield exclamations

86 Male lead in Disney's "Frozen"

88 Messy food order at a carnival

90 Witty Nash

92 ____ choy

93 Common wedding-reception feature

94 Kind of column

95 "Holy ____!"

96 J. Paul Getty and others

102 Literally, "breathless"

103 [You stink!]

104 Ho hi

107 Beast on Skull Island, informally

108 Low-lying area

109 Robert who oversaw the acquisitions of Pixar, Marvel and Lucasfilm

110 Ophthalmologist's concern

111 Burkina ____ (African land)

112 Vending machine feature

115 Small songbird

116 Burns's "before"



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HARD - 79

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.

6				7		9		
8	9					5		6
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				5	9	7		
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		7		4				1

Answers to last week's puzzles

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

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NOW PLAYING

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75th Street and the bay
Ocean City
410-524-7575
www.bjsonthewater.com
Dec. 4: Full Circle, 9 p.m.
Dec. 5: Over Time, 9 p.m.
Dec. 9: Christmas Party w/Teenage Rust & the Fabulous Rustettes, 5 p.m.

BOURBON STREET ON THE BEACH

116th Street, behind Fountain Head Towers Condominium
Ocean City
443-664-2896
www.bourbonstreetonthebeach.com
Dec. 4: Dave Sherman, 7-10 p.m.
Dec. 5: Baltimore Boyz, 7-10 p.m.
Dec. 10: Simple Truth, 5-9 p.m.

CAPTAIN'S TABLE

15th St. & Baltimore Ave.
Ocean City
410-289-7192
www.captainstableoc.com
Every Friday & Saturday: Phil Perdue

CASINO AT OCEAN DOWNS

10218 Racetrack Road
Berlin
410-641-0600
www.oceandowns.com
Dec. 4: Aaron Howell Duo, 5:30-9:30 p.m.
Dec. 5: Aaron Howell Duo, 4:30-8:30 p.m.; Monkee Paw, 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

THE COVE AT OCEAN PINES YACHT CLUB

1 Mumford's Landing Road
Ocean Pines
410-641-7501
www.oceanpines.org
Dec. 5: Kevin Poole, 6-10 p.m.

DUFFY'S TAVERN

130th Street in the
Montego Bay Shopping Center
410-250-1449
www.duffysoc.com
Dec. 4: Bob Hughes, 5-8 p.m.

FAGER'S ISLAND

60th Street and the bay
Ocean City
410-524-5500
www.fagers.com
Dec. 4: "unwind" DJ RobCee, 6 p.m.; DJ Hook, 9 p.m.
Dec. 5: DJ Groove, 9:30 p.m.
Dec. 6: Everett Spells, brunch

GUIDOS BURRITOS

33rd Street and Coastal Highway
Ocean City
410-524-3663
www.guidosburritos.com
Every Thursday: DJ Wax, 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

HARBORSIDE BAR & GRILL

12841 S. Harbor Road
West Ocean City
410-213-1846
www.ocharborside.com
Dec. 4: DJ Billy T, 4 p.m.
Dec. 5: Simple Truth, 2-6 p.m.; DJ Jeremy, 9 p.m.

Dec. 6: Opposite Directions, 2-6 p.m.; DJ Billy T, 7 p.m.
Dec. 10: Opposite Directions, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

HARPOON HANNA'S

Route 54 and the bay
Fenwick Island, Del.
800-227-0525
302-539-3095
www.harpoonhannasrestaurant.com
Dec. 4: Dave Hawkins, 5-10 p.m.
Dec. 5: Dave Sherman, 6-10 p.m.
Dec. 10: Melissa Alesi, 5-9 p.m.

HOOTERS

Rt. 50 & Keyser Point Road
West Ocean City
410-213-1841
www.hootersofoc.com
Dec. 5: TBA, 8 p.m.

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56th Street, bayside
Ocean City
410-524-7499
www.johnnyspizzapub.com
Dec. 4: Slappy Hour, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Dec. 5: Randy Lee Ashcraft and the Saltwater Cowboys, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Dec. 9: Christmas Party w/Randy Lee Ashcraft and the Saltwater Cowboys, 6 p.m.

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SEACRETS

49th Street and the bay
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410-524-4900
www.secrets.com
Dec. 4: Element K, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Dec. 5: John McNutt Band, 5-9 p.m.; Kristen & The Noise, 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Dec. 10: Opposite Directions, 5-9 p.m.

SKYE RAW BAR & GRILLE

66th Street, bayside
Ocean City
410-723-6762
www.skyebaroc.com
Dec. 5: James Darley, 4-8 p.m.

WHISKER'S BAR & GRILL

11070 Cathell Road, Suite 17
Pines Plaza, Ocean Pines
443-365-2576
Dec. 4: Karaoke w/Donnie Berkey, 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

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Many thanks and wishing you a Happy Holiday season.*

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Shirley Grace Pregnancy Center
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Partnership/Comfort Inn
Decatur Investments Inc.
Esham Family Limited
Partnership/Admiral Hotel
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CALENDAR

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

THURS. Dec. 3

ANNUAL FALL-WINTER FUNDRAISING DINNER — Adolfo’s, 13th Street and the Boardwalk, Ocean City, 5:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$35 for adults and \$15 for children 13 and younger. Proceeds benefit Kanille’s Kupboard Pet Pantry & Rescue, Inc. Attendees are asked to bring a donation of dog or cat food, treats or toys. Tickets available at the door or by calling 410-213-0393 or 302-539-0595.

BERLIN CHRISTMAS PARADE — Main Street, Berlin, 7 p.m. Featuring marching bands, floats, Christmas characters, hot chocolate and more. Info: www.BerlinMainStreet.com or 410-973-2051.

PLAYTIME — Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Good old fashion play for infant to 5 year old children. Info: www.worcesterlibrary.org or 410-208-4014.

FARMERS’ MARKET — 10019 Old Ocean City Blvd., Berlin, 3-6 p.m. Featuring local in season produce, gluten free and gluten full baked products, eggs, honey, kettle korn, natural pet treats, soaps and more. Info: 410-713-8803.

BEACH SINGLES — Every Thursday, Beach Singles 45-Plus meets for happy hour at Harpoon Hanna’s, 39064 Harpoon Road, 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 p.m., games start at 6:30 p.m. Food available. Open to the public. Info: 410-289-3166.

CHAIR AEROBICS — St. Peter’s Lutheran Church Community Life Center, 10301 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 1-2 p.m. Free will offering appreciated. Sponsored by St. Peter’s Senior Adult Ministry. Info: 410-524-7474.

COASTAL HOSPICE GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP — Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 11 a.m. Free and open to anyone who has lost a loved one, not just Coastal Hospice families. Info: 410-251-8163.

WW TUNES HOLIDAY MUSIC — Berlin library, 220 N. Main St., 2 p.m. Enjoy classic holiday music with the WWtunes. Info: 410-641-0650.

STORY TIME ‘PUPPIES’ — Snow Hill library, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 a.m. For 2 to 5 year old children. Info: www.worcesterlibrary.org.

FRI. Dec. 4

RONNIE MILSAP CONCERT — Ocean City Performing Arts Center, Ocean City convention center, 4001 Coastal Highway, 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$45 and \$55. For tickets, call or visit the Ocean City Convention Center box office, 40th Street and Coastal Highway,

800-OC-OCEAN or Ticketmaster, 800-551-SEAT. Info: www.oceancityconcerts.com or 410-289-2800.

55TH ANNUAL SELBYVILLE CHRISTMAS PARADE — Starting at 7 p.m., the parade begins at Town Hall and ends at the PNC Bank parking lot at the corner of Church and Main streets. Marching bands, fire trucks, antique cars, floats and Santa Claus. Visit Santa’s House from 5:30-7 p.m. Cookies and cocoa sales support the Delaware Read Aloud Program. Info: Lauren Weaver, 302-539-2100, Ext. 118.

GIFT SHOPPE — The Refuge Clubhouse, 37533 Leisure Drive, 6-8 p.m. Holiday, new and nearly new items, soup makings and basket of cheer. Benefiting the American Cancer Society, Relay for Life, Team Refuge.

STORY TIME ‘TRANSPORTATION’ — Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. For 2 to 5 year old children. Info: www.worcesterlibrary.org.

CHRISTMAS AT THE NORTHPOLE — Seacrets, 49th Street and the Bay, 6-10 p.m. Christmas costume contest for adults and children. Participants receive a drink ticket for wine, beer or soda. Cost is \$30 for adults and \$15 for children 13 and younger. Food, desserts, silent auction, raffles, music provided by DJ BK and a visit from Santa. Support David Neith and Shelley Leach in their bid for prom king and queen. Tickets: 410-723-2842.

OPENING ART RECEPTION AND ARTISAN FAIR — Ocean City Center for the Arts, 502 94th Street, 5-7 p.m. Featuring “The Best of 2015” and the annual all-media juried show. Meet the artists and enjoy hors d’oeuvres. Free and open to the public. The Artisan Fair begins during the First Friday reception and continues on Saturday. Purchase unique handmade artwork, meet the artisans and enjoy live music and refreshments. Patrick Henry will be on hand for book signings. Info: www.artleagueofoceancity.org or 410-524-9433. All shows will be on display until Dec. 26.

SAT. Dec. 5

‘THE NUTCRACKER’ PERFORMANCE — Ocean City Performing Arts Center, Ocean City convention center, 4001 Coastal Highway, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Performed by Sussex Ballet. This show is appropriate for all ages. Meet lead characters after the performance. Purchase tickets at Ticketmaster.com or at the Convention Center Box Office. Cost is \$15 for adults and \$12 for children 17 and younger and seniors 60 and older. Info: Sussex Dance Academy, 302-645-7855, www.sussexdance.com or 410-289-2800.

CHEER AND DANCE EXTREME — Ocean City convention center, 4001 Coastal Highway. OC Christmas Open Championship - Cheer and Dance Extreme Competition. Spectators admission fees are \$15 for adults, \$10 for ages 6-11 years and free to children 5 and younger. Info: www.cheeranddanceextreme.com.

OCEAN CITY CHRISTMAS PARADE — The parade starts at 11 a.m. on Old Landing Road and marches northbound in the southbound lanes of Coastal Highway to the judges’ stand at 120th Street. Featuring more than 50 units, including high school bands, horses, antique cars, holiday floats and more. Awards presentation and reception following at the Carousel Resort Hotel and Condominiums, 118th Street and oceanfront in Ocean City. Half-priced ice skating, holiday music, complimentary winter refreshments and free photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Info: Brenda Moore, 410-250-0125 or bmoore@oceancitymd.gov.

SANTA PHOTOS AND MRS. CLAUS STORYTIME — Visitor’s Center, 14 S. Main St., Berlin, noon to 4 p.m. Santa photos with the ‘Santa of the President.’ Ed France has been the White House Santa Claus since the 1970s. Story time with Mrs. Claus, free hot chocolate and Christmas characters walking around town. Info: www.BerlinMainStreet.com or 410-973-2051.

FREE HORSE AND CARRIAGE RIDES — In front of the Visitor’s Center, 14 S. Main St., Berlin, Saturdays and Sundays, noon to 3 p.m. Info: www.BerlinMainStreet.com or 410-973-2051.

CHRISTMAS COOKIE WALK — Bethany United Methodist Church, 8648 Stephen Decatur Highway, Berlin, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Home-made cookies sold by the pound. Packaging with ribbons and bows. Info: 410-213-8238.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR — Stevenson United Methodist Church, 123 N. Main St., Berlin, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Retail and hand craft vendors and silent auction items. Pulled pork sandwich, cole slaw and a beverage for \$5. Eat in or carry out. Info: 410-641-1137.

GIFT SHOPPE — The Refuge Clubhouse, 37533 Leisure Drive, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Holiday, new and nearly new items, soup makings and basket of cheer. Benefiting the American Cancer Society, Relay for Life, Team Refuge.

INDOOR YARD SALE — Bishopville Volunteer Fire Department, 10709 Bishopville Road, 7 a.m. to noon. Tables rental costs \$15 each or two for \$25. Breakfast sandwiches available. Reserve tables: 443-235-2926.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA — Applebee’s, 12849 Ocean Gateway, West Ocean City, 8-10 a.m. All-you-can-eat pancake breakfast with sausage, coffee, juice and fountain sodas for \$7. Benefits Alex’s Lemonade Stand Foundation.

ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT BREAKFAST BUFFET WITH SANTA — Buckingham Presbyterian Church, 20 S. Main St., Berlin, 8:30-10:30 a.m. Cost is \$8 for adults, \$4 for children ages 3-10 years and free to those 2 and younger. Take cameras and camcorders. Tickets available at the door. Reservations recommended for large groups: 410-641-0234.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT — St. Andrews Center, 14401 Sinepuxent Ave., Ocean City. Featuring “Irishman Chorale” of Baltimore and Most Blessed Sacrament Childrens Choir.

Donations are \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door. Children 12 and younger admitted free. Sponsored by Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians; all proceeds go to charity. Info: 410-208-3847 or 302-988-1498.

19TH CENTURY CHRISTMAS — Furnace Town Living Heritage Village, 3816 Old Furnace Road, Snow Hill, noon to 5 p.m. Baked goods and craft vendors, Furnace Town artisans and complimentary holiday refreshments. Music by Bob Sellers all day and a book signing by Gracie Ayers, author of “The Weaver’s Daughter,” from 1-3 p.m. A 19th century church service held in the historic Old Nazareth Church at 7 p.m. Regular admission applies to exploring Furnace Town’s artisan village from noon to 5 p.m.; all other holiday events are free. Admission is \$7 for adults, \$6 for seniors age 60 and older and AAA members, \$4 for children ages 4-18 and free for children 3 and younger. Info: 410-632-2032.

2ND ANNUAL ‘A NIGHT TO REMEMBER IN DECEMBER’ — Most Blessed Sacrament Catholic School, 11242 Race Track Road, Ocean Pines. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. A \$35 donation includes a holiday buffet prepared by local chefs, desserts, dancing, a \$1,000 raffle ticket, 50/50, Chinese and live auction items and non-alcoholic beverages. Cash bar. Proceeds benefit the Shirley Grace Pregnancy Center. Tickets: Patti Bulvin, 443-513-4124.

HOLIDAY TRAIN DISPLAY — Georgetown Public Library, 123 West Pine St., Georgetown, Del., 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Featuring a large O gauge layout with 24 operating push button displays and a Thomas the Train layout. Sponsored by Delaware Seaside Railroad Club. Info: Bill Ziegler, wjziegler1@verizon.net or 302-537-0964.

MORNING MATINEE & CRAFT — Pocomoke library, 301 Market St., 10:30 a.m. Family friendly movies and themed crafts. Info: 410-957-0878.

WRITE IT! CREATIVE WRITING FORUM — Berlin library, 220 N. Main St., 10 a.m. Novice and established writers gather to share their works. Info: 410-641-0650.

OCEAN CITY SURF CLUB HOLIDAY SURFER SOCIAL — Bull on The Beach, 17 94th St., Ocean City, 6:30 p.m. Holiday gifts 2016 member stuff. Raffles, music and more.

40TH ANNUAL ‘CHRISTMAS IN BRIDGEVILLE’ CRAFT SHOW — Woodbridge Middle School, 307 Laws St., Bridgeville, Del., 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Featuring more than 70 vendors and a raffle for a high definition television. Admission is free and all proceeds benefit the Bridgeville Historical Society, Inc. Info: Charles or Sharon Hawk, 302-337-8675.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA CLAUS & FRIENDS — Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 8-11 a.m. Enjoy breakfast and take a picture with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Cost is \$6 for adults, \$4 for children ages 4-10 and free to those 3 and younger. Attendees are encouraged to bring an unwrapped, new gift

CALENDAR

or nonperishable food item for local families in need. Open to the public. The Reindeer Lane Gift Shop will also be open from 8-11 a.m. Info: 410-641-7052.

MODEL TRAIN DISPLAYS — Delaware Seaside Railroad Club, Clayton Crossing, 32422 Royal Blvd., Dagsboro, Del., Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., year round. See five layouts. Info: Bill Ziegler, wjziegler1@verizon.net or 302-537-0964.

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. Info: 410-524-8196.

FARMERS MARKET — White Horse Park, 239 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Locally grown vegetables and fruits, eggs, honey, kettle korn, flowers, artisan breads, seafood, meats and more. New vendors welcome. Info: 410-641-7717, Ext. 3006.

REINDEER LANE GIFT SHOP — Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 8-11 a.m. A holiday “store” where children ages 12 and younger are able to purchase gifts for all ages at nominal prices. Donations for the shop are also being accepted. Open to the public. Info: 410-641-7052.

ARTISAN FAIR — Ocean City Center for the Arts, 502 94th Street, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Purchase unique handmade artwork, meet the artisans and enjoy live music and refreshments. Bunk Mann and Paul Treadway will be on hand for book signings from 1-3 p.m. Info: www.artleagueofoceancity.org or 410-524-9433. All shows will be on display until Dec. 26.

SUN. Dec. 6

WINTERFEST OF LIGHTS JINGLE BELL 5K RUN — Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City, 5 p.m., rain or shine. Run or walk under the Winterfest of Lights. Participants are encouraged to dress in the holiday spirit. Cost is \$28 for adults and \$23 for children 11 and younger. Registration held at Abbey Burger Bistro, 126th Street, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Info: Charlie McClure, csc.mcc@gmail.com or octrirunning.com.

FREE HORSE AND CARRIAGE RIDES — In front of the Visitor’s Center, 14 S. Main St., Berlin, Saturdays and Sundays, noon to 3 p.m. Info: www.BerlinMainStreet.com or 410-973-2051.

44TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR — Worcester Preparatory School, Athletic Performing Arts Center, 508 S. Main St., Berlin, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Musical entertainment, a variety of booths with one-of-a-kind greens and decorations, homemade desserts, handmade gifts, vendor booths, silent auction, Apple Watch raffle, WPS Spirit Booth, the Kris Kringle Café, Starbucks Coffee Bar, Kids’ area and pictures with Santa in his sleigh from noon to 2 p.m. Admission is free. Open to the public. The Mallard General Shop for Kids offers children a chance to purchase gifts under \$10. Info: www.worcesterprep.org or 410-641-3575.

PARTY FOR PRESERVATION — Captain’s Galley, 12817 Harbor Road, West Ocean City, 5-9:30

p.m. Carving table and heavy hors d’oeuvres, beer, wine, entertainment by Lauren Glick & The Moodswingers and silent auction. Cost is \$40. Purchase tickets online by Dec. 1: www.lowershorelandtrust.org. Info: 410-641-4467 or vbauer@lowershorelandtrust.org.

18TH ANNUAL HOTS FOR TOTS CHILI COOK-OFF — Greene Turtle West, 9616 Stephen Decatur Highway, West Ocean City, 1-4 p.m. Judging done by patron participation. The Cookoff is a toy drive for the Ocean City Police Department and the Santa House and a fund drive for the Worcester GOLD families. Register: www.ocphc.com. Info: 410-213-1500 or opphc@comcast.net. Sponsored by the Ocean City Parrothead Club.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Atlantic General Hospital, Conference Room 2, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin, noon to 1 p.m. Group shares experience, strength and hope to help others. Open to the community and to AGH patients. Info: Rob, 443-783-3529.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS #169 — Atlantic General Hospital, Conference Room 1, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 2:30-3:30 p.m. Group is a 12-step program for anyone struggling with a compulsive eating problem. No initial meeting charge. Meeting contribution is \$1 weekly. Info: Bett, 410-202-9078.

SUNDAY NIGHT SERENITY AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP MEETING — Woodlands in Ocean Pines, Independent Living Apartment Building, 1135 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines, 7:30 p.m.

PICTURES WITH SANTA — White Horse Park, 239 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Santa will be available for lap-sitting, pictures and wish lists. Free and open to the public. Info: 410-641-7052.

MON. Dec. 7

WW TUNES HOLIDAY MUSIC — Snow Hill library, 307 N. Washington St., 2 p.m. Enjoy classic holiday music with the WWtunes. Info: 410-632-3495.

GREAT BOOKS DISCUSSION — Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:30-4 p.m. The group meets twice a month to discuss both classic and modern reading selections. Info: Dana Rosenfield, 410-652-8639.

HYPERTENSION CLINICS — Sponsored by Atlantic General Hospital and takes place the first Monday of every month at Apple Discount Drugs, 314 Franklin Ave., in Berlin, 10 a.m. to noon and at Walgreens, 11310 Manklin Creek Rd., in Ocean Pines, 1-3 p.m. Free blood pressure screening and health information. Info: Dawn Denton, 410-641-9268.

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY MEETING — Berlin group No. 169, Atlantic General Hospital, conference room 1, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 5-6:30 p.m. TOPS is a support and educational group promoting weight loss and healthy lifestyle. It meets weekly. Info: Edna Berkey, 410-251-2083.

DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP — St. Paul’s United Methodist Church, 405 Flower St., Berlin, first Monday of each month, 6-7

p.m. All welcome. Info: AGH Diabetes Out-patient Education program, 410-641-9703.

CPAP MASK FITTING — Atlantic General Hospital Sleep Disorders Diagnostic Center, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin. Free, monthly mask fitting clinic for patients who are having trouble adjusting to their CPAP equipment. By appointment only: Robin Rohlfing, 410-641-9726.

SOCIAL 1 1/2 — Bethany United Methodist Church, 8648 Stephen Decatur Highway, Berlin, Mondays, 6:30-8 p.m. Christian social club for those 50 and older are welcome to enjoy games, activities, bike rides, prayer and friendship. Info: 410-641-2136 or Bethany21811@gmail.com.

DELMARVA SWEET ADELINE CHORUS MEETS WEEKLY — The Delmarva Chorus, Sweet Adeline’s, meets each Monday from 7-9 p.m., at the Ocean Pines Community Center, 239 Ocean Parkway. Women interested in learning the craft of a cappella singing welcome. Info: 410-641-6876.

TUES. Dec. 8

PLAY TIME — Berlin library, 220 N. Main St., 10:30-11:30 a.m. For infant to 5 year old children. Info: www.worcesterlibrary.org.

STORY TIME — Pocomoke library, 301 Market St., 10:30 a.m. For 2 to 5 year old children. Info: www.worcesterlibrary.org.

WILLIAMSBURG RALEIGH TAVERN GINGER-BREAD COOKIES — Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2 p.m. Learn the art of making these cookies with a live demonstration using spelt and sprouted spelt. Info: 410-524-1818.

HEALTHY LIVING WITH DIABETES WORKSHOP — Snow Hill Senior Center, 4767 Snow Hill Road, 9:30 a.m. to noon. Free, six-week workshop designed to help those affected by diabetes better manage their disease. Pre-registration required: Dawn, 410-641-9268.

PARKINSON’S SUPPORT GROUP — Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:30-3:30 p.m. Helping individuals with Parkinson’s disease and their families. No reservation, no fee. Info: www.DelmarvaParkinsonsAlliance.org or Ron and Mary Leidner, 410-208-0525.

NAMI FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP — Atlantic General Hospital, Conference Room 2, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 6:30-8 p.m. Offers shared wisdom and problem solving for family members of persons with mental illness. The group is free. Info: Carole Spurrier, 410-208-4003, carolespurrier@msn.com or Gail S. Mansell, 410-641-9725, gmansell@atlanticgeneral.org.

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY MEETING - Berlin group 331, Worcester County Health Center, 9730 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 5:30-7 p.m. TOPS is a support and educational group promoting weight loss and healthy lifestyle. It meets weekly. Info: jeanduck47@gmail.com.

ON YOUR OWN, BUT NOT ALONE - WOC Fitness, 12319 Ocean Gateway, West Ocean City, 5 p.m. Weight loss support group with

discussions about nutrition, exercise, health and weight loss. Cost is \$5 per meeting. Info: dillon128@aol.com.

FALL BUS TRIP — Tour NASA’s Wallops Flight Facility on Dec. 8. Cost is \$35. Open to the public. Buses depart from the Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway. Reservations required: 410-641-7052. Info: www.OceanPines.org.

WED. Dec. 9

RETIRED NURSES HOLIDAY COCKTAIL PARTY — Party will begin at 5 p.m. Officers for 2016 will be installed. Cost is \$15. Reservations required: Sally Smith, 410-208-0564 or mstngsal42@verizon.net.

STORY TIME — Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. For 2 to 5 year old children. Info: www.worcesterlibrary.org.

OCEAN CITY BOOK OF THE MONTH — Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2 p.m. “The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks” by Rebecca Skloot. Monthly book club. Info: 410-524-1818.

MODEL TRAIN DISPLAYS — Delaware Seaside Railroad Club, Clayton Crossing, 32422 Royal Blvd., Dagsboro, Del., Wednesdays, 5-8 p.m., year round. See five layouts. Info: Bill Ziegler, wjziegler1@verizon.net or 302-537-0964.

BINGO — Every Wednesday at Ocean City Elks Lodge 2645, 138th Street and Sinepuxent Avenue, rear of the Fenwick Inn. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., games start 6:30 p.m. Food is available. Open to the public. No one allowed in the hall under 18 years of age during bingo. Info: 410-250-2645.

DELMARVA HAND DANCE 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. Jitterbug, swing, cha-cha to the sounds of the ’50s, ’60s and Carolina beach music. All are welcome. Info: 302-200-DANCE (3262).

KIWANIS CLUB OF GREATER OCEAN PINES/OCEAN CITY — Meets every Wednesday at the Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway. Doors open at 7 a.m., meeting begins at 8 a.m. Info: 410-641-7330.

BAYSIDE BEGINNINGS AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP MEETING — Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 7:30 p.m.

OCEAN CITY/BERLIN ROTARY CLUB MEETING — Captain’s Table Restaurant in the Courtyard by Marriott, 2 15th St, Ocean City, 6 p.m. Info: 410-641-1700 or kbates@taylorbank.com.

ON YOUR OWN, BUT NOT ALONE - WOC Fitness, 12319 Ocean Gateway, West Ocean City, noon. Weight loss support group with discussions about nutrition, exercise, health and weight loss. Cost is \$5 per meeting. Info: dillon128@aol.com.

CALL
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BY MONDAY
5 P.M.

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YR, 2BR Condo. 142nd St. Available now! \$995/mo. + utills. **Winter Rental - 3BR Townhouse** on 28th Street. Available Nov. 1st. \$700/mo. + utills. Call John **410-726-8948**.

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RENTALS

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YR, Oceanside, Mid-Town, 4BR/1BA Apt. - Ocean view, plenty of parking. Great location! \$1250/mo. + utills. 1 mo. sec. deposit req'd. **443-880-2486**

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Winter Rental - 2BR Apt. \$215/wk. Sec. deposit req'd. ALL UTILITIES INCLUDED. No pets. **410-289-5831**

YR, NOC, 145th St., Bay-side. 4BR/1BA - Ground level, plenty of parking. \$1250/mo. + utills. 1 mo. sec. deposit req'd. **443-880-2486**

YR, Large 5BR/4BA Apt. - Off 104th St., \$1600/mo. + utills. 1 mo. sec. deposit req'd. Sleeps 12. Walking distance to stores and mall. **443-880-2486**

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